

# WHEEL TRACKS



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## Diminutive Biographical Sketches

Rotarian: Sam Murphey Bason.

Club Classification: Banker.

Club Fellowship Appellation: Sam.

Distinguishing Attributes: Warm heart, loving disposition (including wife, children, stray dogs and pretty girls,) even-tempered (up to a maximum degree,) friendly personality devoid of artificiality, executive abilities and leadership qualities, a despoiling husband and an adoring father.

Sam was born Dec. 3, 1894, at Swepsonville, Alamance County. He was a son of a gallant Confederate soldier, William H. Bason, now dead and Flora Murphey Bason, a great niece of Coswell's illustrious Archibald D. Murphey. Paraphrasing Paul's language in accepting Timothy, Sam's credentials are presented in the pious and Godly life of a sweet and gentle and consecrated mother. Sam attended school at Swepsonville, Burlington and Oak Ridge, and then matriculated at the University—going in the front door and coming out the back, as he tells. He was president of both his junior and senior classes at Burlington High, president of the literary society and captain of the baseball team. He loves baseball today like a hog loves corn—and the same may be said of football, basketball, tennis, boxing and cock-fighting. His educational career was interrupted by his enlistment in the first World War—"to make the world safe for democracy." He saw eleven months of active participation in France and Belgium. After the war, he entered the banking business in Burlington. He came to Yanceyville in 1920, and took over the management of the Bank of Yanceyville, of which institution he is the popular president and controlling factor. His zeal and loyalty to his bank during the dark and hectic days of bank closings is known to all men. His integrity, his honesty, his truthfulness, his candor and his faith were inspiring incentives, spurs and backings in the reorganization and reopening of the bank. In connection with his duties in the bank, Sam has built up over the years a successful general insurance business. He was the first president of the old Caswell Chamber of Commerce, is twice pastmaster of his Masonic lodge, was the first president of our Rotary club. He played an important part in organizing the Rotary club, in rounding up the charter members and in getting the Burlington club to sponsor the baby. He was recently appointed by Gov. J. M. Broughton a member of the N. C. Gasoline and Oil Inspection Board. He helped organize the Caswell Knitting Mills, the Coble Creamery, the Caswell Hardware Co.—and whatnot! He was foremost in getting lights, water, sewerage and fire protection.

Sam is a Democrat, of perhaps Ku Klux Klan flavor, but he is neither hide-bound nor overly biased. While he has never actually sought political honors, they have come to him. He successfully managed the campaigns of Lieut.-Gov. J. Elmer Long, a native Caswellian, Solicitor Carlyle Higgins and Congressman Frank Hancock. In 1937, Gov. Clyde R. Hoey named Sam the Fifth Division Road Commissioner, and for four years he did a whale of a good job, his square-shooting personality, abilities and impartialities winning popularity and friendships of the best citizens of the nine counties—even though an overly zealous Reidsville lady did tell me: "That durned old Sam Bason is doing more for the restoration of Yanceyville than John D. Rockefeller is doing for Williamsburg."

In 1922, Sam married the lovely, gifted and good Martha (Marnie) Hatchett, who has made an almost ideal wife and mother. That "almost" takes account of Marnie's moralistic idealisms, ideologies and extraordinary conversational proclivities. They have three unusually bright and attractive children: Billie has been and still is at the University, switching from classical education to war preparation; Carolyn, this year's graduate of N. C. College for Women, and "Dot" this year's graduate at Bartlett Yancey High. Billie and Dot take after their pappy, while Carolyn is in many lovely ways a replica of her mammy.

Sam is a Presbyterian, his forefathers for generations having been pillars of Hawfields. He is actively associated with the Yanceyville church, and for many years a forward pushing chairman of the board of deacons.