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KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA



Scott Brodnax and Beatle collection ...

Mourning Loss Of Lennon

By GARY STEWART
Co-Editor

In 1964, Kings Mountain's Scott Brodnax was a five-year-old and could care less that a long-haired, handsome quartet from England was spreading a contagious disease through the teenagers of America.

It wasn't until he was a high school junior that he began to suffer from Beatlemania, and by that time the popular singing group which was idolized by teens around the world and cursed by their parents were far past their height of their popularity.

But, Scott heard his older brother, Sam, strum a Beatle tune on his guitar one day and he was hooked on the sound.

Today, Brodnax, is a collector of Beatle memorabilia, and is probably the Kings Mountain most shaken by Monday night's tragic shooting death of John Lennon.

Lennon was the co-founder of the Beatles along with Paul McCartney, and they, along with Ringo Starr and George Harrison, formed perhaps the most famous singing group of all-time.

They began their career singing in English pubs and after their first big song "I Want To

Hold Your Hand" made the charts in 1963, they were an instant hit.

They were introduced to America on the Ed Sullivan Show in February of 1964, and from there they leaped to world-wide fame.

Their pudding basin haircuts, long by American standards of 1964 but clean-cut today, and their collarless suits were a new rage for their followers. But what teens called music, their parents called noise and they hated it.

But, Brodnax feels the older generation learned to respect the Beatles and the world-wide concern shown over Lennon's death gives him a good feeling inside.

"The Beatles were world-wide," Brodnax said Wednesday morning as he reflected on years of good memories. "It's good that so many people are concerned."

Although he never met any of the Beatles nor saw them in concert, Brodnax felt a personal relationship through his collections of albums, Beatle dolls, pictures, and other memorabilia.

"The Beatles were the biggest part of my life for about four years," said Brodnax, now a col-

lege student. "They changed my life around. The only other thing that has ever effected me the same was my girlfriend."

"It hurts to lose one-fourth of that group that effected me so much," he said. "You feel like he's one of your best friends."

Brodnax said he could have accepted Lennon's death more easily had it been from sickness, "but this makes it hard to understand."

Brodnax frequently makes trips to Beatleests, which are held yearly in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles. The Beatleests include what Brodnax calls a big Beatle "flea market" where he can make purchases to add to his collection.

Brodnax started his collection shortly after hearing his brother strum that Beatle tune. After that, he began listening to Beatle records.

"I started working at Wiener King part-time," he said. "Most of the other kids got jobs and saved their money to buy a car. I saved mine to buy Beatle items."

He has most of the Beatle records ever produced, and has every Beatle song ever recorded either on album or single. Although he appreciated their individual talent, Brodnax said he was not an avid follower of any of the Beatles' individual careers.

"I like their music," he said. "They are great musicians separately, but the Beatles as a whole was what appealed to me. A lot of the news reports have tried to make John Lennon and Paul McCartney the whole group. It's true they co-founded the Beatles and wrote most of their songs, but the four of them together made them what they were."

"The thing that really hurts is that John was just starting over," he added. "He had been in seclusion for five years and all of his recent interviews, he stressed the fact that he was ready for a new beginning. He was a different person from what he was in the 70's."

One thing that hit Brodnax hard Tuesday, he said, was the realization that the Beatles were over.

"I never held much hope for them getting back together as a group," he said, "but I hoped they would somehow get together just for a picture to show they were getting along."

He's assured that they were because of all the concern shown by the other three.

"He's dead," said Brodnax, "but he will always live on."

Funeral Services Today For Joshua Wilson Gill

Joshua Wilson Gill Sr., 95, president of J.W. Gill and Sons Funeral Home of Kings Mountain, died Monday afternoon after a year's declining health and serious illness of one week.

Mr. Gill was son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Ned Gill and was a member of Zoar AME Zion Methodist Church and the Burial Aid Society.

