

December 2011, January & February 2012 Issue

Winter
2011

issue



Rougemont

Reporter

A quarterly publication of the ROUGEMONT RURITAN CLUB for Rougemont.

*Wishing Everyone a very
Merry Christmas!*

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*Local Business Ads - That Make This
Publication Possible - Please Give Them
A Shot At Your Business.*

Seasons
Greetings



& a Happy
New Year
To All



2012 Officers & Executive Board

President:	Melody Ann Mininger
Vice President:	Lee Thomas
Secretary:	Bruce Davis
Treasurer:	Mike Cooley
1 Year Director:	Lawrence Daye
2 Year Director:	John Mininger
3 Year Director:	Todd Hinson
Sergeant-at-Arms:	Mathew Libby
Song Leader:	Jack Gibson
Chaplain:	Cheryl Lawrence
Historian:	Millard Thacker
Photographer:	Teiji Kimball
Past President	D. Artemas "Lee" Holden

Ruritan Mission

Ruritan is a national organization dedicated to improving communities and building a better America through
Fellowship, Goodwill, and Community Service.

Rougemont Ruritan Reporter & Community Newsletter

... is published and distributed free of charge as a community service by the Rougemont Ruritan Club, 212 Bacon Road (P.O. Box 63), Rougemont, NC 27572.

Printing costs are paid for by the advertisements found in each issue. You are encouraged to support the local businesses that advertise in this newsletter.

Advertising

To place an advertisement contact Millard Thacker.
Phone: (336) 364-2744 or email him at
advertising@rougemont-ruritan.org

To contribute an article of interest to the Rougemont community, contact John Mininger.
Phone (919) 477-5308 or email him at
editor@rougemont-ruritan.org

Rougemont Report is available online at
www.rougemont-ruritan.org

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Editions of the Rougemont Reporter are;

Spring	March, April & May
Summer	June, July & August
Fall	Sept, October & November
Winter	December, January & February

The deadline for articles is the first day of the month preceding the first month of each edition. For Spring it would be February 1st, for Summer it would be May 1st, for Fall it would be August 1st, and Winter November 1st.

The advertising deadline is the same. All camera art needs to be in our hands by the 1st of the month preceding publication or one month before it is delivered.

Thank you, **John & Millard**



Rougemont Ruritan Club
212 Bacon Road, Rougemont

Dear Members ...

Another year is coming to a close.

I want to thank all of you for your part in making it another great year for our club and the community.

As this year has shown us, nothing is more important than what Ruritan stands for "Fellowship, Goodwill and Community Service".

We are one of the finest examples of what a Ruritan club can be and yet there is always room for improvement ... so let's support our new president Melody Ann Mininger and make 2012 our best year ever.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lee".

D. Artemas "Lee" Holden
2011 Club President

May your holidays be blessed and shared with family and friends.



I would like to thank the Rougemont Ruritan Club for all you do for your community through Ruritan!

In the last year you have grown from 55 members to 66 members currently. Your efforts have provided a noteworthy material benefit to the Rougemont community. Of that \$16,625 dollars were given and 3805 hours. At a nominal rate of \$18/hour, that would be \$68,490 in labor for a total of \$85,115.

Your community goodwill has generated Gold Service Awards in Public Service, Environment, Citizenship & Patriotism, Business & Professional and Social Development categories. This honor is very special and is earned by very few clubs each year. It speaks highly of your dedication to make Rougemont Ruritan a great corporate citizen. You club President will be presented these Award Certificates at the Rocky Mount-Durham District Convention on November 12th.

Last, the Ruritan National Convention is coming to Raleigh, NC - right in your back yard. As one of the two hosting districts we need some help in greeting the attendees and other areas - if you can help or attend you will find it a wonderful experience. Most who attend a national convention make new friends and return to future conventions.

Congratulations Rougemont Ruritans!

Jim Sears - 2011 District Governor
Rocky Mount-Durham Ruritan

2012 Ruritan National Convention - Raleigh, North Carolina January 19-22, 2012 / Raleigh Marriot & Raleigh Convention Center



Rougemont Ruritan Club Reflective Markers

These attractive and very visible address markers make it easier for emergency services such as Fire & Ambulance services to locate your home in an actual emergency. **You can order them on our website www.rougemont-ruritan.org / click on the Reflective Markers Tab and you can order online or download a form.**

They come with a **blue or green** background and your house numbers are in white. You can see them everywhere in the area. **Order today before you forget.**

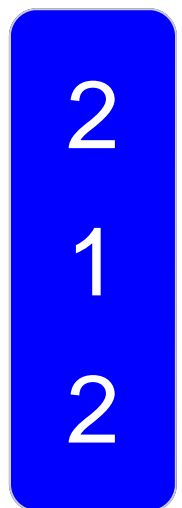
Just \$20

Contact Millard Thacker with questions or to place a phone order. Checks should be made payable to Rougemont Ruritan.

