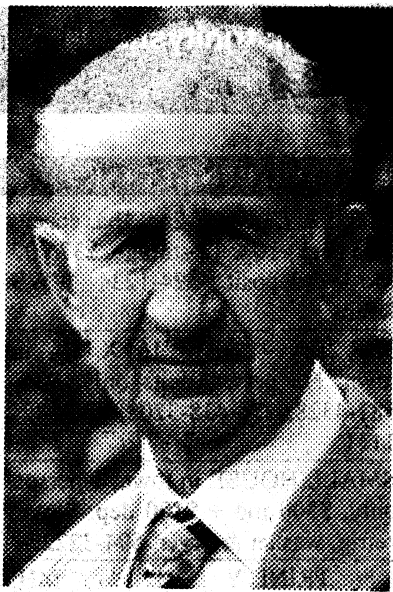


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**PAUL CONNER
ETHEREDGE**

Paul Conner Etheredge

TRINITY – Services for Paul Conner Etheredge, 94, of Trinity were held at 3 p.m. Saturday, April 7, 2007, at the River of Life Church in Trinity with the Rev. Mike Loftin and the Rev. Kenneth Myers officiating.

Burial followed in Cedar Grove Cemetery in Trinity.

Mr. Etheredge died Thursday, April 5, at his residence.

Born Aug. 28, 1912, in the Weldon community, he was the son of Mode Barbee and Ora Lee Read Etheredge.

During his lifetime, he had many occupations, beginning with his work at the Grand Prize Brewery in 1933.

Mr. Etheredge was married to Alma Rie (Marie) Goza in 1936 in Crockett and during World War II he worked as a machinist at the Hughs Tool Company's shipbuilding facility on the Houston ship channel.

Together with his family, Mr. Etheredge moved to Trinity in 1945 and went into the grocery business. After moving here, he was discussing the pros and cons

of joining the Trinity Volunteer Fire Department with one of the local firemen when a call came in that his house was on fire. That settled the matter and Mr. Etheredge began his long association with the TVFD on that day.

After operating a local meat market, he opened a restaurant in the old Trinity Bank Building and later acquired a franchise with the Greyhound Bus Company, bought several Jeepster station wagons and made a name for himself for transporting relatives between Trinity and the Eastham Prison Farm.

From the restaurant business, he acquired a distributorship for Grand Prize Beer and sold the brand for several years. After selling the beer distributorship to Leon Price, Mr. Etheredge went back into the meat market business.

During these intervals, he was purchasing land in the Kittrel community west of Trinity so after selling his market, he began his lifetime love of ranching, an occupation he pursued until his death.

While ranching he put in an acre garden each year, working it with his mule, Red. He bailed hay for the public as well as for his own cattle operation and it was during his ranching years that he acquired the nickname of "Bubble Gum Man" from his great-grandchildren

and their friends.

Mr. Etheredge also worked as a night watchman for the Trinity Police Department for a number of years and was elected as the Trinity County Commissioner for Precinct 3 for two four-year terms.

He retired after more than 30 years of service with the TVFD and was often referred to by local fire fighters as "Mr. Paul." He was a member of the Masonic Lodge of Houston for more than 60 years and was a member of the First United Methodist Church.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Alma Rie (Marie) Etheredge in 1990; and by two sisters, Bertha Die and Iris Mogford.

Survivors include his wife of 17 years, Bobbie Jean Etheredge; a son and his spouse, Dr. Gery and Nancy Etheredge; a daughter and her spouse, Nancy and A.M. Hewitt; a step-daughter and her spouse, Linda and Keith Thornton; two brothers and a sister-in-law, M.B. Etheredge and John and Laverne Etheredge; five grandchildren and their spouses, Armon and Vicky Hewitt, Mona and Sidney Mondin, Paul and Michelle Hewitt, Terry and Bradley Grubb and Phyllis and Stephen Monroe; four step-grandchildren and their spouses, Tammy and Randy Craig, Teresa Thornton, Tasha and Richard Gunn and Kimberly Jensen; a number of great-grandchildren, Armon Hewitt IV, Reva Meshell and husband Jason, Laurin and Kori Mondin, Haley and Logan Hewitt, Brooks and Ty Grubb and Hannah and Sarah Monroe; a number of step-great-grandchildren, Katie and Kellie Luce, Kylie Phillips, Ashlyn Craig, Hunter and Kaitlyn Gunn and Leah Bwolf; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Waller-Thornton Funeral Home of Trinity directed the arrangements.