

Growing Up Together

By LAUREN WASMUND

For Donny and Myra Teague, it's a simple story. The two met in grade school.

Donny was a year older than Myra in school, but due to varying class sizes, they both ended up in the same classroom from second to fifth grade.

It wasn't until Myra's freshman year of high school, at age 14, the two made it official. Their date nights included the roller rink, cruising around Hickory, movies and hanging out with friends.

I'd like to imagine a scene out of the classic film "Grease," with the big poodle skirts and slicked back hair. Although there may not have been any abrupt musical numbers.

On Christmas Eve in 1963, Donny proposed to Myra.

A week before their wedding, Myra ended up in the emergency room in Charlotte. Myra was moving out of the dorms at King's College in Charlotte, where they both attended college, when a large oak closet door fell on her big toe.

"I was fine until he said you're not going to be able to wear shoes for the next six weeks," Myra said. "I looked at him and started crying and said, 'Well, I'm getting married Saturday!'"

That didn't stop her from walking down the aisle. The two were married in November of 1965 at Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church in Bethlehem.

Rev. Wade Benson commenced the marriage and with around 100 people watching, the two made their vows to each other. There was no reception, just a simple sharing of



A SIMPLE WEDDING — Donny and Myra Teague were married in November 1965 at Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church in Bethlehem with Rev. Wade Benson officiating.

cake.

Donny is well-known in the community for being a part of the Clayton-Marcus Teague family and the founder of Huntington House furniture. The furniture company was started by his brothers and other family members, but named after his father.

He worked there for about 10 years before starting Huntington House. Donny was just 14 when Clayton Marcus opened.

Yet, before beginning a career in the furniture business, Donny held an extended stint in the military.

The couple lived in

Washington, D.C. from 1967-1972.

Myra vividly remembers the city during various important demonstrations in U.S. history such as the March on the Pentagon, The May Day Protests and many more.

The Teague's first child, Corey, was born in 1970. This presented a new challenge for the couple.

Myra and Donny had to rely solely on each other. As two people who had never had a child, never lived too far away from home and were still learning what it meant to be married, their relationship grew

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BUMGARNER OIL BEGINS CONSTRUCTION — Demolition of the old First Citizens Bank in Bethlehem began on February 1. Bumgarner Oil Company will build a second Exxon Mobil gas station, Little Caesar's Express, and Dunkin' Donuts on the site.

Photo by Brandon Brumley

Groomer Has It: There's a new dog grooming business in Bethlehem

By LAUREN WASMUND

Every Tuesday, Butterbean, the Chinese Crested, makes an appearance at Bethlehem's new dog-grooming business Groomer Has It, Inc.

Bethlehem residents and dog owners may know the owner, Kandey Stroud, 42 of Bethlehem, from Lynwood Kennels. She worked as a professional dog groomer at Lynwood for the past seven years until they closed for business last month.

Stroud is no stranger to the world of dogs. Having grown up in Florida with dogs of her own, she began grooming 24 years ago. Her experience even stretches into grooming poodles for show.

Before she moved to the North Carolina area in 2006, she owned a shop in Florida.



A SPECIAL CONNECTION – Kandey Stroud, owner of Groomer Has It, Inc. grooms Rufus the Standard Poodle.

Stroud's love for the animals she cares for does not go unnoticed.

"I get really attached to the dogs," Stroud said. "I don't like to hear when they pass away."

On average, she grooms five dogs a day. She keeps a smaller schedule in order to keep each dog

more comfortable. A trip to the groomers can be nerve-racking for many pets.

A quieter shop equals more time to focus on each dog's needs.

Groomer Has It, Inc. is located at 1036 Shiloh Church Road, Hickory, N.C. 28601.

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Hurshel Teague, furniture executive and Bethlehem promoter, succumbs

By MICAH HENRY

Hurshel Charlie Teague, age 90, passed away February 13, 2021. He was born to the late Espie and Robert Teague.

