

Maddux Hardware closing

Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN

Published May 14, 2005 4:44 PM CDT

<http://www.ajlambert.com>

Jill Thomas
Herald-Citizen Staff

The 65 year-old-Cookeville landmark, Maddux Hardware, will be closing its doors on June 30.

Not because the store was overwhelmed by superstores. It wasn't...quite.

Not because it wasn't making a profit. It was, almost.

It is closing down because nobody wanted it.

"When I bought the store five years ago I was ready for something new," said Chuck Smith, who bought Maddux Hardware in 2001 with his wife Vickie.

"I had tried retirement and I didn't like it. I was bored and wanted a challenge. Then I heard that maybe the owners of my favorite store, Maddux Hardware, were ready to sell. I came in and spoke to Charles Cobb who owned the store with his wife, Phyllis.

"I said, 'I heard that the store might be up for sale.'"

'You're darn tootin' it is,' he said.

Smith laughed.

'You're darn tootin' it is,' he repeated with a smile.

"That's why I can't understand why no one wants to buy it now.

"I know there are people out there like myself who love old hardware stores and don't need to make a huge profit to be happy.

"We've had it advertised for months. We were willing to break our backs to help anyone who wanted to take it over. But many people were afraid of the competition."

Today there are two Wal-Marts in driving distance, a full service Lowe's, a Tractor Supply, two Ace Hardware stores and a Sears all selling many of the same things that Maddux sells.

"We survived the first Wal-Mart and the Lowe's," Smith said.

"But those new stores make it scary for some people who otherwise might consider buying," Smith said.

"In the five years we've had the store we've been able to turn it around and actually make a profit. So many new people have moved here who love the old store with its wide stairways and wooden floors and have

become loyal customers that we thought for sure someone would come forward eager to take it over," Smith said.

"We felt it would be a golden opportunity for a second career person, for someone around 48 or 50 years old, to enjoy who was tired of the rat race."

The Smiths were making a profit despite all the competition because Maddux offered things that superstores don't.

"Every machine we sell is serviced and gassed up and ready to go when we deliver it. No one has to take anything out of a box and put it together. If you buy a lawn mower, you can start mowing as soon as it's delivered," Smith said.

"We also have our own repair service here in the store," he said.

"There are some customers who come here with items they've bought at superstores and ask us to fix them," he said ruefully.

And the couple prides itself on the items it sells that the superstores don't carry -- high end kitchenware like All Clad, trendy kitchen gadgets, and especially items from memory lane like Radio Flyer wagons and Flexible Flyer sleds at Christmas, well buckets for drawing up water, loose nails sold by the pound or individually, dish pans for canners, pickle crocks, butter churns, made-in-USA mixing bowls, pink flamingos, Steinbach nut crackers, Badger Hair bristle shaving brushes, and Italian made walking canes, to name a few.

Why, if the store was beginning to be profitable, and if there were more and more people beginning to support it, are Vickie and Chuck Smith selling it?

"We're really ready to retire this time," Smith said.

"We're building a lake house. And the builder has made it clear we have to make some decisions this summer if it's going to be finished this fall," he said.

"We know this will be the end of era, but we have tried to honor the spirit of Dave Maddux in all our business dealings," Smith said.

In the beginning

According to a research paper by Lucinda Gibson, before there was Maddux Hardware, a Brown's Hotel was located on the corner of Hwy. 70 and Washington Ave.

In 1910 the hotel was torn down. In 1925 B.A. Mitchell built the Diamond Service Station on the corner of Spring and Washington for the fast growing automotive market.

By 1940 when Bob Lee Maddux bought the property for his son, Dave, and for former Putnam County Sheriff Sam Denton Poteet, Hwy. 70 had become the super highway of its day.

The two men formed the Poteet and Maddux Hardware Store.

According to Gibson's research, Poteet ran the store during World War II when Dave went into the Navy.

When he returned the heyday of Maddux Hardware began.

In the front of the store was an area with chairs where customers and friends could just come in and shoot the breeze.

"I don't think they would actually chew on tobacco and spit on the floor - but would they would chew on and spit out some good old stories," laughed Dave's son, Carlen.

The building's second floor was also used by the community in a variety of ways: as a skating rink in the 1930s, and a home for Cookeville's first commercial radio station, WHUB from 1941 to 1963.

