

COLUMNS

From our house to yours: A Place Called Home 2007

Today you hold in your hands the first edition of what we hope will become annual event of your newspaper. We believe "A Place Called Home" to be the most special edition ever produced by our staff.



Bill Parsons
Publisher

Those were the words that I used on November 30, 2006 to start off my column entitled "Our gift to you...". In my effort to introduce our new special edition to our readers, little did I realize just how true those words were and how very special "A Place Called Home" was going to be. We heard from our readers throughout Cleveland and Gaston counties how much they loved the stories and old pictures. Many readers called requesting additional copies to send to relatives and friends in other parts of the state or nation. What a special feeling it is when your readers want more of any edition.

Our staff was honored when "A Place Called Home" went on to be selected the best special edition by the North Carolina Press Association. As much as

we appreciate the recognition by our peers, it was the response that we received from our readers that has made that edition so special and us so proud. Because of that wonderful recognition, it makes producing a second edition just that more difficult. But our staff is always up for a challenge, so here we go with "A Place Called Home" 2007.

This year's edition is even larger than last year's and we believe even more special. It is special for many reasons, but no reason more important than this entire edition was done for our readers at their request. After "A Place Called Home" premiered in November of 2006, we received many phone calls, emails and letters requesting more old pictures and stories. We have had dozens of people bring in hundreds of old photos from their scrap books, shoe boxes and photo albums. They also offered ideas and suggestions about interesting charters and other story lines. With such an outstanding response as that, our decision to do "A Place Called Home" part two, was an easy one.

Our goal with this year's edition was the same as last. We want to do an edition that would bring back fond memories of a time and place that used to be. We want to make you smile or

maybe even shed a tear. For those that have lived in this wonderful area all their lives, we want to take you back in time. For those that are new to the area, we want this edition to be a history lesson on how these communities came to be. We think you will enjoy finding out about this place that you now call home.

This edition is our gift to you, our wonderful readers. As with any gift, we wanted to make it very special. One that you would enjoy not only today, but for years to come. Maybe one that you would even want to pass down to a family member as you would any fine keepsake. In order to present you with such a very special gift, many long hours by some very dedicated people have gone into making this project a reality and I would like to take time to thank those people for a job well done.

The stories and pictures you are about to see and read are a result of the hard work of our editorial departments under the leadership of Gary Stewart, Diane Turbyfill and Michael Powell. They had excellent support from reporters Emily Weaver, Lib Stewart, Jim Heffner, Thomas Lark and Tara Manjarres. In addition to writing many of the stories and editing

them, bannernews editor, Diane Turbyfill also coordinated the entire project. An overall super effort effort by super people.

The exciting advertising support we received from throughout the area was the result of an outstanding effort on the part of our sales staff, Nancy Miller, Paul Cabe, John Bridges and Amy Doster. This section would not have been possible without their extra effort.

The future award winning ads were created by our great production department members Dan Shoemaker and Lisa Zyble. As graphic designers, their job is to make the advertisers' ads stand out and I think you will certainly see the results of superior work.

As with all of our efforts throughout the year, this edition would not have reached your homes without the tireless work of our circulation department, led by Betty Johnson. Thanks to Mary Wood, Helen Wells, Tracy Parsons and Cindy Welch. I want to also thank our driver and jack of all trades, Claude Dixon for not only his effort on this project, but for over 60 years of dedicated service to our company. Kathy Reynolds and Janey Ollis worked diligently answering phones and directing traffic as readers brought in photos and

stories to share.

As always our biggest thank you goes to you our readers and advertisers. Without your loyal readership and support, there would be no special sections or even your weekly newspapers. We are thankful that we live in communities where people still care about families, friends, neighbors and heritage. That is why most people call an area home. Thank you for sharing your pictures, stories and memories with us. Thank you for sharing the place that you call home.

On behalf of our entire staff, we know how important it is that we support each other, but we also know how important it is to have the support of our families. I would like to thank each of them for their support and encouragement.

We hope you enjoy our special gift of "A Place Called Home" as much as we have enjoyed bringing it to you. As we enter into this most remarkable season of giving, when the greatest of all gifts were given, on behalf of our staff and our families, I would like to be one of the first to wish you and your family a most blessed holiday season. From the place that we call home to your home, we wish you a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.

A time to celebrate love and gratitude

The first American Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1621, to commemorate the harvest reaped by the Plymouth colony after a bad winter. Governor William Bradford proclaimed a day of



Thanksgiving. Days of Thanksgiving were celebrated throughout colonies after fall harvests.

All thirteen colonies did not participate until October 1777. President George Washington was the first president to declare the holiday in 1789.

By the middle of the 1800's, many states observed a traditional Thanksgiving holiday.

The state of New York officially made Thanksgiving Day

an annual custom in 1817.

During the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln looked at ways to unite the nation. On October 3, 1863 he gave his Thanksgiving Proclamation, declaring the last Thursday in November a day of Thanksgiving.

In 1939, 1940 and 1941 President Franklin D. Roosevelt lengthened the Christmas shopping season, proclaiming Thanksgiving the

third Thursday in November. However, the US Congress passed a joint resolution in 1941 declaring that Thanksgiving fall on the fourth Thursday of November, where we currently celebrate it.

We as Americans have so much to be Thankful for.

In 2007, Americans have such busy schedules and we fail to remember the many things that we should be thankful for including our families, friends

and most of all our salvation. Psalm 136:26 says, "O give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever."

Thanksgiving Day is one of those joyous events we celebrate with lots of love and gratitude.

Let's remember to be thankful this Thanksgiving.

J. Wayne King II is chairman of the Cleveland County Republican Party.

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Phone (704) 739-7496 • Fax (704) 739-0611
Office: 824-1 East King Street • Kings Mountain, NC 28086
E-mail: heraldnews@kingsmountainherald.com

Bill Parsons - Publisher
(bparsons@kingsmountainherald.com)

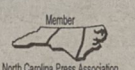
Gary Stewart - Editor
(gstewart@kingsmountainherald.com)

Emily Weaver - Staff Writer
Nancy Miller - Advertising Coordinator
Dan Shoemaker - Composing Manager
Lisa Zyble - Graphic Designer
Kathy Reynolds - Circulation/Office Clerk
Janey Ollis - Receptionist
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