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## **Obituaries**

Mrs. Martha Tice Carpenter

Mrs. Martha Tice Carpenter, 69, died Thursday, December 8, 2011, at Wake Forest Baptist Health Burn Center in Winston Salem, NC.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, December 13, 2011, at First Baptist Church, Wadesboro with Dr. Robert Hunter and Dr. Fred Senter officiating. Interment followed in Eastview Cemetery

Martha was born May 5, 1942, in Anson County, the only child of Hubert Hardison Tice and Mary Sellers Tice. She was a graduate of Wadesboro High School and attended both Pfeiffer and Wingate College and later South Piedmont Community College.

She was a life long member of First Baptist Church and was active with the Current Missions Morning Group. Her other community involvement included American Cancer Society, Anson County Arts Council, Anson Women's League,

Hospital Auxiliary and American Red Cross. Her hobbies included shag dancing, flea marketing, movies, reading, traveling and photography.

Martha worked with Anson County Schools at Wadesboro Elementary School for 22 years. Following her retirement she worked for various greeting card companies, keeping the cards stocked. She also worked with Promotional Advertisement with demonstrations at various stores in the area.

Surviving are her husband of 35 years, Ed Carpenter; her children, Charles Stephens, Jr. (Lisa) of Belews Creek, Taunya Stephens of Wadesboro and Sonya Owens (Tim) of Mooresville; her grandchildren, Randi Stephens, Brittnee Jeter of Charlotte and MaryAnna Jeter and Victoria Godfrey, both of Wadesboro; and six great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to First Baptist

Church, Beautification Committee, P.O. Box 423, Wadesboro, NC 28170 or to the Burn Center at Wake Forest Baptist Health, Medical Center Blvd., Winston-Salem, NC

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

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#### Marshall Bruney Media Consultants to End Services on December 31st

#### Online business magazine, the Anson Biz-zine, to cease publication

"We've had a good run," said Elbert Marshall, summing up the nine years in which Marshall Bruney Media Consultants (MBMC) offered their services in newspaper display advertisements and press releases, and website development

In addition, the Anson Biz-zine, the county's first stop for on-line business and economic news since January 2003, will cease publication as of Dec. 31, 2011.

"While Sandy and I were at the (Anson County) Chamber of Commerce, we decided to launch a consulting firm to assist local businesses, clubs and organization with publicity needs and earn a few extra dollars," Marshall recalled. "We were able to design brochures and fliers, write and edit newsletters, design ads for our clients to run in the local newspapers, and write press releases.'

In the early going, Marshall said, "Anson Community Hospital was our No. 1 client in our publicity efforts.

'We wrote countless press releases, including feature articles and news stories, designed six brochures that highlighted the Hospital's main departments and designed ads that ran each week in the newspapers," Bruney added

"We got to know the staffs at the Hospital and Lillie Bennett pretty good," Marshall said.

MBMC entered the cyberworld in 2002. Bruney learned her craft as a website designer through South Piedmont Community College and later earned her certification as a webmaster through the International Association of Web Masters and Designers. Her first website was a redesign of the Chamber of Commerce's www.ansoncounty.org website (at no charge to the Chamber since she was an employee at the time).

"Being former newspaper writers and editors, it was a natural transition to launch an online e-zine," Marshall said. 'We coined the name 'Anson Biz-zine' to fit the genre - a business magazine, or biz-zine.'

Ads were originally sold to Anson Bank & Trust, Anson Community Hospital, The Express Newspaper, Leavitt Funeral Home and Plank Road Realty; and, later on, Print Plus, Jay Wright Insurance and South Piedmont Community College.

"As newspaper editors, we were in new, uncharted territory," Marshall recalled. "We set up a 'Home Page' ad (called a 'signature' ad). If clicked, the web surfer would be taken to an 'Inside Page' that featured a larger, more informative client's ad plus the full article that had been plugged on the 'Home Page.'

