

## OBITUARIES

# Doctor Howard Hopkins, country and folk singer

Doctor Howard Hopkins, a renowned country and folk music singer and composer whose work influenced others in the business, died Sunday at St. Francis Hospital, Evanston.

Mr. Hopkins, whose first name was inspired by a biblical adage that seventh sons have healing powers, would have been 87 this month.

Born in Harlan County, Ky., Mr. Hopkins had a heavy influence on other singers who became well-known, such as Burl Ives and Pete Seeger. Among his most famous songs are "Coal Creek March," "The Free Little Bird" and "Fatal Derby Day." He played the banjo, guitar and steel guitar, and taught banjo to the late Chicago performer

and teacher, Fleming Brown.

Mr. Hopkins was a longtime performer on two Chicago radio stations, appearing regularly on WLS's National Barn Dance program and WJJD's Suppertime Frolic program from the 1930s to the 1950s.

Mr. Hopkins was a World War I Army veteran. He also served several years in the Navy after the war. He worked at various times as a barber and as a machinist for North American Aviation in California.

Survivors include his wife, Mary, and two grandchildren.

Funeral services are pending. Visitation will be from 6 to 9 p.m. today at Birren & Sons Funeral Home, 6125 N. Clark.