

(Jun 24, 2022)

10a

TIMELINE for Ernest Ralph Bass Jr. (1924-2012) (U.S. Navy WW2 Veteran, Foreman for Florida Power & Light)

1904, Mar 28 – Father, Ernest R. Bass Sr, born in Kissimmee, Florida.

1905, Feb 19 – Mina Viola Ludlum (future wife of Ernest R Sr. and mother of Ernest R. Jr.) born in South Carolina.

~1923/4 – Parents Marriage, Ernest Sr. to Mina Viola Lundlum of South Carolina. (based on 1930 Census info)

1924, Aug 10 – Ernest Ralph Bass Jr. born in Pahokee, Palm Beach County, Florida (ancestry.com)

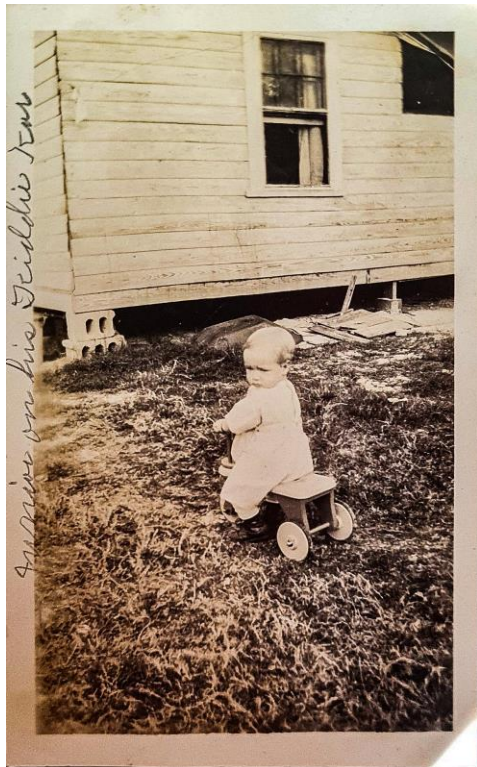


Ernest Bass “Jr” Dec 1924 (~3 months old)





Ernest Bass "Jr" circa 1925

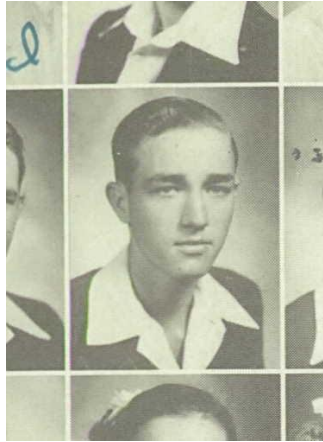


1930 – Census for West Palm Beach District 0045, has Ernest R (Sr.) (age 26), Mina V. (age 25) and **Ernest. R. Jr. (age 4)**. Mina Viola Ludlum was born in SC. Ernest R. (Sr.) listed as "Ferry Boat Operator". Mina listed as employed at 5&10 Store. States Ernest age 20 and Mina 19 at marriage (~1924)

~1939 – **Ernest** met **Helen** on a Salvation Army sponsored boat ride (social activity for young people).

1940 – Census for Palm Beach, has **Ernest (36)**, **Mina (35)**, **Ernest Jr (15)**. **Ernest Sr** is “Captain of Private Ferry Boat”, **Mina** is “retail at a department store (Burdines).

1940 – Photo of **Ernest Jr** at Palm Beach High School, West Palm Beach, Florida. 10th grade.



1942, Jun 12 – **Ernest** enlists in the U.S. Navy

1942, Sept 10 – **Ernest Ralph Bass Jr** marries **Helen Cleo Fox**



Wedding Details: Married in Jacksonville (Duval County) at a Judge's house. Ernest was stationed in Jacksonville's Cecil Field at the time.

Marriage License 32594
C. I. No. _____
CENTRAL BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

State of Florida, Duval County

To my Minister of the Gospel, or any Officer Legally Authorized to Solemnize the Rite of Matrimony:

Whereas, Application having been made to the County Judge of Duval County, of the State of Florida, for a license for marriage, and it appearing to the satisfaction of said County Judge that no legal impediments exist to the marriage now sought to be solemnized, These are, Therefore, To authorize you to unite in the

Holy Estate of Matrimony

Mr. Ernest R. Bass Jr. and Miss Helen Cleo Fox

and that you make return of the same, duly certified under your hand, to the County Judge aforesaid.

