

Ours

Music was the hallmark of man

Death comes to us all, sooner or later. But, the violent death of a 97-year-old Pike County man for most of us to comprehend.

Nearing the century mark, Raymond Connett's hold on life was fragile at best. The life he had lived should have earned him a quiet passing. Unfortunately, that was not the case.

His time on earth was literally filled with music. According to Connett, at 8 he played the cornet with a circus band and the 17 years at the end of his life found him deeply involved with the Adelphi Community Band.

In between, in 1931, he finished up a college career at Ohio University—a career interrupted by World War I service. Later he became the first marching band director for the Bobcats.

His dedication to his alma mater was legendary. He never missed a homecoming from the year he graduated. Ironically, the nonagenarian was scheduled to take the baton and direct the OU band in the National Anthem at the 1987 Homecoming which will be next weekend.

Connett didn't forsake the world of music even when it came to making a living. He owned and operated a piano tuning business, taught the fine points of performing to young people in several school districts in Pike County.

Death from a gunshot wound does not happen to people living quiet lives in a quiet community like Pikeston.

Only in the state capital or the nation's capital or New York City are lives snuffed out in such a manner. Usually in some dark tenement, not in a pleasant old house on a tree-lined rural street.

The natural death of a man of Connett's stature would provoke sadness among his friends, and in the community he loved. The unnatural death of the elderly man provokes disbelief and deep regret among those whose life he touched.

Where to write

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