DATE OF MARRIAGE	GROCM	AP BRIDE	AP BOOK/PAGE	30,3740
03 05 1960 BEAM	HAROLD LEE	HELEN WILLYS SNOW	3 194	
10 15 1994 BEAMAN	ANDREW JAMES	CHRISTY RENEE SWAIM	91 23	
06 05 1926 BEAMAN	CECIL W	O THELMA VIRGINIA CREED	3 197	
09 18 1937 BEAMER	ADAM	TINY HEMMINGS	57 37	
06 02 1956 BEAMER	ARTHUR F	PATRICIA GORDON	3 195	
03 08 1977 BEAMER	BRYAN ALLEN	CAROLYN DENISE COLLINS	74 21	
√ 01 04 1920 BEAMER	C WARREN	KETTIE STEELE	3 196	
06 05 1926 BEAMER	CECIL W	O THELMA VIRGINIA CREED	3 197	
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08 10 1958 BEAMER	RONALD CHARLES		NANCY LOUISE COLL	INS 3	222			
09 30 1911 BEAMER	S M		RUTH NEAL	TERESE DANN COL	223			
02 27 1900 BEAMER	SAM		JULIA JONES	3	224			
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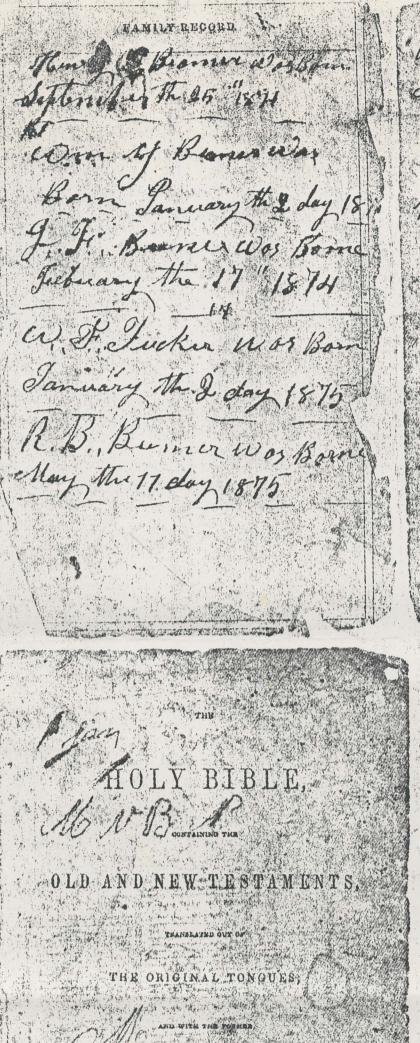
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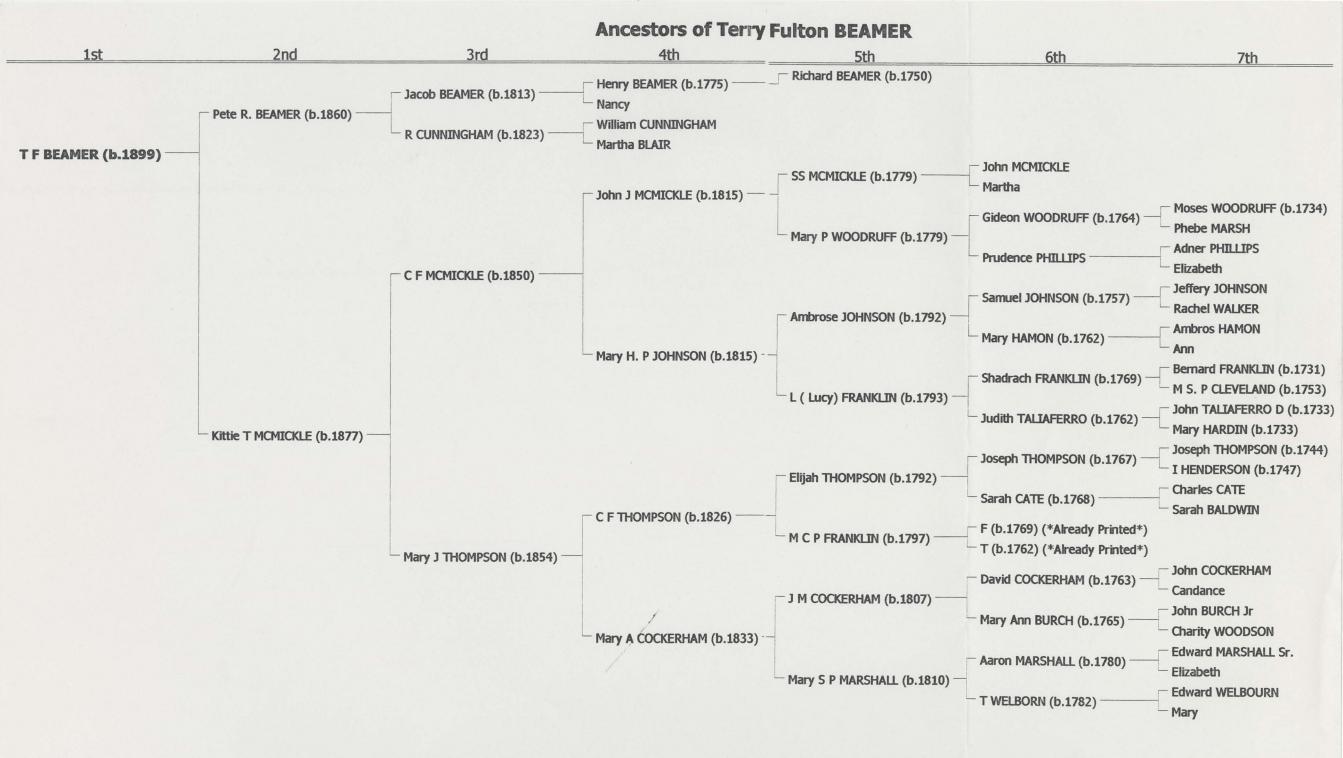
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my lash will and testament in manner and form as follows to wih: that is to bay I will and devise That my property both real and personal be sold at public auction on the premises by my Executors hereinafter name of in the way all manner that it will bring the most money for my Istale I will first that out of the money realized that my wife have our hundred dollars and that my Executors are hereby directed to pay her than Then after my wife has received the one hundred I will that all very children by very first wife be made equal. That is, after taking vieto Consideration what I have already advanced to them, the Junes Thus advanced are shown by a book in which I have had charged all item which have intended as advancement to them, then after my first wifes Children are made equal to those advanced I wish and will that my son Jackson the only Child by my lash wife have an equal share with all the other Children That I hereby appoint and Constitute my con title: to this my lash will and testament. In lesturen whereof I have hereunts set my hand and ever This the 10th day of nov. 1893 ech. Jacob x/2 eacher End We Folger L'Ouve

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Mr Or vel anderson this is to you know that my daughter A Carly Know all men by these Presents; That we Acres and Windrew Cooley bound unto David Corribbece Esquire, Governor or Chief Magistrate of the Commonwealth of Virginia, in the just and full sum of one hundred and fifty dollars, to be paid to the said Governor for the time being and his successors, for the use of the Commonwealth; for the payment whereof well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, and administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents. Witness our hands and seals, this day of Accession 183 9 The Condition of the above obligation is such, That whereas a marriage is shortly intended to be had and solemnized between the above bound Herry Becene and Rached leavely of the County of Lagoronow, if there be no lawful cause to obstruct the said marriage, then this obligation is to be void, otherwise to remain in full force and virtue Sealed and delivered in )



Subi: Beamer

Date: 10/3/01 9:12:49 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: sjacobs@smart.net (Sylvia Jacobs)
Reply-to: sjacobs@smart.net (Sylvia Jacobs)

To: Wihiatt@aol.com

Hi, Wilma:

Thanks very much for sending me the info on the Beamer cemeteries, it was so thoughtful of you to remember my request.

Sorry it has taken me so long to respond but I've been very busy with my job, trying to sell my house and find another one.

In response to your question, I don't know for sure that Frost Beamer and his wife are buried in a family cemetery but assumed so (you know where assumptions lead you!) Anyway, Frost Beamer is listed on the Mortality Schedule for the year ending June 1, 1880, Stuarts Creek Township, Surry County, NC. He was in family number 32 and died in April 1880. I know his wife Mary died sometime previously, after 1860 but before 1870 (I think), although I don't have the pertinent notes handy to check.