Millard Thacker / **336-364-2744**
140 Rassie Crabtree Rd
Rougemont, NC 27572



HORIZONTAL



VERTICAL



Business & Professions Committee / "SCHOLARSHIPS" Lawrence Daye, Chairman

The Ruritan Education Assistance Program Annual Golf Tournament held 9/17 was a great success with 21 teams playing. Lynn's Crossroads Ruritan won the Ruritan Challenge Stew Pot Trophy. Profits go toward education scholarships awarded each May to graduating high school seniors who want to continue their education.

The committee is also helping the ECA prepare for the annual Rougemont Christmas Party on Saturday, December 3rd.

Citizenship & Patriotism Committee / Lennie (Daniel) Newton, Chair

The Citizenship and Patriotism Committee has flown the American Flag for Election Day and Veteran's Day.

The committee is also preparing to enter a Ruritan float in the Bahama Christmas Parade.

Finally, the committee is holding Pancake and Sausage Breakfasts December, January and February.

Environment Committee - Norm Perry Chair

It's time again to begin preparing the angels to be hung for the holiday season. We will be checking the lights on each angel and replacing broken and burned out bulbs. We had a roadside pick up a few weeks ago on Bacon Road from 501 to the Orange County Line. Thanks to all who helped. Soon it will be time for another Community roadside pick up, this one on 501 North, Red Mountain road and Bill Poole road. Please help us as a Community to keep these roads clean from litter.

We now have the train depot on its solid foundation. This involved repairing floor joists, cutting treated foundation timbers, adding vents and jacking the depot up and down too many times to count. The interior has been gutted. Next we need to sandblast the exterior for painting. **Does anyone have a commercial sandblaster to lend? Call Norman Perry, 919-477-8903.** We hope to have more restoration done soon.

"Thanks to all who helped to make this possible, and who patronize all our fund raising events."

Public Service Committee - by Verna Bullock, Chair

Sharing your blessings with the residents of Urban Ministries has proven that you care. On September 24, Rougemont Ruritan Community Awareness Day, you generously gave 291 pounds of food and cash in the amount of \$181.00. Your kindness is helping to change lives. Our heart-felt appreciation is extended to all who unselfishly donated to the cause.

In December, we anticipate preparing fruit baskets for the homebound and seniors.

Please let us know if there is someone to whom you would like for us to extend this Christmas blessing.

Social Development Committee - Margaret O'Briant, Chair

Ready, Set, Give!

Rougemont Ruritan Club will host a Red Cross Blood Drive on Friday, November 25 (the day after Thanksgiving) from 9am until 1pm at the clubhouse on 212 Bacon Rd.



The drive has been organized by the Social Development Committee of the club. The holidays are always a critical time for blood donations with more people traveling and less people donating. Please plan to walk in and donate on Friday, November 25. Let your friends and family know of this critical need.

Thank you, Margaret O'Briant



ANGEL CONTRIBUTORS

The Rougemont Community Angels are 15 years old. Beginning in 1996 with a contribution of four holiday lighted angels by a former Rougemont resident, There is now a full complement of 42 lighted 8 foot angels for each holiday season.

These angels are located along all four major roads in the village core area of Rougemont: 20 angels along U.S. 501 (Roxboro Road), 14 on Red Mountain Road, 5 on Bacon Road, and 3 on Bill Poole Road. Thanks to all community members for making this project work and making Rougemont beautiful and decorative during the holiday season.

Again this year we are indebted to community member Lyn Jackson, who volunteered the use of his bucket truck, and Robin Pendergraph, his driver, to facilitate installation of these angels. The Rougemont Ruritan Club pays for replacement bulbs and sockets, maintenance of the electrical boxes and photocells, and the basic upkeep of the angels. However, Progress Energy (formerly CP&L) now charges us for electricity to light the angels and the cost averages about \$20 for each. Donations are accepted.

On the next column is a listing of all of the angel donations. Be sure to thank each of these contributors for helping to make Rougemont a colorful and spiritual place during the Christmas holidays.

Thanks to the generosity of the donors on pages in the column on the right, Rougemont now has 42 angels during each holiday season. However, Progress Energy now charges the community to light each angel. The cost of lighting one angel from dusk to dawn each holiday season is about \$20.

