Developer, director of Camp Caraway dies

By BETH TATUM

Rev. Bill Jackson, developer and former director of Camp Caraway, died Wednesday morning, April 6 at age 77.

Rev. John Rogers, pastor of First Baptist Church where Jackson served as a deacon, Sunday school teacher and active committee person, described him as a man of vision, caring and tremendous faith.

"He's been a great man," he said. "His faith has been very real. He will be dearly missed by our congregation."

Jackson served the church throughout his life—he was State Royal Ambassador Secretary from 1946-1964; director of Camp Caraway Camp and Conference Center Manager 1968-89; and supervised the construction of Camp Caraway, Camp Mundo Vista and the Caraway Conference Center.

He assisted with camp and conference center planning for numerous areas: the Kansas Baptist Convention, the West Virginia Baptist Convention, Virginia Baptists Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) Campus, Newport News Virginia Associational Camp, Metropolitan Baptist Association Camp in New York, Tampa Bay Baptist Associational Camp in Tampa and several associational camps in North Carolina.

Yet he probably didn't know how great his impact truly was, said neighbor Jan Monroe.

"He touched many, many young people like ripples on the water," she said.

Peggy Killian, another neighbor, also noted his work had lasting impact.

"Through his work, Camp Caraway and Camp Mundo Vista led lots of people to Christ," she said. "That was the focus of his life."

When Jackson first came to build Camp Caraway, he was also—at the same time—building his house across the street from the Monroes.

He would be working late in the afternoon when Monroe would send one of her sons over to invite him to dinner. He would always stop what he was doing and come over and eat, she said.

Through the years, she had an opportunity to watch Jackson at work. He was a true carpenter, she said.

Killian agreed. Jackson drew the designs for all the buildings for Camp Caraway and added the entire upstairs to their house.

They both noted Jackson loved his Dalmatians.

Rogers remembers another aspect of Jackson. "He was a great storyteller," he said. "He had a story for every occasion."

He was also faithful. Since 1965, he taught an adult Sunday school class at church without fail. Since 1966, he left home an extra hour early to teach Sunday school at Asheboro Fire Station No. 1.

"He was one fine fella," said Ray Davis, a firefighter with the department for 24 years. "He came up here all these Sundays. He's been a real friend to the firemen."

Jackson was the kind of person who was always thinking of others, Monroe said.

"He was always there," she said. "He was an exceptional man."

"He lived every single day for the day. He knew the Lord was going to take care of him. There is no doubt in my mind where Bill Jackson is. That's a very special thing."

This article first appeared with (Asheboro) Courier-Tribune. Rev. Jackson was formerly a pastor in Granville County.
The Rev. Burnice William "Bill" Jackson, 77, of 910 Oakmont Drive, Asheboro, died Wednesday, April 8, 1998, at Kate B. Reynolds Hospice Home in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County.

Memorial service was April 13 at First Baptist Church in Asheboro, where he was a member.

He was a native of Oxford, graduated in 1939 from Stem High School, 1943 from Wake Forest University and 1946 from Southern Seminary. He retired from North Carolina Baptist State Convention in 1989 after 43 years of service, served as State Royal Ambassador Secretary, Director of Camp Caraway for the North Carolina Brotherhood and was Caraway Camp and Conference Center Manager. He supervised the construction of Camp Caraway, Camp Mundo Vista and the Caraway Conference Center and assisted with camp and conference planning in several association camps in North Carolina, for the Baptist Mission Board in Brazil and Honduras and the J.J. Johnson Assembly for the N.C. General Baptist Convention.

He served as the vice president and president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Camp Manager's Association.

He was a deacon, Sunday School teacher and active committee person at his church and he taught a Sunday School class at the Asheboro Fire Department.

Surviving are wife, Ruth Eller Jackson of Asheboro; son, W. Craig Jackson of Advance; daughter, Sybil Jackson Samaha of Tampa, Fla.; sister, Ruby Jackson Brewer of Providence; brothers, L.J. Jackson of Providence, Hubert Jackson of Oxford; six grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Caraway Camp and Conference Center, P.O. Box 36, Asheboro, 27203, or Camp Mundo Vista Building Fund, WMU Director of Development, Baptist Building, P.O. Box 1107, Cary, 27512-1107, or First Baptist Church Building Fund, 133 N. Church St., Asheboro, 27203, or Hospice of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County, Inc., 1100-C S. Stratford Road, Winston-Salem, 27103-3217, or Center of Living Home Health and Hospice, 416 Vision Drive, Asheboro,
The Rev. Burnice William "Bill" Jackson, 77, of 910 Oakmont Dr., Asheboro, died Wednesday, April 8, 1998 at the Kate B. Reynolds Hospice Home of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County.

A native of Oxford, he was the son of the late Graham Royster Jackson and Addie Arrington Jackson.

A graduate of Stem High School, Wake Forest University and Southern Seminary, he retired from the Southern Baptist State Convention in 1989.

He served as Royal Ambassador Secretary, Director of Camp Caraway and Caraway Camp and Conference Center manager. He was a member, deacon and active committee person of First Baptist Church, Asheboro.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth Eller Jackson of Asheboro; one son, W. Craig Jackson of Advance and Sybil J. Samaha of Tampa, Fla.; one sister, Ruby J. Brewer of Providence; two brothers, L.J. Jackson of Providence and Hubert Jackson of Oxford; and six grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held Monday at 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Asheboro. The family will receive visitors immediately following the service.

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Founder of Camp Caraway dies at 77

By Beth Tatum
Staff Writer, The Courier-Tribune

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