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Wolfman Jack dies of heart attack

By JULIAN EURE
The Daily Advance

Robert Smith, known around the world as the howling disc jockey "Wolfman Jack," died at his home in Belvidere Saturday of a massive heart attack. He was 57.

Smith had just returned from Washington, D.C., where he does his weekly radio show, when the heart attack occurred, said Lonnie Napier, Smith's longtime road manager.

"He had just gotten home and walked up the stairs to give his wife a kiss, when it just hit him," Napier said. The Perquimans County Rescue Squad was called, but Smith could not be revived. He died shortly after 10:30 a.m.

"He was a great guy, a very unselfish human being who wanted to give of himself to everybody," Napier said.

"If you got to know him like I did, he was truly a great fellow," said Doug Layden of

Layden's Supermarket, a neighborhood grocery near Smith's residence.

"Nobody here in Belvidere ever made a big fuss over him. We treated him just like he was a regular person, and he seemed to like that," Layden said. "He told me he liked the peace and quiet here, and the fact he didn't have to be Wolfman when he was here."

A native of Brooklyn, N.Y., Smith was already a disc jockey in Los Angeles radio and calling himself "Wolfman Jack" when he caught the ear of movie producer George Lucas in the early 1970s.

Lucas cast the gravelly-voiced Smith as himself in his hit 1973 movie "American Graffiti." Smith's career skyrocketed.

Besides his radio career, Smith also appeared in the movie "American Hot Wax" and hosted "The Midnight Special," a popular weekly music show in the 1970s.

Smith's trademark how and

cook-but-quick delivery inspired a generation of disc jockeys. The Wolfman even inspired a hit song. The Guess Who immortalized Smith with "Clap for the Wolfman" in the 1970s.

In recent years, Smith confined himself to his weekly syndicated radio show and appearances at "oldy" rock-n-roll shows, Napier said. For the past two weeks, he had been on the road promoting his new book, "Have Mercy, The Confession of the Original Party Animal."

"All he ever wanted to be was a DJ and play rhythm and blues. This other stuff just came along," Napier said.

Smith had experienced "a little angina problem" a few years ago, but had never had a heart attack before Saturday, Napier said.

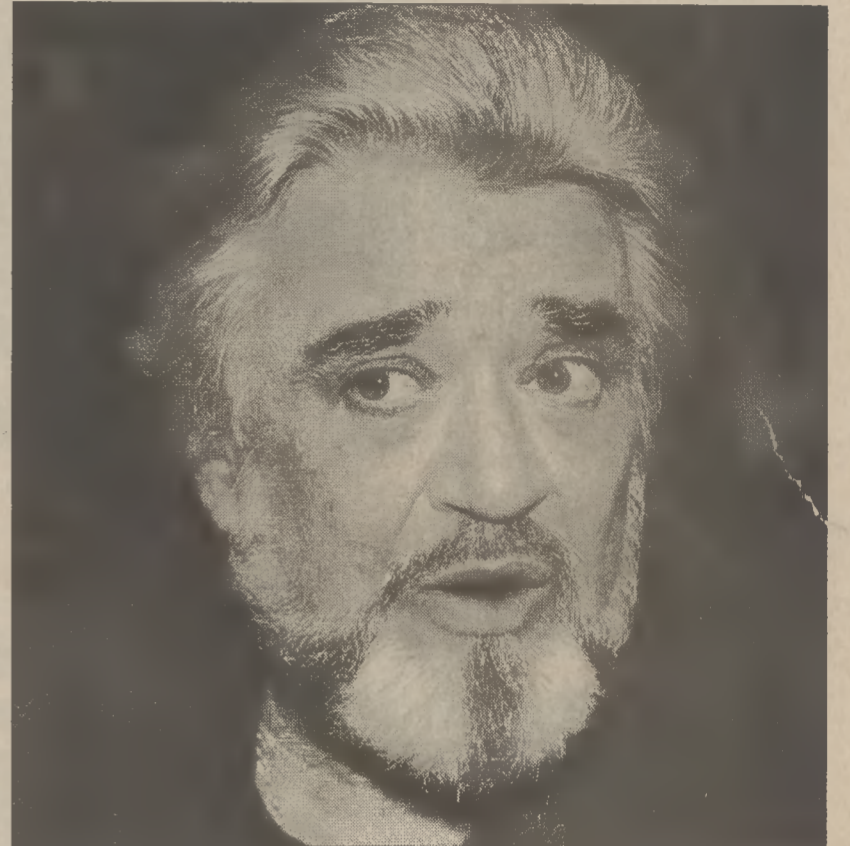
Smith and his wife Lucy, a Perquimans County native, bought a colonial-era home in Belvidere in 1973, but did not live there on a regular basis

until about six years ago, Napier said.

The Smiths hosted a Belvidere celebration at their home, Belvidere Plantation, organized by those in the community interested in establishing a National Register Historic District. Smith also appeared at the Perquimans County Library as a guest reader during National Library Week upon the invitation of former librarian Shelley Fearn.

Besides his wife, Smith is survived by a son, Tod Weston Smith, 30; a daughter, Joy Rene Smith, 33; a granddaughter, Angeleah Olivia Smith, all of Belvidere; a sister, Joan Achee of Fullerton, Calif.; and two half-brothers, Gary Parker of Atlanta, Ga., and Stewart Small of Saratoga, N.Y.

A memorial service will be held Saturday at 4 p.m. at Belvidere Plantation. Evans Funeral Home, Edenton, is in charge of arrangements, and can be called for information.



