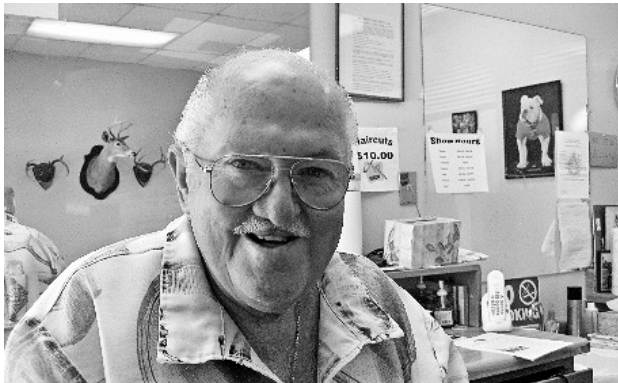




# Snellville Historical Society

*To Research, Document and Publicize the History of Snellville and the Snellville Community*

## PEANUT CELEBRATES 50 YEARS AS BARBER



**Kenneth "Peanut" Dalton**

It is 1:50 on a Friday afternoon and several men are seated in the two-chair barbershop waiting for the barber Kenneth Dalton, better known as Peanut, to return from lunch. If longtime customers are waiting when it is his lunch time, Peanut leaves the door unlocked and customers stay until he returns at 2:00. There are no appointments—first come first served.



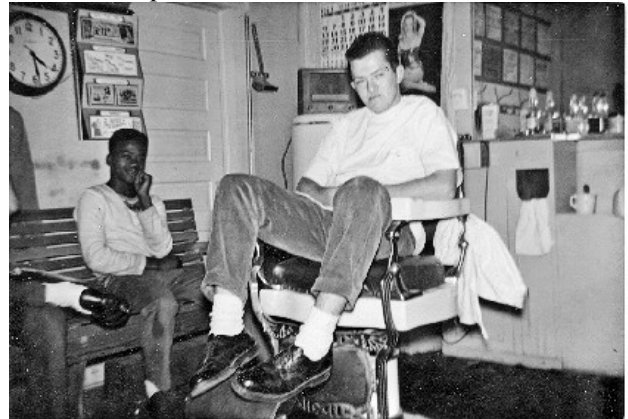
**Clay Sorrow**  
Customer for 40 years

Some men have used Peanut's services for the fifty years he has had a shop. Today Max Swilling declares he has been a customer for fifteen years. He began after moving to Snellville from Stone Moun-

tain and at the recommendation of several neighbors.

One doesn't come to Peanut's barbershop if in a hurry. Life slows down when one enters the door. On this afternoon there is conversation about Peanut being interviewed for an article that Peanut referred to as "making history". Conversation among customers turns to the Braves and the Gwinnett Braves. Hanging on the wall is a University of Georgia football player caricature signed by Mark Richt, so one can imagine in the fall of the year that the topic of discussion would be Georgia football.

Peanut was born in the Five Forks area of Gwinnett County June 19, 1940. At birth he weighed three pounds nine ounces and shortly lost weight down to two pounds five ounces. His appearance at that time acquired him the name Peanut.



**Kenneth "Peanut" Dalton in Nov. 1960**  
seated on left is "Frog" the shoeshine boy

He graduated from Central Gwinnett High School in Lawrenceville in 1959. After seeing an ad for a barber school in Atlanta, he decided to give it a try. With his mother's financial assistance, he began school on November 20, 1959. He graduated and began cutting hair in May of 1960.

A week after he graduated, he began his first job at a shop in Winder where he charged \$1.00 for a cut. A few weeks later on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July in addition to his Winder job, he began working nights at Snellville. The cost for a cut there was 75¢.

In Snellville he worked with Mr. John Seay until Mr. Seay retired in February of 1961. Mr. Seay operated a one-chair shop, so Peanut had to purchase a chair for himself. Their shop was located in what is now the DUI building that they rented from Mr. Aubrey Peters. Peanut stayed in that location for twenty-three years.



