

NEWS/OBITUARIES

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Whiteland man was always ready for a fishing trip

Whiteland resident, businessman dies at 42 of heart disease complications

By JOSEPH S. PETE

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A local business owner who grew up fishing in a creek down the street from his home kept a fishing rod and tackle in the back seat of his vehicle so he could fish whenever weather allowed.

Family and friends remembered Whiteland resident Thomas James, 42, as an avid fisherman and a family man with a quick wit.

After work Friday, he drove more than three hours to check on his pneumonia-afflicted grandfather in Kentucky.

He died Monday of what a coroner called complications from heart disease.

Friends and family say he had shown no signs of illness. James had good results from a cholesterol test four months ago, his family said.

Colleagues at the company James co-owned described him as a dedicated family man given to gentle sarcasm who would make light of anything.

Survived by four daughters, he attended countless dance recitals over the years.

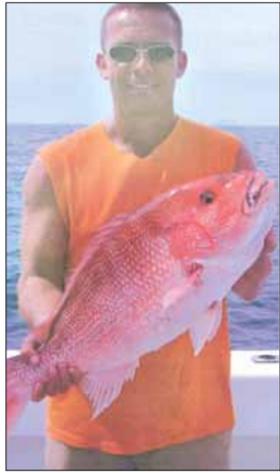
When not with his family, James enjoyed zipping across Lamb Lake in his 20-foot boat with a souped-up Yamaha motor in search of a good fishing spot. He rarely returned without several catches to talk about in the office Monday morning, colleagues said.

James co-owned ABC Elevator, a maintenance and repair firm employing 15 workers and serving all of Indiana and western Kentucky.

After a stint in the U.S. Army during the mid-1980s, James entered the family business of elevator maintenance.

After starting as a mechanic's helper at the Kentucky company Abell Elevator Service Co., he was promoted to service superintendent before he entered into a partnership agreement 10 years ago at ABC, then owned by his extended family.

James grew up fishing in a creek down the street from his Kentucky home and remained an avid fisherman throughout his life, keeping a pole and lures in his back seat so he could leave



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Whiteland resident Thomas James, who died Monday, was an avid fisherman, his family said.

on a fishing trip at a moment's notice.

For the past 10 years, he and his father participated in the Renegade Bass Tournament on the Green River in Kentucky. Though James traveled around, the Green River remained one of his favorite fishing spots.

He often made the pilgrimage to his childhood home on Mohawk Street in Brownsville, Ky., visiting his parents monthly. His father, Roger, said he might never fish again, now that his son is gone.

Thomas James' personal best catch was a bass weighing 9 pounds and 13 ounces, family members said. Last year, he snagged a sting ray fishing in the Gulf of Mexico during a trip to Alabama.

He amazed family members by handling it without hesitation and then cutting it loose.

The fisherman went through four boats over the past five years, trading up to get a faster motor. He often challenged fellow boaters to races.

His brother-in-law, Jesse Dunham, said James would want to be remembered as family man and great fisherman.

"He could catch a fish in a bathtub," Dunham said.

Memorial contributions can be made to the James family, P.O. Box 17902, Indianapolis, IN 46217.

GREENWOOD

Evelyn V. (Clarke) Ball

Evelyn V. (Clarke) Ball, 82, resident of Greenwood Village South retirement community, passed away Sunday, Jan. 7, 2007.

She was born Nov. 27, 1924, in Albany, N.Y. Eve retired from the Indiana Department of Public Welfare, where she was an assistant director. She was a member of Christ United Methodist Church, St. Margaret's Guild and Welfare Service League and was a 10-year guide for the Eiteljorg Museum. She was an avid country-western dancer.

Memorial visitation will be conducted from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday at Shirley Brothers Thompson Road Chapel, 3333 E. Thompson Road in Indianapolis, with memorial services following at 3 p.m.

Eve is survived by her husband, Al E. Ball; a son, Jackson (Linda) Clarke; a daughter, Martha (John) Mahoney; two stepdaughters; four grandchildren, J.J. and Elizabeth Mahoney and Will and Charlie Clarke; and four stepgrandchildren, Megan and Emily Crawford and Rylan and Travis Smith. Memorial contributions may be made to the donor's favorite charity.

