

IT'S TEA TIME FOR REUNITED FAMILY

British Mother Visiting Daughter In Shallotte

BY DOUG RUTTER

While golfers were teeing up at Brierwood Golf Club on a recent sunny morning, a mother and daughter quietly shared tea and conversation in a nearby condominium.

This wasn't just any mother and daughter chat. These two were citizens of different countries who hadn't seen each other in 16 years.

Hazel Wood, a resident of Brierwood Estates in Shallotte, and her mother, Joyce Bugdale of England, are spending their first time together since 1974.

The women had kept in touch through telephone conversations and letters. But they hadn't been able to visit because they were busy caring for their sick husbands, both of whom have died in the last 16 months.

"That's sad isn't it?" Mrs. Wood asked. "Sometimes through death you have joy."

The 80-year-old mother recently arrived for a month-long visit, her first trip to this side of the Atlantic Ocean in 20 years. She was born in Norwich, England, in 1910 and has lived there almost all of her life.

Despite her age, disability and poor vision, Mrs. Bugdale thinks very clearly and has strong opinions that she doesn't hesitate to share.

For instance, while she respects the tradition and ceremony of the British king and queen, she doesn't think the government should pay to raise their children and other "hangers-on."

Mrs. Bugdale, who has resided in the same house for the last 53 years, is extremely proud to call herself British—not English. British people are born in England, she explains, and people who come from a foreign country to live in England are English.

The spy mother of six said one of the first things she noticed about Shallotte was the lack of stray dogs. Lots of dogs roam the streets in her hometown, which is about 100 miles northeast of London.

"They're not strict enough with dogs in England," Mrs. Bugdale says in a Norfolk accent, named after the county she comes from in England. "They foul the pavement and they foul the parks."

Mrs. Bugdale also said England has a bigger problem with litter than the United States, even though recyclable items can be dropped off at grocery stores. "People are just not that litter conscious."

The state-funded health care system is one major advantage of living in England. As a disabled senior citizen, Mrs. Bugdale said the government pays for her medical treatment, medicine and eye glasses. The doctors even make house calls.

"It's lovely to be free of worry if you're ill," said Mrs. Bugdale, who has 20 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Bugdale said the climate in southeastern North



HAZEL WOOD (right) of Shallotte pours a cup of tea for her British mother, Joyce Bugdale. They are spending their first time together in 16 years.

Carolina is quite different than what she left behind in Norwich. It was 3 degrees below zero when she departed England in mid-January.

Mrs. Wood said her mother takes the cold a lot better than she does. "She was sitting outside yesterday, and I was inside running the heater," she said with a chuckle.

Mrs. Bugdale, who has vivid memories of air raids during World War II, said she thinks it was a mistake to tear down the Berlin Wall. She said it opens the way for another fanatic like Adolf Hitler to come into power.

Both women recalled a time during the war when bombs knocked down four houses across the street but didn't do any damage to their home. Mrs. Wood said she darned socks for American soldiers when she was 11 years old.

While she admits Great Britain is becoming more American every day, Mrs. Bugdale says traditions like

tea and crumpets are still very much alive.

"You must have a cup of tea first thing," she said. "There's a lot more coffee now, but tea is still the drink of England."

Mrs. Bugdale said she drinks about seven cups every day. She brought 240 tea bags to America to keep her going while she's visiting.

"She doesn't want to run out," her daughter explains. "I keep telling her we have the same kind of tea here. But she wanted to bring her own."

Mrs. Wood has lived in the United States off and on since 1957. She made the move after marrying an American serviceman and lived in Little Rock, Ark., and Columbus, Ohio, before moving to Shallotte in 1982.

Mrs. Bugdale said she noticed plenty of southern hospitality during her journey to Shallotte. At the airport in Atlanta, Mrs. Bugdale said she was shocked when a stranger came up and placed a napkin under her

cup of coffee.

She said that would never happen in England, where most people won't even talk to someone they don't know. "They would think you were being really funny," Mrs. Bugdale said.

After being away from her mother for 16 years, Mrs. Wood said she'll need the entire month to catch up on family affairs. She has four sisters and a brother, all of whom live in England.

She said she plans to take her mother to the beach, church and shopping during their time together.

"Talking on the phone and writing letters just isn't the same as sitting down and having a face-to-face chat," she said. "I'm still interested to know what's going on back home after all these years."

On Feb. 1, Mrs. Wood plans to celebrate her mother's 81st birthday in style. "We're going to give her an all-American birthday party."

Relaxing, Affordable...

Down East Spas

...by Fort Wayne Pools

Make Your Spa A Party!
Use: BioGuard Spa Guard Products
Chlorine Concentrate • Water Clarifier • PH Balancers

PROFESSIONAL POOL MAINTENANCE
Hwy. 179, Island Village Specialty Shops, Ocean Isle Beach, Behind IGA
579-8828 OPEN MONDAY - SATURDAY
Daily Maintenance
Chemicals • Accessories & Equipment

Enjoy a romantic evening of dining & dancing!

Piper's Restaurant
OLD GEORGETOWN ROAD • CALABASH
Call 579-9373 for reservations

Join us Feb. 14. Dinner served 7-9 pm, dancing til midnight.

♥ Prime Rib Dinner
♥ Free Champagne
♥ Roses for the Ladies
\$40 Per Couple

♥ Discount Bar
♥ Appetizers
♥ Hors d'oeuvres

GOLF and COUNTRY CLUB AT CALABASH

Free Delivery

DISCOUNT FURNITURE WAREHOUSE
OF BRUNSWICK COUNTY, INC.
ON LONG BEACH ROAD IN SOUTHPORT

457-6613

★ FREE ★
UP TO 12 MONTHS
FREE FINANCING
On any purchase over \$200 (with approved credit)
★ Feb. 1 Thru Feb. 16 ★

Take The Short Drive To GREAT Savings!
100% Financing ★ FREE DELIVERY ★
Open Mon.-Sat. 10-6