

# Deaths

## Ralph Powell



Ralph E. Powell, 73, of Metropolis, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2015 at 9:45 a.m. at Baptist Health Paducah, with his loving family at his side.

Born in Massac County to William Omer and Daisy Aline Davis Powell, Ralph built, owned and operated Ralph Powell's Truck Plaza in Metropolis and several other businesses and built many houses.

Ralph was a truly a man of many hats. He did the job and did it well — always helping those in need. He was loyal to his family.

He retired from Carpenters Local 640 and was a member of First Baptist Church in Metropolis.

Survivors include his wife of nearly 50 years, Margaret Trail Powell; one daughter, Kimberly M. Faulkner and husband Todd; one son, Timothy E. Powell and wife Kandice; Paw Paw's "Little Angels," Kirsten M. Faulkner, Blake E. Powell and Dane M. Powell; one brother Johnny Powell and wife Pat of Vienna; one sister, Frances L. Holder of Metropolis; one half sister, Margie Walton of Paducah; one brother, James Paul Powell; several nieces and nephews, whom he loved dearly;

his mother-in-law, Gladys Dak Trail; one brother-in-law, John W. Trail; and one sister-in-law, Shirley M. Lanier.

He was preceded in death by his parents; six brothers, Billy R. Powell, Donald L. Powell, Jerry W. Powell, Robert Powell Jr., William P. Powell and Marshall R. "Shorty" Powell; one half brother, Omer "Tennessee" Powell; and his father-in-law, Leroy Trail.

Funeral service was held Saturday at Aikins-Farmer Funeral Home in Metropolis with Dr. Joe Buchanan officiating. Entombment will be at a later date. Honorary pallbearers were Darrell Followell, Carl Hornthrop, Bert Foster, Terry Heisner, Lindell Eickholz, Charlie Eichorn, John Trail, Gary Cameron, Drew Walker, Terry Hayes, Mike Hillebrand, Steve Alvarado, Jimmy Varble, Jackie Lewis, Jim Conley, Jack Hankins, Andrew Meinders, Joey Jeffery, Todd Fowler, Coty Fowler, Eddie Beck, Tim Mitchell, Gary Faulkner Jr., Mike Jacobs, Mike Parmer, Lee Anderson, Barry Blane, Jacob Brenningmeyer and Brett Gentry.

There was a Celebration of Life gathering for "all" immediately following the service at the home of Todd and Kim Faulkner. The meal was catered.

Memorials may be made to: First Baptist Church, 307 Massac Creek Rd., Metropolis, IL 62960; or My Little Buddies Boat — Fishing with a Mission, c/o Eli Delany, 965 Hammond St., Chestnut Hill, MA 02467.

—Paid Obituary—

## Dorothy Mathis

Dorothy M. Mathis, 93, of Metropolis, died Thursday, Sept. 17, 2015 at Metropolis Rehabilitation and Health Care Center.

Funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday at First Missionary Baptist Church in Metropolis with Rev. Orlando McReynolds officiating. Pianist will be Jo Martha Clark.

Burial will follow at the Masonic Cemetery in Metropolis.

Pallbearers will be David Daughtery, David Jeffries, Terry Rhymes, Mike Mathis, Micah Maxwell and Bravis Morrison.

Born Feb. 8, 1922 in Metropolis, Mrs. Mathis was a member of First Missionary Baptist Church.

Survivors include one daughter, Phyllis Foy and husband Lloyd of Metropolis; and three grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Mathis; one daughter, Charlotte Johnson; her parents, Benjamin and Mammie Long Maxwell; one brother; and one sister.

Jackson Funeral Home of Metropolis is in charge of arrangements.

## Leo Smith Sr.

Leo Richard Smith Sr., 81, of Metropolis, died Saturday, Sept. 19, 2015 at Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center of Paducah.

Mr. Smith was a retired farmer.

Survivors include two sons, Leo Richard Smith Jr. of Metropolis and James Smith of Montague, Michigan; two daughters, Jacky Helgens of Anamosa, Iowa

and Jenny Smith of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; and several grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Carmen Dale Primrose Smith; his parents, Claire and Hazel Marie Wolf Rich; one sister; and one brother.

No funeral service is scheduled at this time.

Lindsey Funeral Home of Paducah was in charge of arrangements.

# Another piece of Superman legacy silenced

By Larry Thomas Ward  
Special for the Planet

Jack Larson, 87, best known to television and film audiences as the character Jimmy Olsen in the iconic *The Adventures of Superman* television program in the 1950s, died unexpectedly early Sunday in his Brentwood neighborhood of Los Angeles, California following an undisclosed illness.

He had just finished his last film earlier this summer, co-starring, appropriately enough, with his *Adventures of Superman* co-star Noel Neill in the Vincent Roth-produced superhero film, *The Surge of Power: Revenge of The Sequel*.

Through my association with Noel as her manager and biographer, I grew to know Jack quite well. He was a very private and quiet man. We would often lunch together at Patrick's Roadhouse or dine at the Golden Bull, both in Santa Monica. He would drive over in his vintage VW Beetle and sometimes complain about how he couldn't take his beloved antique MG out for a spin because it was too expensive to insure. He'd dine on a cheeseburger at Patrick's and it was there that Jack could also be very funny, animated and quite dramatic while relating stories about befriending actress Greta Garbo, or describing the relationship Ruby Keeler had with Al Jolson.

