## MS. WINNIE From Page 5A

tenance Service, before she returned to North Carolina. For about 13 years, she was the editor of "New Dawn", a monthly publication of the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church that was sent out to the incarcerated and shut-ins all over the U.S. Rev. James Robinson is pastor of Antioch Missionary.

Reg Alexander, of Regal Ventures, remembers when Ms. Winnie would stop by his office at Alexander Park on E. Gold Street to get some colored paper for her "New Dawn" booklets.

Several times, when she came, she would stop and look at a painting he had on the wall. It was an abstract painting of the cross, created by a friend of his.

"Sometimes she'd ask, 'Can I go look at that picture?" Alexander said. "She would stare at it and get a little misty-eyed each time."

She told him that she loved seeing the painting and how people celebrate their faith in different ways. "She was always such a sweet person," he said.

Carolyn Robinson and her cousin Dianne Mosely (Ms. Winnie's niece) remembered that she always had a lot to say.

On January 9, 2009, this woman of many words shared a few that her daughter thought were odd. That morning she called and asked Carolyn and James to meet her for breakfast.

"She said, 'I'm not going to be with you very long...I'm going home'," Carolyn said.

Rev. Robinson tried to remind her that no one knows his or her time to go. They parted company and later that night around 11 p.m., after not hearing from her, family members went to check on her. She was okay.

Hours later, at 4 a.m., she was not okay. The Robinsons received a phone call from Lifeline who said that they got a signal from Ms. Winnie's house.

They met the paramedics there and discovered that she'd had a stroke. It wasn't **The Kings Mountain Herald** the first one. Although it all of the memo

had not taken her life, this one had taken her ability to speak.

After a trip to the hospital, the Robinsons brought her to their home. She had lost more than her speech. There was little this once very strong, independent woman could now do for herself. And Carolyn saw how heavy this weighed on her mother.

This strong woman had survived colon cancer without a recurrence. She traveled all over the United States of America meeting new people, "rubbing shoulders" with legends such as Satchel Paige and Jackie Robinson, while on the arm of her equally legendary husband, "Slow" Robinson, catcher for Satchel Paige.

"She was around a lot of pretty important people in the baseball business," said family friend Mary Neisler. "She was the most elegant woman I've known in a long time."

She loved people and she loved meeting new people, Carolyn said.

Mrs. Neisler remembers

all of the memorabilia Ms. Winnie had in her room, signed balls and bats and other treasures from the baseball world her husband was in. Many of those historical items have been on borrow and on display at the Kings Mountain Historical Museum.

"She was a lovely lady," said Mickey Crowell, head curator and director of the museum. "I always enjoyed talking to her."

"I met Winnie when we used to bring some of the kids in the neighborhood out to speak to her husband and he would tell them all of his stories from baseball," said Mayor Rick Murphrey. "We always enjoyed those stories."

He remembered that Ms. Winnie would always have something special for them to eat when they came, too.

"She was a character," said her niece Dianne Mosely. She was the life of the party – a gracious host with a giving nature.

"She was a beautiful person, very outgoing, very loving," said granddaughter Shana Adams.

Carolyn remembered her."

ailment and sold the station in 2004.

Jonas depended on friends like former mayor Scott Neisler, Jimmy Littlejohn, Perry Champion, and Jay Rhodes, to name a few, to get sports news direct from the games on air. Neisler remembers Bridges as "a great mentor" and a man who always accepted new ideas in broadcasting. Neisler pitched his idea of simulcasting music to accompany the fireworks displays on July 4th. Live local city council meetings were also broadcast over WKMT to have city government accessible to citizens who could not attend the regular meetings.

Now WYDT, the studio was moved from Bessemer City Road to College Street in Charlotte and the tower to Gastonia and is currently an all-Spanish station.

Bridges served in the community as a councilman from Ward V, was active in the Kings Mountain Rotary Club, sang in the First Baptist Church choir and was on the KM Hall of Fame committee.

His love for Kings Mountain was evident. He promoted Bethware Progressive Club for years with that group's sponsorship of the Bethware Community Fair and the Cleveland County Fair and Crossroads Music Park by broadcasting by live remote

Rob Bridges, Director of Affiliate Sales

Wednesday, February 10, 2010



THE LATE MR. AND MRS. FRAZIER "SLOW" ROBINSON

that her mother would do anything for any one that needed help.

"She was the glue of this family that kept us all together," she said.

"The superglue," James

added. "She was just such a good caring person, a good Christian," Murphrey said. "I can't say enough about what a good person she was.

We're all going to miss her."

## Funeral for Winnie Robinson Sunday KINGS MOUNTAIN -

Wynolia (Winnie) Hart Griggs Robinson, 81, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2010, at Hospice.

A funeral will be conducted by the Rev. James Robinson at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 14, at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church. The family will receive visitors before the funeral at the church.

## BRIDGES

he recalled in an interview in the Herald that he was a "jack of all trades" when the station first opened at 1215 Cleveland Avenue. His wife, Doris, was bookkeeper and he handled virtually everything else, including sales.

A native of Boiling Springs, Jonas was attending Gardner-Webb College when the chance came to work at WIS-TV in Spartanburg on a part-time basis. Scheduling, programming and running an air shift were all in a day's work for young Bridges.

After high school classes in Boiling Springs, he had worked part time at Shelby Station WOHS, then the only radio station in Cleveland County, and also at a Forest City station. His job was reporting play by play for the Shelby major league farm club games, the Western Carolina League. Sports broadcasting was a natural for Bridges. He worked seven days a week to build the growing radio station in town. He took pride in the community service programs he initiated on Tuesday night when the station broadcast the first city council meetings live from City Hall.

Jonas organized the original Kingsmen

Gospel Quartet of Asheville and always featured gospel and country music on air, a popular feature on WKMT. He was backed up by an outstanding crew at the station and for some time the station was on the air from 6 a.m. till midnight.

He brought a variety of programming to the airwaves.

Jonas never attempted to compete with large FM stations, focusing on making WKMT 1220 on your dial a good local station. The format of country, bluegrass and gospel music stayed the same for many years.

Slowing down was painful for Jonas who in 1991 suffered cancer of his vocal chords which silenced the air voice of a man who had become a legend in the broadcasting business for his play by play sportscasts of not only local athletic events but rodeo shows in the Southeast for a quarter century. Successful surgery removed the cancerous tumor and miraculously Bridges could talk without the aid of a voice box but not on the air. He continued to be King Mountain's number one sports fan in the stands but not at the microphone.

His organizational skills and behind the Cleveland Coun scenes dedication contributed to the successful business he continued to own and from those areas. operate until he retired because of a heart Rob Bridges, I for Fox Cable Networks, Atlanta, recalled that some of his Dad's favorite experiences included promoting wrestling at the National Guard Armory and booking Bolo Brothers, Johnny Weaver and Haystack Calhoun and announcing the Little League World Series from Hershey, Pa., the Dixie Youth World Series from Hattiesburg, Ms. and twice the National Rodeo Finals and also his hobbies of auctioneering and playing musical instruments by ear. He was taking advanced banjo classes.

Bridges' daughter, Pam Bridges Looby of Cornelius, said radio was her father's life from his growing up days in Boiling Springs.

Several days before his death his family said Jonas spoke of his pride in Kings Mountain.

It took the community a long time to get radio, different from most businesses, because it is principally an entertainment medium. But Jonas added informational features to WKMT which his listeners appreciated.

Jonas Bridges gave the hometown flavor to radio. Obviously, his voice was softer in recent years but heart was this town and in radio.

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