

MARRIAGES AND DEATHS FROM THE MOUNT AIRY NEWS

Submitted by Teresa Smith

June 1, 1904

TRIBUTE OF RESPECT - In the providence and unerring wisdom of a tender, loving Heavenly Father, the Death Angel came to the home of Brother J. P. BELTON last Tuesday, May 24th, and took from that happy home a devoted wife and mother and, from our town, one of the best of pure modest women, Mrs. Fannie BELTON. She was the daughter of Robert D. HARRIS, was born December 3, 1872, and was married to Mr. J. P. BELTON, April 28, 1891. Five children were born into their home during the thirteen years of their married life. In her departure, her loss is felt deeply by her husband, Brother J. P. BELTON, five motherless children, her uncle, John HARRIS, and her two sisters, Mesdames Mollie B. HAYMORE and Jettie MOORE. At three p. m., May 25th, the burial services were held in the Mount Airy Baptist Church, conducted by her pastor, Rev. Andrew L. BETTS, assisted by her former pastor, Rev. C. C. HAYMORE, after which the body was deposited in the family plot of the town cemetery. (There is more to this article if you need a copy.)

Thelma Madana MARSHALL died May 25, 1904. The deceased was nine months old the day she was taken away. The funeral services were held at the home of her parents R. K. and M. B. MARSHALL, Thursday, the 26th, at 9:30 a.m., the remains were laid to rest in the Friends' cemetery at White Plains.

Miss Daisy CLAYTON, sister of Mrs. J. L. ASHBY and Mrs. B. A. IRVIN, of this city, died at Winston Monday of last week, aged about 24 years. Mrs. IRVIN returned from the funeral Thursday evening.

DEATH OF MRS. CRUTCHFIELD - The death of Mrs. J. J. CRUTCHFIELD, in this city Monday morning a 2 o'clock, brought sorrow to hundreds of hearts and cast a gloom over the entire community. The remains were carried to Ore Hill, Chatham county, Tuesday where the funeral and interment took place.

A SAD SUICIDE - The body of Miss Flora STOLTZ, daughter of Israel STOLTZ, a successful farmer who resides near Wesley post office, Surry County, was found Friday morning in Bull Run creek, near the father's home. It appears that Miss STOLTZ retired Thursday evening without eating any supper. She had been acting strangely and was heard to complain of feeling unwell. Her absence was discovered by a sister early Friday morning.

We regret to learn of the death at Chattanooga, Tennessee, on Saturday, May 28, 1904, of Mr. R. A. HAYMORE, son of Dr. R. D. HAYMORE, of this city, surrounded by his three brothers. The funeral services were held on Sunday and the interment at the cemetery at Chattanooga.

June 8, 1904

Rufus CHAMBERS was killed by lightning in Wilkes county Tuesday night last.

TWO DEATHS - Mr. A. J. NUNN and Mr. Dick MILLS, of Penn's Store, Patrick County, Virginia, both died Monday of this week. This sad misfortune to the Penn's Store neighborhood will be felt for years to come.

June 15, 1904

L. B. HARPER, a brakeman on the Southern's fast freight No. 75, fell from the moving train Thursday afternoon between High Point and Thomasville. Remains were sent to Rocky Mount, home of the deceased, for burial.

The infant child of Mr. Thomas GRAHAM died Monday afternoon, after much suffering.

Shop Closing After 86 Years

By BRIAN CHANDLER
Staff Writer

Belton Shoe Shop, which has operated in Mount Airy since before the Great Depression, is about to sew its last sole after 86 years in business.

The shop will close on April 10.

The business has been family owned since the 1920s, but will not be passed down to the next generation, according to owner L.C. Belton.

"Daddy (L. Cann Belton) opened it up in the '20s when the Depression started," Belton said. "He ran it for 47 years and I have been doing it for 39 years. I worked with him for several years before he passed away, and then I took over."

During his years as a member of the Mount Airy business community, Belton has witnessed an evolution

in the shoe trade.

"Well it has changed a whole lot," he said. "There are different types of shoes and everything used to be tacked or sewn. Now everything is glued or molded."

Belton stressed that while the shoes themselves are basically the same, they now are put together in different ways. The materials also have changed, with many man-made items frequently used, he said.

Most of the machinery involved with shoe repair also has stayed the same - the shop still has its original Champion stitcher, which was used by Belton's father and is dated earlier than 1950.

