

ROBINSON

From 1A
the plate or batting in the 280s. But his wife says he was noted for his hustle and his catching arm and at one time or another he caught some of the greatest pitchers of all times. His den in his home off Cherryville Road is filled with memorabilia, signed baseballs of the greats of the sporting world, and copies of tributes paid him from all over the country.

"Satchel was easy to catch, his main pitch was his fast ball," said Robinson. He could get anyone out with his fast ball so that's what he would rely on. He didn't like to throw too many curve balls because they're not too good on your arm. Even when he died he had a strong arm," recalled Robinson.

"If you hit him once you wouldn't get that pitch to hit no more. That's the way he was. He wouldn't shake the catcher off too often. If he didn't get to throw too many curve balls, we would say we would just pitch in and out, high and low. He would get you out anyway."

His big break came in 1939 when Paige picked him for the Satchel Paige All Star traveling team. After two years with the All Stars he later caught for Satchel on the Kansas City Monarchs and Baltimore Elite Giants teams. "Slow" was roommate with legendary Leon Day

when the team won the Negro American Leagues final championship in 1949.

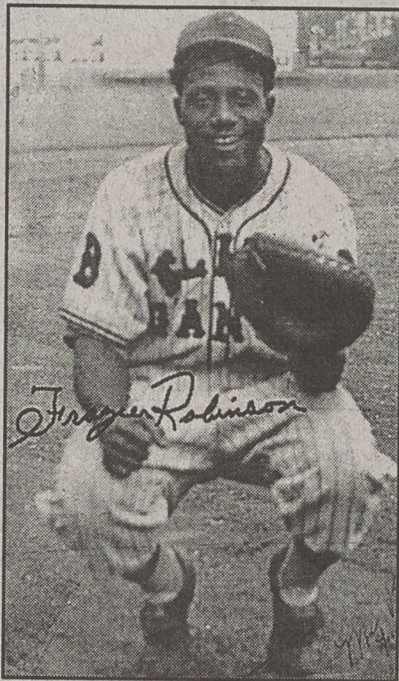
After three years of service in World War II Robinson returned to catch for the Elite Giants from 1946-50. He broke his ankle sliding into third base, shortening his career in the big leagues. Slow and his brother, Norman, who also played baseball, spent a lot of their traveling time singing and he has tapes of some of those events among his memorabilia. Norman Robinson was the regular centerfielder for the Birmingham Black Barons when young Willie Mays joined the team but it took a broken leg before Mays could replace him in center.

"Satchel was good as anybody ever pitched because he could pitch three or four days a week. He could get the ball up there about 98 miles an hour and then he could throw it in the strike zone," said Robinson. "Now, Day had good control too but Day was a pitcher that would keep you honest. If you hit him one time he might hit you the next time you come up there, this is his claim to success that he made those hitters beg him not to hit him."

"Those were the days," said Robinson.

"The Negro League was a haven for players denied a chance but I want later generations to remember us."

Frazier started playing base-



Catcher "Slow Hank" Robinson in his heyday of professional baseball.

ball in high school.

"After I started playing," he said, "I fell in love with it. It was something I had all intentions of being good at."

Church to honor Pastor H. S. Scruggs

Rev. H. S. Scruggs will be honored on Appreciation Day Sunday at Capps Memorial Missionary Methodist Children's Church in Cherryville.

The service will be held at the 11 a.m. worship hour. The public is invited.

Obituaries

ROSA B. CHURCH
NORTH WILKESBORO - Rosa Billings Church, 94, formerly of Legion Drive, died June 29, 1997 at Wilkes Senior Village.

She was a native of Wilkes County, daughter of Dossie Ann Smoot and Andrew Jackson Billings and was the widow of A. M. Church who died in 1992. She was a member of the North Wilkesboro First Baptist Church, the North Wilkesboro Woman's club and North Wilkesboro Garden Club.

Surviving are one son and daughter-in-law, Mike and Patricia Church of Kings Mountain; one daughter and son-in-law, Ann and Ken Barnes of Winston-Salem; five grandchildren, Jeff Church of Lincolnton, David Church of Mocksville, Tammy G. Muckler of North Wilkesboro and Andrew Barnes and Gregory Barnes, both of Charlotte; and five great-grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted June 30, 1997 at North Wilkesboro First Baptist Church by Rev. Rush Hylton. Burial was in North Wilkesboro Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to North Wilkesboro First Baptist Church, corner of 6th and D Streets, North Wilkesboro, 28659.

Miller Funeral Service was in charge of arrangements.

CATHERINE FIELDS
KINGS MOUNTAIN - Catherine Harrill Fields, 79, of 1704 County Line Road, died June 30, 1997 at Gaston Memorial Hospital.

A native of Gaston County, she was the daughter of the late Radford and Clara Lewis Harrill and widow of Roy C. Fields. She was a retired textile employee and a member of Sunnyside Baptist Church in Bessemer City.

