



James Eugene Newby

March 1, 1930 - March 24, 2019

He was our father, our mother and our devoted listener. The rock upon which our family was built.

Farmer. Businessman. United States Marine. Elementary school room mother. James E. Newby died peacefully at his home March 24, 2019, on the farm where he had lived since he was 5 years old. He was 89. A memorial service is planned for 11 a.m. Saturday, April 6, at White Oak Presbyterian ARP Church, Moreland. Visitation at the church will follow.

Born in 1930 to Fannie Lou and Clarence E. Newby, James and his family did not have electricity or indoor plumbing. He spent much of his boyhood plowing a mule in the fields of his father's Coweta County farm, sometimes plowing by moonlight to get the work done. When his father broke his leg, James quit high school and took over the farm. (He earned his high school diploma later.) He joined the Marines on Sept. 10, 1951, serving two years. After that he embarked on a business career. But he never stopped farming until he was in his 80s, when arthritis finally slowed him down.

He was a big man – 6-foot-3 and broad about the shoulders. When the mother of his two daughters took ill, he took on her duties, including cooking baked beans about every other night for dinner, a dish his younger daughter, Diane, will not eat to this day. It was a measure of his commitment to his daughters and his confidence in himself that he became “room mother” for a year at Atkinson Elementary School. At a parents' meeting in middle school, he once identified himself as “Debbie's mother.”

Strong as a horse, James often reminded his own horses of this fact, especially when he was shoeing them. He ran dozens of cows and owned many horses, two enormous mules and a burro named Trouble. He was always on the lookout for a new wagon, and he loved driving his mules with his many friends in the Old Time Driving Club.

He is survived by his wife, Betty McCullough Newby, and was preceded in death by his wives Gladys McWhorter Newby and Johnnie Abercrombie Newby. Also surviving are his beloved sister and only sibling, JoAnn Whitlock; his daughters, Debbie Newby Halicks (Richard) of Peachtree City and Diane Newby Moore (Ron) of Perry; grandchildren Lauren Moore Hutchens (John), Lindsay Newby Moore Spinks (Joe), James "Will" Halicks (Samantha), Sarah Newby Halicks and Joseph Landon Moore III; nieces Jill Wilson and Jerri Whitlock (Chris); and six great-grandsons: John Michael Hutchens II, Christian James Hutchens, Logan Jude Hutchens, Elijah Joseph Spinks, Luke Hunter Spinks and Ronen Gabriel Stiles-Halicks.

James worked as a weaver at Southern Mills and later at Ford Motor Co. He joined Coca-Cola in 1955 and worked there for 35 years. He started out driving a route, delivering Coke to stores, and was promoted to manager of the Newnan Coca-Cola Bottling Plant. He was the face of Coca-Cola in Newnan, as long as that plant was open, and then worked as division manager of bottling operations from Macon to Valdosta.

He was devoted to his job, sometimes jotting down notes about Coke signs that needed attention as he sat in church on Sunday morning. At high school football games, when he saw someone drinking a Pepsi, he would go to the concession stand and buy them a Coke. He once loaded up samples of a new Coke product and served them to students at a Coweta County school.

James was an avid reader, especially of Louis Lamour western novels. He owned more than 100 copies of Lamour's books and stacks of similar novels by other authors.

He cut Christmas trees in the woods and proclaimed each year's tree the best one ever. He had a farmer's eye for the weather, tracking every inch of rain

that fell on his spread. And he took a childlike delight in snow – perhaps because it reminded him of the times his mother made him ice cream from snow.

In earlier years, he served as a deacon and elder and sang in the choir at White Oak Presbyterian, was a member of the Newnan Civitan Club and sat on the Trust Board of Fayette-Coweta EMC. He was on the Coweta County Farm Bureau Board of Directors from 1993-2002. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to White Oak Presbyterian ARP Church 2796 Gordon Road Senoia, GA 30276. The family would like to thank the staff of Bridgeway Hospice in Stockbridge and the caregivers for all they did for James. Online condolences may be expressed at www.mckoon.com. McKoon Funeral Home 770-253-4580.