Belton also has another Champion stitcher that was bought in 1969 and still is used frequently. The shoe repairman continues to operate a finishing machine as

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Shop

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well, which sands down rough heels.

"If you are sanding a rough heel down you can use the rough sandpaper, and then when you get through you can smooth it out on another wheel that takes all your sand marks off the shoe," Belton explained.

"It works like finishing wood in a house. If you've got something with a mark on it, you sand it with something heavy and then you go to a real smooth, fine paper. It's a simple operation if you know how it's done."

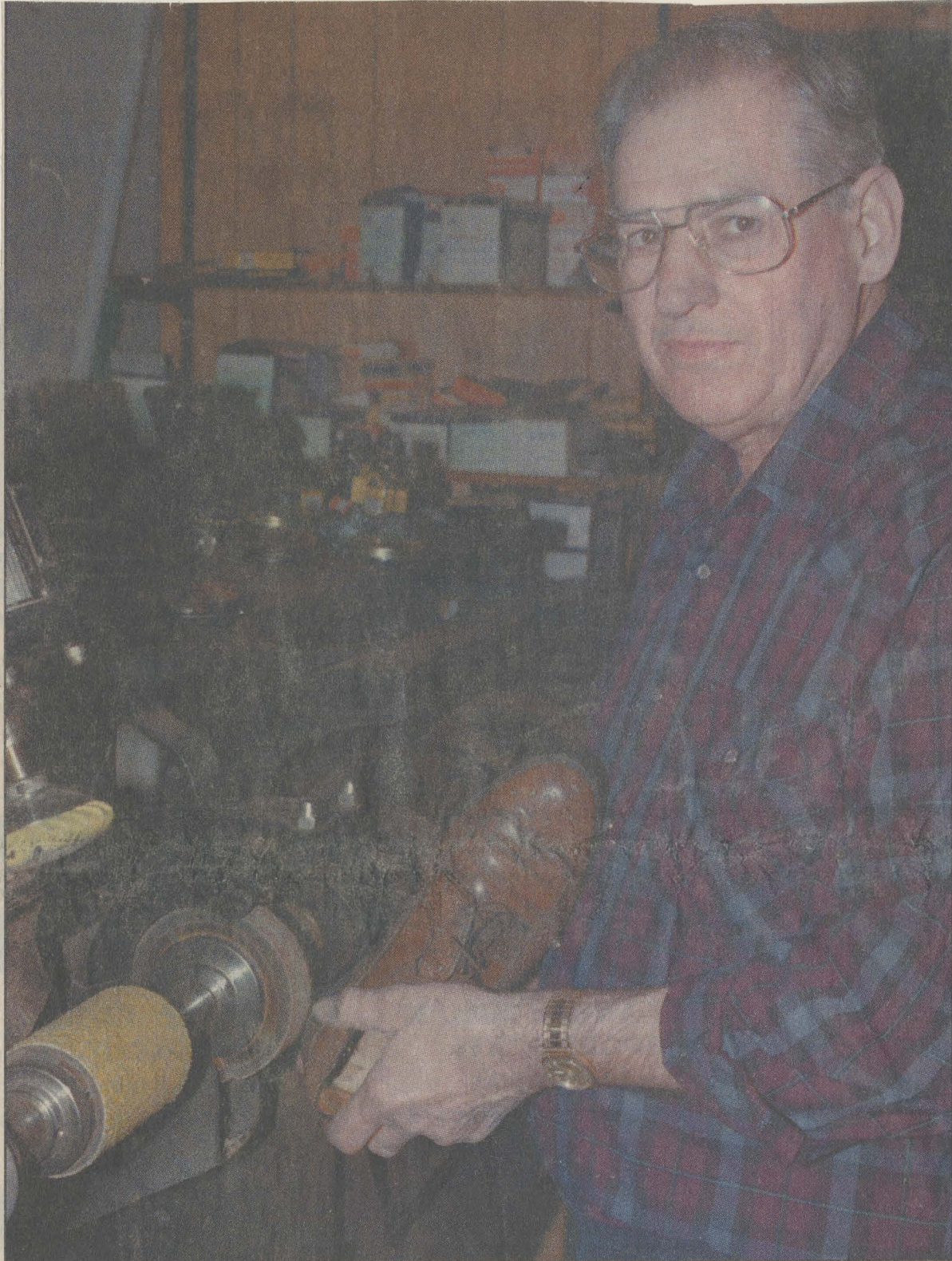
Although the equipment hasn't changed much, Belton said prices have. He recently found a shoe that was fixed in 1971, remembering that he repaired the sole and heel for \$4.75. The same job today would cost \$28.

