

Obituaries

William Torrence

William Ralph Torrence, 82, of Mooresville, died Friday, Aug. 31, 2001 at Lake Norman Regional Medical Center. Born April 18, 1919 in Iredell County to the late Carl and Rose Hobbs Torrence, he was a retired commissary manager at Burlington Mills. Mr. Torrence was a veteran of World War II, having served in the U.S. Army.

He was married to Catherine Pharr Torrence, who preceded him in death on Jan. 26, 1995.

Mr. Torrence is survived by a daughter, Cathy Torrence Mills of Winston-Salem; a brother, Bill Torrence of Mooresville; two sisters, Ann Robinson and Betty Mayhew, both of Mooresville; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Sunday, Sept. 2 at Centre Presbyterian Church with burial in Glenwood Memorial Park.

Memorials may be made to Centre Presbyterian Church, 129 Centre Church Road, Mooresville, N.C., 28117.

Margaret Morrow

Margaret Blackwelder Morrow of Cleveland died Monday, Sept. 3, 2001 at Davis Regional Medical Center in Statesville.

Born Oct. 9, 1922, to the late Eugene W. and Ada Cowan Blackwelder, Mrs. Morrow was a member of Triplet United Methodist Church and a member of the Ladies Bible Class. A graduate of Troutman High School, she retired from Troutman Industries due to having Myasthenia Gravis for many years.

She was married on June 21, 1942 to W. Neill Morrow, who survives.

Surviving, in addition to her husband, are a sister, Katherine Hart of Statesville; a brother, E.W. Blackwelder Jr. of Laurel Hill; one niece, three nephews and one great-nephew.

Funeral services will be conducted at 3 p.m. today (Wednesday), Sept. 5 at Triplet United Methodist Church with Rev. Judith L. White officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Triplet United Methodist Church Cemetery Fund, 838 Mazeppa Road, Mooresville, N.C., 28115, or to the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation, Inc., Carolina Chapter, 506 Forest Hills Blvd., Durham, N.C., 27707.

Ocie Baker

Ocie Jean Bridges Baker, 66, of Denver, died Monday, Sept. 3, 2001 at Frye Regional Medical Center.

Born Jan. 16, 1935 in Lincoln County to the late Henry and Eugene Morrison Bridges, Mrs. Baker was a retired supervisor at J.P. Stevens.

She was married to Bobby Baker, who preceded her in death.

A brother, Richard Bridges, and a sister, Lottie Crouse, also preceded her in death.

Mrs. Baker is survived by a daughter, Frances M. Josey of Maiden; a stepdaughter, Bobbie Ann Wylie of Gaston; a sister, Doris Reese of Denver; six grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and a number of nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 6, at Pearl Baptist Church with Dr. Robert Wensil and Rev. Larry Little officiating. Burial will be in state 30 minutes prior to the service. Burial will be in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 7-8:30 p.m. today (Wednesday) at Pearl Baptist Church.

Memorials may be made to Pearl Baptist Church, 4657 E. Hwy. 150, Iron Station, N.C., 28080.

Tony Marsh

Tony Ray Marsh, 41, of Cornelius died Thursday, Aug. 30, 2001.

The son of William and Gladys Marsh, he attended Houston Road Baptist Church and North Mecklenburg High School and drove for Proud Mary Trucking Co.

Mr. Marsh was married to Dawn Gryder, who survives.

Surviving in addition to his wife and parents are three sons, Tony Marsh Jr., Aron Bradley and Chad Ray Marsh; two daughters, Nikki Mitchell Marsh and Amanda Marie Marsh; and two sisters, Wanda Braddock of Cornelius and Debbie Rorer of Mooresville.

Funeral services were held Sunday, Sept. 2, at Raymer Funeral Home Chapel. Burial was in the Huntersville Presbyterian Church Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Marsh Family, P.O. Box 874, Cornelius, N.C., 28031.

Alan Stabler

Alan Carleton Stabler, 14, of Cornelius, died Saturday, Sept. 1, 2001 at Lake Norman Regional Medical Center.

Born Oct. 24, 1986 in Greenville, he was the son of Will and Jane Stabler of New Jersey and Cheryl and Ted Hicks of Cornelius. Alan was a ninth grader at North Mecklenburg High School and active in local neighborhood youth groups.