Cemetery Details

White Oak Assoc. Reformed Presbyterian Cemetery

2796 Gordon Road
Senoia, GA 30276

Previous Events

Service

APR 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

White Oak Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church
2796 Gordon Rd
Senoia, GA 30276

Visitation

APR 6 (ET)

White Oak Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church
2796 Gordon Rd
Senoia, GA 30276

Tribute Wall



“ We were so sorry to hear about James our thoughts and prayers are with you
Peggy and Karen Hubbard

Karen Hubbard - April 06, 2019 at 04:29 PM



“ I have such fond memories of James and visiting his farm with Richard and Debbie and Will and Sarah. I remember the great fun of riding in James' wagon and I can't forget the little burro, Trouble. James seemed so proud of his family and his farm. James was always so kind, so soft-spoken, so helpful and he was very wise. I appreciated his gentleness and sense of humor as well as the hospitality he extended to my family, especially to my mother. She always said she enjoyed seeing James. I also appreciate the hospitality that Betty extended to us. And I must say that James grew the best tomatoes I've ever tasted! It was clear he took pride in that. I didn't know so much about James' life until I read the beautiful obituary that Debbie wrote about him. James had a very rich life. I'm so glad that through Richard and Debbie I had the opportunity to get to know him. My deepest sympathy to all who are grieving, Debbie, Diane, Richard, Will, Sarah, Sammy, and Betty as well as many others. *Ruthie Halicks*

Ruthie Halicks - April 04, 2019 at 04:51 PM



“ *Diane, I am thinking of you. I would love to see you sometime. Take Care. Nora Ann Wood*

Nora Wood - April 01, 2019 at 12:25 PM

DM

Thank you Nora Ann! My daughter asked me who you were, and I said my dear friend from NHS. It made me miss you - I would love to see you too. I come to Newnan regularly - if you are still there.

Diane Newby Moore - April 07, 2019 at 11:18 PM

BD

“ Sorry for your loss. Prayers for you and your family.

Barbara H Davidson - March 30, 2019 at 04:17 PM

ER

“ Debbie, I have thought of you and your family often through the years. I am so sorry for your loss. I remember your father’s sweet smile and piercing blue eyes. I agree with Cindy..... you must have written the obituary. I used to “love it” when Mr. Smith would call on you to read your assignment to the class! May God bless you and yours. My deepest sympathy.

Eloise Askew Reynolds

Eloise Reynolds - March 28, 2019 at 04:49 PM

KS

“ What a beautiful and moving obituary ... thank you for sharing the life of your father/grandfather in such a special way. Our thoughts are with you all ...

Ken and Patti Stiles - March 28, 2019 at 12:08 PM

CW

“Debbie and Diane - we send our thoughts and prayers. Your Dad was a very special man who spent a lot of time with me and my family when Miss Johnnie was alive. They loved to share the farm - thie kids would ride horses (he even talked Ken into riding once and the horse ran away with him and your Dad laughed so hard) and talk to the cows. Lots of good memories from your Dad. He was a wise and caring man and I know you will miss him dearly. Debbie, you must have written the obit - your journalism shows well. That is a wonderful tribute to him. We will keep you in our prayers. Take care.

Cindy (McGraw) Williams and Ken Williams

Cindy Williams - March 28, 2019 at 12:05 PM

DM

“So very sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with your family! God bless! Delilah Meadows

Delilah Meadows - March 28, 2019 at 06:36 AM

MS

“I'm so sorry for your loss. I've known your dad about all my life. When I was little, we lived across the street from the Coke plant. He will be missed.

Maryann Shelnutt - March 28, 2019 at 06:16 AM

VG

“Debbie and Diane...so sorry to hear about the loss of your Dad...you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Velma Gulick - March 27, 2019 at 11:22 PM

SW

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with ya'll during this difficult time.*
Ronnie and Susan Robinson Whatley

Susan Whatley - March 27, 2019 at 10:52 PM