Frost Beamer's father was Henry Beamer, whose will was dated 18 Feb 1856. Henry Beamer's children were Phillip, Reubin, Elizabeth (married Thomas Cave), John, Jacob, Frost, Andrew, Matilida (married Harden Norman), Martha ? (married Alford ?), Saney ? (married David Cockerham) and Sarah Snow.

Frost Beamer's children were Adams Jefferson (buried at Zion Hill Primitive Baptist Church, if I remember correctly or Imogene Church), Caroline (married a Shaw), Mary (married Reubin Golding, my great-grandfather), Rachel (married a Hill), Julina (married a McCraw) and Nancy (married a McCraw). Frost also had another child, Elizabeth, by his second marriage to Eliza.

I was especially interested in the Adam Beamer mentioned in the Beamer Family Cemetery on Race Track Road, since Frost had a son named Adam. When was the write-up written? I believe Adam died in the early 1900s but can't find the exact date right now.

If you come across anything else on these Beamers, please let me know. Thanks again for your help, I really appreciate it.

Sylvia

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B)actburn.

#### Lowell Blackburn

STATE ROAD — Mr. Lowell Martin Blackburn, 75, passed away Thursday, May 7, 2015, at Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital. Mr. Blackburn was born Sept. 16, 1939, in Wilkes County to Nathaniel and Hallie Darnell Blackburn. Mr. Blackburn retired from Sprint Telephone and was a member of Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sisters, Pansy Macemore, Verlie Cheek and Peggy Blackburn; brothers, Pete Blackburn, Harvey Blackburn and Ivory Blackburn. Survivors include his wife, Sue Blackburn of the home; sons, Michael Blackburn and wife Lynn of State Road and Darryl Blackburn and wife Cheryl of State Road; daughter, Sonya Jones and husband Greg of State Road; sister, Alene Mathis and husband Edgar of Elkin; grandchildren, Ryan Blackburn and wife Emily, Eric Blackburn, Hannah Jones, Dalton Blackburn, Emily Jones and Cortney Blackburn. Funeral services will be held Monday, May 11, 2015, at 3 p.m. at Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church with Pastor Mitch Smith and the Rev. Jason Lawson officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the church. Flowers will be accepted, or memorials may be made to Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, 1997 Pleasant Ridge Road, State Road, NC 28676. Online condolences may be made to www.elkinfuneralservice.com. Services entrusted to Elkin Funeral Service.

Funeral Home
ELKIN FUNERAL SERVICE - ELKIN
560 NC HIGHWAY 268 W Elkin, NC 28621
(336) 526-4460

(Sue Blackburn, his wife, was SCGA Recording Secretary before Don Edmonds)

Published in The Tribune from May 9 to May 10, 2015

## Longtime city mayor

TOM JOYCE STAFF REPORTER

As the longest-serving mayor in Mount Airy's history, W.M. "Maynard" Beamer's life truly defined what it meant to be a public servant, former associates said Tuesday.

Beamer, 88, died late Monday night at Northern Hospital of Surry County after battling numerous health problems.

He had stepped down as a North Ward commissioner in 2003, citing recent open-heart surgery and vision difficulties, after a 40-year career in city government.

"I've got a tremendous amount of respect for the contribution he made to the city of Mount Airy," said current Mayor Jack Loftis. "He certainly set a standard that is very difficult for anybody to emulate."

A memorial service for the longtime city official is scheduled for 3 p.m. Thursday at First Baptist Church, where he was an active member. Visitation will be held at the church for one hour before the service.

Beamer, a lifelong resident of Mount Airy, became involved in city government in 1958, first as a commissioner. He became mayor on July 1, 1969, and served in that capacity for the next 24 years, followed by more service as a councilman before opting not to seek re-election in 2003. Present North Ward commissioner Swanson Richards then ran unopposed for his seat.



**William Maynard Beamer** 

The Municipal Building on South Main Street, the city library on Rockford Street, two fire stations, water and sewer plants, and two industrial parks are among the physical examples of Beamer's legacy in the city.

Perhaps even more significant are the personal qualities Beamer exemplified that helped bring these and other projects to fruition, present and former officials said.

"We've lost a true public servant," said At-Large Commissioner Mike King, who worked with Beamer. "I mean, he gave it his all."

King pointed out that Beamer's honesty, professionalism, work ethic and fairness to people helped guide the city through many

## Beamer dies

challenging times.

"He promoted it and he lived it," King added of the former mayor's dedication to public service. "Even before I served with him, I looked up to him."

Calling Beamer "a perfect gentleman," King said, "I think his leadership spills across the years."

Beamer was also remembered Tuesday for his financial expertise. It took root at National Business College in Roanoke, Va., where he received a degree in business administration in 1940.

Also a former member of the U.S. Navy during World War II, Beamer joined Quality Mills/Cross Creek Apparel in Mount Airy, where he served for 55 years in positions includ-

ing vice president of administration, secretary and treasurer, controller, and director.

In a 2003 interview, Beamer expressed pride at the fact that all the projects developed during his time as mayor came about without a property tax hike in 24 years. In fact, the city was able to generate a significant budget surplus in that time.

"He was a good, conservative mayor for the most part," recalled former South Ward Commissioner Charles Lowry, 92, who served for 24 years on the council with Beamer from 1963 to 1987. At that point, "we still had a whole lot of money," he said, noting that the city's budget surplus then was about \$16 million.

BEAMED ---

#### **BEAMER:**

Continued from page 1A

9-19-2007

Lowry said he also appreciated Maynard Beamer for more than just his governmental abilities: "He was my best friend." He remembered seeing Beamer earlier this summer at the funeral of Lowry's son Frank, also a former city commissioner, and hardly recognizing him because he had lost so much weight from his illnesses.

Mayor Loftis said that Beamer set a great example for him to follow in the city's top

"Maynard

vidual who always

thought was right

**Mayor Jack Loftis** 

governmental post.

"Maynard was just a levelheaded, comvidual who al- just a level-headed, ways tried to look at both sides of a situation and do what he thought was zens of Mount Loftis and do what he Airy," said. "He just set a standard that I look up to."

"His role in government here Mount Airy" was certainly a sacrifice of time energy," and Loftis added. "If

there has ever been a dedicated servant that was interested in the well-being of Mount Airy, it is Maynard Beamer."

Even a former political opponent of Beamer's had kind words to say Tuesday about his contributions.

"Although we had some disagreements from time to time, Maynard was a good friend and a great teacher for me," said Emily Taylor, a former commissioner during Beamer's tenure who also won two mayoral elections against him.

"He was a true public servant," she said. "His heart was in it.'

And she said she appreciates the fact that in the years following their sometimes-bitter political clashes, "we got to be pretty good buddies.'

Commissioner King remembers that even if Beamer disagreed with the stand someone took on an issue, he still had a way of projecting respect for their position.

"I differed with him on a couple of things, but he would

listen," King said.

was

Beamer's qualities as a listener, and also a peacemaker, helped defuse many a tense situation over the years, former associates said.

"He brought a cohesiveness

to a board that got things done even though there were differences of opincommon-sense indi- ion," Loftis said. "And progress was continually being made."

tried to look at both Loftis said right for the citi- sides of a situation that city government is trying to help the former mayor's family get through its for the citizens of period of grief and that Beamer's service to the community will be recognized officially in some way by

the Board of Commissioners.

But the present mayor wondered Tuesday whether that will be inadequate considering all Beamer gave, which also included years of service to local veterans and scouting organizations.

"How we can adequately express appreciation for all the contributions he made is going to be very, very difficult," he

Contact Tom Joyce at tjoyce@mtairynews.com, or at 719-1924.



#### William Maynard Beamer September 17, 2007

Mr. William Maynard Beamer passed away Monday September 17. He was born in Mt. Airy October 9, 1918 to Dorsey Cullen Beamer and Martha Victoria (Mattie) Beamer. Mr. Beamer is survived by His wife of sixty years Christine Webb Beamer, a son William M. Beamer, Jr. and wife Caroline Beamer, two daughters, Judy Beamer Smith and her husband, Tom Smith, and Betsy Beamer Reeves and her husband, Paul Reeves. Mr. Beamer is also survived by his grandchildren, Nicholas Reeves, Christine Beamer, Alec Reeves, Stephen Smith, Meredith Smith and Ike Reeves. Mr. Beamer is also survived by brothers, Dorcey C. Beamer, Jr., Richard A. Beamer, and Bobby Beamer and sisters, Mary Nell Wynne and Ann Adams and numerous nieces and nephews. Mr. Beamer was a graduate of Mount Airy High School and National Business College. He served in the US Navy during World War II, He was a retired executive with Quality Mills/Cross Creek Apparel. He served the City of Mount Airy as City Commissioner for sixteen years and as Mayor for twenty four years. He was a member of the First Baptist Church. He was a former Scout and Scoutmaster. Mr. Beamer was a member of the American Legion for sixty years and served as commander of the Mount Airy American Legion Post. He served in numerous other civic and government capacities. Visitation will be at the First Baptist Church from 2:00 to 3:00 PM Thursday September 20, 2007 with a memorial service to follow at First Baptist Church at 3:00 PM. The service will be conducted by Dr. Roger Gilbert. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church, Mount Airy Public Library or the Boy Scouts of America. Moody Funeral Services is assisting the Beamer family.

