

## **Henry Rufus Austin**

Fayetteville Observer, The (NC)  
January 18, 1998

CAROLINA BEACH -- Henry Rufus Austin, 83, of Carolina Beach, formerly of the Benson area, died Friday in New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington. He was a member of First Baptist Church and was a farmer. The funeral will be conducted at 11 a.m. Monday in Rose & Graham Funeral Home chapel in Benson by the Rev. Robert Bankhead. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery.

Mr. Austin is survived by a son, H. Dwight Austin of Carolina Beach; a brother, Lester Austin of Smithfield; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. The family will receive friends tonight from 7 to 9 at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Carolina Beach Presbyterian Church & Hospice of Wilmington, 725-A Wellington Ave., Wilmington, N.C. 28401.

## **John "Jack" Parker Austin, Sr.**

News & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC)  
October 7, 2003

Jack Parker Austin Sr. remained mayor of Four Oaks to the end Saturday, when he died of lung cancer at age 78. Austin attended the Town Council's most recent meeting, in September, where he announced that the town had won a \$200,000 grant to extend water and sewer lines along U.S. 301.

It was a fitting last act for Austin. He said he was inspired to become mayor as a teenager, after watching his father, a Town Council member, break down in tears when a handful of wealthy residents persuaded the town to forgo water and sewer service because it might raise taxes. Providing water and sewer remained Austin's priority when he won his first term in 1954. He was mayor of his hometown for a total of 28 years, including terms in the 1950s and 1960s. He had not suffered a close election since returning to office in 1981.

Austin was passionately frugal with the town's money and always on the hunt for outside help. Under his stewardship, the town paid cash -- \$600,000 -- for its new town hall two years ago, and Austin persuaded a private donor to provide all the desks and chairs.

Austin's father, a dentist by trade, owned a feed store where Austin was working in 1944 when he spotted his future wife crossing the street. The following year, Austin and Cleo Parker eloped in Dillon, S.C., Austin opened a soda shop on Main Street, and the couple had the first of their three children, John Parker Austin Jr.

The soda shop became Austin's Drug Store, where Austin's son and a granddaughter are pharmacists today. Austin also worked as an accountant, owned Cleo's Clothing Store and built

houses on the side. One daughter, Jean, works in the accounting office, while the other, Jane, runs the clothing store. In an interview in August, Cleo Austin said her husband was happier working than playing. He couldn't stand fishing, she said, because it required "too much sitting and waiting."

Austin was diagnosed with lung cancer in the spring. He received treatment at Johnston Memorial Hospital in Smithfield but was discharged Friday, according to Town Clerk Amy Dunn-McLamb. He died at home. "He told his wife and children that he was determined to get home to Four Oaks," Dunn-McLamb said.

Dunn-McLamb estimated that 250 to 300 people celebrated Austin's life Monday at a funeral at Four Oaks United Methodist Church, where he had been a member his entire life.

### **Joseph E. Austin**

Dunn Daily Record  
Thursday, May 27, 2004

Joe E. Austin, 88, of Four Oaks died Saturday at his home. He was born Feb. 9, 1916, in Johnston County to the late Joseph Henry and Carmen Gattis Austin. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Sandra Austin Penny; and brothers, Wilbur Austin and Jack Austin.

Private funeral services will be held Monday. Burial will be in Four Oaks Cemetery.

Survivors include his wife, Mabel Stanley Austin; a daughter, Phyllis Austin of Brunswick, Maine; sisters, Nancy Hogan and Sarah Austin, both of Winston-Salem; and brothers, Aubrey Austin of Four Oaks and Ed Austin of Raleigh.

A service of Minshew Funeral Home.

### **Myra Naomi Johnson Hodges**

Smithfield Herald  
10/27/1978

Mrs. Myra Johnson Hodges of Benson died Tuesday in Cape Fear Valley Hospital in Fayetteville. She was 66 years of age. Mrs. Hodges was born in Johnston County on July 21, 1912. She was a daughter of the late Thomas Junius and Mayola Austin Hodges {Note from Deb: Last name should read "Johnson"}.

