

Algood's Jim Heard was one-of-a-kind

“James Howard (Jim) Heard”

Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN

Published July 24, 2003 12:17 PM CDT



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Herald-Citizen Staff

Jim Heard was an original -- one of a kind. For years a news photographer with the Herald-Citizen and more recently a private commercial photographer with studios in his Algood home, he died early last night at Cookeville Regional Hospital.

He had been hospitalized after suffering a massive stroke last week. Funeral services will be Saturday afternoon at 2 at Whitson's; visitation is tomorrow night from 5 until 9.

Jim came to work for the H-C in 1966, soon after his discharge as a career member of the US Air Force. I was never in my life so glad to see a new employee walk through the door.

I had started here about a year earlier as the paper's only reporter and only photographer, working for editor Coleman Harwell. Mr. Harwell and I wrote most of the news stories, and I also made pictures, everything from car wrecks to bridal showers -- also developed the film and printed the pictures in the darkroom.

Jim's arrival as the H-C's first full-time photographer was for me a great relief, and he remained as chief photographer for the next 13 years -- through the years as a twice-weekly paper and until about the time the H-C became a five-day-a-week publication.

Not only was I glad to see him that first day but every day thereafter. Jim immediately became a mainstay for the newspaper. He was an excellent photographer -- a perfectionist. On assignments, he was invariably dependable; more than that, he was always coming up with new, creative ideas.

In those long-ago years, newspapers frequently ran "pretty girl pictures," modestly-styled pinups -- a beautiful face with a bough of dogwood blossoms, an attractive young woman with a sunshine smile lifting the hem of her skirt just slightly above the knee while dipping her toes in a sparkling stream ... or tossing a big white snowball in January. Jim had a line-up of girls eager to be featured on the front page.

Those few of us who are old-timers at the paper have lasting memories of Jim Heard -- and one of the first things we think of is the "Turkeyhead Club." While Jim was dedicated, hard-working and totally serious toward his work, he had a distinctly humorous side. He had a sharp eye for the ridiculous aspects of human behavior; he was one of the least pretentious people in the world and had a low tolerance for phonies -- and believe me, in newspaper work you see a lot of the ridiculous and the phony.

Thus the "Turkeyhead Club" was founded, and "Turkeyhead Award" certificates were periodically passed out to deserving members of the H-C staff who had been caught in turkey-type situations. It was all in the spirit of gentle fun -- and Jim was truly a kindly, gentle person.

In more recent years, he became known to younger news staffers as the mayor of Algood, serving a term from 1993 until 1995, and as a leader in founding of the Dillard-Judd Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Over the years, Jim had kept his hand in news photography, making publicity shots for the Algood Lions Club's fish fry and other events, for example, and for the Sons of Confederates and their presentations and ceremonies.

Outside the H-C and across the paper's circulation area, Jim will probably be best remembered for his occasional letters to the editor -- his "Dear Pappy ... Please pass the biscuits" letters. A Yellow-Dog Democrat, he had a long, passionate interest in politics, and his "Dear Pappy" letters reflected his position precisely and without a bit of fence-straddling. Always stick it to the Republicans, that could have been his motto.

His letters, in which he put on a down-home, not-too-swift mask, were brief and funny and found much favor in this area -- but some disfavor, too, of course. The Republicans have definitely lost a watchful adversary in Jim Heard.

Many of us have lost a treasured friend.

Funeral services Saturday,

visitation Friday at Whitson's

James Howard (Jim) Heard died Wednesday (July 23, 2003) at Cookeville Regional Hospital. He was 78.

Funeral services will be Saturday in the chapel of Whitson Funeral Home, Cookeville, beginning at 2 p.m. The family will receive friends from 5-9 p.m. Friday at the funeral home, 30 North Dixie Ave.

Born on Aug. 7, 1924, in the Bangham community of Overton County and raised at Algood, Mr. Heard was the son of the late William Hickey and Sibbie Lee Warren Heard.

He served in the US Navy during World War II and then transferred to the Air Force, completing 21 years of duty in the Philippines, Germany, India, Canada and at bases within the United States.

Following his military service, he was employed as a photographer for the Herald-Citizen in Cookeville from 1966 until 1979, then operated Heard Studio at Algood.

He served a term as mayor of Algood from 1993 until 1995.

He was active in the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Algood Lions Club and the Democratic Party. He was a member of Algood United Methodist Church where he had served as a member of the board of directors and teacher of an adult class.