Online condolences may be made at www.moodyfuneralservices.com

ME YEAR CARD SUBMITT SURNAME Golding Cunninghan (marx)-married Frost Beaner EXRCHER'S NAME **ADDRESS** named surnames. Also, I'm willing to exchange idear and information with other researchers. 2005 YEAR CARD SUBMITTED SUSIE NORMAN HURD 306 N FT.LN. HPT KIOG **RESEARCHER'S NAME** LAYTON, UT 84041- 3285 **ADDRESS** ADAM JOSEPH MICHAEL ANNMARY JACOB REEVS CROUSE WILLIAM CAROLINE CROUSE 1 MEREDITH NORMAN NORMAN

There him have for that the Ares of Alast and first on the High mount Airy No 27030 336-789-2293

319 N. Renfro St. Mount Airy, NC 27030

### **Editorial**

#### Former mayor shows one person can make a difference

Few people in this lifetime are fortunate enough to leave behind a living legacy. Former Mount Airy W.M. "Maynard" Beamer, who was the city's longest serving mayor, was such an individual.

From the countless scores of family, friends and colleagues who mourned him this week at his funeral service at First Baptist Church, following his death Monday night, to the hundreds who read his news obituary in our newspaper's online edition, Beamer was remembered as a devoted public servant who placed the good of the community over the special interests of the few

"I've got a tremendous amount of respect for the contribution he made to the city of Mount Airy,' Mayor Jack Loftis said. "He certainly set a standard that is very difficult for anybody to emulate.'

"We've lost a true public servant," said Commissioner Mike King, "I mean, he gave it his

Beamer, 88, resigned as a city commissioner in 2003, completing a local political career that spanned 40 years, beginning during the Eisenhower administration when he was first elected to the town board. Before the end of the decade, he would be elected mayor, serving as the city's top elected official for the next 24 years.



**William Maynard Beamer** 

Beamer will perhaps be best remembered for a long list of capital projects he spearheaded while mayor and city commissi, oner, including a municipal building, a new library, two fire stations, water and sewer plants and two business parks.

But Beamer will be recalled for more than just brick and mortar. Friends and colleagues noted his honesty, professionalism, strong work ethic and genuine fairness that extended to all population groups in the city.

Known as a strong fiscal conservative, Beamer drew on his business background to help him keep a tight rein on the city budget. Working 55 years in a variety of positions at Quality Mills/Cross Creek Apparel, including vice president of administration, secretary and treasurer, controller, and director, provided Beamer with an unparalleled knowledge of fiscal accountability something that he consistently applied in his role as the city's chief executive officer.

It's important to note that all of the major capital projects accomplished during Beamer's administration were done without a property tax increase. In fact, the city even managed to generate a budget surplus in the millions of dollars.

"Maynard was just a level-headed, common-sense individual who always tried to look at both sides of a situation and do what he thought was right for the citizens of Mount Airy," Loftis recalled. "He just set a standard that I look up to."

Even those who took issue with Beamer and ran against him had

kind words this week for the former mayor.

Although we had some disagreements from time to time, Maynard was a good friend and a great teacher for me," said Emily Taylor, a former commissioner during Beamer's tenure who also won two mayoral elections against him.

"He was a true public servant," she said. "His heart was in it." Beamer could also disagree without being disagreeable, his political colleagues said.

"I differed with him on a couple of things, but he would listen,"

King said.

Unlike some political boards where political differences can quickly degenerate into personal mudslinging, Beamer managed to remain above the fray, friends recalled. He was a good listener and mediator, able to diffuse tense situation that could become deal

At a time when it's difficult to get the best and brightest to run for political office because of the incredible demands and sacrifices it requires, we're not likely to see many other selfless individuals like Beamer whose political career spanned four decades. All of us, from city officials to political buddies to local residents who never even met the man, owe Beamer a tremendous debt of gratitude for his tireless devotion and civic commitment. He embodied all of the traits that make public service a noble profession where one person can still make a difference. 9-23-2007

## Pete R. Beamer, 77, Claimed By Death

art Creek Township Died From A Lengthy Illness— Funeral Conducted Tuesday Afternoon From Antioch Church.

Pete R. Beamer, 77, prominent farmer and a veteran school teacher, passed away last Sunday night about 7:30 o'clock at his home four miles northwest of this city in the Stewart's Creek section. His death was due to a lengthy illness of cancer.

Mr. Beamer was a native of this county, where he was born on June 30, 1860, the son of the late Jacob and Rebecca Cunningham Beamer. The greater part of his life was spent in this section of the country where he taught school for many years and was a well-known farmer by occupation.

He was united in marriage in 1898 to Miss Kitty McMickle, also of this section. He was a valuable member of the Antioch Baptist church for nearly forty years.

He is survived by his widow; four sons, Terry, Frank and Edwin Beamer, of this county and Fred Beamer, of Dublin, Va.; four daughters, Misses Ila and Virginia Beamer, of Mount Airy Route 3, Miss Mary Beamer, of Palmerton, Penn., and Mrs. Howard Marshall, of Yadkinville; by two brothers, John Beamer and Jack Beamer; and by six grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted from the Antioch Baptist church Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock with Rev. Lonnie Flemming officiating, assisted by Rev. Raymond Lanier, of this city. Burial was made in the Antioch Baptist church cemetery.

### Rites Held For Franklin Lovill

Wiley Franklin Lovill, Member Of A Prominent Local Family, Succumbs From Stroke Of Paralysis Last Saturday.

Wiley Franklin Lovill, 60, member of one of the most prominent families of this section, died at the home of his mother, Mrs. W. W. Lovill, on Mount Airy, Route 3, at 6:30 o'clock on Saturday night of last week, his death coming from a stroke of paralysis. He had been in ill health over a period of more than two years.

Mr. Lovill was born on October 28, 1878, the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Lovill, of near Mount Airy. He was unmarried and spent the most of his life at the old Lovill homeplace some miles northwest of the city.

He is survived by his mother; four brothers, G. C. Lovill, Will Lovill and Dr. R. J. Lovill, all of Mount Airy, and J. W. Lovill, of Sarasota, Florida; two sisters, Mrs. J. O, Deering, of Rocky Mount, and Miss Elizabeth Lovill, of Mount Airy.

Funeral services for Mr. Lovill were conducted from the Antioch church at four o'clock on Monday afternoon of this week. Rev. Lonnie Flemming, pastor, and Rev. James B. Ficklen, III, pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Mount Airy, were in charge. Interment took place in the Antioch church cemetery.

## Flames Destroy Surry Residence

The residence of Mrs. Jennie C. Lineback, located about one mile west of Mount Airy in the Highland Park community, was completely destroyed by a fire, which was thought to have originated near a defective flue, Saturday afternoon.

Mrs. Lineback, who has been ill for some time, was carried to safety by neighbors and members of the family. A portion of the furnishings of her home was reported saved.

The blaze spread from the residence to a garage belonging to John Rose, next door neighbor, but was extinguished by a truck from the Mount Airy fire department without further damage. It was not reported whether the Lineback home was covered by insurance.

1939

#### Rites Held For Aged Surry Man

Samuel Hodges, 93, one of Surry county's oldest citizens, resident of Mount Airy, Route 6, died at his home in Stewart Creek township at 10:20 o'clock on Monday morning of this week. His death came after a period of poor health caused from old age and infirmities.

Mr. Hodges was born on November 5, 1845, the son of Jiles and Sallie Curby Hodges, of Surry county. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Hodges, several years ago. Survivors include two sons, Pete Hodges, of Lowgap, and Ernest Hodges, of Dobson; three daughters, Mrs. Henry Isaacs, Fries, Virginia, Mrs. Lonzie Davis Winston-Salem, and Miss Ella Hodges, of Mount Airy, Route 6; and 24 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted from the Flat Top church at two o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, with Rev. Robert Riggan officiating. Burial was made in the Flat Top cemetery.