The Rougemont Ruritan Club is now seeking contributions towards lighting our angels during the 2011 holiday season. If you could not afford to purchase an angel but enjoy seeing them during the holidays or just appreciate how much color and pride they bring to Rougemont during the holiday season, please consider a contribution towards lighting one or more angels. Each lighting donor will be announced in subsequent issues of the Rougemont Reporter.

To light up an angel, simply complete the form below and submit this form along with a check for \$20 for each Angel you wish to light. You will be recognized in the next issue of the Rougemont Reporter unless you wish to remain anonymous.

1996

#1-4 Joe Ravella

1997

5 Rougemont Ruritan Club
 #f6 Millard and Butch Thacker (in memory of Clyde Thacker)
 #7 Millard and Butch Thacker (in honor of Bertha R. Thacker)
 #8 Douglas and Tricia Moore and Kathleen Robinson (in memory of C.W. Doc" Robinson)
 #9 Harold and Ann Bowen
 #10 Rougemont Food Mart
 #11 Arthur and Millie Tilley
 #12 Rougemont Ruritan Club
 #13 Rougemont United Methodist Church

1998

#14 Quail Roost Farms
 #15 Red Mountain subdivision
 #16 Patsy Wilkins
 #17 Joe and Kathy Ravella#18 Bill and Blanch McFarland (in memory of Emily McFarland)
 #19 Bill and Blanch McFarland (in honor of Patsy McFarland)
 #20 Robin and Tammy Pendergraph (in memory of Robin's parents, Tiny and Dru Pendergraph)
 #21 Wallace and Jeanne Bargo (Village Amoco)
 #22 Red Mountain Baptist Church
 #23 Dr. Lloyd Heron and Cindy Forbes Noble (in memory of Cindy's granddaughter, Christin Faith Mejia)

1999

#24 Marie Poole (in memory of James Poole)
 #25 Carole Poole (in memory of husband Reed Poole)
 #26 Carole Poole (in memory of son Toby Poole)
 #27 Willis Parker and family (in memory of Nannie Lou Burton Parker)
 #28 Gracie and A.C. Russell
 #29 Gary Russell
 #30 Russell Gutter Company, Inc.
 #31 Mildred B. Mangum, Tommy and Bennie Mangum, and Julian and Lula Mangum (in memory of Ulys and Sally Blalock)
 #32 Mary Anne Overton and W. Harris Gooch (in memory of Lonnie and Susan Harris Gooch)
 #33 Guy and Ann Rimmer
 #34 Guil Waddell
 #35 Albert and Marie Palmer (in memory of Opal and Sam McBroom)
 #36 Ann Crabtree (in memory of father Floyd Ashley and brother Larry Ashley)
 #37 Ellen Taylor Parker and family (in memory of Robert Taylor)
 #38 Pat Moore in memory of her daughter, Kelly Carper
 #39 In memory of John H. and Myrtle Ruth Denny by their children Margaret and Jim and their families
 #40 John and Bill Anderson

2000

#41 Recycle can project led by Meredith Goodwin and Katie Schanze in the Red Mountain Subdivision
 #42 Rougemont Ruritan Club

