

Good Luck Was Just A Phone Call Away For Sherrow Estates Couple



LINWOOD AND DEEDIE ROBINSON show the 1988 Ford Mustang convertible he won in a fundraising project for a Myrtle Beach, S.C. school. "Linwood's a

lucky man," said John Fazekas, who is chairman of the Coastal Academy board and the man who sold Robinson the winning ticket.

When the phone rang at 1:30 a.m. that Saturday, Linwood Robinson bounded out of bed and answered on the first ring.

He was expecting good news, and that's what he got—word that he had just won a 1988 Ford Mustang convertible; he could pick it up that day.

"I had dreamed I had won the car," said Robinson, a self-employed businessman and Sherrow Estates resident. "I was already awake."

Earlier, Robinson had purchased several chances on the car from Shallotte business owner John Fazekas, chairman of the board for Coastal Academy, a private school in Myrtle Beach, S.C. The car project was part of the Mothers Club's Spring Fling, an annual fundraising event that supports the school, netting approximately \$30,000 this year alone.

Robinson had Fazekas choose the tickets for him, then he tapped one—No. 131, he thinks it was, and told the merchant, "This is the ticket. It's going to win. You can throw the rest of them away."

Tuesday Fazekas recalled the conversation, adding, "And that ticket won! Linwood's a lucky man."

A year ago, he continued, Robinson came within one ticket of sharing the top prize—a boat and truck combo. His ticket was drawn, leaving two in the pot. Their owners chose to share the prize, rather than tak-

ing a chance on winner take all.

This time, when the drawing narrowed to two tickets, Robinson was ready to share the grand prize with the owner of the second ticket—a Shallotte Point couple, John and Amy Watkins. But the person representing them was reluctant to commit on their behalf. So, instead, the car went to the Robinsons.

That Saturday, they drove to Myrtle Beach, S.C., to pick it up. Given a choice of a red or white convertible, the two took the white, said his wife Deedie, because it was an automatic.

In the past he has won "rods and reels, things like that, but no big thing," said Robinson. That is, until April 15.

The car, said its smiling owner, is "one of those once in a lifetime things."

Robinson, who routinely buys chance tickets for worthwhile projects, is a little superstitious when it comes to talking about the numbers. "You'd better not print that," he said of one of his comments. "That might break my luck."

While Robinson was elated at winning, Deedie was stunned as well. She hadn't even known he'd bought the tickets. And, she added, "I'd never heard of anyone around here winning a car, much less Linwood."

He not only won it, but he's letting Deedie drive it.

Beef Checkoff Referendum Scheduled

Local beef producers will join cattlemen across the country in a nationwide referendum next month to decide whether they want to continue an assessment program aimed at ensuring the future of their industry.

According to Brunswick County Agricultural Extension Service Chairman Milton Coleman, the purpose of the May 10 referendum is to allow beef producers to decide if they want to continue a \$1 per head checkoff program which finances beef promotion and research projects.

Coleman said there are about 60 or 65 producers in the county who are affected by the program. "Most of the people involved have received many benefits from the program," he said.

Voter registration will be held the day of the referendum, and votes must be cast at the county Agricultural Extension office in Bolivia from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Anyone who owned at least one bovine animal between Oct. 1, 1986 and March 31, 1988, is eligible to vote

in the referendum. There is no age limit.

Harold Robinson of Supply, a cattle producer and president of the Brunswick County Farm Bureau, is chairman of a local committee formed to promote the national beef research program and positive votes in the referendum.

While producers will not be required to prove cattle ownership unless someone issues a challenge, they will have to sign a certification statement stating that they owned a cattle sometime during the period.

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service will tabulate votes nationwide on May 24. A simple majority is needed to pass or fail the beef checkoff.

Coleman explained that while most North Carolina producers have traditionally supported the program, some midwestern states have recently opposed the assessment.

He added, however, that states with the largest numbers of producers, and eligible voters, have been in favor of continuing the pro-

gram in past referendums. The program was first started in 1961 and comes to a referendum of producers every four years.

According to beef referendum rules, producers who reside in one county but own a ranch in another must vote in the county in which they live.

Also, a group of persons owning cattle in a partnership will be entitled to one collective vote. Voting by proxy will not be allowed.

For the first time this year, producers will be permitted to vote using absentee ballots. However, these ballots must be requested no later than Friday, April 29.

For more information, call the Brunswick County Agricultural Extension Service office at 253-4425.

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