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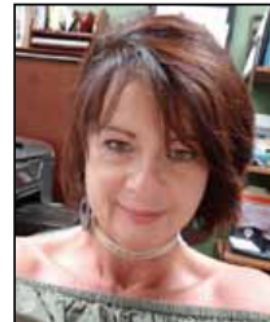
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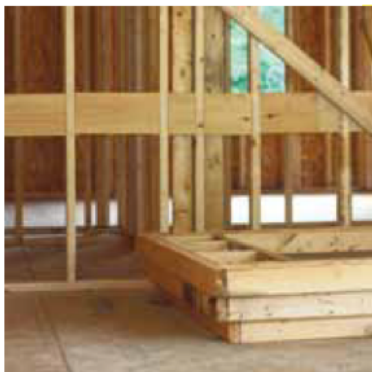
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THE MOSAIC ON THE COVER IS CREATED WITH PHOTOS FROM THE VETERANS' WALL OF HONOR AND FEATURES THE LATE FRANK FORONDA.

954 MAG

FALL & WINTER 2019

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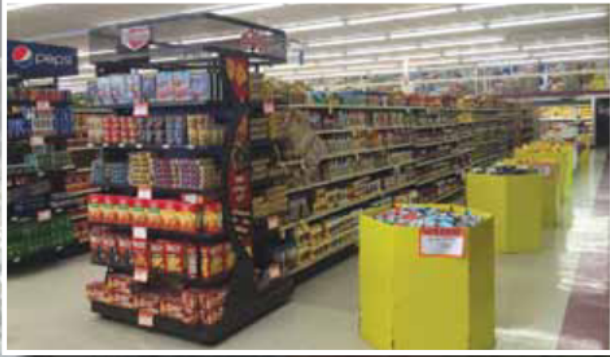


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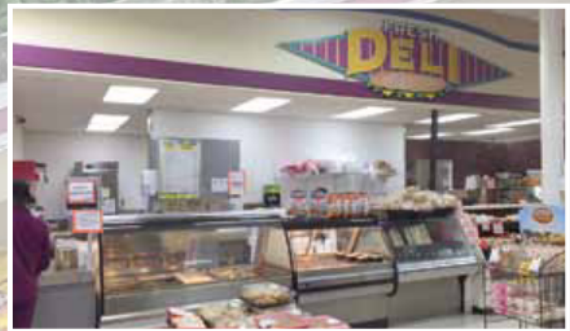
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WHITEVILLE WOMAN'S CLUB STARTED COUNTY FAIR IN 1920

STORY CLARA CARTRETTE

PHOTOS NR ARCHIVE



(Top left) N.C. Commissioner Jim Graham takes the reins at the first Columbus County Fair parade in 1980. (Middle left) Enforcement officers are greeted by Gov. Jim Hunt, who presented the deed to the fairgrounds. (Bottom left) In 1980 the fair committee worked fast to clear the property for the first fair. (Top right) 1925 fair photo (Bottom right) 1927 fair ad

The 40th annual Columbus County Agricultural Fair has come and gone, but it wouldn't be surprising if the sponsors are already mapping out what they will bring to the fairgrounds next year.

The first Columbus County Agricultural Fair was held in October 1980. It was presented by the Columbus County Law Enforcement Association, which has continued to present an outstanding fair every year since. There were naysayers who didn't believe the newly elected fair board could pull off a fair in the time allotted, but they did, in spite of rainy weather, and it was a great success.

Families have been happy to have the opportunity to attend a good fair every year for the past 40 years.

Most people don't know that the Columbus County Agricultural Fair was not the first fair held in Columbus County. The first one was held in 1920, a project organized by the Whiteville Woman's Club on a day in early June. At the organizational meeting, only three men were present: Bruce Pierce, W.R. McRacken, and the Rev. Andrew J. Howell, who, with the aid of the ladies, were instrumental in getting the fair started. It was definitely decided that a fair should be staged in Whiteville sometime in October, but there were problems that had to be overcome before the actual organization could be started.

The Association was organized there without funds to defray the expenses of the fair, and it was decided that the money should be raised by popular subscription. Therefore, \$450 was raised from mercantile and other institutions in and around Whiteville.

Buildings in which to house the exhibit and ample space for the carnival presented another problem, but association members arose to meet the situation. Two tobacco warehouses behind Hayes Hotel were donated for this use through the kindness of A.F. Powell, Jr. Unlike the fairs of recent years, a goodly portion of the first fair was held in tents.

Officers elected included Bruce Pierce, president; W.R. McRacken, vice president; and J.H. McDavid, secretary-treasurer. Clark's Shows was the carnival secured by the Fair Association and several free acts put everything in readiness for the opening of the first gala event of the autumn season. No visitor to the 1920 fair would ever forget the experience of seeing a balloon ascension daily, and the many other attractions.

In 1921, propagators of the fair had a small surplus, something over \$300, to begin preparations. R.H. Burns, then of Tabor City, was named president; Bruce Pierce, secretary (J.H. McDavid having moved away); and McCracken was again named vice president. Clark's Shows did not return that year and Reilly's carnival was secured for the event. More free acts were staged that year and it proved to be a bigger and better fair.

The fair continued through 1923 and 1924, and for the first time a good deal of time and money were spent on fireworks. Those proved to be a drawing card and were repeated the next year. The fair proved to be very eventful. Dr. William Louis Poteat, president of Wake Forest College, was the opening speaker. Miss Ethel Theodore Rockwell of the University of North Carolina staged three one-act plays in the exhibit halls, and they were a great success.

Bigger and better exhibits were at the 1926 fair and amusements included Cervonne's Band, Bruce's Greater Shows with good clean shows, whip, ferris wheel, merry whirl, carousel and kiddie rides. Fireworks were abandoned that year. Then came 1927, with the biggest



The Columbus County Fair Parade kicks off the week's events each year.

COLUMBUS COUNTY FAIR FUN 1980-2019





and best fair ever staged in the county. The widest variety of free acts ever staged were offered to patrons of the fair. F.A. Matthis, executive vice president of the Tide Water Power Company was the opening speaker.

Higgins Hussar Band furnished music and thrilled the crowds with splendid popular and symphony numbers. Miss Eva Shaeffer Powell was with the band and her numbers were enjoyed.

The County Fair organized by Whiteville Woman's Club in 1920 ended after seven years, but the Columbus County Law Enforcement Association opened the Columbus County Agricultural Fair in 1980.

The officers had just organized and were concentrating on carrying out a community project. State Trooper Harold Lee had been involved in a county fair in Bladen County and shared it with other officers, who thought it might be a good project for Columbus County. They searched around and found out that there was vacant property across from the prison camp. It became the Columbus County Agricultural Fair-



One Week Away

Getting ready for the Columbus County Agricultural Fair are Barry Herring, George Dudley and John Paul Lennon of the Sheriff's Dept., left to right, top. They were among members of the Columbus County Law Enforcement Officers Association who worked on lighting for the fair grounds during the weekend. Below, Probation Officer Gary Bass and State Trp. Harold Lee erect banners announcing the Oct. 6-11 event. The fair will be the first held in Columbus County in several decades and will be held on Prison Camp-Airport Road near the airport.



grounds through Gov. Jim Hunt, who was a N.C. State student with Rhone Sasser, whose brother Stuart was a member of the Columbus County Sheriff's Office.

Long story short, Gov. Hunt allowed the Law Enforcement Association to use the property as the fairgrounds for their new project. The officers had requested that Clara Cartrette write a story about their plans for a fair that would open in October. After surveying the situation and seeing big trees that a long-armed man couldn't reach around, Cartrette said, "You mean in October, 1981, don't you?"

"No deal," they said. They were adamant that the grounds could and would be cleared in time to open the fair in early October. And so they were, in spite of heavy rains and a lot of mud, and the fair was well attended in spite of the weather. The N.C. Department of Agriculture awarded the first fair the honor of Best County Fair in the state that year.

The Columbus County Agricultural Fair just had its 40th year, and every fair has been a success, an enjoyable event for families.



Tents Are Ready For The Columbus County Agricultural Fair

County Fair Opens Today

By CLARA CARTRETTE

History will be made tonight when the Columbus County Agricultural Fair opens. It is the first county fair to be held in this county in over 50 years.

Officers Association, the fair's sponsor.

Gates will open at 5 p.m. today and a special dedication service will be held at 7:30 p.m. The fair will be dedicated to the late Troy Sigmon, wildlife protector

were those who thought and said that it couldn't be done this year, but the CCLEOA is a determined group. When the land deal was finally completed, it was early spring. Trees were growing on the property and it seemed

ready for a county fair production.

Long hours of labor, coupled with determination and a lot of community support have brought the first county fair in over half a century to reality.

taking exhibits to the fair grounds Sunday for the livestock, crafts, cooking, sewing, crops, art, photography and other competitive events. Exhibits will also be accepted today, and all perishable exhibits

(Top) Barry Herring, George Dudley and John Paul Lennon of the Sheriff's Department work on lighting for the fairgrounds.

(Bottom) A story in *The News Reporter* announces opening day as the fair returns to Columbus County in 1980.

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The Whiteville High School Band performs in the Columbus County Fair Parade in 2005.

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Coach Glenn McKoy celebrates his 500th career victory, making him one of the winningest coaches in NCHSAA basketball history. (Pictured left is his wife, Phyllis.)

COACH GLENN MCKOY

Finds his heart and soul on the court

STORY GRANT MERRITT

PHOTOS GRANT MERRITT & NR ARCHIVE

Launching his coaching career right after graduation from Fayetteville State University in 1975, Glenn McKoy came to Whiteville High School to work as an assistant football coach. During his 31-year career at WHS, he was assistant principal, head football coach, assistant basketball coach, JV basketball coach and head track and field coach. He was promoted to head basketball coach in 1980, the year he started the Whiteville High School Basketball Camp under the recommendation and support of former Whiteville City Schools superintendent Dr. Jerry Paschal.



Coach McKoy and assistants watch from the sidelines during a WHS game.

Over the camp's 39-year history, the camp was sponsored by Whiteville native and retired NBA player Jerrod Mustaf for six years and became the Jerrod Mustaf Basketball Camp. After the sponsorship concluded, the name was switched back to Whiteville High School Basketball Camp.

When former WHS player Chris Wilcox was drafted to the NBA, he wanted to give back to Whiteville High School's summer basketball camp in the form of a sponsorship. Since 2002, it has been named the Chris Wilcox Basketball Camp, and it gets about 200 summer campers

each year. To accommodate the large number, the camp is held in the Whiteville High School gym and Central Middle School gym.

“Originally, I wanted to have 100 kids with 10 coaches every summer,” McKoy explained. “But with Chris Wilcox, we’ve been able to have 30 coaches with 200 kids. This is the most value that kids have received in my 40 years of attending camps. Chris has been able to give back to the campers with T-shirts, trophies and medallions.”

Coming up on his 40th year of summer basketball, McKoy owes his career and love for basketball to his Christian faith.

“With almost 40 years, it’s the lives we’ve touched and past players coming back to help with the camp – that’s been my favorite part,” McKoy said. “When you have a former student and athlete come back year after year to help with the camp, that’s the greatest feeling. That’s the kind of moments you cherish.”

McKoy remembered the four-year-old grandson of Harold Troy wanting to play basketball so much that he made the exception for him to enter the camp before the official beginning age of seven. He said you never forget stories of that four-year-old boy going on to earn a full scholarship



Wilcox demonstrates a drill at his camp in 2005.



Wilcox and McKoy in 2019 at the 17th Annual Chris Wilcox Youth Basketball Camp.



Whiteville Mayor Anne Jones recognizes Wilcox in 1999.



McKoy works with youth ages 7 through high school during the week-long camp.

COACH MCKOY

to UNC Greensboro to play college basketball.

"Seeing young kids learn the game and learn cohesiveness within themselves and teamwork is most important," McKoy said. "They have to realize that every day they wake up, they should be thankful to realize every ounce of ability they have. I try to instill life lessons and not just the X's and O's of the game plan."

Playing under Coach McKoy for his sophomore and junior years, Wilcox learned to always go hard on the basketball court. Wilcox transferred from Whiteville High School in 1999 to William G. Enloe High School in Raleigh for his senior year, but he said playing under Coach McKoy was the best two years of his high school basketball career.

"You can't get that time back on the court, so just leave it all out there," Wilcox said. "When you go out there and play, you give it your all, and that always stuck with me."

Every high school, college and NBA game has been important to him because he felt he got better with each game. Wilcox said picking a favorite game was a tough choice.

"But I definitely enjoyed playing the state championship when I played here at White-



The 2002 WHS boys basketball team celebrates the Waccamaw 2A Conference championship. McKoy's Wolpack varsity boys team won more than a dozen conference and regional championships as well as the 1999 and 2000 State 2A championships.

