

An online family newsletter
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THE

Deadman-Deadmon-Deadmond-
Dedman-Dedmon-Dedmond and
all related families

DEDMON CONNECTION

April 2019

Volume - 160

DR. DONALD N. DEDMON: 2018 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Dr. Donald N. Dedmon Radford University President 1972-1994

A current member of the Big South Conference Hall of Fame, Dr. Donald N. Dedmon was named the fourth president of Radford College on March 20, 1972. He was at the forefront of Radford being granted university status, allowing men to be admitted and giving the athletic programs the nickname "Highlanders." During the two decades that Dr. Dedmon served as Radford's president, the university experienced unprecedented growth in campus size, curriculum and student population. As the campus grew, so did the amenities around it. Located adjacent from the New River, the Dedmon Center, named in honor of Dr. Dedmon opened in 1981. He was instrumental in the building of the center, which became one of the first buildings designed with an inflated air-supported roof. In 1981, Dr. Dedmon led Radford to NCAA Division II status and then onto a NCAA Division I affiliation in September 1984 thanks to a move to the Big South Conference in 1983. He served as Big South President from May 1986-92 and his tenure included the conference becoming a full-fledged NCAA Division I member in September 1986. Dr. Dedmon will enter the hall of fame posthumously. Dedmon was born in Missouri, and received his undergraduate degree at Southwest Missouri State College (now Missouri State University), and later, an M.A. and doctorate degree in oral education from University of Iowa.



Donald Newton Dedmon
(Aug 13, 1931 – Feb 13, 1998)
An American educator.

Donald N. Dedmon, the son of Clarence and Ola (Garner) Dedmon, was born August 13, 1931, at Hartville, MO. He attended local public schools at Mountain Grove, MO, and entered Southwest Missouri State College in 1949, where he graduated with a B. S. degree in 1953. He obtained his M. A. from the University of Iowa in 1956. He accepted a position on the faculty at University of Iowa in 1956, where he worked until 1959.

In 1959 he accepted a position at Minnesota State College at Saint Cloud, MN, which he held until 1962. While there, he worked on a doctorate, receiving his Ph.D. in speech in 1961. After receiving his doctorate he moved to Carbondale, Illinois, in 1962, where he held a position at the Southern Illinois University, becoming the chairman of the Speech Department before he left. In 1964 he accepted the chairmanship of the Speech Department at Colorado State University, remaining there until 1966. That year he joined Smith, Kline and French Laboratories, where he worked as a communication consultant and the head of training and management development.

After serving at Colorado State University he became vice president at Marshall University, and eventually acting president of the University. He led the campus through the November 14, 1970, plane crash in which 37 members of the Marshall University Thundering

Herd football squad, eight members of the coaching staff, 25 boosters, four crew members, and one employee of the charter company were killed. The team was returning home after a loss against the East Carolina University Pirates at Ficklen Stadium in Greenville, North Carolina. David Strathairn portrays Donald Dedmon in the movie "We Are Marshall". He was a tower of strength during those bleak days, consoling grief-stricken relatives, arranging memorial services, attending a long succession of funerals in many parts of the country, handling a myriad of university problems which arose from the ashes scattered near Tri-State Airport. He rose to the need and to many he was magnificent.

His tenure was short at Marshall before becoming president of Radford University on March 20, 1972. He served in this capacity for more than twenty years, during which time the University experienced rapid growth and a major transition from an all woman's college to a co-ed institution, before reaching university status in 1979. The enrollment tripled during this time span. He was a staunch supporter of the importance of faculty teaching at a time when many other institutions were emphasizing research over classroom work. He was considered an eloquent orator.

He retired from Radford University in 1994, and he died in Naples, Florida in 1998. The Dedmon Center at Radford University was named in his honor.



18 YEARS GIVEN TO DEDMOND IN 1967

In the small town of Gaffney, S.C. (Cherokee County) The lives of one family would change forever. Roger Zane Dedmond, 29, his wife Annie Lucille Dedmond, 32, and 1 year old son Roger Jr.. On this day in May 20, 1967, Roger and Annie spent the evening in town drinking going from one beer joint to another.