MARTINSVILLE

Cathy Elizabeth Erickson

Cathy Elizabeth Erickson died Monday, Jan. 8, 2007, at her residence in Martinsville.

Survivors include her mother, LouAnn Erickson; and her father, Carl M. Erickson.

A memorial service will be conducted at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Eastview Christian Church, 2745 Old Morgantown Road in Martinsville. G.H. Herrmann Greenwood Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

GREENWOOD

Edna Jean Hampton

Edna Jean Hampton, 78, died Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2007, at Community Hospital South in Indianapolis. She was a resident of Greenwood.

Survivors include two sons, Keith (Donna) Hampton of Martinsville and Terry (Andrea) Hampton of Greenwood; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Solomon and Dora (Dixon) Hampton; and her husband, Goebel "Pop" Hampton.

A service will be conducted at 10 a.m. Friday at Wilson St. Pierre Funeral Service & Crematory, Greenwood Chapel, 481 W. Main St. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. today at the funeral home. Burial will be at Mount Pleasant Cemetery Glens Valley near Greenwood.

Memorial contributions may be made to Disabled American Veterans Memorial Program, P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, OH 45205-0301.

Information: www.wilsonstpierre.com

Edinburgh
Bill Tobias, 77
Greenwood
Evelyn V. Ball, 82
Edna Jean Hampton, 78
Thomas James Kerr, 59
Michael L. McCart, 61
Daniel Lee Shonkwiler, 56
New Whiteland
Edward P. Snapp, 77
Whiteland
Thomas Ray James, 42
Indianapolis
Richard W. "Dik" Hoover, 60
Elsewhere
Cathy Elizabeth Erickson
Debra Lee Markle, 45

INDIANAPOLIS

Richard William 'Dik' Hoover

Richard William "Dik" Hoover, 60, died Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2007. He was a resident of Indianapolis.

Survivors include two children, Ross and RyAnn Hoover; two sisters, Linda "Jerry" (Jack) Gurvitz and Carol "Sue" (Bob) Young.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Delpha Hoover.

A celebration of life service will be conducted at 10 a.m. Saturday at The Church at Mount Gilead, 6019 E. State Road 144 in Mooresville. Flanner & Buchanan Funeral Center, Washington Park East in Indianapolis, is handling arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 6030 W. 62nd St., Indianapolis, IN 46278.

Information: www.flannerbuchanan.com

WHITELAND

Thomas Ray James

Thomas Ray James, 42, died Monday, Jan. 8, in Brownsville, Ky. He was a resident of Whiteland.

He was born Dec. 10, 1964, in Louisville, Ky. His parents are Roger James and Shirley (Carroll) James of Brownsville, Ky. He married Trena Denham. She survives.

Other survivors include four daughters, Carissa, Morgan, Erin and Katelyn James, all of Whiteland; a brother, David L. James of Brownsville, Ky.; three sisters, Sheila (Sam) VanMeter, Linda (David) Murphy and Laura (James) Kemble, all of Brownsville, Ky.; his paternal grandfather, Rumsey James of Brownsville, Ky.; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Herald and Nora Carroll; paternal grandmother, Beulah James; and an aunt, Rita James Priddy.

He was co-owner of ABC Elevator in Whiteland. He was a member of Oak Grove United Baptist Church and attended Greenwood Christian

Church. He also participated in the Renegade Bass Tournament in Kentucky.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army.

A service will be conducted at 11 a.m. Saturday at Wilson St. Pierre Funeral Service & Crematory, Greenwood Chapel, 481 W. Main St. Friends may call from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday at the funeral home. Burial will be at Greenwood Cemetery.

Online condolences may be made at www.wilsonstpierre.com.

GREENWOOD

Thomas James Kerr

Thomas James Kerr, 59, died Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2007. He was a resident of Greenwood.

Arrangements are pending at Forest Lawn Funeral Home in Greenwood.

LARGO, Fla.