"But at some point Dave and Sam Poteet broke ranks and around 1960 Poteet opened the Highland Hardware Store down the street," Chuck Smith said.

"The two stores continued to grow together, but stores develop their own characters and Poteet's was more of a nuts and bolts store and Maddux became a homeowner, female friendly store.

"And that made the difference," Smith said.

In the early 1960s, Phyllis Cobb, a schoolmate of Carlen Maddux started working in the store after she graduated from high school. While Carlen and Dave's other son, Bob, moved to Florida and New York State, respectively, Phyllis Cobb stayed on as sales clerk. In 1977 she and her husband, Charles, became partners with Dave Maddux.

Twenty years later the couple became the sole owners of the store after Maddux died in 1993.

When Chuck and Vickie Smith bought the store five years ago, the Cobbs stayed active and helped the Smiths work retail for the first time. Both the Cobbs and Smiths wanted to continue the legacy of Dave Maddux.

"I only met him once or twice when I first moved here," Chuck Smith said.

"Yet even then he had a way about him. He simply would do his best for you.

Carlen Maddux remembered just how far his dad would go for customers.

"I don't think too many store owners do this anymore. But dad would get emergency calls sometimes in the middle of the night and if he had the part he would go to the store and get it," he said.

Chuck Smith wasn't surprised that Maddux would do something like that.

"Even now I think his spirit permeates this place."

Smith walked over to an old thermostat about three or four inches square that was high up on a wall. Around the base of the gauge was a yellowed piece of paper with a typewritten message on it.

"For the present let's try leaving this on 70 degrees. Call me if it needs changing, Dave."

"Dave Maddux put that up years ago and no one has had the heart to take it down," Smith said.

"We all just carefully work around it when we adjust the temperature. We wanted as many memorials of Dave as we could get," he said.

Vickie and Chuck are proud that they've made the store a profit making venture once again, but they know that anyone who did come in would have to face a discouraging challenge - that just a few dollars can make a big difference to many customers.

"We've had customers come in, get an explanation and demonstration on how to run a weed eater or other tool, and then go buy it at a superstore where they could get it for \$10 less.

"And the big box stores appeal to younger buyers. They don't know what service is so they don't miss it," he said.

"Our biggest fans are those who have moved here from different parts of the country. They'll come in and be delighted with how similar this is to stores they remember from their youth.

"Locals often drive right by on their way to Wal-Mart," Smith said.

Still despite the competition, the customer base was growing and the store had a history of re-inventing itself. In the late 1960s and early 1970s things were really getting tough for Dave Maddux.

"He was considering selling because things were getting so bad," Carlen said.

"Then he tied in with True Value and that pretty much saved the store."

Chuck Smith agreed.

"You have to reinvent a store like this every five years or so in order to get renewed interest," he said.

Through it all, though, many area residents and area businesses have really supported the store, Smith said.

"Averitt Express, Russell Stover, Research Electronics -- these were just a few of the businesses that gave us their business," Chuck said.

"They've been very good to us."

Closing down

After five years of work, Chuck and Vickie estimate that they have over \$200,000 of inventory in the store.

"We were hoping to sell the store for \$250,000 depending on terms and including inventory. That's exactly what we paid for it five years ago," he said.

"But we'll start selling the inventory at 25 percent off on May 16 and then add more sale prices as the closing gets near. And we'll start opening at 9 a.m. (instead of 7:30 a.m.)

"That will allow some time each morning for our staff to prepare each day for the inventory reduction sales.

"The store will close in good standing. It is not broke. It is not bankrupt. It is not failing. We, along with all the previous owners, protected the store's integrity and good name," Smith said.

"Maddux Hardware has been and still is a reflection of her founders Dave Maddux and Bob Poteet."

As for the future, the Maddux Estate owns the building, but the family doesn't know yet what will happen.

"We've known for about six months that this day may come," Carlen said.

"But we haven't given too much thought to the future yet.

"The one thing that makes the most sense would be to convert the building into law offices. But its too early for us to say what we're going to do.

"I guess it's going to be an empty store front until can get something figured out."



High Octane Advertising
Vickie and Chuck Smith stand in by their 1952 Chevrolet half ton pick-up that is still used to made some deliveries for the store. "It's the only kind of advertising I've had that pays for it's self," Chuck said.

Photo by H-C Shawn Sidwell

The building was the Diamond Service Station in the 1920's.



A sale at Maddux Hardware in its heyday pictured left.

