



Herman Thomas
.....Died September 10

Herman Thomas Loses Struggle With Cancer

By Jalyne Strong
Post Staff Writer

Herman Thomas, born in Charlotte in 1921, died on September 10, 1985, following a three-year struggle with cancer. He was 64 years old.

His wife, Jane Elizabeth Love Thomas, and his 23-year-old daughter, Michelle, miss him greatly; as do the many, many people whom Thomas touched during his exemplary lifetime.

"He truly believed that anything in life worth having was worth sharing," tells his wife. And Thomas illustrated this belief by example. For 20 years he gave his leisure time to be manager of the Charlotte semi-professional baseball teams, the Thrift Tigers and the Morris Field Rangers. All the while, Thomas was more than a manager to the young men with whom he came in contact.

"He was interested in young people's personal success and their contributions to society," recalls Mrs. Thomas. "His baseball players always called him 'Dad' and they came to him for advice."

Very community active, Thomas was also a member of Ramesses Temple No. 51, the Sparkling Diamond Masonic Lodge No. 373 and the West Charlotte Optimist Club.

And his joy was to play golf with his buddies. Mrs. Thomas remembers how during her husband's illness his friends continued to be quite supportive. "They were concerned and often came to see him. Because he could not sit due to the cancer, his friends would make a place for him to lie down in their cars. They continued to take him with them to play golf or wherever they were going. He was quite a fighter," emphasizes Mrs. Thomas, noting that her husband enjoyed life.

In the special relationship he shared with his daughter, Thomas called Michelle "Buddy" and she, never calling him Dad, did the same. She recalls, "Although he suffered and was in pain, he would call my mother and I together and we would pray. In our last conversation, he told me he was very proud of me and he knew that I'd do the best I could in life."

"My father was a modern day Job," says Michelle. "He was so humble and such a fine man. He continues to live through me," she assures.

"Before he passed he had a number of projects at home and he fulfilled each one," explains Mrs. Thomas. "He wanted to make sure that we would be comfortable after he was gone."

"He was a good husband, a good father, a good son, a good brother and a good friend."

Thomas completed his own funeral arrangements and told his wife to make sure that the service will be a "joyous" one.

Funeral services for Herman Thomas will be held at Woodland United Presbyterian Church on Sunday, September 15, at 1:30 p.m. Grier Funeral Home will be in charge of the service.

A graduate of Plato Price High School, Thomas was a basketball player for the school's team. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and was honorably discharged in 1953. He attended Central Piedmont Community College, where he completed course requirements in drafting. Employed with the Duff-Norton Company as a machinist and supervisor for 20 years, Thomas retired in December, 1984.

He is survived by his wife and daughter; two sisters, Mrs. Mary H. Clawson and Mrs. Margaret McCullough; mother, Mrs. Myrtle Thompson, step mother-in-law, Mrs. Naomi Love; two brothers-in-law, Harold Clawson and Roger McCullough Sr.; four nephews, three nieces, one great nephew, other relatives and a host of dear friends.

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