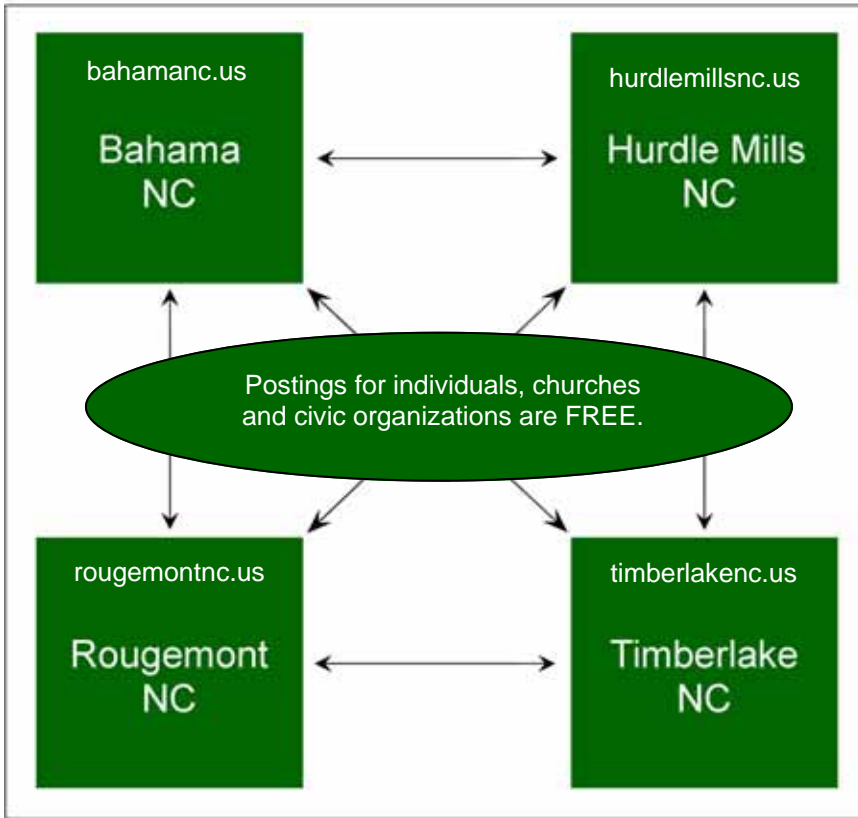


Light Up Rougemont
Sponsors Needed





Local websites keep us connected and informed. Are you having a yard sales - have it posted, lose a cat/dog or is your organization having an event ... have it posted.



Four truly local websites:

- ◆ Local churches
- ◆ Local civic organizations
- ◆ Lost and Found
- ◆ Yard Sales etc.
- ◆ Local events ... & more ...
- ◆ Weather



Buy Local

All of the listing above are free to the public - churches and civic organizations.

Only the business are paid listings.

Share this with your family and friends!

 ★ Many thanks to Lyn Jackson, owner of **Lyn's Sign Service** right
 ★ here in Rougemont. Each year Lyn supplies and operates his bucket truck to help
 ★ the Rougemont Ruritan Club erect and take down our Christmas Angels. Thanks
 ★ also go to Robin Pendergraph for his assistance in getting the angels installed.
 ★
 ★

Yes, I want to help light the Rougemont Angels this holiday season:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Number of Angels to Light: _____ Contribution (@\$20 per Angel): \$_____

Is donation in Memory of: _____

Honor of: _____

Please make check payable to: Rougemont Ruritan Angel Lighting Fund

Send to: Rougemont Ruritan, P.O. Box 63, Rougemont, NC 27572



Water Situation Update

By Joe Haenn

Waterline Extension to Durham is Probably Dead

With the defeat of the attempt to incorporate Rougemont, the extension of the Roxboro city waterline to serve petroleum contaminated areas of Rougemont is probably dead.

Although there is \$500,000 of Federal Stimulus money committed to this project, that is not enough to complete the project without additional matching funding for the Rougemont portion. We have already been turned down by the Golden Leaf Foundation and Durham County government for grants and assistance. And there does not appear to be anywhere else to which we can turn. As an incorporated town, we would have been eligible for a loan from the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, loans that are often partially or completely forgiven given the local circumstances.

Meanwhile, the Person County portion has many more options for funding. Person County is a member of a Council of Governments (along with Granville, Franklin, Warren and Vance counties) that gives grants for waterline extensions [Durham is a member of Triangle J COG, which does not provide these monies]. Also, Person County is considered to be a rural county and is thus eligible for Rural Development Funding [while Rougemont is not considered to be rural because it is part of Durham County, which is an urban county].

The City of Roxboro has hired an engineering firm to begin the engineering work on the waterline extension, so there is a good possibility that the waterline may be extended southward from the ABC Store to the Durham County line. But that will not help the northern Durham County nor the our issues in Rougemont.



Upcoming Rougemont Ruritan Events

December 2011

December 3rd - Saturday - Christmas Party & Tree Lighting

December 6th - Tuesday - Club Meeting 7:30-9pm

December 10th - **Saturday - Pancake & Sausage Breakfast 7am to 11am**

December 27th - Tuesday - RRC Board Meeting

January 2012

January 3rd - Tuesday - Club Meeting 7:30-9:00pm

January 6th - Friday - ANCR Meeting 6 to 8 pm
(Association of NC Ruritans) All members welcome!

January 14th - **Saturday - Pancake & Sausage Breakfast 7am to 11am**

January 19th - 22nd Thursday to Sunday Ruritan National Annual Convention

January 31st - Tuesday - RRC Board Meeting

February 2012

February 4th - Saturday RM District Round Table & Zone Meeting

February 7th - Tuesday - Club Meeting 7:30-9:00pm

February 11th - **Saturday - Brunswick Stew Pickup time 1 to 4 pm**

February 18th - **Saturday - Pancake & Sausage Breakfast 7am to 11am**

February 28th - RRC Board Meeting



Youth Important in Ruritan- by Todd Hinson, Youth Committee Chair

We strongly believe that the younger members of the Rougemont Ruritan Club are a key element in the future of the organization. The recently formed Youth Committee held their first meeting just prior to the October regular club meeting. Members in attendance discussed a number of beneficial projects they could take part in, and there was plenty of enthusiasm from the youth members present. It was agreed that the first committee project would be to prepare personalized "greeting cards" for a number of deserving, elderly community members. The first batch of cards was made and addressed by the kids at the November meeting and mailed the following day.