Sadness, but no savior for Maddux

Jill Thomas
Herald-Citizen
Staff

Maddux Hardware has had its closing sign out for ten days.

And from the time the closing was announced the store has been flooded with customers.

"It's been like a sudden death with no time to mourn," said Vickie Smith, co-owner of the vintage hardware store on Cookeville's town square.

"Monday was like seven days in one. People were crowding the store all day," she said.

The closing date is now tentatively set for June 16, the day after a silent auction to sell off some of the older memorabilia from the store (old signs, an old metal fan, a railroad hand truck, an original flexible flyer sled, popcorn machine, bubble gum machine, children's bench, wash tubs and ladders with original price tags, old vacuum cleaners, an old bow maker, etc.).

The store still has two weeks to sell off the rest of the regular merchandise at a 25 percent discount.

If need be the sale can be extended for an additional month according to the "Going Out of Business" license the Smith's bought from the city.

While the kitchen items and speciality items (like the Radio Flyer tricycles) flew off the shelves in the first days of the sale, there is still plenty of traditional hardware merchandise available.

Hopes of a last minute sale of the entire business that has been a fixture in Cookeville for 65 years are waning, but offers that were too low early on have now been replaced by a few offers that seem to have potential.

"We had four inquiries a couple of weeks ago, but no one made an offer, and the financial restrictions that True Value requires of its affiliates would be a challenge to anyone who doesn't have business experience," Smith said.

For the last week the staff at Maddux has been overrun with two kinds of customers: those out for a good buy and those wanting to support the store owners.

"We've had incredible support from friends who realize that at a 25 percent discount we're losing money with every sale," Smith said.

"The hardest thing is when people are pulling at you asking, 'When are you going to start charging less?' They don't realize we still have to pay the bills."

Maddux employees have found themselves touched by the loyalty of some of the regular customers.

"Everybody has had a day that's been especially difficult emotionally," said Smith with tears in her eyes. "I've had it everyday," she said.

"For my daughter (Andie) it came when the owner of Spring Street Foodtown (Leo Depriest) came into the store to buy some things and then insisted on paying full price for them. He wouldn't take the discount."

"I couldn't help crying a little," Andie said.

"It's hard not to feel guilty about this," said Smith.

"Chuck and I feel guilty about putting good people out of work. We feel a huge guilt about being the ones to stop a 65-year-old tradition. We feel guilty that we haven't been able to get a buyer for the store."

The Smiths are not only losing money on their inventory, but their store lease runs through October, 2006.

"Yes, we're responsible for paying the monthly lease for more than a year," she said.

Yet selling the store isn't an option for the Smiths unless the prospective buyer has a good chance of making a success of the store.

"We've had some offers that were almost insulting and we've had some from people who were naive about the costs of running a successful store. We won't sell unless everything looks good for the store and for the new owner," she said.

Everyone at Maddux is going to take a break this weekend to catch their collective breath after ten days of unprecedented crowds, Smith said.

The store will close Thursday for Memorial Day Weekend and open again on Tuesday at 9 a.m. when the sale and the silent auction will continue until everything is sold.

Published May 25, 2005 12:14 PM CDT: Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN

GENEALOGY RESEARCH

By Audrey J. Lambert

Robert Lee "Bob" Maddux – s/o James Nelson Maddux & Eudora Jared

b. 26 June 1889, Buffalo Valley, TN -

d. 9 December 1985 - md 29 December 1914, **Lorelle C. Adcock** –

b. 4 August 1893 – d. 17 April 1980

Robert Lee Maddux had been engaged in the mercantile business in Cookeville, TN for several years.

Both Buried: +Cookeville City Cemetery, Cookeville, TN

Many families, took their credit obligations very seriously. Bob Lee Maddux recalls walking from his home in Buffalo Valley to a store one & one-half miles away to trade eggs for coffee, sugar, & soda. When he came up a few eggs short, his mother ordered him back that night with more produce from the hen house.

Pg. 67, Putnam Co., TN 1860-1870 by Mary Jean DeLozier.

...David Haywood Maddux – b. 9 October 1915 md Margaret Alice Carlen – b. 19 November 1917 –

d. 15 May 1974: Buried: Cookeville City Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

1880 Census – 11th Civil Dist. Putnam Co., Tennessee

James N. Maddux W M 27 Farmer TN VA VA (*s/o Snowden Horton & Lucy Ann (Leftwich) Maddux*).