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Church. Surviving are three daughters and a somi-in-law, Miss (ladys) Beamer, Mrs. Helen (Sid) Caldwell and Mrs. Leana Garner, all of Winston-Salem, N.C.; one son and daughter-in-law, John and Dean Beamer of Winston-Salem, N.C.; eight grandchildren; seven great- grandchildren; and one sister, Mrs. Zephyr Gentry of Dobson, N.C. The funeral service will be held on Fri- day, June 5, 1998, at 11 a.m. at Cross Roads Baptist Church, Dob- son, N.C. conducted by Rev. Alton Bledsee with burial to follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends on Thursday from 7-9 p.m. at Moody Funeral Home in Dobson, N.C. where her body will remain until carried to the church to lie-in-state 30 minutes before the funeral service. Flowers will be accepted or memorials may be made to the Cross Roads Baptist Church Building Fund, 327 Cross Road Church Road, Dobson, N.C. 27017.	Death	Mar.	Burial		on J	une 11 late J.C	, 189 C. and	9, the l Betty nomem	daug Juli naker	ghter na Fu and	ol bilk	Burial	Death	Birth	Burial	Death	Birth	Burial	_		Death			Death	Birth	nidren's ita	Make se	Occupa	Places	Death	Chr'nd	Birth	Wife's	His Fa	Other w	Occup	Burial	Mar. Oeath	Chr'nd	Birth	Data
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But 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19		HINSON  Mrs. Elizabeth Beamer Hin of 6645 Styers Ferry Road mons, died Monday, Sept. 2 at Forsyth Memorial Hospi was born Nov. 26, 1930 i County to the late Jacob a Hodge Beamer. Mrs. Hinson	son, 64, d, Clem-15, 1995 ital. She	7	Full Name of Spouse*	6	HARRY SWEET	Lucy Mit	. 6	ROMANNA SABUR	THELMA JANE	ERNEST LAYELL	Full Name of Spouse.	BORDTHU	Tui Maile di Opodos	800		1) LONNIE HIMSON	17	Children's Name in Full [Arrange in order of birth]  Chil	City, State Date	Address	Compiler			LONNIE GRAY SNOUTR		NAMED MOSTICA CULTURAN	LITTLE VINE PRINBART	ELKIN SURTY CO. NC	1 4 Fe 1966	6. 5 AUG 1901 FTS= 1901]	FAMILY GROUP NO. This Information Obtained From:
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"Add into an children" column Use		14 years. She was a nursing ant at Forsyth Memorial I and Medical Park Hospital. ing are her husband, Lonnie of the home; one son, Jere and wife Jean of Winston one daughter, Kate Wagrhusband Chuck of Tampa, Forthers, Paul Beamer of brothers, Paul Beamer of and Junior Snow of East three sisters, Mrs. Ernest (D Layell and Mrs. Raymond (T Brown, both of Boonville, and Harry (Lucy) Sweet of Leyfour stepdaughters. Brenda	g assist- Hospital Surviv- Hinson I Vestal -Salem; ter and fla.; two Newton Bend; orothy) 'helma) and Mrs. visville;	7				10	19 MAR 1938 DORSON TUS		JY VET 1136 DOBSON 160	0-1991		7 JUNE 1834 BOBSON TUS			175 1933 NORSON TUS	25 Sept 1995 WINSTEN-SAU	26 NOV 1930 FRANKLIN 7	Day Month Year City, Town or Place	to sneet for each mar. (2) 21 DEL	ation if other than housewife	LITTLE VINE	31 MLH 1881	21 McH1910 Dogson TUS	Wife's Full Maiden Name Day Month Year City, Town or Place	THE KNOREW TACKSON BENK	if any. No. (1) (2) etc e sheet for each ma	FARTSR	000	2505/ 1939 No aray Tu	WW 141	usband's Full N
		and Savanna Papale, both of ston-Salem, Carol Mowery of lotte and Shirley Fine of Litthree grandchildren, Chris and wife Krysten of Kerne John Charles Vestal and Mwagner, both of Tampa, Flaseveral nieces and nephews. al services will be 1 p.m. Wagner at Berean Baptist Chur	f Char- nwood; Vestal rsville, Michael a.; and Funer-					,	Surry		soway	0.55		SURM		- Jones	of hora 1913	Conster Ke	as sway	County or Province, etc.	3 5	Church Affiliation	PRIMITIVEBA		SURM	County or Province, etc.	Mother's	Military		PRINCTIVE B	Sunay	SURRY	County or Province, etc.
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#### LAWSON

BOONVILLE — Mr. James David Lawson, 75, died at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center Tuesday, July 23, 2002. He was born April 17, 1927, in Surry County to Squire Dave and Halley Barker Lawson. He was a retired farmer and a member of the Richmond Hill Baptist Church, where he was a deacon, a training director and had held various other positions in the church. He was a member of the board of directors of the Old Belt Coop and Historical Society of the Richmond Hill Law School. He was preceded in death by his parents; a grandson, Matthew Stephen Lawson; and a sister, Mary Elizabeth Lawson Barnett. Surviving are his wife, Ruby Prim Lawson; two sons, Stephen Gray Lawson and wife Deborah and Terry Lynn Lawson and wife Renee, all of Boonville; four grandchildren, Stephen David Lawson and wife Raina, Justin Lee Lawson and Crystal Taylor, Mark Kelly Lawson and Dana Cornelius and Suzanne Michelle Lawson and Colt Poindexter, all of Boonville; a brother, Porter Gray Lawson of Pilot Mountain; and a niece, Laisa Starbuck of Pilot Mountain. The funeral service will be conducted at 2:30 p.m. today, July 26, 2002, at Richmond Hill Baptist Church, by the Rev. Will Hamric, the Rev Grover Holder and the Rev. Dan Merritt. The body will lie in state from 2 to 2:30 p.m. Burial will be at the church cemetery. In Lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Hospice of Yadkin County, 212 E. Main St., Yadkinville, NC 27055; or Richmond Hill Baptist Church, 2205 Richmond Hill Road, Boonville, NC 27011. Huff Funeral Home in East Bend is in charge of the arrangements.

WEST

ROARING RIVER - Mr. Paul West, 77, of 1313 Barker Road, Roaring River, died Friday at 12:15 p.m., June 5, 1998, at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, after a short illness. Funeral services will be Sunday at 2 p.m. at Oak Level Baptist Church by Rev. Olin Barker and Rev. Boyd Caudill. Burial will be in the church cemetery at 1:30 p.m. Mr. West was born in Wilkes County, July 14, 1920 to Houston and Laura Barker West. He was a self-employed farmer and a member of Oak Level Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Lora Byrd West in 1980 and by one sister, Callie West. Surviving are his wife, Ruth West of the home; two daughters, Mrs. Kenneth (Evelyn) Brown of Traphill and Mrs. Gary (Janie) Triplett of Miller Creek; one son, Gary (Joyce) West of Roaring River; one step-daughter, Virginia McDonald of Chesapeake, Virginia; five grand-Chesapeake, Virginia; five grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; three step-great-grandchildren; two sisters, Blanche (Talmadge) Triplett of Elkin and Connie Hemric of King; and one brother, Royal West of Roaring River. Flowers will be accepted or memorials may be made to Oak Level Baptist Church Building Fund. The family will receive friends Saturday from 7-9 p.m. at Kennedy Funeral Home in Elkin.

# Pete R. Beamer, 77, Claimed By Death

Prominent Farmer Of Stewart Creek Township Died From A Lengthy Illness— Funeral Conducted Tuesday Afternoon From Antioch Church.

Pete R. Beamer, 77, prominent farmer and a veteran school teacher, passed away last Sunday night about 7:30 o'clock at his home four miles northwest of this city in the Stewart's Creek section. His death was due to a lengthy illness of cancer.

Mr. Beamer was a native of this county, where he was born on June 30, 1860, the son of the late Jacob and Rebecca Cunningham Beamer. The greater part of his life was spent in this section of the country where he taught school for many years and was a well-known farmer by occupation.

He was united in marriage in 1898 to Miss Kitty McMickle, also of this section. He was a valuable member of the Antioch Baptist church for nearly forty years.

He is survived by his widow; four sons, Terry, Frank and Edwin Beamer, of this county and Fred Beamer, of Dublin, Va.; four daughters, Misses Ila and Virginia Beamer, of Mount Airy Route 3, Miss Mary Beamer, of Palmerton, Penn., and Mrs. Howard Marshall, of Yadkinville; by two brothers, John Beamer and Jack Beamer; and by six grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted from the Antioch Baptist church Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock with Rev. Lonnie Flemming officiating, assisted by Rev. Raymond Lanier, of this city. Burial was made in the Antioch Baptist church cemetery.

