



**BUSY HELPER** - Hunter Falls, 8, enjoys helping his grandmother Betty Wells Falls garden at her home in the White Plains community. A second grader at J. Paul Beam School in Gaffney, SC, he shows off ripe tomatoes from his tall tomato vines on the Falls sunporch. Hunter is son of Warren Falls of Kings Mountain and Teresa Lemaster of Gaffney. Hunter also enjoys planting flowers. He has two sisters, Katy Falls, 11, and Sarah Beth Lemaster, four months.

## BELT

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Jim has written a song and poem in tribute to his father-in-law, Cecil Ramsey, 75, retired trucker. Although legally blind, Ramsey's "inner strength" shines, according to Belt. "Precious Memories," the favorite song of Ramsey, was incorporated in additional words by Jim who reviews the life of Ramsey who drove an 18-wheeler all over the world.

"You tell me of good times past and explain to me why sometimes they cannot last," is one of the poignant verses which pay tribute to Ramsey as "one of the best

friends I've ever had."

Son of Joseph Belt and the late Christine Belt, Jim became good friends with Captains Sherman and Mickey Cundiff at the Salvation Army and found their ministry extraordinary.

Between them, the Belts have 10 children and five grandchildren.

Rock walls and flower beds mixed with horse wagons and farm equipment dot the landscape at the Belt home and are a pleasing backdrop for Belt's country gospel songs.

Belt, 49, skydived on his 45th birthday. Five years ago he started singing and won't quit. "I sing at every opportunity," he said. "Life's a challenge."

## ANGEL

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was irreparable. An hour before death came the parents made the heart-wrenching decision to stop the support system that was giving her the blood pressure medicine that was largely keeping her alive.

"Angel thought she was coming home and we thought so too. We planned a homecoming in Kings Mountain but knew we'd have to take her to Carolinas Medical Center for outpatient treatment," said Strickland.

Betty Mitchell had a new cock-a-poodle waiting as a gift to Angel.

The youngster had great plans for jumping on the trampoline, riding her bicycle, and returning to church at East Gold Street Wesleyan Church and to school in the future.

"She just never recovered after the seizures started on December 31," said Strickland. "But she was a fighter to the end. It's a bitter cup to drink."

The Strickland home will be empty without Angel. There are more than 200 stuffed animals in her room, new Christmas clothes hanging in her closet, toys from friends all over the country, over 20 Barbie dolls, a big doll house, games, and computers, all once a part of her young life.

Angela had three grown half-sisters and two grandmothers who adored her. And she stole the hearts of people the world over when her East School teachers and friends launched a fund drive for \$75,000 to help pay what insurance didn't cover for medical treatments and for her parents to stay at her bedside.

Strickland said Mrs. Beasley and another East teacher, Mike Smith, got the idea for a big celebrity auction which raised \$31,000. Celebrities such as Vice President Quayle, Yoko Ono, and Fred Rogers of the "Mister Rogers Neighborhood" show sent autographed pictures and personal items to be sold.

"There were so many good hearted people that she didn't know," said Beasley.

"I wish things could have worked out so Angel could have thanked them personally," said her father. "Kings Mountain people really rolled up their sleeves and helped."

Angel's health problems began almost a year ago when the family noticed she was pale and lethargic and didn't want to jump on her favorite trampoline and ride her bicycle. It was taking her an unusually long time to walk the block from her house to the old Central School where East School students went to school last year and Angela was a student of Dorcas Beasley. After tests by a pediatrician, she was admitted to Carolinas Medical Center where the family got the bad news. Surgery was scheduled for October 25, 1991 in University of Minnesota Hospital. For the first month a family member was with her 24 hours a day. Except for eight days when she left the hospital to be with her family at a motel, the child remained in the hospital, her family at her side.

It was Angel's last wish to come home. The family was confident Christmas she would. By mid-January the parents started wrestling with the question of how to tell their baby she was dying. So eager for life, she was too young to understand.

## Obituaries

### JAMES C. LONG

James Clifford Long, 73, of 609 Floyd St., died April 13, 1992 at Carolinas Medical Center.

A native of Kings Mountain, he was husband of Lorena Bowers Long, who survives, and was son of the late Cletus Issac and Novella McIntyre Long. He was a retired textile employee. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army during World II.

Surviving, in addition to his wife, are one son, Don Long of Bessemer City; two grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

The funeral was conducted Wednesday at 3 p.m. at First Church of the Nazarene. Rev. Scott Wade officiated. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

### LLOYD D. BENNETT

MARION - Lloyd Douglas Bennett, 72, of Willow Street, died April 8, 1992.

A native of Cleveland County, he was the son of the late Gus and Lillian Ramsey Bennett. He was retired from Burlington Industries and was a U. S. Army veteran.

Surviving are his wife, Miriam Glenn Bennett; two sons, Wylie Dean Simmons of Hickory and Stephen Simmons of Weaverville; one daughter, Susan Bennett of Marion; one brother, Jack Bennett of Kings Mountain; three sisters, Inez B. Allen and Betty B. Hayes, both of Kings Mountain, and Evelyn B. Watkins of Gastonia; and four grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted Friday at 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church by Dr. Bob Davis. Burial was in Oak Grove Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Diabetes Foundation or to First Baptist Church of Marion, North Main Street, Marion, 28752.

### CHARLES GIBSON

LUGOFF, SC - Charles Rion Gibson, 68, of Indiantown, Florida, died April 12, 1992 at home.

He was the son of the late Olland and Piccola Mac Rippey Gibson. He was married to Bessie Putnam Gibson, who survives. He was a veteran of the Korean Conflict and was stationed in

Goosebay, Labrador.

Surviving, in addition to his wife, are two sons, Charles Gibson of North Dakota and Steve Gibson of Lugoff; four daughters, Helen, Brenda, Deborah, and Judy; five brothers, Roy and Hershel of Florida, Bill and J. D. Gibson of Blacksburg, and Bobby Gibson of Laurens; and two sisters, Nellie Harrison of Kings Mountain and Faye Jean Williams of Rock Hill; several grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

The funeral will be conducted Thursday at 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church.

### ANGELA STRICKLAND

Angela Gail Strickland, 12, of 201 Cleveland Ave., died April 8, 1992 in University of Minnesota Hospital and Clinic, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

A native of Gaston County, she was the daughter of Woodrow Wilson and Faye Morrow Strickland of Kings Mountain, who survive. She was a sixth grade student at Kings Mountain Middle

School. She was a member of East Gold Street Wesleyan Church.

Surviving, in addition to her parents, are three sisters, Anita Page of Bessemer City, Nancy Strickland of Kings Mountain, and Kelly Brown of Charlotte; and her grandmothers, Louise Penner of Bessemer City and Ruby Neal of St. Augustine, Florida.

The funeral was conducted Sunday at 2 p.m. at East Gold Street Wesleyan Church. Rev. Harold Bumby officiated. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Our time of sadness was made easier by your kindness, thoughts and prayers.

Thank you so much.  
The Rick Sherrill Family  
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