

Madison County Deaths And Funeral Services

Caroline Biggers



Caroline Biggers, dean of women at Mars Hill College for 26 years prior to her retirement in 1962, died Nov. 30 at her home in Bartow, Fla. She was 87 years old.

Funeral services were held in Bartow last Thursday, and graveside rites were conducted at the Biggers family cemetery in Monroe, N.C., Sunday afternoon. Dr. David Smith, former college chaplain who is now pastor of the First Baptist Church of Wadesboro, conducted the ceremony.

Known to the faculty and staff of the college and to several generations of students as "Miss Caroline," she died just 81 days after her sister Martha, who was also a retired former member of the college staff. Together, the two sisters devoted a total of 69 years of service to the college. Their mother was a dormitory hostess at the college for 11 years prior to her death in 1931.

A native of Monroe, Miss Caroline was a graduate of Meredith College in Raleigh. She also studied at Columbia University and at UNC at Chapel Hill. Early in her professional career, she taught in the public schools of Mars Hill, Black Mountain, Thomasville and Rich Square. Immediately prior to joining the staff at Mars Hill College she was dean of women at Meredith.

In her position at both Meredith and Mars Hill Miss Biggers was responsible for upholding the Christian standards of the college in the social lives of the students. She believed in setting rules for proper conduct and then insisting that the students live up to them. Despite her strictness, she was apparently well-remembered by former students. Over the years, she received thousands of cards and letters from them expressing appreciation for her influence on their lives and for her devotion to discipline.

Memorial gifts in honor of Miss Caroline may be sent to the Development Office at the college and should be marked for the "Caroline Biggers Memorial Fund."

Tommie Rector

Funeral services for Tommie Rector were held on Dec. 2 in the funeral chapel of the Bowman Funeral Home in Marshall. The Revs. Jimmy Buckner, Howard Ogle and Manson Warren officiated. Burial was conducted in the Bowman-Rector Cemetery.

A native of Madison County, he resided in Marshall most of his life and was a taxi driver. A veteran of the U.S. Navy in World War II, he was a member of Marshall VFW Post No. 9849 and American Legion Post No. 317 and the Davis Chapel Baptist Church.

Surviving are his wife, Mary Dobbins Rector; two sons, Herman and Jerry Rector of Asheville; two daughters, Patty Treadway of Louisville, Ky. and Sarah McDevitt of Swannanoa; two brothers, Hubert Rector of Marshall, and Floyd Rector of Kingsport, Tenn.; a sister, Irene Crowe of Asheville; 16 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Helen Goddard

Graveside services were held on Dec. 3 for Helen Rudisill Goddard of Hendersonville. Mrs. Goddard died Tuesday in a Hendersonville hospital after an extended illness. She was 61 years old.

A native of Catawba County, she spent her childhood in Madison County. She was the daughter of the late William Rudisill and the late Grace Goddard.

Suzanne Goddard of Alexandria, Va.; two brothers, Thomas Rudisill of Fayetteville and Craig Rudisill, Jr. of Marshall; and two sisters, Mary Cohn of Hendersonville and Sarah Allen of Glen Falls, N.Y.

Services were held in the Bowman-Rector Cemetery. The Rev. John Howard officiated.

Shirley Guthrie

Funeral services were held on Nov. 13 for Shirley Ramsey

Guthrie, 46, of Houston, Texas. Services were conducted in the funeral chapel of the Bowman Funeral Home in Marshall. The Rev. Jesse Rice officiated. Burial was conducted in the Ramsey Cemetery.

A native of Madison County, she had lived in Houston for the past 10 years. She was the daughter of the late James Bunn and Maggie Fortner Ramsey.

Surviving are three brothers, Ralph Ramsey of Marshall, Robert Ramsey of

Asheville and Burton Ramsey of Birmingham, Ala.; and two sisters, Evelyn Correll of Asheville and Katherine Grooms of Candler.

Gonnie Reese

Funeral services were held Saturday for Gonnie E. Reese, 70, of Hot Springs who died Thursday at his home.

Services were held in the Meadow Fork Baptist Church. The Rev. Mike McDaniel officiated. Burial was conducted in Poplar Gap Cemetery.

A native of Madison County, Mr. Reese was a retired farmer and road construction worker. He was the son of the late Moses and Cordelia Jane Strickland Reese.

Surviving are his wife, Vesta Lee Green Reese; four sons, Edward, Kenneth, and Jerry Reese, all of Hot Springs and Arnold Reese of the home; a daughter, Sue Ann Reese of the home; and three grandchildren.

Roscoe Briggs

Funeral services were held Sunday for Roscoe C. Briggs

of Briggs Trailer Park who died Dec. 2. He was 70 years old.

The Revs. E.M. Jenkins, Burgess Shelton and Richard Fricke conducted the services in the Foster Creek Baptist Church, of which Mr. Briggs was a member. Burial was conducted in the Mars Hill Cemetery.

A native of Madison County, he was the husband of the late Roberlie Fender Briggs, who died in 1977. He was a retired farmer and lumberman and served on the community and county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service committees for more than 30 years.

Surviving are four sons, Ralph E., R. Leonard, Hubert R. and Phillip H. Briggs, all of Mars Hill; five daughters, Frankie Thomas, Jean Flowers and Wanda English, all of Mars Hill, Macie Limer of Warrenton and Jessie Nesbitt of Asheville; 17 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Wilma Helbig

Wilma Taylor Helbig of San Diego, Calif., died Nov. 28. Graveside services were held Dec. 1 in the Gibbs cemetery, Mars Hill, with Rev. Stanley Teague officiating.

Mrs. Helbig was a native of Asheville and she had lived in

San Diego for 25 years. She was a nurse and the daughter of the late William and Ada Gibbs Taylor.

Viola Pomeroy

Graveside services were held Dec. 7 for Viola Harrill Pomeroy of Spindale in Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church Cemetery. Rev. Frank Grice officiated. Mrs. Pomeroy died in a Rutherfordton hospital after a long illness. She was 87.

Mrs. Pomeroy was born in Mars Hill, the daughter of the late Lum and Alla Hutchins. She was a retired waitress.

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