

Millard J. Gates

Millard J. Gates, 64, of Charles Street in Sylva, died Saturday, February 28, 2004, at Harris Regional Hospital after a period of declining health.

A native and lifelong resident of Jackson County, he retired from Buster Brown. A member of Long Branch Baptist Church. He was an avid outdoorsman, gardener and fisherman and son of the late Fred and Edna Sutton Gates.

He was survived by his wife of 20 years, Thelma Lea Garrett Gates; daughters, Donna Smith and husband, Raymond, of Asheville, and Tamara Ledbetter of Asheville; sons Randy Gates and wife, Carol, of Franklin, Michael Gates and wife, Donna, of Asheville, Mark Gates and wife, Lola, of Weaverville, and Chad Gates and wife, Jeanna, of Sylva; sisters, Betty Jones, Carolyn Hoyle and Helda Sellers, all of Sylva, Phyllis Stiwinter of Cashiers, Margaret Lee of Asheville, Frankie Roberts of Monroe; brothers, Harold Gates, Bill Gates and Gary Gates, all of Sylva; 18 grandchildren and a great-grandchild. He was predeceased by a grandson, Mathew Gates.

Funeral services, were held at the chapel of Melton-Riddle Funeral Home, with Rev. Clifford Parker and Rev. Earl Holden officiating. Burial was at Fairview Memorial Gardens.

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