

Obituaries

Pete Baker

Albert Francis "Pete" Baker, 88, of Mooresville, died Sunday, Aug. 19, 2001 following a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's.

Born June 27, 1913 in Mooresville to the late Robert Henry Baker Sr. and Annie Corning Baker, he was a deacon and a lifetime member of First Presbyterian Church. Mr. Baker was a graduate of Presbyterian College, had a career as a chemist and retired from American Color and Chemical Corporation.

He was married for 64 years to Nancy Culp Baker, who survives.

Surviving in addition to his wife are a daughter, Nancy Stegle-Ward of Louisville, Tenn.; a sister, Ruth Baker Pope of Austin, Texas; a brother, Robert Henry Baker Jr. of Salisbury; and a grandson.

Mr. Baker was preceded in death by a brother, Hubert Baker; sisters Margaret Baker Barnett and Helen Baker Crowell; and a grandson, Albert David Shinn.

Funeral services will be held today (Wednesday) at 2 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church. Burial will be in Glenwood Memorial Park.

Memorials may be made to First Presbyterian Church in Mooresville or the Alzheimer's Association.

Nona Miller

Nona Ballard Miller, 94, of Mooresville died Sunday, Aug. 19, 2001 at Genesis ElderCare.

Born May 10, 1907 in Lincoln County to the late James M. and Mary Hyder Ballard, she was a homemaker.

Mrs. Miller was married to James W. Miller who preceded her in death on Aug. 26, 1996.

Survivors include two daughters, LaRue Burleigh of Mooresville and Jane M. Reading of Greensboro; six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held today (Wednesday) at 11 a.m. at the Hill Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Lawrence O'wney officiating. Burial will be in Glenwood Memorial Park.

Memorials may be made to Mt. Mourne Church of God, Mt. Mourne, N.C. 28123 or to Fieldstone Presbyterian Church, Mooresville, N.C. 28115.

Nicole Bowman

Nicole Ann Bowman, 16, of Iron Station died Thursday, Aug. 16, 2001.

Born Dec. 25, 1984, in Stevens Point, Wis., she was the daughter of John and Micky Bowman. She attended East Lincoln High School where she was in the eleventh grade. Miss Bowman was an honor student, participated in varsity softball, basketball, and volleyball, was on the homecoming court, a member of the Pep Club and a Mustang Pride Member.

In addition to her parents, she is survived by a brother, Luke Bowman of the home; grandparents, Dick and Darlene Trickle and Mike and Jackie Bowman.

Funeral services were conducted Monday, Aug. 20 at St. Dorothy's Catholic Church. Burial followed in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Nicole Ann Bowman Memorial Fund, c/o East Lincoln High School, 6741 Hwy. 73, Denver, N.C. 28037.

Agnes Gunter

Agnes Krider Gunter, 93, died Sunday, Aug. 19, 2001 at Lake Norman Regional Medical Center.

She was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John B. Gunter of Salisbury. Mrs. Gunter was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Mooresville, the Friday Afternoon Book Club of Salisbury, and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Survivors include her son, Richard B. Gunter of Cornelius; three grandchildren, Lynn Gunter and Renee Whitley, both of Cornelius and Patricia Whitman of Midland; six great-grandchildren; and four nieces.

A memorial service will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Mooresville on Thursday, Aug. 23 at 2 p.m. following the burial at Chestnut Hill Cemetery in Salisbury. The family will receive friends in the church parlor following the memorial service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to the First Presbyterian Church Restoration Fund, 249 W. McLellan Ave., Mooresville, N.C. 28115.

Vance Connelly

Vance Brown Connelly, 90, of Mt. Ulla died Friday, Aug. 17, 2001 at the Liberty Commons Nursing Center in Salisbury after a period of declining health.

Born Sept. 25, 1910 in Rowan County to the late Terza Nancy Davis Connelly and William Arthur Connelly, he was educated in the Rowan County Schools and retired from Burlington Industries in Mooresville. He was a member of St. Luke's Lutheran Church and the Adult Men's Sunday School Class.

