

Hard work, honesty, hat were Jake Bridges' trademarks

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Working hard and living by the Golden Rule were the characteristics that made Jake Hord Bridges so special to his family and friends, but it was perhaps his hat that made him most recognizable.

Mr. B, as he was known by his co-workers at The Printin' Press in Kings Mountain, died last week at the age of 88 from heart complications. Though he had been in failing health for the past three years, most of his life he was the picture of health and was always busy. Whether at work, church, with family or a baseball game - all of which he dearly loved - he was a tremendous influence on the people around him.

Bridges grew up on a farm between Kings Mountain and Cherryville where he learned to work hard. His professional life saw him run a grocery store at Crowders Mountain on three different occasions, spend 40 years with AB Carter in Gastonia, and over 20 years working with his sons, Bobby and Eddie Bridges, and son-in-law Bill Swindell and others at The Printin' Press.

He retired as a supervisor with AB Carter in 1976. He took care of his ailing wife, the late Ethel Mae Mullinax Bridges, during her battle with cancer, and after her death in 1977 he began working at The Printin' Press.

Bobby Bridges said that association came sort of unexpectedly.

"He initially began coming in to say hello," Bobby said. "He'd stay for a while and leave. The next thing you know we were teaching him to run a press and it ended up being a 20-year plus deal for him."

Even in his 80s, Bridges was probably the most punctual and dedicated employee at the shop, which for years was located in The Herald building and recently moved to its current location on Cleveland Avenue.

"He was from the old school," Bobby Bridges said. "He believed in performing a hard day's work. Even though he came on board here later



FILE / HERALD

Retired Printin' Press employee Jake Bridges, 88, died last week. Family and co-workers remember him as a hard working, honest and faithful man who was good to everyone.

in life, he was as dedicated as any employee we had. He believed in being here at 8 o'clock and he believed in working a full eight hours. He didn't mess around."

In fact, Bridges said his dad "hugged the printing press" that he ran, so much that four hats he and his wife Brenda found while going through Mr. B's possessions had ink on their brim.

"His hats were his trademark," Bobby said. "You didn't see Jake without a hat on. Some of the folks that came through the line at the funeral home asked where his hat was."

Mr. B was an avid baseball fan. When his daughter Juanita and her husband, Bill Swindell, lived in Florida Jake would visit them every

spring so he could attend the major league teams' spring training. He loved American Legion baseball and attended most of the Southeastern Regional Tournaments. He and his sons, Bobby and Eddie, were attending the American Legion World Series in Las Vegas in 1998 when he became exhausted and had to go back to the hotel. After returning home, a Kings Mountain doctor discovered an aneurysm and doctors at Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte discovered that many of his arteries were completely blocked, and the others partially blocked.

"They would not attempt surgery because of his age," Bobby said. "They basically sent him home and told him to do what he felt like doing

and make the best of it. He hung right in there until the very end."

Although Mr. B always brought his children up to be honest, Bobby admitted he had to fib a little bit to keep his dad from overdoing it. Even though his heart was wearing out, Mr. B still wanted to work every day.

"He would come into work and just couldn't hardly make it," Bobby said. "I had to tell him we just didn't have any work for him to do. He never did tell me this, but sometimes he'd tell Eddie, 'Bob doesn't want me to work. He's afraid I'll fall over dead.'"

Always the independent one, Mr. B wouldn't even consider leaving home and moving in with one of his children. Finally, two weeks before his death the doctors admitted him to Kings Mountain Hospital, and on July 16 he was moved to Eden Gardens. He died the next day.

Thinking back on their younger years, the Bridges boys said their father disciplined by the Biblical proverb "spare the rod and spoil the child." The phrase "this is going to hurt me a whole lot more than it hurts you" wasn't understood then, but it is appreciated now.

He often told his children he'd better not ever hear of them smoking a cigarette or drinking alcoholic beverages.

"He would make us walk a tight line," Bobby said. "In our later years we certainly did respect that and appreciate it."

