

7/31/90 Gossom STORE

Special observance planned for James Gossom

Prince William Library
Manassas, Virginia

VIRGINIANA FILE

By BETH BACHELDOR
JM Staff Writer

James Redmond Gossom, a long-time Haymarket resident and a member of the Town Council for 20 years, died Saturday at Prince William Hospital after a long illness. He was 73.

Gossom also owned and operated the family business, Gossom's Hardware in Haymarket, for over 50 years.

His service to Haymarket, marked by his quiet, "behind-the-scenes" dedication and generosity, will be recognized by the Gainesville Ruritan Club. The civic organization is planning to dedicate Haymarket Day on Sept. 15 to Gossom.

"He was a council member for 20 years, but more than that, he was a fixture around Haymarket for a half of a century," said Charlie Coe, chairman of Haymarket Day.

Gossom served on the council until July 1 when his term expired. He filed for re-election, and although there was concern about his illness, he came within five votes of being re-elected.

"He did things behind the scenes," said Gossom's son, Alan Gossom.

Gossom was one of the key people in getting Haymarket's Volunteer Fire Department up and

running in the early 1950s, Alan Gossom said.

Gossom was also a member of Masonic Lodge No. 0313 AF&AM in Haymarket and the Antioch Baptist Church.

"All the years he was in business, he helped a lot of people. He gave credit to a lot of people and lost a lot of money because he never said anything about it," Alan Gossom said. "I'm sure he gave away more than he ever made."

The Gossom family came over from France in the early 1800s. At the time, the family was known as de Gossom, but the de was dropped shortly after settling in the United States.

Many of the Gossoms, including James Gossom's family, settled in Virginia, and some migrated to Kentucky, Texas and Colorado, according to Alan Gossom.

In about 1936, Gossom moved to Haymarket to join in business with his brother, George Gossom. For several years, the two operated Gossom Brothers' store, a general store that sold everything from hardware to food, to tractors.

Gossom's store had become a cornerstone for the small, historic town. When passing through, it's

impossible not to notice the stone buildings, which through the hard work and dedication of the Gossom family, have served the Haymarket people as a gathering place and friendly store.

In addition to his son Alan, of Haymarket, Gossom is survived by four daughters, Frances A. Hamm of Falls Church, Patricia L. Gossom of Manassas, Sandra G. Bolt of Harrisonburg and Carolyn G. Sprouse of Centreville; three brothers, George Gossom of McIntosh, Fla., Henry Gossom of Alexandria and Milton Gossom of Hilo, Hawaii; three sisters, Mae Walter and Mildred Blain, both of Woodstock, and June Clain of Daytona Beach, Fla.; 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Friends may call from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. today at Baker Funeral Home, 9320 West St., Manassas. Graveside services will be held Wednesday at Stonewall Memory Gardens in Manassas with the Rev. Larry Lee officiating.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Haymarket Baptist Church Building Fund Project.



Neal Snyder—Journal Messenger

Haymarket landmark

James Gossom operated this hardware store and grocery in the heart of Haymarket for more than 50 years.

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