Lt to Rt: John Salvhus, Hollam Franklin & Max Swilling

Thursday nights were a particularly busy time for Peanut. Emmett Clower remembers sitting for two or three hours waiting for a cut, but there were few complaints. Customers knew one needed patience to get a trim by Snellville's master barber. Then and now, Peanut spends 18 to 20 minutes per cut.

When he began cutting hair in 1960, the most popular style for men was the flattop that Peanut says took longer to cut. He still has customers who travel a long distance to get a flattop from him. Bobbie Downs, a hairdresser from the Snellville area who has been working for forty years said, "No one could cut a flattop as well as Peanut."

He is a certified Master Barber, and in 1988 and 1989 he was voted the Best Barber in Gwinnett County.

Peanut cuts hair of all ages. Usually moms bring their babies in for their first haircut around eighteen months, but once, a mom brought in a six-month-old for a trim. The mom held the baby's head while Peanut gave him a trim. His oldest customer was a Mr. Medlock who lived in the Lenora area. Peanut cut his hair until he was 104 years old. If a long time customer is in a nursing home, Peanut will go and cut his hair.

As a young man Peanut enjoyed driving fast. The road from Lawrenceville to Snellville was a good one to use to take some liberties. Once officer "Sam Ketchem" heard Peanut's 1959 Chevy exceeding the speed limit, but he was unable to have a chase at that time. The next day Sam stopped by the barber shop and warned Peanut he would be on the lookout for him. He also told him he knew where he lived, and he would come there if necessary.

On another occasion it is rumored that Peanut and a friend were racing on Five Forks Road in the Lilburn area. It just so happened that Sam Ketchem was in the area, but Lilburn was out of his jurisdiction. When Sam heard the noise of the two cars, he said, "There they go again!"

It is not known if Peanut was ever a recipient of one of Sam's tickets.



Peanut's current barber shop

In 1983 Jimmy and Wayne Mason built a strip mall across from Peanut's long time location and persuaded him to move to a new facility where he has been ever since.

One of the big changes Peanut has seen in his fifty years is the rise in the cost of barber equipment. He needs to replace his clippers every nine months. When he began, he paid \$21.50 for a pair of clippers. Now they cost \$80.

Peanut's preferred barber chair is the one by the window where young ladies tap on the window and wave hello as they pass by. For years ladies have

admired his blue eyes. A story is told of a woman at the car races who told him he had the most beautiful blue eyes she had ever seen. One of Peanut's friends observed the occurrence and called Peanut's wife. When he arrived at home, his wife was waiting and expecting an explanation. Peanut explained to her he was an innocent victim of someone's admiration of him.

One can imagine the quantity of hair that Peanut has cut over the years. By the end of each day one sees a large pile of hair swept up in a corner of the shop. One of his customers comes by and gets the hair and puts it around his flowers and in his garden. This man thinks it is particularly effective around his rosebushes.



**Peanut cutting Dan Keller's hair**

When times were slower, Peanut enjoyed hunting and fishing. The racks on the wall in the shop are from deer he killed. He owns a boat that is ready whenever he can find time to go fishing.

Peanut has a daughter from his first marriage. He is proud of his granddaughter who will soon graduate from Kennesaw State University. While in school she worked part time with the Atlanta Braves.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of July, Peanut celebrated his seventeen-year marriage to his present wife, Carol. He met her when she brought her three-year-old son to Peanut for a haircut.

Peanut has lived in several different homes in the Snellville-Grayson-Loganville area, but one afternoon he and his wife, Carol, were out driving around and went through Social Circle. They saw a



**Peanut's home in Social Circle**

house there that appealed to them. The house belonged to the mother-in-law of TV personality Natalie Dupree. It was 137 years old and in need of much repair. Peanut and his wife accepted the challenge of renovating the house. They bought the house in '99 and as a statement of their accomplishment, the home has been on the Social Circle Home Tour four times.

Peanut now restricts his service to cutting hair and trimming beards. He no longer gives shaves. He charges \$10.00 for a cut and \$2.00 more for a beard trim.

Peanut's day begins at 4:00 a.m., and he opens the shop at 6 a.m. His day continues until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. He only works until noon on Saturday and is off on Wednesday. When one inquires his reasoning for keeping such long hours, his response is, "I'm a business man."