Mr. Connelly was married to Mary Helen Klutz Connelly, who preceded him in death on Sept. 4, 2000.

Surviving are three sons, Robert C. Connelly of Mt. Ulla, Russell E. Connelly of Bonita, Calif., and Rev. William V. Connelly of Oakland (Red House), Md.; two daughters, Margaret C. Faust of Cleveland and Amy C. Padgett of Salisbury; one brother, Paschal Connelly of Mt. Ulla; 15 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted on Tuesday, Aug. 21 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Mt. Ulla. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Memorials may be made to St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 11020 NC 801 Hwy., Mt. Ulla, N.C. 28125.

Donald Parks

Donald Wayne Parks, 58, of Salisbury died Friday, Aug. 17, 2001 at his home after having been in declining health for six months.

Born April 20, 1943 in Rowan County, he was the son of Rachel Ritchie Parks of Salisbury and the late Donald Boyd Parks. He graduated from East Rowan High School in 1961. Mr. Parks, who worked for Service Partners LLC Ltd. in Mooresville until his illness, served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War on the USS Hunley as a master printer. He was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church.

Mr. Parks was preceded in death by his first wife, Brenda Jones Parks, in June, 1988.

He is survived by his wife, Vicki Shaw Parks, whom he married on May 6, 1989.

Surviving, in addition to his mother and wife, are two stepsons, James R. Hill, Jr. of Cary and Jonathan Shaw Hill of Lewisville; two sis-

ters, Nancy Parks Cannon of Birmingham, Ala., and Phyllis Parks McGinnis of Rockwell, a half-sister; Donald Parks Salada of Fayetteville; one granddaughter; five nephews and one niece.

Funeral services were held Monday, Aug. 20 at St. John's Lutheran Church. Burial was in St. Paul's Lutheran Church Cemetery.

Memorials may be made in memory of Donald Wayne Parks, c/o M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, P.O. Box 297153, Houston, Texas, 77297 for melanoma cancer research or to Rowan Regional Home Health and Hospice, 825-A W. Henderson St., Salisbury, N.C. 28144.

George Ramsey, Sr.

George Alexander Ramsey, Sr., 61, of Troutman died Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2001 at Iredell Memorial Hospital following an extended illness.

Born July 17, 1940 in Iredell County to the late Nebraska and Hilda Rankin Ramsey, he attended the Amity Hill and Unity High School. Mr. Ramsey was employed at Burlington Industries in Mooresville for 35 years and was a concrete finisher for many years. He attended Shiloh United Church of Christ where he was a member of the Trustee Board.

A brother, Tommy Rankin, and a grandson, Elijah Robinson, preceded him in death.

Mr. Ramsey was married to Annie Harris Ramsey, who survives.

In addition to his wife, survivors include eleven children: Jarvis Harris of Charlotte, George Jr., Lora Graham, Rodney Ramsey and Tyrone Brandon, all of Troutman, Leonard Ramsey, Erica Ramsey, Tara Ramsey and Ebony Brandon, all of Statesville, Steven Ramsey of Shelby and Cheri Ramsey of Mocksville; three brothers, Nathaniel Ramsey, Kenneth Ramsey and James Ramsey, all of Troutman; 17 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and a number of nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday, Aug. 18 at Shiloh United Church of Christ in Troutman. Burial was in the church cemetery.

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Eye of the Tribune

By Juanita Davis

Gathering of the Laity

Ten members of Broad Street United Methodist Church of Mooresville attended the 36th annual meeting of The Gathering of the Laity at Lake Junaluska, Aug. 17-19. The music and messages by Evangelist Clyde Dupin of Kernersville, Dr. James P. Buskirk of Tulsa, Okla., Dr. John Ed Mathison of Montgomery, Ala., Rev. Rosemary Brown of Elizabethton, Tenn. and Rev. Roger Hunter, vocalist concert artist in the Hickory area and serves in the WNC Parish Ministry and currently ministering in Shelby/Lawndale, were all outstanding and well-received.

Those attending were John and Floe Roberts, Dave Roberts, Jane White, Don and Dianne Humphrey, Kensley Moore, Catherine Davis and George and Kay Allen.

