



Four-year-old Jenny Blaylock and her canine companion Ranger took time out from play recently to pose in front of Jenny's log playhouse, constructed by her dad, Frankie Blaylock. Located in

the yard of the Blaylock home on Bragg Street in Warrenton, the playhouse has become a family project. (Staff Photo by Howard Jones)

Young Local Girl Finds Happiness In Miniature Version Of 'Ponderosa'

By KAY HORNER
Feature Editor

Tucked away on Bragg Street, in the heart of antebellum Warrenton, is what Frankie Blaylock calls "a little bit of the Ponderosa."

It all began when Blaylock's wife, Junelle, suggested that he build "something to put the lawnmower in."

No doubt she had in mind a simple structure along the lines of the traditional southern tool shed, a nondescript little building nestled unobtrusively in the far corner of the yard under an old oak tree.

Frankie gave Junelle's request serious consideration, and thus began the evolution of the idea, from a place to put the lawnmower to a log playhouse for Jenny, the Blaylocks' four-year-old daughter.

The sixteen-by-sixteen-foot log cabin is constructed from poplar logs, sawed on three sides with

the rounded side providing the exterior of the house. Blaylock utilized post and beam construction, with two-by-six rafters and tongue-and-groove sheeting under a tin roof.

Work is still in progress, but the master plan calls for the addition of a loft, giving the interior a tree-house effect, and a front porch.

It may eventually boast electricity and a wood cookstove for simmering that North Carolina favorite, Brunswick stew.

On the walls will be primitive farm implements and tools from Blaylock's collection and on the floor, Indian rugs, touches needed to give the cabin the "authentic look."

One might well ask, "All of this for a playhouse?"

"Well, it does seem like I got a little carried away, doesn't it?" Blaylock noted recently with a grin.

Blaylock, whose family owns and operates Blaylock Funeral

Homes of Warrenton and Littleton, is not new to the log construction business. Like many teenage boys, Blaylock worked in construction during summer breaks from school, and in 1980, began construction of a 2,500-square-foot log home at Hamme's Mill, south of Warrenton. The three-bedroom home with native-stone fireplace is essentially ready for occupancy, lacking only two essentials—electricity and plumbing.

Now that the family is settled in Warrenton, Blaylock doubts that they will ever move to the Hamme's Mill place, but would like to finish it off for sale or rental.

Like the playhouse, it has been a labor of love for Blaylock, who works on his log "projects" when time allows.

"I have no idea how many hours I have spent on the playhouse," Blaylock said. "Most of the work was done in two or three hour segments, just when I could find the time."

Although the house is unfinished, Jenny and her playmates from around the neighborhood this summer found that "her house" was a fine and dandy place to play.

Jenny hopes to be "in" her new quarters by next summer.

Her contractor seems anxious to finish the job.

He has just ordered a new book containing plans for 50 of the finest log cabins in the country.

"It'll give me some new ideas," Blaylock said.

Perhaps he was thinking about a house for the lawnmower.

Cut calories by sifting confectioner's sugar onto baked goods instead of frosting them.

Pastor Makes Plea For More Clothing For Fire Victims

Warren County Cooperative Ministries (WCCM) is asking that blankets, bedsheets, towels and other linens be donated to its clothing closet so that these necessary items can be distributed to victims of fire and those who have suffered other disabling accidents.

"In recent weeks, many of our fellow residents have been left cold and without a roof over their heads due to fires that have destroyed their homes," the Rev. Bob Lowman, ministries chairman, said this week. "Others who do not have such needed items as blankets are going cold at night. We can help solve these problems by giving the needed items so that they can be distributed accordingly."

If you have items to donate, please contact the Rev. Mr. Lowman at 456-2121 or Mrs. Winnie Thompson, secretary, at 257-1958. You can also write to the organization at P.O. Box 100, Norlina, 27563.

The donated items will be available at the WCCM clothing closet on East Franklin Street in Warrenton. The closet, called "Second Hand Helping Hand," is open to the public on the first and second weekends of each month from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The closet can also be opened at any time for those in emergency situations.

"During this Christmas season, what better way to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child than by giving to others as His Father gave so freely to us?" the Rev. Mr. Lowman concluded.

Former Local Attorney Seeking Judge's Seat

Oxford attorney Willie S. Darby has announced his candidacy for election as district court judge for the Ninth Judicial District, composed of Granville, Person, Franklin, Warren and Vance counties.

Darby is seeking the judgeship being vacated by the Honorable Ben U. Allen, who is retiring.

Darby graduated magna cum laude from North Carolina Central University in 1975 with a B.A. degree in political science.

He earned his law degree at N.C. Central Law School in 1978.

Following his admission to the bar in 1978, Darby was employed by North Central Legal

Assistance Program in Henderson where he concentrated in housing, consumer and hospital law for two and one-half years.

He was associated with the firm of T. T. Clayton, P.A. of Warrenton for one year before establishing his own practice.

He is a member of the N.C. Bar Association, American Bar Association, Federal District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Charles Williamson Bar Association and the N.C. Association of Black Lawyers.

Darby is a member of the Penn Avenue Baptist Church in Oxford where he serves on the deacon board and as a Sunday School superintendent and teacher. He is a member of various community and civic organizations and serves as legal advisor for the Granville County Friends of Youth.

An Oxford native, Darby is married to the former Margaret D. Moore of Rocky Mount, an elementary school teacher in Granville County. The Darbys have two daughters, Witasha and Frantia.

Announcing earlier that they would seek the seat being vacated by Judge Allen were Warrenton attorney Julius E. Banzet, III and Henderson attorney Herbert Weldon Lloyd, Jr.

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