Surviving in addition to his parents are three sisters, Katie and Meredith Stabler and Bailey Hicks, all of Cornelius; paternal grandparents, Dr. and Mrs. Carey Stabler; maternal grandparents, Taylor Haynes and John and Gretchen Browell; an uncle and other extended family.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. today (Wednesday), Sept. 5, at Raymer Funeral Home Chapel with pastors John Byerly and Doug Brown officiating. Burial will be in Mt. Zion Community Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Adam Petty Fund, Victory Junction Gang Camp, 311 Branson Mill Road, Randleman, N.C., 27317.

Margaret Penninger

Margaret Penninger, 81, of Huntersville, died Saturday, Sept. 1, 2001, at her residence.

Born Dec. 4, 1919 in Mint Hill to the late William Henry and Mamie Cochrane Wilson, Mrs. Penninger was a member of Independence Hill Baptist Church, a graduate of Bain High School and a 1944 graduate of Mercy School of Nursing.

For 25 years, she worked for Dr. C.L. Nance. In 1970, she began working for Wesley Nursing Center, where she retired in 1992 after 22 years of service.

She was married for 53 years to Joe Everett Penninger Jr., who preceded her in death in 1999.

Mrs. Penninger is survived by a son, Joe E. Penninger III of Huntersville; a brother, Edward Wilson; five sisters, Zeldia Gladden, Ruby Simpson, Ruth Walters, Frances Goode and Evelyn Hilton; two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Monday, Sept. 3 at Independence Hill Baptist Church in Huntersville. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Presbyterian Hospice.

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Eye of the Tribune

By Juanita Davis



Mary Honeycutt

100th birthday celebrated

Family and friends gathered to help Mary Honeycutt celebrate her 100th birthday on Sunday, July 29, in the fellowship hall of Vanderburg United Methodist Church of Mooresville.

Mary was born on July 24, 1901 to Ida Bradley Brawley and Robert S. Brawley. She was the sixth child of 11 children. She married Carby Honeycutt in 1926. There were no children in this union. She is the last survivor of her generation.

The fellowship hall was decorated with bouquets of variegated summer flowers and large ferns. Her birthday cake was very special with four small cakes surrounding a large three-tiered cake decorated in pink and white and, of course, topped with the 100 numeral. Other festive foods and tea were also served.

Seventy guests attended, including many of Mary's nieces and nephews. All those attending enjoyed great fellowship with Mary and were delighted to be a part of the celebration. Mary has made her home at Mooresville's Brian Center Nursing Home for more than 20 years.

Ageless Wisdom

I thought it fitting to follow the above item with quotes from "Words to Live By" entitled Ageless Wisdom, compiled by Katherine Vogle from people whose names you may recognize.

"Every age can be enchanting, providing you live within it." — Brigitte Bardot.

"Whatever wrinkles I got, I enjoyed getting them." — Ava Gardner.

"Nature gives you the face you have when you are twenty. Life shapes the face you have at thirty. But it is up to you to earn the face you have at fifty." — Coco Chanel.

"It's not how old you are, but how you are old." — Marie Dressler.

"Do not deprive me of my age. I have earned it." — May Sarton.

"The great thing about getting older is that you don't lose all the other ages you have been." — Madeline L'Engle.

"We are always the same age inside." — Gertrude Stein.

"In youth, we learn. In age we understand." — Marie Ebner Eschenbach.

"Age is all imagination. Ignore years and they'll ignore you." — Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

Fun in Pennsylvania

Mooresville folks had four days of fun visiting points of interest in Pennsylvania during the month of August. They traveled through the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and stopped at Gettysburg Military Park to see the battlefields, memorial statues and special monuments. Arriving in Lancaster, Pa., the first event was viewing an interesting film at the Mennonite Center portraying the life and history of the Amish people and then a guided tour of the Amish farms and homes. The evening was spent at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre enjoying the best in foods and Broadway style entertainment — "Calamity Jane."

The Amish farmers market was filled with a vast array of traditional Amish delights and from there the group saw the phenomenal performance of "Noah" — step by step as Noah followed the Lord's direction.

The Anderson Pretzel Factory tour was rather "filling" as the tourists tasted the many varieties and also the group might have gotten a little hyper at Hershey's Chocolate World.

Area folks making the trip with Sonshine Tour Guide Edna Stafford were: Gib Stafford, Joan Sherrill, Nancy Douglas, Bobby and Lib Lowe, Gerti Pope, Loretta Kayser, Pat Burgess, Frances McCorkle, Ralph and Ann Cloaninger, Ruth Kimzey, Fern Brazell, Vera Stegall, Martha Peck, Judy Wyatt, Phyllis Overcash, Pauline Mitchell, Geraldine Connolly, Dorothy Herb, Donna Virtue, Gene and Leslie Kendall, Debbie Smith, Ruth and James Shaver, Ted, Nancy and Aimee Black, Charice Marsden, and Lorraine Crouch.

