

### Jimmie Enus Jaquess Obt.



COOKEVILLE -- Funeral services for **Jimmie Enus Jaquess**, 98, of Cookeville, will be held Monday, Oct. 2, at 3:30 p.m. at Crest Lawn Funeral Home.

Burial will be in Crest Lawn Memorial Cemetery.

Family will receive friends Sunday, Oct. 1, from 12-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Mrs. Jaquess died Sunday, Sept. 24, 2006, at Cookeville Regional Medical Center.

She was born Aug. 10, 1908, in Baxter to the late Phylander Dow and Zulema Clifton McDonald Hughes.

Mrs. Jaquess was the owner of Ideal Cleaners and Men's Shop in Cookeville since 1935.

She was a member of Jefferson Avenue Church of Christ.

Her family includes two daughters-in-law and their spouses, Marcia and Paul Byrge of Cookeville and Beverly and Paul Bacarro of Loudon; four nieces and their spouses, Laura and Charles Jackson of Baxter, Sheila and Steve Wakefield of Cookeville, Gradye Lee and Ralph Mattera of Woodford, Va., and Margaret Adams of Toledo, Ohio; a nephew, John Dow Hughes; a grandson and his spouse, Jeff and Lois Jaquess of Rolla, Mo.; a granddaughter and her spouse, Lentyn and Mike Myers of Fairfax, Va.; a great-grandson, DeAndre Jaquess of Rolla; two great-granddaughters, Stephanie Myers of Fairfax and Jasmine Jaquess of Rolla; and numerous great-nieces and -nephews.

In addition to her parents, Mrs. Jaquess was preceded in death by her husband, Frazier; two sons, Harry and Joe Mac; a brother, Davis Hughes; and a sister, Hanna Hall.

Honorary pallbearers will be former and present members of the Old Walton Road DAR, Cookeville BPW and Mrs. Jaquess' Sunday Ladies Bible Class.

Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of the giver's choice.

Bros. Johnny and David Fox and Buddy Johnson will officiate the services.

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## **WOMEN PULLING FOR WOMEN**

**By DYANA BAGBY**  
Herald-Citizen Staff

"**Miss Jimmie**" **Jaquess** sits at a desk crowded with papers and orders, dry cleaning hanging on racks behind her. "It's an interesting group," says the owner of Ideal Cleaners and who just recently celebrated her 90th birthday but still works six days a week. "I like it, I like the women, I like the programs. And it keeps me young," she adds, smiling. Miss Jimmie is praising the Cookeville Business and Professional Women Club, one of the oldest organizations in Putnam County, which is celebrating its 65th anniversary this year.

"I remember reading about it in the paper years ago one of the first projects they did was to have a campaign to raise money for street signs in the city. And I thought that was a good project and wanted to be part of a group like that," Miss Jimmie explains.

The most senior member of BPW, Miss Jimmie was invited to become a member in 1941 and also served as its president from 1947-49. And it is important for young women to join the group and share their experiences and ideas.

"I receive a lot of support from this group. I think younger women need to join, need to be part of BPW we need them to bring fresh ideas and energy to us," she says.

Next Saturday, Oct. 24, BPW will hold an anniversary banquet at Southern Hills Country Club and is inviting community leaders as well as club members to celebrate 65 years of working toward empowering women in the workforce.

Donna Bradley, 51, current president of BPW who works at Tennessee Tech University's bookstore, comes from a long line of BPW members.

"Our female family members believed in the premise of equal pay for an equal job done. And that's why I joined BPW, why I work hard and will continue to work and struggle for that fundamental premise," she said.

Currently, the National Business and Professional Women Organization is lobbying US Congress to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act and the Fair Pay Act to ensure economic equity for all women in America.

"The National BPW was also instrumental in getting passed the Family Leave Act we have our own lobbyist, so we are serious about equality for all," Bradley added.

#### Getting Women Involved

Kristie Baugh, 27, an employee at Staffing Solutions who has been a BPW member for one year, says the group helped her learn to stand up for herself in the work place.

"I learned that I could put my two bits in, but not in a mean way, and be listened to and respected at the office," said Baugh who this year was also elected second vice president of Cookeville's BPW.

"I also like getting involved with the community, meeting people and other professional women who are becoming mentors for me," she added.

As second vice president, Baugh is responsible for coordinating programs for BPW's regular meetings the first Tuesday of every month. Last year, the state BPW honored Cookeville's group for holding important issue programs for its members.

