

C.J. Butcher and Georgette

HOUSTON COUNTY COURIER-THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 2001-PAGE A-15

C.J. Butcher died at 4:15 a.m. Friday, Aug. 17 at the Grapeland Nursing Center after a lengthy illness. He had been released earlier from ETMC. He was born May 16, 1919, in east Tennessee, the son of Willie Bell Harley Butcher and Charles Jackson Butcher. Mr. Butcher is survived by his beloved wife of 30 plus years, the former Nancy Fritts, an heiress born in Tennessee, raised and educated in Miami Beach, Fla., and Tennessee. C.J.'s sister, Armistine Shepherd, niece Susan and nephew David of east Tennessee also survive. Mr. Butcher never wanted children.

C.J. left school at an early age to join the National Guard, then the Coast Guard, where he served in a maintenance capacity on the ship U.S. Randall during World War II. He toured the South Pacific during the war and was fond of Fiji, Australia and New Zealand and especially India - not France. After the war ended, he worked in a hosiery mill and auto repair shop, then in building supply and floor covering and a kitchen designing business known as Jones and Butcher.

C.J. and Nan moved to Texas in the late '60s after passing through the area to a 3-month stay in Mexico. C.J. became involved in Rotary for a while, was scoutmaster for a Cub Scout troop in Latexo. He and Nan helped set up the county's first sanitary landfill with the help of Dr. Darsey, the Grapeland Messenger and the Houston County Courier. Nan wrote the articles and C.J. took the photos. Mr. Butcher deplored hunting and became an avid environmentalist. He was one of the founders of the Trinity Valley Audubon Society (the 200th chapter of the National Audubon Society), serving as treasurer for many years, assisting in the Christmas bird count, establishing bird sanctuaries and nature books for libraries. A blackbird roost in Slocum was

named the Butcher roost after C.J. and Nan listed it with TP&W.

Mr. Butcher also held the first Republican Primary in the 100-year history of Grapeland, insisting that wife Nan vote Republican one time. He changed his party affiliation a few years ago after becoming disenchanted with the National Republican Party. C.J. was instrumental in encouraging Nan to obtain her doctorate and was proud of the accomplishment. He participated in the 1970 Census and received an award from the President as thanks. He also served under the Selective Service Act from 1967 to 1976. Before retiring he was an income tax practitioner, doing over 600 taxes each year from all over the country. Leona Stutts was his secretary as well as a tax preparer and Nan a helper. C.J. studied through the Block Home Study, the Federated Tax Service and the Texas Agricultural Extension Service's Practitioner Workshop. He also was a Master electrician, studying under the TVA program, obtaining an international license. It was a hobby. He retired the late 80s.

Mr. Butcher requested cremation and no services. Instead a celebration to honor his life will be held shortly - place and time to be announced.

He also asked that no flowers be sent, but donations be made to the following organizations that were his favorites: Mission Wolf, P.O. Box 211, Silvercliff, CO. 81251, Defenders of Wildlife, P.O. Box 97090, Washington, DC. 20090-7090, Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, Kanab, Utah 84741-5000 and Pink Palace Museum and Nichterman Nature Center, 3050 Central Avenue, Memphis, TN 38111-3399.

Mr. Butcher wrote his own obituary.

Claybar Waller-Ramsay, General Home was in charge of cremation arrangements.