



Bill Ramsey and family

Honored for volunteer service...

The N.C. Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service presented the 2017 Governor's Volunteer Service Award for Granville County at the Board of Commissioners meeting earlier this month. Recipients recognized were Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Bill Ramsey, and VFW Post #10225 Auxiliary. Becky Currin, Medallion winner of the Governor's Award, was also recognized for her work as a paid Director of Volunteers.

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church ladies, along with Rick Williams, were honored for their commitment to Murdoch Developmental Center for the past eight years. The ladies wrap more than 1,275 Christmas gifts annually while Williams ensures gifts are in working order, complete with batteries. Comm. Owen Roberts recognized Pleasant Grove Baptist Church for their service and presented them with a plaque.

Bill Ramsey was also recognized for his eight years of volunteer service in providing wagon rides for the people who live at Murdoch Developmental Center. Ramsey enlists family and friends for this special event, which features horses and wagons.

Dressed in cowboy attire, he interacts with people just as he did when he was employed at Murdoch for 30 years. Commissioner and life-long friend David Smith offered remarks and presented a plaque to Ramsey for his service.

VFW Post #10225 Auxiliary were recognized for participation in Murdoch Developmental Center's Sponsorship Program. The group has sponsored a Center resident for more than 20 years. The Auxiliary also sponsors three additional persons each Christmas. Chairman Tim Karan recognized the VFW Auxiliary on the Board's behalf and presented them with a plaque for their work in the community.

Becky Currin, Director of the Church and Community Mission for the Flat River Baptist Association, was recognized for her service to the community at large. Through her efforts, she



Becky Currin

recruits, trains and engages a group of volunteers to serve children, women and men from all walks of life. Comm. Sue Hinman, who serves the community along with Currin, made the presentation.

"Pleasant Grove Baptist, Bill Ramsey, VFW Post #10225 Auxiliary and Becky Currin have shown concern and compassion for their neighbors by making a significant contribution to their community through volunteer service," Deborah Ferrell, Granville County Coordinator for Governor's Volunteer Service Awards said. "They each make Granville County great."



VFW Post #10225 Auxiliary



Volunteers of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church

This Old House: Oxford



CITY OF OXFORD'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Do you enjoy seeing the old homes lining many of Oxford's streets? Have you ever heard about a house that used to be here, but was torn down? How would these neighborhoods feel - and what would they look like - if more were lost, or changed so significantly that we could no longer recognize them? Fortunately, we have a mechanism in place to protect the character of our historic districts and to help ensure that more homes do not disappear.

Many residents, especially those who own property in the local historic districts, have heard of the "HPC" and know that the letters stand for Historic Preservation Commission. But what is an HPC and what does it do?

The Oxford HPC was created as the result of a long and thoughtful process. In the mid-1980s, a group of Granville County citizens initiated a formal effort to recognize and protect historic resources throughout the County, and in 1988 their effort culminated with hundreds of Granville County properties being listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Listing in the National Register was a very big accomplishment - making qualified restorations eligible for tax credits and ensuring that federal projects would never threaten the Historic District. But a National Register listing does not protect the character of buildings and neighborhoods. To achieve that goal, Oxford needed to enact a local historic preservation ordinance and create an HPC, as authorized by the "North Carolina Enabling Legislation for the Creation of Historic Preservation Commissions by Counties and Municipalities." This legislation was put into place by the North Carolina Legislature in the late 1980s in response to the many local governments across the state which, recognizing the benefits of historic preservation in their communities, were requesting authorization on a town-by-town or county-by-county basis.

Oxford's HPC was created in 2007 upon the passage of its Historic Preservation Ordinance. It serves the dual purposes of safeguarding the heritage of the city by preserving districts and landmarks, and of promoting their use and conservation. The HPC is now among more than one hundred local historic preservation commissions in North Carolina, and one of thousands throughout the United States, which functions as an important component of local government. The Oxford HPC consists of seven volunteer members appointed by the Board of Commissioners and works very closely with the City's Planning Director.

A significant result of Oxford's Historic Preservation Ordinance is that changes to the exterior of property in the two local historic districts (the College Street District, and the Main Street District) require review and approval by the HPC. Ordinary repair and maintenance projects do not require approval. After consulting the "Oxford Design Guidelines" (the "Guidelines") and the Planning Director, property owners whose projects require an ap-

proval submit an application to the HPC for review. The HPC bases its decision on the Guidelines alone and, in some cases, a formal review is not required. In each of the past three years, more than 98 percent of all project applications requiring review were approved. The HPC also conducts an annual Photo Contest, and honors a preservation project each year with its Stewardship Award.

