



Claude William Conner

October 21, 1939 - December 1, 2020

C.W. (Claude W.) Conner was born October 21, 1939 in Walton County, Georgia. He passed away on December 1, 2020 in his home in Ellijay, Georgia. He spent much of his early childhood in the rural South among the simple joys of a way of life now forgotten. His family moved to Marietta, near Atlanta, in 1943 so that his Father could find work. As a boy and later as a teenager, C.W.'s ambition to become an artist grew. As a young man, his desire to pursue a career in art was put on hold because of the need to earn a living. So, he applied his native artistic talents outside the art world as a draftsman and in the building trades. He had extensive experience in home design, building and landscape design. Even though he did not have any formal art instruction, over the years he continued to experiment with materials that were available to him to develop an original artistic style of his own.

C.W. Conner's art reflects his humble beginnings in the rural American South and his adult life experience in the "big city." His unique painting method used found objects and materials like old barn wood, tin roofing material and various types of house paints along with more traditional art materials. His women's faces, figures, roosters and scenes of country folk going about their everyday chores and enjoying life's little pleasures have become his trademarks. His carved walking sticks are legendary.

C.W. lived his life on his own terms and said he had done everything he wanted to do.

C.W. was preceded in death by his parents Claude Herschel Conner and Sallie Brown Conner. He is survived by his loving sister and brother in law, Janelle Conner Miller and Hugh, his nephews and their wives: Kent Miller and, Selma, Curt Miller and Elizabeth, Stan Miller and Patti Waller and his niece and her husband, Zana Miller Ireland and A.J., his daughter and her husband Cherie and Mark Countz and their children and many grand nieces and grand nephews and countless friends and neighbors.

Tribute Wall



“ *Mayes Ward-Dobbins Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Claude William Conner*



Mayes Ward-Dobbins Funeral Home - December 04, 2020 at 08:41 AM

ZI

“ *CW lived life on his own terms. He was truly his own man.*

He wanted to live in the woods and that he did. His home in the woods was his refuge, the pond was stocked with bass and the changing of the seasons inspired him. He loved to watch the wildlife and feed the cats.

He wanted to be an artist. His talent was amazing and his pieces were original. His paintings are hanging in homes all over the world and in an art gallery in Pennsylvania. He was a very successful Folk Artist.

He appreciated all the beautiful women in his life. They touched his life with love and laughter. Beautiful women were often subjects for his paintings.

In the end, he said that he had done everything he wanted to do in his life.

Zana Ireland - December 04, 2020 at 01:57 PM

“ His family & friends remember many good times spent with C.W.

From Janelle: C.W. and I grew up together and were such good buddies! We had many fun filled days as children and then teenagers. We were baptized together and were charter members at First Christian Church, Marietta. When I married Hugh and moved to Ft. Jackson, S.C., he wrote me a letter to say how much he, Mother, and Dad missed my cooking. I think he was just teasing our Mother. He loved pecan pie. Our family appreciates the time we had with C.W. We loved him so much and will miss talking and visiting with him. Best brother anyone ever had – always there when I needed him.

From Curt: CW introduced me to dove hunting. He had a great eye for it. He called it "South Gawga Shootin!" Anyway, he drove us to a dove shoot in Calhoun GA. I was maybe 17 then. I remember it was quite cold that morning. We finally arrived at a big chicken farm where we were to hunt a freshly turned millet field. As we passed a huge chicken coop Uncle Dub stopped to ask a some guy for directions. He rolled down his window and this horrible smell from the coop, filled the truck. This young city boy almost gagged. Dub thanked the guy and rolled his window back up. He turned to me and said "Man! That guy needed to brush his teeth!" I laughed so hard my eyes watered.....I still chuckle about that to this day.

From Zana: So many little things we did together. Finding Ben D. Indian on the beach. Cataloging and making a website for his artwork. Going to Folk Fest each year and seeing all the beautiful creations he made. He was really in his element there meeting and greeting everyone. Holidays and just any days. Lunch at the Mexican place in town. Walking in the woods around the cabin. We'll miss you Uncle Dub!

From Madison: Few people on this earth have the kind of spirit that Poppie possessed. He was vivacious and remarkable, with a passion for art and creativity, a true artist in many senses of the word. He was a natural storyteller, because his life was full of adventures; he made sure of it. And he was an instructor: a professor of his favorite subjects in life. From painting to bird calls, if he had the knowledge, he would teach you. Most of all, he was a man who lived his life to the fullest, and without regrets. Another storyteller, A.A. Milne said it best: "How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard". Those who knew him were indeed lucky, and those of us who loved him, the luckiest.

