

## James Waldo Santmyer

( - 22 Jun 1961)

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**Santmyer, James Waldo.** On Thursday, June 22, 1961, at Sibley Hospital, James W. Santmyer of 8708 Gilbert place, Takoma Park, Md., beloved husband of Loretta A. Santmyer (nee Chicki Shaw). Mr. Santmyer rests at the Warner E. Pumphrey Funeral Home, 8434 Georgia ave., Silver Spring, Md., where services will be held on Monday, June 27, at 1 p.m. (parking facilities). Interment Congressional Cemetery.



*The Washington Post, June 24, 1961, p. C3*

### **James W. Santmyer, Pianist, WSSC Agent**

James W. Santmyer, 54, of 8708 Gilbert place, Takoma Park, a native of Washington, musician and right-of-way agent for the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission died here Thursday. He had been ill since May 1.

Before serving with the WSSC he was secretary-treasurer of the William H. Saunders Realty Co. in Washington for six years.

He was also known as a pianist in the area, having played at the Lotus Club where he met his wife, the former Loretta Shaw, a professional dancer.

At age 15 Mr. Santmyer was selected to play in the orchestra of the original production of "Showboat."

He was a member of the Musicians Union, local 161, and the Potomac Chapter of Right-of-Way agents.

Mr. Santmyer is survived by his wife of the home address.

*The Evening Star, June 24, 1961, p. B5*

### **James Santmyer Dies; Popular D.C. Pianist**

James W. Santmyer, 54, Washington musician, died Thursday in Sibley Hospital after a long illness.

A native of the District, Mr. Santmyer lived at 8708 Gilbert place, Takoma Park, Md. He attended area schools and studied at the Peabody Institute in Baltimore and in conservatories in Europe.

Jimmy Santmyer was a well-known pianist in Washington night clubs and theaters. At the age of 15, he was called to New York to play in the orchestra at the opening of the musical "Showboat."

Mr. Santmyer was pianist with orchestra leader John Slaughter in the band that played at the opening of the Wardman Park Hotel here. Pianist in the old Shubert Theater, he played in many night clubs no longer in existence, such as the Madrillon and the Gingham Club.

Also popular in hotels and cocktail lounges, Mr. Santmyer played in Peacock Alley in the Willard Hotel and with the orchestra in the ballroom of the Powhatan Hotel. His latest job as a musician was at the Lotus Club.

During World War II, Mr. Santmyer served with the War Department in the Air Force aeronautical charts service in the Pentagon.

In later years, Mr. Santmyer was associated with the William H. Saunders real estate firm. At the time of his death, he was a right-of-way agent with the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.

Mr. Santmyer was a member of Local No. 161 of the American Federation of Musicians and the Potomac Chapter of the Right-of Way Agents Commission.

He leaves his wife, the former Loretta "Chicki" Shaw, of the home address, whom he married while working at the Lotus Club where she was a dancer.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Monday from Warner E. Pumphrey Funeral Home, 8434 Georgia avenue, Silver Spring, Md. Burial will be in Congressional Cemetery.