

OBITUARIES

CLYDE HORTON

GROVER - Clyde Horton, 301 Cleveland Avenue, died September 29, 2006 at Cleveland Regional Medical Center.

He was born in Shelby to the late Bobo Horton and Ethel Martin Horton. He was raised on a farm in Grover. Clyde, who has been a barber for many years, finally laid his barber clippers down and retired at the age of 80 from Community Barber Shop. He is the former owner of Wrens Cafeteria, a Plantation Cafe which has been closed around 28 years.

He was a member of Shiloh Presbyterian Church of Grover. He was known to tell a joke or two in his time, especially at the Community Barber Shop with his friends. Clyde is a diehard Marine and stood proudly for the United States.

He is preceded in death by his parents and sisters Louise Horton Wood and Thelma Horton McGinnis.

He is survived by his loving wife of sixty years, Myrtle Elizabeth Hardin Horton; sons Stephen Clyde Horton and wife Gloria and their children Shea and Kim of Myrtle Beach, SC, and Rodney Bobo Horton and wife Terri and children Britney, Kayla and Casey of Grover; daughter Cathy Horton Hunt and her daughters Charlotte and Megan of Grover; and sisters Evelyn Horton Woods and Irene Horton Queen of Shelby.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to Clyde's doctors, Dr. Michael Miller, Dr. Fred Zellar and Dr. David Barker.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Nancy Mugford at 2 p.m. Sunday, October 1, 2006 at Cecil M. Burton Funeral Home Chapel, Shelby. Burial was private at Grover Cemetery, Grover.

Memorials may be made to Shiloh Presbyterian Church, 307 Cleveland Avenue, Grover, NC 28073.

Cecil M. Burton Funeral Home is serving the family. A guest registry is available at www.cecilmburtonfuneralhome.com.



EDWARD DETTER

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Edward Detter, 67, 2065 Bethlehem Road, died October 1, 2006 at his home.

A native of Gaston County, he was the son of the late Ernest Detter and Eva Costner Detter. He was also preceded in death by brother, Tommy Detter, and sister, Becky Ghorley.

He attended Landmark Baptist Church, Gastonia. He was owner and operator of Detter Machine Shop. He was a loving father and grandfather.

He is survived by his wife, Jean Black Detter of Kings Mountain; sons Ronnie Detter and wife Trudy of Kings Mountain and Mark Detter of Kings Mountain; daughter Phyllis Farish and husband Michael of Gastonia; brother Lester Detter of Crouse; sisters Pauline Croft of Bessemer City and Shirley Stillwell and Patricia Detter of Gastonia; grandchildren Jessica Detter Bridges and husband John of Shelby and Justin Detter, Cynthia Detter and Matthew Farish of Kings Mountain; and grandchildren Bryson Tre Bridges and Brooklyn Jade Bridges.

The funeral was conducted by the Revs. Forrest Hennessee, Ronnie Detter and John Bridges at 3 p.m. Wednesday at Landmark Baptist church, Gastonia. Burial was in Westview Gardens, Bessemer City.

A guest register is available at www.harrisfunerals.com. Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.



ROBERT RAY MERRITT

SHELBY - Robert "Bob" Ray Merritt, 3016 Arnold Dr., died October 3, 2006 at his home.

He was born in Grand Junction, CO. He was the son of the late Clarence Thomas and Leola Clark Merritt. He was also preceded in death by sister, Shirley Wykoff. He was a member of Westview Baptist Church, where he served as deacon. He was a retired aircraft mechanic and pilot. He was retired from the United States Air Force serving in Korea and Vietnam.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara Bourgeois Merritt of Shelby; sons Rev. Robert Wayne Merritt and wife Ann of Boiling Springs, Nelson Thomas Merritt and wife Marsha of Boiling Springs, and Justin Lee Merritt of Shelby; daughters Cindy Lee Russell and husband John of Shelby and Janice Lynn Harris and husband Phillip of Maiden; three brothers, Merrill Merritt of Clifton, CO, Thomas Merritt of Grand Junction, CO and Michael Merritt of Tooele, Utah; eight grandchildren, Lisa Marie Wong and husband Joseph of Kings Mountain, Kevin Merritt and wife Alexis of Shelby, Andrew Merritt of Shelby, Miranda Cline of Kings Mountain, Jason Cline, serving in Iraq; Grant Harris of Maiden, Aaron Harris of Maiden, Candace Sewell of Boiling Springs; two great-grandchildren, Emma Grace Wong and Lucy Ann Merritt; and foster children Kelley Norman and Shane Norman.

The funeral will be conducted by the Revs. Wayne Merritt and Steve Ellis at 3 p.m. Thursday at Westview Baptist Church. Visitation is from 2-3 p.m. Thursday prior to the service at Westview Baptist Church fellowship hall.