Witness, my name as County Judge, and the seal of said Court, at the Courthouse in Jacksonville, this 10th day of September, A. D. 1942

J. Allen Edmunds County Judge

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE

I Certify, that the within named Ernest R. Bass Jr. and Helen Cleo Fox were by me, the undersigned, duly united in the Holy Estate of Matrimony, by the authority of the within License. Done this 10th day of September, A. D. 1942, at Jacksonville, Florida.

Witness *[Signature]*

Witness *[Signature]*

Returned this 11th day of September, A. D. 1942, and recorded in Marriage Book 55, Page 256

J. Allen Edmunds County Judge

THE COUNTY JUDGE WHO ISSUED IT.

Ernest's job, or "rate", in the Navy was Aviation Machinist's Mate. The abbreviation during WW2 would have been AMM. Ernest made 1st Class Petty Officer therefore was referred to as AMM1c Bass. After 1948, the Navy changed the abbreviation to AD but the symbol remains unchanged to this day. Ernest would have specialized in aircraft maintenance, specially focused on engines, propellers and other operating systems. He was primarily assigned to the SNJ, advanced trainer aircraft at Corey Field in Pensacola. Because espionage was a concern during the war, the maintainers would periodically be called on, without prior notice, to climb in the back and go for a flight in the aircraft they maintained. Most of Ernest's flights would have been in SNJs, but he specially recalled a flight in a Dive Bomber as a particularly exciting ride for him. The Dive Bomber ride would have been out of Cecil Field in the Scout Bombing Plan (VSB) squadron and probably an SBD or SB2C aircraft.



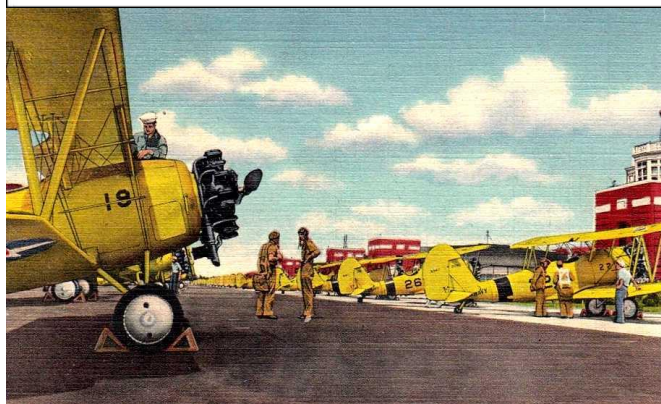


~1942/3 – **Ernest** leaves Jacksonville on orders to Pensacola, Florida. **Helen** stayed with her mother until **Ernest** could find a place to live in Pensacola. Housing was short due to wartime surge in service members in the area.

Served at Corey Field (near NAS Pensacola) as working on SNJ Pilot Trainers.



Bright yellow **NAF N3N-3s** await the day's training activities, 1941. The characteristic hangar construction for Pensacola-area air facilities originated at Corey Field.



Colorized WW2-era post card of Corey Field.
History of Corey Field

http://www.airfields-freeman.com/FL/Airfields_FL_Pensacola_W.htm

1942 – Draft Card for **Ernest R. Bass (Sr.)** (age 37) shows him living in Washington DC while wife **Mina Viola Bass** still in West Palm Beach, Florida.

1943, [REDACTED] – Daughter Barbara Ann Bass (Williams) born

1944 – Parents **Ernest Sr.** and **Mina** Divorced (ancestry.com).

1945 – Census for Palm Beach, Precinct 15, has only **Ernest Sr.** (age 40) and **Ernest Jr.** (19) living together at 900 Belvedere. (**Helen** and Barbara not shown listed), **Ernest Jr.** occupation still listed at “Navy”. Census taken while **Ernest Jr.** was still in Pensacola with family in the Navy. *Note: **Ernest Jr.** did not live with **Ernest Sr.** at the time of this census. He was in Pensacola, Florida in the Navy and moved back to WPB between Dec 1945 and Feb 1946 where they lived with his mother **Mina** for a brief time.*

1945, Nov 20 – **Ernest** Discharged from the Navy. Residence at the time was 112 Chipley Ave, Pensacola, Florida.

