

Special Pull-Out Section

Wilton Ray Tenney

Upshur County Native Son and Remembered Photographer

Recent word of the death of Dr. Wilton Ray Tenney, January 17, 2008, in Richmond, VA, has prompted this photographic remembrance of his early years as a young man and college student here in Upshur County where he was born and raised. Even in his early days, he had a keen interest in photography and is remembered as having a dark room at home when he was quite young.

He was born July 2, 1928, the son of Ray A. and Mabel House Tenney. When he was not quite three months old, tragedy struck in that his father was killed instantly when the Standard Oil Company's gasoline truck, which he was driving, broke through the old covered bridge near Hampton in September, 1928 [see story "Ray Tenney Killed in Bridge Collapse,"] (*UCHS An Occasional Newsletter*, Spring 2004, 22).

Dr. Tenney attended public schools in Buckhannon and graduated from Buckhannon-Upshur High School in 1946. He continued his education with a bachelor's degree from WV Wesleyan College and a masters and doctorate from WV University. He joined the University of Richmond faculty as assistant professor of biology in the fall of 1957 and taught there until his retirement in May, 1991. He also served as chairman of the Department of Microbiology at UR during that time (*Richmond Times-Dispatch*, January 19, 2008).

He was married to Eleanor Lewis Tenney who died in 1992. Dr. Tenney's love of photography, which was established very early in his life, continued throughout his professional career and was often a useful tool as an aid for his research and writing. He was proud to share his love of photography and that of the mountains of West Virginia (*Richmond Times-Dispatch*, January 19, 2008).

The images pictured here are from a collection held by the Upshur County Historical Society and mostly date to the late 1940's and early 1950's while Dr. Tenney was an undergraduate student at WVWC. He photographed various weddings and special occasions around Buckhannon during those times and many pictured here will be quite familiar.

Sources and Works Cited

Buckhannon Delta, September 27, 1928.

"Ray Tenney Killed in Bridge Collapse."

Upshur County Historical Society: An Occasional Newsletter, Spring 2004. "Ray Tenney Killed in Bridge Collapse."

Richmond Times-Dispatch, January 19, 2008, "Ex-UR Professor, W. R. Tenney Dies."





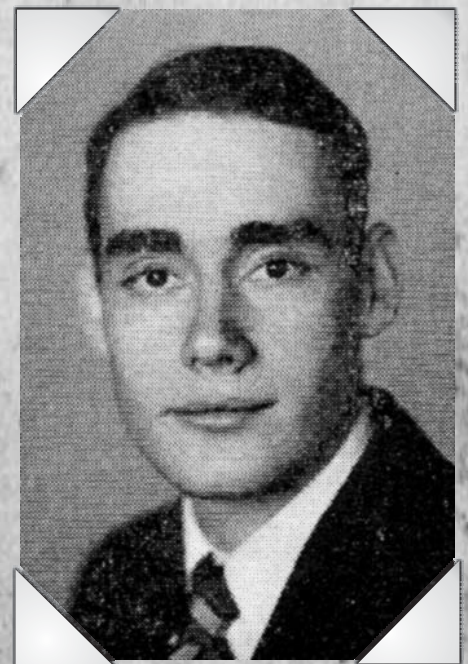
Mabel House Tenney,
his mother



Madeline (Wood)
Russell



Wilton Tenney in Beta Beta Beta



Wilton Tenney



1 to r: Jim Snyder, Don McCoy, Char Rogers, Dale Groves, Benny Lantz, unknown, Jack Nesbitt, Pete Lantz, Mel Hager, Marie Iden, Louie Hoover, Barbara Iden, Jim Gaston, Linda Holyman, Sue Shomo, and Lou Lantz. (c. 1951)

Front, 1 to r: Granvil George, Bill George.
Back, 1 to r. Edna (Tenney) George, Wilma Jean (George) Smith, Betty (George) Reed, Vera (George) Wilfong.



1 to r: Freeman Reed, Betty Reed, Rev. Howard Wilfong, Vera (Wilfong) George, John Slaughter. (June 4, 1948).

Front, 1 to r: Agnes Hyre, Herb Hyre,
Back, 1 to r. Junior Hyre, Jack Robert Hyre, Eddy Hyre, Ethel (Hyre) Johnston.





Virgil Stemple
and Mardel (Snyder) Stemple



CAN YOU
HELP US
IDENTIFY
THESE
WILTON
RAY TENNEY
SUBJECTS?