Surviving are one daughter and son-in-law, Shirley Ann and Jackie Hall of Gastonia; one granddaughter, Crystal Rowland of Kings Mountain; two nephews, George Harrill of Kings Mountain and Eugene Harrill of Gastonia; and one niece, Nina H. Cope of Kings Mountain.

The funeral will be conducted July 3, 1997 at 2 p.m. at Sisk-Butler Funeral Home Chapel in Bessemer City by Rev. George Willis. Burial will be in Westview Gardens in Bessemer City.

Sisk-Butler Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

EMMETT S. LEE
BLACKSBURG, SC - Emmett Sheridan "Bud" Lee, 54, 322 Blackwell Road, died June 19, 1997 at his residence.

A native of Swain County, NC, he was the son of the late Gerald E. and Gaynell Day Lee. He was a machinist at Eaton Corporation, Kings Mountain, and was Past President of the Band and Booster Club of Blacksburg High School. He was Past Scoutmaster of Troop 51, Cherokee County, was a

member of Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints, and was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force.

He is survived by his wife, Kay Gore Lee of the home; sons, Dale Lee of Blacksburg and Jeffrey Lee of Gaffney; brother, Max Lee of Greenville, SC; sister, Betty Carroll of Kings Mountain; mother, Louise Phillips Lee of Kings Mountain; and five grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted by Bishop Archie Fowler, Elders Manfred Martin and Floyd Martin, Dale Lee and Lynn Lawhon at 2 p.m. Saturday at Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints. Interment was in Oak View Baptist Church cemetery, Kings Mountain.

Pallbearers were Clay Fowler, Doug Fowler, Reece Fowler, Brook Fowler, Jason Fowler, Jeremy Martin, Chris Gore and Melvin Helms.

Memorials may be made to Spartanburg Regional Medical Center Outpatient Hospice, 120 Haywood Avenue, Spartanburg, SC 29302.

Shuford Hatcher Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

MARY S. HARRISON
KINGS MOUNTAIN - Mary Sigmon Harrison, 87, of 111 N. Dilling St., died June 27, 1997 at Cleveland Regional Medical Center in Shelby.

She was a native of Lincoln County, the daughter of the late D. C. and Margaret Carpenter Sigmon, a member of Boyce Memorial ARP Church and a retired employee of Lambeth Rope Corporation.

Surviving are one son, Joe Lee Harrison of Flushing, NY; two daughters, Louise Dover of Kings Mountain and Bernice Cloninger of Mount Pleasant; 12 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

The graveside service was conducted June 28, 1997 at 4 p.m. at Mountain Rest Cemetery by Rev. Doug Petersen.

Memorials may be made to Total Care of the Carolinas, 101 E. Marion St., Shelby, 28150.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

LELA CLARK WALKER
KINGS MOUNTAIN - Lela Clark Walker, 86, of 922 Church St., died June 27, 1997 at Cleveland Regional Medical Center in Shelby.

She was a native of Cleveland County, daughter of the late John Henry and Mary Emma Pearson Clark. She was a member of Central United Methodist Church and retired from Margrace Mills in Kings Mountain.

Surviving are her husband, Arthur Walker, and a number of nieces and nephews.

The funeral was conducted June 26, 1997 at Harris Memorial Chapel by Rev. Hal Schwantes. Interment was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Central United Methodist Church, 113 S. Piedmont Ave.,

Kings Mountain, 28086. Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

STANLEY WATERS
GASTONIA - Stanley Waters, 62, of 516 Steele Road, died June 27, 1997 in the Kings Mountain Hospital.

He was the son of Mary Wright Waters of Kings Mountain and the late Roland Waters and was married to Dorothy Waters. An employee of Wix Filter, he was a member of the National Guard.

The funeral was conducted June 29, 1997 at 3 p.m. at First Assembly of God in Gastonia by Rev. David Scruggs and Rev. Mitchell Pruitt. Interment was in Westview Gardens.

Surviving, in addition to his wife and mother, are his sons and daughters-in-law, S. David and Betty Waters of Dallas, Tim and Melanie Waters and Rick Waters, all of Bessemer City; and three sisters, Pearl Hullender and Nell Waters of Kings Mountain and Charlene Lutz of Bessemer City; four grandchildren, Eric, Justin and Jessica Waters and Becky Hager; and one great-grandchild, Brittany Hager.

Pallbearers were Hiram Baucom Jr., Henry Taylor, Jason Taylor and Mike Ray.

In lieu of flowers memorial may be made to First Assembly of God, 1104 S. Myrtle School Rd., Gastonia, 28052.

Greene Funeral Service Inc. was in charge of arrangements.

JERRY WAYNE MILLER
GASTONIA - Jerry Wayne Miller, 46, of 900 First St., died June 29, 1997 at home.

The graveside service was conducted July 1, 1997 at 3 p.m. at Mountain Rest Cemetery in Kings Mountain by Rev. William B. James.

He is survived by his wife, Pamela Gail Miller; two daughters, Kimberly Dawn Miller and Pamela Jane Miller; and his mother, Geraldine Scruggs of Lawndale. He was the grandson of the late Annie H. Foster.

Greene Funeral Service Inc. was in charge of arrangements.

