

Monteagle Businessman Jim Oliver Passes At Age 69

Jim Oliver, age 69, of Monteagle, Tenn., died unexpectedly at his residence on Wednesday, May 16th.

He was born August 4, 1937, to Irene Allie Phipps Oliver and Robert Cheatum Oliver in Pelham, Tenn. He is survived by two sisters, Geneva Grace Patterson (Dillon) of Pelham, Tenn., and Joann Pace of Monteagle, Tenn.; two brothers, Robert Melvin (Gladys) Oliver of Monteagle, Tenn., and Bernard Cheatum (Lois) Oliver of Murfreesboro, Tenn., life partner, Gwendolyn Gipson of Monteagle, Tenn., three children, James David (Betty) Oliver of Monteagle, Tenn., Betsy Jane Oliver of Monteagle, Tenn., Nancy Lea Oliver of Monteagle, Tenn., former wife, Bettye Janice Ross Oliver of Monteagle, Tenn., two step-children, Kimberly Suzanne Gipson of Cartersville, Georgia, Beau Gary Gipson of Mon-



Photo Provided

teagle, Tenn., step-daughter, Shana Lea True, Chattanooga, Tenn., and beloved pet, Gizzie.

He was founder and president of Jim Oliver's Smoke House Restaurant, Lodge & Trading Post located in Monteagle, Tenn.

In 1960, he and his wife, Janice relocated from Cleveland, Ohio, to rent an existing business, The Beehive Drive-In. In 1963, Jim and his brother, Melvin

(See **JIM OLIVER** on page 5)

JIM OLIVER (continued from page 1)

pooled their resources and purchased the original Monteagle Diner at auction from Monteagle resident, Herman Sanders. After a successful ten year venture, in 1973, Jim and Melvin parted amicably, with Jim selling his interest of The Monteagle Diner to Melvin. By November of 1975, Jim completed construction on The Smoke House and opened for business. Utilizing his mother's recipes, Jim's country-themed restaurant soon became a regional favorite, and received nationwide recognition as one of the top 500 eating establishments in *1988 and again* in 1989. A series of renovations followed, including the construction of 5,500 sq. ft. of meeting facilities, 85 lodging rooms and 19 cabins,

campground, an on-site wine and spirits shop, wedding chapel, and real estate office. In 1998, The Smoke House Lodge was accepted as a member of the National Best Western franchise.

In addition to owning and operating a successful family-owned business, Jim devoted much of his time to helping others and in promoting the Mountain's natural assets. Beginning in 1978, Jim, along with close friend and retired General Motors National Management Consultant, Hank Landers, spear-headed the state's purchase of the then defunct Mountain Golf and Recreation Center, to be incorporated into the state parks system as the South Cumberland Recreation

Area Visitor's & Cultural Interpretation Center. Together, they were instrumental in saving Grundy Lakes and Coke Ovens from irreparable damage as a dumping site while restoring the area's historic and environmental integrity. Jim and Hank helped orchestrate the implementation of several civic programs for the people of Grundy County, including the Toddler's Club, Exceptional Citizens Center, Mountain Medical Center and the Mountain Community Services Corporation. They also worked tirelessly to secure Social Security and Veterans' benefits for numerous individuals and sponsored several people in drug rehabilitation programs.

A celebration of his

life will be held on Saturday May, 19, at 2 p.m., on the grounds of the Smoke House property. Graveside services will be held for family only at Monteagle Cemetery. A reception for family and friends will follow in the restaurant. Visitation for the public will be Thursday and Friday from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m., with family visitation beginning at 3 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the American Diabetes Association, the Appalachian Women's Guild, 492 Main St., Tracy City, Tenn., 37387, Mid-Cumberland Mountain Ministry, P.O. Box 706, Monteagle, Tenn., 37356 or charity of choice. Arrangements are by Foster & Lay Funeral Home of Tracy City.

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From: Janelle Taylor
To: Pat Berges; Anna & Katie Goforth; Angie Burnett; Ralph & Bonnie; John Campbell; Jerry Davenport; Oliver Jervis; Catherine Flury; Inez Winton; Tracy City Public Library; Linda Martin; Bobby & Janice Rogers; Russ Buchan; Lucille Scissom; Bob & Jane Douglas; Bettye Sherwood; Jackie Partin; Mary Campbell; Sue Scott; Sharon Bonner; LadyJane Hunter; Wanda Gant; J Denton; Phyllis Morgan; Brad Walker
Date: 1/24/2007 1:14:00 AM
Subject: Fults/Oliver connection

Kay Barrett is looking for information on Anna V. Oliver, daughter of Robert B. and Myrtle Meeks Oliver.

I see her listed in the 1900 census at age 6, reported to have been born August 1893 in TN as were both her parents.

In the 1910 census of Grundy County she is listed as Annie, age 17, and in the household is Jay Fults, age 21, a divorced boarder. In the 1920 census Jay and Anna (Annie) were married. He was 30 years old, she 25. By 1930 Jay Fults is a 39 year old widower living alone.

Anna was a sister to Arthur "Yock" Oliver, Minnie, Stanley, Asa (Ace), George W. & Cheatum Oliver.

Kay's questions are as follows:

Did Jay and Anna Oliver Fults have a daughter named Althea or any children at all?

Where is Anna Oliver Fults buried?

Would anyone possibly have a picture of Anna Oliver Fults?

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