Udora Maddux W F 27 Keeping House TN TN TN (*d/o Josiah Jared & Frances Woodbury Bennett*).

Solon Maddux W M Son 6 TN TN TN (*md Daisy Dean Jared, d/o Christopher Columbus Jared & Montecello Lemiza "Sis" Braswell*)

Maude Maddux W F Dau.5 TN TN TN

Leona Maddux W F Dau.1 TN TN TN

1900 Census – 11th Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN

Dwl: 71 Family: 71

Eudora Maddux Head W F December 1850 49 Widow (11 children born, 9 children living) Farmer TN TN TN
Solon Maddux Son W M July 1873 26 Single Farmer TN TN TN
James Maddux Son W M October 1880 19 Single Farm Laborer TN TN TN
Earnest H. Maddux Son W M December 1882 17 Single Clerk TN TN TN
Sam Maddux Son W M February 1885 15 Single Farm Laborer TN TN TN
Snoden D. Maddux Son W M June 1887 12 Single Farm Laborer TN TN TN
Robert L. Maddux Son W M June 1889 10 Single Farm Laborer TN TN TN
Willie M. Maddux Son W M February 1892 8 Single TN TN TN
Henry G. Maddux Son W M March 1894 6 Single TN TN TN
Clarence J. Maddux Son W M February 1896 4 Single TN TN TN

1910 Census – 11th Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN

Dwl: 158 Family: 158

Udora Maddux Head F W 57 Widow (11 children born, 2 children living) Farmer General Farm TN TN TN
Willie M. Dau F W 18 Single TN TN TN
Henry G. Son M W 16 Single Farm Laborer TN TN TN
Clarence J. Son M W 14 Single Student TN TN TN
Fannie Webb F W 49 Single Cook TN TN TN
Beck Webb M W 55 Servant TN TN TN

1910 Census – 1st Civil Dist., Cookeville Town, Jefferson St., Putnam Co., TN

Robert L. Maddux Boarder M W 20 Single Salesman Drygoods Store TN TN TN
Oakley D. Massa Boarder M W 27 Single Salesman Drygoods Store TN TN TN

Source: Putnam County History 1850-1970 by Mary Jean DeLozier: Pp. 121 & 122:

Some leading dry goods stores in Cookeville around the turn of the century were the companies of Samuel Pincus, C. C. Fowler, Whitson Brothers, Fishel Brothers, W. D. Sloan, Gillem & Gillem, P. M. Smith, and C. S. Jenkins. Somewhat later Alexander P. Barnes took over Whitson's Dry Goods, and in 1911 J. Claude and Charles K. Darwin went into business with Jenkins to form Jenkins & Darwin Brothers. McDearman & Williams Company (later McDearman, Elrod & Williams) opened a large brick store on the square in 1913, and **Bob Lee Maddux and Norman Massa formed Maddux & Massa (later Maddux & Proffitt, Department Store), also on the square, in 1914.**

1920 Census – 1st Civil Dist., Cookeville Town, Walnut St., Putnam Co., TN

Dwl: 264 Family: 320

Frank Richmond Head M W 64 Married Assistant Supervisor TN TN TN
Jose Richmond Wife F W 42 Married TN TN TN
Robert L. Maddux Head M W 31 Merchant Drygoods TN TN TN (*Robert Lee "Bob" Maddux*)
Lorelle Maddux Wife F W 26 Single TN TN TN
David Maddux M W Son 4 3/12 Single TN TN TN
Eudora Maddux F W Dau ?/12 Single TN TN TN
Dora Lafever F W Maid 16 Single TN TN TN

1930 Census – 1st Civil Dist., Cookeville & ? Road, Putnam Co., TN

Dwl: 173 Family: 174 Line: 31

Robert L. Maddux Head M W 40 Merchant Drygoods TN TN TN
Lorelle Maddux Wife F W 35 TN TN TN
Dave Maddux Son M W 15 TN TN TN
Eudora Maddux Dau F W 10 TN TN TN

Sam Denton Poteet – b. 26 July 1899 – d. 19 December 1963 md Berilla Holladay – b. 20 March 1903 – d. 1 June 1986: Both Buried: Cookeville City Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

Samuel "Sam" Hughes Poteet – b. 1859 – d. 1931 md **Love Hyder** – b. 1870 – d. 1938

