

*In Loving Memory*

*Faylon Wayne Geist*

*Born*

September 26, 1914  
Shenandoah, Iowa

*Entered into Rest*

January 22, 2004  
Rio Rancho, New Mexico

*Age*

89 years, 3 months, 26 days

Born and raised in Shenandoah, Iowa, Faylon began playing the organ as a young man in the Methodist church in town. Before serving in the army during WWII, Faylon was also the music director and organist at KMA radio during its heyday. His program was called "Organ Revelries" from which he received tons of fan mail from all over Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, and Kansas. During these years he also played for the Century School which at times had Earl May as its headmaster. Faylon played not only the organ but the bass violin and the accordion.

Faylon married Ruth Elaine Hatten on November 20, 1949 in Hamburg, Iowa. World War II took Faylon overseas to England, France and Germany where he served as the assistant to the Chaplin playing the organ in the field for burials. After returning from the war, Faylon attended Tarkio College in Tarkio, Missouri and then the University of Kansas where he was awarded his Master's Degree.

Because Faylon was such an accomplished musician, he and his wife Ruth moved to New York City to play the pipe organs in several large churches. Not "loving" the big city life, they returned to Hamburg to own and operate "A Woman's Place" clothing store from 1956 to 1966. Missing the world of music, Faylon and Ruth moved to Storm Lake where Faylon taught music at Buena Vista. From there they located in Center City, Minnesota because Faylon was hired as the music director and head organist of the Episcopal Church.

Due to Faylon's nagging asthma problems, he decided to move to Imperial Valley, California in the mid-1960s where he spent the next 20 years teaching, playing the organ and directing the choirs of both the Episcopal and Presbyterian churches in El Centro. Faylon retired to Rio Rancho, New Mexico.

Faylon is survived by his daughter Kelli Datson and her husband Ken; sister Arlene Nuckolls and her husband Melvin; son-in-law Steve Wade; grandchildren Kristen, Kevin and Kirk Wade; and nieces Pam Barnes and Jill VanWeelden. His wife and eldest daughter Connie preceded Faylon in death.