"The few times he had to spank me he would explain to me what I had done; spank me and then talk to me again, and usually back it up with a Bible verse," Eddie said.

Eddie fondly recalls the days when the family operated the small grocery store at Crowders Mountain.

"Dad treated everybody fair," he said. "This was back in the 1950s and a lot of people at Crowders Mountain didn't have a car. He would take them to town, wait on them, take them back home, and never charge them a cent."

See Bridges, 6A

Anna Reynolds 100 years old

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Celebrating your 100th birthday is a milestone most folks don't reach, and in the case of Anna Lawing Reynolds of White Oak Manor it was one she didn't want to end.

Mrs. Reynolds, who has basically been confined to her bed or a wheelchair for the past five years, had a ball July 16 when a host of her family members came from as far away as Florida to help mark the special occasion.

"She was as alert as she could be," said her daughter Elaine Lynch of Shelby. "She didn't want to go back to bed."

Mrs. Reynolds family took her into the Day Room at White Manor, which is located right next door to her room. She managed to sit in a chair while her family and others made her the center of attention.

Many of the family members flew in from Georgia and Florida on July 14. One of Mrs. Reynolds' favorite birthday gifts was a letter from President and Mrs. Bush on White House stationery.

Mrs. Reynolds was reared near Maiden and lived most of her adult life near Pumpkin

Center between Lincolnton and Lake Norman. She moved to White Oak Manor 11 years ago when it became too much of a task for Mrs. Lynch to care for her at her home.

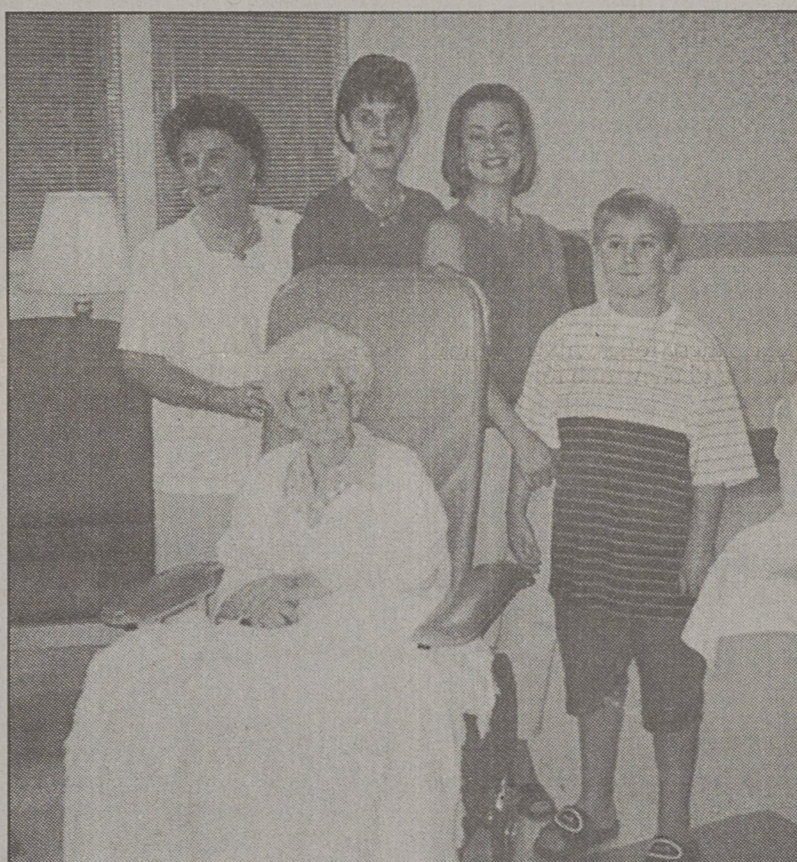
"I'd have to drive all the way up there to clean house and it got to where I couldn't let her be alone," Mrs. Lynch said. "She has always been an independent person. She was one of those that if she had just one small piece of paper that needed throwing away she'd go outside and put it in the trash barrel."

