

#1A-2 1955 Beaufort - Kent Hassell Note about his father – Charles Hassell, Sr.

From: Kent Hassell

To: Joe (Boy) Willis

Sent: 7/11/2008 10:06:14 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time

Subject: Re: - Baseball Day - July 19 - Core Sound - to honor Coaches across the County

It's great that you're doing such a terrific job bringing the history of Carteret Co. baseball to life again, and recognizing those who gave their love of the game back to the youth of our communities.

No other sport connected w/ me the way baseball did. Our family was blessed w/ a lot of basketball talent, but I missed out on those gifts. At least in my own mind, I thought I had some skill playing hardball, and sure have fond memories of playing it from Little League; to Pony League games on the old Beaufort HS field...where the outfield fence consisted of the football field bleachers!!...; to ECHS, where we struggled to find a way to get the Down Easters blended w/ the Beaufort boys; to making a stab at walking on at Carolina during their Fall try-outs, and getting the invite to come back for Spring...only to give it up for grades and a part time job.

It's been a way to connect again w/ my Daddy. He spent so much time w/ the Little League program, and then after passing it on still loving to go watch just because he loved it so much.

He organized the program w/ Dr. Way's help; coached for many years; umpired games when he wasn't coaching; worked on making a field across the road from Safrit Lumber near the VFW?

I remember many times having to go out w/ shovels and dig drainage to get fields dry enough to play on. *He threw kids a million balls of batting practice I'm sure.* It was such a thrill for kids back then to have a for real parade down Front St. Beaufort to kick off the season...all of us in our uniforms: Fry Roofing in green. VFW in black; Moose in red; and Daddy's Elks team in blue.

I've still got a ball on my desk as I write this that was signed by the kids on Daddy's 1961 Championship team...we were undefeated that season. Some of the signatures have faded or were unrecognizable, but here are a few: *Frank Krusz, Tony Smith, Randy Ives, Jule Wheatley, Wayne Scott, Raymond Springle, Ben Toler, Lester Beachem, Billy Cuthrell, Rudy Wilkinson, and Chris Chappel.*

The first time you put together a celebration and memorial day to open the museum, I got a copy of the newspaper write up...it gave me goosebumps and was a great thing to do. Thank you for making the effort to bring the contributions of the old guard, and current generation of coaches and players into focus. It's a great game and we all owe a lot to our mentors, coaches and Dad's for teaching it to us; and we need to make sure the current generation realizes how important it is to pass it on.

Stay in touch. Best regards,
Kent Hassell