"If you are a young person interested in helping your community, please contact a Ruritan member about attending a meeting and learning how you can be a part of our community service youth program."

Youth Initiative at the Ruritan National Convention

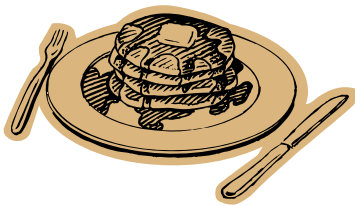
Our youth will have special programs just for them at the National Convention in Raleigh, January 19-22. Two great workshops are scheduled for youth. One is "Unleashed Potential" by Karen Folino (Debbie Southern's sister) and the other is "What are Your True Colors" by Chris Smith and Brian Hairston (from the 4-H Center at Smith Mountain Lake).

The room in which these workshops are scheduled is reserved for the youth. When the workshops are not in session, the youth can hang out in the room. There is only one other workshop scheduled for that room and that is for adults working with youth. The youth are also allowed (and encouraged) to attend any of the adult workshops that are going on. On Saturday, we encourage the youth to attend the business sessions; however, they are free to do as they like. Ruritan understands that our youth are the future community service leaders of Ruritan!

Todd can be contacted by phone at 919-381-8131 or email toddkhinson@fastmail.us for more information!

\$7 "All-You-Can-Eat"

Pancake & Sausage Breakfast
(including, coffee, orange juice & fellowship!)



December 10th

January 14th &

February 18th

212 Bacon Road from 7:00 AM to 11:00 PM

\$6 Quart - Brunswick Stew



Saturday - February 11th
Available for pickup from
1:00 to 4:00 PM

212 Bacon Road

We are All volunteers ...

Volunteers. We are blessed with a club full and the executive board decided that beginning with 2011 we would honor each month a member that has really show what the definition of volunteer is by their actions.

January	2011	Michael Cooley
February	2011	John Mininger
March	2011	Linward Hedgspeth
April	2011	Patricia Russell
May	2011	Hallie Mangum Bass & Teresa Elliott
June	2011	Lennie "Daniel" Newton
July	2011	Jack Gibson
August	2011	Joe Haenn
September	2011	Norm Perry
October	2011	Millard & Marty Thacker
November	2011	Todd Hinson

"Each of these members has given unselfishly of their time and energy above and beyond what is expected. The board and the community thank them from the bottom of our hearts."

D. Artemas "Lee" Holden
2011 President



Hill Forest Camp - A Rougemont Good Neighbor

During the 1940's, I recall a lot of unforgettable good times visiting Hill Forest Camp (a valuable Rougemont neighbor).

My uncle, Hoyle Thacker, was the Forest Ranger at the camp for many years and lived in the camp residence house with his wife Madeline (and later daughter Sue). I often visited my uncle and aunt in my pre-teens, spending days and nights and enjoying being with them (because they would let me do what I wanted to do). They often referred to me as their adopted son (this was prior to their daughter Sue entering the picture).

As you drove off of Hampton Road, down a long narrow dirt driveway, you approached a beautiful two-story white house which was beautifully landscaped. There was a garage, a wood-working shop, several out buildings and a nearby lake separating the residence and the forestry campus. The house was furnished with a lot of wooden furniture much built by my uncle.

In fact, my uncle had a pet raccoon that stayed in their home (he was very friendly but would steal my aunt's jewelry and hide it) (after several years, one day he accidentally got out of the house and was never seen again - I did not do it!!!).

I loved it there because I had my own room with an inside bathroom (which I did not have at my home).

Across the lake was the Hill Forest Camp consisting of several rustic log cabins where Forestry students from N.C. State University would spend required classroom time during the summer. I was not allowed to visit the campus while they were there but often some of them would visit with my uncle with questions about the forest and would later play games with me. I could hardly wait from one year to the next to meet more students and to enjoy their friendship.

When camp was not in session, my uncle would take me to the campus and browse the cabins which were absolutely beautiful and clean. I loved the smell of wood inside those cabins. He would tell me stories about why the camp was there and what the students did to learn about the forest, trees, wild animals, insects, etc. In fact, my uncle had a pet raccoon that stayed in their home

(he was very friendly but would steal my aunt's jewelry and hide it) (after several years, one day he accidentally got out of the house and was never seen again - I did not do it!!!).