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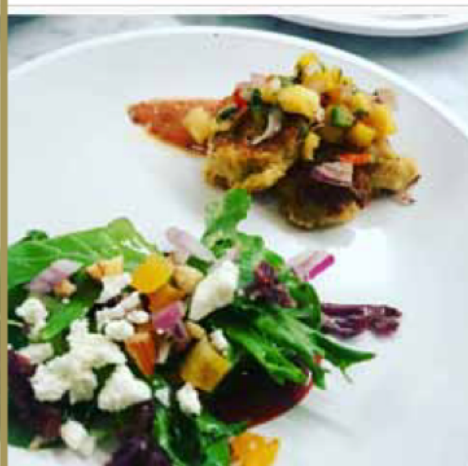
In 2004 McKoy celebrated his Sooth career victory with his team. The win came in the opening round over Richlands in the WHS gym. Kneeling front right is long-time staunch Wolpack supporter Jimmy Kirk.

ville,” Wilcox explained. “When I went to Maryland, I accomplished the same thing and got to the Final Four and eventually won it the next year. I learned that if you continue to work on your game and continue to work hard, good things will come out of it.”

When asked how he overcame a hard loss or disappointing game, Wilcox said he always knew there was another day and another game ahead of him. He said there’s always another opportunity to play again and erase the bad memories of a previous game so that he can take something positive to the next game.

Wilcox said winning the 2002 NCAA Championship for the University of Maryland was a great experience. McKoy recalled Wilcox giving him four tickets to that game for him and his family as a gesture of appreciation for being his coach.

“At the end of the day, it was one of the greatest accomplishments of my life,” he explained. “With being the underdog and coming out with that powerful win, I remember McKoy always told us to compete because good things will always come out of it.”





Staff photo by Dan Biser

Regional champs

The Whiteville High boys track team captured their third straight regional championship Saturday at Edenton with a 105-point effort. Northside finished second with 55 points. The Wolfpack qualified in 12 events in this coming Friday's State 2A meet in Chapel Hill. At left is WHS veteran track coach Glenn McKoy.

Coach McKoy also served as the Wolfpack track coach, winning eight regional titles and 14 conference championships.

When it comes to his favorite NBA coach, Wilcox could not pick a favorite.

All of them because you get to learn something new from all of them," Wilcox said. "It's hard to pick because none of them are your friends. They're always in learn and coach mode, and you don't get a chance to know that person. It's tough, but they're all respectful."

Over the years, Wilcox has learned the meaning of hard work and getting the results on and off the court. Wilcox's best advice to someone who wants to play college or NBA basketball is to continue to dream while putting in the work and competing for the top spot on the court.

"If you aren't in the gym or practicing every day, there's already someone else out there getting better," Wilcox said.

After suffering from a heart irregularity, Wilcox underwent heart surgery in 2012 with a complete recovery in four months. He said it was a reality check and that he is blessed for where he is at today.

"I learned that after I had my heart surgery, right there, you're competing for your life," Wilcox explained. "And you're fighting for something that means more than anything to you."

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The Family Band performs during the Montreat 4th of July parade

THE FAMILY BAND

STORY STUART ROGERS

PHOTOS KATHRYN OGDEN HUMPHREYS & SHANNON FLAHERTY

The Family Band, made up of Kathryn Humphreys and her daughter Isabel (17) and son Evans (16), recently released their first CD, *Rogue Chapel*. It is a spiritual CD with a gospel message, with the exception of one rogue song, "Left A Note," which blazes its way into the collection with a big sound.

Striving for their own collaboration, the band recorded the five-song Americana folk genre CD without the help of outside musicians in Asheville at Echo Mountain Studios. Isabel (Izzy) takes the vocal lead with her silky-smooth soprano voice and lyrical flute playing. Evans adds vocals, French horn and bass and has a strong influence in the musical arrangement on original songs. Kathryn anchors the harmonies with backup vocals and guitar.

When asked what it is like to play in a band with her children, Kathryn says, "It's wonderful and miserable and joyful and a pain! They are honestly the best two musicians and singers that I have ever played with." Kathryn is known professionally in the recording industry as Kathryn Caine and has performed in Nashville and Charlottesville.

Izzy and Evans attend Whiteville High School and are in the school marching band and the praise band at First Presbyterian Church in Whiteville. Both are big fans of Ian Semanovich, the WHS band director. They earned their stage debut at the Fid-



Cover of The Family Band's CD, *Rogue Chapel*

elin' Pig in Asheville, performing with their mom before either started first grade.

Between practice and performing, Izzy is a published animation artist and president of the WHS National Honor Society, plays first chair flute in the Wilmington Youth Symphony and can't help but get excited when she talks about the WHS drama department and acting in school musicals. She has her sights set on a career in the film

industry as a character designer, animator and screenwriter.

Evans, standing 6'3", is a standout right offensive tackle for the WHS Wolfpack and is intrigued by engineering and taking things apart and putting them back together again. He has a knack for repairing watches and clocks, and his bedroom hosts several 4,000-piece Lego sets. His favorite is a Saturn V replica over three feet tall. In college, Evans intends to use his creativity and ingenuity away from performance art and apply them in the field of medicine.

The words in the opening song "The Way" by Americana artist Holly Renee Allen resonate with the personal experience of the trio and make it one of their favorites. Evans did the arrangement on "Left A Note," and Izzy picked up on his opening bass line and stops with her own flute arrangement. Again the duo improvised on "Over Me" to create a joyful and ethereal sound unique to their

THE FAMILY BAND

combined talents. A nod to Izzy's love of film is the song "A Change of Habit" from the 1969 Elvis Presley movie by the same name. "Let us Pray" really rocks and is one of Kathryn's favorites. The final song on the CD is "Begin," a spiritual song about renewal and how God is the God of second chances.

The Family Band will perform selections from Rogue Chapel Saturday, Nov. 23, at 7 p.m. at Bowers Auditorium in a concert benefiting the WHS Drama Department. Two selections will be choreographed with a photo slideshow from *The News Reporter's* archive showing a day in the life of Columbus County. Tickets, which include a Rogue Chapel CD, are \$10 each and can be purchased at the door or online at www.Showtix4u.com.

The WHS Drama Department, led by Julia Heckathorn, is one of 30 schools selected to perform in Scotland at the 2020 Edinburgh Festival Fringe, the world's largest arts festival. The drama department is hosting a series of events in the WHS Performing Arts Series to raise money for students to attend and perform at the festival. A full calendar of WHS Performing Arts Series events is in 954 magazine on page 85.

You can find Rogue Chapel by The Family Band on iTunes at <https://music.apple.com/us/album/rogue-chapel-ep/1480439005> and on Amazon at https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07Y2GTN1P/ref=cm_sw_r_cp_awdb_t1_HyITDbGYFQC0N



Humphreys with Evans and Izzy at a music festival in Virginia.

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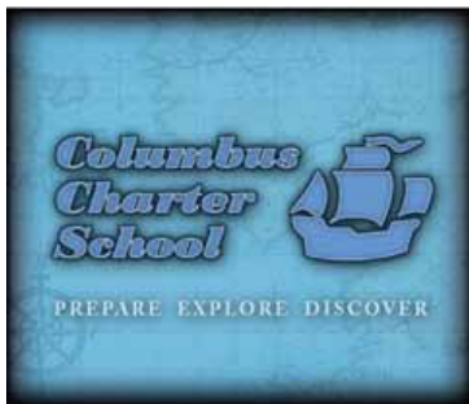
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The Old Log #202

But not just any old log

STORY GRANT MERRITT, DIANA MATTHEWS & SONNY MOORE

PHOTOS GRANT MERRITT

Sonny Moore hopes Log #202 will remain at Lumber River State Park “until a catastrophic flood washes it away.” It took \$100, a forklift and a flatbed truck to get it there.

Moore recalls how the sunken cypress log came to light during development of the park. “The park service kept buying up land and buying up land,” Moore said. “They got several big donations, so the ball started rolling. A crew was dredging out an old logging canal where they floated out logs to Boardman.

“They dug up this log that was laying there for a hundred years. It was supposed to float out to the river.”

“This thing would’ve laid there another hundred years. It petrifies as long as it don’t hit air.

“I happened to go by there and I’m interested in old stuff, and I asked the sawyer, ‘Why don’t you cut it?’”

He said, “I’m just leaving it as a conversation piece. It’s too big for the blade.”

I said, “I’ll give you a hundred dollars for that log.”

Moore says the log is important to him. “I’m the one that put it there. I bought it,” he said. “Anything old has always interested me.”

The following is Moore’s imaginative description of a tall cypress tree like Log #202 living in the swamp hundreds of years ago. It has been edited for our publication.

This log was once a magnificent tree living right in the middle of Big Swamp near Boardman on the border of Columbus and Robeson counties – one of the largest trees living in a pristine old growth forest.

Towering above all others, catching the first sun and casting the last shadow, the cypress tree offered a thousand services for a thousand years as a favorite perch and nesting site for generations of bald eagles and providing an eagle-eye view for a hundred miles in all directions.

To the west buffalo and elk grazed together in the foothills; to the east pocosin bays, large round lakes and the ocean lapped at their shores; to the south open savannahs and canebreaks were bordered by Spanish moss-laden forests and to the north lay the Sandhills with longleaf pine barrens and the eastern end of the Uwharrie mountain range.

With the tree and the eagle watching together, nothing went unnoticed for a thousand years, ranging from the Creek American Indian tribe that lived 90 miles northwest of Boardman in villages with mounds built for spiritual and political gatherings, to the long canoes of the western Cherokee tribe heavily laden with flint rocks and chestnuts to trade coming downstream.

The Cherokee traded with the Creek tribe and the large Tuscarora tribe that lived in villages along the Pamlico, Neuse, Roanoke and Tar Rivers in the eastern part of the state. They continued east and traded for seashells, salt and dried fish with the Croatan tribe in Dare County and parts of the Outer Banks.

Along with the sights of the day, came the sounds of the night – the beating of wings as the turkey flew up to roost, screams of

the Carolina panther, screeching Carolina parakeets, the cooing of passenger pigeons and the sounds of people singing and chanting among muffled drums talking back and forth between villages against the evening glow of a far-away burning pocosin bay. Some pocosin bays, deep laden with peat, could burn and smolder for years.

Within the lifespan of this one tree, which was already 500 years old when Columbus was born, native wildlife and Native Americans lost their homes in the 1700s as old growth forests were clear-cut to feed the growing timber industry and European settlers moved in and built homes and farms.

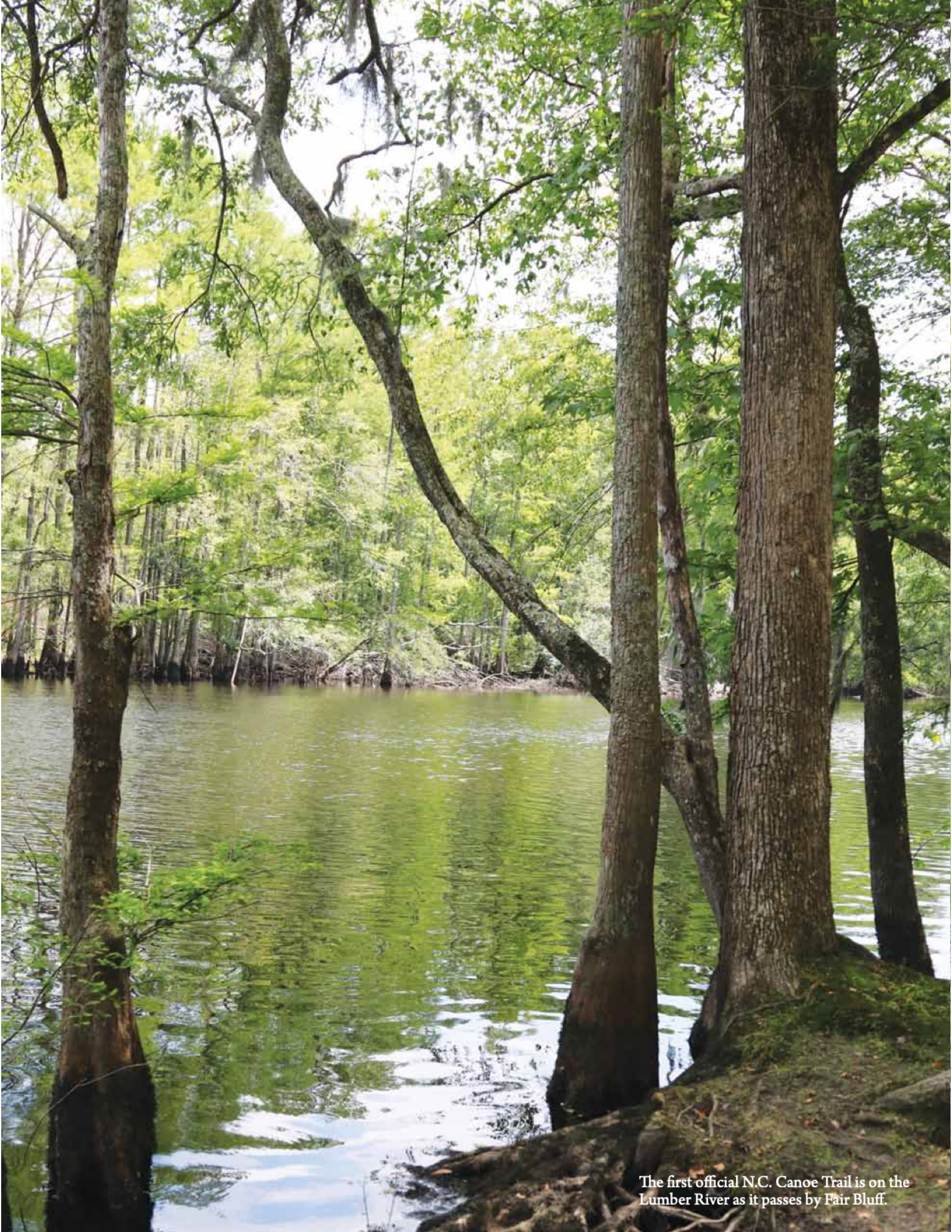
As the damage of clear-cutting became evident, reforestation and long-term conservation efforts were first considered in North Carolina in the late 1880s, and in 1929 the North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering (now N.C. State University) created a forestry program to study sustainable timber practices.