Both Buried: Algood Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN

James "Jim" Dewey Poteet – b. 1906 – d. 1979 – Pvt. U. S. Army WWII

Buried: Algood Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN

John Hershel Poteet – b. 1892 – d. 1946

Hazel Qualls Poteet – b. 1909

Emal Speck Poteet – b. 1894 – d. 1943

(All Buried next to each other at: Algood Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN)

Fred F. Dryer – b. 17 September 1897 – d. 9 December 1953

Galena (Poteet) Dryer – b. 28 November 1920 – d. 7 January 1921

Roy Filmore Dryer – b. 28 November 1920 – d. 7 January 1921

(All Buried next to each other at: Algood Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN)

1900 Census – 19th Civil Dist., Algood, Putnam Co., TN

Dwl: 188 Family: 192 Line: 92

Samuel Poteete Head M W April 1862 38 M (12 yrs. married) Farmer TN TN TN (*Samuel Hughes Poteet*)

Lous Poteete Wife F W November 1870 29 (6 children born, 5 children living) TN TN TN (*Love Hyder*)

Hattie Poteete Dau. F W October 1889 10 Single At School TN TN TN

John H. Poteete Son M W November 1891 8 Single At School TN TN TN (*John Hershel Poteet*)

Sophie Poteete Dau. F W December 1893 6 Single TN TN TN

Galena Poteete Dau. F W February 1896 Single TN TN TN

Denton Poteete Son M W July 1899 10/12 Single TN TN TN (*Samuel "Sam" Denton Poteet*)

William Durant Servant B M May 1879 21 Single Farm Laborer TN TN TN

V. H. Qualls Boarder W M August 1875 24 Single Farm Laborer TN TN TN

1910 Census – 19th Civil Dist., Algood, Putnam Co., TN

Dwl: 2 Family: 2

Samuel H. Poteet Head M W 48 M1 21 Farmer General Farm TN TN TN

Love L. Poteet Wife F W 40 M1 21 (8 children born, 7 children living) TN TN TN

Hattie D. Poteet Dau. F W 20 Single School Teacher Public School TN TN TN

Herchel J. Poteet Son M W 18 Single School Teacher Public School TN TN TN (*Herchel John Poteet*)

Sophie A. Poteet Dau. F W 16 Single TN TN TN

Galena A. Poteet Dau. F W 14 Single TN TN TN (*Galena Poteet md Fred F. Dryer*)

Samuel D. Poteet Son M W 10 Single TN TN TN

Lou A. Poteet Dau. F W 7 Single TN TN TN

Jim D. Poteet Son M W 4 Single TN TN TN (*James Dewey Poteet*)

1920 Census – 19th Civil Dist., Algood, Putnam Co., TN

Dwl: 281 Family: 285 Line: 15

Sam H. Poteet Head M W 56 Married Farmer General Farm TN TN TN

Love L. Poteet Wife F W 49 Married TN TN TN

Sam Denton Poteet Son M W 20 Single Farmer General Farm TN TN TN

Lou Anna Poteet Dau. F W 16 Single TN TN TN

Jim Dewey Poteet Son M W 14 Single TN TN TN

Fred F. Dryer Brother-in-Law M W 21 Md TN Switzerland (Father Speaks German) TN Salesman Drygoods

Galena Dryer Dau. F W 22 Married TN TN TN

Helena Dryer Granddaughter F W 2 8/12 Single TN TN TN

1930 Census – 19th Civil Dist., Algood, Putnam Co., TN

Dwl: 8 Family: 8 Line: 31

Sam D. Poteet Head M W Owns Home – Value 3000 30 Married (22 yrs. old 1st marriage) TN NC TN

Secretary & Treasurer, Hardware Store (*States mother born in NC but other census has her born in TN*)

Barilla Poteet Wife F W 27 Married (19 yrs. old 1st marriage) TN TN TN

Robert Huston Poteet Son M W Single 7 TN TN TN
Darris Marie Poteet Dau. F W Single 4 10/12 TN TN TN
Sam Poteet Son M W Single 3 8/12 TN TN TN
John Poteet Son M W Single 10/12 TN TN TN

1930 Census – 19th Civil Dist., Algood Town, Putnam Co., TN

Dwl: 89 Family: 91 Line: 93

Sam Poteet Head M W Owns Home 66 Married (26 yrs. old 1st marriage) Farmer General Farm TN TN TN

Love Poteet Wife F W 60 Married (20 yrs. old 1st marriage) TN TN TN

Source: Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN, 20 March 1972:

“Considerable damage” was done to Maddux Hardware by fire this week. A motorist on the Courthouse square looked up and saw curtains in the store’s upstairs section burning and called the fire department.

