



**RANGER RICK** - Students at B.F. Grady School have formed a Ranger Rick Club to learn the importance of nature and the outdoors. Sponsor of the club is Betty Sanderson. Members are: first row, Scott Britt, Don Bell and Steve Turner. Second row, Todd Smith, Morgan Herring, Kevin Sutton, Rodney Scott, Shane Dunn, Tony

Jones, Robby Price, Larry Kornegay, and Kevin Atkinson. Third row, Tammy Lupton, Michelle Smith, Renee' Byrd, Christa Grady, Ashlea Scott, Kimberly Harper, Susan Grady, Regina Jones, Lori Worrell, Penny Rouse and Sherry Wallace. (Photo by Sabrina Grady)

## Along the Way

By Emily Killette

### Duplin Celebrates Strawberry Season

Strawberry season was once a celebrated event in Duplin County, and strawberries were once a major crop in the area.

The town of Wallace began a week-long festival in celebration of strawberries during 1935. The county farmers grew strawberries as one of their major produce crops during the 1980s. Crates of strawberries had a market value of about \$1.75 during the mid-1930s. May was the major harvest season and the month in which the strawberry festival was held.

During the 1936 Strawberry Festival, promoter J. Aubrey Harrell, mayor of Wallace, predicted a turnout of 16,000 people. As publicity, the mayor, accompanied by 22 young girls and 11 adults, traveled throughout eastern North Carolina in automobiles. The first day of the motorcade was spent enroute to Raleigh via Goldsboro and Fayetteville. The second day was spent traveling to the towns of Wilmington, Whiteville and Lumberton. The final day included visits to the towns of Kinston, Snow Hill, Farmville and Wilson. The motorcade was escorted by two highway patrolmen and received in each town by the local mayor and police chief. Not only did the motorcade stop in the large towns mentioned above, but the Duplin folds stopped to publicize the festival in the small towns and crossroads!

The festival of 1936 included more than a regular celebration with a dance, queen and exhibits — this festival included a wedding. The wedding was held in the exhibit hall Thursday night of the festival with Gladys Sheffield of Wallace marrying Jack Parker. The exhibit hall and dance floor were located in Blanchard's Warehouse. Concluding the festival on Saturday night was a drawing for the festival grand



prize, a 1936 Chevrolet coach! Ticketholders bought admission to the festival's exhibits, closing night dance, and entertainment by such groups as Hal Thurston's 10-piece orchestra, and blues singer, nine circus acts, including the famous acrobatic act of Miss Millie Long, and Si Stone and his educated mule. Duplin citizens were not to be laughed at for their interest in a man and a supposedly "educated mule." Si Stone and mule had appeared as a featured attraction of the 1935 North Carolina State Fair!

The days of strawberries as a major produce crop for Duplin farmers has long passed, and new more profitable ones have replaced the berries. Among the replacement crops farmers are raising many types of poultry and growing cucumers, and an even newer crop to Duplin farmers is grapes. However, the strawberry crops are not gone from Duplin County. In almost each town, there is a local pick-your-own strawberry field which is open to the public.

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## Deaths And Funerals

**ROYIE M. CREEL**  
SEVEN SPRINGS - Royie Maxwell Creel, 71, died Monday. Funeral, Tyndall Funeral Home chapel. Burial, Westbrook family cemetery, Dobbersville.  
Surviving: son, Bobby Creel of Raleigh; brother, Osborn Creel of Newton; sister, Mrs. Doris Gurley of Seven Springs; three grandchildren.

**TARA R. MOORE**  
TEACHEY - Tara Renee Moore, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Moore of Teachey, died Wednesday. Funeral, Wallace Church of God. Burial, River-view Memorial Park.  
Surviving: parents; maternal grandparents, the Rev. and Mrs. Bill Braswell of Teachey; paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Moore of Teachey; maternal great-grandmother, Mrs. Eugelia Braswell of Smithfield; maternal great-grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Brewer of Selma; paternal great-grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Moore of Teachey, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Caison of Wallace.