Annie Dedmond

At the end on the evening Annie drove her inebriated home, one the way the couple were fighting in the car, it was noticed by the Red Top cab driver that was just behind them that the occupants of the car were fighting. Finally, Annie pulled over and got out of the car, leaving her passed out husband right where he was. The cab driver also pulled over and said "Want a ride?" Annie replied, "YES!". Later Roger Dedmond woke in the car and found his way back home, Annie was not home yet, but he expected her before long.



Roger Dedmond

Roger was awoken by the police the following morning. They informed him that the nude and strangled body of his wife had been found laying against a chain link fence next to an electrical transformer, on the Jerusalem Road off the highway between Union, South Carolina, and Spindale, North Carolina. He was taken by police to the station and questioned. He then found himself

on trial for the murder of his wife. A police officer that questioned Dedmond, took the stand in court and stated under oath "Dedmond confessed to killing his wife." With that testimony, Dedmond was given an 18 year sentence in the Union County Prison Farm, for the May 20, 1967 murder of his wife.

That isn't the end however. A few months later, two women have now disappeared from town just days apart. Nancy Christine Rhinehart, age 14, on January 29, 1968, Rhinehart left her home on Montgomery Street, headed for the Top Dollar store to show her new outfit to her mother, Julie Mae Owensby, who worked there. Her family never saw her alive again. Mrs Nancy Carol Parris, age 20, who went out to walk her dog and hasn't been seen since.



Nancy Rhinehart

The town is living in pure fear and terror. Families pulled the children out of school and barricaded them in their homes, The town was silent. Search parties set out to find the ladies and they feared they would never find them as they continued to search the woods and bushed areas.

Then on the following Thursday, a call came in to Bill Gibbons, managing editor of the Gaffney Ledger the blew the case wide open . The call was from a "soft voiced man," he told Gibbons where to find the bodies of two of the missing women. With the directions supplied by the caller, Gibbons and the police found the nude and strangled bodies in wooded areas just where the caller said they'd be.

Mrs, Nancy Carol Parris, age 20, Parris, a housewife, had been missing since the night before, she went out to walk her poodle. Both Parris and her dog were strangled with his belt, the same weapon the strangler used on his other victims. She was discovered beneath an old country bridge on Ford Road. Her body lying on the sandy bank, head



Nancy Paris

halfway submerged in the water. Deep circular mark around her neck and cigarette burns on her back.

They also found, Nancy Christine Rhinehart, age 14, who had been missing for 11 days. Deputies found her naked and strangled, concealed under a pile of brush in a wooded area off Chain Gang Road on Feb 8. Rhinehart was the second victim found that day. She had the same marks around her neck as Nancy Parris. The coroner has determined however, that Nancy Rhinehart had only been dead less than 24 hours. Which meant she had been held captive for 10 days. It will later be stated by the killer, he killed her on Dec.29th. and the coroner got it wrong.

The police are now calling this man the "The Gaffney Strangler." The fear from the citizens grows stronger in the city and the country. They are now searching for this third woman with no name. Everywhere they searched no body was found anywhere. Who is this woman, nobody was reported missing as of yet ?

The following week, on February 12th, another call came in to Bill Gibbons, Managing Editor of the Gaffney Ledger. The male voice on the telephone said "On a sheet of paper write this down, March 1967, Jerusalem Road, Union County, and the name Annie Lucille Dedmond, Spindale, N.C. Don't go by yourself, take the sheriff." With those instructions Gibbons and the police went to that location and found nothing. Further

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investigation showed Annie Lucille Dedmond had been murdered several months earlier by her husband and he was serving 18 years for the crime.

Gibbons gets a call back later that night, "Did you go to Union?" Gibbons responded "Yes, and there was nothing their." Caller: "We're going to have to do something about that man down there serving my sentence. I killed Mrs. Dedmond, just like I killed then all. He's serving my sentence. If they don't catch me, there will be more deaths." Gibbons asked the caller "How can we know for sure it was you that killed Mrs. Dedmond?" The caller replied "She was driving a red Ford with the left rear tail light out. She had on blue shoes, size five, with a blue pocketbook with a snap top. In it was lipstick, car keys, a small hairbrush, Harris Teeter stamps, a watch that hand no band, an aluminum comb, a picture of a girl sitting on the back of a white Falcon, no coat. I took her to Union County to throw suspicion off of me in Cherokee County. I laid her next to a fence." Then the caller said "The only reason I'm telling you this is to get that other boy (Dedmond) out."