He held membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Retired Officers' Association, the Professional Photographers of America and Tennessee Professional Photographers.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Jessie Tillman Heard.

His immediate family includes his wife of 51 years, Mary Della Randolph Heard of Algood; a daughter and son-in-law, Debbie and Bud Long of Cookeville; a grandson, Tyler Long of Cookeville; a brother and sister-in-law, Edward and Lil Heard of Pensacola, Fla.; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Arlene and Buster Greenwood of Milan, Tenn., and Gaye Heard of Algood; a special sister-in-law, Jewel Jones of Cookeville; and several nieces and nephews.

The Rev. Vance Johnson will conduct Saturday's services. Burial will be in the Algood Cemetery.

Family members and friends will serve as pallbearers.

Memorial contributions may be made to Algood United Methodist Church, 135 West Main St., Algood.



Seated front row center is Sibbie Lee Warren Heard pictured here with her children: On the left seated: Jessie Tillman heard, married Juanita McCully; on the right: James Howard "Jim" Heard who married Mary Delia Randolph. Back row: Wanda Gay Heard, married 1st David Cowan, md 2nd Chuch Stajenski & md 3rd Doug West; Arlene heard, married Walter Greenwood; and Edward Heard, married Lil Oshiro. Sibbie Lee Warren heard was married to William Hickey Heard. Courtesy of James Howard "Jim" Heard.

Picture in the book: Sifting from Putnam County Tennessee by Mary Hopson, pg. 101.



Algood School, fifth grade, 1936. First row: Rosemary Colson, Joanne Huddleston, Mildred Boatman, Kathleen Dryman, Mattie E. Randolph, Mary Ellen Benson, Jonnie Speck, and Juanita Ramsey. Second row: Mildred Draper, Eleene Daniels, Eunetta Verble, Myrtle Walker, Reba Hunter, Jessie Mae Johnson, Earl Harris, Billie Dean Williams, James Howard Heard, and Mary Gladys Hunter. Third row: Willis Hunter, _____ Taylor, Charles Verble, Charles Kuykendall, George Gilpatrick and Billie Frank Roberson. Courtesy Heard Photography, Algood, TN.

Picture in the book: Stray Leaves of Putnam County Tennessee by Mary Hopson, pg. 90.



Jim Heard: Portrait Photographer Extra Ordinar's. Born to William Heard and Sibbie Warren Heard in the Bangham Community. Moved to Algood, Tennessee where he grew up and attended school. Drafted in the navy in 1943. Served on the Destroyer Escort, USS Manning in the Pacific Theater during World War II. Discharged from the navy in 1946 and joined the air force in 1947. He retired in 1965 after serving in the military 21 years. He has been a commercial photographer in the Cookeville area since 1966. Operating his own studio on East 10th St. He now has his studio in his home in Algood. He is married to the former Mary Randolph and they have one daughter, Deborah Heard Long.

Picture in the book: Sifting from Putnam County Tennessee by Mary Hopson, pg. vi.

Jim Heard contributed many photos for the various picture books by Mary Hopson and for the book called Pictorial History of Putnam County Tennessee by 1st National Bank of Cookeville, TN.

Source: Pictorial History of Putnam County Tennessee by 1st National Bank, 1988, pg. iii. Acknowledgement of the many hours spent in meetings and in research for this book:

James "Jim" Heard, is a native of Putnam County who attended Algood High School. He is an award-winning photographer and a renowned portrait photographer who worked as a photographer for a local newspaper for several years. Mr. Heard also served in the Navy during World War II and then enlisted in the Air Force and served twenty-one years. he presently owns and operates a portrait studio in Cookeville, TN.

REMEMBERING JIM

Herald Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Monday, June 09, 2008
Herald-Citizen photo/Shawn Sidwell

The Sons of Confederate Veterans held a memorial service for former Herald-Citizen photographer and



SCV member Jim Heard at Algood Cemetery on Saturday. Participating in the ceremony were (from left on cannon) Jeff Wilkins with the Highland Brigade and Mike Wilson, Commander of the Highland Brigade along with (standing, from left) Ken Tyler, Commander of Captain Champ Ferguson Standing Stone Camp; Gail Parker, Second Lt. Commander of Ferguson Camp; and, Steven Parker, Chaplain of Ferguson Camp.

