

# OBITUARIES

**ELMER WHEELUS**  
SHELBY- Elmer L. "Bud" Wheelus, 76, 910 Poplar Springs Church Road, died May 13, 1999 at VA Medical Center Asheville.

A native of Kannapolis, N.C., he was the son of the late Eddie Lawson Wheelus and Geneva Whittle Wheelus. He was also preceded in death by daughter Adelia W. Putnam, brother Clarence Wheelus, and sister Thelma Wilson. He was a retired employee of Cleveland Lumber and Boyte Lutz Nursery. He was a member of Poplar Springs Baptist Church, the D.A.V., and Amvets. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of WWII.

He is survived by his wife Hazel Inge Wheelus of Shelby; daughter and husband Anita Hoyle and Robert of Shelby; son in law Richard Putnam of Kinston; son and his wife Gary Wayne Wheelus and Sylvia of Shelby; grandson and his wife Christopher Joel Putnam and Gayla of Cary; grandson and his wife Steven Eugene Putnam and Kelly of Kinston; granddaughter and her husband Beth Putnam Dichler and Peter of Apex, N.C.; granddaughter and her husband Angela Wheelus McCoy and Randy of Shelby; great granddaughters Raye Lynn McCoy and Tristan McCoy of Shelby; brother and his wife James and Louise Wheelus of Boiling Springs; sister Jewel Worsley of Travelers Rest, S.C.

The funeral was conducted Sunday at 2:30 pm at Poplar Springs Baptist Church by the Rev. Paul Sorrells. Burial was in Cleveland Memorial Park.

Memorials may be made to Elmer Wheelus Memorial Fund, Poplar Springs Baptist Church, 1106 Poplar Springs Church Road, Shelby 28152.

Cleveland Funeral Services served the family.

**GAZZIE ALLEN**  
GROVER- Gazzie Norman Allen, 87, 1126 Bethlehem Church Road, died May 15 at Kings Mountain Hospital.

A native of Cherokee County, S.C., she was the daughter of the late Mack and Ann Cook Norman. She was also preceded in death by her husband the late Darvin Monroe Allen. She was retired from Minette Mills, Grover, and was a member of Allen Memorial Baptist Church.

She is survived by her daughter Linda Allen Rhodes of Grover; sister Vangie Westmoreland of Grover; grandson David Allen and wife Beth White Allen of Kings

Mountain; great grandchildren Andy Allen, Jake Allen, Noah Allen.

The funeral was conducted Monday at 2 pm at Allen

Memorial Baptist Church by the Revs. Tim Lowery and Marion Adams. Burial was in Allen Memorial Baptist Church Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Allen Memorial Baptist Church, 1222 Long Branch Road, Grover, N.C. 28073.

Harris Funeral Home served the family.

**RALPH CHAMPION**  
SHELBY- Ralph L. Champion, 86, 1024 Sam Lattimore Road, died May 15, 1999 at Hospice of Cleveland County.

A native of Cleveland County, he was the son of the late Leamon Broadus and Lula Philbeck Champion. He was also preceded in death by his wife the late Colette Washburn Champion. He was a member of Davidson Memorial Baptist Church and a retired salesman with the Electrolux Corporation.

He is survived by his son and his wife Bill and Barbara Champion of Polkville, N.C.; daughter and her husband Ann C. and James Art of Lexington, S.C.; son and wife David L. and Jeanette Champion of Shelby; son and wife Joc and Terisa Champion of Shelby; daughter and husband Kathy C. and Kenny Smith of Shelby; daughter and husband Ginny C. and Floyd Bush of Shelby; daughter Susan C. Allen of Greenville, S.C.; son and wife Glenn and Linda Champion of Spartanburg, S.C.; also 15 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted Monday at 6 pm at Cleveland Funeral Services Chapel by the Rev. Brian Gilson. Private Burial was in Cleveland Memorial Park.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Cleveland County, 951 Wendover Heights Road, Shelby 28150.

Cleveland Funeral Services served the family.

**CHARLES CLARK, JR.**  
GROVER- Charles Edward Clark, Jr., 76, 118 Fritz Drive, died May 10, 1999 at his home.

He was the son of the late Charles Edward and Priscilla Powell Clark, Sr., and the husband of the late Betty Sue Hubbard Clark. He was also preceded in death by son Eddie Wayne Clark and daughter Debra Clark Porter. He was retired from the Ora Mill and was a member of Davidson Memorial Baptist Church and a U.S. Navy WWII veteran.

He is survived by grandsons Jason Clark of Shelby, Chucky and Ricky Porter of Forest City; daughter in law Rita Clark of Shelby; son in law Richard Porter of Forest City; step grandson Tim Hoyle of Cherryville.