Firemen kept the blaze contained to one section of the store, but it and stock was badly damaged.

Investigators think the fire started in a fluorescent light fixture.



Maddux Services Wednesday

One of Putnam County’s best known citizens, Robert Bob Lee Maddux, died yesterday at Cookeville General Hospital. He was 96.

Funeral services are set for Wednesday, December 11, at 2 p.m. at the Collegieside Church of Christ with Brother Walter Edwards officiating. Burial will be in Cookeville City Cemetery.

Maddux was one of the founders of the store that is now Maddux & Proffitt on the Courthouse square, one of the oldest businesses in Cookeville. He and a partner opened Maddux and Massa dry goods in 1914.

He was well known across the state and elsewhere for his knowledge and love of fox hunting, and he wrote magazine articles and two books on the subject. He was active in the county, state, and national fox hunting associations.

He was a man of good humor and sharp wit, and warmly funny stories about him are told throughout this area.

One such story, a favorite with many of his friends, involves a fox hound he had. Someone from another state wrote to Maddux inquiring about buying a good fox hound, the story goes. Maddux, it is said dictated a letter to a secretary in which he described in detail the excellent qualities of a dog he had. But when the secretary read the letter back to him, he decided not to sell the dog. “Tear that letter up and throw it away – I’ve been wanting a dog like that all my life,” he reportedly said.

He was known as a Bible scholar, teaching Bible and Sunday school classes at the old Broad Street Church of Christ here from 1920 to 1953 and at the Collegieside Church of Christ until just a few year ago.

He was a farmer and a real estate developer.

During World War II, he served on the Rationing Board here, helping handle the government rationing of tires, shoes, and other items.

A native of Putnam County, he was the son of the late James N. and Dora Jared Maddux.

His family includes one son, David H. Maddux of Cookeville; one daughter, Mrs. Ledora M. Dunlap of Chico, CA; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Elders and deacons of Colleside Church of Christ will serve as pallbearers.

The family will receive friends at Hooper & Huddleston Funeral Home from 2 to 5 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. today.

Memorial contributions may be made to the University Christian Student Center in care of Colleside Church of Christ.

Hooper & Huddleston Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Verla (Bilbrey) Mason Obt.

b. 12 May 1923, Overton Co., TN – d. 16 April 2005, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, md **Waymon Lee Mason**, b. 9 July 1922 – d. 26 January 1989, Putnam Co., TN, (TEC 5 US Army WWII), Purple Heart), s/o **Marsh Turney Mason** (1893-1955) & **Della May Bartlett** (1896-1977). Verla (Bilbrey) Mason, d/o **Dillard Carson Bilbrey** (1887-1933) & **Mary Elizabeth “Polly” Cunningham** (1886-1979), both buried in Shady Grove Community Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

*See Marsh Turney Mason buried in Smyrna Cemetery.

*See Waymon Lee Mason buried in Smyrna Cemetery.

COOKEVILLE – Funeral services for Verla Ella Mason, 81, of Cookeville will be held at 11 a.m. on Tues., April 19, from the Cookeville Chapel of Hooper-Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home. Burial will be in Smyrna Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 5-8 today, Mon., April 18; and from 10 a.m. until time of services on Tuesday, at the funeral home.

Mrs. Mason died Sat., April 16, 2005, in NHC Healthcare of Cookeville.

She was born May 12, 1923, in Overton County to the late Dillard and Polly Cunningham Bilbrey.

Mrs. Mason worked at McCords for many years, then she and her husband, Waymon Mason, owned and operated Maddux Hardware until his death in 1989. She and her late husband were avid glassware collectors and Mrs. Mason enjoyed playing Rooka the Bangham Community Center. She was also a member of Smyrna Church of Christ.

Her family includes a daughter and son-in-law, Peggy and Leslie “Buddy” King Jr. of Cookeville; a brother, Beecher Bilbrey of Rickman; three sisters, Vauda Brown of Rickman, Otha Bilbrey and Betty Downey, both of Anderson, IN; two grandchildren, Kristi King Burkhardt of Knoxville, and Leslie King III of Naples, FL; a great-grandson, Mason Joseph Burkhardt; longtime special friends, Lorelle Farley and Junita Loftis Schroeder; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a sister, Bertha Reynolds.