A member at Fellowship Advent Christian Church and an Alexander County Commissioner from 1978 to 1982, Hurshel was also co-owner and co-founder of Clayton Marcus Furniture Company.

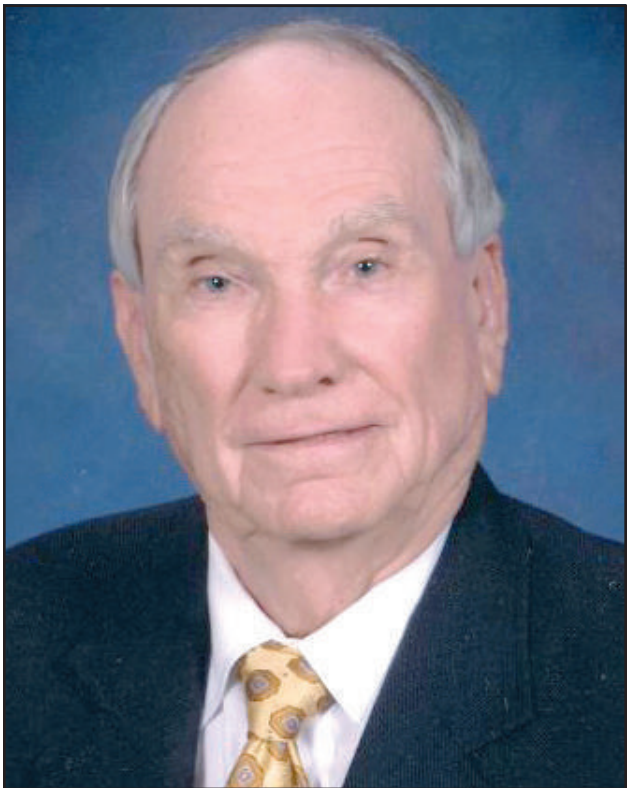
Family and friends recall that he could design and build anything he set his mind to. Hurshel designed and helped finance the first lighted Bethlehem Star. The original star was constructed under his direction at Clayton Marcus Furniture. Teague was recognized at the first lighting of the new Bethlehem Star for his work with the original program.

Donny Teague, a first cousin to Hurshel, related that Hurshel and brother Bobby Gene both had polio as children. This left Hurshel with one limp arm and required a brace on one of his legs.

"It didn't slow Hurshel down, though. He could still do about anything he wanted to do," Donny stated.

Hurshel started Clayton Marcus Furniture in conjunction with two of Donny's older brothers, Joe and Dan Teague. Hurshel was in charge of finance. Their father, Clayton, ran a grocery store at the time but later sold his store and became involved full-time in the growing furniture company.

When Donny was discharged from service in the early 1970s, he worked with his brothers and Hurshel at Clayton Marcus for about ten years. During that time, Clayton Marcus had been sold to Ladd Furniture of



FURNITURE MAN — Hurshel Teague started Clayton Marcus Furniture alongside his cousins Joe and Dan Teague. Hurshel was in charge of finance for the well-known furniture company.

High Point. At its peak, Clayton Marcus employed about 300 people. Donny then started his own company, Huntington House Furniture, in Bethlehem. Hurshel stayed at Clayton Marcus with Ladd and even stayed there though a subsequent sale of the company before retiring, Donny recalled.