"Tom Sawyer"

The performance of the musical adaption of "Tom Sawyer" was absolutely wonderful and the Joe V. Knox Auditorium at the Mooresville Citizens Center was filled to capacity opening night and well attended on Saturday and Sunday. All of the cast members were outstanding and hopefully there will be other plays in the near future. The Mooresville/South Iredell Chamber of Commerce Cultural Committee sponsored the show.

Ecuador team returns

Mooresville area folks have returned from a mission trip to Ecuador — thanks to many area people who played a major part in helping this team go by supporting the recent London Broil dinner at First Baptist Church.

Those making the trip included Carl Nichols, Andrew Williamson, Rev. Mark Pitts, Ann Marie Thompson, Pam Jeffers, Charlotte Clontz, Dr. Mark Weaver, Dr. Steve Ferguson, Marie Lawrence, Maxine Dunning and Paul Ferguson.

"Annie" at Barn Theatre

The play "Annie" based on the well known "Little Orphan Annie" has been presented since June 27, 2001 at The Barn Dinner Theatre in Greensboro. The last performance will be August 26, 2001. Thirty some Mooresville folks attended the performance through Sonshine Tours with Becky Hunter as hostess for the evening on Saturday. It was interesting that after everyone had enough food, the buffet tables were removed and the ceiling of the barn was lowered for the play which was presented in three acts. This involved many talented children from age 6 and up and of course many adults. The only thing missing was Annie's dog "Sandy" who had an accident and was recuperating in the area's animal hospital.

Get a grip

Women, probably more than men, are faced with how to remove a stubborn jar lid. I have this problem since my hands are weak. I found this tip from Martha Stewart. Place one wide rubber band around the lid, another around the jar, and twist the lid open while gripping each band. The rubber bands provide traction.

Jefferson's legacy

Thomas Jefferson once remarked, "The greatest service which can be rendered any country is to add a useful plant to its culture." He is credited with introducing fruits, vegetables and flowers among which are pineapple melon, purple and white broccoli, heliotrope, Texas Bird pepper, pumpkin, artichoke and many more.

Music in the Park

I just learned that the Music in the Park series behind the War Memorial will be continued for three extra weeks. The music begins at 7 p.m. each Tuesday. There were more than 100 folks watching the last performance. Give it a try ... you'll enjoy it.

To share your get-togethers, travels, family events, short recipes, and other events call me at 704-664-5554, fax 664-3614 or write P.O. Box 300, Mooresville, N.C. 28115.

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Youth rally set Saturday

Gospel music recording artists Keith "Wonder Boy" Johnson and The Spiritual Voices of Brooklyn and Brian Mayes & Heaven Bound of Charlotte will be the featured performers at "The Back to School Gospel Explosion" Youth Rally planned at the Christian Outreach Center, 1424 Rickert St., Statesville on Saturday, Aug. 25, at 7 p.m. Others taking part are the Ambassadors for Christ of Statesville, The Gospel Tones of Sumter, S.C. and the M.V.C. Singers of the Carolinas. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$18 at the door. Call Nancy Bailey at 704-678-9749.

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Church notes

Cascade Baptist

Mooresville's Southern Sanctuary Quartet will be in concert at Cascade Baptist Church of Mooresville on Sunday, Aug. 26, at 6 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

speaker and vocalist. His wife will also sing several songs. Tucker has a brother, Deacon Lee Tucker, who lives in Mooresville. Lunch will follow the morning service.

Bible study

A Precept Upon Precept Bible study, The Gospel of John, begins on Tuesday, Sept. 11 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Peninsula Baptist Church, Brawley School Road, Mooresville. The Precept Upon Precept study method is being used across the states and in more than 62 countries by people seeking to know the truths of the Word of God themselves. These in-depth studies are widely acclaimed for their practical, personal approach to bible study. The study includes homework, discussion and a powerful lecture time to direct you in unlocking the message of God's word. For more information, call Penny at 704-664-1323.

