



## Frank J. Connors

November 23, 2014

Frank Connors, singer of the big-band era and former manager of Tampa Theatre, dies at 103. Lyric tenor Frank Connors, a popular singer of the 1930s, 40s and 50s, and later Manager of the Tampa Theater, died on November 23, 2014. Connors was born in New York City, where he was discovered by Nick Kenny, radio editor of the New York Daily Mirror. He went on to headline the vaudeville show at the Fox Theater in Detroit for five years and later became the star soloist of the Abe Lyman Orchestra. He made albums with Sonora Records that included *Songs of Love by Frank Connors* and *Frank Connors Singing Irish Ballads*. He appeared on NBC radio in the early 1940s with his own show, *The Frankie Connors Show*, on Saturdays and as a regular on *Finders Keepers* Monday through Friday.

After serving in the U.S. Army during WW II, Connors began appearing in top night clubs throughout the country, places such as the Copacabana, the Blue Room, and the Essex House in New York City; the Shamrock Hotel in Houston; the Lookout House in Covington; the Rainbow Room in Jacksonville; the Latin Quarter in Cincinnati; etc. In the late 1950s, Frank decided to give up singing in order to be able to stay in Tampa with his family. He became Assistant Manager of the Tampa Theatre and was later promoted to Manager. He stayed at the theatre until his retirement in 1976.

Frank is survived by his daughter, Sharon Whipple Dante; son-in-law, Steve Dante; daughter-in-law, Evelyn Connors; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his son, Frank Connors, Jr.; first wife, Nina Kirk Connors; and second wife, Arlene Smith Connors.

Visitation at noon, services at 12:30 pm on Sunday, November 30 at R. Lee Williams & Son Funeral Home.

The burial will take place on Tuesday, December 2, at 2:00 P.M. at Myrtle Hill Cemetery in Tampa.

# Tribute Wall



“ *The family of Frank J. Connors uploaded a photo*

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