

Mrs. Mattie Lou Huntley Horne

Mrs. Mattie Lou Huntley Horne, 100, died on Sunday, January 6, 2019. She attributed her longevity to the fact that she was a country girl.

A graveside memorial service will be held for Mattie Lou and Bill on Saturday, January 19, 2019, at 1:30 p.m. in the Peachland Cemetery with Pastor Charles L. Cauthen officiating. Mattie Lou loved flowers, and gifts of flowers for the gravesite are appreciated.



Mattie Lou was born October 9, 1918, on her parents' farm in the township of White Store in Anson County, NC. She was the third of five children born to L Huntley, Sr., and Margaret Eulalia Faulkner Huntley. Mattie Lou attended school in Peachland, NC, graduating from Peachland High School in 1935. After high school she remained on her parents' farm helping her mother manage the household, raising turkeys alongside her sister Dot, and quilting and sewing.

In February of 1947 Mattie Lou married her high school sweetheart, William Carey "Bill" Horne. They were married until Bill's death in November of 2009. Mattie Lou and Bill farmed together from the time they married until they retired. For many years after they retired from active farming they continued to grow a large vegetable garden that provided food for themselves as well as family and friends.

Mattie Lou and Bill loved to travel to the western part of the United States, particularly to Arizona. They made many lifelong friends camping on the desert at Quartzsite.

Mattie Lou was a longtime member of Peachland Baptist Church where she taught Sunday school for many years.

Over her long life Mattie Lou had many hobbies and interests. She loved growing all kinds of plants, especially bearded irises. She was a cake baker, baking and decorating birthday and wedding cakes. Mattie Lou also enjoyed researching the genealogy of both her family and Bill's family and would share her knowledge with anyone who was interested.

In addition to her parents, L and Eula, and husband Bill, Mattie Lou was preceded in death by her brothers, L Huntley, Jr. and John William "Bub" Huntley, her sisters, Dorothy M. "Dot" Huntley and Mary Anna Huntley Vinson Boger, and her nephew Roman Bobby Huntley.

Mattie Lou is survived by her nieces, Carol Huntley Ephraim of North Wilkesboro, NC, Judith Huntley "Judy" Tarleton and husband Larry W. Tarleton of Charleston, SC, Dorothy Vinson "Dottie" Ross and husband Owen B. Ross of Charlotte, NC, and Debora Vinson "Debbie" Winchester and husband Michael L. "Wink" Winchester of Monroe, NC. She is also survived by her great-nephews L Huntley, Joe Huntley and Huntley Tarleton; and her great-niece Laurie Tarleton and their families.

In Bill's family Mattie Lou is survived by her sister-in-law Emma Horne Wiesel and husband Norman K. Wiesel of Raleigh, NC, and the many members of the extended Horne family.

The arrangements are in care of Leavitt Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at www.leavittfh.com.



Remembering.....
By Ed McBride



XCEL Hermetic Motor Rewinding

I did the above sign for XCEL in 1995.

Was talking to Cecil and Brenda Meachum the other day and, of course, "motors" came into the conversation - not any particular one or size. But, then the conversation came to a halt!

Cecil told me about the "giant" motor that had been received into his shop from the Exxon refinery at Baton Rouge, Louisiana for rebuilding. This motor, which weighed 15,000 pounds and took up most all the shop space, was originally built in 1970. It required a special crane to unload, service and load again.

It is something - XCEL rebuilds motors from so many places, like Seattle, Portland, all

over Texas, Hawaii, and the list goes on. In fact, they have just returned one of several repaired units to Fargo, North Dakota, and they also serviced motors for the Pentagon (Federal Building). Some time ago they did three motors from "Y12" in Oakridge, Tennessee that were used to air-cool the plant where the bombs were made that were dropped over Hiroshima, Japan.

Like so many motors that are sent to XCEL for rebuilding - it reminds us again and again that the good people here in "Po'ole" Anson County have so much to offer, and are doing just that. You remember the song "Taking

Care of Business" - well!!!

Thanks Tony, Jodi, Brenda and, of course, Cecil!!! Ed

Closing the Book on 2018

From AnsonEDP Director John Marek: As the book is closed, 2018 will likely be seen as a pivotal year in the developing success story of Anson County. From the much-anticipated opening of the Monroe Expressway to historically low unemployment to several nice recruiting and expansion wins, the county arguably saw its best year for economic development in recent memory.

