

# F. Culver, 100, news carrier

Floyd Culver, 100, of South Philadelphia, a beloved newspaper deliveryman for 60 years, died Tuesday at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital after suffering a stroke.

Seven days a week since 1947, Mr. Culver (respectfully called Mr. Floyd by his clients) loaded up his battered black bicycle, equipped with an oversize basket, and delivered *The Inquirer* and the *Philadelphia Daily News* to more than 300 homes along his route.

Every morning, Mr. Culver rose at 2, cooked a breakfast of bacon, eggs, grits and coffee, and picked up his newspapers from a storefront at 18th and Bainbridge Streets.

No matter the weather, Mr. Culver delivered newspapers faithfully to customers who loved and respected him. He earned about \$40 a day.

"He was more reliable than the post office," said his daughter, Brenda Taylor.

Mr. Culver was long used to hard work. After he finished the fifth grade, his mother pulled him out of school to work for a quarter a day in a grocery store to help support his three sisters in their hometown of Headland, Ala. Over the years, Mr. Culver

was a pecan-farm hand, a short-order cook in the Navy during World War II, and then a newspaper deliveryman.

He was married three times. Each marriage ended in divorce.



**Floyd  
Culver**

Mr. Culver had two bikes, a battered black one with balloon tires he bought in 1954 and a backup. From the handlebars hung an old cloth apron full of tools of his trade: a wrench, rubber bands, plastic bags, and a knife to open bundles of newspapers.

Sickness and accidents did not stop Mr. Culver. If he did not show up on schedule, his customers traveled to his home base on Bainbridge to ask about him.

In September 1999, his bike slipped on a curb and he broke his left hip. Doctors replaced it with an artificial one, and Mr. Culver was back on his bike in November. In 2001, he was hit by a car and injured his right knee, which required more surgery. Then he reinjured his hip.

As soon as he could, he was back on his bike delivering papers. He walked with a cane, but that did not stop him.

After delivering newspapers door-to-door, Mr. Culver stopped each day at Graduate Hospital, where he delivered papers he pushed in a grocery cart to patients and staff. On his 90th birthday, the doctors and nurses gave him a surprise party that brought tears to his eyes.

"At 94, his bones became brittle and he couldn't handle the bike," his daughter said. So he bought an electric wheelchair and made his rounds at Graduate Hospital. When the hospital closed, he began to shut down.

He retired from his full-time newspaper delivery job at 94.

"Everyone loved my father," his daughter said.

In addition to his daughter, Mr. Culver is survived by two grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Friends may call at 9 a.m. Tuesday at Slater Funeral Home, 1426 Fitzwater St. A funeral will be at 11. Burial will be in Glenwood Memorial Park, Broomall.