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PALMER & RELATED DEATHS IN 2011

Another year has rolled by but we want to pause and respectfully remember those who left us in 2011. Their passing has left a void in many hearts.

In the Palmer town limits, death claimed Don H. Simpson; Ronald "Booger" Hammers; Pauline Shrum Clifton; David Michael Layne, son of Scottie Layne; Robert "Bob" Rollins, husband of Lou Shrum White Rollins; and Gussie Magouirk Flynn, 93, a deeply devout woman who had read the Bible from cover to cover an amazing 124 times. Also Rosa Nell Sweeton Scissom passed away after being in a nursing home for several years.

Over in Barkers Cove-Tatesville, 99 year old Agnes Banks James died shortly before her 100th birthday. Others were Clara Layne Henry, widow of Red Henry; Jerry "Buck" Layne, son of Tucker Layne; Ralph Scott; Betty "Ovie" Keener Hillis Swindle.

Other deaths across Grundy County with Palmer connections were Dorothy Givens Knight, widow of Babe Knight; Doris Anne Layne Hood Abrahamson, daughter of the late Barney Layne; Howard Douglas "Doug" Gipson; Mary Coffelt Rhea; Misti Deon Sanders Sanders, granddaughter of the late Sham Sanders; Jimmy W. "Spoolie" Rollins; Sandy Garner Layne; Edna Roberts Meeks, sister of the late Louie and Pud Roberts; Sylvia Rae Cannon, sister of Shotgun Ganon; and John W. "Archie" Jones.

Former Palmer residenets are scattered across Tennessee and we lost Brian Keith "Rabbit" Floyd; Albert Lester "Snooks" Smith, son of Leck and Iva Smith; Mary Ellen Sissom Cagle Jordan, married once to Eston Cagle and the last survivor of her Sissom family which included her brother, Clyde Sissom. Also Carlene "Tootsie" Cannon Smith; Rev. James Roberts; Frances Jacks Henderson; Doris Brown Hargis, wife of Raymond Hargis ; Ruby Ethlene Shrum Gipson, daughter of the late Walson Shru; Wilma Rth Worly Frye, aunt of Shane Worle from the Grundy County Herald; Annie Lee Ellis Coursey, daughter of the late George Ellis; Lillie Inez Sanders Harrison, sister of R.B. and Buck Sanders; and Jocelyn Ann Johnson Nunley, daughter of the late Betty Johnson and niece of the late Vernon Johnson.

I imagine that just about anywhere you go across the United States you're likely to find someone with Palmer roots. June Britton Nolan was my classmate in the 1961 graduating class at Palmer School and passed away in Cleveland, Ohio where she and her husband, Tex Nolan lived for many years. Up in Elkhart, Indiana, Peggy Ruth Sissom Fults, daughter of the late Rev. Buford and Gladys Overturf Sissom, succumbed to a long term illness and down in Conyers, Georgia, Billie Evelyn Layne Curtis Morrison, daughter of the late Watson Layne, died just a week or two after moving to the home of her daughter.

To our knowledge, the following never lived in Palmer but were well known across the county. Monteagle lost Mike Cannon, son of the late Howard "Craig" Cannon of Palmer; Nina Ruth Miller Parks, a beloved teacher at Grundy County High School and elsewhere and widow of GCHS principal Fred Parks. Bettye Janice Ross Oliver, widow of Smoke House restaurant owner Jim Oliver, also passed away.

The county was shocked to hear of the unexpected death of Mr. Bryan Knight, a FNP (Family Nurse Practitioner) who operated a clinic in Altamont for several years. He lived in Warren County where he served as their school superintendent before his entry into the medical field.

Out in Tracy City, they lost Bud Werner, a descendent of the famous Werner Lumber Company family; Billy Joe "Bill" Cochran, who was a Deputy under the late Sheriff Billy Gene Reid; and well known store owner, Malcolm "Doolittle" Baker, Jr.

We extend our sincere sympathy to all of you who have lost loved ones and friends. In this new year of 2012, may you find peace and brighter days ahead.

KATHLEEN "KAT" SLATTON McHONE HALLMAN

We walk all over Palmer and surrounding areas for exercise and meet many interesting people.

Kat lived up on top of Palmer Mountain just a few feet over the county line in Marion County and every week or two we stopped and visited with her and enjoyed some good conversation and a coke and snack. She was a throwback to the old southern hospitality tradition that we don't see much of anymore. You felt welcomed in her home as she offered food and drink and were just as comfortable opening her refrigerator as you would your own.

Howard Lewis, 88, says he remembers when Kat's father, Fred Slatton, worked at the Palmer Big Mine when he did. "I thought the world of that woman," said Mike

McDaniel. Darwin Shipley says he would go to Kat's house when he was a kid. "She was a good person. Friendly, and never got upset with us kids".

Cancer claimed Kat just a few weeks after she was diagnosed at the age of 79 and her former husband, Bill Meltone, followed her in death just a month or so later. They were the parents of Edward Meltone and Patricia McHone ROgers of Palmer.

We all like to be around a person with a "good turn". Kat was the same old Kat anytime and anywhere you her and that's one of the best things you can say about any person. She would thank me for stopping by to visit, but she didn't have to, the pleasure was all mine.

Rest in peace, Kat. You will be missed by so many people but we know you were ready to meet your Maker and are in a better place.