

## OBITUARIES FROM "THE MANSFIELD MIRROR"

1988

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The date included in ( ) is the date of the paper in which the obituary appeared. The paper was published on Thursday. So, if the date of the paper is January 8 and the obit says the person died on Monday....count backward from January 8 and the person died on January 5.

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(June 2, 1988)

**ALLEN, EMMETT O**--Services for Emmett O Allen, Mansfield, were at 2 PM, Friday in Craig-Hurtt-Bradley Funeral Home, Mountain Grove. Burial was in Oak Grove Cemetery, Mountain Grove. Mr. Allen, a school bus driver, died Tuesday evening in St. John's Regional Health Center, Springfield, after a short illness. Emmett grew up in Wright County and married Christine Kentner on March 1, 1960. Two children were born to this union. They lived on a farm near Mansfield and he had worked for the Mansfield Schools as a bus driver for eleven years. He was preceded in death by one brother and one sister. Survivors include his wife, Christine, of their home; one son Victor, also of the home; one daughter Tresa Moseley, Mansfield; four brothers Nels, Norwood, Jess, Mountain Grove, Bob, Graff and Gene, Mansfield; three sisters Berba Holdt, Springfield, Mary Mansfield and Alta Freeman, Mountain Grove; other relatives and many friends who will sadly miss him.

(December 22, 1988)

**ANDERSON, MAX NORMAN**--Funeral services for Max Norman Anderson were held Monday, December 19, 1988 at 2 PM, in the Craig-Hurtt-Bradley Chapel with Larry Yarber officiating. Burial was in Thomas Cemetery. Max Norman Anderson, 45, of Bettendorf, Iowa passed away December 14, 1988 in Mercy Hospital in Davenport, Iowa. Max was the son of Norman and Mildred (Coffman) Anderson. He was born August 11, 1943 in Mountain Grove. He was preceded in death by his mother; grandmother, Clara (Mallernee) Anderson and his Coffman grandparents. He is survived by his grandfather McKinley Anders, Mountain Grove; father Norman, Norwood; stepmother Evelyn; three brothers Steve, Norwood, Larry, Mansfield and Eddie, Sunset Beach, California; a sister Sandra Jo Peterson, Mountain Grove; nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Max was baptized in 1967 at the Brady Street Church of Christ in Davenport, Iowa. Max had resided in Davenport for the last 35 years. He did masonry and construction work for several years.

(November 10, 1988)

**ANDERSON, RANDY**--George Randal Anderson, 39, Atlanta, Georgia, formerly of the Hollister and Branson area, died at 9:40 PM, Saturday in Emory University Hospital, Atlanta, after a long illness. He was vice-Chairman of the Board of Royal Oak

Enterprises Inc. He was a graduate of the School of the Ozarks, a member of North Atlanta Church of Christ and also a member of Branson Masonic Lodge No. 365. Survivors include his wife Carol; two daughters Jennifer and Stephanie, both of the home; a son Wesley of the home; his parents Mr. and Mrs. George Anderson, Mansfield; a brother David, Atlanta; two sisters Mrs. Suzanne Miller and Mrs. Robin Carter, both of Mansfield. Funeral services were held at 1PM, Wednesday in Bergman-Miller Chapel with Mike Cagle officiating. Burial was in Mansfield Cemetery.

(April 7, 1988)

**BAILEY, FRANCIS M**--Services for Francis M Bailey, Hartville, were held at 2 PM, Tuesday, April 5, 1988 in Wood Funeral Chapel. Graveside services will be at 2 PM, Friday in Mountain View Memorial Part, Boulder, Colorado. Mr. Bailey, a retired farmer and construction worker, died at 4 PM, Saturday in his home.

(August 25, 1988)

**BARNETT, FAY**--Services for Fay Barnett, Norwood, were at 2 PM, Thursday in Craig-Hurtt-Bradley Funeral Home, Mountain Grove. Burial was in Thomas Cemetery, Norwood. Mr. Barnett, a retired farmer, died Sunday evening in his home after a long illness.