During the summer months, we would go swimming in the lake, have camp outs, walk the trails and just enjoy the beauty of nature. Sometimes, my uncle would let me help him in his woodworking shop (but I never learned too much – still cannot drive a nail straight).

Professor George K. Slocum from NCSU and head of the Forestry Department during this time would often visit with my uncle, sometimes on business and sometimes just to chat. We had a lot of fun talking about STUFF. He was a wonderful and fun person.

"Those were wonderful and enjoyable years. This experience and these memories are priceless and will linger with me forever."

I learned the importance of spending quality time with family you loved, making new friends and how precious nature is and why all of these things should be preserved and valued."

Love your neighbor!!!

Millard Thacker

Hill Forest Update

2011 Hill Forest Update

NCSU Forestry Department in conjunction with The Friends of Hill Forest and Durham County have made great strides in creating a sustainable network of recreational trails in the Hill Demonstration Forest in northern Durham County.

This year a half dozen trail work days have been conducted to clear trail debris and widen the trails where needed. This is a constant need as the forest is always changing and growing. The trail crews are all members of the Friends of Hill Forest and their activity is covered by our insurance. They have also attended a safety course given by the Forestry department management.

Durham Scout Troop 400 has completed two Eagle Scout projects in the Hill Forest this year. The first project is a wonderful walking/riding bridge over a creek in the southwest section of the forest. This bridge replaces an unsustainable long-time crossing just downstream and has help to eliminate vast quantities of mud and silt making their way into the Flat River.

The second project was the creation of two information kiosks on State Forest Road. which will contain maps of the forest, rules and regulations, hunting seasons and more.

Our trails committee is about to begin marking the main trails in the forest and we hope to produce a trail map in the near future which will be available at the information kiosks.

Friends of Hill Forest is a non-profit organization dedicated to maintaining and improving the recreational experience in the Hill Demonstration Forest. Success in our mission is dependent on membership.

If you would like to learn more about the Friends of Hill Forest, please visit our website friendsofhillforest.org where you will find information about our group and about the Hill Forest as well.

Kate Busa
President, Friends of Hill Forest
(919) 886-3411

**Friends
of
Hill Forest**

Rougemont Incorporation Defeated by 11 Votes

The voters have spoken.

Rougemont will remain a little noticed crossroads in northern Durham County. The vote on November 8th was the culmination of some 20 years effort including four attempts just to win the right for Rougemont citizens to decide whether they wanted Rougemont to become a town.

With the right to vote won, ten community minded citizens stepped forward and registered as candidates for Town Council should Rougemont incorporate. These our neighbors were not experienced politicians. They were simply folks who believed incorporation would enable Rougemont to become a better place to live. They completed biographical questionnaires which were posted on the internet and published in the Rougemont Reporter. They educated themselves on the duties of a town council. UNC School of Government Professor Fleming Bell and Kenneth Parker, Mayor of the small NC town of Momeyer visited and counseled the candidates.

The campaign was conducted in a very open, ethical, non-partisan manner. Six Town Meetings were held at various locations and dates. The first three town meetings were attended by 50 to 70 residents. The Meet-The-Candidate meetings were attended by less than 20 voters. Information was provided and questions were answered.

A half dozen mailing's were sent to Rougemont households paid for by the candidates themselves. The candidates undertook a walking tour of the proposed town to inform our citizens and to ask that they simply vote their conscience.

Responses included- "The need for self determination," "Uniting to make Rougemont's voice heard," "Economic development of Rougemont while maintaining a rural character," "Provision of public services", "hopefully solving our water contamination issue" and "receiving \$3.51 in state tax funds for every dollar raised by the 5 mil local tax."

Other responses included- "No more taxes," "No benefit in incorporation," and "no need for another layer of government."

On November 8th the voice of the voters was heard. Incorporation was defeated 168-157, (only 49% of the registered voters of the proposed incorporated area.) The goal to enable a vote was achieved. The majority of voters chose not to change.

Thanks Owed

However they voted, the citizens of Rougemont owe many thanks to the candidates, Linward Hedgepeth, Denise Smith, Linda Huff, Lee Holden, Danielle Kowalczyk, Edgar Johnson, Jason Howe, Wallace O'Briant, Layton Oakley and Patricia Russell for their patriotism and desire to make Rougemont a better community. (Patricia dropped out for health reasons.) We should hope they continue in their community spirit. Thanks also to the steering committee including Joe Haenn who worked closely with Representative Winkie Wilkins.