"We later added articles from our North Carolina senator and representatives, and made space available to our U.S. congressional representatives," Bruney said. "The Anson County Cooperative Extension Center began submitting

articles of interest, so we added space for them. "Just like a printed newspaper, the Anson Biz-zine offered readers an "Archives" option to search for previously posted

articles or photographs," Marshall said. "Our first big website development project was with CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy)," Marshall said. "CEDS was a project initiated by Rep. Robin Hayes, which meant the website encompassed all of the counties in the 9th Congressional District. A lot of legwork was spent collecting data to be displayed for each county as a draw to

future economic development by new or re-locating

industries. "Next came the original Discover Anson project for ACTDA (Anson County Development Tourism Authority)," Bruney. "Board members wanted everything about Anson County on the site. When the website was launched at conference at the Lockhart-Taylor Center, I think most everyone was pleased with readily available information and how easy it was to navigate the site."

MBMC was contracted by the Anson County Technology Coalition (ACTC) to design and maintain a website devoted to spreading the word about Internet availability in Anson County. "In the beginning, high-speed broadband connections were sparse, but when Alltel (now Windstream) introduced DSL (digital subscriber line), at least 75 to 80 percent of the households, businesses and churches had high speed access to the Internet,' Marshall said. "I like to think that the ACTC website had a lot to do with that success.

MBMC continued its client relationships for printed materials, but devoted their efforts to designing and implementing low-cost websites for small businesses and organizations. "We also consulted with Hornwood on two projects and with Plank Road Realty on several projects," Marshall pointed out. Bruney next designed websites for the Town of Wadesboro (www.cityofwadesboro.org); the Healthy Ansonians Task (www.healthyansonians.org);

and Leavitt Funeral Home (in

anticipation of leaving the

website maintenance, the

Leavitt Funeral Home site was redirected to another webmaster and redesigned).

"At one time, we were maintaining 22 websites," Marshall said, "to include sites for Employment Security commission offices in Anson, Moore and Richmond counties." In all, MBMC designed 40 sites.

Marshall and his wife Carla moved to Concord in August -"To be closer to our almost three-year-old grandson. We spend more time taking him to the park, watching 'Wonder Pets,' working jigsaw puzzles and reading books," Marshall said. "I've also had time to do some preliminary work on a sequel to 'Plotz,' a mystery novel that Sandy and I published earlier this year," he said. 'Plotz' is available at Amazon; Barnes&Noble; or from the authors. "We used the pseudonym Marshall Bruney, which was appropriate since we were known locally as a consulting business," Marshall said. "I reckon we'll keep the moniker for the sequel, which is entitled 'Nomad.'

Meanwhile, Bruney has followed up the publication of her novel, 'Angels Unaware,' (available at Draumr Publishing as well as outlet stores such as Amazon and Barnes & Noble) with several ongoing solo projects. "I have two finished novels currently under submission to publishers and one nearly completed manuscript," Bruney said.

The co-authors will be presenters at the fourth annual Carolinas Writers Conference on Saturday, April 14, 2012 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center. Their topic is titled "Co-Writing Your Book Without Committing Homicide.'

"Time has passed swiftly since Sandy and I became business partners," Marshall said. "I want to thank the Chamber's board of directors for allowing us to start up a business above and beyond our real-job hours doing Chamber work. I think everything balanced out in the end

Marshall retired as the executive director of the Chamber in December 2005; Bruney retired as the Chamber's office manager in April 2006. "It's been challenging and exciting," Bruney said. "But all

things come to an end. It was time to make a choice between continuing **MBMC** developing my writing career. That means not just writing novels, but marketing them once they are published, something that has fallen more and more upon the author. I will miss all the people we worked with during the past nine years and I thank them for giving me the opportunity to serve

"We want to thank all of our clients - past and present for their support of Marshall Bruney Media Consultants, Marshall concluded. "We've made a lot of friends while in business and, I hope, provided a steppingstone to bigger and better endeavors for our businessworld clients.'

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