

Celebration Day for Coach Fred Bartholomew and Mrs. Anne Salter with a N. C. State Tribute to September 26, 2009

Smyrna Women Basketball for their impact on School Spirit and Competitive Sports

Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center puts on a Celebration that was Historic! Mrs. Karen Amspacher said, "It is often written that "The richness of life lies in the memories we have forgotten. If that is true, then Smyrna and the downeast area is rich today... With machine-gun precision and speech, Joe (Boy) Willis, who puts on "Baseball-More Than A Game" reunions, took more than 160 Smyrna classmates through, what many have said was a historic event. Mr. Willis peppered the audience with stories covering a 42 years overview of Smyrna High School. This event was chocked full of new discoveries, and old memories – some we could remember parts of, and some we had forgotten."

On September 26, 2009, the celebration and tributes to Coach Fred Bartholomew, Mrs. Anne Salter and the Impact that Smyrna Women Basketball had on school spirit and competitive sports, turned into a fun-filled sports history class.

Joe (Boy) Willis started off by reviewing the BIO of Mr. Bartholomew and Mrs. Salter, and thanking both of them for being teachers and mentors to hundreds of students. Both, Mr. Bartholomew and Mrs. Salter received standing ovations.

Ms. Jeanne Huntley, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, presented County Tributes in Special Recognition for their dedication to:

1. Mrs. Anne Elizabeth Coward Salter for her 32 years of teaching English and History in the County schools – 16 years at Smyrna, seven years at Beaufort, eight years at ECHS (Teacher and Librarian) and one year traveling as a speech and hearing Instructor.
2. Mr. Fred L. Bartholomew for his 38 years for public service in the N. C. Schools – 3 years teaching and was Principal for 35 years at Smyrna (1964-65), Currituck County Joseph P. Knapp HS (1965-1966), Warren County John Graham HS (1966-1971), and for Princeton High School (1971-1999).

Mr. Bartholomew was born in 1937 in Warrenton, NC.

- ❖ He lettered in three sports, and was all conference in Baseball and Football. He received scholarship offers from Clemson, Wake Forest and accepted one from Louisburg for Baseball and Basketball. He transferred his junior year to East Carolina receiving his BS in PE, and Master in Educational Admin in 1967.
- ❖ At East Carolina, he met Dee Ballou from Morehead City, and they married in May 22, 1960. Dee and Fred have three children, Betsy, Nancy and Fred III and they have seven grand children - Anna Mikel, Traci, Rick, Harley, Jorden, K.J. and Luke who attended, as well as Dee's sister Carolyn Mann , brother Captain Bobby and Faye Ballou, Aunt Catherine Styron and her daughter Joy.
- ❖ 1960 he did his student teaching at Smyrna - teaching 6th Grade Physical Education.
- ❖ Both Dee and Fred fell in love with Smyrna, and over the next four years Fred would make a significant impact on both sports and education at Smyrna and in Carteret County.
- ❖ Taught Physical Education, General Science, Health & P. E., Civics, Economics and Sociology, Driver Education.
- ❖ Coached Boys' Basketball and Baseball from 1961-1964.
- ❖ He became the Principal in 1964-1965 the last year before Smyrna was consolidated into ECHS.
- ❖ As Principal and Athletic Director he started a football program in 1964-65.

Under Mr. Bartholomew Coaching Leadership he had three Championship Teams:

- ❖ Regular Season Championship 1961 Smyrna Pony League Team – Record 13 and 1 (928%).
- ❖ 1963 Smyrna Championship Baseball Team – Record 10 and 3 (769%), and second in conference in Basketball with a record of 8 and 2 (800%). He was "Baseball Coach of the Year" for 1963.
- ❖ 1964 Smyrna Basketball Conference and Tournament Championship Team – Record 25 and 5 (833%). The last time Smyrna Won a Conference Championship was in 1947. He was "Basketball Coach of the Year" for 1964.

