

# Risher

## Former choral director dies

ROCK HILL — A memorial service will be held Sunday for a prominent Winthrop College alumna and former choral director at Rock Hill High School.

Mrs. Rosa Bas-kin Strait Guess, 95, of 205 South Herlong Ave. died Wednesday, Jan. 6, 1988, at Meadow Haven Nursing Center.

Graveside services will be Saturday in Denmark Cemetery in Denmark, S.C., with Dr. William J. Holmes Jr. of Manning officiating. A memorial service will be 3 p.m. Sunday at First Presbyterian Church of Rock Hill with Dr. T. Mark Verdery officiating.

A native of Rock Hill, Mrs. Guess was the daughter of Dr. William Francis Strait and Rosa Perry Gaston. She was descended from one of the oldest families of Chester County. An ancestor, Justice John

Gaston, was a Revolutionary War leader.

She attended Rock Hill Graded School, where she was the first honor graduate, and was a graduate of Winthrop College, Class of 1911. That year she moved to Denmark to teach in the public schools. In 1912, she married Algeron P. Guess, former mayor of Denmark.

After her husband's death in 1920, she returned to Rock Hill to live with her mother. She taught children at Ebenezer Avenue School during the day and adults at night, becoming a pioneer in adult education in South Carolina.

In 1936, Mrs. Guess was appointed choral director at Rock Hill High School, a position she held until her retirement in 1964. Under her direction, the school's chorus, the largest in South Carolina, received high praise at the State Music Festival.

From 1940 to 1960, Mrs. Guess was choir director of First Presbyterian Church of Rock Hill, of which she was a member. She was

a member and former president of the Entre Nous Club, the Saturday Afternoon Club and the Rock Hill Music Club.

In 1944-45, she was president of the Winthrop College Alumnae Association, and she was a featured speaker at the college's Golden Anniversary Convocation in 1945, celebrating the 50th anniversary of Winthrop's move to Rock Hill.

Mrs. Guess, a life member of the Huguenot Society of South Carolina, wrote two books, one a selection of South Carolina and family recipes, the other an account of the Strait and Gaston families.

She is survived by two children, W. Frank Guess of Towson, Md., and Rosanne James of Rock Hill; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Huguenot Society of South Carolina, 25 Chalmers St., Charleston, S.C. 29401; the First Presbyterian Church of Rock Hill; or to a charity of choice.

Bass Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



Guess