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Sudden Attack Fatal On Friday To Horace Easom

Horace Easom of 510 W. Marion Street, Shelby, prominent Baptist, civic leader and since 1961 executive director of the Cleveland County United Fund, Inc., died suddenly from an apparent heart attack around 3:45 p.m. Friday in uptown Shelby.

Native of Smithfield in Johnston county, he came to Shelby in August, 1928 as director of religious education and minister of music at Shelby's First Baptist Church, serving in that capacity until June 1, 1947 with exception of two years, 1934-36.

Between 1947 and 1952 Easom led the Wake Forest Enlargement Campaign to raise \$2 million through the state's Baptist churches and afterwards was the state's first Brotherhood secretary, and secretary of the Baptist Foundation.

In 1941, Gardner-Webb College turned to him to head a campaign to raise \$100,000 as the school, then Bolling Springs Junior College, sought accreditation. He also co-chaired in 1943 the Memorial Fund Enlargement Campaign which raised \$750,000 for Gardner-Webb and again in 1947 he co-chaired a special endowment campaign for the college when it was accepted by the Baptist State Convention.

Easom retired in 1958 but promptly became director of public relations for Union Trust Company in Shelby. He became executive director of the Cleveland County United Fund, Inc. on July 1, 1961, a post he held at the time of his death.

He has served as a member of the Wake Forest College Board of Trustees, Gardner-Webb College Board of Trustees and the G-W Advisory Committee. He has directed music for the Baptist State Convention, State Evangelistic Conference and for several Baptist Assemblies. He had also served as Moderator for the Kings Mountain Baptist Association and was one of the "Christian Laymen's Witnessing Organization. Member of the Shelby Kiwanis Club, he served one year as Lieutenant Governor of Division One for Carolina Kiwanis; was named Shelby's "Man of the Year" in 1961; and served as chaplain for the American Legion Post No. 82.

Educated at Bues Creek Academy (now Campbell College), Wake Forest College and New York School of Music and Arts, he served in World War I and afterwards became director of education and music at Southside Church in Wilmington in 1921. Other churches he served as education and music director have been First Baptist Church of Asheville;

First Baptist Church of Dallas, Texas; Buffalo Baptist and Bethel Baptist, along with several other Cleveland County churches. He is survived by his widow, the former Margaret Stevens of Clinton, N. C., whom he married in 1926; one daughter, Mrs. Robert Litton; three grandchildren, Lu Litton, Robert Litton, Jr. and Margaret Stevens Litton; and two sisters, Mrs. Howard Gray and Mrs. J. E. Medlin, both of Smithfield.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday at 3 p.m. from First Baptist Church with Rev. Gen. Watterson and Rev. Roland Leath officiating. Interment was in Sunset cemetery.

Wm. C. Absher Funeral Rites Held On Sunday

Funeral services for William Claude Absher, 48, of Route 3, Kings Mountain, were conducted Sunday at 3 p.m. from Concord United Methodist Church of which he was a member. The Rev. H. C. Clayton and Rev. H. O. Huss officiated with interment following in the church cemetery.

A farmer, Absher died at his home Thursday night following a two-months illness.

Survivors include his parents, Charlie and Mrs. C. Absher of Route 3; three brothers, Clayton Absher of Rt. 2, Cherryville, Evan S. Absher of Rt. 2, Bessemer City, and R. Lee Absher of Route 3, Kings Mountain; one sister, Mrs. Harley Wilson of Rt. 3, Kings Mountain.

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