Mr. Tom Davis, Retired Superintendent of Carteret County Schools, presented on behalf of the “State of North Carolina – Senate of the North Carolina General Assembly” congratulations to:

1. Mr. Fred L. Bartholomew
2. Mrs. Anne Elizabeth Coward Salter

Mr. Tom Davis also presented the coveted *N. C. Governor’s “The Order of the Long Leaf Pine”* award to:

- ◆ Mrs. Anne Elizabeth Coward Salter

Joe (Boy) Willis also recognized Mr. Fred L. Bartholomew for his lifetime achievements and key awards he has received for his life’s successes in public education, with 28 years of 35, he spent at Principal at Princeton High School:

Key Awards

- ◆ “Governor’s N. C. “The Order of the Long Leaf Pine” awarded in 1999.
- ◆ “Trailblazer Award” given by N. C. ASSN of School Administration for Outstanding Leadership in Education - April 9, 2008.
- ◆ N. C. High School Athletic Association Award 2007.
- ◆ All State School Board Association Award 2006.
- ◆ Johnston County Principal of the Year 1987-88.
- ◆ Johnston County Hall of Fame Election.
- ◆ Princeton High School Athletic Hall of Fame” April 26, 2008.
- ◆ Ralph Kimbel Award for Outstanding Leadership to N. C. Assistant principals in 2006.
- ◆ Principal/Assistant Principal Hall of Fame Election.
- ◆ Princeton High School Dedicated their Athletic Complex after him; and the town of Princeton named a street after him.

Professional / Educational Involvement:

- ❖ Current Co-Chairman of the State Technology Commission.
- ❖ President of Carolina Athletic Conference for eight (8) years (1975-83).
- ❖ President of Johnston County Principals Association for three (3) years (1978-79, 1979-80 and 1986-87).
- ❖ President of Tar Heel Principals/Assistant Principals Association for two (2) years (1980-81, and 1990-91).
- ❖ Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the NC High School Athletic Association for four (4) years (1982-86).
- ❖ Board of Directors - NC School Volunteers Association.
- ❖ Board of Directors - NC Principals Learning Institute.
- ❖ Selected Outstanding Educator by Princeton Jaycees.
- ❖ Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the NC Principals/Assistant Principals Association for seventeen (17) years (1982 to 1999).
- ❖ Two time member of the State Compliance Committee.
- ❖ Past two time member State Exceptional Children's Committee.
- ❖ Past two time member State H.S. Principals Advisory Committee.
- ❖ Two time member State Accountability Committee.
- ❖ Past two time member State School Law Revision Subcommittee.
- ❖ Member State Site Based Management Committee.

Joe (Boy) Willis presented the N. C. State Senate Tribute to:

- “The Smyrna Women Basketball Impact had on School Spirit and Competitive Sports” – accepting the Tribute were five generations of women basketball players. The two players, Mrs. Melva Lynch King and Bertha Chadwick, were teammates on the on the 1933-1935Smyrna Championship teams, which were part of the 16-Year Women Basketball Dynasty.

1923/24 was the first school year of the Smyrna Women Basketball Dynasty. They would go on to win 16 straight years – winning more than 160 games in regular conference!

The two players that played on the 1933-1935, were Mrs. Melva Lynch King and Bertha Chadwick - and they could remember everything. When asked by Mr. Willis, “How did you win so much”? Mrs. Chadwick said, “Well, when the coach said play ball, we were very focused – we never thought that we wouldn’t win.” Mrs. King said, “We were mentored by Dollie Davis, who was the member of the Championship team in 1923/24 year. She was an outstanding basketball player, and she mentor all of us. We never thought about losing even when a girl was hurt, and we had to play one girl short.”

Mr. Willis said, “I expected to see women 6’ plus size women with super girl power, but what I saw was regular, good-looking, focused, hardworking and dainty -downeast women, who took great pride in their heritage and school. AND they still feel that same spirit, and still love to talk about their classmates and their feats.” Mrs. Melva Lynch King said, “I was just 5’5” and we played like little kitten.” Mr. Willis said , “Yes, more like a cat, put the ball on the floor and we will take it from you.”