The police now knew that Mrs. Dedmond was the victim with "no name" they had been searching for. Mrs. Dedmond was the "Gaffney Straglers" FIRST Victim !



Opal Buckson Terror already had a good grip on the town, within hours after the strangler's call. Another girl, Miss Opal Dianne Buckson, age 15, a Granard High School honor student, was abducted from alongside a highway where she was waiting for a school bus. As her sister watched in horror, she was shoved screaming into the trunk of a car on Feb. 13, 1968. This tightened the knot of fear even tighter on the town. Buckson's abduction touched off a massive man-hunt and was the largest in Cherokee County history.

On Feb 15th Nancy Rhineharts family hosted a visitation at their home. Lemonda Rhinehart, Nancy's sister, was standing next to the open coffin in the living room when a visitor, Mr. Martin arrived. He looked down into the coffin and told Lemonda, "She sure is a pretty girl, I don't see how anybody could have done this to her." He was offered a cup of coffee and remained at the house for several hours as the other visitors did with the family members.

Thanks to the private search effort conducted by a pro golf professional, Henry Coston Transou, who golfed at the "National Cherokee Golf Club", and his friend Lester Skinner . The two men knew they had to do something as the abduction took place not far from the golf course. After the Buckson abduction on Tuesday. Transou and a

friend began riding around on back roads looking for the strangler, and came across a black 1957 Chevrolet car with a young man standing beside it around the Cowpens National Battlefield, off S.C. Highway 11 . They chased it and got the license number.

Friday morning, February 16, Transou took authorities back to the place where he saw the car, and a search of the woods nearby turned up Miss Buckson's body. The missing girl's body was found about 100 yards from the place where Transou and Skinner saw the car. She was murdered the same way the others were.



On February 17th, police arrested Lee Roy Martin, the 30-year-old textile mill worker, married, father of three. Charging him with the murders of Nancy Christine Rhinehart, Opal Dianne Buckson and Nancy Parris. Martin's arrest ended 14 days of terror and brought a sense of relief that the "Gaffney Strangler" finally was behind bars. After a search of his property, and items were found as described by the "mysterious caller", a small hairbrush, Harris Teeter stamps, keys, an aluminum comb, items owned by Mrs. Dedmond, Lee Roy Martin was charged with her murder as well. He is awaiting trial.

In the early morning hours of Feb, 28, 1969, Roger Zane Dedmond was brought to the "guards quarters" of the small prison camp. As he sat shifting uneasily on the unaccustomed softness of the sofa, he was told that "new evidence" indicated that he was innocent of the killing of his wife and that he would be free soon. Tears welled up in Dedmonds eyes as he sat quietly, emotions, hope and dreams were dormant since he was convicted 9 months earlier and they began to burst out out of him. "The greatest thing of all will be being able to sleep again," Dedmond said, and he continued. "I don't get much sleep at night. Maybe now the had dreams will stop." The guards let Dedmond sit on the sofa for some time before they showed him back to his cell again.

Later that same day the guards were back to get Dedmond once again. As the cell doors opened, Dedmond said to one guard, "Is it over?" he turned to another and said "Are you sure it's all over?". Roger Dedmond was to be released this day pending trial. The tears came when he talked about his son to the guards, Roger Jr. now 2 years old living in Charlotte, N.C. with relatives. "My son is all I have left now," he told them, "I hope to go back to Charlotte and be reunited with my son," he said. "And I hope to make a life in Charlotte."

On May 20, 1969, Lee Roy Martin waived his right to trial for the murders of Nancy Christine Rhinerhart, Nancy Carol Parris and Opal Dianne Buckson. He described to the courts what he had done to each one of these ladies. He further said, (This I will leave out as this part is to graphic). Martin was found guilty on all 3 counts and sentence to life on each count.

On May 21st, Martin was to make South Carolina judicial history. He was tried, convicted and sentenced on a fourth count of murder without ever facing a jury. For the murder of Annie Lucille Dedmond. He was once again given a life sentence.