ATKINSON

1

HIGH POINT - Samuel Tipton Atkinson, Jr., 70, of 1605 Seven Oaks Place, died suddenly at 9:30 p.m. July 14, 1995 at High Point Regional Hospital. Mr. Atkinson was born March 1, 1925 in Mt. Airy, a son of Elder Samuel Tipton Atkinson and Callie Beamer Atkinson. A resident of High Point since 1941, he was Vice President of API Graphics before his retirement. A veteran of World War II, he served in the United States Army and attended Mt. Shepherd Primitive Baptist Church. On December 1, 1973, he married Charlene Patterson, who survives of the home. Surviving in addition to his wife are two daughters, Mrs. Thomas (Susan) Waller of Thomasville and Mrs. Randy (Ronetta) Morris of San Fernando, CA; two sons, Tommie Atkinson and daughter-in-law, Deborah, of Apex, and Dale Atkinson and daughter in-law, Kathy, of Seneca, SC; his mother, Mrs. Callie B. Atkinson of 605 Sherbrook Dr.; two sisters, Mrs. John (Rae) Beck of 1827 Country Club Dr. and Mrs. Virginia Lisenby of Wadesboro; one brother, William I. Atkinson of 605 Sherbrook Dr., (Big Brother) Ray Gallimore of Oakview Rd.; seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Monday in Sechrest Chapel on E. Lexington Ave. by Elder George Flippin, Elder W.M. Freeman and Elder Thomas Whitley. Burial will be in Floral Garden Park Cemetery. The family will be at the funeral home Sunday night from 7 until 8:30. Memorials may be made to Mt. Shepherd Primitive Baptist Church.

MARSHALL

MT. AIRY — Mrs. Blanche Beamer Marshall, age 87, of 1057 Old Highway 601, Mt. Airy, N.C. widow of Mr. Howard Marshall, died Thursday afternoon, August 4, 1994, at Forsyth Memorial Hospital, Winston-Salem, N.C. Mrs. Marshall was born in Surry County, N.C. February 28, 1907, daughter of the late Pete and Kitty McMickle Beamer. She was a retired school teacher from the Surry County school system and a member of White Plains Friends Meeting. She is survived by three sons and two daughters-inlaw, Fred Marshall of Winston-Salem, N.C., Don and Brenda Marshall of Mt. Airy and Tom and Judy Marshall of Dallas, Texas; six grandchildren, Kimberly Marshall Zweiback of London, England, Kaye Marshall and Lara Marshall, both of Winston-Salem, Anthony Marshall and Charles Marshall, both of Mt. Airy and Hiliary Mar-shall of Dallas, Texas; one great grandson, Jacob Zweiback of London, England; three sisters, Mrsy Mary Breit of Allentown, Pa., Mrs. Ila King of Mt. Airy and Mrs. Virginia Tingen of Winston-salem; a sister-in-law, Mrs. Ethel Beamer of Mt. Airy. Mrs. Marshall was preceded in death by a son, Charles Marshall. Funeral services will be held Saturday. August 6, 1994, at 2 p.m. at White Plains Friends Meeting conducted by the REv. Jimmy Reinhardt and the Rev. Loyd Pugh with interment to follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends at Moody Funeral Home of Mt. Airy on Friday from 7 to 9 jp.m. Her body will remain at Moody Funeral Home until taken to the church to lie in state thirty minutes before the funeral service. Flowers will be accepted or memorials may be made to the White Plains Friends Meeting Van Fund.

WOOD

MOUNT AIRY - Mr. James Floyd Wood, 87, of 1443 Haystack Road, Mount Airy, husband of Mrs. Madge Beamer Wood, died at North Carolina Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem Friday, Aug. 25, 1995. Mr. Wood was born May 5, 1908 in Surry County to the late Henry and Rebecca Hazelwood Wood, was a retired merchant and farmer, a member of the Round Peak Masonic Lodge No. 616, a lifetime and charter member of Lowgap Wildlife Club, and a member and former deacon of New Life Baptist Church. Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Madge Beamer Wood of Twelve Oaks, Mount Airy; a daughter and son-inlaw, Judy and Johnny Simmons of Ararat; three sons and daughtersin-law, Dr. Jack Wood of Mount Airy, Joe and Nancy Wood of Walnut Cove, and Larry and Frances Wood of Thurmond; one stepdaughter and husband, Betty and Richard Hardy of Dobson; a stepson and wife, Beamer and Katherine Wood of Shelby; nine grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Mr. Wood was preceded in death by a grandson, Michael Wood, four sisters and three brothers. Funeral services will be held Sunday 2 p.m. at New Life Baptist Church conducted by Rev. Ernest Nichols and Rev. Joe Atkins with full Masonic Burial Rites conducted by Round Peak Masonic Lodge No. 616 to follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends at Moody Funeral Home of Mount Airy 7-9 p.m. Saturday, where his body will remain until carried to the church to lie in state 30 minutes prior to the service. Flowers will be accepted or memorials may be made to New Life Baptist Church, c/o Glenn Wood, 1487 Haystack Road, Mount Airy, N.C. 27030.

BEAMER

MOUNT AIRY - Mr. Jack Adam Beamer, 35, of Rt. 9, Mount Airy, died Tuesday night at Northern Surry Hospital after a heart attack. He was a native of Surry County, the son of Adam and Connie Hemmings Beamer. He was a veteran of the Vietnam Conflict, and was owner and operator of Beamer's Garage. Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Diann Epperson Freeman Beamer; one son, Darrell Adam Beamer of the home; one stepdaughter, Miss Deanna Freeman of Mount Airy; his parents of Rt. 9, Mount Airy; one sister, Mrs. Nancy White of Rt. 3, Dobson; his grandfather, Luther Beamer of Rt. 9. Mount Airy. Funeral services will be Friday at 2 -th.m. at Maple Grove United Methodist Church by the Rev. Sam Holder and the Rev. Dale Hylton. Burial will be in the church cemeery. The body will be at Moody Funeral Home of Mount Airy until taken to the church to lie in state 30 Sininutes before the service. The family will receive or riends from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday at the funeral Home.

BEAMER

YADKINVILLE — Martha Annie Hodge Beamer, 94, of Yadkinville, passed away Thursday May 20, 1999 at Hoots Memorial Hospital. She was born March 16, 1905 to the late James Samuel and Betty Jane White Hodge. Mrs. Beamer was a homemaker and a member of Branon Friends Meeting. She was preceded in death by her husband Ed Beamer in 1962, a daughter Jenni Marie Beamer and two sons Fred and Grady Beamer. Surviving are two daughters, Mrs, Betty (Herman) Atkinson of Yadkinville, and Mrs. Sylvia (Jim) Forsyth of Lexington, S.C.; four sons; John (Ethel) Beamer of Hamptonville, Frank (Jane) Beamer, Ernest (Melva) Beamer all of Yadkinville, and Billy (Laura) Beamer of Elkin: two sisters, Ellen Riggins of Yadkinville, and Rannie White of Zepher; two brothers, Henry Hodge of Yadkinville, and Levi Hodge of Dobson. Thirty-two grandchildren, fifty-eight and great grandchildren, six great-great grandchildren Mrs. Beamers funeral service will be held 2 p.m. Saturday at the Gentry Family Chapel by Rev. Hewey Parrish and Rev. Joe Reece. Burial will follow in Little Vine Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 7 until 9 p.m. Friday at Gentry Family Funeral Service at 5108 U.S. Hwy. 601 N. Yadkinville.

BREIT

ALLENTOWN, PA. - Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Beamer Breit of Allentown, Penna. died Thursday, August 31, 1995. She was born October 19, 1904 in Surry County to the late Pete and Kittie Beamer. A graduate from Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, Mrs. Breit retired as the supervisor of nurses from Palmerton Pennsylvania Hospital. She was preceded in death by her husband, Hjalmar Breit. Survivors include two sisters, Mrs. Barnett (Ila) King of Mt. Airy, and Mrs. Virginia Tingen of Winston-Salem; three sisters-in-law, Mrs. Nancy Beamer, Mrs. Ethel Beamer, and Mrs. Hester Beamer, all of Mt. Airy; and a number of nieces and nephews. A memorial service will be held at Antioch Baptist Church in Mt. Airy at 3 p.m. Sunday, September 3. Memorials may be made to Antioch Baptist Church, 2308 W. Pine St., Mt. Airy, NC 27030. The family will receive friends following the service in the fellowship hall.