To accentuate a point, he'd occasionally jump up and sing a few lines, dance, or recite a poem, all

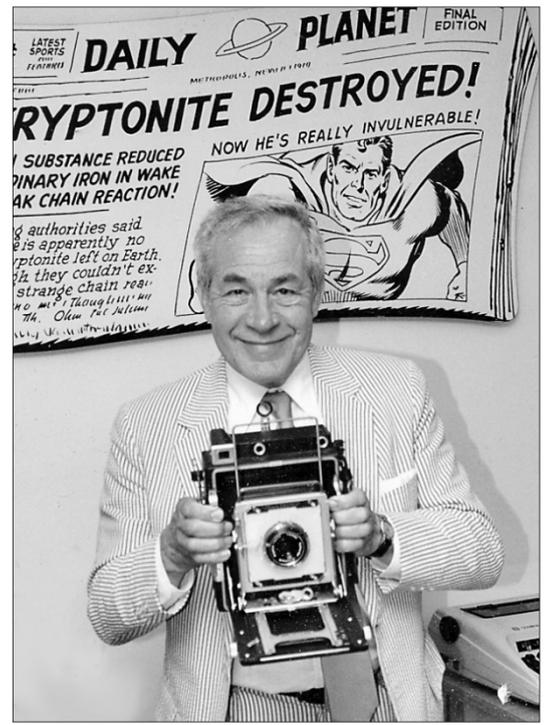
to the delight of the café's diners, with only a few knowing who he was.

Jack would sometimes talk about his relationships with James Dean, Montgomery Clift, and his partner of 35 years, Jim Bridges, but once dryly saying, after lamenting the passing of one of his beloved pet dogs, "I've been with men and women and dogs, and I think I prefer dogs."

Many times I offered to write his biography, but as an accomplished writer of plays and librettos, he would gently brush the offer aside, saying he'd been working on it himself. And for the 15 years that I knew him, Jack never did finish that book. He didn't own a computer or a typewriter, penning everything by hand.

When making personal appearances, doing interviews or filming publicity shorts, I would accompany both Jack and Noel to these functions and I'd see firsthand how the two would play off one another with respect and genuine warmth, and handle often uncomfortable questions with aplomb. They had been friends for more than 60 years, even sharing the same agent much of that time.

But early in his life, long before Superman or any film work, Jack just wanted to be a baseball player. He once wrote a piece about what baseball meant to him — and it meant a lot. He wanted to be a shortstop, but somehow it never came to be. During the few personal appearances in his final years, when fans would



Known to many as Jimmy Olsen from *The Adventures of Superman* television program in the 1950s, actor Jack Larson, 87, died Sunday in California. Larson made a public appearance in Metropolis in 1996 during the Superman Celebration and stopped by the Planet.

— Planet Photo

shove pens and photos toward him to sign, he'd always sign the baseballs handed to him first, and do so quite carefully, perhaps an acknowledgement of something lost in his youth.

It took decades, but Jack finally came to embrace his role as Jimmy Olsen. In the late 1990s he made a rare personal appearance at the Superman Celebration in Metropolis that clearly left an indelible impression on him. It was then that he finally un-

derstood what Superman meant to his fans and how he would forever be part of that legacy.

I last saw Jack about a year ago at a private event in Hollywood celebrating the 100th birthday of actor George Reeves. "No matter what," he told me, "I'll always be Jimmy and I'm ok with that."

When informed of Jack's passing, Noel Neill responded with sadness, saying she was devastated having lost her best and oldest friend.

# Unwanted prescription drugs to be collected

## Staff Report

The Massac County Sheriff's Office and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public its 10th opportunity in five years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs.

Area residents are encouraged to bring unwanted prescription pills for disposal to the lobby of the sheriff's office at 515 Market St. from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday.

The DEA cannot accept liquids, needles or sharps,

only pills or patches.

The service is free and anonymous, with no questions asked.

According to Massac County Chief Deputy J.D. Haverkamp, the sheriff's department has already collected eight boxes throughout the year from the drop box that is placed in the front lobby.

"I'm interested to see how much more we will receive," added Haverkamp.

Last September, Americans turned in 309 tons or over 617,000 pounds of prescription drugs at nearly 5500 sites operated by the DEA and more than 4000 of its state and local

law enforcement partners.

When those results are combined with what was collected in its eight previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners have taken in over 4.8 million pounds — more than 2,400 tons — of pills.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse and abuse.

Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs.

Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards.

For more information about the disposal of prescription drugs or about the Take Back Day event on Saturday, call the sheriff's office at 524-2912 or go to the DEA Office of Diversion Control site.

# Kiwanis of Metropolis' Peanut Days scheduled

## Press Release

Members of the Kiwanis of Metropolis will launch their 2015 Peanut Day fundraising project Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and again on Saturday, Oct. 24.

Members of the Kiwanis and Massac County High School Key Club members will set up roadblocks at two intersections in Metropolis to solicit

donations and distribute peanuts.

Established in 1937, Kiwanis of Metropolis assists children in the local community and also internationally through several critical programs.

Over the years, the Metropolis Kiwanis Club has donated thousands of dollars towards the Academic Awards Ceremony, which awards scholarships to

students from Massac County schools.

Other programs that Kiwanis donates monies toward are Project Hope, Rebuilding Together, Guardian Family Services, United Way, COPE Food Pantry and Willie Bear program, a Massac County Drug Awareness program for kids.

In addition to these, Kiwanis sponsors Massac County High School Key

Club and donates funds internationally to the Kiwanis International Foundation in their efforts to partner with UNICEF to eliminate maternal/neonatal tetanus, which kills thousands of mothers and children in developing nations.

Kiwanis Peanut Day is one of three fundraising projects that support the children and adults in the community.

## Do you enjoy reading Yesterday's News?

Do you remember Massac County as it was years ago, or want to know what it was like?

Then you'll enjoy reading *Family and Pictorial History of Massac County, Illinois*. Available at *The Metropolis Planet* office, 111 E. 5th St. \$45, plus \$4 for mailing.

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