



# *The CCHS Newsletter*

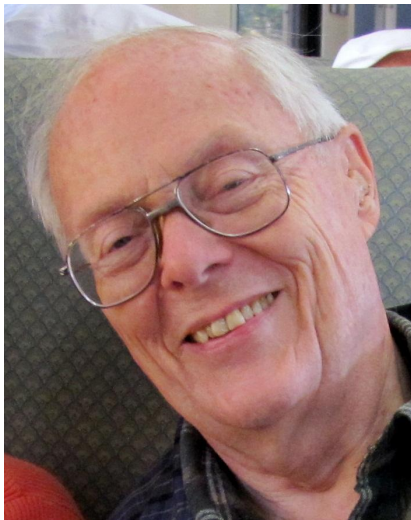
Carroll County Historical Society

P. O. Box 1308

Carrollton, GA 30112

SEPTEMBER 2012

## *Carroll County Historical Society's Meeting Thursday September 6th, 6:30 pm the Foster Room of the Neva Lomason Library*



**Ben Moon**

Ben Moon will present his history of Tanner Medical Center in words, sounds, and photos. He will share his years of research on Tanner and its impact on the community. See pictures like the one below at the 1949 dedication. Hear Roy Richards say "the first thing that impressed me about the hospital in Carrollton was that there wasn't one." You will enjoy learning how the present-day Tanner Medical Center developed during the last 60 years.

After receiving the B.S. in Industrial Management from Georgia Tech, Ben worked with NASA-Marshall Space Flight Center during the early years of the Saturn/moon landing project. He later edited the University of Florida's business magazine while earning his M.A. in Journalism. After serving as publications director and alumni editor at Georgia Tech, he joined Southwire in 1974

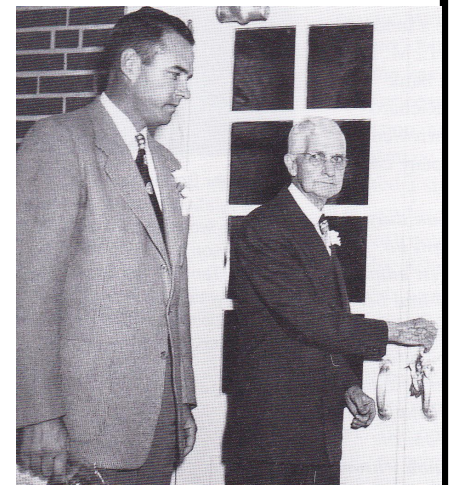
to form its Communications Department. He served Dow and various other companies as a field communications consultant for fifteen

years before joining NCR's Human Interface Technology Center as a technology manager.

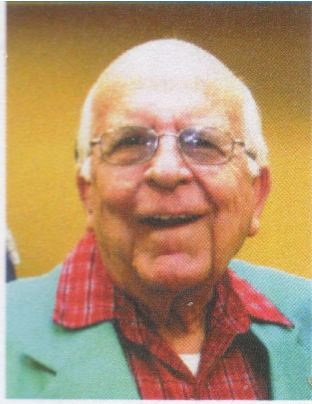
Since "retiring" in 1998 he has worked as a freelance writer, adjunct professor, and FEMA public information officer during several hurricane and tornado seasons in Tennessee and Florida.

He and his wife, Jackie, have lived in Carroll County since then along the Whooping Creek gorge, raising four children who now live in Carrollton, Cumming, Athens, and Arkansas; they have nine grandchildren.

Please join us to hear Ben's informative presentation on Carroll County's largest organization!



**Roy Richards, Sr. and C. M. Tanner  
at the 1949 Dedication**



**Bobby Jones**

## Carroll County Memories

from Robert E. Jones

(Robert Earl Jones was born in Carrollton and has lived all of his 84 years in Carrollton, except for a six year stint in the U.S. Army. He and his wife, Betty Ashmore Jones, who died in 2010, had three daughters, 8 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren).

Bobby was born in Carrollton on Stewart Street, in a house fifth on the left from Cedar Street. His parents were Hewlett C. Jones, Sr. and Willie Louise Lane Jones. From Stewart Street his family moved to College Street across from the old College Street

School, to West Center Street in a house still standing behind the Dairy Queen, to a



house on North Cliff Street near the WPA Building, also known as the City Gym. In this last house he lived for all his high school years.

He only had to step across the street to attend first grade under Miss Kate Slade, later attending Maple Street School also. Once while playing umpire in a school-yard softball game, some bigger boys disagreed with his call and came after him. He was "saved" by an even bigger boy - James Shadinger - and he never forgot that kindness from an older defender.

Bobby and one other boy were the only children on the first Cradle Roll at First Baptist Church. As a young boy Bobby delivered a newspaper called *The Atlanta Georgian*, which came out in the afternoon. For this he sorely needed a bicycle, and arranged to buy one, at 50 cents a week, from his Uncle Alton Lane who worked at Robinson-Walker Store, where Burson Feed and Seed is now. If he made three dollars a week, he was doing great. It took him a long time to pay for that bicycle! Bobby delivered papers in various places, but remembers well his customers up and down Dixie Street: the Crepe Myrtle Hotel which had two front doors - Bobby went in one, stacked his papers, and went out the other; the Smith house which still stands at the corner of West Avenue; the Redwine house - Mr. Redwine worked as a clerk for Mandeville Mills; the Woods; and others.

