

"Old Man Zeke" Wilson

Another of the Daily News old-timers passed on into the Great Beyond Monday afternoon when Lucius Truman Wilson, "Old Man Zeke" to all about the shop, died following a period of ill health which dated back over the past six years.

For more than 30 years "Old Man Zeke" was the man who ran the presses which turned out the newspapers going into the thousands of homes of the Daily News' and then the Greensboro Record's family of readers. And if ever a man loved his job, held in affection the machinery with which he worked, possessed pride of craftsmanship and manifested loyalty and steadfastness for the institution with which he served and of which he was a part, "Zeke" Wilson did. He antedated the Daily News, starting his Greensboro connection with the old Industrial News back in 1909, but when the Daily News was founded on the ruins of that publication he continued to be the man at the press throttle, and in the growth and expansion of this newspaper no one about the shop ever took greater satisfaction. His special love was the huge machine with which he worked, his ambition to turn out the best presswork job that could be turned out. In more than 30 years of employment, never was he absent from the press room, until ill health got him down, for more than three successive days. He eschewed vacations; he simply could not be separated from his job and his press; they were too much a part of his life.

No one ever accused "Old Man Zeke" of being a saint. But he was rich in those traits which made him a good fellow, a warm friend, a personable comrade and associate and a craftsman supreme. All that he will ask, we are confident, of the Master Pressman in whose presence he is will be that he be given a double-decker, shiny, slick-running press to keep that way and to operate. That to him will be eternal happiness and to the Great Entruster of that responsibility will assure as faithful a worker and as zealous a craftsman as even a celestial newspaper might desire.