

# Reece...from Page 1A

"Uncle Hub worried about my schooling. He told me he didn't want me to be pumping gas, he wanted me to become an engineer," Terry Reece said. "The only engineer I knew about drove a train. He was talking about a civil engineer, a mechanical engineer or an electrical engineer."

"I told him that I would love to drive one of them trains, and have a pair of those black boots with the buckles on them," Terry Reece said. "He looked at me, and said, 'son, working at a service station might not be too bad for you.'"

T.J. Reece's kids were Hub Reece's family.

"We were his kids," Terry Reece said.

There was confusion and silence before and after Hub Reece took his own life on June 3, 1958 in Young Harris.

Hub Reece loved Classical music; he often played Mozart in his studio on the farm.

However, one day, the music sounding from Hub's studio sounded more like Hank Williams than Mozart.

Hub began to play one record over and over, *I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry*.

The record became the only sound coming from Hub Reece's studio.

It wouldn't be long before the song's existence in Hub Reece's life became clear.

The Hank Williams

ballad became Hub Reece's death song. For what seemed an eternity, he had been dying of tuberculosis. The disease was incurable in his day. He could take it no more.

On June 3, 1958, Hub Reece committed suicide at the age of 40. He was found in his office at Young Harris College, with Mozart playing on the record player and his final set of student papers graded and neatly stacked in the desk drawer.

The literary world was rocked as news of the poet's death reached throughout the country.

Mystery surrounded his sudden departure. Few knew of his bout with tuberculosis and the depression that accompanied the illness.

After Hub Reece's death, those city journalists were out for a story.

"It was hard to get information out of the family," Terry Reece said. "My Dad told me that he had talked with one of those reporters. I asked Dad what the reporter wanted. Dad said 'I don't know what he wanted, but he didn't get nothing out of me.'"

The Reece family, as with most Mountain families of the day, was tight-lipped about the circumstances surrounding Hub Reece's death. It was, as the family described it, a private matter.

Terry Reece shed light on that private family matter on Saturday, and all who never knew the man finally understood.

# Grads...from Page 1A

"Today would not be possible without the hard work and dedication from all of the students, teachers and parents, and, most importantly, the guiding hand of God," said Davis. "I'm honored to be representing the Mountain Education Charter High School Graduating Class of 2014 not only for today, but forever. As we walk across this stage, we're not only proving to everyone what we're capable of, but we're proving to ourselves that we can accomplish anything we set our minds on."

Davis, who is going to attend North Georgia Technical College majoring in the medical field, explained how graduating is not recess.

"For some, graduating high school is just something everyone does. But, graduating isn't mandatory. It's something you have to strive

for and persevere through rough times. Many give up, but only a special few strive for their goal to the finish. For nothing is too high for a man or a woman to reach when finding His confidence. And no cross is too heavy to bare if we remember why we grow. Tonight our lights will shine brighter than ever as we walk across the stage and accept one of the most important pieces of paper in our lives."

Fannin County Site Administrator Lori Chastain reminded some and educated many for the first time that MECHS didn't start out big from the get-go.

"In 1993, MECHS opened in Union County and we graduated three students," Chastain exclaimed to the crowd. "Since then, we have grown steadily year after year. The Union Site and Fannin Site faculty and staff are

proud of our 31 students who are present tonight and the 12 others who have received diplomas earlier this year. Today we are pleased to have 24 Honor Graduates with us," she said, explaining that to be an honor graduate a student must maintain an 80 grade point average. "As you can see, we have a very intelligent group of graduates."

Chastain gave a breakdown of the future plans of the graduating class, as 6 percent plan to attend college, 52 percent plan to attend technical college or trade school, 33 percent plan to reenter or remain in the workforce, 8 percent plan to enter the armed forces while the remaining 1 percent is undecided.

A message from afar from the President of the United States as the Presidents Award for Academic Achievement of an 80 grade

point average or higher on a 100 point scale, was accepted by 23 students.

"I'm pleased to join your family, friends and teachers in honoring this tremendous achievement," said Dana Lance, reading from the letter while summoning the presence of President Barack Obama. "America's continuing tests depends on how well your generation is prepared for the future."

Dr. Richard Behrens, Superintendent of MECHS, handed diplomas to the eager walkers as Governing Board members met them with salutations as well as send offs.

Angie Burns, Co-Union Site Administrator, turned to the students for the turning of their tassels on the day the students would never forget. With help from one another, students, faculty and staff at the Mountain Education Charter High School stood on the frontier of an unfading vignette; part of that rare thing, as Honor Graduate Holly Davis put it, that is not common or required - but something strived for.

# Open House...from Page 1A

"We had a great day," said UCFD Lt. David Dyer following the event's conclusion. "It wasn't too warm so we had a good turnout. We gave a demonstration with all the trucks, a demonstration of our fire fighting capabilities, and everybody had a great time. Today our focus was letting everyone get a look at our equipment, how it works, and getting to know the fire fighters."

Once a year, each fire station holds an open house. Each of the stations come together to swap ideas and eventually come to a conclusion after settling on a theme for the upcoming year.

Fire Station 4 is usually one of the first stations to hold its open house. According to Lt. Dyer, Station 4 prefers to hold theirs in late-spring or early-summer.

"We have ours (Open

House) usually in May or June," he said. "The station gets together and talks about what we would like to show the public and what the public would really like to see. We also have an association meeting where the stations share ideas and how to share the workload and when we're going to demonstrate our equipment. We work together as a station. We all share ideas and come to a consensus."

The open houses are an excellent way for the community to thank its first responders for their time and service to the county and its citizens. Dyer also thanked the citizens of Union County for their support and donations, along with the elected officials who set the county's budget.

"We would really like to thank the public for supporting us with their donations, and for

coming out to see the equipment and to see how we work," Lt. Dyer said. "We would like to thank the Commissioner for all the work that he does to support us too."

Lt. Dyer went on to give a very special thank you to the residents of Union County for their generosity, and for being the life blood of the fire department and its volunteer stations.

"The donations that we get from the community are very important, and we wouldn't survive without them," he said. "The county has a set budget for the fire department and it takes every nickel to operate the fire department. We use the donations that people give us for radios, gear, safety equipment, first aid equipment, and more. We are very thankful for everything."

