

The Mount Airy News

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Former City Commissioners Dies At Age 83

By R.J. BERRIER

Staff Writer

Funeral services for Roscoe Bowman George, retired industrialist and former city commissioner, will be held today at 11 a.m. in Central United Methodist Church, conducted by the Rev. Richard Crowder. Interment will be in Oakdale Cemetery.

George, of 132 Jackson Road, Mount Airy, was 83 when he died Saturday at his home.

He was a former longtime member of the Mount Airy Board of Commissioners, serving for two decades as commissioner at large, and also mayor pro-tem.

He was a strong commissioner, studying the issues and then voicing his comments and casting his vote. His constituents knew where he stood on any matter.

He and his friend and fellow commissioner, Charles F. Lowry, were powerful, staunch conservatives and guided the board along that path for years.

Two major building projects for the city in which George played an integral role were the Mount Airy Municipal Building, which opened in 1978, and the Mount Airy Public Library, which followed some four years later.

He was unopposed for many of his re-election bids.

George was a member of Mount Airy's furniture industry and, when he retired, was an executive with Mount Airy/National Furniture Co.

His parents were Roscoe Allen and Mattie Yokley George. His mother was a member of the Yokley family that formed and guided Mount Airy's furniture industry for many years.

Bowman George had first been associated with Mount Airy Chair Co.

George was a World War II veteran, serving in the U.S. Air Force. He first was married to Gertrude Moore George, who was a well-known teacher at Mount Airy High School and later North Surry.

After her death, he was married to Betty Chilton Brown George. She was a well-known accountant before her death.

George was a member of the board of trustees of Oakdale Cemetery and a member of the board of the Mount Airy Restoration Foundation. He was a lifelong member of Central United Methodist Church and was also a member of Mount Airy Country Club and Mount Airy Elks Lodge.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Surry County, 1326 N. Main St., Mount Airy, N.C., 27030.

Former Mount Airy commissioner dies at 83

By Sharonda Wilcox
JOURNAL REPORTER

MOUNT AIRY

Friends and colleagues describe Roscoe Bowman George, a former city commissioner and mayor pro tem of Mount Airy, as a good man who was dedicated to his work and his community.

He served nearly 20 years on the city's board of commissioners. George died yesterday. He was 83.

"He put a lot into his 83 years," said S.M. Wood, a commissioner from 1965 to 1977. "He fought for what was right and fought against what was wrong."

During George's term, and in part through his dedication and persistence, the city installed water and sewer lines, and built a city hall, a library and fire stations.

"He was an outstanding man who accomplished many things during his term as commissioner," said Charles Lowry. Lowry served as a commissioner with George until he retired in 1987, the same year that George lost his seat in an election. George ran again in 1991, but lost to Emily Badgett Taylor, who has gone on to become mayor of the city. He ended up serving the city for nearly 20 years. He described his work for the city as a "20-year hobby."

In his professional life, he had been an execu-

tive for a furniture company. Lowry said that he and George saw many changes in the city, as well as numerous controversies. Colleagues remember George diligently serving on various committees during and after his term as commissioner.

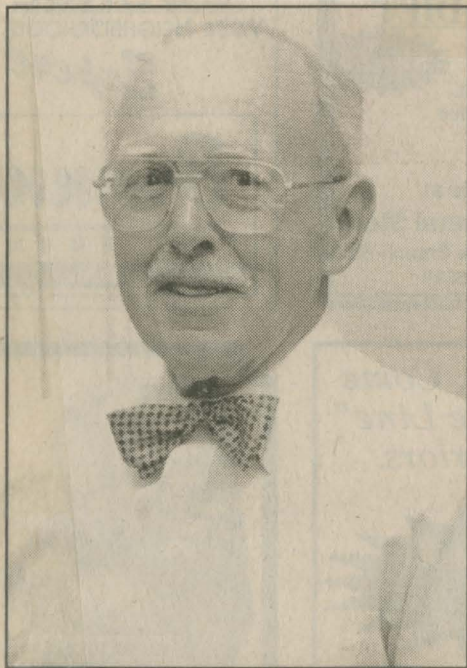
George said he felt that what was right for the City of Mount Airy was annexation and providing more job opportunities through new industries and the expansion of existing industries.

In a 1991 interview in the *Journal*, George talked about his years as a commissioner: "I tried to be conservative in my approach, not to be antagonistic with people, and take a reasonable approach to problems."



ROSCOE GEORGE

5-28-00



Bowman George

5-30-00

Last Rites Today For Former Commissioner

By **R.J. BERRIER**
Staff Writer

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