#### Martha Beamer

Mrs. Martha Annie Hodge Beamer, 94, of Yadkinville passed away Thursday, May 20, 1999, at Hoots Memorial Hospital in Yadkinville. She was born March 16, 1905, to the late James Samuel and Betty Jane White Hodge.

Mrs. Beamer was a homemaker and a member of Branon

Friends Meeting.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ed Beamer, in 1962; a daughter, Jenni Marie Beamer; and two sons, Fred and

Grady Beamer.

Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Betty (Herman) Atkinson of Yadkinville and Mrs. Sylvia (Jim) Forsyth of Lexington, S.C.; four sons, John (Ethel) Beamer of Hamptonville, Frank (Jane) Beamer and Ernest (Melva) Beamer, both of Yadkinville, and Billy (Laura) Beamer of Elkin; two sisters, Ellen Riggins of Yadkinville and Rannie White of Zephyr; two brothers, Henry Hodge of Yadkinville and Levi Hodge of Dobson; 32 grandchildren; 58 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Beamer's funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday at Gentry Family Chapel by Rev. Hewey Parrish and Rev. Joe Reece. Burial will follow in Little Vine Primitive Baptist Church

cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 7-9 p.m. Friday at Gentry Family Funeral Service at 5108 U.S. Hwy. 601 N., Yadkinville.



Beamer-Cockerham

Mr. and Mrs. Billy G. Beamer of Elkin announce the engagement of their daughter, Melinda Gail Beamer, to David Keith Cockerham, the son of Pat Cockerham of State Road, Rt. 1, and the late Graham Cockerham. The bride-elect is a 1987 graduate of Elkin High School. She graduated from Surry Community College in 1992 and attended Appalachian State University. She is employed by Angela Gardner, CPA, of Elkin. Mr. Cockerham is a 1982 graduate of East Wilkes High School and attended Surry Community College. He is employed by MSI/Marunaka of High Point. A Sept. 25 wedding is planned at Mt. Calvary Baptist

#### **Beamer-Cockerham**

Melinda Gail Beamer and David Keith Cockerham were married at 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 25, at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Ronda by the Revs. Dean Adams and David Cockerham.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Billy G. Beamer of Elkin. She is a graduate of Surry Community College and is employed by Angela Gardner, CPA, Elkin.

The groom is the son of Pat Cockerham of State Road and the late Graham Cockerham. He is a graduate of East Wilkes High School and is employed by MSI/Marunaka of High Point.

Music for the wedding was provided by Buddy Rhodes.

The bride was given in marriage by her father.

Matron of honor was Sherron Walters, sister of the bride, of Boonville.

Bridesmaids were Cassandra Caudill, friend of the bride, and Anita Cockerham, sister of the groom.

Best man was Scotty Byerly, friend of the groom, of Thomasville.

Ushers were Tony Smith and Scotty Darnell, friends of the couple.

Hilda Hanks directed the wedding.

A reception was held immediately following the wedding in the fellowship hall of Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church. Assisting were Candy Hayes, Loretta Binkley, Clara Tuttle and Mary Edwards.

Following a wedding trip to Myrtle Beach, the couple is residing in Jonesville.



MR. & MRS. DAVID KEITH COCKERHAM

## **Fancy Gap Native Named**

#### Voters Tab Beamer For Leading Hokies To Sugar Bowl

From Staff and Wire Reports

Names like Paul "Bear" Bryant and Knute Rockne are usually the first to come up in discussions about great collegiate football coaches. Now you can add a Fancy Gap (Va.) man to that list.

Virginia Tech head football coach Frank Beamer was chosen The Associated Press' College Coach of the Year Wednesday in balloting by AP member newspa-

pers, TV and radio stations.

Not too shabby for a local guy. Beamer, a Fancy Gap native, was born in Mount Airy. He graduated from Hillsville (Va.) High School in 1965 before playing defensive back at Virginia Tech from 1966-68. The humble Beamer is quick to give much of the credit to his assistants.

"It's a tremendous honor for our program," Beamer said. "You can't get this if you don't have a staff that has been togeth-

er for some time. We have that."

Beamer, finishing his 13th season at Virginia Tech, received 27 of the 84 votes in the AP balloting. Hawaii's June Jones

was second with 19 votes and Minnesota's Glen Mason was third with nine votes.

Beamer has built the program at his alma mater into a national contender with a philosophy that could have come from

his days in these parts.

"I believe you treat people right, with respect. In this business you are always aware of when things are not going well. If you have solid relationship with your players and with your coaches, you have a chance of getting through those tough times," Beamer said.

"Then, I think it really gets into people. You need to get good people, solid people as coaches and players. This is such an up and down business that you have to be in there with people that you like and trust. There is always a certain talent level that you have to have as far as ability on your team, but to me, getting good people and treating them with respect is the way you build a program."

Beamer's staff includes defensive coordinator Bud Foster and offensive coordina-

tor Rickey Bustle.

"I was very involved in the offense at one time, then the defense," Beamer said. "Now I let them do it."

And the players responded so well that

the second-ranked Hokies (11-0) will play No. 1 Florida State (11-0) for the national championship in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 4.

"The key to us was how fast our offense

would come along," Beamer said.

How does warp speed sound? Redshirt freshman quarterback Michael Vick was the surprise star of the season, throwing for 1,840 yards and 12 touchdowns and running for 585 yards and eight TDs. Add a topnotch defense and the nation's best special teams, and Beamer had himself a sensational season.

The Hokies have been good for years, but not until this season have they gained so much national attention. Virginia Tech will be playing in its seventh straight bowl game.

"All these national awards are new to us," Beamer said. "And believe me, we ap-

preciate every one of them."

All-America defensive end Corey Moore won the Lombardi Award as the nation's top lineman and the Nagurski trophy as the nation's top defensive player, and Vick finished third in the Heisman Trophy balloting behind Ron Dayne and Joe Hamilton. Beamer has collected several other coach-of-the-year honors.

See BEAMER, page 3B

## **AP Coach Of Year**



Matt Gentry/The Associated Press PRIDE OF FANCY GAP: Virginia Tech head football coach Frank Beamer, a Fancy Gap, Va. native, was honored as the AP National Coach of the Year Wednesday. Beamer led the Hokies to an undefeated regular season and a date with Florida State in the Sugar Bowl for the national title.

#### Beamer Continued from page 1B

sive back has handled the spotlight well.

When his team was criticized for playing a weak schedule, and when computer wizards were trying to figure out how a once-beaten Nebraska could edge the Hokies in the final Bowl Championship Series standings, Beamer kept his cool.

"We can do nothing, absolutely nothing, about our schedule, somebody else's schedule or how somebody else is going to play. All we can control is how we prepare," Beamer said frequently.

Beamer is Virginia Tech's most successful coach, compiling an 88-59-2 record and three Big East titles.

Beamer knew his Hokies were good, but how good depended on Vick, sophomore wide receiver Andre Davis and a young offensive line.

"If our offense came along, we knew we'd be a balanced team," Beamer said.

"And then our quarterback goes out and plays better than we had ever hoped, the schedule fell right and we didn't have many injuries. Things just fell into place."

Beamer's Hokies led the nation in both scoring offense and defense, averaging 41.4 points and allowing just 10.5. The Hokies trailed for a total of 25 minutes during the entire 1999 season.

#### Letters to The News

#### Remembering an All-Star: Ernest 'Ernie' Beamer

To The News:

Mount Airy lost one of its most stellar athletes recently, that being one by the name of Ernest ("Ernie") Beamer. To recall Ernie, you have to have lived in the late '30s and early '40s and loved sports.

Ernie was a four-year letterman at Mount Airy High School, a rarity then and probably now. Ernie earned letters in basketball, baseball, football

and wrestling.

In wrestling, he competed in the unlimited division though he weighed only 190 pounds. He did very well and never remembers losing a match. In baseball, he played in the outfield. In basketball, he played forward and center, competing at one time in the semi-finals of the Winston-Salem Journal and Sentinel Basketball Tournament.

In football, he played weak-side end and also was the place kicker and kick-off specialist. As many of his former football players know, Coach Wallace Shelton was quite innovative and, for that reason, Ernie threw the ball, ran and caught it and threw more touchdown passes than anyone on the team. In 1938, he was an end on the Granite Bears Class B championship team. In addition to all that, Ernie made the North and

South High School All-State Team two years in a row, playing a game in Charlotte.

Ernie also was a good student, graduating in the upper quartile of his class.

After high school, Ernie was awarded a football scholarship to Duke University. He was on the football team for three years and competed on the wrestling team in the unlimited division, although still weighing only 190 pounds! He dropped wrestling in subsequent years due to its overlapping with football. At Duke he played right and left end and did the place kicking.