Family focus

All interested persons are invited to an evening on "Strengthening the Family and the Individual" on Sunday, Aug. 26, at the Lake Norman Chapel on Lazy Lane from 6 to 8 p.m. There will be classes for all ages as well as displays with ideas on the subject. Dan Griffith will bring a message that will center on the gospel and it's relationship to the family and individual. The evening will close with fellowship and refreshments. For more information, call Peter Anderson, 704-0948-5809, or Griffith at 704-663-4585.

Fellowship program

The pastor, officers and congregation of Campbell Missionary Baptist Church invite the public to worship with them on Sunday, Aug. 26, at the church at 3 p.m. The speaker will be Brother Woodrow Tucker of Richmond, Va., a dynamic

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Stonger economy predicted by year end

Media General News Service

WASHINGTON — The U.S. index of leading economic indicators rose in July for a fourth consecutive month, suggesting that the economy will strengthen by the end of the year.

The Conference Board's index, a gauge of economic activity over the next three to six months, rose 0.3 percent. That matched June's rise and reflected an increase in the money supply and a drop in first-time claims for unemployment benefits.

"The index is flashing a signal that the economy will be doing better as we head into the second half of the year," said Joshua Shapiro, the chief U.S. economist at Maria Fiorini Ramirez Inc. in New York.

A combination of lower interest rates and advance tax-refund checks that the government started mailing last month may spur the economy by enticing consumers to spend more at retailers such as Lowe's Cos. and Best Buy Inc.

The four-month string of gains in the leading indicators index is the first since October 1999-January 2000. The Conference Board compiles the index from eight previously reported economic statistics and estimates of two others.

To help ensure that the economy picks up later this year and next, Federal Reserve policy-makers are likely to lower the overnight bank lending rate today to a seven-year low of 5.5 percent, according to a Bloomberg survey of 80 economists. Government securities fell ahead of the

Fed meeting as investors considered whether central bankers would make today's expected rate cut the last for some time. The 10-year Treasury note fell a half point, pushing up its yield 7 basis points to 4.9 percent.

Trading in federal funds futures contracts, which are tied directly to Fed rate decisions, suggests one more reduction may happen by year's end. The implied yield on the December fed funds future is 3.27 percent, almost a half percentage point below the current 3.75 percent rate and almost a quarter point below where analysts expect it to be today.

By lowering interest rates six times this year, the Fed "has moved to support demand and we trust, help lay the groundwork for the economy to achieve maximum sustainable growth," Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan told Congress last month.

Even with the Fed's actions and the first installment of a 10-year 1.35 trillion tax cut, the economy may be slow to accelerate. Gross domestic product, the sum of all goods and services produced in the United States, expanded at a 0.7 percent annual rate in the second quarter. That was the weakest in more than eight years and the fourth consecutive quarter with growth at less than a 2 percent pace. The last time the economy had such an extended slow patch was during the eight-month recession in 1990-1991.

"The economy remains sluggish and consumers continue to purchase conservatively," said Sharon Bateman, a spokes-

woman at May Department Stores Co. in St. Louis, last week.

The owner of Lord & Taylor and Hecht's reported a 3.1 percent decline in sales at stores open at least a year during its fiscal second quarter.

Besides an increase in money supply and fewer jobless claims, the Conference Board's index was pulled up by the interest rate spread between the 10-year note and federal funds, a rise in manufacturing hours and higher consumer expectations.

Still, a drop in stock prices, a decline in building permits and faster vendor performance, subtracted from the index, a sign that measures of production are still weak. Industrial production has declined for 10 consecutive months, the longest stretch since the 1982 recession year, the latest Fed figures show.

Indexes measuring new orders for business equipment and for consumer goods were unchanged.

The index of coincident indicators, a gauge of current economic activity, rose 0.1 percent in July after falling 0.1 percent in June. The index of lagging indicators dropped 0.7 percent last month, compared with a 0.9 percent decrease the prior month.

The government started mailing out advance tax refund checks last month, giving taxpayers extra money to spend, save or pay down debt.

A preliminary index measuring consumer sentiment in August rose to the highest since January, a sign consumer spending may aid growth.

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