Pallbearers will be Beecher, Perry, and Raymond Brown, Terry Downey, Allen Bilbrey, Dewight Stamps and John Parrish.

Honorary pallbearers will be previous owners and employees of Maddux Hardware.

Bro. Carl Sims will officiate at the services.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 18 April 2005

Sallie Majorie Whitson Obt.

COOKEVILLE -- Funeral services for Sallie Majorie Whitson, 96, of Cookeville, will be held at 10 a.m. on Sat., Aug. 12, from the chapel of Whitson Funeral Home. Burial will be in Salem Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 6-9 p.m. today, Fri., Aug. 11, at the funeral home.

Mrs. Whitson died on Wed., Aug. 9, 2000, at NHC.

She was born on March 27, 1904, in Putnam County to the late **J.T. and Minnie Ferguson Whitson. Mrs. Whitson was a salesperson for 42 years at Maddux and Proffitt.** She was a member of Salem Methodist Church and **Daughters of the American Revolution.**

Her family includes three grandsons and two granddaughters-in-law, Jack and Jan Whitley of Franklin, and Don and Tina Whitley, and Alan Whitley, all of Nashville; three granddaughters, Shannon Whitley of Franklin, Christina Whitley, and Stephanie Whitley of Nashville; a special cousin, Virgil Benson of Cookeville; a nephew, Tommy Burkett of St. Louis, Mo.; a niece, Ruth Doss of North Carolina; and a sister-in-law, Dimple Williams of Cookeville.

Pallbearers will be family and friends of Mrs. Whitson.

Bro. Gary Lee will officiate at the services.

Published August 11, 2000 11:59 AM CDT: Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN

Renovations



Herald-Citizen Photo/Ty Kernea

Workers use a crane to remove a vent during the ongoing renovations of the old Maddux Hardware building on Cookeville's Courthouse Square Wednesday.

Sign Renovation

Herald Citizen Newspaper,
Cookeville, TN
20 May 2007 – Front Page

SIGN OF THE TIMES



Herald-Citizen Photo/Ty Kernea

William Norris of L&W Services, Signs and Designs helps remove the historic Maddux Hardware store sign Thursday. The sign will be refurbished and reinstalled on the historic building undergoing renovations on the Cookeville Courthouse square.

1208 3801

AWARDED WINNERS

Love Set. In fact the love of your life will be these new lush colors, sensational new styles and breath-takingly lovely fabrics, all completing the **Betty Rose** picture for Spring. Remember it's the inside story that makes the outside smart.

- Style 1208**—Figure flattering dress coat in infinitely wearable Thrill Twill. Sizes 14 to 42. Colors: Navy and Black.
- Style 3801**—Traveler 3-piece suit—a perfect ensemble in Flight Shetland. Sizes 10 to 20. Colors: Nude, Dawn Blue and Rose.

MADDUX & PROFFITT,
Cookeville's Fastest Growing Store,
COOKEVILLE, TENN.

AWARDED WINNERS

Love Set. In fact the love of your life will be these new lush colors, sensational new styles and breath-takingly lovely fabrics, all completing the **Betty Rose** picture for Spring. Remember it's the inside story that makes the outside smart.

Morgan Mayberry Obt.

Funeral services for Morgan (nmn) Mayberry, age 89 of Jackson Co, will be held Friday October 25 at 11am at the Cookeville Chapel of Hooper-Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home. Bro. Raymond Hensley and Bro. Travis Irwin will officiate. Military honors will be provided by the Veterans Honor Guard. Interment will follow at Morgan-Pippin Cemetery.

Mr. Mayberry died Tuesday October 22, 2013 at Athens (TN) Regional Medical Center.



A native of Jackson Co. TN, he was born December 3, 1923 to the late Davis (Dave) Argo and Dona Etta Fox Mayberry. He was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Dorothy Sue Montgomery Mayberry (who died September 22, 2008); a son, Ray Douglas Mayberry; and a sister, Mildred Mayberry Pippin, as well as two infant daughters, Doris and Willene Mayberry.

