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Rotary Leaders Following Family Footprints

Rotary leadership is quite a family tradition for the president and president-elect of the Wadesboro Rotary Club for 2012-2013. Carly Little, who began her one-year term as president on July 1, is a third-generation Rotarian following in the footsteps of her late father, Henry Little, and late grandfather, Hal Little. Henry Little served as president of the Wadesboro Rotary Club from 1990-91. Hal Little was the club's seventh president, serving from 1933-34. In addition Hal Little served as a Rotary district governor from 1957-58. He is one of three members of the Wadesboro club to serve as district governor.

There are many other family connections to the Wadesboro Rotary Club for Carly. Her aunt Dora Anne Little was the club's first female member. Four of her great-uncles, all now deceased, served as president of the Wadesboro club: Tom Little (1947-48), A. Paul Kitchen (1948-49), Charles Little (1950-51), and Risdan A. Lyon (1953-54).



New Rotary officers are pictured here, from left, Jason Kiker, Kim Wilson, Todd Moore, Terri Martin, Lois Crumpler, Wesley Horne, Fred Sparger, Sue Newton, Ashley Rivers, John Witherspoon, Don Altieri, Carly Little and Lewis Evans.

President-elect Wesley Horne is also a third-generation Rotarian. His father, Chuck Horne, was president of the Wadesboro club from 1994-95 and has also served terms as a district lieutenant governor. Wesley's grandfather, the late Kenneth W. Horne, was president of the Wadesboro Rotary Club from 1959-60. The president-elect presides in the absence of the president and is also responsible for orchestrating the club's annual Election Day fundraiser.

Other officers for the 2012-13 Rotary year are: Todd Moore, vice president; Sue Newton, secretary; Ashley Rivers, secretary-elect; Kim Wilson, treasurer; Jarvis Woodburn, sergeant-at-arms; and James David Lee, past president. Committee chairs are: John Witherspoon, Foundation; Lewis Evans, Community Service; Ken Caulder and Terri Martin, Club Service; and Jason Kiker, Vocational Service. Other members of the board of directors are Past District Gov. Lois Crumpler, club trainer; Dr. Don Altieri, coordinator of the Rotary Planetarium and Science Center; and Fred Sparger, public relations.

The Wadesboro Rotary Club, founded in 1927, is one of 58 in Rotary International District 7680 which includes approximately 3,000 members in 14 west-central North Carolina counties. Rotary International includes 34,000 clubs and about 1.2 million members worldwide.

To the Country Store For a Moonpie and a Mountain Dew

Do you have a country store in your collection of memories from past experiences? Recently I observed a photo of a country store setting along with a caption reading, A moonpie and an RC Cola at the Country Store. Thoughts of my own visits to the country store washed over me like warm ocean waves in the summertime.

Of course, growing up in Polkton provided several country store experiences. There was Sugartown, White Store and Carl Lee Jackson's to name a few. But the one closest to my heart, and I mean that literally, was Mr. Frank Griffin's Country Store located on the Polkton-Ansonville Road, just a couple of miles out of town.

We lived in what we commonly referred to as the big curve on that same road, just before you got to the Allen's and Brooks' family homes, within the city limits. And on many given Saturdays my little sister Tammy and I would ride our bicycles out to "Mr. Franks." If we had managed to save some change during the week, each of us could purchase whatever we wanted, visit with Mr. Frank and then pedal back home. It was my version of a fantastic way to spend a Saturday afternoon.

Tammy would usually buy a pack of sweet tarts and I remember them lasting for the remainder of the weekend. That's what you call savoring. I usually had a hankering for a cold Mountain Dew, there weren't many things better back in those days. But, as we made this an "every sunny Saturday afternoon occasion," Mr. Frank took notice and somehow knew when we would arrive. Soon he had a pack of sweet tarts waiting on the counter and would be making his way back to a small, rounded old refrigerator located at the back of his store - it was his personal refrigerator - and that made it even more appealing to me. Upon his arrival up to the front counter he had in his hand two Mountain Dews, so cold they had formed slush inside the bottles. He would snap off the caps with his church key bottle opener, hand me one of the bottles and take the other himself. We'd clink the two bottles together like they did in the movies and sit there on wooden Coca Cola crates, telling stories of what had taken place during that week.

Even as a fairly young kid I knew it was a special time and a special place. Where else would the store owner make preparations for a kid's visit, take extra care to be certain that slushiness had formed inside the bottles and then take the time to share it with me? I couldn't think of another place and that made me feel special too. Like my sister, I would make that Mountain Dew last as long as possible whilst we talked and he told stories about his past experiences. He had hundreds and I loved each one.