- ◆ **The big surprise, that joy top all, was when Mr. Willis began reading from Mrs. Mabel Davis Pigott Journal**, which was brought to his attention a few weeks ago, that Ms. Mabel had written while she was in school in 1923/24. In the journal she details the team’s record and travel details, poems and pep songs she wrote during that period. Listed below are some of the excerpts from that journal.

1923-24 SMYRNA Women BASKETBALL TEAM and Record; (Note: 8 of 10 competitors scored less than 5 points!)

From the Journal of Mabel Davis Pigott – (Discovered 08-10-99 by Her daughter Elizabeth)

The Team 1923-24				Smyrna Yells			
Coach; Mr. Banks							
Right Forward		Mabel Davis		Riciky! Rickity! Ruff! What in the world is the matter with us?			
Left Forward		Ethel Fulford		Nothing at all! Nothing at all! The Smyrna girls can handle the ball!			
Jumping Center		Elva Davis		On the diamond we're no bluff! Beat us and you've beat enough!			
Side Center		Dollie Davis		S-M-Y-R-N-A, S-M-Y-R-N-A, S-M-Y-R-N-A!			
Right Guard		Verna Willis		That's the way we spell it!			
Left Guard		Rosebud Wade		That's the way we yell it!			
Note: (The three Davis girls are Pigott grandchildren, and the Fulford girl later married a Pigott.)				SMYRNA! SMYRNA! SMYRNA!			
The Record 10-0							
Newport	5	Smyrna	10	Strawberry shortcake - huckleberry pie!			
Atlantic	1	"	18	v-i-c-t-o-r-y!			
St. Paul	2	"	27	Are we in it?			
Beaufort	12	"	19	Well I guess!			
Morehead	2	"	32	Smyrna! Smyrna! Smyrna!			
Newport	0	"	2	Yes! Yes! Yes!			
Atlantic	4	"	15	Amo! Amas! Amat!			
St. Paul	0	"	2	We'll make old ----- tro---			
Morehead	2	"	18	We'll make 'em raise the dust!			
Beaufort	17	"	22	We're going to beat or bust!			
				Amo! Amas! Amat!			
				Hee Haw! Hee Haw!			

Smyrna

Smyrna they say is not on the map.
That's how the city folks us do rap.
We know it is not large, in fact very small
Yet we have the girls who can play basketball.
The girls from the city, lit by electric light,
Their future looked so rosey and bright.
Brought their best players to old Smyrna's shore,
Expecting to clean up with a wonderful score.
They met on the battlefield, the girls at their best
And they kept the ball moving with very little rest.
When it was over, old Beaufort looked glum
Smyrna is the champion, She's beat everyone!

Poor -----, where is your
ma-ma-ma-ma?

1923-24 SMYRNA Women BASKETBALL TEAM and Record

Smyrna

From the Journal of Mabel Davis Pigott - 08-10-99

Smyrna is proud of her basket ball team,
The girls are good sports, they play the game clean.
When the ball is thrown, and the whistle blows
They never stop to powder their nose.
Mrs. Banks has used judgement in placing the team,
The tall and the lanky, the stout and the lean.
The tall she has placed to cover the goals.
The short in the center, the other side fools.
The first is our Dollie, so boney and strong.
When she gets the ball, she just sends it along
To her sister, Elva, who plays by her side.
Its a pleasure to watch her, she's everyone's pride.
Next is Rosebud, a wee tiny runt
I have seen her do an acrobat's stunt,
Jump for the ball, and land on her ear,
But shoot it to the goal as swift as a deer.
Then there is Verna, the "Wild Irish Rose"
When she gets the ball, she makes some long throws.
She gets so redheaded, when she starts to play,

Knocks everyone down, that gets in her way.
Next is our little Ethel, about six-foot-three,
When she gets the ball it appears up a tree.
Her opponents they stand, they watch and they stare
And wonder how they can get the ball out of the air.
But she doesn't tarry long. She has not time to fool.
And the first thing you know she has sent home a goal.
Last but not least is our Mabel dear.
When she gets the ball, we never fear.
She bounces around like a piece of elastic
And the first thing you know, it is shot thru the basket.