Immediately after Martin was sentenced in Mrs. Dedmond's death, a judge in Circuit Court at Union, 30 miles away, dismissed the murder charge against Dedmond. When Roger Zane Dedmond was informed of this he said "I'm so happy," his face beaming above a blue sport coat and tie, recently exchanged for prison stripes. "It feels so darn good. Nothing feels quite like being free again," Dedmond said, with a big grin on his face. "I'll always remember this day. Right now I just want to go pick up my boy and be with him again." Dedmond headed for Forest City, N.C., to pick up his 2- year-old son for the first time since his nightmare began last year May 19. He said he then planned to go to Charlotte and begin a new life.



Roger Dedmond and Son

Lee Roy Martin spent several months on the "Mental Block" before he was sent to general population in December of 1969. Another prisoner named Kenneth Ramsey stabbed Martin to death in his prison cell on May 31, 1972



Young and in Love, Old and in Love
(This Love has no end)

Two people growing up a small distance from one another. Jane was in the first grade, Leroy was in the second grade. It didn't take long for him to become "smitten" with her, they were "high school sweethearts", then they were courting. Of course came the proposal. And she said "YES".



It was a Sunday afternoon 60 years ago, on April 5, 1959. When they stood before God and promised their love to each other. They promised in sickness and in health, to honor each other, till death do they part. It is a love that has gone through 60 years with no end in sight.

The seeds were planted and the family grew. They have two children Gary Dedmon and Gwen Dedmon Kiley. Grandchildren, Carrie J Webb, Greg Dedmon and Jonathan Dedmon. Great grandchildren, Masie Jane Webb, Curt Webb, Makayla Webb, Brady Dedmon, Carson Dedmon, any by choice Cassidy Webb, Devon Kiley and Bela Kiley and the heartbreak of the great grandchild Kynden LeBron Dedmon who lives with Jesus.

So few people ever see "Sixty Years" of marriage. It takes dedication from the heart of each other to get to 60 years, and so few have that these days. I'm sure it wasn't easy, life itself isn't easy let alone a marriage and you two made it through both. I know you both wouldn't have wanted to do it with anyone else but each other .



Congratulations to you Leroy and Jane Dedmon
I wish you many more years of love and happiness.

MORE FAMILY BUSINESSES

In Vol. 158 in the index of family owned businesses, I overlooked Frank's Resturant and apologize to them. They celebrated 50 years in 2014. It was begun by Frank Dedman and is now in its third generation with Frank Dedman III.... I did publish an article in Volume 125 at: <http://www.dedmon.org/connection/connection125.pdf> (LD)



NANCY DEDMAN

(Back in the 1800s there was a story written about "Nancy Dedman". It was a work of fiction printed in MacMillian's magazine, perhaps serialized; but it was later produced in newspapers. It is basically typed as is, spelling corrections are attempted, but not the grammar construction.)

Continued from Volume 159

"Well, the next on it was that when they found as she'd given he up they believed she had nought to say to it, and was kind to her agin; as kind as they ever was, and that warn't much, but she was uneasy, and knew them too well to think as they'd let Jim Kemp be. Whyever Dick hadn't killed him there and then she could not tell. But one night she were to bed, and she heard some one come in to the room next; her room were but a lean-to, and they slept in the big room. And she heard a deal of whispering, and then they took to drinking and their voices get louder and louder, and she hears Kemp's name, and 'the night after next' named, and 'back from Weyhill Fair,' and 'a-nigh his gate,' and 'ten on us,' and 'the rest will be there tomorrow, we four and and they six, that's ten.' And then they gets noisier, and Dick, who always kept his head, hushed some one on'em up, and turned him out into the shed, and all was still. Nancy knew not what was brewing. But how to get at Jim? how to advert he? He would be off to Weyhill long afore she could get to he, and she couldn't get out without going through the room with Dick in it, or through the window into the shed with the stranger there. Not that they was strangers, for she know'd their voices; they was of the Portsmouth crew.