Excavation sites along the high ground beside the river on the border of Robeson and Columbus counties show that indigenous Native Americans from various archaeological periods lived in the area. An ancient dugout canoe was discovered and is thought to be over 1,000 years old. It can be seen on display at the Native American Resource Center at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

Lumber River is 133 miles long and was first named “Drowning Creek” by English surveyors in the early 1700s. With growing use of the river to move cut trees to be processed for lumber, the North Carolina state legislature in 1809 changed the name from Drowning Creek to Lumber River.



Retired N.C. Highway Patrolman Sonny Moore with cypress log # 202 on display at Lumber River State Park at Princess Anne Landing.



The first official N.C. Canoe Trail is on the Lumber River as it passes by Fair Bluff.

As the river flows by Fair Bluff it is classified as “recreational,” and in 1978 the Lumber River Canoe Trail was designated as the first official canoe trail in North Carolina.

In 1989, the river was designated as a “natural and scenic river” by the North Carolina General Assembly and the National Park Service designated 81 miles of the river as “wild and scenic,” including the portion of the river flowing by Fair Bluff down to the North Carolina/South Carolina line.

The Lumber River Conservancy (LRC) is a land trust founded by the late Dick McLean and Carr Gibson. Both cared deeply for the river and created the nonprofit to permanently protect as much of the river as possible. To date LRC protects 3,562 acres in Scotland, Robeson, Hoke and Columbus counties, and 74% of the protected acreage is donated by private landowners.

In the late 1700s and the 1800s, the growing timber business was critical to the economies of Columbus and Robeson counties, and trees as long as 100 feet were cut, sold and floated down the Lumber River to the seaport of Georgetown, S.C.

With a great demand for lumber, the old growth and mostly untouched forests began to fall. Huge timber companies formed and their sawmills sprang up everywhere with large stationary mills near the river and small portable steam-fired mills that were moved around the countryside to cut lumber with the help of mules and oxen.

By the late 1880s, the only old growth timber left standing in the Lumber River area was deep in the swamps of Ashpole (Fairmont), Indian (Orrum), Big (Boardman), Coward (Orrum), Flowers (Bloomingdale) and Bear (Lumberton). Every means available



A scenic picnic area is at the top of this trail.

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The TRACK Trail is an easy 0.5 mile loop along Griffin's Bluff, where there is an observation deck overlooking the river.



Overnight camping, walking quiet trails, fishing and paddling down the river can all be enjoyed at the Princess Anne access area of Lumber River State Park.

was engaged to get to the old growth forests isolated in the swamp until the last of the large trees were cut down.

Canals were dug from the Lumber River to float trees to the large Butters Lumber Company sawmill on the riverbank in Boardman and each log was stamped with a number to identify the "skitter crew" that had cut it and sent it downriver.

The history of the Lumber River brings us back to old log #202, which is a solid log of "blackheart" cypress cut over 100 years ago from a 1,000-year-old tree in a pristine old growth forest, just as solid now as the day it was cut.

At the time, for loggers to fell a tree this big with a crosscut saw, they would have first built scaffolding, a catwalk and a springboard around its huge, bulging base. It would take two men the better part of a day before the giant tree came thundering down with an earth-shaking jar to be sawed into 16-foot logs, winched over and rolled into the canal for the final trip to Boardman.

But this log was too heavy to float and sank to the bottom of the river, where it settled into the mud. It remained undisturbed there for 100 years until a dragline operator snagged it and hauled it to a nearby sawmill to be sawed into boards.



The Naked Landing Trail is a peaceful walk along the highest bank of the Lumber River. For park information, visit www.ncparks.gov/lumber-river-state-park

But as fate would have it — or perhaps in another defiant act to save itself again as it had done 100 years earlier — the tree was too large for the saw blade. Being too heavy to be easily moved, it just lay in place for years as a curiosity and conversation piece

until I obtained it and donated it to Lumber River Conservancy for permanent display at Lumber River State Park at Princess Anne Landing. I invite you to visit Lumber River State Park to see Log #202 and take a walk along the park trails that follow the river.

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COLUMBUS COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Meeting community needs for 20 years

STORY LIZ McLEAN

PHOTOS COURTESY OF COLUMBUS COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

With no groups like the United Way to organize community-wide giving, local civic leaders formed the Columbus County Community Foundation in 1999.

From its humble beginnings of awarding a handful of small grants that at most totaled \$1,000, the Columbus County Community Foundation currently awards annual grant giving in the range of \$7,000 per year to deserving local non-profits.

That's impressive in and of itself, but because of its association with the North Carolina Community Foundation, the Columbus County Community Foundation has channeled nearly \$140,000 from the home organization to local hurricane-relief groups after Matthew and Florence.

Making it easy to support local needs is the board's mission

"November is the month we remind our neighbors and community to consider donating to CCCF," board president Becky High said. "The Chairman's Challenge campaign is a wonderful way to ultimately make a difference for a local nonprofit. Our board is serious about understanding the needs of our county. We enjoy awarding mini-grants, which often provide the funding for grassroots organizations to help where others cannot."

The original CCCF board consisted of Leo Mercer (president), Dick Crutchfield (vice-president), Rebecca Brown (secretary), Henry



CCCF board: Gary Kramer, Becky High, Lisa Richey, Richard Wright, Liz McLean, Adam Wooten and Henry Edmund. Not pictured, Bill Gore, Andy Wayne, Amber Bellamy, Terray Suggs and Kevin Williamson.

Edmund (treasurer), Dr. Brantley Briley, Randy Britt, Charles Gore, Anne Jones, Michael Jones, Sam Koonce, Gary Kramer, Carl Meares, Jr., LaDeen Powell, R. C. Soles, Jr., Terray Suggs, Dr. John Webster and Calvin Williams.

In the founding year, the board awarded

grants to several nonprofits, some still serving the community today: Columbus County Arts Council, Friends of Columbus County Animal Shelter, Habitat for Humanity, Families First, Bogue Community Citizens Association and Communities in Schools of Whiteville. A notable third year included grant allocations totaling \$3,300 and Gary Kramer organized a wine-tasting and auction fundraiser, raising \$6,000 that went directly into the local fund.

CCCF is still thriving today, led by a local volunteer advisory board whose role is to build awareness about permanent endowments and availability of local grants, as well as educating community members on how they can direct funds back into their own community. The current board consists of Becky High (president), Henry Edmund (vice-president), Liz McLean (secretary), Andy Wayne (treasurer), Amber Bellamy, Bill Gore, Gary Kramer, Lisa Richey, Terray Suggs, Kevin Williamson, Adam Wooten, and Richard Wright.

Donations can be directed to local endowments throughout the year, but the largest annual fundraising event is the Chairmen's Challenge



North Carolina Community Foundation's look has changed over the years as seen here in the 2002 newsletter header, but the mission has stayed the same.

In 2019, CCCF awarded \$7,330 to non-profit organizations in Columbus County. Recipients of grants in 2019 were Living Hope Pregnancy Support Services for Earn While You Learn Incentive Program, Wilmington Family YMCA for Columbus County Girls on the Run program expansion, Lake Waccamaw Food Ministry for general operating support, Columbus Baptist Association for Toy Store 2019, Columbus County Sheriff's Office for Project Lifesaver, Matthew 25 at Tabor City, which supports families visiting the Tabor Correctional facility, Columbus County Literacy Council for Each One Teach One, Columbus County DREAM Center for six weeks of STEAM summer camp, and Prevent Blindness North Carolina for Star Pupils Columbus County, providing eye exam training and glasses for local schools.



Beth Boney Jenkins, NCCF Director of Development-East with local Sheriff's Department grant recipient.



The Columbus County Community Foundation 2019 grants reception at Farmacy on Main.



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held in November. Local funds raised by each of the affiliates during the Chairmen's Challenge are matched with funds from the North Carolina Community Foundation. A mail campaign at the beginning of the month encourages potential donors to consider contributing to CCCF by Nov. 30.

Local endowments

In addition to the local endowment, which allows CCCF to award funds annually through the grant-making process, CCCF is home to three endowments created by individuals who recognize the NCCF's good stewardship of their funds: Dempsey B. Herring Memorial Scholarship Endowment, Hobbs Family Scholarship Endowment, and The Olive Battle Wright Scholarship Fund.

"If you are planning to honor someone with an annual scholarship or establishing a foundation for a local cause, I encourage you to consider the Columbus County Community Foundation to guide you through

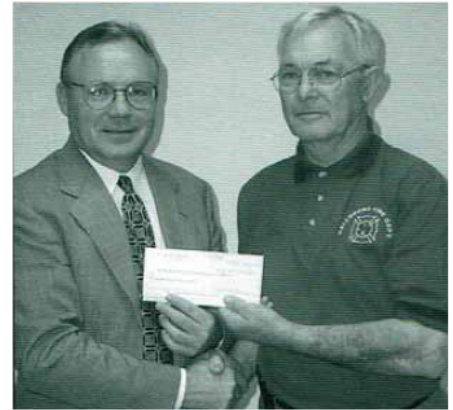
this," said High. "Our board members are nearby and will be glad to provide you more information. CCCF is cost effective and has a proven record."

Disaster relief

As an affiliate of the North Carolina Community Foundation, Columbus County has distributed funds to assist in the recovery from hurricanes Floyd, Matthew and Florence as well as the fatal tornado in Riegglewood. Support from the NCCF came in the form of disaster relief grants totaling \$21,000 for Hurricane Matthew and \$118,500 for Hurricane Florence. With this support, organizations like Community CPR, Columbus Baptist Association, Families First, Lake Waccamaw Food Ministry, Columbus County Arts Council, Men & Women United for Youth & Families, Columbus County Community Farmers Market and Whiteville Improvement Association, along with others, were awarded funds to assist local citizens and businesses with recovery efforts.



"In my twenty years of volunteer service to the Community Foundation, it never ceases to amaze me the impact our grants have on the grass root nonprofits that are always struggling to help our community in ways that most people never think about or see. There are so many local needs and our board is constantly trying to leverage our assets to benefit these organizations."
 - Henry Edmund
 CCCF charter member



(Top) In 2017 Dave Heller, Director of Missions for the Columbus Baptist Association, received a Columbus County Community Foundation Hurricane Matthew Disaster Relief check for \$11,000 from Becky High, board president, with board members left to right: Liz McLean, Henry Edmund, Bill Gore, Geoff Hopkins and Gary Kramer.

(Far right) Kenneth Sasser of the county fire and rescue association received a check for \$2,500 from Henry Edmund, in 2000 for Hurricane Floyd long-term recovery relief.



CCCF board member Gary Kramer, Hazen Blodgett and Harry Warren at a 2002 wine-tasting fundraiser at N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences in Whiteville.



CCCF Board members and recipients gather at First Bank in 2015 to receive grants.

About the North Carolina Community Foundation

The NCCF is the single statewide community foundation serving North Carolina and has made more than \$161 million in grants since its inception in 1988. With more than \$284 million in assets, NCCF sustains more than 1,300 endowments established to provide long-term support of a broad range of community needs, nonprofit organizations, institutions and scholarships.

The NCCF partners with a network of affiliate foundations to provide local resource allocation and community assistance across the state. An important component of NCCF's mission is to ensure that rural philanthropy has a voice at local, regional and national levels. For more information on the NCCF, visit www.nccommunityfoundation.org.



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The wall includes hundreds of local veterans of all names from A to Z, from Anita J. Adams (left) to George L. Zeh (right).

Frozen in time

Wall of Honor will eventually have permanent home in Veterans Park

STORY JEFFERSON WEAVER

PHOTOS GRANT MERRITT & COURTESY OF VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK OF AMERICA



The traveling Wall of Honor is on the road most weekends of the year, and usually comes back with a few more submissions. The image of the late well-decorated local veteran Frank Foronda and photos on the wall were used to create the mosaic on the cover.