Finally thanks to our State Representative Winkie Wilkins who persevered until he saw his Bill passed by the legislature to achieve the right for our citizens to decide our future. Without his unswerving efforts we would have been denied this right.

By John Mininger

Christmas Traditions

A high point is the Christmas vigil of the Moravian Church. In that service, burning candles are distributed to the worshipers as they sing praise to their Savior who came to be the Light of the World.

The origin dates back to 1747 in Germany when Bishop John deWatterville introduced it during a service for children. He gave each child a burning candle wrapped with a colored band to help them remember Christ's birth, passion and wounds. This custom is still practiced today in all Moravian churches. The candles are made of bees' wax as it represents the sinless purity of Christ's flesh. The paper frill has been added to catch the drippings

You Are Invited

Cheryl Lawrence - pastor of the Union Grove United Methodist Church is going to host a "**Traditional Moravian Christmas Service**" (*including hot coffee and sweet rolls*) on Sunday, December 4th at 5pm.

There will be special seasonal music and all are welcome to join them to celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season. You can find more information on the churches blog at: [http:// uniongroveunitedmethodist-church.blogspot.com](http://uniongroveunitedmethodist-church.blogspot.com)

Moravian "putz" (German for decoration) is more than a nativity scene with adoring shepherds. For decorations are highly personal and not confined by time or geography. It tells the story of Jesus' birth with a manger scene as the focal point; it is the gospel in miniature from Isaiah's prophecy and Mary's annunciation to the visit of the wisemen and the flight into Egypt.

The essence of the putz tradition is found in the way in which each putz is built to tell the Christmas story.

The joy comes in collecting and creating the story. Figures and many other items, pine cones, pieces of drift wood, stones, houses and animals, are collected over the years by the whole family and may include a replica of their home. Moravian parents will use the putz as a visual aid to review the Christmas story with the children, to see and hear the age-old story.

Look about you ... think about sharing a Christmas meal with a neighbor and bring the joy of fellowship alive in a practical way.

Who do you know that may be alone this holiday season?



September REAP - Lake Winds Golf Tournament A Success

On Saturday, September 17th the Rougemont Ruritan Club held its annual golf tournament at Lake Winds Golf Course. Sadly the weather was less than sunny, but after the initial mist at the check in, the rain held off. A total of 21 teams participated on a damp but enjoyable course. The Ruritan provided food for the participants as they made their way around the course. Drinks were provided by our local Coca Cola.

This is the major fund raising event for the Rougemont Ruritan Club. The proceeds help provide scholarships for local high school students who exemplify the ideals of Ruritan; community service, fellowship and goodwill. To date we have awarded over \$25,000 in scholarships to students in the surrounding Durham, Orange, and Person counties.

AWARDS 2011:

First prize cash award went to the Time Out Bar and Grill. Second place went to Hendricks Automotive. Additionally within the tournament a separate challenge match was held for local Ruritan entrants. Lynn's Cross Roads Ruritan won bragging rights and a stewpot trophy that they will retain for the 2011 – 2012 year.

Patricia Everhart from Cary won the raffle for a 1 year Lake Winds Golf Course membership.

Jack Gibson for the Golf Committee



Christmas Story: For the Man Who Hated Christmas

By Nancy W. Gavin

It's just a small, white envelope stuck among the branches of our Christmas tree. No name, no identification, no inscription. It has peeked through the branches of our tree for the past ten years.

It all began because my husband Mike hated Christmas. Oh, not the true meaning of Christmas, but the commercial aspects of it – overspending and the frantic running around at the last minute to get a tie for Uncle Harry and the dusting powder for Grandma – the gifts given in desperation because you couldn't think of anything else.

Knowing he felt this way, I decided one year to bypass the usual shirts, sweaters, ties and so forth. I reached for something special just for Mike. The inspiration came in an unusual way.

Our son Kevin, who was 12 that year, was on the wrestling team at the school he attended. Shortly before Christmas, there was a non-league match against a team sponsored by an inner-city church. These youngsters, dressed in sneakers so ragged that shoestrings seemed to be the only thing holding them together, presented a sharp contrast to our boys in their spiffy blue and gold uniforms and sparkling new wrestling shoes.

As the match began, I was alarmed to see that the other team was wrestling without headgear, a kind of light helmet designed to protect a wrestler's ears. It was a luxury the ragtag team obviously could not afford.

Well, we ended up walloping them. We took every weight class. Mike, seated beside me, shook his head sadly, "I wish just one of them could have won," he said. "They have a lot of potential, but losing like this could take the heart right out of them." Mike loved kids – all kids.