In high school, after the death of his father, Bobby worked after school for his Uncle Carl Lane in the shoe shop on Alabama Street; then because his brother Hewlett Jr. had a job as projectionist at the Carroll Theater, he got a job ushering there - no pay, but he could watch the movie for free from the upstairs balcony. Carroll Theater, owned by Ebb Duncan, was the only theater in Carrollton at the time. Later the Arcade on the Square, and the Playhouse Theater on Maple Street opened; Bobby worked full-time as projectionist at the Arcade until the powers-that-be ordained that a student could not work full-time. He went back to being assistant projectionist at Carroll.

It was at Carroll Theater that the "rat incident" happened. It became apparent that there was an infestation of rats in the theater - during the evening hours not a rat was seen; only during the daytime when things were quieter. Finally it was discovered that a pipe leading under Newnan Street to a grocery store had been left open. Evidently the rats enjoyed the grocery store during the nighttime hours when the grocery was closed to customers, and retreated under the street to the theater during the daytime.

Every bit of his high school years took place during World War II. Bobby was in the theater setting up for the Sunday afternoon movies when the radio announced the news of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, a little-known place in the Pacific Ocean. At this time, theaters had just been allowed to show movies on Sunday - only in the afternoons, then they closed for a while for Sunday night church services, opening up again for a night showing.

In high school Bobby remembers going to the fair grounds when the Fair came to town; it was out at the river, where the Ingles Shopping Center is now. In the fall of 1944 Carrollton High School let out for one full day so that the students could help the farmers get the cotton crop out of the fields. Bobby was a senior that fall.



When it came time for the Class of 1945 to hold its Junior-Senior, the School Board ruled that only those students from CHS could attend the dance. Students and parents rebelled; parents rented the WPA building (the rock building built in 1937 by the WPA and used by the high school for basketball games) and the dance was held there.

After graduation, Bobby joined the Army. He attended the Army Special Reserves Program at Clemson University, having been given a ride to Clemson by the then pastor at First Baptist Church (there was a rationing of gasoline). He continued training at Fort MacPherson, Fort McClellan, Vint Hill Station in Warrington, Virginia, before being sent to Germany in 1946.

Back in Carrollton, he met and married Miss Betty Ashmore from Mt. Zion, who was working at Life Insurance Company of Georgia while he had secured a job at the post office under postmaster Olin Spence. Bobby worked 40 years at the Carrollton Post Office as Superintendent of postal operations.

He has belonged to Civitans for 45 years, and has volunteered at Tanner Hospital for 12 years. He is very active at First Baptist Church, enjoys camping, travel, boating and dancing.

Thanks, Bobby, for your memories!



### Carrollton Depot Restoration

Restoration of the Carrollton Depot is nearing completion. If you have any railroad memorabilia, artifacts, photographs, documents, period furniture and fixtures, etc that relate in any way to the railroad or depot, please consider donating it to the Friends of the Carrollton Depot or Carroll County Historical Society. Any old photographs of people or trains at the Depot would be greatly appreciated to include in the Museum display.

The restored railroad baggage cart once used in the Depot is a treasured addition to the collection.

Recent donations include a collection of antique furniture and fixtures from Robinson's Drug Store which recently closed after decades on Dixie Street.

## A Message from President Mel Steely

Time to get back in harness after a quiet summer. Our first CCHS general meeting will be at 6:30 at the Lomason Library on September 6, 2012. The program for the evening will be a history of Tanner Hospital presented by Ben Moon. As you know the Tanner enterprise has exploded across west Georgia with new additions springing up almost weekly. How many remember the old hospital located in what is now Woody Cole's insurance agency across from the park which used to be Thaxton's Tea Room? We now have more left eye specialists than we used to have doctors. As a result of the Tanner expansion we now see our area a destination area for retirees looking for a good life style and quick available medical services. As I get older I appreciate this more and more. Come and hear this most interesting program.

At our last board meeting we decided to support a project begun by Oak Brook Hospice in Villa Rica to encourage local citizens to come by the library, courthouse, etc. to fill out forms describing people from the area who deserve recognition and to give background on them and explain why they should be remembered. We will be working with the local genealogical society on this project and encourage its usage. Vice President Joe McGinnis will coordinate the project. The completed forms will be stored and available by the Carroll Co. Historical Society.

-Mel Steely

## October is Georgia Archives Month!

### Opportunities to Celebrate

Plan and attend events (exhibit, lecture, display, activity, or reunion, or meeting) promoting Archives as a gift from One Generation to the Next.

Attend the Georgia Archives Month Proclamation Signing and Photo Shoot with the Governor in September.

Share your ideas and memories with your friends and family on the Georgia Archives Facebook page **Georgia Archives Month!**

### *CCHS BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2012*

President	Mel Steely
Vice President	Joe McGinnis
Secretary	Rebecca Fordyce
Treasurer	Meredith Barr
Membership	Susan Vandiver
Newsletter	Janice Ivester
Programs	Doug Mabry
Archives	Gwyn Chesnut
Nominating	Martha Stapler

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