Their eyes tell stories of both good times and bad. A soldier in Vietnam holds a baby in a village. The five Collier siblings stand together in uniform, not knowing if they'll all return from World War II. A bearded man in a grey woolen jeanscloth uniform jacket stares intently into the camera.

Some of the images are from peacetime, or even civilian life. The faces of local veterans, some gone for generations, are frozen in time in old photos, newspaper clippings and worn family scrapbooks.

While many are lost to age and wear, a local group is trying to save those images to share them with future generations.

Angela Norris and the Veterans Memorial Park of America are determined to collect a photo of every local military veteran who has ever served. Norris and her volunteers spend multiple weekends a year hauling displays of hundreds of veterans' photos across the region.

"Everywhere we go, people have pictures they want to share," Norris said.

The Wall of Honor will eventually have a permanent home at the Veterans Memorial Park south of Whiteville. What started as a plan to gather a few dozen photos has turned into a massive effort. More than 750 pictures of veterans from the War Between the States through the ongoing War on Terror have been assembled, filed, digitally copied and placed on the wall.

Norris said she prefers to return the originals to the owners.

"The pictures are part of our country's history, but they're part of each family's history as well," she said.

Many of the photographs are formal military or studio portraits, but the advent of less expensive cameras and film before World War II – and especially during the Vietnam era – led to more candid shots of sailors, soldiers, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen. Unstable chemicals and acidic paper used from the late 1800s until after WWII has caused many images to be lost forever. Modern digi-



The Collier family was well represented in the nation's armed forces during World War II.



The four Sasser brothers (top to bottom), Harold, Kenneth, Rhone and Stuart, served in the Air Force and Army.



Members of the Shelby Hinson family who served in the Spanish-American War of 1898-99.



Robert Robinson Sr. served in Iraq, and Robert Robinson Jr. served in Afghanistan.

FROZEN IN TIME

tal photography, however, has led to even more availability of images, as well as a way to preserve and restore century-old pictures.

Whether or not a veteran served in wartime, Norris said the hope is to have a photo of every single military veteran from Columbus County.

“If we could find a painting of someone from the Mexican War, 1812 or the Revolution and they’re from here,” she laughed, “we’ll include them, too.”

Donors are asked to contact Norris and set up a time to have their photo scanned. There is no cost. All submissions require an information form, so photos can be properly labeled.

While the Wall of Honor is currently a portable exhibit, Norris said the permanent display in the museum at the park will be digital, with a search function to allow friends and family to find photos of their veterans.

Norris said she looks forward to the day when the museum display is open, and hundreds of local veterans’ photos will be available at a visitor’s fingertips.

“This is just another way to honor those who have served our country,” she said.

Contact Norris at 910. 840-3848, or email her at veteransmemorialparkofcol.co@gmail.com.



Columbus County has and continues to have its share of military women, too, with Mildred Wright Ward serving in the Navy. Millie Freeman retired after a long career with the U.S. Army and is still active in veterans’ programs. Krystal Cumbee Stanley served in the Army.



Soldiers from our area have served in the Middle East. (Left to right) Thomas Glendale Young in Iraq; Stephen Michael Parrish, who was killed in combat in Afghanistan; and Mac Callihan in Iraq.



Volney Hicks Gillam was declared missing in action in Korea.



Norman Rose III was killed in combat in Vietnam.



William Hoover Jones was killed in combat in Korea.

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Seaman Harry M. Stephens served on the USS *Bunker Hill* in Guam in 1943.



Walter Register was at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked on Dec. 7, 1941.



Thelbert Lacy Powell served in the Army in Sicily, Italy in World War II.



Jason Schoolcraft - Marine Corps



Arbedella Young Williams - Air Force



Larry Houpts - Army



Rudolph Antone - Navy



Sterling Page - Coast Guard



Layton Dowless - National Guard



Virginia Gayle Collier Foronda, first wife of Frank Foronda



John Elbert Thompson Sr. served in the "Red Hands," a U.S. Army Cavalry unit made up primarily of African American soldiers with white officers, during WWI.



John A. McNeill, Sr. - Navy - became owner of McNeill's Pharmacy, North Carolina's oldest pharmacy.



Frank Martinez Foronda
(Featured on the cover of 954)

Frank Martinez Foronda, Sgt. Maj. (Ret.), a passionate spokesman for veterans' issues and recipient of the Silver Star, two Purple Hearts and two Bronze Stars, died peacefully in Little River S.C. on January 7, 2017, his adored wife, Ila Jean ("I.J.") Hurley, by his side. He was 78.

In an illustrious U.S. Army career that spanned 30 years, Foronda, who will be buried with full military honors at Whiteville Memorial Cemetery in Whiteville, N.C., served multiple tours of duty all over the world, including three in Vietnam.

He was awarded the Silver Star for extraordinary bravery in Vietnam when, on March 20, 1970, he pulled wounded U.S. soldiers to safety after their firebase was overrun with Viet Cong. Foronda and his unit retook the area the next morning.

His proudest achievement during his Army career, he said, was his ability to "guide soldiers from different ethnic and economic backgrounds to work as a team and rise above racial differences.

Among his numerous other awards: the Legion of Merit, Combat Infantry Badge, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Army Occupational Medal, Vietnam Service

Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and Joint Services Commendation.

Son of a migrant farm worker, Foronda, who spoke four languages, was equally proud of his work on behalf of veterans, lobbying members of Congress and the Senate on issues ranging from disability benefits to healthcare. He worked as a veterans' employment counselor for the North Carolina Employment Security Commission from 1988 to 2003.

"I felt it was my duty to let my elected officials know that someone cared about the problems of people who had served their country," he often said.

Born January 24, 1938, in Davenport, Calif., to Francisco U. Foronda, a Filipino farm worker, and Frances Martinez, a housewife, Frank was the oldest of four children. Only 5 when his mother died tragically, "Paco," as he was called, was raised by his father, a man of strong family values.

He married Virginia Gayle Collier of Whiteville, and the two had one daughter, Lori Ellen. Their union lasted 37 years, until her death. After 30 years, when retired, he decided to enter the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, where he earned a BA in history in 1988. Always on the go, Foronda loved movies, dancing, going out to dinner, fishing, football (both college and the NFL).

Gregarious, yet unafraid to express his opinions, Foronda viewed the world through the lens of a military man, expressing the hope that his two grandsons would grow up valuing "God, country and family."

Influenced by multiple tours of duty, drawn to the people he met along

the way and hungry to learn, the outgoing Army officer spent time in places ranging from Germany to Japan to Saudi Arabia. Along with English and Spanish, he became fluent in Arabic and German by soaking up the local culture and taking language classes through the Department of Defense.

Before retiring from the Army in 1986, Foronda served as senior enlisted advisor to a National Guard brigade in Chicago, Ill., the last five years at Shippensburg University, Pa., where he headed an ROTC detachment.

A lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Foronda served as commander of N.C. Post 8073 (1991 - 2002) and N.C. Department Hospital Chairman (2004-2009). He belonged to Disabled American Veterans and Military Order of the Purple Heart and was a charter member of Vietnam Veterans of American and the Combat Infantrymen's Association, serving as the national membership officer (2006 - 2008).

He is survived by his loving wife, "I.J." Hurley of Little River, S.C.; his daughter, Lori Ellen Foronda Sloan and her husband, Kevin Sloan, and grandson Kristopher Gaskin, all of Sanford, N.C., and grandson Zachary Gaskin of Clarendon, N.C.; a sister, Victoria F. Russell of Norfolk, Va.; like a granddaughter Kimberly Thao of Albemarle, N.C.; stepson Kyle F. Blackmon and his wife Nancy, granddaughters, Lilley Grace and Bryn Elizabeth of Greenville, N.C.; stepdaughter Paige Blackmon of Little River, S.C. He is predeceased by his brother, Richard M. Foronda, who passed away in 2006.



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New, Old Christmas

Mandi and Quinton Fairfax keep tradition at the center of the holidays

STORY RAVEN BOONE

PHOTOS FULLER ROYAL & GRANT MERRITT



The Fairfaxes holding the blow-mold ornament that belonged to Quinton's grandfather, Paul Dudley.

Every year around the beginning of November, Santa's sleigh makes its first appearance in Chadbourn at the Fairfax household, marking the arrival of the family's most treasured holiday.

The sleigh comes in the form of a lawn ornament that has been passed down through generations.

"It all started with this one right here," said Mandi, pointing to the painted figure. "This belonged to my husband's grandfather and this was the decoration he put out every year. That's where Quinton's love of blow-molds came from."

His grandfather's holiday ritual is one that Quinton recalls fondly. Mandi says the best word to describe her husband would be nostalgic, and when he talks about his boyhood memories you can catch a glimpse of nostalgia as his face lights up at the thought of Christmases past.

He remembers seeing the nativity scene that used to be near the bridge in Fair Bluff when he would visit his grandparents, Jimmy and Betty Sue Fairfax. He can

remember going to Hinson's Crossroads with his father to choose a tree each year. He remembers a house about half a mile from his home that always had a yard full of illuminated figures.

"Everyone wants something from their childhood," Quinton said. "The blow-molds I saw as a child, I'm able to put them out in my yard now."

Mandi and Quinton have collected many over the years at their residence on Joe Brown Highway. So far, the ornaments total "right up to 100." The factories that created blow-molds have since closed, so the couple has had to get creative in expanding their collection.

Some of the pieces were purchased from an estate sale at the same house Quinton remembered as a child. Incorporating local products was important to them because they wanted people in the community to "see what they've always seen and grown to love."

"It really means a lot to people when they find out they're local," said Quinton.

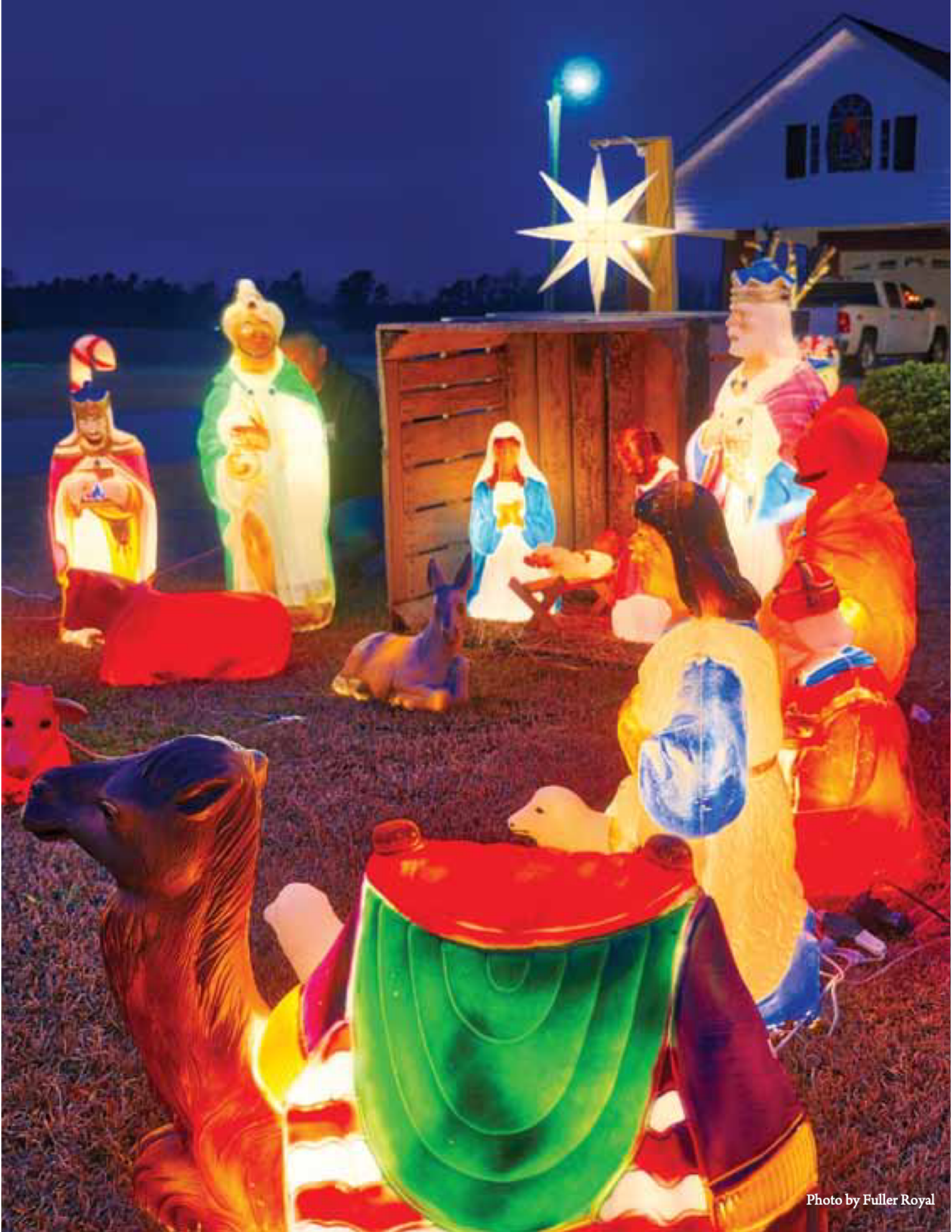


Photo by Fuller Royal

NEW, OLD CHRISTMAS

While both have demanding careers – Quinton has been with the N.C. Department of Transportation for 20 years and Mandi works as a nurse at McLeod Loris – they find pieces all year round, sometimes from Ebay and other times from antique shops. Their travels have taken them as far as Hillsville, Va., and Greenville, Tenn., to as close as Taylorsville, N.C. One antique seller in Boone even keeps them informed on anything new she finds just in case they're interested.