The big recruiting wins were Catawba Biogas, an alternative energy company that is building a natural gas plant near the Pee Dee Electric facility east of Lilesville, and Four Branches Sporting Clays, an outdoor recreation venue which is nearing completion in Polkton. Catawba's investment of \$15 million is one of the largest announced in the county in the last decade, while the two projects together will create 25 new jobs for Anson County residents.

Several expansion projects also contributed to the job and investment totals. AMI Machining, Southern Fabricators, Oldcastle and Columbus McKinnon combined to create 76 jobs and \$15 million in new investment. And, while we do not technically consider it an expansion, the new Bojangles is a significant upgrade that is sure to attract more pass-through visitors and add to the county's sales tax revenues.

On the downside, AnsonEDP's Existing Industry Coordinator Megan Sellers leveraged that wave of successful expansion projects into a position with North Carolina's Southeast, the 18-county regional economic development organization to which Anson belongs. While I am sorry to see Megan go, this is a tremendous opportunity for her, and I look forward to working together on future recruiting projects in her new capacity as Project Marketing Manager.

Personally, I have always considered unemployment rates a suspect way to gage local economic development efforts, as they are influenced so significantly by regional and national trends. I liken it to a kayaker on the ocean; if you are paddling with the tide you can create tremendous momentum, but against the tide you can paddle twice as hard and make half the progress. That said, the unemployment rate in Anson County fell below 5% for most of the year and reached a low of 4.1% in October, the lowest rate since a 3.9% posting in April 2000, and the first time the county has reported more than three consecutive months below 5% since the Reagan administration.

Finally, as Anson County continues to refine its economic marketing message, more and more people are taking notice. The Charlotte Business Journal ran half a dozen feature stories about the county and our economic development successes last year, with several additional mentions in articles about the Charlotte region. That is a significant achievement in itself for a county that has traditionally had difficulty spreading the word beyond its borders. Every article, every mention, every ribbon-cutting photo puts us front and center in the race for mindshare among the decision-makers in Charlotte, in Raleigh and across the country.

So, what is in store for 2019?

The good news is that several major projects are teed up for 2019, including a winery, a potential rail logistics expansion and the possible reuse of a long-vacant industrial building. The 100-acre Westview site on US Highway 74 has also been getting a lot of interest lately, and there is a good chance we will see a project land there in the next few months.

The infrastructure improvements at the Wadesboro Industrial Park should also be completed during the next year making it more attractive to the food and beverage companies we are trying to bring there. The park will also be the site of AnsonEDP's first speculative shell building, which we hope to break ground on before the end of the year.

In Wadesboro, AnsonEDP is looking to partner with a private-sector investor to open a permanent co-working/incubator space in the Uptown. This space, which will cater to entrepreneurs, small business people, independent contractors and the gig economy, will be a major step in transforming Wadesboro into a more inviting place for the young professionals and knowledge workers that we are losing to our more urbanized neighbors.

In Peachland/Polkton we continue to talk with retail, commercial and residential developers about opportunities the Monroe Expressway opens for the the western end of the county, but as previously noted, the failure of the alcohol referendum in November has likely put the brakes on that ... for now.

I am currently working a couple of potential expansion projects near Ansonville and am in the process of developing a more comprehensive growth plan for that part of the county, including the possible creation of a multi-county Norwood/Ansonville/Mt. Gilead "industrial triangle."

Although the Atlantic Gateway logistics park development just east of Lilesville will not take shape until 2020-21, I am working on the preliminary planning and will be submitting grant requests for infrastructure improvements in late 2019. This park, which will straddle US Highway 74, could one day encompass more than 3 million square feet of warehouse and light industrial space just a few miles from the I-73/74 interchange and 2 Interstate hours from the Port of Wilmington.

I am also working on a comprehensive growth plan for the Morven/McFarland area based on its recent success as a hub for alternative energy projects and its potential for agriculture/food/beverage-related industry.

2019 is sure to be a year of exciting new announcements, innovative new initiatives, and yes, a disappointment or two. I invite you to follow all the action on the AnsonEDP.com website, our AnsonEDP Facebook page and @AnsonEDP on Twitter.



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