Mr. Mayberry was an Elder of Liberty Church of Christ in Jackson County. He was a Veteran of World War II, having served in the U.S. Army in the South Pacific Theatre. **He was a farmer and a former employee of Maddux Hardware in Cookeville until his retirement.**

He is survived by a son, Robert Mayberry and wife Jan Mayberry of Riceville, TN; three grandchildren, Vincent Mayberry and wife Terri Grubb Mayberry, Juleah Mayberry Parrish, and Sarah Mayberry Holmes and husband Jake Holmes; six great-grandchildren, Kayleigh, Trevor, twins Zachary and Lauren Mayberry, Sophie and Finnley Holmes; and by several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Vince Mayberry, Jake Holmes, Art Montgomery, Robert Crabtree, Jim Dee and Bobby Summers will serve as pallbearers. Barry Allison will serve as an honorary pallbearer.

Mr. Mayberry's family suggests memorial contributions be made to the American Cancer Society-Cookeville, 753A Humble Dr., Cookeville, TN 38501 or to the Alzheimer's Tennessee Inc., Cumberland Office, 1459 Interstate Dr. Ste 211, Cookeville, TN 38501.

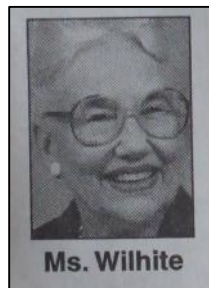
Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN

Pauline Bradford Wilhite Obt.

b. 2 March 1921, Putnam Co., TN – d. 26 July 2008, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, d/o **William Esker Wilhite** (1895-1930) & **Valeria Pierce** (1897-1991), both buried in Bradford Family Graveyard, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN.

COOKEVILLE – Funeral services for Pauline Bradford Wilhite, 87, of Cookeville, will be held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, July 29, from the chapel of Whitson Funeral Home. Burial will be in Bradford Family Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 5-9 p.m. today, Monday, July 28, and from 7 a.m. until time of services on Tuesday at the funeral home.



Ms. Wilhite died Saturday, July 26, 2008, in Cookeville Regional Medical Center.

She was born March 2, 1921, in Putnam County to the late William Esker and Valeria Pierce Wilhite.

Ms. Wilhite was a certified dental assistant and trained in the office of Dr. J. P. Terry. She furthered her education by correspondence from the University of North Carolina School of Dentistry with a A Average.

Ms. Wilhite was a member of the American Dental Assistant Association, Tennessee Dental and 5th District Dental Assistant Society. She helped organize the 4th District Dental Assistant Society and served as secretary and treasurer.

She enjoyed writing papers and giving them to her local society. She took first place on competitive pages given at the Tennessee State Dental Convention held in Nashville.

Mrs. Wilhite was a dental assistant to Dr. J. P. Terry for 26 years and two years to Dr. James L. Smith. **She worked 16 years at Maddox & Proffitt Department Store as a clerk with two of those years as a bookkeeper.**

Her work in community service included volunteer work for the Boy Scouts of America, SME and the United Way. She was a recipient of the Long Rifle Award. She was a coworker in Health Services United Way and for many years she was an active member of the Democratic Women's Club and a member of the Cookeville VFW Auxiliary.

Ms. Wilhite was foremost an active member of Salem United Methodist Church since the age of 12. She was a Sunday School teacher for 25 years, teaching juniors, high school youth and ladies classes. She was superintendent of SS class and a member of the administrative board, along with other positions in the church. She was a charter member of the Salem U.M.W. since 1949.

On Mother's Day, Salem Church honored her as their Spiritual Mother.

Ms. Wilhite loved home, family and friends. Her life could be summed up in one word – service.

In 2004, she wrote her first song "Trinity," now being used as a church song at Salem.

Her family includes a sister, Margaret W. Spurlock of Cookeville; nieces and spouses, Linda and Dennis McBroom and Betsy and Bruce Riley, all of Cookeville, and Martha and Joe Fell of PA, and great-nieces and nephews, Rachel, Anna, Josh, Eddie and Chuck.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a brother, Harold "Sonny" Wilhite.

Pallbearers will be Dennis McBroom, Josh and Eddie McDaniel, Joe Fell, Bobby Smith and Gene Jolicoeur.

Honorary pallbearers will be U.M.W. and Ladies Sunday School Class of Salem United Methodist Church.

Bros. Rick Cross, Guinn Nolen and Lynn Bullock will officiate at the services.

Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN

*Read more about the people and places in Putnam Co., TN & surrounding areas at:
<http://www.ajlambert.com>