Quinton says they choose blow-molds based off what catches their eye as well as what he remembers seeing growing up. Having a "big, beautiful" nativity scene was one piece they both desired, however. In the past, they've fashioned a manger out of a sweet potato box; this year they plan to build a bigger one.

The pair prefer the vintage authenticity of plastic molds as opposed to their modern counterpart, inflatables. "We call it our new, old Christmas," laughed Mandi. "It's still got that old-timey feel to it."

Married for 18 years, their love for the holidays has passed down to their son, making it a family affair. 15-year old Landon's birthday is at the end of October, and they give him the whole month to celebrate, but "as soon as there's a good frost on the ground," the Christmas decorations come out.

Landon frequently joins his parents on their seasonal adventures, which include an annual mountain trip.

"We go up to the mountains and pick out our own tree," explained Quinton. "They can cut it or we can, but we load it up and bring it home."

Their love of decorating spills over






Photo by Fuller Royal

Some of the ornaments were previously owned by other local families.

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from their manicured lawn into their home, as that tree is usually accompanied by at least five others and a number of other festive decorations. Last year, they were invited to participate in Tabor City's tour of homes.

The couple continues to carry on the legacy of their loved ones by adding their own personal touches to the holiday they grew up cherishing. They often say they were born in the wrong period, but keeping certain traditions allows them to hold on to memories of those closest to them.

"He would love this," said Mandi of her late father, Sammy Smith. "He was the Christmas person in my family. He'd have us on the roof putting up decorations." Smith and his wife Jane lived in Lake Waccamaw before he passed in 2011 during the holiday season.

"We don't know how long we're going to be able to do this – or want to do it," she continued. "So, we're going to continue to do it while we're young and while we can."



Photo by Fuller Royal

In the beginning of November, the Fairfaxes spruce up their yard for the holidays.

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The Fairfaxes own close to 100 Christmas lawn ornaments.



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“Kayla,” the pink cancer awareness fire truck now housed at Fair Bluff Fire and Rescue, was named nine years ago in honor of Kayla Nunnery, a young cancer patient who has since fully recovered from the disease.

COLUMBUS COUNTY IS HOME TO WHAT WAS NORTH CAROLINA’S FIRST PINK CANCER AWARENESS FIRE TRUCK

STORY & PHOTOS ALLEN TURNER & NR ARCHIVE

It was one of the most unusual requests that the credit union loan officer had ever received. The customer had requested a personal loan for something that had never before come up during the loan officer’s career. He put the caller on hold and then, after about five minutes, came back on the line and said, “Mr. Smith, go get your fire truck.”

The caller was Jon Smith, a Columbus County volunteer firefighter – at the time in the Williams Township department but now a member of Fair Bluff Fire and Rescue – who was moved in 2010 by the plight of a coworker’s daughter who was battling a form of blood cancer.

In addition to serving as a volunteer fireman, Smith was employed at Carolinas Medical Response. Kayla Nunnery, the daughter of Smith’s coworker Clint Nunnery, had been diagnosed with stage 4 non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Smith said Kayla was about 10 or 12 years old at the time. “Clint was working 24-hour shifts with us, trying to go to school, and then started having to go back and forth to Duke Medical Center with his daughter. He kept us updated on what she was going through and how she was doing,” Smith remembered.

“Kayla was brave,” Smith said. “Her dad told us that during a doctor’s visit they were talking about doing chemotherapy and radiation therapy. The doctor was listing all the side effects and told her, ‘You won’t be able to do this and you won’t be able to do that,’ but Kayla looked at him and said ‘No matter what happens, I’m still going to be Kayla. No matter what happens, I’m going to live my life as Kayla and not become the disease.’ With a maturity beyond her years, Layla told the doctor, “The cancer might be something I have, but it’s not going to keep me from being the person that I am.”

Smith said that Kayla followed up on that vow. “Even though she was going through chemo and radiation, she still went out and did horseback riding, stayed active and did things with her friends. That was a big inspiration to me and I wanted to do something to recognize her.”

Through a relative, Smith learned about the Pink Heals Tour, a national organization that was placing pink fire trucks in various communities nationwide to raise awareness. He and his fiancé, Samantha Rabb (who is now his wife), talked about it and agreed they wanted to do something. Smith went on the

Internet and found a fire truck available for a good price in Bluffton, S.C. “They were only asking for \$2,500, and that was a good deal,” Smith said. “But I didn’t have \$2,500, so I called the credit union.”

Because of Smith’s efforts, Columbus County became home to the first cancer-awareness pink fire truck in the state, before other places like High Point, Wilmington, Hickory, Winston Salem and Charlotte that eventually followed suit. The Columbus County truck, which was christened with the name “Kayla” in honor of Kayla Nunnery, was the first in North Carolina and among the first 40 in the nation. Now the concept is even more widespread and pink fire trucks are promoting cancer awareness in dozens of states. There’s even one such vehicle in Great Britain.

Smith made a trip to Bluffton, which is near Hilton Head in in South Carolina’s Beaufort County, thinking that he was just going to look at the vehicle. However, the folks at the Bluffton fire department had different plans. “When



Wonda Anderson Turner, a Fair Bluff native who now resides in the Charleston, S.C. area and who is a cancer survivor, recently returned to her hometown for a visit and made sure while she was back home to affix her signature to the pink fire truck that honors cancer patients.

colleagues were able to raise enough money to fully pay the bill — he allowed them to pick up the truck on Fridays and take it to festivals and other appearances on the weekends. They sold souvenir t-shirts at those appearances to pay the body shop bill, buy fuel and keep insurance coverage on the truck.

we got down there, they had it pulled out, fueled up and ready for us to take back with us that same day,” Smith said. Despite its \$2,500 price tag, the truck was in good running order. The only thing that kept it from being actively used as a fire truck was that the pump had a leak.

When the truck returned to North Carolina, it still needed to be painted pink.

Smith finally found a body shop, not only with a bay large enough to accommodate the vehicle but also with an owner who was willing to let the group pay for the paint job as they raised funds instead of paying up front. The late Benny Ward of Shallotte repainted the truck and — although after the \$6,000 pink paint job was completed he kept the truck in his shop until Smith and his



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After the paint job was paid for, the truck was moved to Columbus County. At first, it remained at Jon and Samantha Smith's home on U.S. 701 because there wasn't enough room for it at the Williams Township Fire Department. Since Smith joined Fair Bluff Fire and Rescue in 2016, it has had a home there.

On Mother's Day, May 5, 2010, Dave Graybill of Glendale, Ariz., the founder of the national Pink Heals organization that promotes cancer awareness, particularly for female patients, named Smith's group as the first North Carolina chapter of Pink Heals. "He told us we'd have to cover the whole state," Smith said. "Poor Dave had never been to North Carolina and he didn't have any idea how big North Carolina is. Here we were in little ole Columbus County and, as you know, we're not the richest county out there. It's hard enough to keep EMS and fire units staffed today, and it was just as hard nine years ago, but Dave gave us permission to be the state chapter. That's when we started working on a way to get the truck repainted from red to pink." They began by getting all of

the county's fire departments to sign a CARE (Cancer Awareness and Rescue Effort) resolution. "The departments knew that cancer is a tough disease," Smith said, "and we gave them the facts and figures about how many people in North Carolina were affected. Firefighters face smoke with all kinds of carcinogens when they respond to a call, and that kind of puts them on the front line as far as exposure goes. All the departments in the county signed the CARE resolution and agreed to do fundraisers and, if nothing else, get people to wear pink t-shirts during October, National Cancer Awareness month. The departments took on t-shirt sales to help us raise funds to get the truck painted."

An official dedication ceremony for the truck was held in August of 2010 in Elizabethtown, because that's where Kayla and her family lived. "Kayla's family didn't want too big of a hoopla," Smith remembered, "But the dedication was covered by local TV news and Dave Graybill came from Arizona to take part. The assistant chief of the Bluffton fire department came up for the dedication,



Thousands of cancer survivors and their family members have signed Kayla over the years with black Sharpie pens. The signatures aren't forever, though, because the ink isn't permanent, and that's a good thing because it means there's always room for more signatures.

Fair Bluff firefighter Sharon Davis paid tribute to the memory of deceased family members by inscribing their names on Kayla.



Pictured, from left, are cancer survivor Wonda Anderson Turner and Fair Bluff Fire and Rescue members Sharon Davis, Travis Causey and Jon Smith. Smith is responsible for the pink fire truck being in Columbus County and Causey is chief of FBFR.

too, along with a couple of firefighters on motorcycles. They told us before coming that they would be bringing an envelope for us, and we thought it would be the title for the truck, because they couldn't locate the title when they sold it to us. Because of that, although we kept insurance on the truck, technically and legally it still belonged to Bluffton because we couldn't register it in our name without the title."

Smith said he got excited when the Bluffton chief handed him an envelope, thinking it would hold the title to the fire truck. "I'm sorry. It's not the title," the Bluffton assistant chief told Smith, "but I think it is something you will like." Instead of a vehicle title, the envelope contained a check. The Beaufort County commissioners, hearing about what the truck was being used for in North Carolina, had voted to refund the money that Smith had paid for the truck and the envelope contained the \$2,500 that Smith had borrowed from his credit union to make the purchase. Smith was able to finish repaying his personal note to the credit union. (Because Bluffton eventually found the misplaced title, the truck also was later titled and registered to Fair Bluff Fire and Rescue.)

The pink truck makes numerous appearances every year in an effort to promote awareness of cancer in women and girls. In addition to appearing at most festivals and parades in Columbus County, the truck also has returned to Bluffton, S.C. for its annual Cancer Walk. It has traveled to all parts of North Carolina east of Charlotte except the extreme northeast corner of the state. "We've been as far as Hickory, and we've been to Ninety-Six, South Carolina," Smith said.

"A lot of people think it's all about breast cancer," Smith said, "because the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation has such widespread recognition, but



Kayla was the first pink fire truck recognized in North Carolina by the national Pink Heals organization.

we are focusing on all kinds of cancer experienced by women, not just breast cancer."

Wherever the truck makes an appearance, Fair Bluff Fire and Rescue sells cancer awareness t-shirts to help defray fuel and insurance costs. Cancer survivors and family members of cancer patients are encouraged to sign their names on the body of the truck using black Sharpie pens. Those pens don't have permanent ink, and that's probably a good thing, because otherwise the truck would be almost completely black instead of pink. Over time, rain and the elements wash away the signatures. "We went to High Point, and even though we had the first pink fire truck in the state, others had heard about us and had done the same thing. We were one of five pink trucks in that parade and, when the parade was over, everybody signed our truck. When we got to High Point, it was pink with about 30 signatures on it. When we left High Point, it was nearly black so many people had signed it," Smith said. He's probably overestimating when he guesses that close to a million people have signed and written words of encouragement for cancer patients on the truck, but there's no doubt that the number of people who have done so is in the tens of thousands.

What about Kayla Nunnery, the young cancer patient after whom the truck was named? She made a full recovery from cancer and recently graduated from high school. "Her family moved from the area because of her dad's work," said Smith, "and we've kind of lost touch with them over the years," Smith said, "but we occasionally run into somebody that knows her and we hear that she's doing real good. I wish we'd done better at keeping tabs on her and staying in touch."

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Ann Worthington

STORY DIANA MATTHEWS
PHOTOS GRANT MERRITT & SUBMITTED

Ann Worthington chose the name “Ramblin’ with Ann” for her every-other-week column because she wanted to be free to “go in any direction,” she said. “I just write whatever comes into my mind. I don’t really have any method.”

Most of her pieces tell memories of her childhood in Reeves Ferry, near Nakina.

“We lived on a farm, and there were all kinds of things to do on a farm for a mischievous little girl, so when I was four or five years old, I would let Mother know where I was, and I would go out in the woods and plunder around,” she said. “I would do anything that came to mind. I was an exploratory child. What my brother did, I wanted to do, too.”

She writes fondly about her parents, Charles and Tallulah Reeves, and her brothers Nathan and Charles and sister Kellam. She tells embarrassing tales only on herself, such as the time she borrowed Nathan’s new bicycle.

