

DR. MILAM “SONNY-34” COTTEN



Written by
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American Staff Writer
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"Sonny-34" passed away Thursday morning, but the legacy of Dr. Milam S. Cotten will remain in the eyes of his patients, the memories of colleagues and the hearts of family and friends.

"If he had an enemy, I've never met them," said Dr. Lynn McMahan, who was Cotten's partner at Southern Eye Center in Hattiesburg for nearly 20 years and had known him for twice that long. "He was the best of the best."

Cotten passed away at a hospice at St. Catherine's Village in Madison, about nine months after being diagnosed with cancer. He was 77 years old.

Funeral arrangements are pending. (see arrangements below)

"You know, as a doctor, he kept people out of pain, and we were blessed because, up until the last few weeks, he was pretty much able to do what he wanted to do," said Miles Cotten, the eldest of Milam and Betty Cotten's three children.

"But he always felt like he was very blessed, and he wanted to give back."

And for those who knew him best, he did that and then some.

"Milam was one of those people who lived to serve," said Hattiesburg attorney Mike Ratliff, who got to know Cotten through the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg. "The motto of the club is, 'Service Above Self,' and he had gifts that he developed, and then donated those gifts to others."

Born in McComb, Cotten graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi and then went on to the University of Mississippi's medical school in Jackson, graduating in 1959.

After a hitch in the Navy as ship's physician on a nuclear-powered destroyer, he started his civilian medical career as a general practitioner in Moss Point.

That was followed by a move to Memphis, Tenn., where he re-entered school at the University of Tennessee to specialize in ophthalmology.

He moved his family to Hattiesburg in 1970.

Dr. Thad Waites, who first met Cotten after arriving in Hattiesburg in 1987, called his friend "a man of disparate interests."

"He operated on eyes, and he welded," Waites said. "He loved opera and world championship wrestling. His interests were often 180 degrees apart."

Visitation will be Saturday (February 11th) from 2pm-6pm.
The funeral service will be Sunday (February 12th) at 2pm.
Both the visitation and funeral service will be held at First Presbyterian Church.



Spokes

February 14, 2012
www.hattiesburgrotary.com

District 6840

Club Number 04003

Organized 1918

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2011-2012

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ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

A CENTURY OF SERVICE



A NEW CENTURY OF SUCCESS

“SERVICE ABOVE SELF”

MINUTES FROM 2/07/12

President Robert Cummings, Jr. presided over the meeting.

Thanks to Mike Ratliff, who gave today’s invocation and led the Club in a moment of silence in remembrance of Dr. Milam Cotten who passed away on Thursday. Also, thanks to Gene Owens who led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Robert then led members in the Four Way Test. Thanks to Chris Price who served as today’s greeter.

Sean Priebe introduced today’s guests. Kathleen and Breann Shaughnessy were the guests of Wes Brooks, Dean Cromartie was the guest of his wife, Mary Cromartie, and Chase Munro was a guest of the Club. There were no visiting Rotarians today.

Robert reminded the Club that Scott Hummel is leaving on February 10th for a special week and a half long mission trip to India, accompanied by a group of students from William Carey University. Scott said the group plans to spend time in Calcutta and Sarafpour, where William Carey performed mission work himself over 200 years ago. They will also get to stay in William Carey’s house.

Wes Brooks announced that RYLA scholarship applications are now available and encouraged the Club to help spread the word for any deserving qualified candidates. He can forward the information to anyone interested, so just let him know.

Aime Spears reported that volunteer readers are needed for the Reading Between the Lions program for the month of February. She circulated a sign-up sheet, but anyone interested can contact her or the Family Y.

The Sunrise Rotary Club is seeking sponsors for its special 5K Run benefit, with the proceeds to benefit the DuBard School. Anyone interested can contact Wes for more information. Robert reminded everyone that a Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for February 27th at William Carey.

Robert announced that the winner of this year’s \$500 Super Bowl Pool was Sam Shemper, who graciously donated the total amount back to the Club’s Permanent Fund. Congratulations and a huge thank you to Sam.

Wes Brooks introduced today’s speaker, Dr. Ronnie Kent, a Pediatric Specialist with the Connections Clinic. Dr. Kent, who also has the distinction of being Wes’ uncle, is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics and has a very special interest in patients with A.D.H.D. (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder).

Originally from Pascagoula, Dr. Kent has practiced pediatrics since 1981 and he joined Hattiesburg Clinic in 1997. As a pediatrician, he said the majority of his patients are naturally children, but he continues to have a lot of older kids who still come treatment.

