

William Thurston Southard

(- 23 Apr 1955)

Southard, William T. Of Laurel, Md., on April 23, 1955, husband of the late Ella W. Southard, father of W. Wilson Southard. Services at Chambers Funeral Home, 5801 Cleveland ave., Riverdale, Md., on Sunday, April 24, at 2:30 p.m.

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W.T. Southard, 92, Billed as 'Paderewski of South'

A 92-year-old man who never forgot he had been a concert pianist and continued to practice four and five hours a day in spite of his age and a heart condition, died yesterday.

William Thurston Southard, died at the D.C. Village where he had been living since the end of last year. He formerly lived with his son, W. Wilson Southard, 84 Patuxent drive, Laurel, Md., a civil engineer with the Baltimore & Ohio railroad.

Toured Widely

Mr. Southard had given concerts throughout the United States. He was billed as "the Paderewski of the South," his family said.

Many years ago he directed the choir and was organist at St. John's Episcopal Church on Lafayette square N.W. He was a former director also of the old Choral Society of Washington.

In later years he taught piano in Washington and Baltimore. His studio had been at his former homes at 1753 Massachusetts avenue N.W. and Thirteenth and Fairmont streets N.W.

Generous to Students

Mr. Southard was generous both in time and money. If a student showed promise of musical ability and couldn't afford to pay the teaching fee, Mr. Southard taught him anyway. And if the lessons were for a half-hour and he still hadn't put across some musical point, Mr. Southard kept his pupil sometimes for three hours, his family said.

Mr. Southard was born in Falmouth, Va., and at one time studied piano in Germany. His wife was the late Ella Snyder Washington Wilson Southard.

Services will be held at 2:30 o'clock today at Chambers funeral home in Riverdale, Md. Burial will be in Congressional Cemetery.