As the years speed on, and you are all women grown
Married and settled in your own little home,
With your children about you, your thoughts will stray
To the basket ball court where you all used to play.

1923-24 SMYRNA Women BASKETBALL TEAM how they traveled and their Record

Ten (10) Games that were in Mrs. Mabel Davis Pigott's Journal

The Game with Newport. November 2, 1923.

We left the High School at nine o'clock. Mrs. Banks and the team, making eight, including the driver. The day was clear and warm. We had a fine trip, no "breakdowns" or accidents. We arrived at Newport at twelve o'clock. The game was to be at three-thirty. We went to the "hotel" Reste then went out and bought lunch. Next we went to the school building, dressed and practiced until the game. This being our first game, we felt doubtful as to the outcome. Our greatest handicap tho was the absence of any "rooters." The game was real rough. We had to play fast and hard. But the victory was ours. Score 10 - 5. We went back to the "hotel" and there met Mr. Banks and the boys who had just arrived via Morehead. We told them all our "troubles." We had to stay in Newport until the train came. We bade farewell to the town at eight o'clock p.m. "just as the train pulled out." We arrived at Beaufort where we hired a truck to take us home. We reached home at ten-thirty, tired but satisfied.

The Game with Atlantic. December 7, 1923.

We left home at ten o'clock on the "Bernice Cree." This sea-worthy craft was under the able command of Captains T. R. Bell and Charles Smith. We made a short stop at Davis where a few more passengers were added to our list. Here also, we bought a supply of crackers, pickles and oysters of which we were all very fond, (especially Mr. Banks). At one o'clock we cooked and served lunch. We reached Atlantic at three o'clock. The game was scheduled for this hour so we played immediately upon our arrival at the school building. This time there was no lack of "rooters." The game was full of "pep" tho rather rough. Ethel was hurt in the first quarter. At the close the score was 18 - 1 for us. We departed from Atlantic "just as the sun went down." We served supper on the return trip. Then we sang songs and danced. We greeted Smyrna again at about eight o'clock. We all voted this "a very pleasant trip."

The Game with St. Paul. January 12, 1924.

This game was to be on the home court. The weather was cold and cloudy. The team was on the court and the crowd had gathered two hours before St. Paul got here. This was the roughest game we had played yet. There were a lot of fouls called on both sides. Still it was easy work for us to run the score up to 27 against their 2. We went home very tired but feeling that "the work was well done."

The Game with Beaufort. February 15, 1924.

The weather was almost freezing. We went on an open boat. We were almost "stiff" when we reached Beaufort, whether from cold or fright it would be hard to tell, for we were well acquainted, thru various reports, of the excellent work of this strong team. Here we expected to meet our "Waterloo," but we determined to die fighting. On reaching Beaufort we learned that they were scared of us as well. There was a large crowd of spectators each yelling for their favorite team. This game was fast but not rough. We surprised ourselves. We beat Beaufort. Score 19 - 12. We received the congratulations and praise feeling that we justly deserved them. We came home feeling that we could beat anyone, for hadn't we beat Beaufort?

1923-24 SMYRNA Women BASKETBALL TEAM and Record

Ten (10) Games Played that were in the journal (Continued)

The Game with Morehead. February 22, 1924. -

This game was to be on the home court. We went into this game feeling confident of winning, this was on the help and the hearty support of the whole school. As to the yelling, it was the greatest help of all. Morehead City was easily vanquished. This was a rough game. We had to be "up and doing" to keep from being killed or crippled, for they were big people and clumsy. Never again will we be afraid of the "City Wonderful." The score was only 32 - 2. That wasn't so bad for the people in the "sticks," was it Morehead?