Robert Smith, better known as Wolfman Jack, died of a massive heart attack in his Belvidere home Saturday.

WHITNEY'S HEART IS BEATING WELL

8-year-old Winfall girl bounces back after heart transplant

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Toni Stallings believes in the power of prayer. She has seen her daughter rally over the last eight years when doctors had done everything they could and it seemed it wasn't enough. Then people would pray for little Whitney, both individually and collectively, and, miraculously, the child would begin to respond.

Prayer, and the skill and dedication of doctors at Columbia Medical Center in New York, saw Whitney through her latest medical battle: Whitney underwent a heart transplant in March and came through with flying colors.

This winter, Whitney was so weak she could hardly walk across the floor. Now she rides her bike, swings in her back yard and runs around playing with her 3-year-old sister, Kinnan. For the first time since Whitney can remember, she can do all the things other children can do - except swim in the river and play with animals. But with all her other newfound freedoms, those little restrictions don't phase Whitney.

The two things that make her happiest about being home are seeing Kinnan and not being on a diet restricted by her heart condition and a protein condition that accompanied it. Amazingly, the new heart fixed both problems.

"I can eat whatever I want to - except I can't eat too much candy," Whitney laughed as she talked about her surgery Friday. One of the nicest things that has come back into her diet is fast food. Like most children, Whitney is partial to ham-



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Whitney and Kinnan Stallings enjoy riding their bicycles up and down their driveway in Winfall. Playing physical games is a new activity for the sisters because Whitney's

heart wouldn't allow her to romp like other youngsters. Since she got her new heart in March, Whitney has enjoyed the freedom to run and play with Kinnan.

burgers and french fries.

It may seem a little strange to other children, but Whitney actually seems to enjoy helping to make the beds in the morning. That was something else she couldn't do before her surgery.

In between making beds, eating her favorite foods and playing, Whitney must take medication four times each day to keep her body from rejecting her new heart and to keep her blood flowing properly. Because of the medication, even the slightest bump causes bruises. With her new freedom, Whitney is obviously encountering lots of bumps. She shows her bruises like trophies. Her eyes say, "I'd rather be bruised than sitting back on the couch sick again."

While her mother and

father, Marty, have certainly done their share of worrying about their older daughter, little Kinnan has been concerned for her big sister, too.

"Every single time I leave, Kinnan just runs to the door when I come in," Whitney said. And she'll quickly tell you it was seeing Kinnan that was the best thing about coming home.

Not that there was a chance Whitney might fall in love with New York and not want to return to Perquimans County. She said there was too much litter there and it took too long to get there for her taste. Her doctors and nurses were nice, but she was ready to bid them farewell when she finally got the okay.

Whitney is looking forward to attending school this fall. She had to stop going to

school in November 1993. The strain of day-to-day activities sapped her energy and her immune system was weak. Therefore, she has been home-schooled through the Perquimans County Schools homebound program for almost two years.

Toni is thankful for the technology that has given her daughter a new lease on life. She said she is also indebted to those who contributed to the WHC Fund, either through donations or by participating in the benefit organized through the local Ruritan Clubs in June.

But mostly, Toni is thankful for the prayers that went up on Whitney's behalf. She watched as a gravely ill little girl responded when some doctors thought hope was gone. Obviously, Whitney and God had other plans.

Wreck injures Hertford man

Rainy conditions blamed for head-on collision

By GINGER LIVINGSTON
The Daily Advance

Rainy conditions contributed to a head-on collision that left a Hertford man in serious condition at Sentara General Hospital in Norfolk, Va.

Russell Lynn Boyd, 23, of Route 1, Hertford was seriously injured when his 1991 Nissan pickup swerved into the path of an International truck driven by Donald Roosevelt Jordan, 39, of Tyner. The accident occurred shortly after 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at the intersection of U.S. Highway 17 Bypass and N.C. Highway 37, a few miles south of Hertford. The intersection is commonly known as the "Y."

N.C. Highway Patrol Trooper K.R. Briggs said Boyd was traveling south on U.S. 17 at approximately 55 mph when he entered a curve near the intersection. His truck began skidding left of center and hit the front of the International which was traveling north. The two vehicles locked and continued moving before stopping.

A third vehicle, a 1980 Chevrolet, was traveling behind Boyd's truck and swerved right to avoid the accident.

The car, driven by Marvin Littlejohn, 40, of 937 N. Broad St., Edenton, ran into a ditch.

All three men were transported to Chowan Hospital. Boyd was later airlifted to Sentara Hospital. Jordan and Littlejohn suffered minor injuries and were treated and released.

Charges are pending, Briggs said.

Revised child restraint law takes effect

North Carolina's revised child restraint law took effect July 1.

The revised law requires child safety seats for children less than age four. The old law required child safety seats for children less than age three.

Seat belts are also now required for all children less than age 12 in both the front and back seats of a vehicle. Only children less than age 6 were required to wear seat

belts under the old law.

The revision eliminates an exemption for vehicles registered in another state or jurisdiction.

"Children are our most important resource," said Colonel R. A. Barefoot, Commander of the Highway Patrol. "This law will ensure parents are taking the necessary precautions to protect their children while traveling."

Outside

| WEDNESDAY | | THURSDAY | | FRIDAY | |
|---------------|----------|---------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| | | | | | |
| High: 90s | Low: 70s | High: 90s | Low: 70s | High: 90s | Low: 70s |
| PARTLY CLOUDY | | PARTLY CLOUDY | | PARTLY CLOUDY | |