Mrs. Reynolds worked in a textile mill during her younger years, but after her marriage she became a full-time housewife. She was one of 12 children. Her only living sibling is her youngest sister, Mrs. Jack "Tony" Moose of Maiden. Mrs. Reynolds' oldest daughter, Evelyn Whitesides, is deceased. Her youngest daughter, Prue, lives in Douglas, GA.

Mrs. Reynolds remembered living in a two-story house on the top of a hill near Maiden, and getting up early to walk to work every day.


She has been a cancer survivor on two occasions. About

See Reynolds, 6A



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Anna Lawing Reynolds celebrated her 100th birthday July 16 at White Oak Manor in Kings Mountain. She is pictured with five generations of her family. Left to right are Prue R. Kirkland, Mrs. Reynolds' daughter, and granddaughter Cheryl K. Matthews, both of Douglas, GA; and great-granddaughter, Carrie M. Redish and great-great-grandson Austin Mullis, both of Tallahassee, FL.



DANCE REFLECTIONS

announces
FALL REGISTRATION

Thursday, August 2nd	3:00-7:00pm
Tuesday, August 7th	3:00-7:00pm
Thursday, August 9th	3:00-7:00pm

• Ballet • Tap • Jazz • Modern • Pointe • Lyrical • Gymnastics
• Pageantry and Modeling • Private Lessons • Competition Teams

Ages 2 and up
At our location: 132 W. Gold Street, Kings Mountain
739-5923 (upstairs above Sub-Factory)
3 large dance rooms and parents room
Over 4,000 sq. ft. of dance space. Hardwood Floors

Susan Goodson Morris, Owner/Instructor
Stacey Wortman, Gymnastics Instructor
23 years teaching experience, 33 years dance experience
Outstanding Teacher Award in Choreography 8 Consecutive Years

• First Place "Overall" Regional Winners at "Showstoppers" in Solo, Duet Trio, Small Group and Large Group Categories,
• Overall First Place Top Senior group at "Star Systems"
• Overall First Place Top Duet at "Star Systems"
• 1st Place "National" Winners at "Showstoppers" held at Myrtle Beach
• 1st Place DMI Regional Winners in Charlotte and Columbia, SC

Come Join Our Winning Spirit!
Bring 2 New Students and
Receive 1 Month FREE TUITION!
Registration Fees Must Be Paid At Sign Up.

For More Information
Call 739-5923 or 445-9229

ALL NEW! SPECIAL FINANCE DEPARTMENT AT SHELBY MOTORS!!

Repos • Liens • Slow Pays • Collections • Bankruptcies

Had Some Past Credit Problems?? Call Our Confidential Credit Hotline

1-800-265-8256

Experts On Staff Dedicated to Getting You A Loan Approval

FREE AUTOMATIC CREDIT CHECK

- No salesperson • No Embarrassment
- Find Out Which Vehicles you Qualify for From Your Own Home
- We Have Over 20 Financial Sources to Help You Get Qualified

OR

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO APPLY IN PERSON BE SURE TO BRING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ASK FOR THE FINANCE DEPT

- Driver's License
- Copy of current phone bill
- Auto insurance information
- Current pay stub • 5 complete references
- Landlord/Mortgage information
- Title & Registration to trade-in if applicable

OR

You may Fax Your Information To 704-484-9541

Complete the Following Information for Quick Response

Name _____ Address _____

Date of Birth _____ Social Security # _____

Time At Current Residence _____

Current Employer _____ Date of Employment _____

Gross Monthly Income (Before Taxes) _____

Rent/Mortgage Payment _____

Signature (Approve Credit Check) _____ Date _____

Push, Pull or Tow Your Trade Is Worth Up to \$4,000

Come See Don Fontenot at Shelby Motors!

Don Fontenot, Jr.

Special Finance Manager
"5 Years Experience in Special Finance"