He so enjoyed coaching little league football, baseball and lacrosse. That's when the idea for his present came.

That afternoon, I went to a local sporting goods store and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes, and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church. On Christmas Eve, I placed a small, white envelope on the tree, the note inside telling Mike what I had done, and that this was his gift from me.

Mike's smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year. And that same bright smile lit up succeeding years. For each Christmas, I followed the tradition – one year sending a group of mentally handicapped youngsters to a hockey game, another year a check to a pair of elderly brothers whose home had burned to the ground the week before Christmas, and on and on.

The white envelope became the highlight of our Christmas. It was always the last thing opened on Christmas morning, and our children – ignoring their new toys – would stand with wide-eyed anticipation as their dad lifted the envelope from the tree to reveal its contents. As the children grew, the toys gave way to more practical presents, but the small, white envelope never lost its allure.

The story doesn't end there. You see, we lost Mike last year due to dreaded cancer. When Christmas rolled around, I was still so wrapped in grief that I barely got the tree up. But Christmas Eve found me placing an envelope on the tree. And the next morning, I found it was magically joined by three more. Unbeknownst to the others, each of our three children had for the first time placed a white envelope on the tree for their dad. The tradition has grown and someday will expand even further with our grandchildren standing to take down that special envelope.

Mike's spirit, like the Christmas spirit will always be with us.



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Nevertheless, the next morning the little girl, filled with excitement, brought the gift box to her father and said, "This is for you, Daddy!"

As he opened the box, the father was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, now regretting how he had punished her.

But when he opened the shoebox, he found it was empty and again his anger flared. "Don't you know, young lady," he said harshly, "when you give someone a present there's supposed to be something inside the package!"

The little girl looked up at him with sad tears rolling from her eyes and whispered: "Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into it until it was all full."

The father was crushed. He fell on his knees and put his arms around his precious little girl. He begged her to forgive him for his unnecessary anger.

An accident took the life of the child only a short time later. It is told that the father kept this little gold box by his bed for all the years of his life.

Whenever he was discouraged or faced difficult problems, he would open the box, take out an imaginary kiss, and remember the love of this beautiful child who had put it there.

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The Christmas Truce by David G. Stratman

From his book [We Can Change the World](#)

It was December 25, 1914, only 5 months into World War I. German, British, and French soldiers, already sick and tired of the senseless killing, disobeyed their superiors and fraternized with "the enemy" along two-thirds of the Western Front (a crime punishable by death in times of war). German troops held Christmas trees up out of the trenches with signs, "Merry Christmas."


"You no shoot, we no shoot." Thousands of troops streamed across a no-man's land strewn with rotting corpses. They sang Christmas carols, exchanged photographs of loved ones back home, shared rations, played football, even roasted some pigs. **Soldiers embraced men they had been trying to kill a few short hours before. They agreed to warn each other if the top brass forced them to fire their weapons, and to aim high.**

A shudder ran through the high command on either side. Here was disaster in the making: soldiers declaring their brotherhood with each other and refusing to fight. Generals on both sides declared this spontaneous peace-making to be treasonous and subject to court martial. By March 1915 the fraternization movement had been eradicated and the killing machine put back in full operation. By the time of the armistice in 1918, fifteen million would be slaughtered.

Not many people have heard the story of the Christmas Truce. On Christmas Day, 1988, a story in the *Boston Globe* mentioned that a local FM radio host played "Christmas in the Trenches," a ballad about the Christmas Truce, several times and was startled by the effect. **The song became the most requested recording during the holidays in Boston on several FM stations.** "Even more startling than the number of requests I get is the reaction to the ballad afterward by callers who hadn't heard it before," said the radio host. "They telephone me deeply moved, sometimes in tears, asking, 'What the hell did I just hear?'"

I think I know why the callers were in tears. The Christmas Truce story goes against most of what we have been taught about people. It gives us a glimpse of the world as we wish it could be and says, "This really happened once." It reminds us of those thoughts we keep hidden away, out of range of the TV and newspaper stories that tell us how trivial and mean human life is. It is like hearing that our deepest wishes really are true: the world really could be different.

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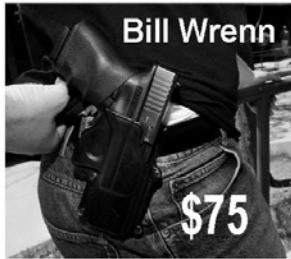
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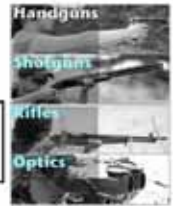
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