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Mr. James Everett Dennis

Mr. James Everett Dennis, 86, died Saturday, January 30, 2016, at his home in the Burnsville Community.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, February 2, 2016, in the Chapel of Leavitt Funeral Home with Rev. Rex Burleson and Rev. Mark Swaringen officiating. Interment followed in Olivet United Methodist Church Cemetery in Lilesville.

Everett was born June 16, 1929, in Anson County, a son of the late Harrison Richard "H.R." Dennis and the late Pearl Estelle Rorie Dennis. He and his wife owned and operated Dennis Food Mart in the Burnsville Community for 30 years, and he was also a farmer. He was a member of Olivet United Methodist Church.

Surviving are his children, Julia Dennis Poplin (Louis) of Norwood, Walter Dennis (Mary Anne) of Allen, TX, Leslie Dennis (Melissa) of Polkton, Frank Dennis of McDonough, GA and Connie Dennis Russell (Neal) of Marshville; 12 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; his brothers and sisters, Harding Dennis, Martha Goodwin and Wilma Dennis, all of Lilesville, H. A. Dennis of Wadesboro and Lindbergh Dennis of LaFayette, TN and their families.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife Barbara Redmon Dennis, granddaughter, Autumn Dennis and brother, Julian Dennis.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Hospice of Stanly County, 960 N. First St., Albemarle, NC 28001.

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

Obituaries

Mrs. Kathleen (Kay) Estridge Deskin

Mrs. Kathleen (Kay) Estridge Deskin of Carson City, Nevada died on January 13, 2016.

A celebration of life event will take place at a later date.

Kay was born in Albemarle, NC on September 16, 1938, to her parents, Kathleen Hendley and Livingston Bowman Estridge. As a small child she grew up playing with her four siblings in her grandparents' hometown of Ansonville. She graduated from Ansonville High School and went on to study at Appalachian State University in Boone, where she fulfilled her lifelong dream of becoming a teacher.

Kay taught school for seven years in the North Carolina school system before coming west to join her sister and brother-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. Keith Cornforth of Minden, Nevada. She eventually made Carson City her home and began her Nevada teaching career at Fritsch School before moving on to teach fifth grade at Grace Bordewich. Kay was a dedicated teacher devoted to her profession for 30 years.

Kay married her husband and fellow teacher Tom Deskin in 1974. Kay and Tom had one daughter. Kay is remembered as a loving wife and mother and an adoring grandmother.

Kay is survived by her daughter, Michele Holtz; grandchildren, Ashley Deskin and Emily Holtz, of Reno, Nevada; sisters, Martha Cornforth (Keith) of Minden and Judy Allen of Myrtle Beach, SC, as well as her brother John Estridge (Sandra) of Naples, Florida; ten nieces and nephews; and six great nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father, Livingston Bowman Estridge of Lexington, NC, her mother, Kathleen Hendley Estridge and brother Joe Estridge of Ansonville, as well as her husband, Tom Deskin of Carson City.

Kay will be missed by her family, friends and neighbors.

Miss Audrey June Downer

Miss Audrey June Downer, 75, died Tuesday, January 26, 2016, at Carolinas Medical Center Union in Monroe.

Services were held on Friday, January 29, 2016, by the graveside in Anson Memorial Park.

Audrey was born June 14, 1940, in Anson County, a daughter of the late Phillip Edward Downer and the late Annie Bailey Downer. She was a graduate of Lilesville High School class of 1958, and was retired from West Knitting Mills.

Surviving are her brother and sister-in-law, Robert "Bob" and Carolyn Downer of Lilesville; her sister and brother-in-law, Sandra and Rufus Freeman of Williamsport, MD; her nieces and nephews and their families; and a special family friend, James Drye of Wadesboro.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her long-time friend and companion, L. P. Brooks, brother Phillip Downer, Jr. and sister Shirley Coley.

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

Mrs. Rilla Ann Townsend Huntley

Mrs. Rilla Ann Townsend Huntley, 93, was welcomed home by her Lord and Savior on Wednesday, January 27, 2016, after being a resident at Anson Health and Rehabilitation since November 2015.

There will be a service of worship celebrating her life at 11 a.m. on Saturday, February 6, 2016, at First Baptist Church, Wadesboro with Dr. Fred Senter officiating. A private inurnment will be in Eastview Cemetery.

The family will greet friends from 5 until 7 p.m. on Friday, February 5, 2016, at Leavitt Funeral Home.

Rilla was born May 7, 1922, in Coffeyville, KS, the daughter of the late Dr. Pinkney Shannon Townsend and the late Grace Rilla Patterson Townsend.

During her high school days in Coffeyville she was featured as the singer on a weekly radio show. She enjoyed time spent watching the local high school and college students rehearse for plays at their home, as her mother directed the plays. It was then that Rilla realized she was too shy to go on stage herself, and this affected her dream of being in the

chorus line at Radio City Musical Hall; never the star, but always in the ensemble. After attending William Woods College in Fulton, MO, Rilla went on to graduate from Kansas University in 1943. Soon after returning home to Coffeyville she met Haywood Brill Huntley, a young Army Air Corps finance officer from Wadesboro who was stationed nearby. Both Rilla and Brill loved to share the story of how he first

caught her eye thanks to the bright new convertible he had acquired to use as he carried out his duties. They were married on July 23, 1944, and came to make their home in Wadesboro following World War II.

At first shy and overwhelmed by Brill's great

number of family and friends, along with the many new customs of southern living, Rilla quickly adapted and became a true Southern Belle. She became a member of First Baptist Church

OBITUARIES

Continued on page 5

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