

Citizen of the Month - Garrett Lawrence

By Debra Shelton Lawrence



Garrett in the early days.

take the state board exam and obtain his license. After graduating, he worked for Cotton Funeral Home, in Franklin.



The first Lawrence Funeral Home location where the Chapel Hill Gas Utility Co. is now located.

turned down for medical reasons, he ran the funeral home alone until Thomas returned in 1945. In 1953, they relocated once again to a new, modern building at the present sight.

Prior to the formation of County Ambulance Service, Thomas and Garrett ran an ambulance service for the surrounding counties. They not only responded to

Word association plays a big part in our world today. Think of candy/sweet, bank/money, Funeral Director/Garrett Lawrence.

Garrett Lawrence started his career in the funeral business in 1941. He traveled from Chapel Hill to Nashville every day to attend Gupton-Jones Mortuary School. He was only required to attend for six months before he was allowed to

In 1940, Lawrence Funeral Home was rebuilt, after being destroyed by fire on the sight where Horton Highway Utility District is now located. Garrett joined his brother, Thomas, at Lawrence Funeral Home in 1942, while he still helped Mr. Cotton when he was needed. The brothers worked together to build the business before Thomas was called to serve our country in World War II. Since Garrett was

accidents and emergencies, but also brought several babies home from the hospital.

It was about this time that electricity came to be in our part of the country. Garrett, being the more mechanically inclined of the two, saw an opportunity to expand their services. Garrett

purchased a general electric refrigerator, and after working at the funeral home all day, took it out to show potential customers. After selling the first one, he ordered more and became a dealer for the General Electric Company in 1954. Along with electricity and appliances, indoor plumbing was becoming very popular. Lawrence Brothers Plumbing & Electric was formed to meet the growing needs of their customers.

The tradition of a family run business is still in place today with Garrett's son Garry and grandson, Trey, helping him with the day-to-day operations of Lawrence Brothers. Tommy Howell (who is just like family) helps with the day-to-day operations of Lawrence Funeral Home.

To meet the needs of a growing community, Lawrence Funeral Home expanded in 1986 to be able to continue to provide quality service. In January 2004, under the guidance and leadership of Garrett, ground was broken for a major expansion and renovation. A new Chapel will be added for funeral services and remodeling will take place in the existing facilities to better serve our friends and families.

In addition to work, Garrett is active in the Chapel Hill United Methodist Church, Lions Club, Masonic Lodge and enjoys water arobics. He married Jean Joyce. They have four children, Sue Carolyn, Emily, Vivian and Garry, along with seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren also keep him busy. Jean died December 2001.

Most people may associate the work Funeral Director with Garrett Lawrence. The words I associate with Garrett Lawrence are loving father, grandfather and wonderful father-in-law.



Garrett with (left) grandson, Trey and (right) son, Garrett Jr.



Employees at the Appliance Store