FORM APPROVED Budget Bureau No. 33-R012-42			
REGISTRATION CARD (Men born on or after July 1, 1924, and on or before December 31, 1924) (Also for the registration of men as they reach the 18th anniversary of the date of their birth on or after January 1, 1943.)			
SERIAL NUMBER W 29-B	1. NAME (Print) Ernest Ralph Bass (First) (Middle) (Last)		ORDER NUMBER 12,761-B
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) 112 Chipley Avenue Pensacola Escambia Florida (Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)			
[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON LINE 2 ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]			
3. MAILING ADDRESS Same (Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same, insert word same.)			
4. TELEPHONE none	5. AGE IN YEARS 21	6. PLACE OF BIRTH Palokee Florida (Town or county) (State or country)	
DATE OF BIRTH August 10 1924 (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)			
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mrs. Mina Bass, P. O. Box 944, West Palm Beach, Florida			
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Discharged from service			
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS			
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.			
DSS Form 1 (Rev. 11-16-42)		e16-21630-4 (OVER)	Ernest Ralph Bass (Registrant's signature)

REGISTRAR'S REPORT						
DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT						
RACE		HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)		COMPLEXION	
White	X	5' 10"	145		Sallow	
		EYES	HAIR		Light	
Negro		Blue	X	Blonde		Ruddy
Indian		Gray		Red		Dark
Filipino		Hazel		Brown	X	Swartled
Japanese		Brown		Black		Light brown
Other Oriental		Black		Gray		Dark brown
				Bald		Black

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification:
 Scar on right leg below knee
 small scar on face

I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Edna P. Richards
 Registrar for Local Board No. 1 Escambia Florida
 Date of registration November 20, 1945

Local Board No. 1	42
Escambia County	033
172 Mount Building	001
Pensacola, Florida	

(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the registrant shall be placed in the above space)

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-21600-1

1945, [REDACTED] – Son James Edward Bass born in Pensacola, FL

1946 (~Jan) – Mina and John Bane drove to Pensacola to pick up Ernest, Helen, Barbara and baby James after Ernest was discharged. They drove them back to West Palm Beach. Ernest, Helen and kids lived with Mina for a short time before moving into a small house that Helen's uncle had built nearby.

1946, Jan 4 – Mina married John Wesley Bane in Palm Beach, Florida.

1946, Mar 7 – Ernest R. Jr's mother, Mina Viola (Lundlum) (Bass) Bane, died in house fire. Ernest Jr., Helen, Barbara and Jimmy were staying temporarily at Helen's sister Gloria's (probably actually her mother Cleo's house) as Ernest had just been discharged from the Navy.

??? – Ernest, Helen, Barbara and Jimmy rented a trailer across from Morris & Field Construction where Ernest was working.

??? – **Ernest** went to work for Florida Power and Light (FP&L) digging holes for poles. Later became a Lineman then promoted to Yard Supervisor. He spent 35 years with FPL.



1950 – Family moved to 831 Highland Drive, West Palm Beach and remained there until **Ernest** retired in (yr?). **Ernest** added a room to the house and a carport. (father **Ernest Sr** and grandfather **William R.** were carpenters).



1951, [REDACTED] – Son Michael Allen Bass born.

1953, [REDACTED] – Daughter Patti Lorraine Bass born.

??? – **Ernest** was a Square Dance Caller and Instructor, leading to many life-long friendships.

??? – **Ernest** retired from FP&L after 35 years.

Ernest and **Helen** moved near Ocala, FL. (21686 NE 136th St, Fort McCoy/Salt Springs, Florida)

??? – **Ernest** and **Helen** moved to Forsyth, GA (70 Mornside Dr).

2012, April 12 – **Ernest** passed away peacefully in his favorite recliner while waiting for his chicken and dumplings dinner to be ready. At the time, his family had expanded to 4 children, 11 grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild.

Ernest is buried at Monroe Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Forsyth, Georgia.

2022, Feb 14 – **Helen** passed away peacefully at home on Valentine's Day. She is buried next to her husband Ernest at Monroe Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Forsyth, Georgia. She wore her wedding ring until the day she died.