“I was the baby,” she said. One day — she can’t remember why — the rest of the family went to town and left a very young Ann by herself. “I rode his bicycle all day,” she said. When the rest of the family came home, Nathan confronted Ann. “I told him, ‘I didn’t ride it.’ I didn’t have sense enough to realize he was seeing the tracks of the tires out on the road.”

Writing was not always among Worthington’s favorite occupations. As a student at Tabor City High School, “I kind of hated it in English when we had to write,” she said.

In those days, high school ended after 11th grade, but then, “The year before I graduated, they tacked on the 12th,” Worthington said. “I had to go on another year.” She graduated in 1952.

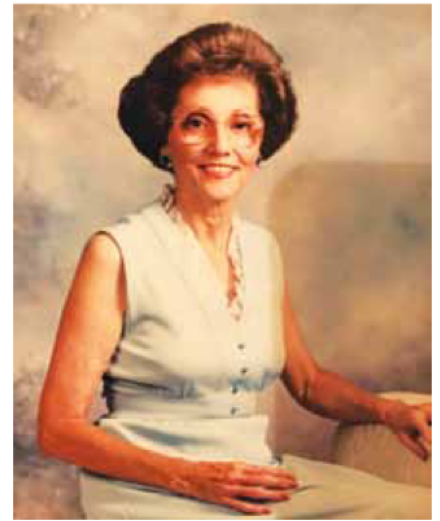
Family

She took a bookkeeping course and got work as a secretary at “the old Roses dime store,” she said. “It was right next to Moskow’s.”

Those were prosperous days in downtown Whiteville. “It was busy,” Worthington said. “It was a beautiful town. The streets would be lined on Saturdays.” She remembers men in conversation on the sidewalks with each other while the women did the family shopping in the stores. “There were three theaters,” she said. “It was a wonderful town.”

One day Gene Worthington walked into Roses and into the young bookkeeper’s life.

“He was helping to do some carpentry work that needed doing, and he had hurt his finger some way,” she recalled.



"So he came up to my office for me to take care of his finger, help him bandage it up and everything. From then on out, we were a couple. I'm so glad he hurt his finger."

When they married, "He was 25 and I lacked just a few days being 22," she said. "And back then we were old," compared to many people who got married in their teens.

The Worthingtons were married for "a wonderful 62 years," she said. Gene Worthington taught industrial arts at Whiteville High School.

Their son is Greg Worthington, and their daughter is Janet Pecorella. Their three grandsons are Jared and Ben Worthington and Sal Pecorella; their one

granddaughter is Anna Renne. There are two great-grandsons and one great-granddaughter.

Creative

"Where I really got on to writing," Ann Worthington said, "was through a class at Southeastern Community College with instructor Barry Nation." He taught her to pull ideas out of her mind and put them on paper in a loosely structured way.

Nation would return the students' papers looking "like a roadmap," she said, with "all these red lines. He was a good instructor."

Worthington was an assistant teacher at Whiteville Primary School for 20

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years. Her favorite grade was kindergarten, which she calls “the best grade there is. They all seemed like my children,” she said. “It’s a joy to me when I see some of my students that I had and they recognize me.”

Retired principal Larry Hewett said that teacher Loneese Powell ran “a pretty focused classroom” with the help of Worthington’s calming and encouraging influence.

“She was excellent with children,” Hewett said. He described a classroom visit in which a girl was sitting sadly on the floor. She told him that her grandfather had died. It turned out he had died five years before she was born, but Powell and Worthington knew she needed some “time to be sad” before rejoining the class. “I’ve thought a number of times how special it was to work alongside such caring people,” said Hewett.

Worthington retired in 1990. Grandson Ben has vivid memories of his grandmother keeping him during his pre-school years while his mother was at work. She helped him make “amazing” crayon rubbings of fallen leaves. For Ann, childcare wasn’t just a chore. “She would always do creative things like that,” he said. “She kept our minds and senses stimulated.”

When asked what is the best thing his grandmother cooks, Ben Worthington said, “her pecan pie.” His brother Jared agreed that her pecan pie is fantastic but said her tomatoes and rice are awesome and her homemade French fries are the best anywhere.

“I was an extremely picky eater,” Jared recalled. “That was a shame because I missed a lot of great meals, but Grandma would always slip me a peanut butter and jelly sandwich any time.”

“If I had a birthday,” he said, “she would give gifts to everybody: Ben, my cousins, Granddad. She was determined not to leave anyone out. I looked forward to everyone else’s birthdays as much as my own. She still sends gifts to both of my children when one of them has a birthday.”

Blessed

One of the family traits that Ann Worthington inherited from her parents and passed along to her children is “an unimaginable love for the written word,” said daughter Janet Pecorella. “I’m really glad she followed her dream” by submitting her first column to *The News Reporter*; it ran in October 2000.



Ann, Gene, Janet and Greg Worthington in 1965

Worthington writes at her kitchen table, but she gets ideas everywhere she goes. “If I see anything, that’s what I write about,” she said. She appreciates it when readers say they enjoy her column. Knowing that her work evokes happy memories for others is “very rewarding,” she said.

“Ann has a way of describing Columbus County that resonates with people, particularly those who were raised on the farm,” said publisher Les High, who hired Worthington.

“Most readers don’t realize just how hard it is to write a column year after year,” High said. “Ann is kind of a local celebrity. She enjoys chatting with people at church or the grocery store about similar experiences. It’s especially touching when she writes about loved ones who have passed on because those memories are something we all cling to.”

A quality of his grandmother that stands out, Ben Worthington said, is “how much she loves her family” in an unconditional and constant way.

Ann said she was “blessed to have a good Christian home. My memories are good memories, and I’m thankful. I’m thankful I can write about that and share it.”

She reminds readers to treasure their good times with the people they care about because life is fragile. Her siblings have all passed away, and her husband died in 2017. “He was one fine man,” she said. “I’m so glad I can say I was married to him.”

She still lives in the home she and her husband built one summer with the help of their children and two Whiteville High School students. A maple tree he planted at her request turns red each fall and is another reminder of him.

Worthington remains active at Whiteville United Methodist Church, where she and her husband were “very involved” for many years, her daughter said. “She does a lot for people, whether it’s baking pumpkin bread for someone who’s been sick or giving someone a ride somewhere,” said Pecorella. “She does it very quietly, not expecting anything in return.”

Jared Worthington said his grandparents “both left behind a great legacy,” in both concrete and spiritual ways. “Everyone in the family has something Grandpa made,” he said. “And Grandma gave me cooking lessons. She taught me fair play. She tried for a little while to teach me to play the piano.

“A lot of her legacy is her



Left to right: (front row) Ann and Gene Worthington, Carolyn Worthington, Anna Pecorella Renne, Janet W. Pecorella, Sal Pecorella, Karissa Cook Pecorella (back row) Ben Worthington, Greg Worthington, Jared Worthington, Sal Pecorella



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central focus on God. It's more about leading by example than about being vocal," Jared said, but she communicated her values and convictions unmistakably to her loved ones.


"I think the words 'family first' are an understatement for her."



(Above) Worthington relives a happy memory as she reads a column about her brother.

(Right) Worthington's first column in *The News Reporter* ran Oct. 5, 2000 and told how, when she was 13 years old, the riverbank near her home became a place to begin to recover from loss.

Rambling with Ann



By Ann Worthington

Editor's note: Today is the first installment of "Rambling with Ann," which will run every other Thursday in this spot. Look for "Southern Harmony" by Helen Lee Simmons next Thursday.

Ann Worthington was reared and has lived all of her life in Columbus County.

She was born on a farm in the Reeves Ferry community and attended Columbus County schools, graduating from Tabor City High School. She attended Southeastern Community College, and until her retirement, was employed by the Whiteville City Schools as an assistant teacher.

Worthington is an active member of Whiteville United Methodist Church. She enjoys sharing her memories with others and looks forward to sharing them with the readers of *The News Reporter*.

She is married and lives in Whiteville. She and her husband have two children and four grandchildren.

Soothing waters

"Nestled deep in the southern part of Columbus County runs the dark waters of the Waccamaw River. It snakes along among Spanish moss-laden trees, cutting wide and sometimes narrow curves as it makes its way to join other rivers and tributaries.

"This river holds many happy times for me, because as a child I remember the many fishing trips, picnics, and boat rides my family enjoyed on the Waccamaw. One such occasion I reflect on and relate to my children and grandchildren. I remember arriving home from school one day to the devastating news that my father had been in an accident and was killed. Words cannot express my sadness.

"Day after day dragged by and I felt so sad. One day my mom suggested I visit the Waccamaw River and just enjoy the peace and solitude I would find there. Heading out behind our old farm ..."



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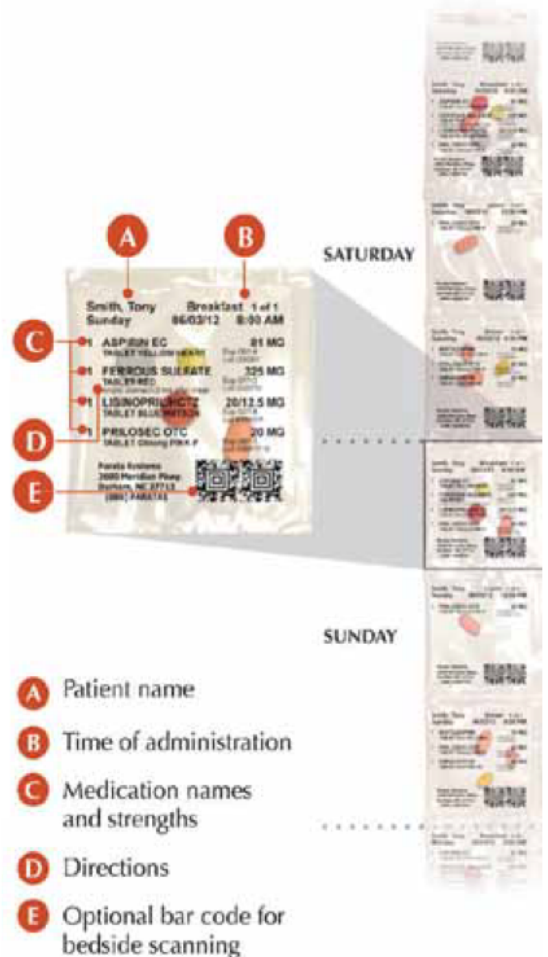
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Henry Milligan uses engineering and ingenuity to move a home.

“Mr. Persistent”

STORY JANNA SASSER & DIANA MATTHEWS

PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY FAMILY

Recently 954's editor received the following testimonial by a reader who believed that her husband deserved to be featured in the pages of the magazine. She sent several news clippings related to his life and career and described her husband as “a legend! Icon!” She calls him “Mr. Persistent.”

Henry Milligan is an 84-year-old house mover. “Everybody in three or four counties has had him to move something, almost,” his wife, Lou Floy Milligan, said. “From the houses on the mill at Bladenboro to the barns over in Clarkton, to the houses on the beach,” he has moved build-



Henry Milligan stands with the 1800s log cabin he moved to his home and restored. On the porch is a horse-drawn farm cart.

ings for “probably hundreds of people.”

Born in 1935, Milligan learned to move buildings when he was just a boy by working with his cousins and neighbors.

“We had to work,” he said. “We didn’t play. Everything was done by hand.” He recalls using rigs, rollers and winches all made of oak, sometimes mule-drawn. Other times, “If it was a short distance we boys would (push) it.”

He was the youngest child of tenant farmers Grover Henderson Milligan and Alpha Jewell Smith Milligan. “Moving from farm to farm, Henry plowed



Milligan's parents, Grover and Alpha S. Milligan



(Sitting) Lou Floy Watts Milligan, Henry O. Milligan; (the Milligans' children standing left to right) Lu-Ann, Charles, Patrick and Marsha

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mules for many tobacco crops on many different farms," his wife said. His biggest fears were of snakes and of what his father would do if he forgot to water the mule, and "his dream was to own his own farm and land."

He bought his first piece of land at the age of 16. Henry Milligan recalls, "I worked at a sawmill for 75 cents an hour to get the money for it. That was big money back then. I did that at night and farmed during the day."

He also painted cars, sold insurance and put himself through Elkins Electronic School in Atlanta, Ga. During the late 1950s he was an engineer for radio stations including WMFD in Wilmington, which became today's WECT television station.

Looking back, Milligan says, "I loved most everything I did."

Why did he leave the radio business to go back to moving houses? The decision was about "making a living," he said. In the entertainment world, "You're



Cribbing up a building before moving.

hot today and cold tomorrow," but house-moving could provide a steady income for a family.

Moving a house today is still a lot of steps: creating a steel support cradle underneath, jacking it up, transporting it, avoiding electrical lines and delivering the house to its destination are the physical parts. Milligan makes it sound easy.