(October 20, 1988)

**BENTON, FINIS W**--Finis W. Benton, 80, of Jerome, Idaho, died Saturday, September 3, 1988 at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center. Born July 13, 1908 in Manes, Missouri, he was reared and educated there. He married Minnie Calhoun on October 12, 1929 in Hartville, Missouri. They came to Idaho in 1935, settling in Jerome. He farmed for a short time and then worked for many years as a farm machinery mechanic. Prior to his retirement, he had worked for a number of years for the Jerome Implement Co. He was a member of the Church of Christ. Surviving are his wife; three daughters Ilene Scheer of Jerome; Wanda Kober of Wendell and Mary Mullen of St. Louis, Missouri; a son Jim of Stockton, California; one brother Burney, of Charles City, Iowa; 14 grandchildren; and 25 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a son John, killed during the Viet Nam Conflict, one grandson and one great-grandson. The funeral for Mr. Benton was held Tuesday, September 6 at the Jerome Church of Christ, with Mr. Bronson Ostic officiating. Burial followed in the Jerome Cemetery. Arrangements were under the direction of the Hove-Robertson Funeral Chapel in Jerome. Mr. Benton was a brother-in-law to Mamie Calhoun of Mansfield.

(June 30, 1988)

**CALTON, CHLOE**--Services for Chloe Calton, Hartville, were at 2 PM, Friday in Wood Funeral Chapel. Burial was in Steele Memorial Cemetery. Mrs. Calton, a homemaker, died at 10:25 AM, Wednesday, June 22, in St. John's Regional Health Center, Springfield. She was 74 years old.

(December 15, 1988)

**CANTRELL, LYNN**--Lynn Cantrell, son of David and Mary (Shook) Cantrell was born June 1, 1906 in Webster County, Missouri and departed this life December 6, 1988 at

Ozarks Medical Center in West Plains, Missouri at the age of 82 years, 6 months and 5 days. Lynn was united in marriage to Gladys Sloan on September 18, 1928 and to this union one daughter was born. Lynn was a lifelong resident of Mansfield and a retired stock dealer. Preceding Lynn in death was his wife Gladys who died December 22, 1986 after 58 years of marriage. Survivors include one daughter, Patricia Sue Cantrell of Woodland Hills, California, several nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

(September 8, 1988)

**CANTRELL, RAY**--Ray Cantrell, member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, was laid to rest Monday, September 5, 1988 in Little Creek Cemetery with full military honors. Cantrell, born May 31, 1919 near Duncan, died September 2, 1988 in Harry Truman VA Hospital, Columbia, Missouri. In services at Wood Funeral Home, the Rev. Rex Childress, Pastor of Little Creek Baptist Church was the officiating minister; the Rev. Ernie Wotring, pastor of Hartville First Baptist Church gave the benediction; and John Stull, CDR, USN (Ret.) delivered the eulogy. In his remarks, Stull, who is commander of VFW Post 3135 in Hartville, reminded the large group of family and friends of Ray Cantrell's outstanding World War II record during his service in the U.S. Navy. Cantrell was one of 11 survivors of 82 crew members of the U.S.S. Navaho when it was torpedoed by the Japanese. Although the Nave gave Cantrell the option of shore duty after this disaster, the young sailor opted for more hazardous duty at sea. He was then assigned to a minesweeper also in the South Pacific and very soon thereafter that ship was severely damaged by depth charge explosions and Cantrell received serious injuries. "There is not much one can do by way embellishment in telling of a man who was blown up on one ship, injured, and then went back into harm's way on his own volition," Stull said. "That is Ray Cantrell's record. Ray went 'way beyond the call of duty. He served honorably and well, and by permitting a flag to be draped over the casket, our country acknowledges a debt to this man." After his discharge, as a result of his injuries, Ray Cantrell, was employed by the Santa Fe Transportation Company in Wichita. He subsequently retired to a farm in his cherished Ozarks near Hartville. Ray Cantrell is survived by his beloved wife Rose, devoted children and grandchildren and a wide circle of family and friends. It was one of his last requests that his comrades in the Veterans of Foreign Wars conduct his final services. The graveside services of color bearers, color guards and riflemen who fired the saluting volley were VFW members. Taps concluded the graveside services.

(January 7, 1988)

**CHRISTY, VINTA RUTH SIKES**--Vinita Ruth Sikes was born near Mansfield, Missouri on April 11, 1917, to Emmons Sikes and Olive Deckard. She was the eldest of six children and spent her youth in the Hartville area. She was always a great help to her parents as a willing worker in the country stores they operated in Odin, Tharpe and Jerico. Ruth graduated from Hartville High School in 1935 after completing her requirements in only three years. She attended college in Springfield and then worked for Senator Searcy in Jefferson City. She was united in marriage to George Freeman J. of Mansfield on July 30, 1938. He passed away in the spring of 1939. Ruth was always very dear to Jr's parents, George and Vern Freeman of Mansfield. After Jr's death, Ruth worked in Springfield at Great Southern S & L Association and then in St. Louis as a

