

Minister, 96, Killed In Collision

By PETER SORENSON
Staff Writer

CLAUDVILLE, Va. — Friends and associates fondly recalled Monday the contributions of a longtime minister who died in a traffic collision.

The Rev. Jessie Vester Reynolds, 96, of Claudville, was killed Sunday when the 1990 Ford Tempo he was driving was struck in the driver's door on Highway 103 at Claudville.

Reynolds was attempting to turn southbound onto 103 from Route 645 at 12:22 p.m., according to Virginia State Trooper B.P. Pack. He made a partial right turn onto 103, and his vehicle was struck by a 1988 Toyota pickup, Pack said. Reynolds died at the scene.

The retired farmer and minister of the Baptist faith was born June 8, 1902 in Surry County. His long list of service included Slate Mountain Baptist Church and other ministries, as well as the area's farming industry.

"He was known for being just a wonderful community man who started many years back in the farming community," said the Rev. Billy Moore, who will be one of those conducting Reynolds' funeral services.

"On his last visit to me, about three weeks ago, he came by the place where I work just to say that he loves me, you know, that I'm a brother in Christianity," Moore said. He recalled that when he got his start in the ministry in 1974, Reynolds helped him tremendously.

"The older ministers give advice to the younger ministers," Moore said. "I called on him a lot for advice. ... He helped me get started in the right direction."

Erving Anderson, 75, of 1836 Bryant Road, a retired engineer who knew Reynolds all of his life, also remembered him as an "all-around good man."

"I've heard him preach a few times — he was a fine preacher. I couldn't do anything but praise the man," Anderson

added.

Anderson also said Reynolds' assistance to the farm community was of significant importance. Reynolds made his livelihood as a farmer, first on a farm in Surry County after having been born and raised in the Slate Mountain section east of Mount Airy.

After World War II, Reynolds moved to a farm in Patrick County, where he lived the rest of his life. Along with raising tobacco, he offered much advice on agricultural-related issues to local people. Anderson remembers Reynolds as one of the best ministers and all-around people in the country.

Reynolds' son, Glen Reynolds, 63, of 1750 Cadle Ford Road, Mount Airy, said that his father had been teaching Sunday school as long as he could remember.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Moody Funeral Home in Mount Airy, with burial in Skyline Memory Gardens.

Tobacco Workers Brace For Cuts

By PAUL NOWELL
AP Business Writer

WINSTON-SALEM — News of another sweeping round of job cuts made the holiday season more stressful in R.J. Reynolds' Tobacco Co.'s hometown Monday.

"It's like a death in the family," said Perry Simos, who represents the third generation of his family to run a barbecue restaurant bearing his last name in the shadow of RJR's huge Whitaker Park cigarette plant.

"If you're an acquaintance, it doesn't have the same feeling," said Simos, who recalls his grandfather, Pete Simos, serving tobacco growers who drove up in farm vehicles to the restaurant when Indiana Avenue was still a dirt road.

"But when it's your brother-in-law or your niece whose getting laid



Forces Build Against Clinton

By DAVID ESPO

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The ranks of pro-impeachment Republicans swelled on Monday in the run-up to a momentous House vote, and one prominent moderate arranged a meeting with President Clinton to discuss the case against him. Vice President Al Gore accused the GOP of ignoring the "wisdom of the American people" by blocking censure.

Dogged by the issue on a trip to the Middle East, Clinton said he was open to "any reasonable compromise" with Congress short of impeachment.

But if anything, the shaky ground under the president ap-

MILLER, Mr. Frank Cleveland, 67, of Charlotte, a native of Mount Airy, the husband of Mrs. Wilma Broome Miller.

REYNOLDS, the Rev. Jessie Vester, 96, of 108 Unity Church Road, Claudville, Va., the husband of the late Mrs. Annie Rogers Reynolds.