If everything is secured properly, "a 1,500 square-foot house can run 35 miles per hour," he said. "We've moved about everything from glass houses to stone, cement. We've moved houses that were built around shrimp boats and boxcars."

On the other hand, obtaining permits for every step is the tedious and costly part. "You have to check width and tonnage of all the bridges, the

overgrowth on the roads, the restrictions on areas. By the time you're done, everybody gets a little bit of the money."

MOVABLE MUSEUM

Depot may have found permanent foundation

By LEAH KOHLENBERG
Staff Writer

The Lake Waccamaw Depot Museum has moved almost as many times as the caboose sitting next to it.

For the second time since the depot was built in 1898, it was picked up Thursday and planked somewhere else — maybe to a permanent resting place this time.

"I think it's found a permanent home," chuckled Town Manager Michael Prostnak.

The depot, which sat next to the Lake Waccamaw Town Hall, was moved about 250 feet away to make room for a new volunteer fire and rescue building. A contractor slipped steel beams under the foundation and moved it across a ditch to land owned by the depot museum organizers.

The move ends a running debate that lasted several years among museum officials, the town and the fire and rescue squad.

The site was the obvious location for the new fire and rescue building, but some protesters said moving the depot — listed in the National Register of Historic Places — might damage it, Mr. Prostnak said.

"The fear was if we move it we will destroy it," Mr. Prostnak said. "Everybody felt that way."

Other properties were surveyed to see if they would work out for the fire and rescue building, Mr. Prostnak said, but there was always some problem — the land level was too low, it was too close to a residential neighborhood, it would lengthen the response time to some parts of the town.

"It's the only practical place to put it," Mr. Prostnak said.

The depot, which also housed the tiny Police Department and was used as a storage place for the town, may be turned over entirely to the museum folks. Once the new fire station is built, the old one can be used for storage and as a place for Lake Waccamaw Police Chief T.J. Harrett to hang his hat.

The depot has always been put to

Workers with Milligan Housemovers maneuver around a ditch while moving the Lake Waccamaw Depot Museum to a new site Thursday. This is the second time the former train depot has been moved, this time in order to make room for a new volunteer fire and rescue building.

Staff photo: LEAH KOHLENBERG

to relocate it from its spot near old U.S. 74-76. When they put it back together, the original slate roof leaked, so the town replaced it.

At first it was used to store parts for the town's new water and sewer system, but the local women's club converted part of the building into a local history museum which officially opened for the nation's Bicentennial on July 4, 1976, Mr. Elliott said.

Nothing but the roof was replaced on the building; everything is the same since it was first built at the turn of the century, he said.

"I've moved a lot of historical buildings," Milligan said. He helped to move Tabor City's one-room schoolhouse to its current location when he was about 10 years old. He's moved "all the Atlantic (Coast Line) depots" at least once each.

Railroad depots were "built out of best material you could buy at that time," he said, with stouter lumber than another building of that size would require. "The engineers designed them correctly," but due to wear and tear, and especially contact with substances like fertilizers in transit, "Their floor nails were rusted completely through."

After Milligan and his team reroiled the floors, "They held together like a brother's love," he said.

Milligan thinks he may have set a world's record after Hurricane Hugo hit the beaches; he had "35 (houses) on wheels at one time," he said. His sons operate Milligan House Movers, Inc., now.

HENRY MILLIGAN was happy Friday morning. The well-known house builder commented to The Street last week that the biscuits at Munchi's are "the best in the world" and was rewarded there Friday with a free breakfast for three. "I'm going to say somethin' good about somebody every week," he said.

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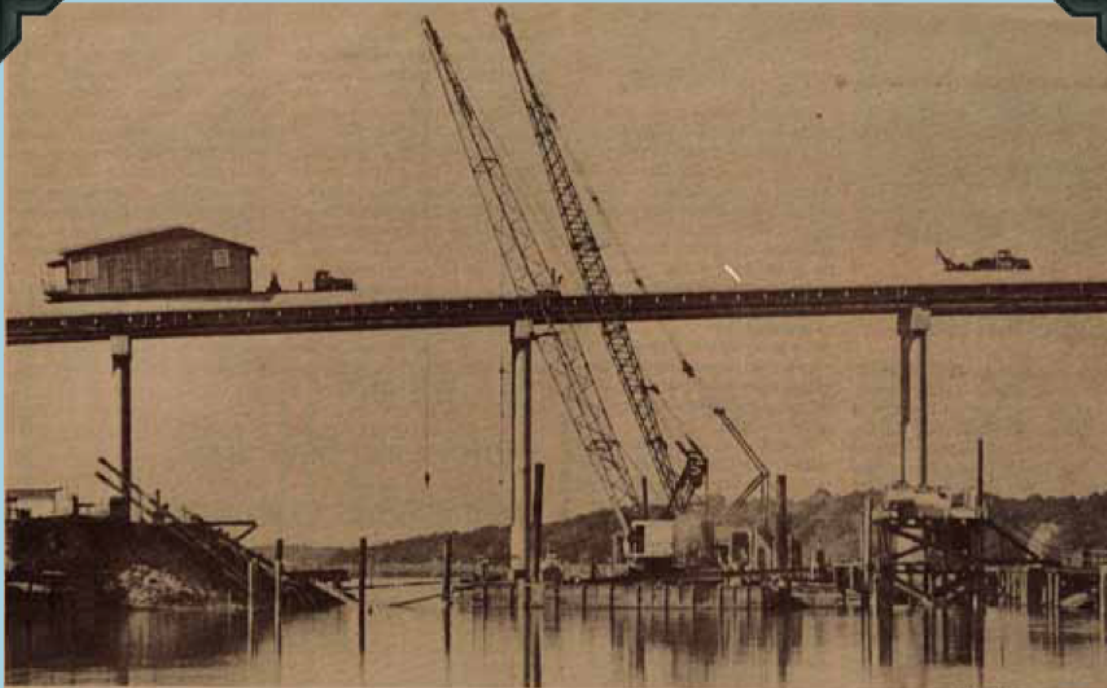
STAFF PHOTO BY MATTHEW PLYLER

House Has Good Ocean View

This was the second house to be moved during the past week from the oceanfront at Holden Beach over the new high-rise bridge to the

mainland. The moves are creating fewer problems than were imagined by town officials. The story and more pictures are inside this issue.

Real estate on the beaches being pricey, "Someone would want to build new house on the beach, so they would move an older house to real estate that was not quite as valuable." That was why this house took a trip across the newly constructed bridge.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL MUGOWAN

TRAFFIC WAS STOPPED Tuesday morning on the Odell Williamson Bridge to allow Pope & Pope Corp. of Ocean Isle and Milligan Moving Co. of Taber City to move the "Seashore Haven" cottage off the island. It was the first house to cross the new bridge. The company moved it from a lot where

it plans other construction. Future moves will cost more and won't be allowed on weekends or during summer months following action by the town board Tuesday afternoon.

WHITEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 1994



Gulf Photo by Lee Hinshaw

New home

Jeff Gore, left, and Patrick Milligan, center, shore up ties after moving a caboose next to the Lake Waccamaw Depot Museum. Milligan Housemovers Inc. moved the depot and caboose to make room for a new fire and rescue station. Plans are to build a platform around the building to the caboose.

Although his business prospered, and he can now do what he likes, Milligan “drives an old vehicle, wears clothes out, and does not know what a vacation is,” his wife said. “He does not smoke, drink, golf, fish — just work! Work!”

And in his spare time Milligan likes to move houses. He has a small collection of log cabins installed on his family’s property near Tabor City.



(Left) This working windmill on Milligan’s farm once pumped water to a elevated tank on its platform for the University Of North Carolina in Chapel Hill in the 1800s. Above is a cabin Milligan added to his collection; Frank Gault built it in 1976.



Milligan is always entertaining and teaching. Shown above on his antique tractor with his two oldest grandsons, Lance and Evan Pickell.

(Left to right from bottom) Landon Milligan, Jamey Hall, Taylor Hall, Lance Pickell, Hackney Hall, Evan Pickell, Sydney Pickell, Haleigh Milligan, Mia Milligan and Abby Milligan. With ten grandchildren, Milligan has a large family to enjoy.



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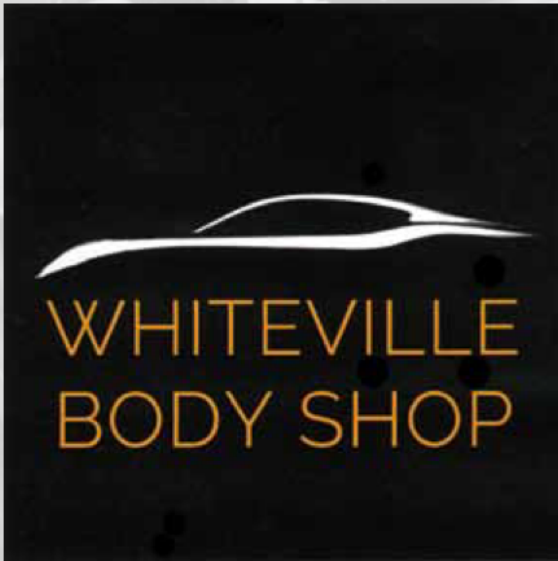
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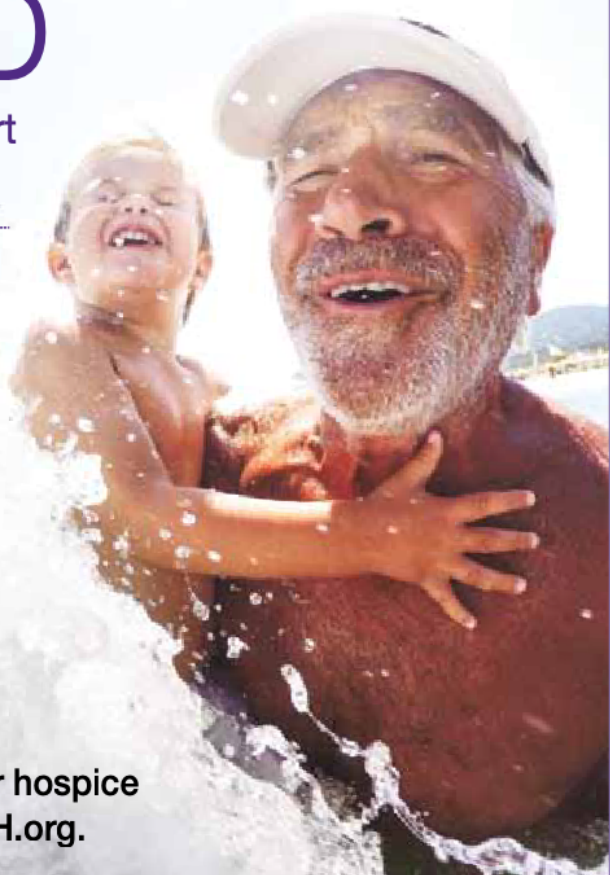
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Lunch on the Lake Fundraiser for Lake Waccamaw Depot Museum

May 9



Rosemary Dorsey is a silent auction winner.



Donna Askew and others bid on silent auction items.



This flat of local strawberries was a silent auction favorite.



Kim Powell and Sheila Link



Barbara Burton, Charlotte Fort-Findley and Pat Medlin

3RD ANNUAL N.C. HONEY FESTIVAL

September 7



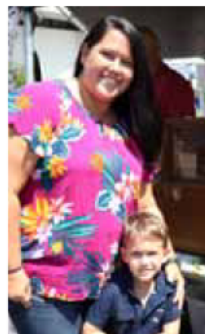
Carl Cutler and A.C. Cutler, Honey Festival organizers



"Belicious" exhibits and vendors entertain the festival crowd.



Kellie Lewis experiments at the Museum of Natural Sciences.



Olivia & Landon Scott



The antique car show is always a festival favorite.

July 18

THE NEWS REPORTER'S FIFTEEN UNDER 40



Daniel & Morgan Britt



(Front row) Rachel Todd, Jason Graham, Judge Ashley Gore, Jenny Clore, LaShoney Frink.
(Back row) Greg Jacobs, Garrett Tolley, Jennifer Phipps, Amanda Dale, Jason Soles, Daniel Britt, Nikki Walker, Jordan B. Carter, Kalee Hill, Dustin Fowler



Danaysia Powell, Tankeisha Graham, LaShoney Frink, Barbara Yates-Lockamy, Cynthia Grimes, Sheila Dockery



Rachel Todd, Tiger Tater, Erin Mincey



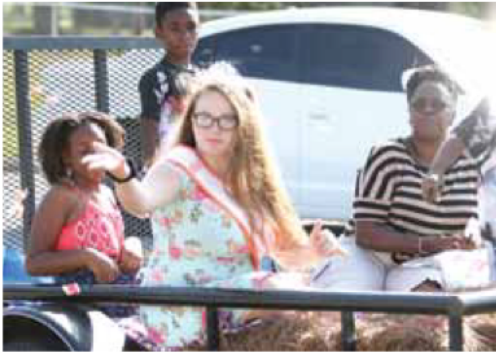
Jason & Nikki Walker and their daughter, Josie



Kristi Greene, Kalee Hill, Kelli Burchette

6TH ANNUAL BRUNSWICK STEW FESTIVAL

September 17



Miss Brunswick Stew, Samantha Landreth, in the festival parade.