This probably sounds very hokey in comparison to what the kids of today do to fill their Saturday afternoons. Most are too busy to pedal their bicycles to the middle of nowhere, much less take the time to sit on a crate with an "old gentleman," and have a "real life" conversation. But for me, and as you can see by this story I write, it was worthy of making my "most cherished memories list."

Eventually we moved to within just about a stone's throw to the store and I could pedal there in about a minute and a half. I was older and wiser, but the scenario didn't change otherwise. Because the bike ride had become a lot shorter we wouldn't need two Mountain Dews, so Mr. Frank would only prepare one, and we'd split it! He would pour what he called "half" into a cup and leave the other "half" in the green bottle. He'd always slide the bottle toward me where the contents contained far more than "half," and I knew that. Often I would try and get him to take the bottle rather than the cup, but he wouldn't hear of it. After that little tug 'o war we'd continue as usual, sipping slushy Mountain Dew and telling stories about God only knows what, until it was time for me to go. This same story played out week after week, and even year after year.

I recall the day I told him that I had been accepted to Wingate College and would be leaving soon. If you can believe this, tears welled up in his eyes and he gave me a sweet hug. "You know I'm proud of you, Melanie. But I'm gonna miss you just a little bit," he said. His words made tears stream down my face as I replied, "I'm gonna miss you too." And then, instead of talking about old times and old stories, we began a new chapter called, "Tell me what you're going to do with your life and what you want to become." It was the end of one book and the beginning of a new one.

On the weekends that I came home I drove out to the country store and visited with Mr. Frank. It wasn't every Saturday, but I went as often as I could. The Mountain Dews never had slush in them anymore but they still hit the spot just the same. Sometimes he tried to slip a \$10 bill into my brown paper sack, "it's just a little spendin' money," he'd say. But having had it happen once, I always made it a point to look before leaving and hand it back to him with a heartfelt "Thank you, but I just can't."

I found out that his store was closing and went out to see Mr. Frank. As we enjoyed a Mountain Dew together he said that he was glad to be retiring, but that he was going to miss some of the people who patronized his store, and that I was one of them. Then he told me that he would like for me to have something from his store...to look around and have anything I would like. The aisles were mostly empty by then, but I spotted a wooden Coca Cola crate and asked if I could have it. I used that old crate for many years as a shadowbox, and now have it stored safely at my mother's home.

Those were the days my friends. What a peaceful sense of comfort I feel as I reminisce. If you're under the age of 50 you're probably calling me something along the lines of "Dorky." But for some, you'll know exactly what I'm talking about, because you too have your own country store experiences in one of the many stores located throughout the hills and backroads of Anson County. If so, I hope you take the time to remember them fondly.

Now, every time I see the clear green glass of a Mountain Dew bottle, in photographs of course, I remember the sweet, good times I shared with Mr. Frank and that country store of his. Sometimes I cry a little, but more importantly, I always smile. Here's to you Mr. Frank. I can still hear those two bottles go clink!
By Melanie Lyon

Wadesboro's Police Department in the Early 1950's



Pictured here is the whole Wadesboro Police Department in the early 1950's. They are, from left, Lex Burch, Beverly Teal, Waldo Stroud, Chief Vernon Smith, Bonam Shaver and Shorty Huntley.

Wadesboro has a little more population now, but lots more police officers and vehicles.

HOLLA! To Host Collegiate Cookout this Saturday in Morven

College students from throughout the region are invited to a cookout at the HOLLA! Mary E. Little Community Center in Morven this Saturday, July 28. This event will begin at 4 p.m. and will be packed with good food, music, gifts, prizes and motivation. While they last, students will be presented with gifts from HOLLA! Partners, Bed, Bath and Beyond, The Pottery Barn, Home Depot, Centralina Workforce Development...and the list grows on daily.

North Carolina A&T State University student Chris Jones, an organizer of the event, is urging all other college students to come and wear their school paraphernalia. Jones is a graduate of Anson County New Tech High School in Wadesboro.

HOLLA! officials say that everyone is invited to come out either as a student or as a supporter of students. Supporters are requested to be there by 3 p.m. For more information, call 704-851-3144 or 704-851-3228.

Loaded Dice at Summer Jam August 3

Everyone is invited to come to the Summer Jam on Friday, August 3 on East Wade Street in uptown Wadesboro. Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. is presenting this fun night of music, beginning at 7 p.m. and running until 10 p.m. Loaded Dice, a five piece band featuring lead and rhythm guitars, keyboards, bass guitar and drums as well as three and four part vocal harmonies, will churn out classic and southern blues rock, country, beach, oldies and top 40 dance tunes. There will be concessions and activities for the kids too.