This month, former Cookeville Mayor Jean Davis and Vice Mayor Bettye Vaden the first women in Cookeville's history to hold those elected positions spoke to BPW members about "Women in Politics."

"It is essential that women get involved in politics, we need more women running for office," Davis told the group. "Women can no longer sit on the sidelines and expect their needs to be met."

Vaden added: "And when women run, they usually get elected; however, there's not enough of us running."

Of course, holding down a job and raising a family, double responsibilities that often fall heavily on women, makes it difficult for them then to add political involvement.

Anna Luscinski, a longtime BPW member, is taking that challenge up and is organizing the first Women's Political Caucus in Putnam County, with an organizational meeting set for Sunday, Nov. 8, at 2 p.m. at Southern Hills.

"I've just always been interested in doing this," she said. "And now is a good time to get started."

In addition to political interests, BPW is dedicated to helping women who want to return to the workforce. Each year, the organization awards scholarships to qualified women who need a boost to get that extra education necessary to elevate them as professional women.

This year, scholarship recipients were Lora Yates and JoAnn Cunningham of Cookeville who were awarded \$500 each and Dianna Weiker who received \$300.

Other programs BPW has sponsored this year include an awareness session on domestic violence at a regular business meeting and an individual professional and leadership workshop taught by member Barbara Dean, an executive assistant at Cookeville Regional Medical Center.

BPW here also began a new program this year, "Business Mixers." These mixers give members an opportunity to set up displays about where they work and discuss and explain their jobs. It is also a key way to 'network' an essential part of advancing in the workforce.

"Networking really pays off," said Ingrid Bertmeyer, 48, program coordinator at Maffet Inc., an architectural, engineering and construction firm in Cookeville.

A member for only one year, Bertmeyer joined after first attending the monthly networking lunches BPW holds.

"I was very impressed with the women I met. They are all interested in equal opportunity, which is a good goal, and I like the idea of helping women who need that extra boost," she said. "This club is good for our professional development, also."

#### Developing Professionals

Vicki Foster, 44, who has been a BPW member for nearly 10 years and works for the Cookeville Social Security office, said meeting professional women made her feel better about herself.

"I used to be intimidated by professional women, but through this group I learned that they've been through their ups and downs, too. BPW helps you to grow you learn that these women weren't always up where they are now professionally.

"I like the fact they are willing to share their stumbling blocks, how they were able to overcome them. And I think this is something women need to do more we need to help each other find our ways," she explained.

"It's also good for your mental health to meet people of different backgrounds and different professions," Foster added.

The second most senior member of Cookeville BPW, behind Jimmie Jaquess, Sue Box joined in 1967. An administrative assistant at First United Methodist Church, Box, 60, said she likes how BPW wants to help others such as through its scholarship program.

"We have helped other people, which has actually given me the incentive to help myself more. The women in BPW helped me get the courage to ask for a salary increase when I believed I deserved it and I got it," she said, smiling. "These are neat people and I knew I wanted to be part of it."

With more than 70 women as members and also Tennessee Tech University President Angelo Volpe Cookeville's BPW plans to continue making a difference for women who want to succeed not only in the workplace but also in their personal and emotional lives.

"These women are a real positive influence they are extremely intelligent, hardworking and good parents," said Vickie Bowman, 41, who has been a member two years and is currently a full-time accounting student at TTU.

"The women we need to seek out in the 90's are present in BPW they are like building blocks," she added.

"And these women could take over Cookeville."

\* For more information about BPW, call (931) 432-6678.

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Cookeville Business and Professional Women began in 1933, making it one of the first organizations formed in Putnam County. Charter members of the organization were:

Christine Gregory

Beulah Clark

Mrs. R.H. Harding

Mary Hardin

Edith Cooper Land

Jessie Isbell Sloan

Eva G. Betty

Mary O. Weyenberg

**Mary Denny**

**Alice Keith Ford**

Mrs. J.T. Hamilton

**Mrs. W.J. Holladay**

Ethel Bolen

Mrs. R.M. Greenwood

Rosalind Algood Vaden

Mrs. Harry Goldman

Clara Dudley

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## **JAQUESS: THE WALKING HISTORY LESSON**

**By LIZ ENGEL**  
Herald-Citizen Staff

When long-time Cookeville resident Jimmie Jaquess sets her mind on something, more often than not it gets done. For example, when she decided to hike a trail by her local church at the age of 97, all she needed was her son and daughter-in-law at her side, and voila -- the rest is history.