In January 1942, he played end for the Blue Devils in the Rose Bowl held at Duke due to the war. During his senior year, he was the assistant end coach for preseason practice. In the 1944 Shriners' East-West All-Star Game, he was voted one of the two best place kickers by the sports press and was the only player from the South to be selected for the team.

Also at Duke, he competed in intramural basketball; was elected president of the Freshman Advisory Council; and graduated later with a bachelor of science degree in economics, class of 1944.

After graduating from Duke,

he was offered a position on the New York Giants football team, but declined because he wanted to marry his college sweetheart. Later, he attended Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations, graduating with a master's degree in industrial and labor relations. He retired from Harrison Radiator Division of General Motors after serving 25 years, holding various positions in personnel, purchasing and material engineering.

Ernie was a life-long community service volunteer in Lockport, N.Y., serving 25-plus years in Boys Scouts at troop and district levels; leading local troops in multiple trips to Philmont Scout Ranch; and earning the Silver Beaver Award. He was a member of the Methodist church, serving on various committees and teaching Sunday school. In addition, he assisted The Salvation Army in Christmas toy and food distribution. Also, he served 10-plus years doing taxes for senior citizens and serving as tax instructor at the Lockport Senior Citizen Center. Furthermore, he was a 25-plus years' blood donor.

Ernest ("Ernie") Beamer passed away at the age of 83 years on Monday, Sept. 1, 2003.

Ronald Boyles 140 Brookberry Road Mount Airy, N.C.

The Mount airy News

#### " The Mount ainy News"

Kickoff: 8:06 p.m. Tuesday

Place: New Orleans

**Opponent:** Florida State University

T.V.: ABC

At Stake: NCAA Division Title

NOKIA

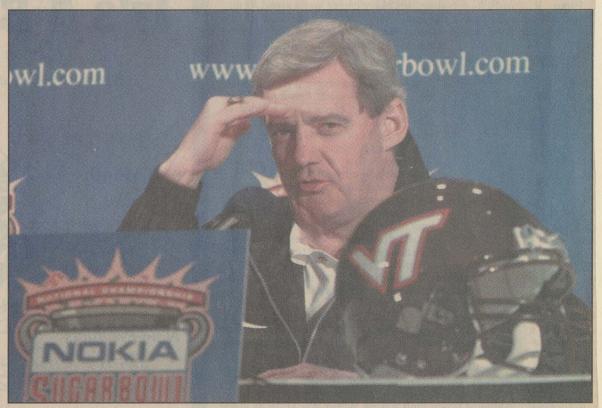
Name: Frank Beamer

Job: Head coach, Virginia Tech

Born: Oct. 18, 1946 Birthplace: Mount Airy

High school: Hillsville High School

SUGAR BOWL: Virginia
Tech football coach Frank
Beamer shades his eyes
from the lights during a
news conference in New
Orleans. Beamer, will face
Florida State Tuesday for
the national championship
in the Louisiana Superdome. He was born in
Mount Airy, the son of Herma and the late Raymond
Beamer. His mother still
lives in Fancy Gap. In high
school at Hillsville High, he
earned 11 varsity letters as
a three-sport athlete.



Bill Haber/The Associated Press

## **Fancy Gap Native Seeks Crown**

By HANK KURZ Jr. AP Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS — Some people laughed when Frank Beamer was hired as head coach at Virginia Tech in 1987, and not because he wasn't a worthy choice.

No, the snickers Beamer heard at his introductory news conference came as he talked of bringing a national championship to little Blacksburg, Va., and the Hokies, then an independent program without much tradition.

No one is laughing at Beamer now, not after seven straight bowl games and with the Hokies preparing to play for that championship in the Sugar Bowl on Tuesday.

"I may be from a small town, but I don't think I've ever thought small," Beamer, of Fancy Gap, Va., said after about 90 minutes with TV cameras in his face and sports writers grilling him during Sugar Bowl media day.

Beamer credited the school's academic reputation, the state's wealth of football talent and membership in the Big East Conference for football with helping make the turnaround possible.

But it was far from immediate. Coming off a 10-1-1 season and Peach Bowl victory the year before under Bill Dooley, Beamer's Hokies were 2-9 their first season and 24-39-2 after six years. Speculation raged that he would "I may be from a small town, but I don't think I've ever thought small."

- Coach Frank Beamer

be fired.

Looking back, he says it was all just part of being a college football coach.

"The key to surviving in this business is you can't get too high and you can't get too low," Beamer said. "Things are never as good as they seem and they're never as bad. Somewhere in the middle is reality. That's what we

Reality also brought a scandal when a fifth of the team got in trouble with the law even as Virginia Tech was winning the Big East in 1995 and reaching the Sugar Bowl.

Through it all, Beamer hasn't changed, people close to him say.

"He's the same guy as he was 10 years ago," offensive coordinator Rickey Bustle said. "He's a friend to all of us."

Bud Foster, the defensive coordinator for all 13 of Beamer's seasons at Tech, had a chance to leave for the same job at Florida last year. He stayed.

"I work for, I think, the best head coach in the country," he said.

This season, Beamer maintained that things would work out for the Hokies as long as they kept winning. He's offering the same advice during the long pregame buildup and hype.

"The bigger it is, the smaller you think," he said. "The only thing that's going to really make any difference in this whole deal, the only thing we can control, is how well we prepare to play Florida State."

Beamer has given his team lots of leeway to enjoy New Orleans, trusting that his repeated talks about preparation and focus have hit home.

"The first thing is why we're here. You need to enjoy it. You need to enjoy all the things that are going on about this game, but you need to make good decisions," he said. "Don't do anything to embarrass you, to embarrass this university or to embarrass this football team."

Then, one more time, do their real talking on the field.

"We've got to prove ourselves, there's no question about it," Beamer said. "People say, 'Well, they're there, but do they belong?' We've got to prove it."

#### MILESTONES

## Lavis Allred Beamer celebrates 90th birthday



Lavis Beamer is seated at the table with her birthday cake. Pictured with her are her daughter and son-in-law, Willodene and The honoree's daughter-in-law, Bonnie Allred, David Hatcher, behind her, along with their two daughters and their families, Liz and Marty Johnson and their children, Ashley and is shown with her granddaughter, Allie Bowers. Eddie, and Alison and Chuck Cardwell and their children, David, Joshua and Samuel.

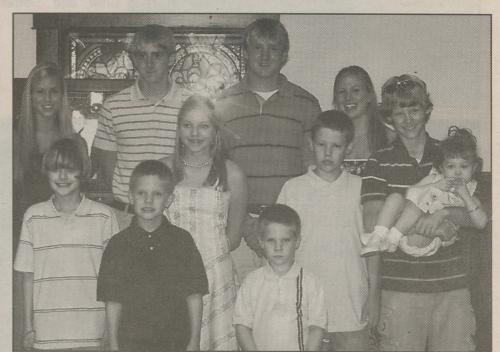


Lavis Beamer, celebrated her 90th birthday on July 2 with a party held in the fellowship hall of First Baptist Church. The occasion was hosted by her children, Willodene and David Hatcher and Jerry and Bonnie Allred.

Over 100 family and friends were in attendance including her grandchildren from Myrtle Beach and Orlando, Fla. Vester Jackson brought one of his world famous pound cakes, which was enjoyed by all who tasted it. Her family also put together a video of Lavis's life which was enjoyed by all.



Lavis's grandchildren present are April Bowers, Alison Cardwell, Lee Cook, Liz Johnson, Lynn Rigsbee, Vicki Postlmayr and Steve Baldwin.



Lavis Beamer's great-grandchildren pose for a photo. They are Lauren Rigsbee, Eric Cook, Tyler Cook, Jennifer Rigsbee, Scott Postlmayr, Leanne Postlmayr, David Cardwell, Eddie Johnson, Allie Bowers, Joshua Cardwell and Samuel Cardwell.



The mayor's children, in town for the occassion, gathered with their mother, father and grandmother for a family photo.

#### Beamer

(Continued from Page 1A)

The mayor has been presenting the "Citizen Of The Year" honor for more years than even he can remember. He also serves on the committee that selects the recipient and has always prided himself on his ability to keep the winner's name a secret until the award is ready to be presented. The longtime city official has been nominated for the chamber award on numerous occasions, but has always declined consideration.

During the roast, the mayor was joshed and kidded about his "interests in recreation," including his own fitness policies. He was teased about his fiscal policy in city government and presented with a tremendous piggy bank to help store surplus funds the city has on

dog leash to have handy"if and Mr. and Mrs. Swanson Richards, when the city ever has a leash law."