Additional Photographs

Ernest Bass Sr, **Mina Bass** (right), **Ernest Bass Jr** and Bessie (?) (1927)



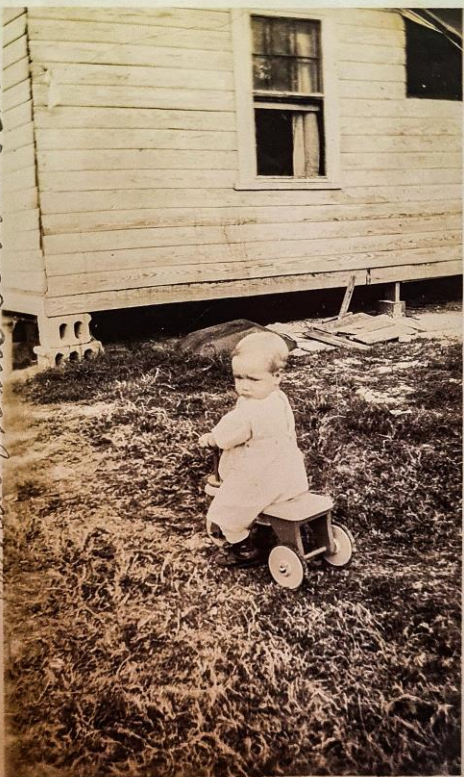
Ernest Bass Jr. (circa mid 1920s)



Mina and Ernest Bass Jr (circa mid 1920s)



James on his Tricycle



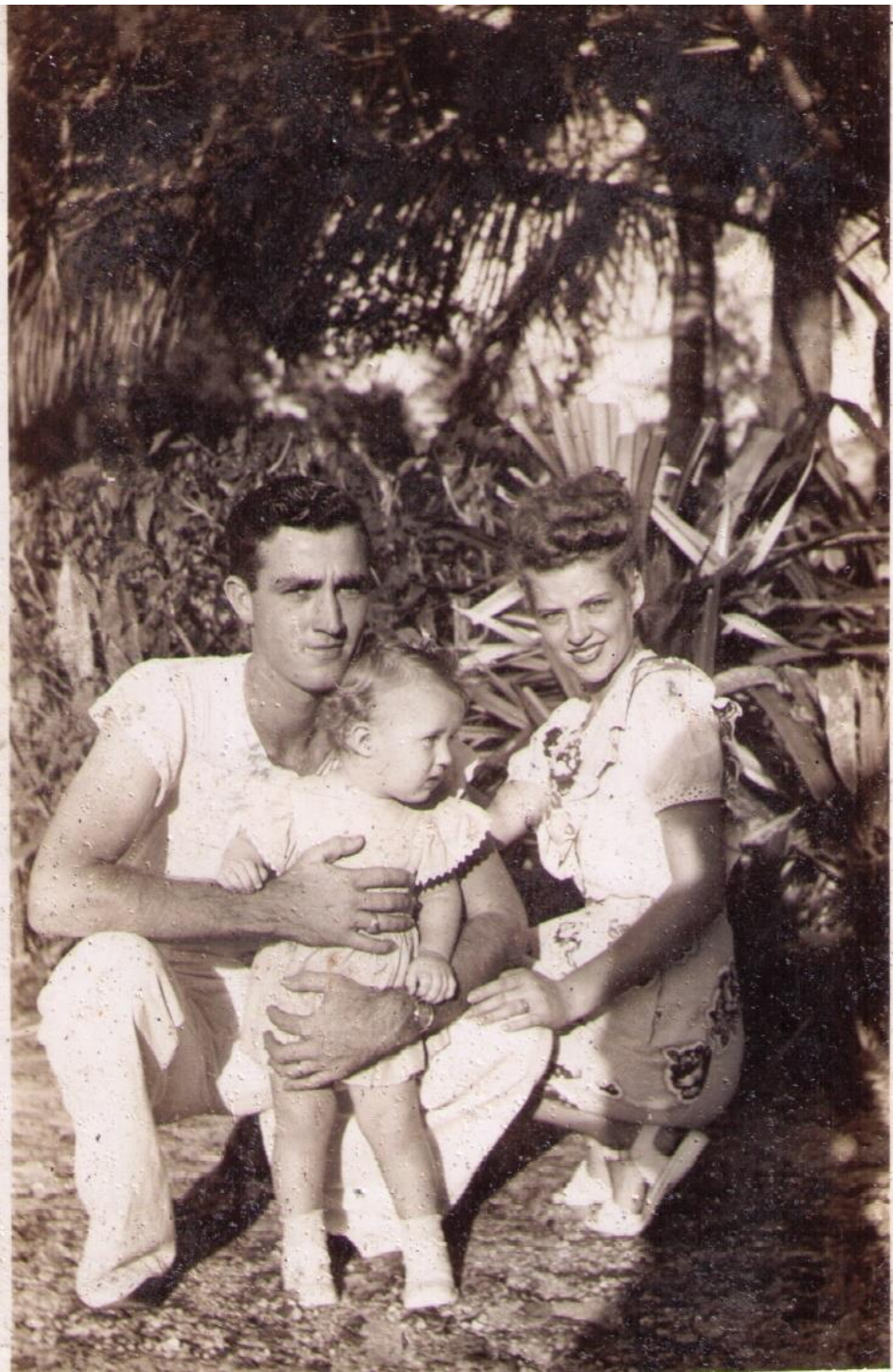
Ernest Sr Bass, Mina Bass and Ernest Jr Bass (circa 1930s)



