

# Injuries from fall fatal to retired educator D.B. Blalock

By BEN LEDBETTER  
Staff Writer

Retired Kings Mountain educator Dorus "D.B." Blalock Jr. died Saturday at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte where he had been in the hospital since Wednesday recovering from a fall.

A resident of Dixon School Road, he retired as a counselor and educator at Kings Mountain High School.

According to Chief Deputy Paul Cash of the Cleveland County Sheriff's Office, a UPS delivery driver, Matt Stout found Blalock when he went to the front door of the house last Wednesday at 12:03 p.m. and could not get an answer.

Stout then went to the back door

and found Blalock lying down and called 911 from his cellular phone.

He was breathing but unconscious, Cash said.

Cash said he appeared to have fallen off his roof and he appeared to have been there for several hours. The fall was about eight feet.

Sheriff's investigators found an attic fan Blalock may have been installing. The power was off at the house and his glasses were still on the roof, Cash said.

He said his right arm appeared to be injured and he did not suspect any foul play.

For Grover Elementary School Principal Jackie Lavender, Blalock cared about the people he worked with daily.

"He was a nice, kind, gentle man who tried to help. He liked to counsel and help people," she said.

Blalock was already a school system employee when Lavender started her time with the school system in 1974.

But supporting students was not the only thing he did.

Blalock also supported his alma mater, Appalachian State University, in Boone and helped students get into the school, she said.

"He was a little bit different, he sort of did things his own way," she said. "Sometimes that was a little bit different."

Dean Westmoreland was closely associated with Blalock in several

ways.

He lived near him on Dixon School Road, worked with him when he taught at Kings Mountain High School and attended school with him at Appalachian State.

The two stayed in contact daily during Westmoreland's 15-year tenure at the high school.

Westmoreland said Blalock did things the way he wanted them done.

"I guess you could say he marched to his own drummer," he said. "It was always interesting when he was around."

They also urged each other to give back to their alma mater.

"It was a real coming and going thing about Appalachian," he said.

"He was a real dedicated alumni of Appalachian."

Blalock would often go back to the mountains and stay about two weeks at a time, regardless of the weather, Westmoreland said.

He had a lot of friends in the mountains.

While he recounted the good things about his colleague, Westmoreland said Blalock's death shocked him.

"It was a rather awful shock for our family to hear about him falling off the roof and his subsequent passing," Westmoreland said. "It was a devastating shock to all of us."

The funeral was Monday at the Ollie Harris Memorial Chapel at Harris Funeral Home.

## OBITUARIES

### D.B. BLALOCK

CHARLOTTE - Dorus "D.B." Blalock Jr., 555 Dixon School Road, died August 3, 2002 at Carolinas Medical Center.

He was the son of the late Dorus Bentley and Annie Lauris Moss Blalock.

He was a retired educator and guidance counselor at Kings Mountain High School. He was a member of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Kings Mountain, and served in the Korean Conflict.

He is survived by his sister, Annie Lou Talley of Gastonia; and nieces, Lou Ann Harris, Jean Cloninger, Nancy Robinson, and Ginger Hood.

The funeral was held Monday at 11 a.m. at Ollie Harris Memorial Chapel. Interment was in Bethlehem

Baptist Church cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Bethlehem Baptist Church, 1117 Bethlehem Road, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### DYLAN JOHNSON

SHELBY - Dylan Ray Johnson, infant son of Glenn Johnson and Lisa Keeter Johnson Jr., 115 Immanuel Church Road, died July 30, 2002 at Cleveland Regional Medical Center.

The funeral was conducted by the Revs. Glenn Johnson Sr. and Clyde Price Thursday at 3 p.m. at House of Prayer in Fallston. Burial was in the church cemetery.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his brothers, Ricky Keeter and Brandon Johnson of the home; sisters, Alicia Keeter, Emily Johnson and Christina Johnson of the home; aunts and uncles, Tammy and Terry Davis of Kings Mountain, Rhonda and Jamie Alley of Polkville, and Brittany Campbell of Shelby; special aunt Stacy Campbell; special cousin, William Campbell; cousins Robbie Davis, Michelle Davis,

Hannah Alley and Faith Alley; grandparents Clyde and Donna Keeter and Rev. Glenn Johnson Sr., all of Shelby; great-grandparents Mary Campbell of Virginia, Willie and Gladys Byers, Mr. and Mrs. Milanese, and Mr. and Mrs. Johnson. He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Rebecca Johnson; and his great-grandfather, Leroy Campbell.

Memorials may be made to the family, P.O. Box 605, Earl, NC 28038.