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. Thursday in the chapel of Rose Funeral Home in Benson. Elder Shepherd Stephenson and the Rev. Gerald Rhyne officiated. Burial was in the cemetery at Hodges Chapel.

Mrs. Hodges is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Sandra McDaniels of Fayetteville; two sisters, Mrs. Edith Taylor and Mrs. Elizabeth Macarthy of Wilmington; two brothers, Horace Johnson of Route 1, Willow Springs and Millard Johnson of Richmond, Va.; and one grandchild.

### **Naomi Winnifred Norris Austin**

Fayetteville Observer, The (NC)  
April 21, 1995

WILMINGTON -- Mrs. Naomi W. Norris Austin, 79, of 121 Racing Drive, formerly of Harnett County, died Thursday in Liberty Commons Nursing Center. She was employed with Block Industries as an inspector. The funeral will be conducted at 11 a.m. Saturday in Rose & Graham Funeral chapel in Benson by the Rev. Jerry Beck. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery.

Mrs. Austin is survived by her husband, Henry R. Austin of Carolina Beach; a son, Dwight Austin of Carolina Beach; a sister, Pearl Byrd of Falcon; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. The family will receive friends tonight from 7 to 9 at the funeral home.

### **Samuel Aubrey Austin**

Smithfield Herald  
2/8/2005

Samuel Aubrey Austin, 87, of Four Oaks died Friday after a battle with cancer. Born Sept. 16, 1917, in Clayton, Mr. Austin was a son of the late Carmen Gattis and Joseph Henry Austin. He was the widower of Sarah O'Berry Austin.

After returning from World War II, Mr. Austin owned and operated Austin Feed Store in downtown Four Oaks for nearly 60 years. He served on the Johnston County Board of Education, 1951-1957; as chairman of the South Johnston High School Advisory Council, 1969-1976; and as president of the North Carolina Seedsmen's Association, 1967-1968. Mr. Austin had been a member of Four Oaks United Methodist Church since 1930.

The funeral was at 11 a.m. Monday at Four Oaks United Methodist Church. Burial followed in Four Oaks Cemetery.

Surviving are a son, Samuel Aubrey Austin Jr.; a daughter, Patricia Luce; a brother, Edward Heathcliff Austin; two sisters, Sara Young Austin and Carmen "Nancy" Hogan; and two grandchildren.

The family suggests memorial contributions to the Four Oaks United Methodist Church Building Foundation, in care of Elton Prigden Jr., 1977 Black Creek Road, Four Oaks, N.C. 27524.

## **Sandra Austin Penny**

News & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC)

April 11, 2003

Sandra A. Penny, 64, of Four Oaks died Wednesday, April 9, after a long, courageous struggle with ovarian cancer. She was at her home surrounded by family. A graveside service at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 12, with the Rev. Joey Yow officiating. Burial in the Four Oaks Cemetery.

Sandra was born June 30, 1938, in Wilson County. The daughter of Joe and Mabel Austin, she was a homemaker and artist. She was a member of the Four Oaks Methodist Church.

Survivors in addition to her parents include her daughter, Catherine A. Allen; two sons, Joseph A. Raulerson and D. Scott Raulerson, all of Four Oaks; sister, Phyllis Austin of Brunswick, Maine; and four grandchildren.

The family suggests that memorial donations may be made to the local chapter of the American Cancer Society, 806 Wilson's Mills Rd., Smithfield, NC 27577, and Hospice Foundation of America, 12000 Biscayne Blvd. @#505, Miami Beach, Florida 33181 or to the Four Oaks United Methodist Church, Building Fund, P.O. Box 1077, Four Oaks, NC 27524. Family will be at the Minshew Funeral Home on Friday, 7:00-9:00 p.m.