

**OBITUARIES**

**JAMES R. CARROLL JR.**  
SHELBY - The funeral service for James R. Carroll Jr., 17, and a memorial service for his father, James R. "Jim" Carroll Sr., was conducted by the Rev. Parris McCurry and Dr. J.B. Flowe at 3 p.m. Saturday at Clay-Barnette Chapel.

The Carrolls, of 243 Dakar Drive, drowned on Saturday, May 13 at Moss Lake.

James R. Carroll Jr. was a native of Palatka, FL. He was a sophomore at Burns High School and worked at Taco Bell, Shelby.

He was a member of River of Life Church.

He is survived by his mother, Gail Blount Carroll of the home; sister, Jamie Rebecca Carroll of the home; grandparents, John A. and Ruth Blount of Palatka, FL and James Leroy and Carol Carroll of Gainesville, FL; great-grandparents, Donald E. and Nedra Blount of Palatka, FL; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Burial was in Sunset Cemetery.

Clay-Barnette Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

**CHUCK OWENS**

SHELBY- Chuck Owens, 49, 3741 Elliot Cemetery Road, Polkville, died May 23, 2000 at Wake Forest University Medical Center.

A native of Cleveland County, he was the son of Ethel Lee Owens of Shelby and the late Gordon Owens. He was also preceded in death by his sister Minnie Lee and four brothers Ronald Owens, Rick Owens, Yulon Owens, and Wilbur Owens. He was a self employed painter and a member of the Baptist faith.

He is survived by his wife Virgie Mullinax Owens of the home; son David Owens of Polkville; daughters Elisa Morgan of Polkville, Donna Owens of Ellenboro, and daughter Casey Gallington of Morganton; sisters Patricia Morrison of Shelby, Mary Sanders of Grover, and Helen Dickson of Morganton; brothers Lee Owens of Casar, Jeff Owens of Shelby and Wayne Owens of Shelby; special friend Dean Patterson; also five grandchildren and five step grandchildren.

The funeral will be conducted Thursday at 3 p.m. at Wallace Grove Baptist Church by the Revs. Fain Morrison and Andy Meade. Burial will be in Wallace Grove Baptist Church Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Wallace Grove Baptist Church, 751 Wallace Grove Church Road, Shelby 28150.

Clay Barnette Funeral Home served the family.

**POLICE**

From 1A

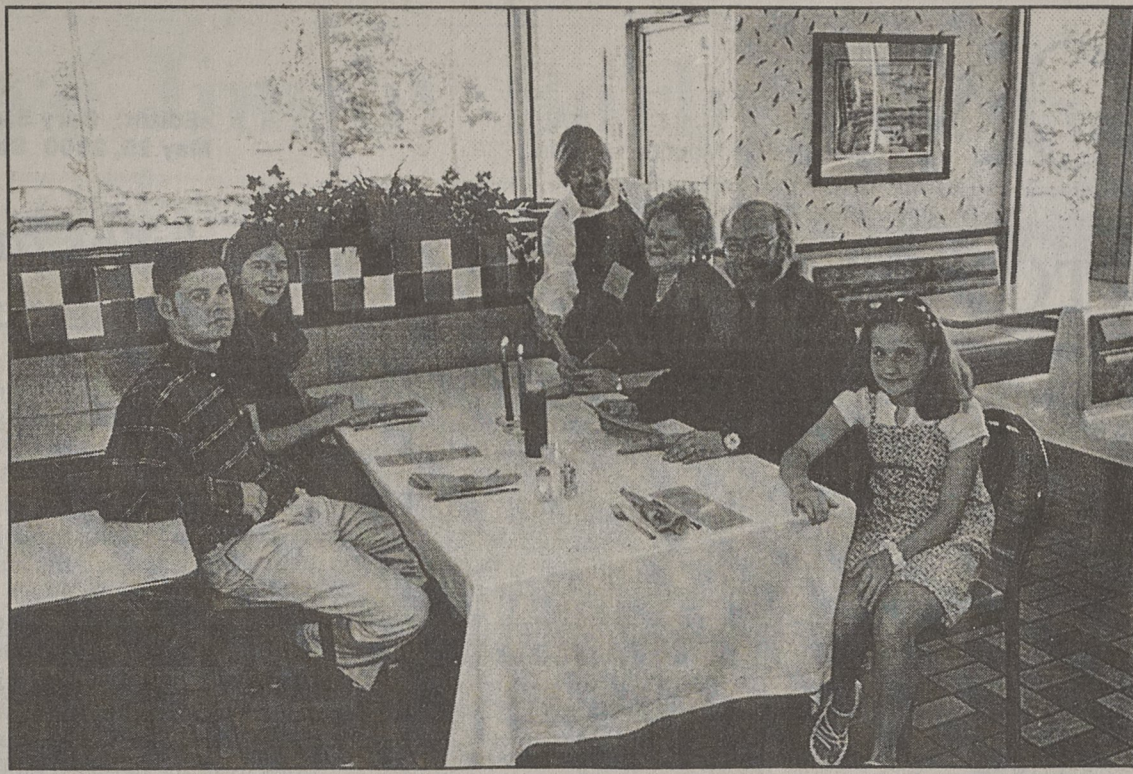
weapon and first degree kidnapping.

He was jailed under a \$50,000 secured bond.

Police are also investigating an armed robbery which occurred May 20 at Kentucky Fried Chicken, 409 East King St.

According to a report filed by Cpl. M.T. Dellinger, the suspect broke a glass with a rock, entered the building and robbed an employee at gunpoint.

Two deposit bags containing currency were stolen.



