

*Robert Guss Herring* was born in Weed, California, on July 2, 1913, the son of Freddie Nelson and Minor Herring. He married Lessie Hilliard on August 19, 1933. To that union, three sons were born: Robert Guss, Jr., Archie Lawrence and Benny Ross. In May of 1936, Robert and Lessie moved from Mississippi to Weed, California, to seek a better life for Robert, Jr. and soon to be born, Archie.

Robert worked at the Long Bell Sawmill in Weed for several years. Because of the many labor strikes at the sawmill in the early 1940's, he sought work in Seattle, where he moved his family, in 1943, after acquiring a position at the Washington Iron Works foundry. After working at the foundry for many years, he entered the construction trade. Two of the many jobs he worked on, were the University of Washington Football Stadium and one of the early major renovations of Harborview Hospital. After retiring from the construction trade, he found that he wasn't yet ready to completely retire and went to work at the Bethlehem Steel foundry, where he was employed for over ten years. When he left Bethlehem Steel, he entered his final trade and became the "can man."

He approached each day as a new opportunity to enjoy life and all that it held. Because of his love for people, he made many friends. He took everyone at face value, and would talk to anyone, at anytime, regardless of their station.

Being an active member of Mount Zion Baptist Church was a very important part of his life. He joined Mount Zion shortly after arriving in Seattle and served on many boards and committees. He was a loyal member of the Mount Zion Baptist Church Usher's Ministry and served as its president for over seventeen years. He was also a member of the Washington State Usher's Association. He received many awards and commendations for his exemplary service to Mount Zion. Because of his dedication he was entrusted with the keys to the church's doors and was often the first person to open them on Sunday mornings and greet arriving members.

Robert departed this life for an eternal rest on Monday, September 21, 1998.

Robert was preceded in death by his infant son, Benny Ross. He is survived by his wife Lessie; his sons, Robert and Archie; Robert's wife, Cheri; five grandchildren; six great grandchildren; one great-great grandchild and many nieces and nephews, relatives and friends.

His minds mingle with many thoughts and precious memories, remember this man as he was, sincere, kind and generous. Though cheeks are dampened by the tears of sweet memories, our hearts should be filled and inspired by the pull of a greater and more glorious homegoing. When you think of Robert, also remember his love for God and his love for his family and friends.

*God looked around His garden,  
And He found an empty place,  
He then looked down upon this earth  
And saw your tired face.*

*He put His arms around you,  
and lifted you to rest,  
God's garden must be beautiful  
He always takes the best.*

*He knew that you were suffering,  
He knew you were in pain,  
He also knew in Heaven you  
would never hurt again.*

*He saw the road was getting rough,  
And the hills harder to climb,  
So He closed your weary eyelids,  
And Whispered "Peace be Thine,"*

*It broke our hearts to lose you,  
But you didn't go alone,  
For part of us went with you,  
The day God called you home.*

As family, we are especially fortunate and personally blessed that **Robert G. Herring** was our husband, father, grandfather, uncle and friend.