The small shop, which is now on Main Street, originally was on Virginia Street when it first opened. Belton said despite the changes, something that has been constant during the years are his customers.

Since the beginning of the year, about 500 loyal customers have stopped by to visit Belton Shoe Shop for the last time.

"The best part about my store has been all the different people you meet," said Belton, who basically plans to "take it easy" during retirement.

"There have been an awful lot of nice people over the years and they have been good to me. It makes me sad to think about leaving, but there always comes that time."



Brian Chandler/The Mount Airy News

SHOE REPAIR: L.C. Belton the owner of Belton Shoe Shop, smooths out the heel of a shoe on a finishing machine. The small shop, which was the only place in Mount Airy to have shoes repaired, has been opened for 86 years and will be closing April 10.

Dropping In On . . . (Continued from Page 8A)



David Long chops, chops, chops.



Jane Bell and Polly Long serve plates of barbecue, slaw and all the trimmings.



J. T. Palmer and Betty Hiatt were among the 100 Hylton Street residents at the event.

The Fair Brings Back Fond Memories

Fairs today aren't what they used to be.

It was on Sept. 4, 1935 that Louise Belton and Earl Myers were married in front of the grandstand during the Great Mount Airy Fair at the old fair grounds (now the athletic field at Mount Airy Senior High School.) Louise recalls that it rained a lot that day.

A front page story of the Mount Airy News that year stated that the couple would be presented a complete wedding outfit, as well as plenty of house furnishings with which to start housekeeping.

The article read: "The wedding is to be as impressive as any church nuptials, and in fact will be different from such a wedding only in the setting. The management of the fair has no objection to making the affair a double one, and the manager of the wedding expects to have several applications from young people who wish to take the opportunity to get married, and get a good start in housekeeping at the same time.

"Arrangements have been made to provide outfits of clothing and complete housekeeping outfits for as many couples as desire to take advantage of this unique opportunity.

"Applicants are requested to call privately on Edward P. Rahn, manager of Public Wedding at the Blue Ridge Hotel, or Fair Headquarters, phone 484, located in the Burke Building on Main Street.

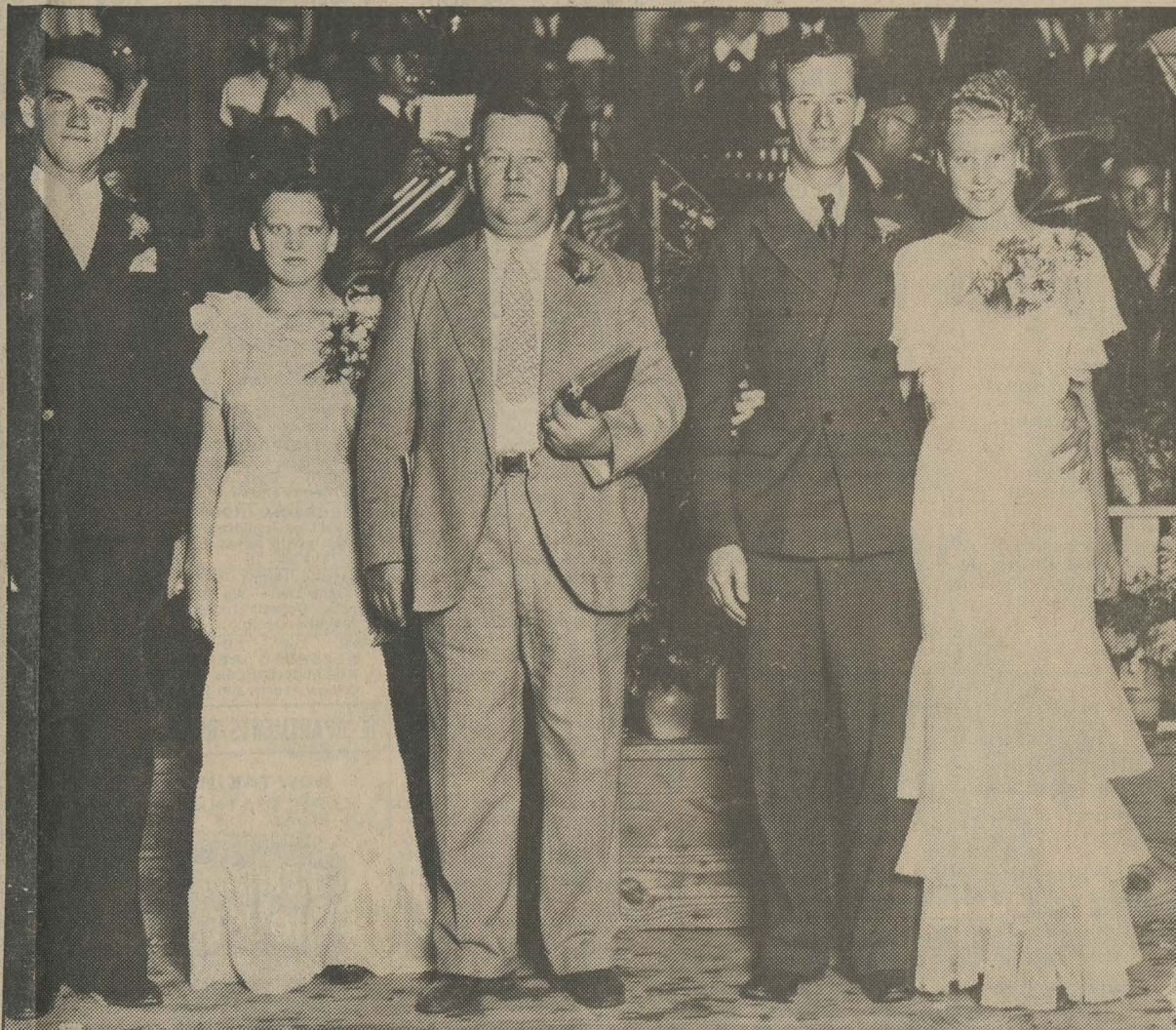
"No extra admission will be charged to those attending the wedding."

