

## Alvin

# Reuben Mercer learned life from his father

Reuben Earl Mercer, oldest son of Willie Flave and Beulah Lindolph Stancil Mercer, grandson of Alvin Rosco and Fannie Columbia Pittman Stancil, was born at home March 22, 1932, in Beulaville, Duplin County, N.C. Reuben was 76 days older than his uncle, Donell Franklin Stancil. An older sister, Fannie Jean Mercer, died on the day of her birth. Reuben looked like his mother's people. Siblings were A.R. (Albert Ray), (Columbia) Ann, Margaret (Elizabeth) and Wanda (Lorraine).

Reuben's dad grew tobacco, corn, soybeans, raised hogs and chickens. He farmed with mules. Reuben plowed when he was big enough to hold up the handles of the plow. Reuben plowed primarily with two mules, Old Grey and Stubborn. Every time Reuben came to the end of the row, Stubborn challenged him, quickly heading to the barn. Reuben was excited when Flave purchased a Farmall A tractor.

Reuben grew up attending Cabin Free Will Baptist Church, in Beulaville. Reuben, Ann, A.R. and Margaret were members of a popular church quartet. Reuben also played guitar.

Reuben's parents taught him to follow Christian teachings and give praise to God. Reuben took this to heart. When his high school basketball coach kept cussing the players, he quit.

Sometimes he skipped school to play pool. He was a natural and often went home with a few extra bucks.

One special girl caught his eye, Shirley Temple Thigpen. She was three years younger. Reuben graduated from Beulaville High School and farmed while he continued dating Shirley until she graduated. They



Reuben and Shirley

married Sept. 10, 1950. A friend drove them to Dillon, S.C. They lived with Reuben's parents. The Korean War had started. Reuben joined the National Guard, when his unit was called up, he joined the Army. While gone, Earl Trent was born. The war ended, Reuben moved his family to Fayetteville. Reuben worked for Sears, Belk-Hensdale, attended Worth Business College and was hired by the Jewel Box. He and Shirley welcomed son, William "Fred" Frederick.

At the Jewel Box, he established himself as a skilled businessman. Carlyle & Co. Jewelers bought the Jewel Box and sent Reuben to manage their high-end store in Greensboro. It was a good fit, he worked there for 46 years.

Reuben founded the Boy Scout troop at St. Paul Presbyterian Church. The active troop camped monthly, many became Eagle Scouts, including sons, Trent and Fred. While at St. Paul's, Reuben served as deacon and elder. Each October the family took a trip to the mountains to see the leaves. They traveled on the Blue Ridge parkway, stopped to see cider and molasses being made and lis-

tened to unique mountain music.

They enjoyed their house on Topsail Island, N.C. Reuben liked to fish and taught his sons to fish and enjoy the ocean. It was also closer to his family home.

Reuben loved the challenge of pool. Their new home included a 22-by-40 foot room, housing his professional table. He spent hours playing friendly games while Shirley was in charge of refreshments!

In Greensboro, Reuben, active in the Exchange Club, was an enthusiastic participant in making and selling pints of homemade Brunswick stew.

Reuben and Shirley vacationed in Hawaii, went on cruises, visited the Panama Canal, Grand Canyon, Williamsburg and other historical sites.

Reuben and Shirley returned to Duplin County in 2006, built a beautiful brick home in the country, and joined Bethel Presbyterian Church near Chinquapin, N.C.

Shirley made jam and Reuben took up woodworking. Margaret shared garden space. They planted butter beans and snap beans. Reuben remarked at picking time, "We rise early, pick beans before the hot sun drives us back inside!"

Reuben grew up attending Stancil Reunions. The last one he and Shirley were able to attend was in 2008.

Reuben and Shirley have a special loving relationship that many envied and hoped to have. They were married 64 years on Sept. 10, 2014. Their lives reflect their deep love for each other and faith in God.

Reuben is guided by his dad's words of wisdom, "Its ain't what you do, but how you do it, it's not what you make, but how you use what you make."

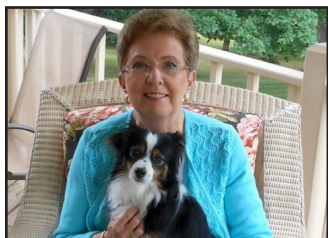
## John Archer

### NEWS



Ron High with nephew Garrett Stancil in Monticello.