Debra Lee (McPeak) Markle

Debra Lee (McPeak) Markle, 45, died Friday, Jan. 5, 2007. She was a resident of Largo, Fla., and a former resident of Indianapolis.

Survivors include her parents, Patricia and David McPeak; a daughter, Rachel Mattson; a son, Nicholas Markle; a sister, Dee McPeak; and two brothers, Dale and David McPeak.

A graveside service will be conducted at 10 a.m. Saturday at Calvary-Holy Cross Cemetery in Indianapolis. Memorial calling will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday at Shirley Brothers Thompson Road Chapel, 3333 E. Thompson Road in Indianapolis.

GREENWOOD

Michael L. McCart

Michael L. McCart, 61, died Monday, Jan. 8, 2007. He was a resident of Greenwood.

Survivors include his mother, Kathleen R. McCart of Indianapolis; a son, Jason McCart of Indianapolis; a brother, Gregory McCart of Greenwood; and two grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father, Jesse E. McCart.

A graveside service will be conducted at 11 a.m. Friday at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Greenwood. Friends may call from 10 a.m. until service time Friday at Forest Lawn Funeral Home, 1977 S. State Road 135 in Greenwood.

Information: www.forestlawnmemory.com

GREENWOOD

Daniel Lee Shonkwiler

Daniel Lee Shonkwiler, 56, died Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2007. He was a resident of Greenwood and former resident of Greencastle.

Arrangements are pending at Wilson St. Pierre Funeral Service & Crematory, Greenwood Chapel.

NEW WHITELAND

Edward P. Snapp

Edward P. Snapp, 77, died Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2007, at Kindred Hospital South in Greenwood. He was a resident of New Whiteland.

Star of TV's 'Munsters' dies at age 84

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES

Yvonne De Carlo, the beautiful star who played Moses' wife in "The Ten Commandments" but achieved her greatest popularity on TV's "The Munsters," has died. She was 84.

De Carlo died of natural causes Monday at the Motion Picture & Television facility in suburban Los Angeles, longtime friend and television producer Kevin Burns said Wednesday.

De Carlo, whose shapely figure helped launch her career in B-movie desert adventures and Westerns, rose to more important roles in the 1950s. Later, she had a key role in a landmark Broadway musical, Stephen Sondheim's "Follies."

But for TV viewers, she will always be known as Lily Munster in the 1964-66 slapstick horror-movie spoof "The Munsters." The series (the name allegedly derived from "fun-monsters") offered a gallery of Universal Pictures grotesques, including Dracula and Frankenstein's monster, in a cobwebbed gothic setting.

Lily, vampire-like in a black gown, presided over the faux scary household and was a rock for her gentle but often bumbling husband, Herman, played by 6-foot-5-inch character actor Fred Gwynne (as the Frankenstein monster).

While it lasted only two years, the series had a long life in syndication and resulted in two feature movies, "Munster Go Home!" (1966) and "The Munsters' Revenge" (1981, for TV).

• Cancer

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

about the families over the course of a year and when the book is released, she said.

Cohen's book is not expected to be published for eight months, Bay said.

Vieira is supposed to come to Franklin to talk to Bay for the show, Bay said.

Bay was chosen to be a part of the book about two years ago. Since then, Cohen has traveled to Franklin to meet with Bay and his family. Bay also has been to New York and Boston to help work on the book.

The author chose him to be in the book after the Indiana lymphoma society suggested him, Bay said.

Cohen wrote "Blindsided: Living a Life Above Illness: A Reluctant Memoir," a book about his experiences with multiple sclerosis.

Bay hopes the new book and the "Today" coverage will raise awareness of illness and how it affects families.

"Your whole life gets turned around," he said.

He fights for every moment and thanks God for each day, he said.

Cancer makes a person realize how valuable life is, he said. You

see the value of that chance to kiss your wife, hug your kids and worship, he said.

In November, Bay got to meet the other families who will be featured in the book.

Each family has a member diagnosed with a chronic disease, including amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's disease), multiple sclerosis, Crohn's disease and bipolar disorder.

The group spoke as a panel at Harvard University about their experiences with illness, Bay said. Since meeting, the group stays in touch daily through e-mails, he said.