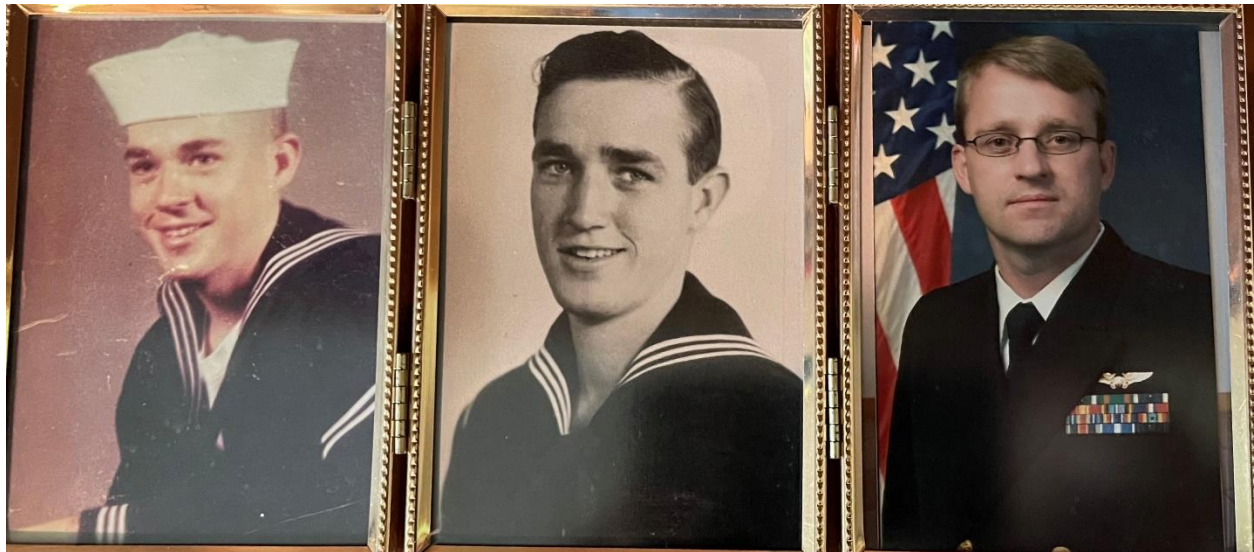
Ernest Bass Jr, 10th grade yearbook. (circa late 30s / early 1940s)

SOPHOMORES

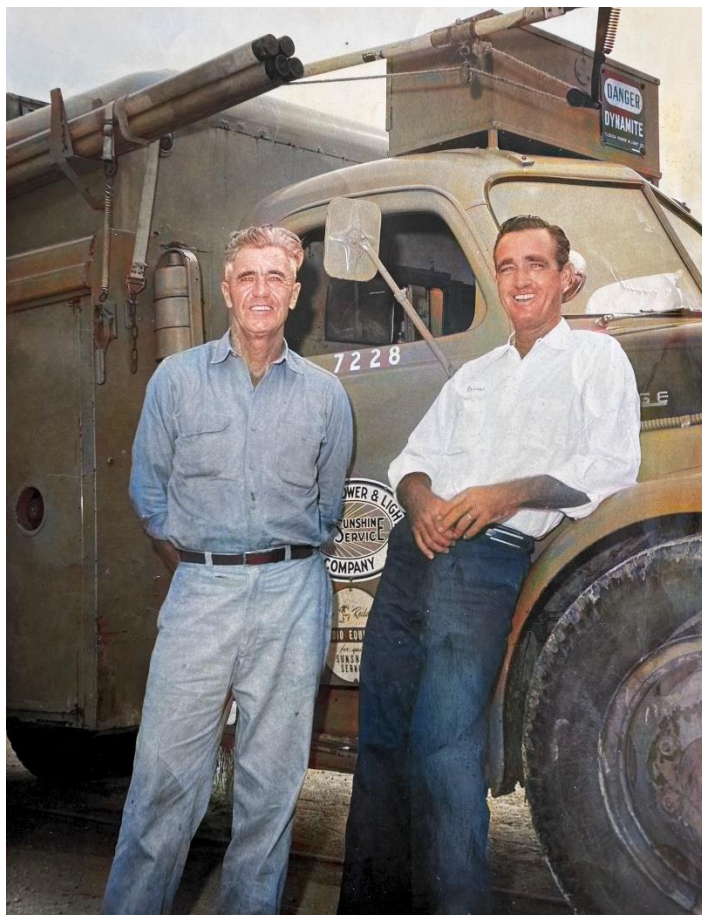
Ernest R. Bass Jr, Helen Cleo (Fox) Bass with Barbara Ann Bass



