

Shannon, Karr obit

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From: "The Arkansas Democrat", (Little Rock) October 12, 1971

Headline: "Veteran Newsman Karr Shannon, 69, Dies in Little Rock"

Karr Shannon, age 69, whose column "Run of the News" was a regular feature of the editorial page of the Arkansas Democrat for more than 25 years, died of cancer Saturday night in Little Rock.

A native of Lunenburg, Mr. Shannon was a school teacher, principal and county superintendent of schools in IZARD County and editor and publisher of the Melbourne Times before joining the Democrat staff.

Mr. Shannon was graduated from the now defunct Mountain Home College in 1923. He later studied pharmacy and earned his license to practice. But from 1926 to 1932 he served as superintendent of the county schools.

A conservative, Mr. Shannon's newspaper comments were frequently directed at the United States Supreme Court, bureaucrats and bigness in government.

Most of his writing contained nostalgia about the hill country where he was raised. "The Hillbilly", a title he was proud to carry, was very fond of his friends and relatives in IZARD County and was present at most large attractions there such as Pioneer Day.

The "Run of the News" column was a 7-day-a-week feature of the Democrat most of the time Mr. Shannon was on the staff. He ceased writing the column about 2 months ago because of ill health. While at the "Times" Mr. Shannon wrote a column entitled "Just Nozzin Around".

"His death was a real loss to the Democrat," said Robert S. McCord, the Democrat editorial page editor. "He was a decent and very likable individual, no matter whether you agreed with his policies or not."

Survivors are his wife, Mrs Ollie Fudge Shannon, two sons, both physicians, Dr. Robert F. Shannon of Little Rock and Dr. Karr Shannon, Jr. of Shreveport LA; a daughter, Mrs Judith Biggers of Jonesboro and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were Monday at 1 p.m. at Drummond Funeral home by Cleon Lyles and Rev R. D. Adams. Burial was in Pine Crest Memorial Park.

Pallbearers were Stanley Berry, Marcus George, Robert McCord,

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Bill Knox, Jesse Zimmerman, L. G. Hinkson, N. P. "Pat" Ford,  
and Tom Chipman

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NOTE: The January 1973 issue of "The IZARD County Historian" contained a short (3 page) biography of Karr Shannon, written by his widow, Ollie. There is also a nice picture of him on the cover of that issue. The biography says he was the only son of Robert Nathan and Allie Maud Estes Shannon. The article contains a picture of him at age 3 with his parents. This picture was contributed by his aunt, Mrs. Rosa Shannon Harris of Melbourne.

(Information from the Baxter Bulletin a Mountain Home, Baxter County, AR newspaper dated Thursday, Nov 27, 1986)

Contributed by Vera Reeves