

Dr. Ben Washburn

Dr. Benjamin Earl Washburn, 94, of Rutherfordton, noted country doctor, author and public health official died Friday, Dec. 28th at the Rutherford Hospital after an extended illness.

A native of Rutherford County, he was well-known for his rural practice in Rutherford County during the early 1900's as well as his world-wide efforts in improving public health on behalf of the Rockefeller Foundation.

The son of the late John Rutherford and Camilla Miller Washburn of Rutherford County, he was the husband of the late Zella Washburn, a nurse, who was his medical partner in his medical practice and also his traveling companion during his years in the Public Health Field. She died in 1967.

He wrote "A Country Doctor in the South Mountains", and "To Everything A Season." He authored 10 publications, the earlier ones being research and medical documents. When with the Rockefeller Foundation he traveled to many parts of the world. After returning to Rutherfordton in the 1940s he served as Medical Director for the Rutherford-Polk Health Department. He was the first physician to serve on the Rutherford Hospital Board of Trustees.

He is survived by one daughter, Zella Pike of Woodstock, N. Y., the wife of renowned watercolorist John Pike; and one grandchild.

Services were held Tuesday at McMahan's Funeral Chapel with the Rev. James O. Mattox officiating. Burial was in the Rutherfordton City Cemetery. — from Rutherford County News

40 Years Ago

Warrington Preston, student at Union Techological Seminary, Richmond, Va. will preach Sunday at the Tryon Presbyterian Church....Mrs. Orton Lowe of Miami, Fla., who bought the old log house in Greenville County formerly used by the late Gov.

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Perry of South Carolina, as his summer home, has moved it to her lot in Gillette Woods.... Miss Elizabeth Webster and Miss Ellen Holt of Chicago who recently built a home in Gillette Woods are here for the holidays...Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Stevens have returned from Atlanta, Ga. where they spent the holidays with relatives. While there they saw the world premier of "Gone With the Wind." They say it is a wonderful picture.... The Lanier Library will celebrate its 50th birthday on Jan. 4th.... Miss Marie Louise Elmer of Philadelphia is the guest of Mrs. Samuel A. Woody.

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