

Death notices

Holbrook

Jesse S. Holbrook, whose Holbrook Bros. Store at Millstone was an Eastern Kentucky institution for more than 50 years, died at his home Friday after an extended illness.

The store, which he operated in partnership with his brother, W.G. Holbrook, Whitesburg, "carried everything. . .", groceries, shoes, bluejeans, yard goods, mining supplies, hardware, furniture, bales of hay, men's suits.

"Dad sold just about anything you could name," commented a daughter, Martha Ann Boyd, now of Lawrenceburg, Ky.

The Holbrook brothers went in business in 1921 in a small building located at the mouth of Millstone Creek, where they were "friendly competitors" to the nearby company store operated by South East Coal Co.

Over the years, the store became a "must" stopping place for all kinds of people from young kids to governors and senators. Just about every aspiring Democratic politician sought Holbrook's advice and support. Holbrook played a key role in mediating between feuding party factions.

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His wife, Lula Potter Holbrook, recalled that while he was concerned about national politics, he was most active and involved in local and state races.

"He made a bigger fight for Bert Combs than any governor we've ever had. He really liked Bert Combs," commented Mrs. Holbrook.

Holbrook had a special fondness for children, and spoke to and welcomed every child who entered the store. He always dug down into the candy jar or looked among the toys for some small—or occasionally, big—gift for his young visitors.

"My husband treated every child that came along," commented Mrs. Holbrook.

Later, they moved to a new and bigger store building on Ky. 15 between Millstone and Kona, and built a home on a bluff overlooking the Kentucky River valley.

Although Holbrook was born and raised at Millstone and his wife was born and raised a mile or so away at Kona, they never got to know each other until both went away to college at what is now Eastern State University at Richmond. They got out of school and were married in 1917, after which he taught school for a few years at Millstone and Seco, teaching all

grades. His teaching was interrupted for a few months in 1918, while he was in the service.

He was active in the country's business and civic life generally, and other businessmen often sought his counsel. The late Roland Price, a highly-successful independent coal operator, was a frequent visitor.

Holbrook was vice president and a director of the First Security Bank in Neon and Whitesburg, was a 60-year member of the Masonic lodge, a member of the First Baptist Church in Whitesburg, and among other things, was chairman of the Letcher County Draft Board during World War II and was Millstone postmaster.

In addition to his wife and daughter, survivors included one son, Jesse S. Holbrook, Jr., of Orlando, Fla.; and five brothers—W.G. Holbrook of Whitesburg; Carl and Ben Holbrook of Lexington; Jack Holbrook of Rome, Ga.; Johnny Holbrook of Isom; and four sisters—Hattie Collins of Millstone; Hettie Zink of Louisville; Minnie Bothmann, Dayton, O., and Elizabeth Gray, of Chattanooga, Tenn.

Funeral services were held Monday, Nov. 28, at the First Baptist Church, Whitesburg, with the Rev. Bill Mackey officiating. Burial was in Green Acres Cemetery. Blair Funeral Home was in charge.