From Kent: Over the years I have spent more and more time with my Uncle Dub. He was always our favorite Uncle. He spent a lot to time with me and my brothers and sister and he taught us all a lot about life. We learned to respect other people and let them be who they are and to love them no matter what.

He told me to always be thankful for what we have and he always made us say the Blessing before we ate. He said the Blessing last week at our Thanksgiving.

He told me later in life that I did not know how to listen and he took the time to teach me how. I learned how to listen to others. I learned not to hate any more. He may have been irreverent but he brought me closer to God and reinforced my personal Faith.

The time I spent with Uncle Dub made me a better man.

Zana Ireland - December 04, 2020 at 01:56 PM

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“C.W. (Claude W.) Conner was born October 21, 1939 in Walton County, Georgia. He passed away on December 1, 2020 in his home in Ellijay, Georgia. He spent much of his early childhood in the rural South among the simple joys of a way of life now forgotten. His family moved to Marietta, near Atlanta, in 1943 so that his Father could find work. As a boy and later as a teenager, C.W.’s ambition to become an artist grew. As a young man, his desire to pursue a career in art was put on hold because of the need to earn a living. He graduated from Marietta High School. He served in the Army and was awarded the Good Conduct Medal and the Rifle Sharpshooter Badge.

After his Army service, he applied his native artistic talents as a draftsman and in the building trades. He had extensive experience in home design, building and landscape design. He and his Father bought half a “mountain” and built a cabin that the family enjoyed for many years. Later, they built a retirement home where C.W. set up an art studio to pursue his artistic passions. He is a world known Folk Artist. He exhibited at several local galleries and annually at Folk Fest in Atlanta for several years.

Even though he did not have any formal art instruction, over the years he continued to experiment with materials that were available to him to develop an original artistic style of his own. C.W. Conner’s art reflects his humble beginnings in the rural American South and his adult life experience in the “big city.” His unique painting method used found objects and materials like old barn wood, tin roofing material and various types of house paints along with more traditional art materials. His women’s faces, figures, roosters and scenes of country folk going about their everyday chores and enjoying life’s little pleasures have become his trademarks. His carved walking sticks are legendary.

He attended First Christian Church in Marietta, Georgia in earlier years and after moving to Ellijay he attended Cherry Log Christian Church.

Zana Ireland - December 04, 2020 at 01:53 PM

CC

“ Everyone knows how hard divorce can be on children. My parents divorced when I was 11 months. My mom and I moved from Georgia to California. My dad had a hard time finding the time and money for a visit. He did hitchhike one year to see me. At age 8, my mom married a navy man and we were sent to Hawaii. It was impossible for my father to visit during these years. After returning from Hawaii. My Aunt Janelle reached out for me to come and visit. I was a scared and nervous 12 year old. The whole family welcomed me with open arms. I received the love of grandparents I never personally knew. I also got a big family of cousins and an aunt and uncle. I started going to Georgia every summer from age 12-22. Later, I fell in love and my fiancé and I drove out to Marietta for my dad to meet Mark. I found out later, he was more nervous than I was. Mark and I were able to visit a few times over the years. My dad and grandfather even came to Texas two different times to see us. My own family was growing fast. Through the years my dad and I would connect through letters and phone calls. The last time I saw my dad was when Calli was 2, Corey was 4 and Casi was 8. We had the best time at his house in Elijay Georgia. My dad loved living his retired years in Elijay. It's at this point in his life, he was able to concentrate full time on his folk art. He was truly a talented artist. He was always excited to share his art with me. I loved being able to see each piece and I treasure some pieces he gave to me. Over the last few years, I was able to see more artwork through the internet. Poppie, (his grandpa name) stayed in touch at Christmas and birthdays. I find comfort knowing he was not in pain. I know he will be missed by his Ellajay friends, his family and my family. I also know his art will always be his legacy. Rest In Peace dad, I love you. Cherie

Cherie Countz - December 03, 2020 at 06:59 PM

ZI

“ 100 files added to the album CW Conner Photos



Zana Ireland - December 03, 2020 at 05:01 PM

CC

Thank you for sharing all these photos.

Cherie Countz - December 04, 2020 at 10:11 AM

PS

“ CW was a good friend, beloved by classmates, the art community, church friends-
-all who met him understood that he was special. He and his talent will be missed.
Many take pride in owning a CW Connor original.

Penny Sullivan - December 03, 2020 at 11:05 AM

TM

“ Tim Mathis lit a candle in memory of Claude William
Conner



Tim Mathis - December 02, 2020 at 07:18 PM