James E. Bass, Ernest R. Bass Jr & Brian P. Bass USN



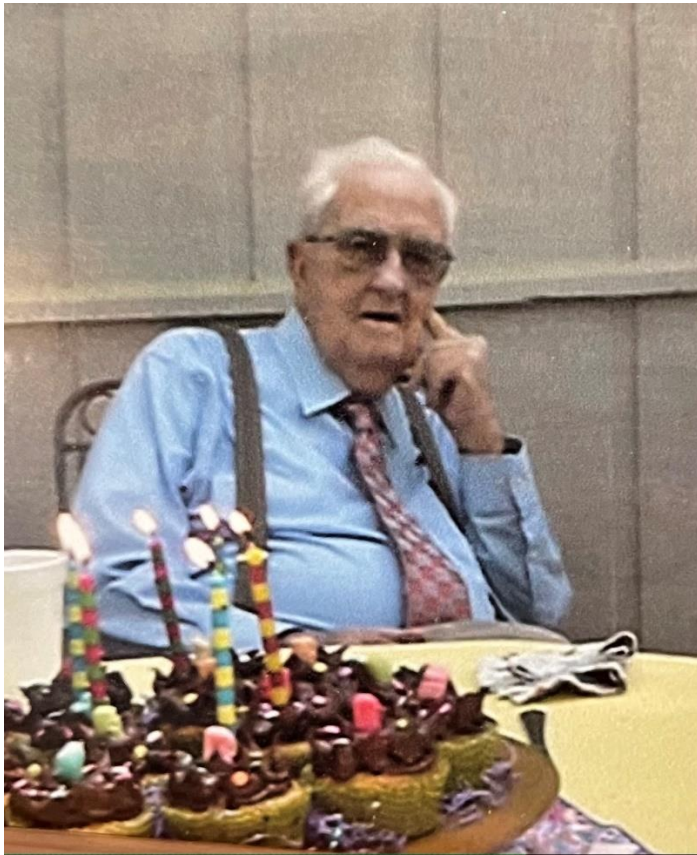
Ernest R. Bass Jr at FPL circa 1950s (colorized by Shannon Bass Kersher)



Ernest and Helen



Ernest R. Bass, (Easter Sunday) April 8, 2012 (4 days before his passing)





Ernest Ralph Bass, Jr.

Aug. 10, 1924 - April 12, 2012

Ernest Ralph Bass Jr. of Forsyth died Thursday, April 12, 2012. Funeral services were held Monday, April 16, at First Baptist Church with burial in Monroe Memorial Gardens. Dr. H. Darrell Watson officiated.

Bass, son of the late Ernest Ralph Bass Sr. and Mina Viola Ludlum Bass, was born Aug. 10, 1924, in Pahokee, Fla. He retired from Florida Power and Light Company after 35 years of service and was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving during World War II. Bass was a lifetime member of Harmonia Lodge, past president of IBEW 1191, past Master of Harmonia Lodge, member of Scottish Rite, past president of South Florida Callers Association, square dance caller and teacher for 29 years, past supervisor of Lake Park FPL, member of Master Gardner, member of Cracker Workshop Woodworking Club in Ocala, Fla., past member of Memorial Presbyterian Church, past member of First Baptist Church in Salt Springs, Fla., a member of First Baptist Church of Forsyth, secretary and treasury of Kingdom Builders Class and a member of Faith Class Baptist Church.