Although his experience in the field of A.D.H.D. has progressed substantially over the years, Dr. Kent said it really didn’t start out that way at all. Like many people who have preconceived ideas about A.D.H.D. or don’t fully understand it, Dr. Kent said he also started out with some degree of prejudice

about the disorder.

“A major misperception about people with A.D.H.D. is that they’re either lazy, stupid, or don’t care,” Dr. Kent said. “But in a very short time, I learned that nothing could be farther from the truth. This is a biological disorder, not unlike diabetes, that affects children and adults and treating it quickly turned my way of thinking.”

Dr. Kent was initially contacted by the Child Development Clinic about a child in his area who had been diagnosed with A.D.H.D. At that time, there were very few physicians in this area treating that type of illness and Dr. Kent had only minimal training, so he found himself learning on fly and quickly.

After treating the young man for only a week, his parents called to tell Dr. Kent that for the first time in his life, their son was doing great and actually enjoyed going places with his siblings. A newspaper article was written soon afterwards about the accomplishment.

“I had an epiphany. Treating that child was a pivotal time in my life and my practice,” he said. “Within one week, I went from having no A.D.H.D. patients, to having one patient, to being an ‘expert’ in the field according to that article.”

According to the A.D.H.D. symptoms checklist, one of the main culprits is boredom. Dr. Kent said most patients typically do fine when they’re performing interesting tasks. But once they’ve completed all of the challenging parts, they become frustrated and that’s when the trouble starts.

Statistics show that approximately 20% of school-age children have some significant reading problems. Dr. Kent said students with A.D.H.D. who have trouble reading, often act out and get in trouble for bad behavior because they’d rather be labeled as “bad” than “stupid.” It’s their way of avoiding the stigma.

Dr. Kent said in about 75% of diagnosed cases, the A.D.H.D. was inherited from one or both of the parents. Even though they don’t always have an active case of the disorder, he said the parents usually do have some of the related symptoms.

Over 70% of all A.D.H.D. patients have some other medical problem, such as depression, obsessive compulsive disorder, Tourette Syndrome, etc. He explained that the main issue behind A.D.H.D. is too many dopamine transporter proteins in the body, which cause a traffic jam of signals in the brain.

MEET TODAY’S SPEAKER

Terrell Knight - CSpire Wireless

Terrell Knight, a native of Taylorsville, MS, and graduate of the University of Mississippi, is presently the Director Corporate, Business, and Government Accounts for CSpire Wireless - formerly known as CellularSouth. He began his career 18 years ago with CSpire/CellSouth in Hattiesburg as a Regional Manager for South Mississippi and helped open the Hwy 98 store location. He and his wife, Donna, have three children (two in college, one in high school) and reside in Jackson, MS. Terrell serves on the board of the Andrew Jackson Council Boy Scouts of America and is a member of the Downtown Jackson Rotary Club. Terrell will speak to us today on the growth of the cellular industry and what the future holds."

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Feb 14

Terrell Knight, CSpire Wireless
- Feb 21

Susan Hollandsworth
The Nature Conservancy
- Feb 28

Bob Pierce, Vice Pres.
for Advancement & Exec.
Dir. USM Foundation
- Mar 31

HubFest - Clean Water Project



Yokira Padilla Bierd, 9, drinks a cold glass of clean water.

Her family has a bio-sand water filter at home, and her mother, Yoselin, is proud to be able to provide clean water to her children.

READING BETWEEN THE LIONS LITERACY PROGRAM

Volunteers needed each week on **Tuesday or Friday** mornings at 9:30 to read children’s books to Pre-Schoolers. Read for about 20-30 minutes.



The Family Y -
Veterans Memorial Blvd.
601-268-0808
Call Dan Kibodeaux or
sign up at lunch meetings
or email
dan@Unitedwaysems.org
call **601-545-7141**

February Reading Volunteers Needed!

Date	Volunteer	Volunteer
Friday, 2/3 9:30am		
Tuesday, 2/7 9:30am		
Friday, 2/10 9:30am	Chris Price	
Tuesday, 2/14 9:30am	Chase Munro	Mike Ratliff
Friday, 2/17 9:30am	Stan Causey	Jaclyn Adams
Tuesday, 2/21 9:30am		
Friday, 2/24 9:30am		
Tuesday, 2/28 9:30am	Chris Price	