Ronnie and Beckie Stancil High, who live in Gloucester, Va., took nephew Garrett Stancil, of Tabor City, N.C., sightseeing in Virginia, including Yorktown, Monticello and through the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. (Arthur/Tom)



Ann Stancil Harris' lovable Toy Australian Shepherd, Bella, passed her tests and evaluations and is now a registered and certified service dog with TDI (Therapy Dog International). Bella and Ann work in the cardio unit at Lynchburg General Hospital in Lynchburg, Va. (Beaman)

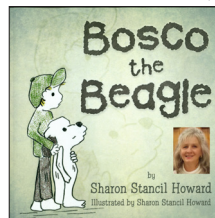
Jennifer Ernisse Stancil, wife of Johnathan Stancil, the grandson of Ann

Game Stancil Warner, is WQED Pittsburgh, Pa., executive director of educational partnerships. Jennifer, along with Debbi Casini Klein and Jennifer Kraus, were finalists in the Educational Television Division of the Press Club of Western Pennsylvania 2014 Golden Quill Awards for "iQ: smartparent-Tots + Tech." She was also a panelist at two breakout sessions: "Be My Neighbor Day — Connecting Young Families to Their Communities" and "digital.gov: Early Childhood, Your State Government, and Digital Media," at the PBS annual meeting in San Francisco, on May 14, 2014. (Kermit)

## Samuel

### NEWS

Sharon Stancil Howard, wife of Brad Howard, has written and illustrated "Bosco the Beagle" and "Bosco the Beagle Goes to School." They teach the meaning of friendship, acceptance and the importance of laughing at yourself. Both are sold on Amazon.com. She is the daughter of Muriel and Ray Stancil. (Lonnie)



Dennis Brian Berry, husband of Robin Stancil Berry, is a volunteer and pro staff



member at Patriots Hunts, a retreat facility and game preserve in North Carolina, dedicated to providing outdoor experiences for Wounded Warriors. They also coordinate hunting and fishing experiences throughout the United States. Brian retired from the U.S. Army as a Command Sergeant Major of the 4th Battalion, 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne) in May 2014 with more than 27 years of service, with 20 years in Special Forces. He is the son-in-law of Charles "Chuck" C. Stancil and the late Judy. (Elbert)

Chad Duke, husband of Tracey Spivey, won his first IHRA (International Hot Rod Association) race, the Top Sportsman Ironman at the Division 9 season opener at Dunn-Benson Dragstrip in Benson, N.C., in April 2014. He drives a '68 Camaro. He is the son-in-law of Flora Stancil. (Elbert/Fernie)



Dawn Duke, daughter of Franklin Chad and Tracey Spivey Duke, was the junior varsity cheerleader captain at Hanover High School, Wilmington, N.C., for 2013-14. She is the granddaughter of Flora Jean Stancil. (Elbert/Fernie)



Taylor Howard, son of Brad and Sharon Stancil Howard, has been promoted to director of The Advisory Board Company. He oversees two departments. He is the grandson of Muriel and Ray Stancil. (Lonnie)

Dr. Tommy Newton, husband of Annette Whitfield Newton, was elected clerk of the Session of Graves Memorial Presbyterian Church in Clinton, N.C. (Lonnie)



## Josiah

### NEWS

Olivia MacDonald, daughter of John and Karry Elde Eschenburg MacDonald, was Junior Homecoming Princess at Morro Bay High School and was selected as a Girls State delegate. On the swim team, she swam the medley relay and backstroke at CIF (California Interscholastic Federation) competitions. The medley team broke the school record and their own record twice at CIF events. She plays varsity basketball and volleyball. She is the current Associated Student Body President. She is the granddaughter of Sue Donna Elde Stancil Hooks. (Bill)

Tanner Stancil, son of Cindy and Danny Stancil, is the director of men's and women's tennis at Montreat (N.C.) College. He was an assistant tennis coach at Notre Dame. He is a native of Chattanooga, Tenn., and graduated from Tennessee Wesleyan College. (Leumos/'Jimmy')

Cathy Stancil, wife of



James Stancil, was among the top 5 percent of all Two Bright

Lights members in number of published photos. Her website is [cathystancilbelleimage.blogspot.com](http://cathystancilbelleimage.blogspot.com). She is the daughter-in-law of Elisa Stancil. (Harry/ Joe)

Ian MacDonald, son of John and Karry Elde Eschenburg MacDonald, played baseball at Cooperstown, N.Y., with his team. He is the great-grandson of Sue Donna Elde Stancil Hooks. (Bill)

Stancil Studios won the Julia Morgan Award presented by Suzanne Tucker of the Institute of Classical Architecture and Art on June 12, 2014, at the Carolands Chateau in Hillsborough, Calif. Members of Stancil Studios team were Elisa Stancil, Sean Norris and Kirk Maxson. (Harry Sr./Joe)

*In memory of John Craig Mahoney  
Devoted husband  
and father whose  
love endures and  
guides our lives.*

*Ellie Stancil Mahoney*



### EAGLE SCOUT



Ronnie, Billie and John Carter.