"I never dreamed that me having cancer would take me to this whole other level," he said.

He appeared on TV's "The View" in October. He's met Barbara Walters and Billy Joel.

The book author tells him this is just the beginning. Book tours and more talk show appearances could come, Bay said.

"It just doesn't seem real sometimes," he said.

He has received phone calls from People magazine and pro-

ducers from "Entertainment Tonight" and "Oprah." They want to talk about Cohen's book and living with cancer, he said.

He just doesn't understand why everyone is so interested in "a little boy from Indiana," he said.

Bay clearly remembers the day he found out he had cancer.

He remembers looking at the clock on the wall behind the doctor. It was 11 a.m. Aug. 17, 2000.

Bay was diagnosed with lymphoma, a cancer that targets the lymphatic system that carries white blood cell through the body.

Since then, the battle has been an adventure: Daddy's adven-

ture, he calls it.

When Bay was diagnosed, he and his wife decided not to use "the cancer word," he said.

Instead, they told their then 6-year-old son it was Daddy's adventure.

After three rounds of chemotherapy and one of radiation, Bay keeps amazing doctors.

"I keep beating the odds," he said.

About a year ago, doctors told him to prepare himself for death, he said. They made preparations, but nothing happened.

During the ups and downs of Bay's treatment, he relies on

support for his family from his church and God, he said.

Now Bay doesn't look sick, and he works out regularly.

His next blood tests and C-T scans aren't until March. "That's like gold," Susan Bay said.

Sometimes he has to remind himself to slow down because he forgets that his body can only take so much, he said.

As Bay's story gets national attention, he hopes other cancer patients and families can learn from how he lives.

"Life is what you make it, and we choose to live," Bay said.

He was born Sept. 21, 1929, in Carlisle, Ky. His parents were Clyde Randall and Bessie D. (Gauce) Snapp.

Survivors include his wife, Helen J. (Barrett) Snapp of New Whiteland; three children, John (Kathleen) Snapp of Carlisle, Ky., Paula (Charles) Lopossa of Martinsville and Betty (David) Campbell of Needham; two grandchildren, Elaine and Nancy Campbell; and a stepgrandchild, Brent Lopossa.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Kenneth and Louis Snapp.

He had been employed at Webber Sausage Co. for six years. Previously, he was employed for 13½ years at Kawneer in Franklin.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army.

He was a member of the Lions Club and had attended Rocklane Christian Church.

The Rev. Rob Keaton will conduct a service at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at Jessen Funeral Home, 729 U.S. 31 North in Whiteland. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Whiteland Community High School music department, 300 Main St., Whiteland, IN 46184.

EDINBURGH

Bill Tobias

Bill Tobias, 77, died Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2007, at Columbus Regional Hospital. He was a resident of Edinburgh.

He was born Jan. 10, 1929, in Shelby County. His parents were John Tobias Sr. and Clara (Southerland) Tobias. He married Dacia Thompson on May 21, 1949. She survives.

Other survivors include three sons, Andy (Marsha) Tobias of Flat Rock and David (Sharon) Tobias and Sam (Rita) Tobias, both of Columbus; two daughters, Lecia (Bill) Clark of Flat Rock and Molly (Aaron) Claycamp of Seymour; and nine grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Deborah Edell Tobias; a brother, John Tobias Jr.; and a sister, Charlotte Miner.

He graduated from Columbus High School in 1946.

He was a member of Taylorsville United Methodist Church, Odd Fellows and Edinburgh and German Township fire departments. He was a Willing Workers 4-H Club leader for 20 years.

He was a lifelong farmer in Bartholomew County.

The Revs. Lonnie Goen and Sandy Clark will conduct a service at 10:30 a.m. Friday at Eskew-Eaton Funeral Home, 302 E. Main Cross St. in Edinburgh. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. today at the funeral home. Burial will be at Rest Haven Cemetery in Edinburgh.

Memorial contributions may be made to Taylorsville United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 92, Taylorsville, IN 47280; or German Township Fire Department, P.O. Box 486, Taylorsville, IN 47280.

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