

**From The Register-Herald, 10 April 2011**

**Grady Lee Whitlock**

Grady Lee Whitlock, 83, of Beckley died suddenly Thursday, April 7, 2011.

He was the son of the late James Kenney Whitlock and Ice McKinney Whitlock of Fayetteville and preceded in death by his wife, Marjorie Belcher Whitlock, and son, Grady Lee Whitlock I, and Billy Whitlock, brother.

Left to cherish his memory are sons, James Kenney William Whitlock (JK), Greg Whitlock and his wife, Debby, Stephen Whitlock, and Mark Whitlock. A daughter, Clydia Whitlock, and grandchildren, Marjorie Whitlock, Andrew and Amanda Lee Blair.

His sisters are Thelma Neal and her husband Eddie and Anna Wilder Whitlock. Brother, James Whitlock and wife, Mava, as well as sister-in-law Camilla Whitlock. His heart had a special place for all his nephews and his deceased niece, Vaughne.

As the youngest person ever granted a Ford dealership worldwide, he was a self-made man and a Ford dealer for over forty years. He was the largest Ford/Lincoln/Mercury/Ford Truck dealer in the world. He began his life of work at age 8 peddling chickens and garden vegetables out of his little wagon which was pulled by his beloved pony, "Pearl." He worked up to and including the day of his death.

He loved all types of livestock including cattle and for over 60 years raised miniature ponies that gave him great joy and pleasure. He was one of the last true horse traders. As owner of Whitlock Reality, a love of land and farming were his true passions. He was an avid collector of antiques including unique automobiles, horse buggies, wagons, and farm equipment. As a founding member of Flat Top Lake Association, he most recently enjoyed simple things like sunsets at the lake as well as the annual July 4th fireworks.

He spent every Sunday visiting family members throughout his life. Always stressing the importance of family and enjoyed cherishing memories of the good ole days with his friends like Joe Holley and many others.

When a family or individual was in need or down on their luck, his kind heart, money, or resources were given freely to many in the community. His children would like to especially thank his recent past personal assistants, Donna Brown, deceased, Pam Pack, and Erica Sanders for their kindness and hard work. Also we thank his many past employees, customers, and friends. You were all an important part of the many blessings given to him.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 12, 2011, at the Tyree Funeral Home, Oak Hill, WV, with Pastor Chuck Pullins officiating. Burial will follow in High Lawn Memorial Park, Oak Hill. Friends may call at the funeral home from 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday, April 11, 2011.

Pallbearers are Paul Blair, Kip Buchanan, Tim Coleman, Tom Evans, Larry Holley, Gene Malcolm, Wesley Neal, Joe Whitlock, and Adam Wilder.

Online condolences may be sent to [www.tyreefuneralhome.com](http://www.tyreefuneralhome.com).

Arrangements by Tyree Funeral Home, Oak Hill, WV.

April 15, 2011

Whitlock animal forfeiture case to continue

By Tina Alvey

Register-Herald Reporter The Register-Herald Fri Apr 15, 2011, 12:02 AM EDT

A civil action that removed 180 animals from the custody of Grady Whitlock will continue, despite Whitlock's death last week, according to Greenbrier Prosecutor Patrick I. Via.

Horses and cattle, allegedly neglected, were discovered on two Greenbrier County farms in early February when law enforcement officers investigated reports of dead horses on Whitlock's farm near Crawley.

At that farm, investigators discovered 32 deceased horses and approximately 80 other horses in reportedly poor condition.

Three days later, the county's humane officer found four dead horses and two dead cows on another Whitlock-owned farm near Lewisburg. More than 100 head of cattle and horses in poor condition were found there.

Whitlock was briefly taken into custody and charged with misdemeanor animal cruelty.

Only days later, Greenbrier Circuit Judge Joseph C. Pomponio Jr. granted the humane officer's request for temporary custody of the neglected animals.

Whitlock, a longtime Beckley businessman, died suddenly April 7, at the age of 83.

"The criminal cases, obviously, are done, with (Whitlock's) being deceased," the prosecutor said Thursday morning.

"The civil forfeiture case will proceed," Via said. "Mr. Whitlock's estate administrator will become a party to the proceedings in his place."

Via explained, "This happens in civil cases from time to time.

"The estate administrator or executor stands in the shoes of the deceased."

Meanwhile, the animals in question remain on the farms where they were found but are now in the custody of the animal control officer, Sheriff's Cpl. Todd Williams.

"The order the court entered is still in force and effect," Via noted.

"Our guys are feeding the horses and cows and bringing in veterinarians as needed."

The prosecutor said he expects a further hearing in the civil case to be scheduled soon.

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The Register-Herald, Beckley, West Virginia  
April 8, 2011  
Beckley businessman dies

— Grady Whitlock, 83, a longtime Beckley businessman, died suddenly Thursday afternoon, according to a source close to the family.

Whitlock was the owner of Grady Whitlock Ford until its purchase a number of years ago. He also owned farms throughout southern West Virginia. In February, he was charged with several counts of animal cruelty after horses were found malnourished, some starved to death, on two of his farms in Greenbrier County.

Further information was unavailable Thursday evening.