

## Z. J. Carter of Eastland Dies at 100

EASTLAND (RNS) — Z. Jack Carter, 100, who received congratulatory messages from President Kennedy and Gov. Price Daniel on his 100th birthday July 23, died at 6 p.m. Tuesday in Eastland Memorial Hospital.

Mr. Carter, an Eastland County resident since 1904, observed his birthday in the hospital where he had been a patient several weeks.

In addition to good wishes from the President and governor, the two-day celebration was marked by attendance of Mr. Carter's children and relatives and members of the hospital staff.

Funeral will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday in the First Baptist Church, with the Rev. A. C. Harding of Cisco officiating. Burial in Eastland Cemetery will be directed by Hamner Funeral Home. Grandsons will be pallbearers.

Born July 23, 1862, near Columbia, Alabama, he married Ellen Ethridge in 1888 at Searcy, Arkansas. They moved to Texas to the Yellow Mound community four miles north of here in 1904.

Mr. Carter farmed until he was 85 years old, retiring in 1947. Mrs. Carter died in 1946. He will be buried by her side.

Mr. Carter was a member of the Morton Valley Baptist Church. He is survived by three sons, Luther A. of the Alameda community, Vernon H. of Eastland and Jesse C, of Ranger; two daughters, Mrs. Eula M. Hart of Alameda community and Mrs. Virginia Vandiver of Dallas; two brothers, B.N. of Colorado City and Oscar of Dublin; 20 grandchildren and 40 great-grandchildren.

## **Zephaniah John Jackson (Jack) Carter**

Zephaniah John Jackson (Jack) Carter was born July 23, 1862, son of Zephaniah John (Zeph) Carter (1829 - 1923) and Sarah H. Barnett. Born during the Civil War, he was named after his father, who was away serving in the war. When the father heard about his son, he added the name Jackson in honor of General Jackson. After the war, the family lived in Henry County, Alabama. At age 8 or 9 Jack attended subscription school for about 3 months. A Subscription School was when someone qualified to teach would come through and contract to teach the children for a few months at a time. This was the only schooling Jack received.

In 1881, at age 19, Jack left his home and moved from Alabama to Searcy, Arkansas. There he met and married Mary Ellen (Mollie) Ethridge, December 27, 1888. Mollie was born June 9, 1871, the daughter of Mary Jane McWilliams and a Baptist preacher, Reverend Seborn Joel Ethridge. The first son, Luther Carter, was born November 16, 1889 near Searcy, White County, Arkansas. In 1890 Jack and Mollie moved to Erath County, Texas. Three children were born there — Vernon Hubbert Carter, July 11, 1891; Jesse Corbett Carter, August 7, 1895; Eula Magnolia Carter, June 4, 1899. The last child, Della Virginia Carter, was born in Indian Territory (before Oklahoma became a state), July 14, 1902. The family was living in a half-dugout/half-house in what is now Frederick, Oklahoma.

In December, 1902, when the State of Texas offered some land to be homesteaded, Jack and Mollie headed back to Erath County to file on a homestead. Mollie and the 3 younger children had to finish the trip by train, while Jack and the older boys brought the wagon and all their household items on to West Texas. In December, 1903, Jack moved his family to their final home 5 miles northwest of Eastland, Texas, in the farming community of Yellow Mound.

The five Carter children were educated at Yellow Mound School; 3 of them took higher education to earn teaching certificates. While Jack and the boys farmed, Mollie sold eggs and butter and helped Dr. Johnson as a mid-wife. During a depression and bank-closing in 1918, Jack and Mollie survived on savings in U.S. Post Office Bonds. In 1924 "flowing gold" was discovered on the Carter land during the Ranger Oil Boom. One Carter well made \$2,000-\$3,000 in just 2 weeks. When Jack retired from farming in the early 1940's, the Carter house and land were sold to Earnest Sneed. Later, this property was one of the largest oil fields in the area.

Jack and Mollie gardened at their home in Eastland, furnishing food to lots of neighbors. On November 19, 1946, Jack's beloved mate finished ironing a piece of crochet she had sewed and went to be with the Lord. After her death, Jack broke up housekeeping and visited around with his children. In 1958 at the age of 96 he moved to Dallas, Texas, into the home of the youngest daughter. He could still play a mean game of dominoes and was an inspiration to be around. Jack celebrated his 100th birthday in Eastland Memorial Hospital. He received telegrams from Governor Price Daniels and President John F. Kennedy. Jack died August 7, 1962, at 100 years and 2 weeks. Jack and Mollie are buried in Eastland Cemetery near several of their children. Submitted by Billie Vandiver Dingus and Alyne Castleberry Elliott