Ronnie McCray Carter, son of John and Billie Jean Edwards Carter, grandson of Laura Woodard Edwards and the late Bill Edwards, became an Eagle Scout on Aug. 1, 2013. His project was building steps from the senior parking lot to an entrance at Charles B. Aycock High School in Pikeville, N.C. Ronnie is a member of Boy Scouts of America Tuscarora Council in Goldsboro, N.C. He is a member of the Order of the Arrow Brotherhood and member of the council's venturing crew, an adventure-based coed program. His ceremony was Sept. 2, 2013, at Salem United Methodist Church in Goldsboro, N.C. (Leafy)

Jack Fallon, son of Michelle Stancil Fallon, has enlisted in the U.S. Army and is in basic training at Fort Benning, Ga. He is the grandson of Gay Stancil. (Harry Sr./Harry Jr.)



Jo Ann Campbell Brinson received a visit from nieces Stephanie Smith Zomant and Rebecca Savage Mangrum in Williamsburg, Va.

## Samuel



Mackenzie, Morgan, Sarah Kathryn and Paula Stancil visit with Mary Poppins during Easter vacation at Disney World in Florida. Brian Stancil, son of Jerry Stancil, took the picture. (Elbert/Durward/Jerry)

## Tempy Ann

### 35TH ANNIVERSARY



Mori and Carolyn Price Petersen celebrated their 35th anniversary. Carolyn is the daughter of Ella Narron Everett. (Delia/Annie)

## NEWS

Cindi A. Aldrich, daughter of the late Hilda Jean Johnson Kotajarvi, is the 2014-15 president and CEO of Association of Directory Publishers, an international trade association that serves the Yellow Pages industry. (Delia/Esler)



Angela R. Narron, daughter of Freddie and Linda Narron, is District Bar Officer, secretary-treasurer of District 11B of the North Carolina State Bar. Angela graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law. She practices law in Smithfield, N.C. (Ronja/Mozelle)



## NEWS

Monica Mann, daughter of Oliver and Allison Stancil Mann, had the lead, playing Mary Lennox, in "The Secret Garden" musical in Wilson, N.C. In an educational IRT video, Monica played a bully and then a girl being bullied. It was filmed in Chapel Hill, N.C. The video is being sold to schools as part of an anti-bullying program. Monica is the granddaughter

ter of Marcia Lynn Lamonica Stancil and Jerry Durward Stancil. (Elbert/Durward)

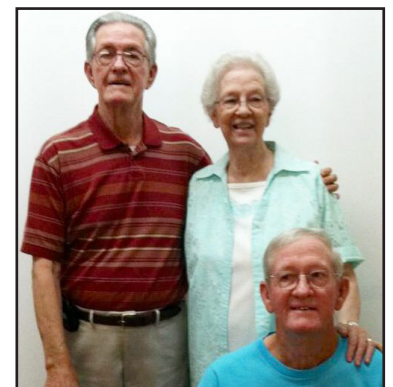
Will Newton, son of Dr. Tommy and Annette Whitfield Newton, interned with the Carolina Golf Association at Pinehurst during the summer. He is a senior at UNC-Chapel Hill. He is the grandson of Pat Stancil Whitfield and the late Bill. (Lonnie)

### 75TH BIRTHDAY

Josephine "Jo" Hill Parrish's 75th birthday, was celebrated on June 21, 2014, with a family dinner at the Robbins Nest Restaurant in Selma, N.C. Those joining her were daughters Melody Baird, Becky Parrish, and Cheryl Ricks; grandchildren Keelan Baird, Tanner Baird, Tyler Ricks; sister "Sis" Jeraldine Lewis with husband Bill, brothers Braxton, Phil, with wife Sue, sister-in-law JoAnn (widow of brother Ralph Hill); nieces Karen Hill Collins, Vicky Hill McCurry; nephew Kevin Hill, wife Karen Hill; and daughter Anna; nephew Dean Jackson, wife Linda and son and daughter. (Tonie)



Jo with sister Jeraldine Lewis.



Jo, center, with brothers Braxton and Phil.