

## James “Pee Wee” Lambert

Mr. Lambert passed away on June 28, 2024. Pee Wee, as he was normally known, has been a huge asset for Pacolet over the years and has touched the lives of many people. He was a fine man. I first met him when I was about 12 years old and he was my little league baseball coach. He was just out of Wofford College and working for the [Mill Company](#) as a youth director. The photograph below shows him at about that time. Not many folks know that he was instrumental in helping bring a city water system to [Pacolet Station](#). He was one of three [Water Commissioners](#), along with John Henry and my dad, Fred "Doog" Teaster, who helped establish and build the town water system in 1957.



In his youth, Pee Wee was an outstanding baseball player. He was a catcher for the [Pacolet Trojans](#) in the textile baseball league. I wrote about him in 1975 in my story [“The Bases Are Loaded - With Memories”](#) as follows:

*“Come Back in the Face of Adversity” - Catcher, James “Pee Wee” Lambert, had a tipped baseball strike him squarely in the throat. It came in above the breastplate and under the mask. He fell as if hit with a bat. He was out cold for at least fifteen minutes. After clearing his head, he insisted on going back in and finishing the game.*

His obituary from Palmetto Mortuary is on the following page.



**James “Pee Wee” Lambert, Jr. of Pacolet, South Carolina, passed away at the age of 96 on Friday, June 28, 2024.**

**Surviving family includes his daughter, Linda Burns (Ric), and son David Lambert (Ruth Ann); his grandchildren Erin Gramling, Kerry Johnson (Robbie), Daniel McKeown, Becky Mathis (Adrian), and Chris Lambert; Great-grandchildren Kaleigh, Phoebe, Amelia, and Kamden; and his beloved dog Maggie who filled his days and life with joy.**

**He was preceded in death by his wife Phoebe T. Lambert; a daughter Phoebe Anne Lambert; a grandchild Katie Kieran McKeown; his parents James R. and Maxie Q. Lambert; and siblings Bascom Lambert, Paul Lambert, Ralph Lambert, Norma Lambert Pasco.**

**After his early education, he attended Spartanburg Junior (Methodist) College, Wofford College, and furthered his education at Furman University and the University of S.C.**

**Beginning his life early delivering newspapers to help his family out, many hours were spent working in the local textile mills while attending college. He coached and played for the Textile League and American Legion many times at beautiful Duncan Park with overflow crowds attending. Following a trip to New York City to see Babe Ruth play, arrival at the bus terminal in Spartanburg led to a chance encounter with Phoebe and a rude male cutting in front of her in line. After resolving the issue with the male lacking manners, his life began with Phoebe and their marriage- a long life together always in love.**

**He operated the Canteen in Inman, SC before passing the reins to his beloved friend Jim Everhart to begin his life’s journey in education. Their friendship remained true for many years.**

**He moved to Pacolet, SC in 1954 for a long and satisfying career at Pacolet High School. In addition to his teaching position and subsequent position as Principal of Pacolet High School and Guidance Counselor at Broome High School, for many years he coached little league baseball. He always carried a trunk load of baseball equipment with him to hand out at impromptu games he passed. One of his favorite joys was heading to the gym and demonstrating his over the shoulder throw at gym class, hitting the net over and over. Not one to leave the girls out, he also coached the girls’ basketball team. He helped assist and guide many students to higher education at colleges, taught night school, and completely loved his work in education. It was his joy & delight to help & see his students succeed.**

**Love of family & those around him was the key to his very soul. He loved his family so much. As**

he watched his children grow up & subsequent grand and great-grandchildren arrive, his heart and life was full. He was never grandpa to them, he was Pee Wee. He always loved animals, particularly dogs. His dog Maggie brought light and life in his days growing older, many times just sitting with his hand on her head or lying by his bed keeping him safe. Their special time was breakfast with most of his bacon going to her!

Loss of such a well loved person is hard on not just his family, but each and every person he met in his life. He was so grateful to have good full years, always ready with a story or joke, excited to get cards in the mail, and a blessing to so many.

Services will be held on Saturday, July 20, 2024 at 2PM at the District Three Community Auditorium at Broome High School. Greeting of friends will be held after the service. Special seating will be reserved for the Boys of Summer (his baseball players) and also members of the Pacolet Fire Department. Burial will be held privately at a later date with the family.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Spartanburg Humane Society, Pacolet Fire Department, James Pee Wee Lambert Scholarship through Spartanburg County Foundation, or Haney Harvest House.

A special thank you to his doctors, David Rodak MD, Preston Bishop MD, Richard Braun MD, Blair Clementson MD, and Lawrence Sawicki, MD. In addition, a special thank you to Dr. Glen Adcock and staff at Pine Street Animal Hospital for being so supportive and caring of his beloved pet Maggie.

A deep thank you to the fine people at Spartanburg Regional Hospice. Your care and kindness was greatly appreciated.

To the wonderful Pacolet Fire Department, thank you for all of the numerous trips to his home to help transfer him from bed to chair or just rearranging him in bed. He was made comfortable with your assistance and he got to see former students and make friends with newer members of the Fire Department.

In addition, a special thank you to the After Hours Non Emergency team dispatched during late hours to again help with repositioning and lifting. Such a pleasant group of people serving helping often very late at night was valuable.

A special thank you for all of the good food treats from Jackie, Rod, Brian Lemmonds, Robert Owens, the trips out for lunch with the Boys of Summer, and Janice Griffin (Ronnie) bringing him banana nut bread and cards of cheer during the year. To all of the Pacolet High School students and Pacolet Neighbors, your cards, letters, and visits gave him a lifeline to wonderful people and memories.

A world of love to the family for lending assistance in so many ways. In particular Chris his grandson, Kerry his granddaughter, and Michael his nephew for staying with him at night, providing special treats (Kerry's banana splits), engaging him in baseball games (Chris) and sharing family stories (Michael).

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