Louise, remembering that most of those promises fell through, said they only received a water pitcher and glasses, a cake plate and linen guest towel. "They did send a taxi to pick us up," she added.

For the wedding she wore her white net prom dress with rows of ruffles and the bridegroom was attired in a borrowed suit. The officiating minister was the Rev. J. H. Hatley, pastor of Flat Rock Presbyterian Church.

There was music by the band and a background of flowers including marigolds and zinnias.

To celebrate their 50th anniversary, the couple will be honored with a reception Saturday at the home of her sister, Frances Keady, 130 Laila Lane. Helping with the party will be the couple's two children, Sylvia Chilton of Mount



Louise Belton and Earl Myers (right) were married Sept. 4, 1935 at the Greater Mount Airy Fair. Miller Vogler (left) was best man and Janie Belton (Thomas), sister of the bride, maid of honor. The Rev. J. H. Hatley (center) was the officiating minister. Louise and Earl will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this weekend at a reception.

Airy and Charles Myers of Richmond, Va., and the three grandchildren, Lauren Chilton, David and Daniel Myers.

On Sunday, the couple will renew their marriage vows during the

morning worship service at Bannertown Baptist Church. This will be followed by a covered-dish luncheon hosted by the Sunday school classes that Louise has taught.

She retired last year as Mount

Airy City School lunchroom supervisor. Earl retired seven years ago from the U. S. Post office.

Louise says there's always a bit of nostalgia when the fair comes each year.

Fall
HOME
IMPROVEMENT
TIME



Mount Airy Happenings

Bill And Inez Belton Honored At Reception

■ The golden anniversary reception honoring Bill and Inez Belton on Saturday afternoon was a lovely affair with about 300 friends and relatives attending the event.

Their daughter and son-in-law, Amy and Perry Hendrix of Brevard, were hosts for the occasion. Their daughters, Sarah Gray, a sophomore at the University of Georgia, and Mary Reid, a high school student at Brevard, assisted in greeting guests during the afternoon.



Eleanor Powell

The new fellowship hall of Haymore Memorial Baptist Church was the setting for the occasion. This was the first 50th anniversary celebration to be held in the new facility.