To share your fun times at home or on the road, funny happenings, quick ideas and recipes, call me at 704-664-5554, fax 664-3614 or write P.O. Box 300, Mooresville, N.C. 28115.

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Area churches, clubs plan special events

Barbecue at Shiloh

An all-day barbecue is planned at Shiloh United Methodist Church, 4149 Odell School Road, Concord on Friday, Sept. 7, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eat in or take out and the cost per plate is \$8.50; sandwich, \$2.50 or by the pound, \$6.50. For phone orders call 788-8695.

Port-A-Pit for Habitat

Tickets are now on sale for a Port-A-Pit chicken barbecue to benefit the Habitat for Humanity house under construction on Thayer Court in Mooresville. Members of First Presbyterian Church of Mooresville will host the barbecue at the church on Saturday, Sept. 8 from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Tickets are \$7 each and must be purchased in advance. Dinners include 1/2 chicken, side items and dessert.

There will also be a silent auction with proceeds to fund the Habitat for Humanity project. For tickets or more details, call the church office at (704) 664-5275.

Biblical archeologist

Dr. James Tabor of the Religious Studies Department of UNC-Charlotte will be the guest speaker of the Adult

Sunday School of St. James Episcopal Church, Mooresville, at 9:15 a.m. on Sept. 9. The topic will be "Jesus, the New Testament and Archeology: Recent Discoveries."

Tabor has led several teams of UNCC students on archeological digs in the Holy Land. Recently he did work in a cave where the earliest drawing of John the Baptist was discovered. His most recent book is "Why Waco? Cults and the Battle for Religious Freedom in America." He will show slides and display artifacts he and his students have discovered. The public is invited to attend.

Aglow Lighthouse

Sally Glenn of Greensboro will be the speaker at the Cornelius-Lake Norman Aglow Lighthouse on Saturday, Sept. 8, at 9 a.m. at Prime Restaurant, 1-77 Exit 28, Cornelius. The speaker and her husband, Bob, have a ministry called SBG Ministries and they see themselves as street evangelists. For more information, contact Lena Wallin at 892-8819.

New Cambridge yard sale

An all-day yard sale is planned at New Cambridge Christian Church, 111

Cardinal Lane, Mooresville on Saturday, Sept. 8. For anyone who would like to include or donate items for the sale, the church folks can make arrangements to pick up items if necessary. All proceeds will assist the church in their outreach ministries as well as those within their church. Details: Call 704/528-1838 or 704/528-2314.

Campbell Missionary

The pastor, deacons and trustees of Campbell Missionary Baptist Church, 562 W. McLelland Ave., invite the public to attend the Deacons and Trustees Program at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 9.

Rev. Norman Dudley, pastor of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church in Harmony will bring the message.

For more information, contact the church office at 704-664-2218. Pastor is Rev. James A. Chambers Sr.

Appreciation service

The public is invited to attend appreciation services for Rev. Emory Redfear at 4 p.m. on Sept. 23 at Jerusalem Baptist Church, 430 Neel St.

Evangelist Debra Perry will be the speaker for the services honoring Rev. Redfear, founder and director of Mooresville's House of Hope.

Red Cross offers safety courses in September

Here are two upcoming programs presented by the Mooresville/Lake Norman office of the American Red Cross:

First aid, CPR

Several first aid and CPR classes in September. A community CPR course, in which participants will learn rescue breathing, choking, and chest compressions for adults, infants, and children, will be held on Monday, Sept. 17 and Wednesday, Sept. 19 from 6 to 10 p.m. at the War Memorial. The adult CPR will be taught the first night. Cost is \$42 for both nights and \$31 for the first night.

Also, a community first aid and safety course will be offered on Saturday, Sept. 22 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the War Memorial. The course will teach rescue breathing, choking, and chest compressions for adults, infants, and

children, as well as first aid basics. Cost is \$56. To register for either program or for details, call 704-664-4908.

Babysitter training

A babysitter training course for ages 11 to 15 will be held Saturday, Sept. 15 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Huntersville Community Center, will combine the knowledge and skills associated with leadership, safety, and professionalism. The course also includes first aid training. Cost is \$25. To register or for more information, call 704-664-4908.

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Tying the knot?

Send your engagement and wedding announcements and photographs to the Mooresville Tribune, P.O. Box 300, Mooresville, N.C., 28115, or fax to 664-3614. Deadline is 5 p.m. each Tuesday for the weekend publication.