Surviving are three sons, Richard Gill Sr. and Bennie Gill, both of Gastonia, and Hazel Gill of Kings Mountain; and eight daughters, Mrs. Bobbie Hemphill, Mrs. Alice Caldwell and Mrs. Ruby Mungo, all of Charlotte, and Mrs. Naomi Parker, Mrs. Juanita Smith, Miss Viola Gill, Miss Johnnie Mae Gill and Miss LaEunice Gill, all of Great Neck, N.Y. Also surviving are 39 grandchildren and 37 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be conducted Thursday at 3 p.m. from Zoar AME Zion Church in Kings Creek, S.C. by Dr. M.B. Robertson, interment following in the church cemetery. The



J.W. GILL, SR.

body will be taken to the church at noon Thursday and will lie in state until the hour of service.

J.W. Gill and Sons Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Drive Begins Today

Helping Hand Fund Aids Needy In KM Area

Thirty area ministers today will begin ringing bells and asking for donations for the Kings Mountain Ministerial Association's Helping Hand Fund.

Ministers will be stationed in front of TG&Y, Winn Dixie and Harris Teeter today, Friday and Saturday from 1-7 p.m. and again next Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 1-7 p.m.

All proceeds go to the Helping Hand Fund, a project which provides food, clothing, rent, medicine and other needs to needy citizens of the Kings Mountain area.

The Helping Hand Fund began several years ago as the Empty Stocking Fund to provide for the needy during the Christmas season. Now, needs are met throughout the year through donations from citizens, churches and the United Way.

"Christmas time is when it is more visible," said Rev. Allen Jolly, minister of music at First Baptist Church, who is co-chairman of the Bell Ringing Committee with Rev. Sam Murphy, pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church. "Christmas is the time when the public is aware that money is taken up for it," he said.

Persons knowing of situations of need are urged to contact their local pastor.

One of the most-used services of the Helping Hand Fund is the Food Bank which is based at the Kings Mountain Community Center.

"We hope to raise a considerable amount of money this Christmas season," said Rev. Jolly. "We appreciate all the people who give and invite everyone in the community to give when they can."



Allen Jolly, left, Sam Murphy

'On The Square' Will Be In Kings Mountain

"On the Square," a WBTV News feature, hosted by Doug Mayes, will be filmed in Kings Mountain, Tuesday, December 16, at 12 noon.

Mayes and a special news camera crew will be at the Kings Mountain town square to talk with the people about topics of current interest for the Channel 3 camera. The interviews are shown on WBTV's 6 o'clock News Tuesday and Thursday nights, and on "Top O' The Day," WBTV's hour-long noon-time show, on Wednesdays and Fridays.

"On The Square" has become a well-accepted vehicle for citizens to state personal opinions to be heard by a large audience. It's a chance for the everyday viewer to express his feelings about the world in which we live.

Doug Mayes is easily one of the most recognizable personalities in the two Carolinas. For more than twenty years he reported on every news event in the WBTV news region, and is now a well known speaker throughout the area.



DOUG MAYES

Funeral Services Friday For Willis Bagwell, 77

Willis B. Bagwell, 77, of Kings Mountain, died Wednesday morning at Kings Mountain Hospital after an extended illness.

A native of Clinton, S.C., he was a resident of Kings Mountain for over 55 years and was a member of Second Baptist Church, which he joined in the early 1930's.

Survivors include his wife, Lula Howell Bagwell; three sons, Billy Martin Bagwell, Bobby Ray Bagwell and Jerry D. (Dan) Bagwell; one daughter, Gloria Bagwell Spicer; and eight grandchildren, Jackie Bagwell, Marty Bagwell, Teresa Bagwell, Beth Bagwell, Tim Spicer, Eric Spicer, Kale Bagwell and Brent Bagwell.

Services will be conducted Friday at 2 p.m. at Second Baptist Church by the Rev. Ansel Center. Burial will be in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

The family will receive friends



WILLIS B. BAGWELL

from 7 until 9 p.m. Thursday (tonight) at Harris Funeral Home.