

Carl's Mother Dies

One morning, in May of 1983, Carl got up, did his morning routine, and got dressed for work. He walked into his hair salon, and his staff was surprised at his appearance. Instead of the casual clothing, Carl normally wore to work; he wore a black suit.

Why are you all dressed up?" one of his staff members asked.

"What do you mean?" Carl said. He looked down and a puzzled look came over his face.

Suddenly the phone rang. His staff member picked up the phone. After a few moments she said, "Carl, its for you."

The phone call was from the nursing home where Goldie Hewett resided. The home director was calling to inform Carl that his mother had died.

This did not come as a total surprise to Carl, about 3 or 4 days before, Carl had written his mother's obituary and mailed it to the local funeral home in Shallotte, NC.

Carl called the funeral home to speak to the director. Needless to say, the director was extremely shook up, because as he picked up the phone to speak with Carl, and learn that Goldie had just died, he was holding Goldie's obituary in his other hand. [As Carl often said, "Spirit moves in mysterious ways."].

Carl left that morning to drive to North Carolina. He had decided to do something, which was very unusual in the southern tradition. He would conduct his mother's funeral, himself.

Carl often wished that he had tapped the eulogy. The chapel was packed, for two reasons. Many people thought that Carl had committed suicide, as Dixie had done. Also, a son NEVER conducted his mother's funeral. They all came to see Carl break down emotionally. However, that did not happen. Apparently, Spirit entranced him, and used the occasion to teach his family about the working of Spirit. All that Carl remembered, was the final line: "Mama has gone home."

When it came time for me to do Carl's funeral, I decided to close it with the same line. "Carl has gone home."