A graveside service with full military honors will be held Saturday at 4 p.m. at Garden of Memories, Webster, FL.

Memorials may be made to Westview Baptist Church or Single Mother's Scholarship, 500 Melody Lane, Shelby, NC 28150.

Harris Funeral Home, Kings Mountain, is in charge of arrangements.



COMMUNITY

Florist to open in Grover

EMILY WEAVER

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George and Janie Kirby are bringing fresh flowers to Grover. They anticipate to open up their new shop, Kirby's Flowers, on Main Street around the first of November, just in time for the holidays.

The Kirbys wanted to expand into Grover a few years ago so they prayed about it and patiently waited for the right time. "We won't move unless God tells us to," George said. "We could have gone to Gaffney or to Shelby, but we wanted to stay in the small towns. The small towns need the same things that the bigger towns need." He knows parts of Grover from deliveries he has made and knew that it would be a nice location.

"We want to be part of the Grover community. We want to see things grow and revitalize," he said. But George does not measure success the way some other business owners do. He said that it is not so much about the money, his business is about touching hearts and bringing smiles to people's faces.

"I love being a florist. It is something you've got to have a love for. It gives us great joy just to make people happy," he said. "We always try to keep a Christian atmosphere."

George is an associate pastor at Youngsgrove Baptist Church in Blacksburg. He said that their florist business is another form of ministry to him and his wife. If an opportunity arises for him to minister or pray with a bereaved customer, then he said he'll do it.

In addition to flowers, they will also sell Christian gifts, literature and Bibles. In Grover, they will also have tuxedo rentals in their shop and provide wedding consultations.

Around Valentine's Day, the shelves and racks are stocked with the prettiest arrangements, candies, trinkets and cards, making the store a one-stop shop for all of the customer's romantic needs.

"Valentine is the biggest single holiday (for sells) and then



George and Janie Kirby work on a flower arrangement.

Mother's Day runs a very close second," he said. "On Mother's Day, you're not only selling to the living but you're also doing a lot of cemetery work and arrangements."

George loves helping with weddings, because he said that he knows the wedding day is the bride and groom's special day. "The bride is basically the one that's in control of that wedding. So if I can please the bride - and I guess I should say the mother of the bride - then it brings me so much joy," he said, with a laugh.

They took 9-12 weeks of course work at Cleveland Tech to learn the basics of floral design, but most of their arrangements are self-taught and customer-inspired. All of their requested floral arrangements are custom-made and tailored to each client and special occasion. "We're gonna do a good job and our prices are very competitive," George said. "No two arrangements are exactly alike."

The Kirbys can create birthday cakes, dogs, and just about anything, entirely out of flowers.

"It's more like doing artwork, in a way," Janie said.

Their deliveries extend mostly to places in Kings Mountain, Grover, Gaffney, Shelby and of course, Blacksburg, but they have and will travel further distances for special customers and special situations. The furthest George has had to deliver is Statesville, because he said the customer only wanted flowers from their shop.

They started up their florist business outside of their home about nine years ago. After some building space opened up in downtown Blacksburg, they moved their work into a flower shop. Now they are expanding into two locations.

"I had a vision about the flowers. But I didn't know that it would be this big, it was just a vision of doing flowers," she said. "I went to classes for my own personal use and then everything just got to flowing and we just went with the flow."

George worked in manufacturing for a long time before he

devoted his full time to the flowers. The business was picking up and Janie needed help, so he stepped in. "It was a leap of faith and I'm glad I took it," he said. "It's a joy working together. We're partners. We love each other."

"Of course, sometimes, he'll try to tell me what to do and then I'll tell him what to do. He'll be saying he's the boss and I'll be saying, 'I'm the boss,'" Janie said with a laugh.

"Fresh flowers make people smile or make them happy," she said, and they love having the opportunity to deliver those smiles and provide that happiness.

The Kirbys have two daughters and one son, who they say have helped them out at the shop a lot. They hope that one day, the children or five grand children will continue the tradition that they began.

For more information about Kirby's Flowers, visit them online at www.kirbysflowers.com.

Reward offered for arrest of suspect in homicide

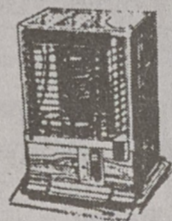
The Cleveland County Sheriff's Office is offering a \$5,500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons involved in the homicide of Timothy Justin Grant, whose body was located on Selkirk Rd. in Lawndale on July 21, 2006.

Anyone with information should contact Det. Mark Craig at 476-3033 or Special Agent John Kaiser of the NC SBI at 476-

3057. Information may also be given to the Sheriff's Office 24 hour line at 484-4822 or on the website www.sheriffcleveland-county.com.

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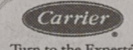
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