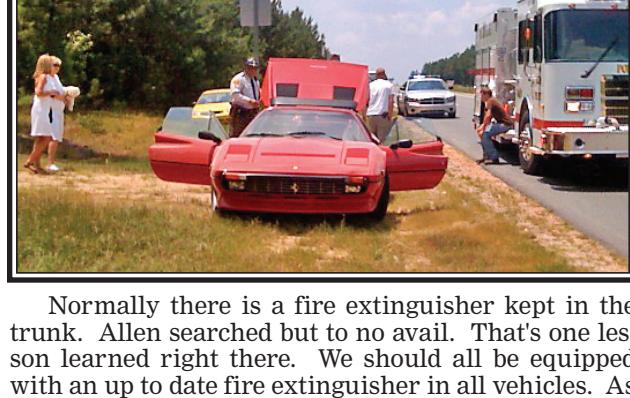


Area Patrol and First Responders Provide "Miracle on 74th Street"

Ever wonder how fast help would arrive if you are stranded beside the road, if you were involved in an accident, or if you had a situation which spiraled out of your control? It would be my guess that we've all had those thoughts and wondered how those particular moments would pan out. I found out for myself on Sunday afternoon, which played out like a "Miracle on 74th Street."

It was a typical and leisurely day, just like most during the summertime months in Anson County, as Allen and I drove across the scenic acreage of the community back roads. It just so happened there was a bridge repair going on and, therefore, a detour guided us back to Polkton to Highway 74. Through my writings you may have read one of my favorite quotes, "All God's Angels come to us disguised," and that's truly what I believe to have happened on Sunday, as a small but meaningful miracle occurred.

It wasn't by chance that we ended up in Polkton that day, rather than far out in the middle of absolutely nowhere. For Polkton offered us the greatest chance for salvation in this particular situation. As we headed back toward Wadesboro we looked up to see smoke belching out the rear of the car, where the engine is found on some sports cars. Fellow drivers passed beside, honking and shouting, "Your car is on fire!" So we headed to the nearest and best place to pull over.



Normally there is a fire extinguisher kept in the trunk. Allen searched but to no avail. That's one lesson learned right there. We should all be equipped with an up to date fire extinguisher in all vehicles. As it turns out, it's amazing how one simple piece of equipment can save you or your possessions.

In the blink of an eye I looked up as I was telephoning 911, Highway Patrol Officer Landrie Reid was already on the scene and coming to our aid with his own fire extinguisher, and in a poof the fire was out. It was a miracle! You see, after jumping from the car, Allen and I opened the engine area and found blazes lapping in all directions, even underneath. There was no extinguisher and nothing to use to put out the ominous blaze of yellow flames. Solemnly moving away from the car we expected wholeheartedly to stand there helplessly and watch it burn to the ground. Instead, Officer Reid and a small host of firefighters were quick to respond, took command of the situation, and rather than towing away a fully charred hunk of junk, Mr. David Williamson hauled a not so badly burned car back to face repair.

The 911 dispatcher did a fantastic job of deciphering my gibberish as I tried to pinpoint our exact location, officer Reid was quick to react to a cloud of smoke he just happened to observe while nearby, and the Polkton Fire Department, with its fantastic new truck and all the volunteers and firefighters, was on the scene and helping within what seemed to be seconds after our peril began. I kept thinking how lucky to have this happen in a place that will always be near and dear to me, Polkton, the town I grew up in and the town I will forever call home, where I could reach my mom who would come and pick me up, and now the town whose people saved me. For me, they were all Angels, disguised as patrol officers, firefighters, volunteers, a mother and a 911 dispatcher, who lifted us up and kept us out of harm's way. Thank you for the services you offer and the bravery that may go unnoticed, which leads me to the final lesson I learned.

Never again will I take for granted what goes on in, around and behind the scenes of any given situation requiring the services of those who protect us so admirably. These life lessons will prove invaluable to me all the days of my life.

It was an eventful day, beginning with what was meant to be a Sunday drive in a beautiful sports car to end with dinner at our favorite sushi restaurant, the drive instead ended with fried Ferrari! But hey, without those Angels watching over us, this scenario could have been a million times worse and thanks to them it all worked out in the end, fried Ferrari and all!

By Melanie Morse

Democratic Party Meets July 30

The Democratic Party will host their monthly meeting on Thursday, July 30 at 6 p.m. at Hampton B. Allen Library. All interested citizens are encouraged to please be present.

For more information, please contact Vancine Sturdivant, chair, at 704-848-4412 or vsturdivant4261@windstream.net.

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Remembering... By Ed McBride



WBTV Anniversary Celebration

July 15, 1949 - 2009

After many weeks/months of "excited anticipation," WBTV went on the air with a "test pattern" on July 15, 1949. It remained that way for some period of time until all of us could get the sets in the field "set up."

In those days you didn't "just take it out of the box," plug it in the outlet and begin looking at the picture - no way. In those days each television set was removed from the carton and you installed the picture tube that was shipped in a separate carton. Then you made the necessary adjustments - yoke, ion trap, etc.

Then you turned the set on and tried to get a picture or test pattern.

As safe shipping came along the tube was better protected from breakage, and this step was no longer necessary.

When WBTV went on the air, the broadcast day was short (test pattern only), but the daily broadcast time increased as time moved on.

Changes, improvements, and technical knowledge advanced rapidly - some of the sets had a power transformer that

was, alone, as heavy as today's entire tv set - especially going from hand-wired sets and tubes and the like to solid state!

All this technology has changed our America so much. Other than Doug Mayes and Arthur Smith, most of the "tv beginners" have gone on!

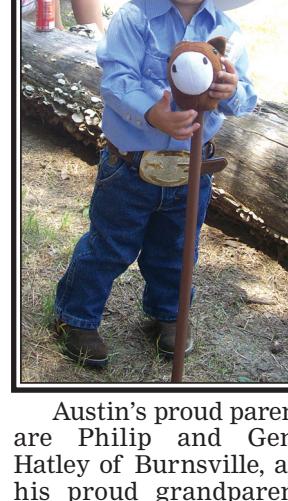
Asked if I miss making tv service calls for \$2.50 and paying shop rent of \$25 per month - and my first new \$1,600 service truck - with not even fog lights! Well you know, it is different - instead of being 27, I am almost 87!!

Some of the original brands were RCA, Stromberg-Carlson, Motorola, GE, Sylvania - none of today's brands - all non USA made.

All of this as we celebrate 60 years of television reception in North Carolina with the "new" digital tv broadcasting. As Allen says, "My, that is a lot of water over the dam."

1921 • Lucy H. McBride • 2009
Remembering with love on your birthday
July 17, 2009 Ed

Austin Philip Hatley Wins Contest



Austin's proud parents are Philip and Genie Hatley of Burnsville, and his proud grandparents are Linda Lowery of Wadesboro, Charlie and Pam Biles of Burnsville, and Mark and Marsha Hatley of Asheboro.

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