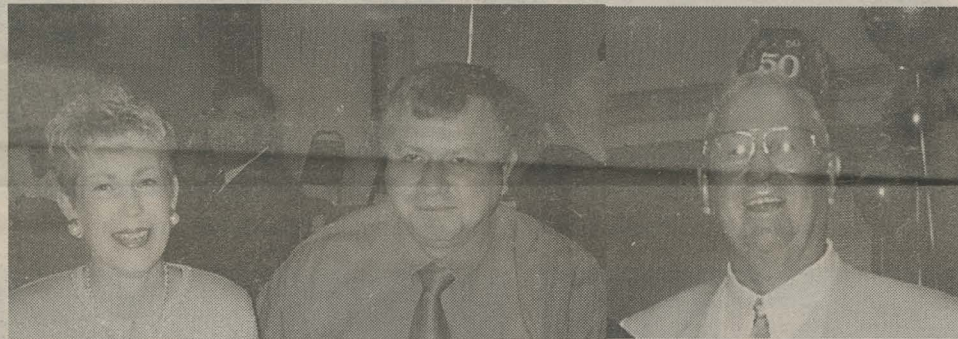
Bill and Inez were married on Nov. 29, 1951 in the First Baptist Church Parsonage with the Rev. R. Carrington Paulette officiating.

Norma Jo Kallam, sister of the honoree, presided at the guest register. Sue Cooke catered the event with an elaborate table of delectable foods. That table held a large crystal urn containing yellow lilies, roses and snapdragons with Bells of Ireland. Henri Bingman, another sister of the honored couple, and Karen Kallam, a niece, cut and served the anniversary cake which was complemented with a dozen of yellow roses. Jean Williamson played piano selections during the reception. Memorabilia from the couple's lives was displayed for guests to enjoy.

Guests were remembered with engraved book markers from the couple.



50th Anniversary: Bill and Inez Belton (center) were entertained with a reception hosted by their daughter and son-in-law, Amy and Perry Hendrix (left). Pictured with them are their granddaughters, Mary and Sarah Hendrix.



...Vicki and Danny Tutor attended the party with her father, James Leftwich...



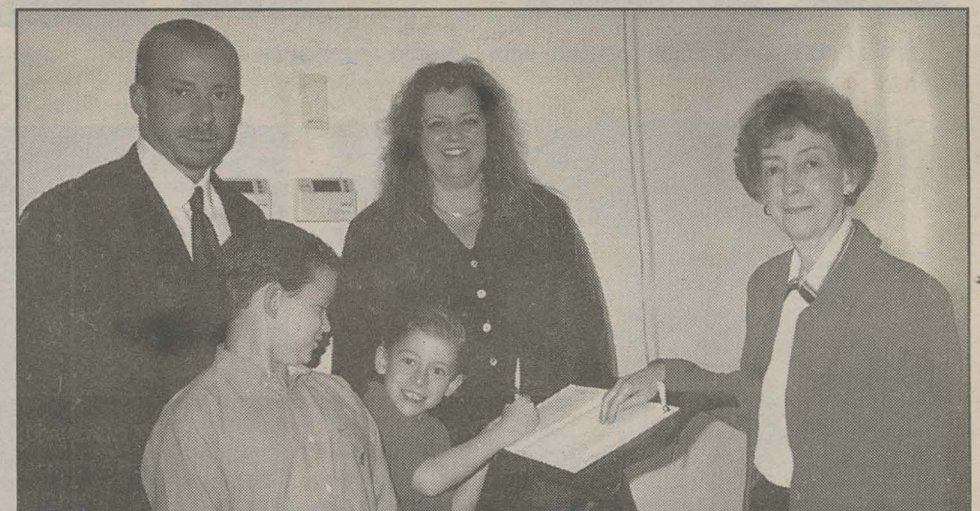
...Donald and Mary Nell Byrd with Ed and Sarah Lee McGee (center)...



...Lib and Ronald Boyles, Frances Bowman, Catherine and Ernie Randleman and Betty and Dick Patterson...



...Henri Bingman (standing), sister of the honored couple, welcomes Dr. Larry and Anne Walker (left) and Nancy and Dick Belton...



...Norma Kallam (right), presided at the guest register. Signing in are Jake and Jesse Kallam and their parents, Winston and Karen Kallam.

Belton Anniversary Reception



...among those attending the golden anniversary reception for Bill and Inez Belton were Tom and Mary Fawcett with Louise Hill...



...Lillie Bruner and Faye Johnson (seated). Kathy Sigmon, Fran Grizzard and Vicki Conrad (standing left to right)...



...Roger and Olive Riggs were there with her sister, Arlene Brown...



...Jack and Shirley Cox (left) and Rose and Dennis Moody.



...Janie and Wayne Pack (seated) with Luvenia and Speck Tillotson...



...Johnny Bowman and Helen Inman...



...Jean Berryman and Jill Loftin with Diana and Margaret Tilley...



...Gene Rees (left) and Scott Lowry...



...Hylton and Betty Wright...



...Jim Kemp, Rebecca and Lewis Collins...