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Triple murder case scheduled for trial

By JONATHAN WEAVER

The triple murder trial of one of two men accused of killing a Statesville family may begin soon.

The district attorney's office has been preparing for the trial of Justin Jamal McDonald, 22, which is scheduled to start in October. McDonald is charged with killing all three members of the Rhine family.

"The DA has been over here (Statesville Police Department) going through evidence," said Sgt. Tom Anderson, one of the three lead investigators on the case. "We've had to pretty much start at square one and go back through everything."

Lead prosecutor Patricia

Bruce could not be reached for comment about her preparations.

Authorities found the first two bodies - a young female and male toddler - on Feb. 5, 1999, in a wooded area on U.S. 21 near the Yadkin County Line. A male body was found a day later buried in a shallow grave behind a house on Eufoia Road.

It was the grim culmination of a wrenching week-and-a-half search for the missing family.

Robin, 43; his wife, Kimberly, 28; and their 2-year-old son Hunter all died from multiple gunshot wounds to the head.

After a massive month-long search for their killers, two Statesville men were

charged in their deaths. Police arrested McDonald first. Days later, 26-year-old Russell Owen McIntosh was arrested.

Both were charged with the deaths of Kimberly and Hunter. McDonald also faces charges for Robin's murder. Police have not disclosed a motive for the killings. Robin Rhine was a delivery truck driver. Kimberly Rhine worked as a waitress at the Statesville Country Club.

Both McDonald and McIntosh already have been part of court proceedings.

A seven-woman, five-man jury in U.S. District Court in December 2000 found McIntosh guilty of conspiring to possess a firearm during a drug trafficking

offense. McDonald pleaded guilty to possession of a cocaine base.

In mid-June, a judge sentenced them both to life in prison.

"Originally, we had planned a date for the first of July," said District Attorney Garry Frank after the pair's sentencing. "But due to these other matters, (the drug trial and sentencing) that became impossible."

Pre-trial motions in the McDonald case could get under way as early as mid-September. A judge approved a change in venue for the case. The trial will be held in Lexington in Davidson County. The state is seeking the death penalty against both men.

All three were found dead in early February - Kimberly and her little boy in a wooded area in northern Iredell County and Robin buried in a shallow grave behind a house on Eufoia Road.

The news was difficult for both families, but it was particularly hard for Ogden and her husband, Buck.

Ogden was close to her only daughter and grandson, frequently babysitting for Hunter when Kimberly had to work.

She talked to the daughter she called Kimmy almost daily. The last conversation was on Jan. 19, the day Kimberly and Hunter disappeared.

It was a normal conversation, she said. Kimberly said nothing about Robin's disappearance the day before. Looking back, Ogden thinks the kidnappers may have been in the house. "She didn't say anything because of Hunter," she said.

Today Ogden hopes to see the trials through and put them behind her. "Maybe now we can get some piece of mind," she said.

Victim's mother hopes for closure

By DONNA SWICEGOOD

For nearly three years, two families have been waiting for justice.

Now it may be on the horizon.

The murder trial of one of two men accused of murdering a 43-year-old Statesville man, his 28-year-old wife and their 2-year-old son is scheduled to begin in October.

Kimberly Rhine, 28, and grandson, Hunter, 2, along with Kim's husband, Robin, 43, died of gunshot wounds in January 1999.

Statesville residents Justin Jamal McDonald, 22, and Russell Owen McIntosh, 26, face murder charges in the case.

McDonald will face a jury first. He stands accused of killing all three members of the Rhine family. McIntosh will be tried at a later date. He faces charges of kidnapping and murdering Kimberly and Hunter.

The two cases have been placed on the docket many times since both men were arrested in the early part of 1999.

That's why Betty Ogden, the mother and grandmother of the murder victims, remains skeptical the case will go ahead as scheduled in October.

"I'll believe it when I see it," she said. "They have set it so many times. Hopefully this time it's for real. I'll keep my fingers crossed."

Robin Rhine's father, Jack, had little to say about the pending trial. "We just want to get it over with," he said.

The numerous delays in the case have been difficult for Ogden and her family. "It's just nerve-racking," Ogden said. "It's gone on too long, way too long."

Ogden described the last 32 months as awful. "We haven't had closure," she said. "We've got to have some kind of closure."

The Ogden and Rhynes have been waiting since January 1999 when Robin left his Lackey Street home with two men. He was trying to sell his 1983 Porsche, and reportedly went with the men for that purpose.