Denise McAllister serving homemade stew at the festival.



Children enjoyed games and festival activities.



(Left to right) Little Miss Brunswick Stew, Vanessa Reaves; Pre-Teen Miss Brunswick, Trinity Henry; and Brunswick Town Councilman and Festival organizer Alonzo McArthur

SCC Wyche Gallery Reception

October 3

Kathryn Ogden Humphreys Exhibit

Parkinson's Disease: A Daughter's View From An Artist's Perspective



Kathryn Ogden Humphreys with Dr. Anthony Clarke



SCC art students study several different art techniques displayed in the exhibit.



SCC art instructor September Krueger introduces Kathryn Humphreys.



Evans and Isabel Humphreys with their mom and her portrait of her father, Dr. Billy Ogden.

Columbus County Fair *Ava H. Ward Memorial Dinner*

October 7



Hunter Marlowe, Kimberly Pope, Mack Ward, Deidra Callahan, Junior Callahan and Judge Ashley Gore



Jessica Hill and her children, Jimmy Earl and Anna Kay



Judge Ashley Gore presents Ava Ward's family a plaque recognizing Ward's service to the county fair.



Terri Walters Gore, William Sibbett and wife, Tina Sibbett

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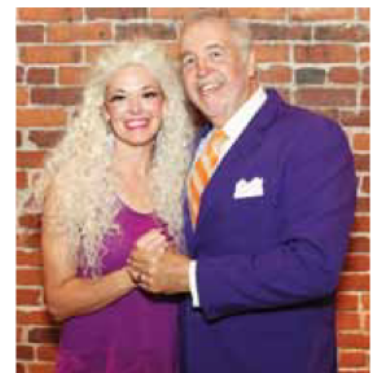
October 5



Butch Pope presents Cindy Singletary & Legal Divas with the Mo' Money award.



The judges - Trooper Melvin Campbell, Bladen County Clerk of Court Niki Dennis and N.C. Senator Danny Britt



Lucy Byrd with her father, Butch Pope.



Kellie Edwards, Syvetta Hickman, Butch Pope and Christian Campbell



Mayor Terry Mann, Mark Bannerman



Sylvia Walker, Florence Marlowe, Janice Simms, Pat Ray, Carolyn Burchette and Ann Pait

Taste of Tabor at Sunnyfield Farm 2019 N.C. Yam Festival

October 24



(Back) Tomie-Lynn Sing, Madelyn Grace Faircloth, Savannah Leigh Turner, Logan Knutson, Mrs. Deanna Soles Hammond-Norris. In front, April Tedder, Aria Gracelynn Bowen



Celebrating 34 years of the N.C. Yam Festival in Tabor City



Kevin Nichols Band



Savannah Leigh Turner interviews Sophie Annabelle Lewis.



James Worley and Rita Huggins



Logan Knutson, Madelyn Grace Faircloth, Savannah Leigh Turner and Tiger Tater



Tiny Miss Layla Cole Nealy



Sunnyfield Farm hosted Taste of Tabor.



Beth Walters Harper and daughter, Junior Miss Leah Grayann Hooks



Jerome & Michella Monique McMillian



Mayor Royce Harper and wife, Lora



Sarah Gore Events & Catering catered the event.

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WHS Homcoming Queen Bailey Barnhill



CCA Homecoming Queen Allee Greene and Homecoming Princess Stormy Cribb



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954 Events

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SCC Auditorium

Linda Davis is a multi- Grammy-award winning recording artist who has toured and recorded with superstars including Reba McEntire and Kenny Rogers. She also toured as the opening act for George Strait and Garth Brooks.



Jim Witter "THE PIANO MEN"
Saturday, February 8 at 7 p.m.
SCC Auditorium

The Piano Men is a musical celebration of the 1970s year by year, hit by hit from the songbooks of Billy Joel and Elton John.



Emile Pandolfi
Friday, April 3 at 7 p.m.
SCC Auditorium

Emile knows how to bring out the best in a piano and in a song. Enjoy an early Spring performance as he and Dana bring the laughs and joy and you're carried away. You'll be enthralled and leave wishing it wouldn't end.

General Admission tickets, \$25 each; Gold Circle seating \$35 each. Advance tickets can be purchased online at www.scc.nc.edu/arts/performing-arts-series or by calling SCC Foundation at 910-642-7141 ext. 260 or 320. Tickets will also be available at the door. For questions about wheelchair accessible seating contact Ashley Butler at (910) 788-6260.

Holiday parades around the county

Whiteville - Sunday, Dec. 1, at 3 p.m.
Tabor City - Thursday, Dec. 5, at 6 p.m.
Chadbourn- Saturday, Dec. 7, at 2 p.m.
Lake Waccamaw - Saturday, Dec. 7, at 10 a.m.



Fifth Annual Mistletoe Market

Whiteville Junior Woman's Club presents the fifth annual Mistletoe Market Friday, Dec. 6, from 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. through Saturday, Dec. 7 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Vineland Station. Santa's elves (Whiteville Juniores) will be on site wrapping gifts for donations. Photographers will be shooting "Christmas Minis" portrait sessions on the Pavilion.

Whiteville High School Performing Arts Series

All proceeds will help fund a trip to send students to the world's largest performing arts festival in Scotland in the summer of 2020.

- The Family Band Benefit Concert: Saturday, November 23 at 7 p.m. - Tickets starting at \$10
- Holiday Shows: December 3 & 5 at 7 p.m. - Tickets starting at \$5
- Adventures in Narnia - December 7 at 9 a.m. till 12 p.m. - Tickets \$5
- Breakfast with Santa - December 14 at 8 a.m. till 11 a.m. - Tickets \$8

Tickets can be purchased at the door or online through www.Showtix4u.com. All events are located at Bower's Auditorium unless otherwise specified.

Information can be found on:

Facebook: WHS Drama & Dance

Instagram: whsdramadance

Website: <https://sites.google.com/whiteville.k12.nc.us/theatreanddance/home>



Southeastern Oratorio Society Christmas Concert

Southeastern Oratorio Society presents a selection of classic and contemporary Christmas music plus Martín Palmieri's *Buenos Aires Mass*. The free concert, conducted by Dr. Tim Koch of Coastal Carolina University, will feature a professional orchestra and an Argentine *bandoneon*. 7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 511 N. Thompson St., Whiteville.



Friends of Rube McCray Memorial Library Christmas Tour of Homes

There will be a self-guided Christmas Tour of Homes at Lake Waccamaw, Saturday, Dec. 7, from 2-5 p.m. During the tour, the Lake Waccamaw Depot Museum will host an open house with refreshments. Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased at the library. Proceeds support local scholarships and other initiatives.

Homes at Lake Waccamaw on tour include: Ogden home at 1202 Lake Shore Drive, Grey Home 408 Bella Coola Road, Council/Wright home at 1606 Lake Shore Drive, Malpass home at 2194 Bella Coola Road, and Marsh home at 100 W. White Oak Street.

Columbus Golf Tournament May 8

Golfers from across the area are invited to participate in the annual Columbus County Industrial Golf Tournament, hosted by the Columbus Chamber of Commerce and Tourism.

The Captain's Choice tournament will begin with registration and lunch at 11 a.m., followed by a shotgun start at 12 p.m. The tournament is limited to the first 120 golfers registered.

The entry deadline is Friday, May 1, 2020. Call the Columbus Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, 910-642-3171 or visit the website to register, www.TheColumbusChamber.com

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A SPECIAL RETRIEVER

STORY **Bill Woodsman**

This is the story about the best retriever I have ever seen. Mind you, I am the guy who has ruined more retrievers than anyone else around. And, despite the dog's breeding, I have managed to produce more scatter-brained dogs than the occasional rudimentary retriever.

This particular year, however, everything was different because I ran across the world's greatest retrieving animal. I was hunting beside a large hog parlor in Ash, N.C. and had a great hunt and shot more doves than I care to relate. In the wide-open area among many uprooted trees, there were dozens of hogs and their piglets wandering about looking for a good meal. I paid scant attention to the animals; however, I could not help but notice a large sow that seemed to watch intensely as I shot. I was somewhat frightened by the large animal being so close to me, but she seemed to have no fear of me. After a while, I developed a sense of comradery with the pig and would occasionally scratch her back.

You can imagine my surprise, however, when I shot a dove. It landed fairly close to me, but the big hog rushed by me, found the dove and brought it back to where she had been standing. Thinking this was abnormal behavior for a hog, I walked over to her and tried to get the dove to put in my sack. She gave me a cold, suspicious look as if I was trying to steal her supper and quickly gobbled it down with one single crunch.

I thought little of this incident until several weeks later when I went back to the same hog parlor to shoot doves. This same hog, whom I called Alice, walked over to me with her piglets and sat down beside me like she was a Labrador retriever. Her piglets were now much larger than they had been before, and Alice and all eight of her piglets settled in to watch me shoot doves. Alice, however, was more aggressive in marking and retrieving the doves that I shot. And, by the end of the afternoon, Alice and I were in a foot race to see who could get to the doves first. Sometimes I would beat her, and other times I would not. I was never able to take a dove from her or her piglets, and by the end of the day,



her score was six to my six. She was obviously having so much fun I did not see fit to punish her for this remarkable behavior. I returned to the same field in the late season, and as you might suspect, there was Alice surrounded by a bunch of piglets weighing about forty pounds each. She was very businesslike in her approach to me and showed little sign of recognition other than the fact that she assumed the same position as she had the last hunt. Over the course of the afternoon, she and her piglets and I had a running war to

see who could retrieve the doves the quickest.

And, if she got there first, the dove was lost. On one spectacular shot, when I dropped a double, and I got one and Alice the other, I chased her and beat her with the butt of my gun to get her to drop the dove. Of course she fought and squealed, and when I turned around, there were all eight piglets in my pile of birds scarfing them down as fast as they possibly could. They ate all my doves, and the score was Woodman-0, pigs-12.

Now, I know this sounds like a bunch of hogwash, but Alice was the singularly best retriever I had ever hunted with. She could mark and unerringly find a downed bird every time one hit the ground, and she seemed to have an excellent nose and a remarkable perception of distance. Mind you all, this occurred naturally with no prior instructions, and I seriously thought about getting my brother-in-law Coke to bring his Chesapeake out to get some on-the-spot training from Alice. I honestly believed that if I could break Alice of that one nasty vice of eating the bird, she might win a few blue ribbons for me. I even thought about buying one of her piglets. Who knows, hogs might be the best new line of retrievers!

"Bill Woodsman" was born in 1954 when eighth grader Billy Ogden created his nom de plume "Willie the Woodsman." He wrote weekly hunting articles for his all boys junior high school in Macon, Georgia. When Dr. Ogden entered college and medical school, "Willie" matured into "Bill" as he has continued to write about the sports of hunting and fishing.



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WE REMEMBER CHILDREN'S WISHES ARE SANTA'S PROMISE

PHOTOGRAPH FROM NR ARCHIVES

SECTION

THE NEWS REPORTER

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1994

B

Living



An obviously unsure Avery Ashley takes a turn on Santa's lap, while sister Katelynn endures his outburst.



Lori Nance introduces her unsure 14-month-old daughter, Katie, to Santa, who substitutes a lollipop for an olive branch.

Childrens' wishes are Santa's promise

Making his annual visit to Whiteville, Santa set up shop this season at White's Crossing shopping center just south of town. Although it's a ritual that's been repeated over generations, Santa manages to keep each visit fresh and make all his young visitors feel special.

The jolly old man is quick to hand out candy and quips, and often has to cheer up youngsters who've had about all the holiday confusion they can take.

Santa asks a few questions, but one inquiry really matters: "Have you been good?"

Some of his visitors are surprisingly candid. But their honesty is still rewarded with promises of a good Christmas celebration.

Power Rangers and video games are among the hot items on the wish lists this season, depending on the age of the children.

Santa will continue to see children today from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m.

His visit is sponsored in part by the Greater Whiteville Area Chamber of Commerce.

Photos by
Chuck Dye



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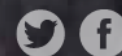
We are inviting all Hispanics who want to hear the Word of God in Spanish to join us every Sunday at 11:00 am to our Hispanic Baptist Church, "The Way of Life" with Pastor Roberto Mancillas. For more information, call Pastor Roberto at (704) 941-9175. We await!!!

Invitamos a todos los hispanos que desean escuchar la Palabra de Dios en español para que nos acompañen todos los domingos a las 11:00am a nuestra iglesia Bautista, "El Camino de la Vida," con el pastor Roberto Mancillas. Más información al teléfono 704-941-9175 con el Pastor Roberto. Les esperamos!!!



Pastor: Ronnie Wilson

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