**CHARLES WILSON**  
SHELBY- Charles Everett Wilson, 35, 325 Cinnebar Street, died May 11, 1999 at Cleveland Regional Medical Center. A native of Cleveland

County, he was a member of Patterson Springs Baptist Church and a mechanic with Cleveland Container.

He is survived by his wife Rhonda Camp Wilson of the home; sons Charles Everette Wilson, Jr., and Darryl Thomas Wilson of the home; daughters Stacy Rena Wilson and Brandy Nicole Wilson of the home; step mother Vickie Eaves Wilson of Kings Mountain; brothers Sam T. Wilson of Shelby and William F. Wilson of Kings Mountain; sisters Linda Ann Cooke, Sherry Kay Owens, and Kathy Leann Bridges, all of Kings Mountain; grandmother Ivey Smith of Kings Mountain; father and mother in law Jack and Barbara Hamrick Camp of Shelby.

The funeral was conducted Friday at 2 pm at Patterson Springs Baptist Church by the Revs. Steve Waters and Dale Randall. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Patterson Springs Baptist Church Building Fund, 2107 Cleveland Avenue, Grover, N.C. 28073.

Clay-Barnette Funeral Home served the family.

**MAGGIE LAIL**  
KINGS MOUNTAIN- Maggie Dixon Lail, 91, resident of White Oak Manor, died May 12, 1999 at White Oak Manor.

A native of Cleveland County, she was the daughter of the late Rastus B. and Blanche Blalock Dixon, and the wife of the late Charles W. Lail. She was also preceded in death by a son Dan Lail, and son in law Gene Carpenter. She was a homemaker and a member of Bethlehem Baptist Church.

She is survived by her daughter Phyllis Carpenter of Kings Mountain; son Jack Lail and wife Frances of Kings Mountain; brother Walter Dixon of Cramerton; grandchildren Ben Carpenter, Ann Hoyle, Karen Vinsett, Dan Lail, and seven great grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted Friday at 11 am at Bethlehem Baptist Church by the Revs. David Blanton and Russell Fitts. Burial was in Bethlehem Baptist Church Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Bethlehem Baptist Church Building Fund, 1017 Bethlehem Road, Kings Mountain 28086.

Harris Funeral Home served the family.

**LESTER BIDDIX, JR.**  
MARION- Lester Biddix, Jr., 66, died May 13, 1999 at Grace Hospital in Morganton.

## GROVER from 1A

Last week council tabled a vote on the issue until Tuesday's meeting to give Grover Town Board time to consider an agreement with Kings Mountain that Kings Mountain would not take any Grover water customers in the move and Grover would continue to serve Fastfare and Welco Truck Stop which constitutes 17 percent of the water Grover buys from Kings Mountain.

Mayor Scott Neisler said Grover Industries needs water for fire protection and that both the plant and McDonald had agreed to bear the costs of the project. The city lines, according to the mayor, would run down Highway 29 and won't hook onto any inside city Grover system but hook up to McDonald which is outside the Grover city limits. The mayor said the availability of water in the area would draw more industries and help Grover Industries and McDonald retain jobs.

Also on the agenda will be consideration by council to contract with Sumner Group of Gastonia to conduct the fundraising for the half million dollar campaign to build the new Kings Mountain Senior Center.

Maney said legal details are now being worked out to buy the property on King Street at

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A native of Kings Mountain, he was the son of the late Lester Biddix and Mary Jane Bell Biddix. He was also preceded in death by his wife Barbara Curry Biddix. He was a member of Story Memorial Presbyterian Church, and a U.S. Air Force veteran.

He is survived by his son Tom Biddix of Clayton, N.C.; daughters Terry Compton and Wanda Lynn Willis, both of Marion; son Chris Biddix of Forest City, N.C.; sister Mrs. Aldie Odom of Myrtle Beach, S.C.; brothers Odis Biddix of Bessemer City, Joe Biddix of Kings Mountain, and Bobby Biddix of Reston, Virginia; also five grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted Saturday at 3 pm at Story Memorial Presbyterian Church by the Revs. Calvin Jett and Bill Dages. Burial was in McDowell Memorial Park.

Memorials may be made to Story Memorial Presbyterian Church, 401 Shady Lane, Marion, N.C. 28752.

Westmoreland Funeral Home served the family.

**LULA SWINK**  
DREXEL- Lula Bell Swink, 67, P.O. Box 755, died May 13, 1999 at College Pines Nursing Center.

A native of Cleveland County, she was the daughter of the late Henry Eli and Mary Ommie Towery Swink. She was also preceded in death by her husband Lester Sherman Swink, son John Swink, brother Bill Swink, and grandchildren Bobby Canipe, David Lee Canipe, Jessica Lee Swink. She was a retired sander at Hickory White Mfg. Company.