Clay-Barnette Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### THELMA ANTHONY

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Thelma Clark Anthony, 79, 104 Midway Lake Road, died August 1, 2002 at Cleveland Regional Medical Center.

A native of Marietta, GA, she was the daughter of the late Ernest Duffey Clark and Lula Phillips Clark and wife of the late T.D. Anthony.

She was retired from Belding Lily Company where she served as a shipping clerk for 32 years. She was a member of Putnam Memorial Baptist Church and the Lily Old Timers Club.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Keith and Gay Anthony of Kings Mountain; daughter, Gayla Proctor of Kings Mountain; brother and sister-in-law, Rufus and Estelle Clark of Shelby; sister and brother-in-law, Inez and Alfred Nanney of Shelby; sister, Marie Wease of Kings Mountain; sisters-in-law, Aster Keith of Fayetteville, Geneva Bobbitt and Jeanette Ross of Kings Mountain, Virgie Galloway of Shelby, and Jeanette Melton of Denver, NY; five grandchildren, Keith Proctor and wife Kathy, Greg Anthony and wife Sherry, Teresa Yarborough and husband Willard, and Kathy Anthony, all of Kings Mountain, and Jena Grigg of Belmont; and nine great-grandchildren, Kristen Proctor, Heather Yarborough, Trey Grigg, Brandon Proctor, Austin Anthony, Caleb Yarboro, Alyssa Proctor, Tylan Grigg, and Ashlee Anthony.

The funeral was conducted by the Revs. Brian Glisson and Wray Barrett at 2 p.m. Sunday at Putnam Memorial Baptist Church. Interment was in Patterson Springs Baptist Church

cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Brandon Proctor, 4841 Anthony Road, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

Clay-Barnette Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### BUCK BIGGERS

GROVER - Paul Carson "Buck" Biggers, 83, 2235 Cleveland Avenue, died August 2, 2002 at his residence.

A native of Cleveland County, he was the son of the late Minor and Lochie Hamrick Biggers. He was also preceded in death by a brother, Billy Lowry Biggers; two sisters, Catherine Biggers Moss and Margaret Biggers; and two brothers-in-law, George Wolfe and Harry Moss.

He was retired from Fiber Industries. He was a member of Sulphur Springs United Methodist Church and was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II.

He is survived by his wife, Elaine Kendrick Biggers of the home; daughters, Gwen Biggers Cash and Lori Biggers and husband Gary Hastings of Shelby; grandson, Garrett Hastings; granddaughter, Laura Megan Hastings; sister, Mary Louise Wolfe of Patterson Springs; and sister-in-law, Maxine Hoyle Biggers of Kings Mountain.

The funeral was conducted by the Revs. Bill Towery and Mike Shuford at 4 p.m. Sunday at Sulphur Springs United Methodist Church. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Sulphur Springs UMC, 1605 Sulphur Springs Church Road, Shelby, NC 28152 or Hospice of Cleveland County, 951 Wendover Heights Drive, Shelby, NC 28150.

Clay-Barnette Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### BILLY ALLEN

SHELBY - Billy Gene Allen, 69, 1135 Long Branch Road, Grover, died August 3, 2002 at Hospice at Wendover.

A native of Cleveland County, he was the son of the late C.E. and Blanche Moss Allen. He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean Conflict and was self-employed as a truck driver. He was a member of allen

Memorial Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Betty Hardin Allen of the home; two sons, Gene Allen and wife Joyce of Fountain Inn, SC and Timmy Mark Allen and wife Dena of Kings Mountain; brothers, James F. Allen and wife Shirley of Grover; sisters, Carlene Allen Enfinger and husband Phil of Augusta, GA; grandchildren, Shane Allen and wife Leanne of Lakenheath Air Base, Cambridgeshire, England, Jenna Allen Ross and husband Garvis of Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, and Tyler Mark Allen of Kings Mountain; and great-grandchildren, Judah, Allahia, and Isabella Allen and Keegan, Anthony and Athena Ross.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Marion Adams at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Allen Memorial Baptist Church. Burial was in the church cemetery.

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

Cecil M. Burton Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### DEVER WATKINS

SHELBY - Dever Donald Watkins, 75, 204 Victory Lane, died August 3, 2002 at Cleveland Regional Medical Center.

A native of Spindale, he was the son of the late Edward and Pansy Morris Watkins. He was retired from the textile industry and served in the United States Army.