Other memorabilia included a sport shirt embossed with lettering to mark Thursday's event, and a desk-top name-plate for his office at City Hall bearing the name, "Boss Hawg."

In his response to the roast, Beamer spoke humbly and sincerely of his love for the local communitv and thanked the many people in it who have "over the years meant so much to me and my family."

The tribute for the mayor was put together by a steering committee that included Mr. and Mrs. Zack Blackmon, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Grimes, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Joyce,

Mr. and Mrs. Bud Oliver, Mr. and Tilley presented Beamer with a Mrs. David Pruett, Mr. Gene Rees, Mr. and Mrs. George Summerlin and Mr. and Mrs. John Woltz.

A spokesman for the group stated that the large tunout, the enthusiasm of the audience and the unsolicited participation clearly indicated that "the event was long

The Beamers will be taking their European trip sometime later this

### **Prisoners**

deserve it, since the state now sees a need for additional space? When we send a person to prison in the front door, it sends someone out the back door."

"People are put there (in jail) because the judge ordered it," Martin remarked. "There is a good reason for them to be there and there is not a good reason for release.

"The prisons did not get overcrowded yesterday," the district attorney said. "I wish steps were taken before now instead of a wholesale release.'

"It is a sad state of affairs we were allowed to get in the situation now upon us," Bowman continued. "It is almost a situation where we have no choice. It should have been headed off long ago. We did not all of a sudden have an influx of ten thousand prisoners."

The public demanded our courts take a more serious look at crime and demanded people be imprisoned for violation of the law," Martin said. "This was carried over to the legislature and they enacted the Fair Sentencing Act, which caused more standardized sentencing."

"With driving while impaired, the public expressed they wanted people sentenced who violated the DWI law," the judge continued. "They sent a message to the legislature so more are sent to prison. They (the legislators) should have increased the space.

"The answer is not to wait until there is a crisis," Martin added. "More space is the answer. The message was sent long ago that the public is tired of being mistreated by criminals and wants the judges to lock them up. The problem is the judges lock them up and the legislators set them loose.

"I understand why it has to be done," Bowman commented. "But it seems that it allows the tail to wag the dog. I know how hard it is to get someone there (in prison) to start with.

(Continued from Page 1A)

#### **Prisoners May Become** County's Responsibility

"It appears from the legislation that the state is about to wash its hands from misdemeanor offenses. It seems to be closing the prison doors down to persons convicted of less than a felony offense, including DWI, assault with a deadly weapon, driving while license is revoked, non-support of children and offenses of that nature," Long said.

The new bill "seems to be saying the local communities will have to provide for imprisonment or have alternative sentencing for the prisoners," he added.

The local communities must decide to either increase the sizes of their jails or build satellite jails where the county provides low security confinement for nondangerous offenders."

Whether local communities are going to provide satellite facilities, increase the jail sizes or whether they provide alternative sentencing (such as community service) is for the counties and municipalities to decide," said Long.

"The parole board is under compulsion to release the prisoners and they will try to find people who are non-violent - like DWI defendants who are not assaultive,' Martin explained. "If they're in bad enough shape to be incarcerated. they are dangerous enough to kill and maim people on the public highways.

'They're not as bad as others in prison but they are still dangerous," he continued. "It doesn't make too much difference the way someone is killed - whether assaulted with a knife or killed on the highway — the end result is the same.

"I know how much effort it takes, especially for the victim of a crime, (to bring a person to trial)," Bow-man said. "It had to have been a serious crime for a person to be sentenced in the first place, it is tramatic on the victims to go ney stated.

through the case, and then to (have the prisoner) released early.'

Long said the parole board will not turn out all the DWI and drug offenders, probably the first people to be released early, just because they seem to be less violent than the murderers and rapists. "The parole commission will look at each one and decide which ones have got to stay.

"People do change in prison. A judge cannot predict when a person will be rehabilitated and no longer a threat to society (when he hands down a sentence)... They may be reformed when their liberty is taken away from them and perhaps there is room for a second look at them by the parole commission," he said.

"I don't want to criticize the legislature for doing what they think is the best to do. They make the law and decide what the punishment range will be — that's there prerogative," the Superior Court judge said.

#### **Future Predictions**

"I think you will find judges under pressure to use alternative sentencing," Martin predicted. "That's a pressure I'd rather not see there. I want to be more concerned about protecting society and punishing offenders instead of seeing if there's a room available at the local bastille."

"There may be a tendency, in the long run, of softening of sentences," he continued. "A lot of things might develop in the long run that I don't think are to the advantage of the

"It is time for somebody to do something," Bowman commented, "so we don't feel everytime we send someone to prison, it sends another one out. We'd feel handcuffed and shackled.'

Everything is headed in the wrong direction," the district attor-











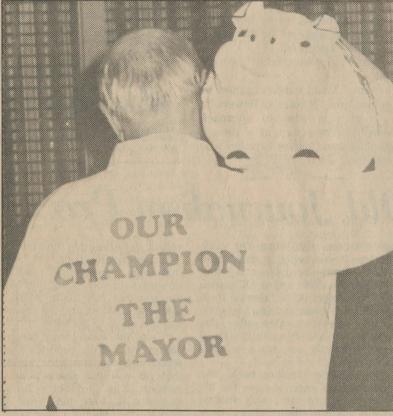




Today And Saturday
20% TO 30% OFF



News Editor, Barbara Summerlin, presents the Beamers with a certificate detailing a 17-day trip to Europe planned and purchased for them by friends and relatives.



Mayor Beamer pleased the crowd as he donned a tailor-made shirt and shifted the piggy bank to his shoulder.

#### Assault

(Continued from Page 1A)

taking her with him and he left alleged attack happened, claiming without her. The woman also accused him of hitting her several

Blankenship, however, said that he was living at the couple's home at the time and his wife and Chaney came into the residence to retrieve some of her belongings.

He said Chaney was wearing a large jacket and it appeared he had his hand on a gun so he grabbed a large stick of wood and hit Chaney on the head.

did not own a shotgun when the lengthy testimony.

he had pawned it sometime earlier.

Chaney and Barbara Blankenship also have charged Rusty Angle of Ararat, Va., with two counts of assault with a deadly weapon (a motor vehicle) in connection with another incident involving the group.

They claim that Angle, Darrell Blankenship's brother-in-law, tried to run them down with his truck near Westfield in February.

Judge Jerry Cash Martin con-Blankenship also testified that he tinued the hearing because of the

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#### **Snow Possible**

Snow may fall here today and Saturday Complete details inside. Why join the Chamber of Commerce? You'll discover a lot of reasons in a special section inside today.

Daylight savings time arrives at 2 a.m. Sunday. Remember to move your clocks AHEAD one hour.



#### INSIDE TODAY

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## The Mount Airy News

107th Year-No. 67

Friday, April 3, 1987

Price 35°

#### Citizen Of The Years!



John Woltz, chairman and chief executive officer of Quality Mills (right), presents the mayor with an oversized piggy bank.

Photo By Judy Dickerson

## Mayor Beamer Toasted And Roasted By A Host Of Friends And Relatives

By BARBARA SUMMERLIN
Editor
A group of friends and rela-

The mayor was noticeably surprised as he was greeted in the lobby of the Elks Lodge and dated back to Adam and Eve Beamer. The humorist's monologue was followed by the offi-

# Officials Try To Confirm Identity Of 'Defector'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet Union says it has accepted an American soldier who defected, but the Army said today it still isn't sure who he is.

The Army is investigating whether Wade Evan Roberts, who went AWOL in West Germany last month, is the William E. Roberts the Russians say has joined them.

"We haven't been able to confirm he is the man," ex Gribble, spokesman for the U.S. Army headarters in Heidelberg, West Germany, told The ciated Press. "He's been missing for a month But we are certainly treating him as a "te"

while, a woman who answered the phone at the Apple Valley home of Wade pfather, Doug Worley, said she is the her but declined to give her name.

Riverside Press-Enterprise, "I don't son, but it looks like it might be. Army has said anything to me. I just found out about it today."

Roberts disappeared from his field artillery unit at Giessen, West Germany, on March 2, and was declared a deserter on Thursday.

On the same day, the Kremlin announced that an American soldier and his West German wife had defected to the Soviet Union and been granted asylum because they feared political persecution.

"After checking the personnel field, the Department of Defense has determined that there was no individual" with the name the Soviets gave, the Pentagon said.

"However, further checking revealed that an individual with a similar name may be the person alluded to in the reports. At this time, we are unable to establish whether or not this is the individual referred to in that (Kremlin) announcement," the announcement said.

(Continued on Page 2A)