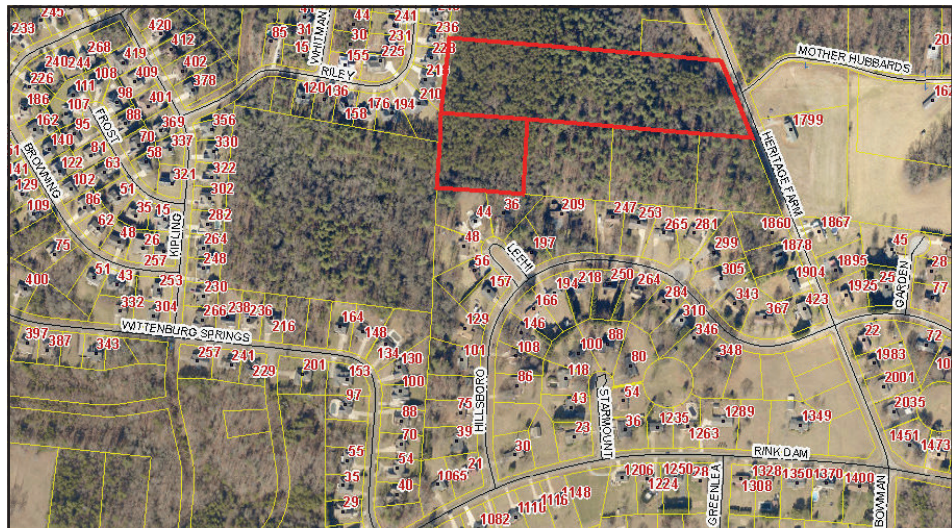
"Hurshel was always active in the community," Donny said. "He was active with the youth around the area, too. When I was growing up, we had a lot of activity at the community center, where we had the ballfields."

"What I remember about Hurshel, even though he didn't have the physical ability to do a lot of things, he found a way to make it work. It was amazing, once he put his mind to doing something."

When Donny was about 17 or 18 years old, Hurshel decided he wanted to build a pontoon boat. Hurshel enlisted brother-in-law Don Jones and Donny to build it for him.

"We would go up there, every weekend, for about all summer. He couldn't do the physical work, Don and I did that for him, but we ended up building a whole pontoon boat based on his ideas. He had it all figured out. We welded all the tanks together and built the cabin on it and everything. Hurshel and Dot (Hurshel's wife) always had cookouts for us, so we always had meals to eat. That was kind of our pay for doing the work," Donny recalled. "We had a lot of good times as we worked. We were always kidding

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Harbour Town Holdings, LLC to build new townhomes in Beth.

By LAUREN WASMUND

Harbour Town Holdings, LLC proposed the construction of townhomes on 11.78 acres located on Heritage Farm Road at the Alexander County Board of Commissioners meeting on January 22.

The board passed the conditional use permit that is outlined in the Alexander County Zoning Ordinance 154.140.4.

Owner of Harbour Town Holdings, LLC, Josh Lail, said there will be 44 total units with four units per building. The location is on the backside Wittenburg Springs.

The upscale townhomes will be for ages 55 and older. They will consist of one floor and a two bedroom/two bathroom floorplan that is also senior-friendly.

Each townhome will also be on public water and sewage. Lail plans to add other amenities such as raised garden beds and a

picnic area.

The community will have a homeowner's association to help manage the grounds.

Lail does not yet have an estimate on rent or HOA fees for the townhomes or a date of completion.

Construction will begin in spring or early summer.

The total amount of land to be disturbed is 7.65 acres. The estimated cost of project is \$7.04 million.

Harbour Town Holdings, LLC address is PO Box 6012, Hickory, NC 28603.

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COVID-19 update: Teachers eligible on Feb. 24

Educators and child care personnel will be eligible beginning February 24 for COVID-19 vaccine, dependent upon state vaccine distribution.

Vaccinations are continuing for first and second doses; however, vaccine supply for first doses remains limited. Staff continues to schedule appointments with those on the waiting list in Groups 1 and 2 (health care and ages 65+) in the order in which their information was received. To submit your information, visit www.alexandercountync.gov/covid to complete the online form or call the vaccine hotline at (828) 352-7724.

Alexander County has a cumulative total of 3,781 confirmed cases of COVID-19, according to the N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services online dashboard as of Tuesday, February 16. On February 9, the Alexander County Health Department reported there had been 73 deaths associated with the virus.

The state dashboard shows that Alexander County has had 267 cases in the last 14 days, as of February 9, with 136 of those cases in the last seven days. The county's current test positivity rate is 10.1 percent, while the state's rate is 8.6 percent. As of February 1, Alexander County was downgraded to an "orange" county from a "red" county in the state's County Alert System, for "substantial" community spread.