The HPC meets on the third Thursday of the month from January through October, and at other times as needed. Meetings are open to the public. The Guidelines, as well as more information about Oxford's Historic Districts, historic preservation and the HPC, can be found at the HPC website, www.oxfordhpc.org, and questions can be sent to the HPC by email at oxfordhpc@yahoo.com.

Historic Preservation Commissions focus on the protection of the historic resources in the communities they serve, and encourage preservation and restoration activities long-recognized as a driver in local economies and credited for their impact in improving property values and neighborhoods. For this reason among others, there is significant support for historic preservation, restoration and rehabilitation initiatives at the federal, state and municipal levels throughout the country, dating back dozens of years. The Oxford HPC is part of this tradition and conducts its duties accordingly, for the benefit of the community.

In coming months, the HPC will share additional information in this column about the Design Guidelines and the economic benefits of preservation, and other information you may find interesting and informative. There will also be stories about the historic houses of Oxford. Look for the column next month to find out more about 'This Old House... Oxford.'

Granville Youth Corner

From Penn Avenue Baptist Church:

Andre Hargrove, Jr. and Jayana Dunkins attended Bible Camp in Fayetteville June 12 through June 16. The camp was held at Camp Dixie and sponsored by the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Mission Convention of N.C. Andre was recognized as "Camper of the Year."

Jada Finch recently graduated from Granville Central High School and has been accepted to attend N.C. A&T in Greensboro this fall. She will be recognized July 23 at Penn Avenue as "Senior of The Year."

Young people in the community are being featured in a regular column to showcase their personal achievements and positive impact. If you would like to spotlight a local young person, please send their information to the Ledger at opllynnallred@earthlink.net. Look for this ongoing tribute in upcoming editions.

The "brown egg heist gang:" the story of the gold ring

By JERRY DEAN

One day Booty Boy, a colored boy who lived in one of the tenant houses on the farm, showed me a beautiful gold ring he had on his finger. I asked him where he got it. He said he had traded Mr. Evans several fresh eggs for round sticks of bubble gum. (Tetum Evans was owner of the country store on what is now Enon Church Road.)

The sticks were the size and length of a finger, and every fifth one had a gold ring on it. I told him I wanted a ring like that, and asked him where he got his eggs for

trade. He said he got them at the Ellis's house. For several months after, Booty Boy and I were part of the "brown egg heist gang" with his brothers Ellek, Nelson and Erba Lee.

On weekends, we would wander down towards the Ellis house, and if their car was gone, we knew they were gone, too. When we saw they were away, we went to the chicken pen. The hen house had tin wash tubs hanging on the backside and nesting boxes for laying inside. We would first get the eggs out of all the nests and put them

in a sack. If a chicken was on the nest, we would pick her up and start squeezing her at her front chest, working the squeeze towards her rear. (This actually pushed the egg out, if it was close to coming out, anyway.) The chickens repeatedly voiced their dislike for this procedure. If we couldn't squeeze it out, we would take down a tub from the back wall and put the chicken under the upside down tub, then wait for it to lay. (Looking back, as I'm 69 years old now, that had to be some sight. Three colored boys and one white

boy, sitting around a wash tub in a circle, waiting for a chicken to lay an egg so we could trade it for bubble gum that had a gold ring around it.)

Whenever we did this, Erba Lee was the "look-out man." He went out next to the state road, and sat beside a tree so he could see if the Ellis' car was coming down the road. He always let us know if they were coming so we could hang up the tub, if we were using one, and get out of the pen and out of sight.

We almost got caught once. We were sitting

around the tub, with a chicken under it, when we heard the car door slam. We got up and ran, leaving the tub and the chicken on the ground. Luck was that they always parked the car on the other side of the house. When the car door slammed, it woke up Erba Lee, who was doing one of his favorite things - sleeping.

I thought a lot about this over the years, wondering if the Ellis' thought their chickens had periods when they didn't lay eggs. They had to be perplexed to see a tin wash tub on the

ground beside the pen, especially to find a chicken under it. Maybe it could be rationalized that the wind blew the tub off its nail hanger, and just as it was about the hit the ground, a chicken walked under it and it was scared so bad, it laid an egg. (I have also wondered how many different kinds of chicken feed they may have bought in order to boost their egg laying.)

Jerry Dean, a resident of Granville County, has shared some of his childhood memories with the Ledger. Look for more articles in future editions as this column continues.