private secretary at Knapp Monarch Electric Co. On June 15, 1941 Ruth was married to Robert H Christy of Cowden, Illinois and to this union three daughters were born Roberta Leigh, Marsha Ann and Joella Ruth. Robert Christy died on May 1, 1980. Ruth's hobbies, interests and talents were many. She loved the outdoors, especially golfing and swimming. She was a beautiful seamstress and made clothes for herself and her young daughters. One of her favorite hobbies was entering contests. She would write clever sayings or jingles as she called them, to be used for commercials. She won many of these contests and Roberta and Marsha remember their first TV, which Ruth won in the early '50s. During her life, Ruth lived in many different locations such as California, Iowa, South Dakota, Texas and Minnesota. She spent the last seven years of her life at the Oak Terrace Nursing Home, Minnetonka, Minnesota. She had been in fair health until November, when she was hospitalized several times for chronic lung and heart ailments. She passed away peacefully on December 19, 1987. Ruth was converted and baptized at an early age and remained faithful. She was preceded in death by her parents, two husbands and one brother, Bill. She is survived by three daughters Roberta Reitsma, McPherson, Kansas, Marsha Spykerman, Sanborn, Iowa and Joella Stratton, Winona, Minnesota; a sister Ruby Henderson, Hartville; three brothers Gene and Walter Sikes, both of Brighton and Jack Sikes, Belton; eight grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends.

(June 23, 1988)

**CLAXTON, HETTY GRAVEN**--Hetty Graven Claxton, daughter of Charles and Cordelia Shelby Graven, was born November 25, 1898 in Wright County, Missouri and departed from this life June 11, 1988 at Mercy Hospital, Mansfield at the age of 89 years, 6 months and 16 days. Services were held at 2 PM, Tuesday, June 14 at the United Methodist Church in Hartville with the Rev. Jonathan Cooney officiating. Burial was in Steele Memorial Cemetery under direction of Wood Funeral Home. Hetty attended and graduated from Lone Star School, then attended Springfield Norman (SMS), obtaining a teaching certificate. She taught in the rural schools in the Manes area. She was united in marriage to Howard Noah Claxton August 1919. To this union were born two sons. Hetty and Howard spent their entire married life in Hartville, where they both were very active in the United Methodist Church, various retail businesses, the community and many organizations; United Methodist Women, Rebekah Lodge, American Legion and Auxiliary, Chamber of Commerce, Ridge Club, 20th Century and Garden Club. Hetty, as was Howard, was the longest-time member of the United Methodist Church at the time of her death. She is preceded in death by one son Charles Graven Claxton, a WWII Bomber Pilot; her husband in 1977; and her sister Ada in 1987. Hetty was the last member of a family of three boys and three girls. The love she gave and expressed in the community has been returned by many here today. She is survived by one son William M Claxton of Hollywood, Florida; four grandchildren John, Jennifer, Mark and Charles; and two great grandchildren Eric and Kelley.

(May 12, 1988)

**CLAXTON, JAMES KENT**--James Kent Claxton, son of Woodrow and Anna Belle Claxton, was born October 11, 1956. His early years were spent in Mountain Grove. He graduated from Mountain Grove High School in 1975. He went on to school at Arkansas

State University, Jonesboro, Arkansas, securing a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism. He was united in marriage to Kathy Lynn Keith, August 15, 1976. They made their home in Arkansas for six years and then moved to the family farm in northern Wright County. They have two sons Jason 10 years old and Jared two years old. Kent operated a dairy farm until 1987. He then returned to college to work on a graduate degree in chemical engineering. Kent was a member of the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church. He was in an automobile accident in Springfield, Missouri on May 2, 1988. He was taken to St. John's Hospital where he died soon thereafter. He was 31 years, 6 months and 21 days of age. He will be buried at Claxton Cemetery, near his home. He is survived by his wife Kathy; two sons Jason and Jared; his mother Anna Belle Claxton of Mountain Grove; and many relatives and friends.

(May 12, 1988)

**CLIMER, CLYDE DALE**--Clyde Dale Climer, 47, Springfield, died at 9:18 AM, Sunday in Cox Medical Center North after a short illness. Mr. Climer had lived in Springfield since 1952 and was a member of West Port Assembly of God Church. Survivors include his wife Bonnie; a son Mike, of the home; a daughter Michelle, of the home; five brothers Bert and Floyd, both of Springfield, Don, Mason City, Iowa and Bobby and Kenny, both of Mansfield; five sisters Shirley Garrison, Springfield, Nadeen Klingensmith, Humboldt, Kansas, Ilene Pearman, Hartville and Pauline Keith and Darlene Hatcher, both of Mansfield. Services will be at 10:30 AM, Wednesday in Ayre-Goodwind Chapel with the Revs. John Hembree and E I Moore officiating. Burial in White Chapel Cemetery.