**By LIZ ENGEL**

**HERALD-CITIZEN Staff**

History -- like the roots her family has left in Putnam County. Or the history her and her late husband Frazier made during their times as the owners of Ideal Cleaners in Cookeville for more than 35 years -- from where Jimmie retired at the age of 92.

But Jaquess, now 98, fills her days of retirement by keeping up with her grandchildren (she has two as well as three great-grandchildren) and being an active member of BPW (Business and Professional Women).

And what many of us learned about history from text books and teachers are still vivid memories to her -- from being born in her parent's house to being a teacher in a small church house classroom, then to Ideal Cleaners, where a big part of her life was spent. But perhaps what she is best known for in the area is her connection to politics.

Jimmie's son, 'Yellow Dog' Democrat Harry Jaquess, was known to many for his Herald-Citizen letters to the editor. It was through this medium that he attacked Republicans, calling them "fat cats" and condemning their policies using capitol letters and numerous exclamation points.

"He got that from his daddy and granddaddy," Jaquess says as she points out a signed photo of him with Gov. Phil Bredesen. Harry had worked on Bredesen's campaign in 2002, and not long after that picture was taken, Harry died as a result of a disabling stroke.

But Harry wasn't the only one with a passion for politics. Jimmie and her mother have voted in every single election since women were granted the right with the passing of the 19th Amendment in 1920.

Much has changed since the time her mother cast her first vote in that year's election for Woodrow Wilson - - no more handwritten ballots for instance.

But even though voters then didn't have the luxuries we do today, nothing ever stopped either from making their way to the polls each election day.

"My mother used to have to dig ditches (for the \$2 needed) to pay the poll tax after her husband died," Jimmie said.

It's not hard to see how one might come to appreciate the right to vote when they can remember a time when that right wasn't around.

In the midst of her family ties to politics, Jaquess also has several other ties to the community -- as a teacher and business owner. Before owning Ideal Cleaners with her husband, Jimmie began her career as a teacher in the Gentry school system -- with a beginning salary of \$50 a month. A tough task considering the students she taught had no access to books to learn from.

"You know what they sent me down there to teach with?" Jaquess said. "A broom. That's it."

If her students did have books to learn from, it was usually a used book thrown away by the school teachers in Cookeville. And with no chalkboards, if she wanted her students to use paper and pencil, the money for supplies came out of her own pocket.

"We made do with anything we had," Jaquess said. "We used song books that belonged to the church, and I remember at one time we had one geography book for the fourth and fifth grade."

Jaquess' experience as a school teacher in the late 1920s and early 1930s, however, was not atypical. Small rural church house schools throughout the country struggled to provide supplies to students we sometimes take for granted today.

Jimmie left the days as a schoolteacher behind in order to raise her family. It was after that when she and got started in Ideal Cleaners in 1935, where her and her husband worked until his passing. Jimmie worked until at the Cleaners until age of 92, "because it was just like family.

"All the people in the cleaning business were competitors, but if one of 'em was down, the others would loan them a motor or anything -- cleaning, pressing," she said.

The building, located on the west side of town on 118 N. Cedar St. is inhabited by another business now, and although numerous changes have come and gone in that neighborhood since the shop closed its doors in 2002, Jaquess still can remember when the doors first opened 65 years ago -- it almost seems as if Jaquess remembers everything. For example, she keeps a 1917 edition book of American Poetry Prose by her bedside just in case she misplaces a line in her favorite poem, "The Arrow and the Song" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

"I like to memorize something new everyday to make up for what I lost," she says.

Spending an afternoon with her, it would seem like she hasn't lost anything at all. Her story is truly a walking history lesson.

## **TENNESSEE TURNED THE TIDE**

Did you know Tennessee was one of the last swing states when it came down to women gaining the right to vote? Historians believe if Tennessee had failed to pass the 19th Amendment, it would never be realized and the law would have died.

All that drama, known today as 'The War of the Roses,' went down in Nashville on a hot, muggy day in August. When the issue came to Tennessee, the amendment was one vote shy of the 36 states it needed in order for ratification. As the vote took place in the Tennessee legislature, women across the county looked on and were united by a single symbol -- a pin of a yellow rose. Those against it wore red roses. After two roll calls the vote was deadlocked twice at 48-48. During the third roll call one man -- Harry Burn, donning a red rose on his jacket -- suddenly broke the tie. And with his 'yea' universal suffrage was granted

to all American women. But why the sudden change of heart? Burns had received a telegram earlier that day from his mother in East Tennessee urging him to do the right thing -- vote in favor of the amendment.

Gov. A. H. Roberts signed the bill Aug. 24, 1920 and two days later it became national law.

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