The sponsors for the event are Ambassador Health and Rehab, Dest Family Dentistry, Glenn Trexler and Sons Logging, Leavitt Funeral Home and Parson Drugs.

Morven is on the MOVE

In a release from HOLLA!: Morven, North Carolina is on the MOVE! Thanks to resources being poured into the town through the non-profit organization Holla. In 2007, the founders of Holla purchased a former hardware store located at 229 East Main Street in Morven. They eventually donated it to Holla. Through a grant acquired from the Golden Leaf Foundation, the building which was built in 1920, has been converted into a modernized community center complete with free WiFi, access to Joblink and The Benefit Bank; a cafe, media center, ballroom, dance studio and a media center. The rear of the building has upper and lower decks and regulation sized basketball and tennis courts.

"If we do not invest in the culture of our communities, we cannot expect returns," said Leon Gatewood, CEO. Gatewood initiated the Holla Movement in 2005 upon realizing that only 54% of the students at the high school were reading on grade level.

The Holla Resource and Community Development Center, which has been named to honor Holla's fallen CFO and community activist, Mary E. Little, has become a valuable resource to the community. The center has hosted family reunions, wedding receptions, group meetings/retreats and mentoring programs. "As a seasoned hospitality professional, I am proud to say that our facility is capable of providing high quality service to our community as well as any venue in the region," said Alex Gaddy. He is the activities director and in-house caterer for the center. Gaddy is also acting as a fundraiser for the organization.

Motivate Overcome Visualize Endure (MOVE) - Holla is also bringing resources into the town of Morven through a grant awarded by the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust. The trust awarded Holla a grant to fight obesity among under privileged children in Anson County. The funds have allowed the organization to develop a fitness center at 201 East Main Street in Morven. The facility has state of the art exercise equipment including treadmills an elliptical, stationery bike and weight training systems. The obesity program targets children aged 6 to 18. Children who fit into the guidelines of the project have free access to the facility and its programs. The facility presently offers free karate classes and weight training. Holla is also developing dance and cheer leading classes which will also be offered free through the project. Holla! officials say they are targeting youth who are interested in these services, but would not normally have the means to support them.

Operation Let's MOVE is a three-year project. Once children log into the program Holla tracks the participants for three years hoping to see improvements in body mass index (BMI) values. Adults are allowed to join the fitness center for \$15 per month.

The obesity project also allowed provisions for Holla to purchase playground equipment which the organization donated to the Town of Morven. The equipment has been installed in the courtyard across the street from Morven Town Hall. "We appreciate the things Holla is doing in our town," said Mayor Houston Pratt.

The Holla Let's MOVE Fitness Center is opened Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. For more information on the obesity program or the fitness center, call the Holla Let's MOVE Fitness Center at 704-851-3228.

ASH Holds Volleyball Tryouts, Camps

Volleyball tryouts for Anson High School will be held on Monday, July 30 through Tuesday, July 31. All interested girls should report to the gymnasium from 5 until 7:30 p.m. both days.

Anson Volleyball Camps have also been scheduled. Grades K-6 should report to AHS gym on August 7 through August 8, from 9 a.m. until noon. Grades 7 and 8 should report to the gym on August 15 and August 16 from 9 a.m. until noon. Cost for camp is \$20 per individual.

Veterans' State and Federal Benefits Seminar

The Anson County Veterans Service Office is sponsoring a meeting for all Anson County veterans and their spouses on August 1st in the Little Theatre at the Hampton B. Allen Library, from 6 until 8 p.m. The library is located at 120 Greene Street in Wadesboro. Topics shared will be state and federal benefits. Also special guests will share about the benefits of a county veterans' council.

Ted Ward, the Veterans Service Officer for Anson County, encourages all veterans and their spouses in Anson County to attend. This meeting will be very informative and enlightening to all present. Any questions contact Ted Ward at (704) 694-4418 or tward@co.anson.nc.us.

Parks and Rec Swim Lessons

The Anson County Parks and Recreation pool is open on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, from 2 to 5 p.m. The fee to swim is \$1 per person. The pool is closed on Mondays and Fridays for maintenance.

Swim Lessons will be available for \$18 on July 30 - August 9. Call 704-694-5868 or 704-694-5751 for more information.

Uptown Wadesboro Farmers Market is Back

The Uptown Wadesboro Farmers Market is now open every Thursday, from 4 to 6 p.m. on the Square. Everyone is invited to come out to buy locally grown vegetables, meats and homemade goodies.

If you would like to sell your produce call 704-695-1644 for more information.

Look inside for special inserts from IGA