He is survived by his sons, Dean Watkins of Shelby, Jerry Watkins and wife Kelley of Kannapolis, and Mark Watkins and wife Bonnie of Charleston, NC; daughter, Rhonda Watkins of Shelby; special friend and companion Carolyn Bolin of Shelby; sisters, Rachael Haynes and Fern McIntyre of Rutherfordton and Lavelle McDaniel of Charlotte; and 10 grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Ervin Price at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Ollie Harris Memorial Chapel. A graveside service was held at 12:45 p.m. at Spindale City Cemetery.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

GERALDINE HOLLIFIELD

KINGS MOUNTAIN -

Geraldine Rathbone Hollifield, 61, 1102 West Gold Street Extension, died August 3, 2002 at Cleveland Regional Medical Center.

A native of Cleveland County, she was the daughter of the late Dewey Vinson and Carol Dona Dorsey Rathbone. She was also preceded in death by her daughter, Pamela Denise Lambert; and sister, Virginia Sims.

She was retired from Kemet Industries and was a former employee of Fiber Industries. She attended Kings Mountain Family Worship Center, Church of God and Central Church of God, Charlotte.

She is survived by her husband, Jerry Hollifield of Kings Mountain; son, Blaine Hollifield of Kings Mountain; brothers, Steve Rathbone, Doug Rathbone, Bobby Rathbone and Paul Rathbone, all of Kings Mountain; and sister, Belinda Adams of Kings Mountain.

The funeral was held at 3 p.m. Tuesday at Family Worship Center, Church of God. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### CARL RAY COOK SR.

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Rev. Carl Ray Cook Sr., 122 Williams Road, died August 1, 2002 at Cleveland Regional Medical Center.

A native of Cleveland County, he was the son of the late Rev. Marvin Bridges Cook and Ida Marie Moore Cook. He was a pastor and founder of Charity Baptist Church in Fallston, where he served for 30 years.

He is survived by his wife, Frances L. Cook of the home; sons, Carl R. Cook Jr., James E. Cook and Marvin E. Cook, all of Kings Mountain; daughter, Carolyn K. Allen of Gaffney; brothers, James Cook of Ocean Springs, MS, Charles P. Cook of Shelby and Floyd Cook of Earl; granddaughters, Krysti Leigh Terry, Loretta Mull and Tiara Dawn Allen; grandson, Joseph Cook; and four great-grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted by the Revs. Herman Simpson and Junior Seawell at 3 p.m. Sunday at Charity Baptist Church. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Cleveland Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

### CORRECTION

Mary Moore was incorrectly identified as Nancy Moore in an article in last week's Herald.

**Do you want to become a cheerleader or dancer? The King Mountain Blazers** are accepting applications for the junior competition squad. Ages 13-16 years old. The new season is to begin August 20th, 2002. Please call 704-739-0720 (Stephanie) or 704-739-6172 (Susan) for further information.

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### In Remembrance of Joe Rhea, Sr. (J.D.) who passed away on August 4, 2001.



Today, August 8 would have been our 50th anniversary. My mind goes back to August of 1952 when we drove off in our trusty old '48 Studebaker. Two kids from a small town going off to the big city of Denver, Colorado to live "on our own". We were a little scared, but we went along for forty-nine years, "Side By Side" as the song goes. We never had a barrel of money, but we were blessed with 3 children and five grandchildren and lots of love. "Thank God for forty-nine years together."

I love you, Dad! There will never ever be another Joe Rhea! So very special to me. I cry when I visit your grave, but then I think of this poem, read by John Wayne at the eulogy of John Houston, producer of Western movies.

Thinking of you, Sue Rhea (Mom)

Do not stand at my grave and weep;  
I am not there, I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow;  
I am the diamond glints on snow.  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.  
I am the gentle Autumn's rain;  
When you awaken in the morning's hush;  
I am the swift uplifting rush;  
Of quiet birds in circled flight;  
I am the soft star that shines at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry;  
I am not there, I did not die.  
- author unknown

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF KINGS MOUNTAIN 2002 CDBG-SEWER PROJECT

Notice is hereby given that the City of Kings Mountain will hold a public hearing on August 27, 2002 at 7:00 PM in the City Hall Council Chambers for the purpose of making an application to the NC Division of Community Assistance for funds under the 2002 Small Cities community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Infrastructure Program as provided by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The City is applying for \$219,632 to be used to install sewer lines and services in the West Gold Street, Extension area of the City. The City proposes to provide \$13,888 in local funds toward this grant, if funded. HUD funds are designated to serve predominantly low and moderate income areas and households. If funded the project will provide city sewer service to 16 homes in this area.

Persons with disabilities and non-English speaking persons needing special accommodations must contact the City Clerk's office at (704) 734-0333 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. TTD# 1-800-735-8262.

KMH 2552 (8:8)

