William A. 'Bill' Bennett [BSE 1958, Elementary Education]

WICHITA - William A. "Bill" Bennett, 65, Wichita, died Wednesday, June 7, 1995, at St. Joseph Hospital at Wichita. He had been ill four months and underwent open heart surgery following a heart attack March 3.

He was born Feb. 13, 1930, at Pittsburg to Guy A. and Sylvia M. Crocker Bennett. He attended Pittsburg schools, graduating from Pittsburg High School in 1947 and Pittsburg State University in 1958. He also received a master's degree from Wichita State University.

Mr. Bennett taught in the Wichita schools for 37 years, spending most of his teaching career as a secondary art teacher. At the time of his retirement in 1990 he was head of the art department at Wilbur Junior High School at Wichita.

He had been affiliated with Opera Kansas since its inception more than 10 years ago. He was also a member and served as a volunteer for the Sedgwick County Arts and Humanities Council. He judged art shows, including the Kansas Scholastic Arts Awards.

Survivors include a brother, Charles Bennett of Bainbridge, Wash.; a sister, Evelyn Cole of 701 N. Catalpa; two nieces and two nephews.

Services will be 1:30 p.m. Saturday at the Brenner Chapel, with the Rev. Joe Robbins of the First Baptist Church officiating. Burial will be in the Pittsburg Garden of Memories. The family will receive friends from 7 to 8 p.m. today in the Brenner Chapel, where friends may call after 1 p.m. today. Memorial services will be 7:30 p.m. Monday at the South Riverside Baptist Church of Wichita.
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Mr. Bennett had been a member of the Metropolitan Opera Guild for many years and was a collector of the “Opera News” publication for the last 50 years. He was also a member of the American Association of Retired Persons and the Kansas National Education Association.

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