What should she do? how should she save her lover? for he was her lover, and she know'd it. She know'd that, though she could never wed with he, she could never love another. Mayhaps there was somewhat strange in her manners, for she made as though she was cheerful like, or maybe it were from his own knowing what was coming: any how Dick looked sharply after Nancey all next day, and the day after too. It were a hot, dry Summer, and the days were long, and there was a full moon that night, and no doubt that was the more convenient; not that the Dedmans could make their way blindfold anywhere over the country round, and all their crew.

Dick went off somewhere to seven, and said, careless like, as Nancy had best not wait, for he and the old man had business away, and would not be back till very late mayhap, mayhap earlier. Nancy waited till he was gone, then she took her flint and steel and fastened the door, and went to the shed and took the nag, (they had only left

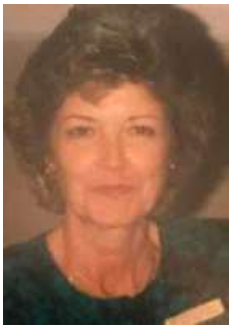
the old mare;) she didn't wait to bridle she, but off she went as fast as the wind for Holder Hill over to the west from here. And she rode and rode and went up the hill, up to the Beacon Point, and there was th bonfire all laid ready, as dry as tinder, and she struck and struck and the third time she got a flame, and soon the beacon was blazing and no mistake, and she rode and she rode toward Blackdown until the poor beast could go no longer, so she got off and let her go. And Nancy walked and walked, until all on a sudden the light sprung up on Blackdown, and she knew as sure as if she saw him that her trap had taken, that Jim had seen tho fire on Holder, and instead of going home had turned off to light up Blackdown.

It was the war time, you see, and he were keen for the cause, and was the first one before to help light the signal. And she hurried on and came up to he, and he turned round and cried, 'Why, Nancy, love! is it you? There's been some victory, you may depend?' And she were out of breath and could scarce speak; but she knew as sure as fate her brother and his crew would come after their prey. You see they had worked so long together, these Dedmans, one seemed to guess the other's thoughts, like; and she knew as when the; time went by, and Jim did not come home, and they saw the light on Holder Hill and sudden the light on Blackdown, they would guess as how it were Nancy; or maybe only think Jim was there instead of coming home. However it be, she felt they would follow up there, so she cried, 'Fly, Jim! fly! as quick as you can, down that way. No! not home! Be off! be off! away as far as you can go! They're after ye to murder ye. and I lit the fire on Holder to turn you from going home. They be waiting for you, and now maybe they'll be following you up here. Give me your coat and hat, Jim see, I've none. I'm cold. And go, Jim go; I can't go with you, Jim. Good-bye, lad! O, lad, I love you, lad!"

And the stupid thickheaded fellow as he was, he took off his long riding coat and his slouch hat and puts them on her, and takes her in his arms, and she gives him one kiss and sends him off. He steals down as quiet as a mouse, untethers his nag, and off he goes London way. And Nancy? She stood with her arms folded, her face to the fire and her back to the path, so as her figure is seen up against the flames in an uncertain kind of way. She was as tall as young Kemp; and she waited there to gain time for he -- a decoy, we'll say. She were half dazed with what she'd gone through and a strange sort of awaiting feeling as kep' her very still. At last she hears them coming, and she never stirs. And Dick, from behind, without waiting a minute, or taking so much as a step forwarder, fires straight at her back and she falls forward, and he fires again, and then they walked away satisfied it were Jim Kemp, for they seed the coat and they never thought of Nancy.

To be concluded in Volume 161

MILDRED DEDMON BRAND



Mildred F. Dedmon Brand, 73, of Poteau, OK passed away Wednesday, February 22, 2017 in Ft. Smith, AR. She was born June 20, 1943 in Monroe, OK to Raymond & Annice (Gregory) Dedmon, who preceded her in death. Survivors include her husband, Ovil Brand; children, Kimberly & John Albert of Poteau, OK, Mark & Kally Brand of CO; 5 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren; sister, Melba Barnes of Monroe, OK; other relatives, loved ones and friends.

Services will be held at 10 am, Monday, February 27, 2017 at Howe Missionary Baptist Church, Howe, OK with Larry Stacey officiating. Interment will follow in Vaughn Cemetery, Monroe, OK. Pallbearers will be John Albert, John David Albert, Mark Brand, Edward Brand, Melford Brand, Don Crandall, Justin Brand.

