

MICHIGAN NEWS

Pioneering Michigan gay activist dies at 80

By **TIM RETZLOFF**

DETROIT - David Whitney Brewer, a retired Flint librarian and a founding officer of the Detroit Area Council of the Mattachine Society in the late 1950s, died May 20, 2001 at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit following a series of strokes earlier this year.

Brewer was born Feb. 28, 1921 in Detroit. He served as a company clerk with the U.S. Army during World War II, graduated from Wayne State

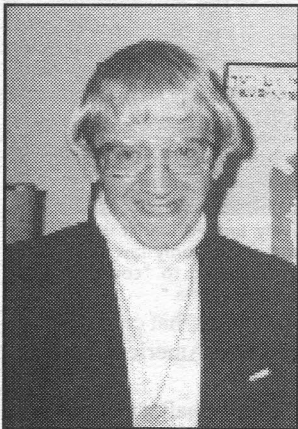
University on the GI Bill, and earned a Masters in Library Science degree from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He was employed as a reference librarian at the

Detroit Public Library before moving to Flint in 1969 to work at the Flint Public Library.

While in Detroit, Brewer joined Hal Lawson and Jai Moore in 1958 in founding a Detroit chapter for the San Francisco-based Mattachine Society. The Detroit affiliate, which survived with a small membership of a dozen or so gay men until March 1960, was the earliest known organization for homosexuals in Michigan.

During his retirement he remained active in the Unitarian Church and pursuing his love of the arts. He kept busy, as well, organizing the Detroit Mattachine papers for preservation in the Labadie Collection, speaking on college campuses, and participating in a monthly Over 50 and Under lesbian and gay social group. Into his late-seventies he prided himself in walking in the annual Crim Ten Mile Road Race.

Brewer was preceded in death by two brothers. He leaves Lawson, his longtime companion, as well as many friends and colleagues. A memorial service for Brewer will be held at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, June 30, 2001 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Flint at 2474 S Ballenger Hwy. in Flint.



David Whitney Brewer