STEVEN D. WOOD
KINGS MOUNTAIN - Steven Dwayne Wood, 21, of 115 Kevin Dr., died June 29, 1997 at Cleveland Regional Medical Center in Shelby.

He was a native of Cleveland County, the son of Denise Owens Blanton of Kings Mountain and the stepson of James Edward Blanton. He was a machine shop employee.

Surviving, in addition to his mother and stepfather, are one brother, Shane Wood, and one sister, Shondae Wood, both of Kings Mountain.

The funeral was conducted July 2, 1997 at 3 p.m. at Christian Fellowship Church in Cherokee Falls, SC by Rev. Willie Lanier and Rev. Junior Wright. Burial was in Christian Fellowship Church Cemetery.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

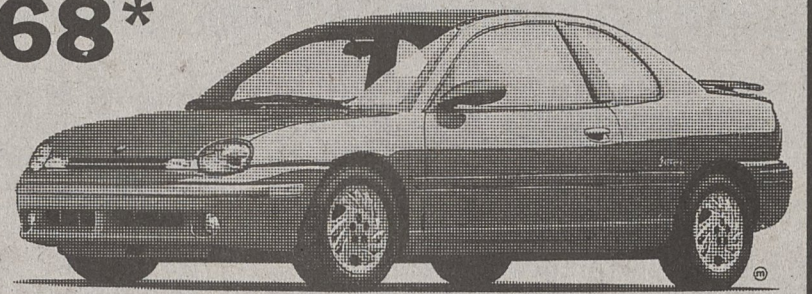
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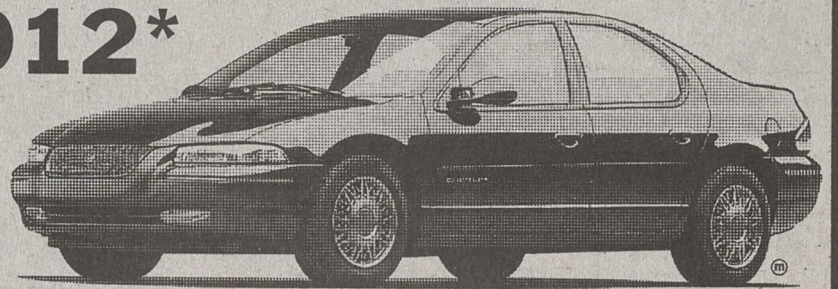


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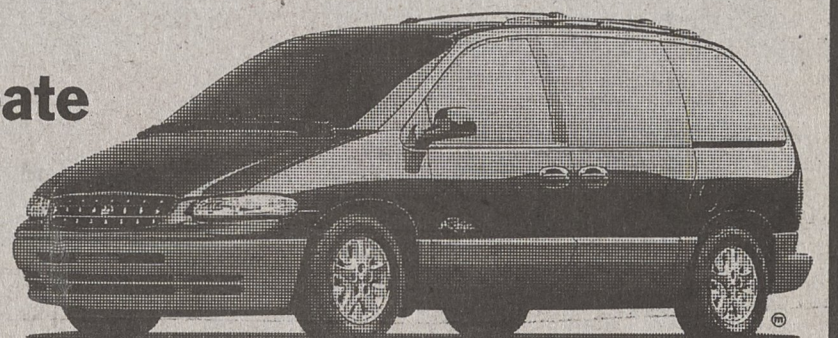
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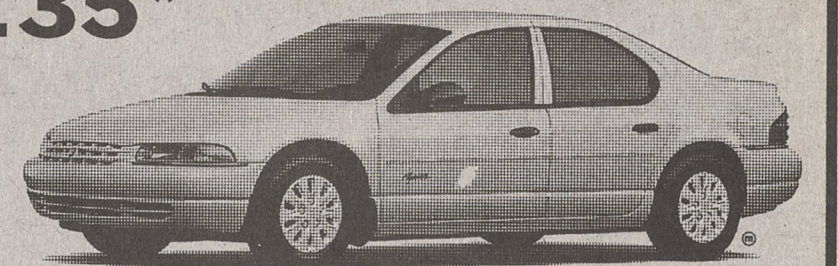


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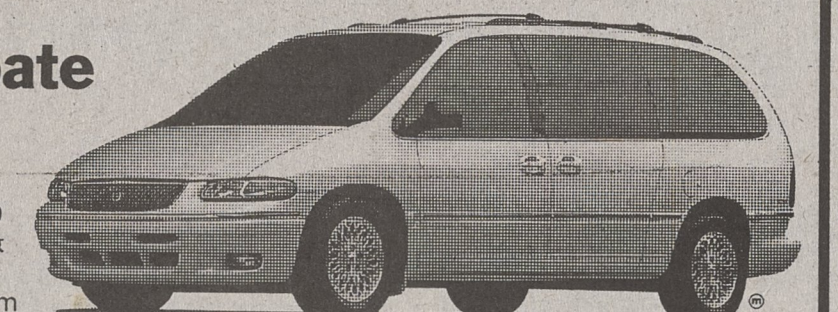


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