

Citizen Of The Month

Algie Ruth Lemmon Carlton

By Faye Ralston



Algie Ruth Lemmon Carlton was born in 1920 and is the daughter of Harry and Julia Stem Lemmon. She had 10 siblings, six sisters and four brothers; Lula married James Elam, Rosa married Howard Tomlin and Velma married Horace Hammond. Three of her sisters died as infants. Her brothers were: Richard Charles who married Irene Ralston, John married Myrtle Collins, Roy married Golda Godwin and Robert "Bob" married Justine Harris. John and Bob were Independent Baptist preachers of churches in Texas and Memphis, Tn. Bob is now owner and operator of the Bible and Literature Foundation in Shelbyville and ships Bibles in several different languages to all parts of the world.

Ruth attended Eagleville School when her family lived in a house owned by Mr.

Harry Sullivan. They moved when she was about 12 years old back to Rover, to the old home place of her grandparents, Richard "Dick" and Josephine Crick Stem.

Ruth married in 1938 at the age of 18 years to James Robert "Jim" Carlton, son of Robert and Nancy Whitworth Carlton. Ruth and Jim had three children, two daughters and a son.

Alene married Jimmy Lambert and has four children: June, Dianne, Milton and Barry. Alene taught music at Eagleville for several years and all of her children attended Eagleville School. She is presently employed at Welcome Home in Murfreesboro.

Faye married Harold Ralston who graduated from Eagleville High School in 1954. She was a 1958 graduate from Community High School, Unionville. Faye and Harold's six sons: Mark, Marvin, Melvin, Nathan, Carl and Phillip also graduated from Community High School where Faye was a cafeteria worker for fourteen years.

Ruth and Jim Carlton moved several times during their first few years of marriage. They lived in Shelbyville where Alene and Faye went to Madison Street School until the 3rd & 4th grades. When their son, age 5, died of rheumatic fever in 1948, Ruth's brother persuaded them to move to Detroit, Michigan. While there, Ruth worked at White Castle and Jim worked at the Ford Plant. In 1950 they moved back to Tennessee and lived with Ruth's parents at their old home place in Rover. Ruth raised pullets (chickens) for a while but soon rented the old Puckett's Store in Rover and sold groceries and feed for livestock. She also added a lunch counter and served food in the old store building. At this

time, Jim was working for Haynes Brothers Candy Company. The opportunity came for them to operate the Versailles Grocery near Rockvale. Since Rover had three stores, they decided to make the move. They also added a lunch counter to this location and Ruth was widely known for her good hamburgers, fried pies and ice cream cones. They were robbed seven times in the twenty-seven years they operated the Versailles Store. When Jim's health declined in 1982, they left the grocery store and moved the lunch counter to their home on Fruit Valley Road where Ruth served lunch to 20 to 30 people each day. After Jim's death in 1983, Ruth has also worked the evening shift at several nursing homes, which included the Community Care, Murfreesboro, Glen Oakes Nursing Home, and the Bedford County Nursing Home in Shelbyville.

In 1995 after having surgery, Ruth stopped serving food at her lunch counter and she also quit her job at the nursing home. Presently at the age of 85, she teaches the young adult class at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church. During the week, she the baby-sitter for two of her great-grandchildren: Keith, age 3 and Mollie age 6 months, children of Melvin and Melanie Ralston. Their mother, Melanie, teaches 3rd grade at Rockvale.

Ruth has ten grandchildren, nineteen great grandchildren and three great great grandchildren and can boast that she takes no medication except aspirin and vitamins. Her favorite past time is playing dominoes. She is still well known for her wonderful fried pies she often carries to church dinners and to the shut-ins of the community.



Jim & Ruth's Family



Alene, Ruth and Faye