REYNOLDS

CLAUDVILLE, Va. - The Rev. Jessie Vester Reynolds, 96, of 108 Unity Church Road, Claudville, Va., the widower of Annie Rogers Reynolds, died Sunday, December 13, 1998. The Rev. Mr. Reynolds was born June 8, 1902, in Surry County, N.C. to the late Amstead and Mary Frances Shuler Reynolds. He was a retired farmer and minister of the Baptist faith. Surviving are four daughters and two sons-in-law, Hallie Reynolds McMillan, Evelyn Reynolds Hodge, and Barbara R. and Hilton Creed, all of Mount Airy, N.C., and Mycleta R. and Zane Cox of Pfafftown, N.C.; two sons and one daughter-in-law, Glen Reynolds of Mount Airy and Carlton and Frances Reynolds of Greensboro, N.C.; 15 grandchildren; a special grandson, Donald Cox; 16 great-grandchildren; two stepgreat-grandchildren; 10 great-great-grandchildren; four stepgreat-great-grandchildren; two sisters, Ada Gammons and Aggie Tilley, both of Mount Airy; and several nieces and nephews. In addition to his wife, the Rev. Mr. Reynolds was preceded in death by one sister, Alice Lambert, and two brothers, Charlie and Jimmy Reynolds. The funeral service will be held on Wednesday, December 16, 1998, at 2 p.m. in Moody Funeral Home Chapel, Mount Airy, conducted by the Rev. Verlon Combs, the Rev. Billy Moore and the Rev. Tom Smith, with burial to follow in Skyline Memory Gardens. The family will receive friends on Tuesday night from 7 until 9 p.m. in Moody Funeral Home, Mount Airy. Flowers will be accepted or memorials may be made to Slate Mountain Baptist Church, 2002 Pine St., Mount Airy, N.C. 27030.

Sunday morning, December 13, 1998 at Elkin Health Care, Elkin. Mrs. Hoots was born April 17, 1931, in Surry County to Virgil Monroe and Lula Maye Holyfield Tucker. She was a restaurateur for over 25 years and owned and operated Ruby's Drive-In for 10 years. Mrs. Hoots was a member of White Plains Baptist Church. Surviving are one daughter and son-in-law, Nancy Carroll and Calvin Barney-castle, 161 Miller Gap Road, Ararat, N.C. 27007; one son and daughter-in-law, Herbert Rodney and Amy Hoots, 9470 Old Palmetto Road, Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576; four grandchildren, Kimberly Freeman, Crystal Barney-castle, Brittany Hoots and Aaron Nicole Hoots; two great grandchildren, Kasi Freeman and Sydney Freeman; and one brother, James Monroe Tucker, of Dobson, N.C. Funeral services will be conducted Tuesday, December 15, 1998, at 11 a.m. in the Cox-Needham Funeral Home Chapel in Pilot Mountain by Brother Bill Tucker and Brother Tom Delph. Burial will be in Skyline Memory Gardens, Mount Airy. The family received friends in the Cox-Needham Chapel Monday evening, December 14, 1998, from 7 to 9 p.m. and, at other times, at the home of Mrs. Hoots' daughter and son-in-law, Nancy Carroll and Calvin Barney-castle, 161 Miller Gap Road, Ararat.

POLICE

The Mount Airy Police Department had these reports Monday:

■ Daphene Laverne Woodbury, 30, of 1085 W. Virginia St., was arrested Sunday on six counts of embezzlement after a report from K-Mart that a known employee had taken money on six occasions between Nov. 28 and Dec. 12. Bond for Woodbury was set at \$5,000.

■ Franklin Davis Jr., 17, of 346 Hadley St., was arrested Sunday for allegedly violating probation. Bond was set at \$2,500 in the case.

■ Alonzo Leon Woodbury, 36, of 1085 W. Virginia St., was jailed for

"These are good paying jobs we're losing, but I can't say they were unexpected following the tobacco settlement," she said in a telephone interview. "Our challenge is to continue to bring diversity to the regional economy."

With North Carolina's unemployment rate at historical lows, Anderson said it won't be very difficult for the displaced workers to find new employment. However, it may be hard to match the compensation levels of a company such as RJR, she said.

RJR's parent company, R.J. R. Inc., said the reductions are part of a total cutback of 3,900 tobacco jobs worldwide as it adjusts to changing competitive conditions in the U.S. and Russia, its two biggest markets.

RJR said about 1,000 of the planned cuts will come from its domestic R.J. Reynolds Tobacco business, which employs a total of 8,800 U.S. employees. The remaining 2,900 will be in Russia and other nations that were formerly part of the Soviet Union.

The cuts represent 15.7 percent of its global tobacco work force of the nearly 25,000 people employed by the company. Reynolds' cigarette brands include Winston, Camel and Salem.

The nation's No. 2 cigarette company said it expected to see fewer cigarettes in the United States because of a 45 cent a pack price increase imposed after last month's mammoth legal settlement with states.

The cuts came on the heels of an announcement last month that RJR was eliminating 315 domestic tobacco jobs, most of them in the Winston-Salem area.

R.J. Reynolds and four other tobacco companies agreed last month to pay \$206 billion over 25 years to settle claims by 46 states for health costs for treating sick smokers. Following that agreement, Reynolds and other cigarette makers raised prices by 45 cents a pack.

The U.S. job cuts are expected to occur next year and affect various departments in the company.

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