Second Game with Atlantic. March 1, 1924.

This game was on the home court. It was witnessed by the largest crowd of spectators that we had yet had. This game was wrought "with a vengeance." They threw all rules and regulations to the winds (if they had any) and "walked into us" intending to win or kill. At first we were too surprised to do much of anything, but we soon woke up and let Atlantic know that we were made of the "stuff" that could get wrought too. We had a lively old time for a while and had the score 15 - 4 (in our favor) when our "honorable opponents" got "mad" and quit. No amount of persuading could get them to finish the game. "Ain't I mad?" They are some sports, those people from Atlantic are.

Second Game with Morehead. March 8, 1924.

We left home at nine o'clock on the "Cherokee." We had a full load of passengers. We sang almost all the way there. The game was at two-thirty. It was rough and fast. A lot rougher than the last game with them. They seemed to think that there was more than one way of winning. But, old Morehead, you had to "hand it to us again." We were too much for you. Score 18 - 2. We had a fine trip back in the moonlight. We came home singing songs of victory.

Second Game with Beaufort. March 15, 1924.

This was the last and the most important game of the season and was to be on the home court. This game was the cause of considerable interest on both sides, for in a way it was the deciding game. We were nervous over the matter for we realized what was expected of us and what we wanted to do. The game started off snappy. For a while Beaufort was in the lead, but not for long. For who wouldn't do their best with all that "yelling" by our loyal supporters? We got ahead and stayed that way. Didn't we feel proud over winning the "championship of Carteret County." But there is "never a rose without a thorn" and Beaufort we don't blame you for all those tears.

Forfeited Games

Newport forfeited their second game by not coming. 2 - 0.

St. Paul forfeited their second game by failing to play after we went down there. They knew we would get it anyway, but we were not satisfied. We like to play and win that way.

Several speakers spoke including Mrs. Nancy Lewis, Jonathan Willis, Doug Damren and Linwood Parker. Two out of town speakers - Tommy Salter and Royce Swinson, both are past Presidents of the N. C. Principal/Assistant Principal Association and both were elected to the Hall of Fame for that association.

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- ◆ Mr. Willis also covered 1939, that could have been the last year of the Win Streak – even though we do not have documentation, at this point, to substantiate if Smyrna kept winning. The 1939 Smyrna School record show an even more dominate team, the records is as follows:

1938/1939 Smyrna Girls Basketball Coach O. T. Townsend; Record 12-0; Smyrna averaged 42.2 points per game with their competitor averaging 9 points; (7 out of 10 scored less than 10 points).

During the 1938-39 basketball season the Smyrna High School girls were very successful, continuing to hold the coveted Carteret County Championship.

Smyrna Score	Teams Played	Opponent Score
39	Atlantic High School	6
52	Atlantic High School	4
31	Beaufort High School	1
28	Morehead High School	5

36	Beaufort High School	3
44	Newport High School	14
66	Atlantic High School	9
8	Morehead City High School	3
63	Atlantic High School	12
58	Newport High School	16
	Tournament	
46	Atlantic High School	12
47	Newport High School	24

There were a number of other speakers including Mrs. Nancy Lewis, Jonathan Willis, Ricky Bartholomew and Mr. Bartholomew who got the last word. There was also two special friends that spoke, Tommy Salter and Royce Swinson, both past Presidents and both elected to the Hall of Fame by the Principal/Assistant Principals Association.

According to Joe (Boy) Willis, he said “He was helped with the event by the organization committee members Doug Damren, Linwood Parker and Jonathan Willis; coordinators of the food committee Eleanor Gillikin, Dee Sharp and with the help of many classmates; and with the expert help of Pam Morris and Karen Amspacher of CSWM&HC.