Survivors include his wife, Helen Bass of Forsyth; children, Barbara Williams of Forsyth, Jimmy (Carlin) Bass of Newnan, Mike (Carol) Bass of West Palm, Fla. and Patti (Bill Gainey) of Jackson; brother, Bill (Julie) Bass of Prince Frederick, Md.; sister, Dorothy Bass of Boca Raton, Fla.; 11 grandchildren, four step grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren and one great great grandchild.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to Meals on Wheels, c/o First Baptist Church, 95 West Morse Street, Forsyth, GA 31029. Please visit www.monroecountymemorialchapel.com to express tributes. Monroe County Memorial Chapel has charge of arrangements.



Shadow Box for **Ernest R. Bass Jr**

(Shown Top Left: **Ernest** and his mother **Mina** / Top Middle: **Ernest Sr.**, **Ernest Jr** and **Mina** (circa 1930s) / Top Right: **Ernest Sr** / Lower Left: **Ernest** & **Helen** / Lower Middle: Pocket watch belonging to **Ernest Sr.** / Lower Right: **Ernest Jr** as a Boy Scout circa 1930s)



WEST GATE FIRE FATAL TO COUPLE

Wife Dies In Bungalow, Husband Succumbs In Hospital Later

A middle-aged West Gate woman died in the flaming wreckage of her story-and-a-half bungalow last night and her husband succumbed to burns shortly after midnight in Good Samaritan Hospital, both victims of a fire of undetermined origin.

The dead are John W. Bane, 2716 Nokomis Ave., West Gate, and his wife, Mrs. Mina Viola Bane.

The husband was being treated for third degree burns which covered more than three-quarters of his body, hospital attendants said.

Both bodies are at the Mizell-Simon Mortuary.

The fire, which broke out shortly before 7 p. m. Sunday, burned with fierce intensity and gained rapid headway before neighbors could go to the Banes' aid. Mrs. Bane was found in the charred remains of her bed, while her husband was found unconscious on the back porch, his clothes flaming as he apparently attempted to escape.

Neighbors summoned Morrison Field and Southboro firemen. The latter sent one booster truck. While firemen attempted to quell the flames, Ernest R. Bass, Jr., a son of this city, Mrs. Bane's son by a previous marriage, arrived on the scene. He identified the body as that of his mother.

Bill Loy, a bakery company salesman, said he was the first man on the scene. He said he attempted to break into the house but that it was impossible because of the intensity of the heat. Mr. Loy said the fire appeared to be confined to a small bedroom.

When firemen arrived they found the whole frame structure enveloped in flames, they reported later.

E. F. Grose, assistant chief of the Morrison Field fire department, said men from his unit recovered Mrs. Bane's body.

Mrs. Bane came to West Gate from Pahokee and had resided in West Gate for 19 years, her son said. Mr. Bass, recently discharged from the Navy and now living here, said his mother is survived by two grandchildren, James Edward Bass, age 3 months, and Barbara Ann Bass, age 2 and one-half years. She is also survived by three brothers, Wilson Ludlum, now serving in the South Pacific with the Army; and Luther and Noah Ludlum, both of Stuart. She has two sisters, Mrs. Lillie Savage of Stuart, and a second whose identity could not be learned last night.

County Solicitor Earl Roebuck and Sheriff John Kirk were investigating the fire late last night to determine the cause. They said that while many neighbors witnessed the tragedy, none was able to provide information which might indicate the cause.

James Bass Michael Bass Ernest R. Bass Bill Gainey Darryl Williams Darren Williams
Todd Bass

Carlin Cantrell Bonnie Baumgarten Lisa Williams Helen Bass Barbara Bass (Williams) Patti Bass (Gainey)



Steve Bass Brian Bass Adrienne Bass Brad Bass

Info from Poppa's (**Ernest Jr**) 1997 visit to Pensacola regarding Ernest and Helen's Residences during WW2:

Believe **Ernest** and **Helen**'s house (that had a fire) was located where present day McDonald's is located on East Cervantes, N. 9th Ave and E. Gadsden.



They moved to a little house (duplex) behind the present day McDonald's (on E Gadsden St). (919 East Gadsden), currently the location of the Gadsden Street United Methodist Church.

Ernest and **Helen** were living at 112 Chipley Ave near Pensacola Bay at the time of **Ernest's** discharge, 20 Nov 1945.