



# Tree Talk



## Pride and Professionalism

By Mike Kelly



[Most human beings have an almost infinite capacity for taking things for granted.](#)

[Aldous Huxley \(1894 - 1963\)](#)

I have to apologize for the last few articles that I have written. It seems that there is always something more important, or I just can't think of anything to say, or better yet, I take for granted that there will always be next month. Well I am quickly realizing that is just not the case.

It's just been a few days now that we have had to lie to rest two of our well respected and appreciated members. For those of you that have not heard both Frank Raper and Michael Hinnant passed on last week. I would be remiss if I not take the time to talk a little, or at least what I knew of both men.



## Frank Raper

12/12/32-1/22/15



Mr. Frank is the only name I knew him by. I would see him in the pro shop getting a drink or preparing for his round, a friendly hello or just a nod, but always smiling. I can also see him on Friday and Saturday mornings for his breakfast, again surrounded by family, which seemed to make Mr. Frank the happiest.

Mr. Frank was one of those members you just didn't hear a lot from. As most of you know, I can tell some good stories about the things here at Lane Tree. Mr. Frank just seemed to enjoy the game, never having anything negative to say about the course, just seemed to love the place. These are the kind of people that can make a huge statement and not say a thing.

Mr. Frank, we will miss you a great deal and hope that your family will always be a part of the Lane Tree family.

Mr. Frank is survived by his beloved wife of 57 years, Evelyn Davis Raper; his sons and daughters-in-law, Frank

Raper Jr. and wife Stephanie of Pueblo, CO, Mike Raper and wife Shannon of Goldsboro and David Raper and wife Ginny of Goldsboro; grandchildren, Steven, Abbey, Colin, Ann-Marie, Adrienne, Rocco, Sadie, Sully and the granddaughter he was anticipating in March. He is also survived by his sisters, Lynn Whiteford of Greenville and Kathryn Pittman and husband Leroy of Kinston; sisters-in-law, Doris Raper of Rocky Mount, Jackie Byrd Raper of Rocky Mount and Marjorie Jackson and husband Ray of Lake Lure; and several nieces and nephews.

**Michael Hinnant**  
**9/9/47-1/23/15**



Mike started with Lane Tree a long time ago. He was one of the original members and could always be found reading the USA Today early in the morning at what I call the pigeon table. The pigeon table is that where all of Lane Tree problems are solved in the early morning hours at Lane Tree.

Mike was pretty much always in a good mood. Talking always of his family, his beautiful wife Janet, and of course his best friend "Pepper". Mike would never be short on wit.

On many occasions Mike would be found just helping out. You could find him in the corn field picking corn with his friend Melvin or at one of the schools reading to the children. If you came to

Lane Tree on Friday's, Mike was the cordial starter that would make sure you got out on time and had an enjoyable round.

I could always count on Mike complimenting me on how well my wife dresses me and that if needed on the course he was always available to help. I did attend his funeral Monday night and was amazed at the amount of people in attendance.

Mike is survived by his wife of 43 years, Janet Duke Hinnant; son, Alan Michael Hinnant and wife Carey of Pikeville; sister, Sharon Cogdell and husband Mike of Richmond, VA; and his grandson, Cooper Hinnant. We truly hope that his entire family remains a part of Lane Tree as well.

Mike will be truly missed by us all, rest in peace my friend.