She is survived by son and daughter in law Paul and Lynn Swink of Kings Mountain; daughter and son in law Mary L. and David Canipe of Valdese; daughter and son in law Bonnie Lou and Ronald Sisk of Casar; sisters Minnie Powell of Drexel and Nancy Swink of Boone; grandchildren Wanda Rudisill, Devonna Culbreth, Bonnie Sisk, Mary Sisk, John Swink, Eli Swink; great grandchildren Dylan Rudisill, Heather Rudisill, and Emily Ann Canipe.

The funeral was conducted Saturday at 4 pm at Pisgah Baptist Church by the Revs. Cecil Buff and Chris Sanford. Burial was at Pisgah Baptist Church.

Stamey Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

# LOCAL NEWS

## \$15,000 reward offered on man who shot Blanton

The N. C. Bankers Association has upped its \$5,000 reward to \$15,000 to anyone who can lead police to the would-be robber who shot First Charter Bank employee Libby Trot Blanton May 5.

Mrs. Blanton, who had arrived early for work, had just locked the door behind her in the vestibule of the bank when a man outside threatened to kill her if she didn't let him in. When Blanton refused, the man shot through the glass door, striking her in the side. He forced his way into the vestibule and demanded that she unlock a second door leading into the main bank building. Blanton told the man she couldn't open the bank vault by herself, it took two employees. The man fled and Blanton ran into the street, where she

flagged a motorist for help. "I still have that man's bullet in me but I was so lucky," said Blanton, who will be out of work for four to six weeks recuperating.

The suspect is described as a black man about 6 feet tall and weighing 200 pounds. He wore a dark blue shirt and a black jacket.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has joined the search for the suspect.

Through the reward police and banking officials say they want to get the suspect off the street before he goes after another bank.

Anyone with information may call the FBI's Bank Robbery Hot Line at 800-209-2293 or the Kings Mountain Police Department, 704-734-0444.

## \$100,000 damage done at fire at L&G Diesel

Flames fed by gasses and petroleum products destroyed L&G Diesel Repair and Trucking Company on Dixon School Road Tuesday afternoon. Forty firefighters battled the blaze in the unoccupied building.

Owner Eugene Wright saw the smoke from Kings Mountain and raced to the scene, but by the time he arrived, the building was en-

gulfed in smoke and flames. No other structures were damaged.

Firefighters responded to the blaze from Bethlehem, Oak Grove, Number Three Township, and Grover volunteer fire departments. Crews had the blaze extinguished in about thirty minutes, though too late to save the building. Assistant Fire Marshall Dewey Cook estimated damage at \$100,000.

## City council to vote on \$25 million budget

City Council will adopt the 1999-2000 budget Tuesday night but it probably won't be a unanimous decision.

Both Council members Clavon Kelly and Bob Hayes say they plan to vote against the budget because of the eight percent increase in water and sewer rates.

The public stayed home last Monday night and offered no input into the proposed budget which is \$664,000 less than last year's budget.

The budget calls for an increase of about 75 cents for a residential water customer using 3,000 gallons per month with the proceeds earmarked to repair, maintain and expand the city's water lines and sewer system.

A top priority is the delivery line that brings water to the city from Moss Lake. Built in 1967, the 24-inch pipe bends at 90-degree angles twice and is considered the weakest link in the city's system. Maney and water superintendent Walt Ollis have pointed out at recent budget work sessions.

The new budget levies no tax increase, no electric rate increase, no natural gas rate increase, an eight percent water/sewer rate increase and projects a balanced budget as required by the State of North Carolina. The debt service obligations such as bond payments are also included.

A new pay plan was adopted on February 23, 1999 which looked at each city position individually and brought each employee's salary up to a competitive level based upon the North Carolina League of Municipalities' updated survey of salaries in the state. There is no pay increase recommended for the new fiscal year due to this salary adjustment.

The proposal that council will consider on May 25 is for \$664,821 less than the 1998-99 budget of \$26,020,741. The new budget proposal is \$25,355,920.

## Rose Hill service on Memorial Day

The annual Memorial Day Service is scheduled for 2 pm, Sunday, May 30, 1999 at Rose Hill Memorial Park in Fallston, N.C.

The public is cordially invited. For more information call 704-538-1480.

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*The family of Marshall Mullinax would like to extend our sincere appreciation to The Doctors and Staff of K. M. Hospital, to our Pastor Roger Woodard, our Church Family, friends and relatives for all their love and support during this difficult time. Marshall loved each of you. May God Bless You.*

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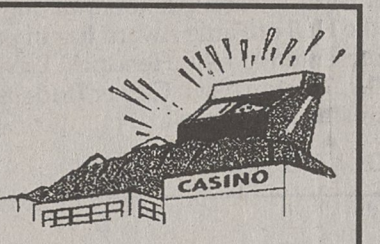
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