**LAUDIE P. HUDSON**  
CLINTON - Laudie Pellon Hudson, 75, retired automobile dealer, died Tuesday. Funeral, Holly Grove Presbyterian Church. Burial, church cemetery.  
Surviving: daughters, Mrs. Celestial Butler of Rose Hill, Mrs. Evelyn Blackburn of Mocksville, Mrs. Jean Wray of Hope Mills; sons, Joseph Hudson of Clinton, Pellon Hudson of Zionsville, Ind., Otis Hudson of Fayetteville, Gerald Hudson of Clinton; sisters, Mrs. Correnna Belle Boyette and Mrs. Janie B. Wallace, both of Clinton, Mrs. Ilene Guy of Magnolia, Mrs. Minnie Pearl Pearsall of Warsaw; 26 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren.

**CLIFFORD P. BROWN**  
BEULAVILLE - Clifford Parhan Brown, 68, died Wednesday. Funeral, Edgerton Funeral Home chapel, Beulaville. Burial, Burch Brown Cemetery.  
Surviving: brother, Osborne Brown of Chinquapin.

**DOCIA E. BROCK**  
BEULAVILLE - Mrs. Docia Ezzell Brock, 66, died Wednesday. Funeral, Edgerton Funeral Home chapel. Burial, Devotional Gardens, Warsaw.  
Surviving: widower, Willie C. Brock; daughter, Mrs. Frances Young of Teachey; sons, Edward Brock of Beulaville, Richard Brock of Pink Hill, Everett Brock of Vanvick, Texas, Allen Brock of Charleston, S.C., J.D. Brock of Advance; 11 grandchildren; one great-grandchild.

**MILDRED L. WILLIAMS**  
BEULAVILLE - Mrs. Mildred Lanier Williams, 59, died Wednesday. Funeral, Community Funeral Home chapel. Burial, East Duplin Memorial Gardens.  
Surviving: widower, Norman Williams; brothers, Russell J. Lanier Sr., of Wrightsville Beach, Kenneth Lanier of Orlando, Fla.

**MELVIN KELLY**  
WALLACE - Melvin Kelly, 55, died Saturday. Funeral, Edgerton Funeral Home chapel. Burial, James Cemetery.  
Surviving: stepdaughters, Mrs. Mary Cagle of Castle Hayne, Mrs. Christine Dodson and Mrs. George Anna Kennedy, both of Wallace; stepsons, Roland H. Brown, Daniel Brown, J.D. Brown and Alvin Brown, all of Wallace; mother, Mrs. Mae Dail Kelly of Wallace; sister, Mrs. Lola Mae Boney of Wallace; brother, Fred Kelly Jr. of Pink Hill; 23 step-grandchildren; 11 great-step-grandchildren.

**HENRY W. POPE**  
TURKEY - Henry Welbert Pope Jr., 59, died Sunday. Funeral, Turkey Baptist Church. Burial, church cemetery.  
Surviving: widow, Mrs. Alene R. Pope; daughters, Mrs. Mary P. King of Clinton, Mrs. Janie P. Robinson of Delway; sons, Max Pope of Turkey, Phil Pope of Fort

Polk, La.; mother, Mrs. Elnora H. Pope of Turkey; four grandchildren.

**BESSIE L. S. RACKLEY**  
MAGNOLIA - Mrs. Bessie L. Strickland Rackley, 85, died Saturday. Funeral, Magnolia Baptist Church. Burial, Magnolia Cemetery.  
Surviving: daughters,

Mrs. Decima Lee Bowman of Magnolia, Mrs. Glenda Teeny Johnson of Wilmington; son, Charles H. Rackley of Magnolia; half brothers, Charlie W. Strickland of Tarboro, John W. Strickland of Northampton, Va., Robert L. Strickland of Norfolk, Va.; nine grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren.

## Lady Tigers Back On Winning Track

The Lady Tigers traveled to Hobbton to face the Wildcats on Thursday, April 29. They jumped to a quick 3-0 lead in the top of the first. The Wildcats went down in order in their half of the inning. The Lady Tigers came on strong in the second to score seven runs. Hobbton scored their only run of the game in the second to make the score 10-1. The Lady Tigers scored the final run of the game when Deneen Maready homered. The game was called after the fifth due to a ten-run-rule that was in effect. The Lady Tigers played a superb defensive game,

having no errors. They are presently tied with Union for first place with a 7-2 conference record. The Lady Tigers' next home game is May 10 when they host South Lenoir.

## CPR Class

A CPR class will be taught beginning May 10th beginning at 6 p.m. If you are interested in taking the course, contact 296-0247 or 296-1823. The instructor will be Andie Bostic.

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