The family will be at the funeral home on Sunday afternoon from 2-4 pm to visit with relatives & friends.

Find A Grave Memorial 176619901

MARY LOUISE

KELLY DEADMAN

Mary Louise Kelly Deadman, 92, of White Hall, Arkansas, died Tuesday, August 21, 2012, at her home. She was born April 11, 1920, in Double Springs, Alabama, to James Virgel and Alma Elizabeth Harbin Kelly. The family moved to Arkansas in 1957.

Mrs. Deadman enjoyed her cats. She was a homemaker and of the Baptist faith. She was preceded in death by her husband, Halbert G. Deadman; her parents; brothers, Edgar, Louie, J. V. and Myscle Kelly; sisters, Barbara Kelly Staggs, Quina Sue Kelly and Lois Kelly. Survivors include her daughter, Diane Bruce of White Hall and a sister, Onella Russell of Cordova, Alabama. Graveside services by Ralph Robinson & Son will be 10AM, Friday, August 24, 2012, in Graceland Cemetery with Reverend James Watson officiating.

**Find A Grave Memorial
95760811**

NANCY DEDMON

Mrs. Nancy Virginia Dedmon age 90 of Brownsville, passed away Tuesday, October 4, 2016 in Jackson Madison County General Hospital.

She was born May 4, 1926 in Lauderdale County to the late William Emmett West and Frances Ludia Harrell West. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Allen Smith Dedmon; son, three brothers, Wilburn West, Odell West and Olden West; three sisters, Frances Thomas, Jettie Bruce and Beatrice Osteen. She is survived by a sister, Lillian Geraldine Jones of Alabama as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Graveside services for Mrs. Nancy Virginia Dedmon will be conducted Thursday, October 6, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. in Brownsville Memorial Gardens with Dr. H.K. Sorrell officiating and burial to follow.

**Brownsville Funeral Home
(Find A Grave Memorial
170874149)**



GARY PRICE

Gary Michael Price, Sr. 62, husband of Virginia Mae Stratton Price passed away Wed., November 25, 2015 at his residence. He was born August 12, 1953 in Harrodsburg, Gary was the son of the late John Ben and Edna B.

Riley Price. He was a machinist at his business, G&M Tool for thirty years and attended the Ninevah Christian Church. Gary enjoyed flea markets, owning his own business, spending time with his friends at McDonalds and the Bagdad Store and most of all spending time with his Grandchildren. In addition to his wife, Gary was survived by one son: Gary Michael (Kristal) Price, II of Lawrenceburg, two daughters: Twana Michelle (Travis) Farley and Chasidy Marie (Jason) Price-Dedman both of Lawrenceburg, four brothers: J.B. (Linda) Price, Jr. of Harrodsburg, Glen (Carol Lee) Price of Liberty, KY, David (Julie) Carrol of Harrodsburg and Bobby Price of Harrodsburg, one sister: Donna Jean Price of Frankfort, thirteen grandchildren: Hollie Casey, Christen Casey, Miranda Carlton, Makayla Carlton, Kristin Farley, Noah Farley, Amberlynn Price-Fowler, **Brandon Dedman, Joshua Dedman**, Carter Price, Tucker Price, Leyla Price and Aiden Price. Gary was also survived by several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by one brother: Ronald Price. Funeral services will be conducted, 7:00 P.M., Monday, November 30, 2015 at the Alexander & Royalty Funeral Home with Rev. Jerry Dedman and Pastor Terry Cooper. Pallbearers will be James Price, David Price, Amery Hardin, Danny Burkehead, Larry Armstrong, Terry Perraut and Raymond Blackwell. Visitation will be 11:00 A.M. until 7:00 P.M. Monday, November 30, 2015 at the Alexander & Royalty Funeral Home. While flowers are welcome, expressions of sympathy may also take the form of donations to the Rudd Heart and Lung Center, Jewish Hospital, 201 Abraham Flexner Way, Louisville, KY 40202. To share your memories or to contact the family, please visit: www.alexanderandroyalty.com.

Find A Grave Memorial 155451628