Hostess Micki Padgett, standing back right, welcomes Cindi and Kevin Cooke, left, and Deco, Reggie and Kyra Alexander to a candlelight meal and Chez McDonald's on Highway 161 Thursday afternoon. Reg Alexander planned the event as a birthday celebration for Cindi, Deco and Kyra.

**Happy Meal**

Reggie Alexander surprises family, friends with unique birthday party at McDonald's

By GARY STEWART  
Editor of The Herald

Those closest to him know you can always expect the unexpected from Reg Alexander.

And, his family and co-workers at Regal Graphics probably knew something was up Thursday afternoon when he told them all to get in his van for a trip to a Chamber meeting. After all, the Chamber meeting was taking place right next door at First Charter Bank.

But, Alexander's wife, Deco; their daughter, Kyra; and co-worker Cindi "C.K." Cooke and her husband, Kevin, went along for the ride anyway.

What Alexander had planned was not a trip to a meeting, but a birthday surprise for Deco, Kyra and C.K. that they'll likely never forget.

In Alexander's own words, it was "cheap but memorable."

When the van headed down Highway 161 south the group must have thought they were going out for a night on the town with a memorable candlelight dinner at a fancy French restaurant, perhaps followed by a play or good movie.

And, in a way, they would have been right.

The fancy French restaurant turned out to be McDonald's - Chez McDonald's, that is - com-

plete with valet parking courtesy of friend Steve Padgett, a personal waitress (Micki Padgett), a fancy French menu of fish sandwiches and Big Macs courtesy of Chez McDonald's owner Bill Sherwood, linen tablecloths and place settings, candlelight, crystal drinking glasses, fine china, and for their listening pleasure live music by pianist Steve Padgett.

The Class A service not only impressed the birthday girls, but also the other McDonald's customers who also got a big kick out of all the merriment.

"I wanted to make it surreal," said Alexander. "I wanted to put something in a very unusual context. I just like to bring a surprise into their daily life, just to help us enjoy things better. We have a lot of fun at the office and this is just a kind of an attitude thing to shake us up from time to time."

The biggest surprise of the night came when, at the end of their meal, each person opened a Happy Meal box to find a pack of trading cards. Inside them were tickets to Beauty and the Beast in Charlotte.

Everybody had a ball, and are probably already wondering how Reg will top this come another birthday or special occasion.

And they know, he will.



Valet Steve Padgett (right) welcomes Reg Alexander and wife, Deco, front, Cindi Cooke and her husband Kevin, and Kyra Alexander, back, to Chez McDonald's for a big birthday bash Thursday afternoon.

**M-DAY**

From 1A

runways were dirt strips with perforated metal sheets laid down so the planes wouldn't get stuck in the mud.

"We had mostly fighter planes like the P-51 Mustang and P-47 Thunderbolt at our bases," Humphries recalled. "Of course, the plane that really won the war was the C-47 cargo plane."

Just about the time the Battle of the Bulge got going in December, 1944, Humphries was transferred near the fighting that raged through Belgium. It was here that he had a close call.

"Some of my buddies and I were driving a supply truck back to base when we saw some guys in a meadow beside the road," said Humphries. "We stopped to look at them and realized they were Germans. We only had one little carbine with us, so we got back in the truck and left as fast as we could."

While in Belgium, Humphries also saw his first jet aircraft. The plane was a German ME 262.

"Part of our supply base included a big barn where some of us were standing," Humphries said. "We heard a rushing sound and a bomb explosion and when we ran out to see what it was, I saw the jet. He came back around and shot at us. Some men hit him with a .50 caliber machine gun and he went down. The pilot was just a teenage boy."

Though this might sound like adventure to some folks, Humphries emphasized that many things he saw during World War II would be better left out of his memories.

"We were just there trying to do a job and get back home in one piece," Humphries says.

EdenGardens messmate Beaufort Wright is a retired U.S. Army artilleryist who saw action in not one, but two wars. A na-

tive of Bessemer City, Wright was drafted in 1952 and was quickly sent to Korea.

"I was the chief of a six gun battery of 155 mm field pieces," Wright says. "It took 12 men to operate each gun. Two men had to carry the shells which weighed 100 pounds each."

After Korea, Wright began a bit of globe hopping when the Army sent him to Germany, back to Korea, back to Germany and then to Viet Nam. He served in that war for six months in 1966 before an enemy shell put him out of action.

"It was a piece of shrapnel from a 105 mm gun that did it," Wright says.

That incident not only cut Wright's tour of duty in Viet Nam short, it also meant the end of his Army life as well. Today, Wright is 80 percent disabled and often uses a wheelchair to get around.

Though he anticipated a hearty welcome when he came home from Viet Nam, Wright feels the opposite was true.

"We were treated like dogs," Wright says simply. "Everything was mixed up. It took me four years to get Social Security."

To these and other soldiers, Memorial Day holds many different meanings. For some it's a day to reflect on a time in their lives when the nation called them to duty. For some Memorial Day is a moment in the mind of beaches being stormed, warships under full steam, or vast armadas of aircraft and their crews flying off to battle.

For most men and women who have been in the armed forces, and for the many families who have lost someone in the service of their country, Memorial Day is a day to reflect on the sacrifices they made to keep us free. As both Humphries and Beaufort put it,

"I think about the friends I once had in the service, and how so many of them never came home."

**Kings Mountain Weather Report**

	May 17-23	Year Ago
Total precip.	.17	1.11
Max. 1 day	.11 (23rd)	1.11 (18th)
Year to date	20.46	16.09
Low temp.	58 (22nd)	55 (20th)
High temp.	90 (19th)	88 (23rd)
Avg. temp.	75.3	72.4

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