(August 4, 1988)

**CODAY, CHESTER LEE**--Chester Lee Coday was born October 10, 1903 in Mansfield, Wright County, Missouri, the son of Eli and Cora Ivy Coday. He departed from this life July 19, 1988 at the age of 84 years, eight months and nine days. He was married to Susie Edwards on October 11, 1924. To this union were born four children, a daughter Bonnie Lee preceded him in death. Survivors include his wife Susie; one son Bill of Mansfield; two daughters Virginia Hefner of Springfield and Evelyn Williams of Norwood; eight grandchildren; fourteen great-grandchildren; two sisters, Ila Latimer of Mansfield and Gladys Fasci of Kansas City, Missouri, plus a host of relatives and friends.

(September 8, 1988)

**COFFMAN, ETHEL**--Services for Ethel Coffman, 81, Norwood, were at 2 PM, Tuesday in Craig-Hurtt-Bradley Chapel, Mountain Grove. Burial was in Denlow Cemetery. Mrs. Coffman died Saturday morning in Mercy Hospital, Mansfield, following a short illness.

(May 12, 1988)

**COFFMAN, VESS**--Services for Vess Coffman, Norwood were at 2 PM, Friday in the Craig-Hurtt-Bradley Funeral Home. Burial was in Denlow Cemetery. Mr. Coffman, a retired farmer, died Tuesday May 3, in Cox Medical Center South, Springfield, after a long illness.

(May 12, 1988)

**COLE, FLOYD LEON**--Funeral services for Floyd Leon Cole were held at 1:30 PM, Saturday, May 7, 1988 in the Craig-Hurtt-Bradley Funeral Chapel with Reverend Bill Travic officiating. Interment was in the Thomas Cemetery. Floyd Leon Cole, son of the late Charles and Allie Mae (Dennis) Cole, was born August 3, 1912 in Wright County Missouri and departed this life May 4, 1988 in the Cox North Hospital, Springfield, Missouri, following an extended illness. He was 75 years, 9 months and 1 day of age. Floyd grew up in Norwood and married Edna Cleo Thompson on January 29, 1935. Seven children were born to this union. Floyd farmed most of his life and enjoyed his life as a woodsman. He was considered an accomplished trapper and fur trader and was called upon by the U.S. Government from time to time assisting them in thinning out the coyote population. Floyd also enjoyed hunting and fishing. He was a member of the Fairview Missionary Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by one son Dale; one brother Bill; and three sisters Beulah Clemons, Alba Richardson and Zelphia Cole. Survivors include his wife Cleo, of their home; three sons Neil and his wife Sue, West Plains, Missouri, Jerry and his wife Terry; Joe and his wife Kay, all of Norwood; Dale's wife Juanita, Seymour, Missouri; three daughters Norma Tyrrell, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Verla Cole, Oslo, Norway and Sally O'Neill and her husband Tim, Omaha, Nebraska; a brother Leonard, Wichita, Kansas; two sisters Alma Anderson, California and Flossie Cramer, Norwood; 15 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; many other relatives and friends. Floyd was proud of his family and will be sadly missed by them and his many friends.

(November 10, 1988)

**COOMBES, MARVIN J**--Marvin J "Jim" Coombes, 40, of Blue Springs, passed away Friday, November 4, in St. Mary's Hospital following a sudden illness. He was owner and operator of J C Printing. Survivors include his wife Linda; a son Raymond J of the home; his parents Bob and Vi Woods, Ava; three sisters and two brothers-in-law Pat and Ron Durham, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, Sonya and Larry Hesterly, Mansfield, Brenda Coombes, Springfield; two nieces and five nephews. Services were at 1 PM, Monday in First Baptist Church, Mansfield. Burial was in Ava Cemetery under the direction of Clinkingbeard Funeral Home, Ava, and with the Rev. Dick Bishop officiating.

(May 26, 1988)

**CRAVENS, GEORGE E**--George E Cravens, 66, Springfield, died Thursday afternoon in his home after suffering an apparent heart attack. A member of South Haven Baptist Church, he was a retired welder in the Navy Yard. Survivors include six brothers Wilbur and Robert, Mansfield, Vernon, Argyle, Iowa, Frits, Independence, Iowa, Marvin, Mountain Grove, Ellis, Hartville; three sisters Ruby Floyd, Hartville, Eula Sulser, Columbus, Georgia, Ruth Bills, Willard; several nieces and nephews. Services were at 2 PM, Saturday, May 21 in Bergman-Miller Chapel in Mansfield with the Rev. Jesse Cunningham officiating. Burial was in Steele Memorial Cemetery in Hartville.

(April 15, 1988)

**CRAVENS, LUTHER**--Rev. Luther Cravens, 80, Route 1, Mansfield, died at 9:48 PM, Wednesday, April 6 in Mercy Hospital after a long illness. He was a retired minister and

member of Mansfield Church of the Nazarene. Survivors include a son Donald, Tyler, Texas; three daughters Esta Lee Turner, Diamond, Kay Cravens, Arlington, Texas and Sue Green, Tulsa, Oklahoma; three sisters Ruby Floyd, Hartville, Eula Sulser, Columbus, Georgia and Ruth Bills, Willard; seven brothers Wilbur and Robert, both of Mansfield, George, Springfield, Vernon, Argyle, Iowa, Fritz, Independence, Iowa, Marvin, Mountain Grove and Ellis, Hartville; nine grandchildren; four step grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and 16 step great-grandchildren. Services were at 1:30 PM, Saturday in the Mansfield Church of the Nazarene with the Revs. Dean Baldwin, Paul Buchanan and Tom Daniels officiating. Burial was in Steele Memorial Cemetery, Hartville, under the direction of Bergman-Miller Funeral Home of Mansfield.

(September 8, 1988)

**CRISP, HAZEL**--Hazel Crisp, 63, Hartville, died at 8:10 PM, Tuesday in Missouri Rehabilitation Center, Mount Vernon, after a long illness. A member of Athenian Club, she and her late husband, Lester Crisp, operated businesses in Hartville from 1948 until his death in 1977. She is survived by three sons Donald, Austin, Texas, Larry, Hartville and Douglas, Mansfield; a daughter Beverly Lynch, Mansfield; eight grandchildren; and two brothers Leo and Carl Prock, both of Mountain Grove. Services were at 2 PM, Friday in Wood Chapel with the Rev. Ernie Wotring officiating. Burial was in Steele Cemetery.

(July 14, 1988)

**DAVIS, MURREL**--Murrel Davis, 83, died at his home in Pe Ell, Washington, June 30. He was born August 6, 1904 in Hartville, Missouri and was the son of Ben and Marzetta Davis. Services were held July 2 at Doty Assembly of God Church with interment at Doty-Dryad Cemetery. Survivors include his wife Sadie, of the home; a daughter Wanda Roase, Brawley, California; a sister Blanche Carter, San Antonio, Texas; a granddaughter MaryLou McGlaughlin and three great-grandchildren.

(January 14, 1988)

**DAVIS, PANSY M**--Services for Pansy M Davis, 69, Hartville, were at 11 AM, Saturday, January 9, in Hartville Freewill Baptist Church. Burial was in Steele Memorial Cemetery under the direction of Wood Funeral Home. Mrs. Davis, a homemaker, died Sunday in Palm Springs, California. Survivors include son David; three sisters Bertha Gregory and Lillie Long, Hartville, Cora Dixon, Medena, California; and one brother Floyd Owens, Norwood.

(January 7, 1988)

**DELCOUR, DAPHNE LYNNE**--Services for Daphne Lynne Delcour, six-month old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Delcour, Hartville, were at 11 AM, Wednesday, January 6, in Hartville Assembly of God Church. Burial was in New Home Cemetery under the direction of Wood Funeral Home. Daphne died at 5:18 PM, Sunday in Cox Medical Center South, Springfield, after a long illness.

(December 15, 1988)

**DENNIS, ELMER R**--A former Mansfield resident, Elmer R Dennis of Kisse Mills,

Missouri has died of a heart attack. Elmer had enjoyed the last few years of retirement fishing, visiting with friends, and above all, the companionship of his family. Survivors include his wife for 49 years, Mae Dennis, a son and wife Darryl and Willa, two grandchildren, Cameron and Darcia Dennis, all of Kisse Mill. Also a sister Geneva Dewey of Leawood, Kansas, several nieces and nephews and many friends. Elmer was the son of Fred and Ella Dennis. He spent several years in the Mansfield area. Funeral services were November 18 at the Kisse Mortuary in Forsythe, Missouri. The final resting place was the Ozarks Memorial Park Cemetery in Branson, Missouri.

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