He doesn't discuss retirement because he is fortunate to still have a steady hand required to cut hair, but if retired, he would continue cutting hair a few hours a week. He has a chair in his garage waiting for him to make the decision.

Generations of men in the Snellville area have depended on Peanut to keep them looking their best. As the years go by, one wonders what the gentlemen will do if Peanut ever decides it is time to acknowledge it is "R" time.

**Peanut, on behalf of the men in Snellville and the Snellville Community, thank you for your fifty years of service to us and our families.**



## The President's Corner

By  
*Carolyne Kirkland*

Dear Members,

To encourage students to understand that history is not just something found in books and museums, in 1987, a University of Tennessee history professor assigned his students a project to interview people who had experienced the Depression of the 1930s.

One student came home to Snellville to interview her Grandparents. The following is excerpts from her paper entitled *We Remember The Depression*.

*The author's Grandparents grew up in Snellville, Ga., a very small, rural, agricultural town in the 1930s. Like nearly everyone else in Snellville, they owned their own farm, although when they married in 1935, they sharecropped on family land. The primary crop of these farms was cotton. Wheat and corn were also grown, but cotton was king of the Snellville farms. Since most everybody lived on farms, they were lucky enough to have enough to eat. They drew water from a well, made their own syrup, and grew their own food. Just because they did not starve does not mean that they were not poor. Cotton prices dropped during the Depression to one quarter for a pound, which is twenty-five dollars a bale. The family also owned a sawmill. In the summer the grandfather's family sawed lumber, and in the fall they ginned cotton.*

*Family and church were very important institutions in the 1930s. Families were a lot closer then than they are now. Being farmers, families were big because the larger the family the more people there were to help on the farm. Church was where the social life was. Since most of the people in Snellville were farmers, Sunday was the only time they were able to get out. Many people walked to church, and many walked to the Methodist Church one Sunday and the Baptist Church the next. Sometimes, week-long services would be held at a campground a few miles out of town. The farmers would travel to the*

*campground by way of mule and wagon (or horse and wagon), bringing along the cow, a wood stove, chickens (to kill and eat) and whatever else was needed to carry on household activities. Everybody would go to church two or three times a day, while carrying on normal household activities at the campground.*

*As stated earlier, Sunday for church was really the only time the Snellville farmers were able to get out. When the occasion to go someplace arose, the farmers traveled by way of a horse-drawn buggy, or a mule-drawn buggy. Most Snellville roads were dirt.*

*When the farmers had free time on their hands, they spent it sewing, reading or hunting. Movies cost anywhere from a dime to a quarter, but they did not go see them because they would have to go to the city. Cokes cost a nickel.*

*There was radio, and her Grandparents remember listening to the Farm and Home Reports. They never missed one of Franklin Roosevelt's Fireside chats if they could help it. They're just as favorable about the New Deal because it helped so many people. They remember the Agricultural Adjustment Act, when there was a quota on how much cotton they could grow.*

*Education was important in Snellville, but not as important as other institutions, such as church. Many people did not get much, if any, education.*

*Farmers were willing to help each other out if necessary. For example, if one farmer were to get sick in the spring, the other farmers would come and plant his crop, and if necessary, harvest his crop in the fall. Everybody would help by fixing food, making clothes, etc. Another example is that if there was a death in the community, a church bell would ring and the farmers would stop their work and go to the cemetery to dig the grave.*

*As stated before, times were rough. Her Grandmother remembers that back then that most people made their own quilts. Usually in making these quilts, a person would card their own cotton. If they did not have enough cotton, they would use paper instead. People would drink out of mason jars because they could not afford regular cups and glasses. When time came to iron, the Grandmother would build up the fireplace and set heavy irons in front of the fireplace to heat them up. These heavy*

irons are what she ironed with. She also remembers using kerosene lamps, a wood stove, and an open fireplace to cook on or to heat the house. There was no indoor plumbing.

Times were very hard during the Great Depression of the 1930s, but the farmers of Snellville, Ga. were able to cope because they were a hard working people. Perhaps in some aspects, life was a little better then; family ties were closer, church was more important, but also the farmer was willing to go out of his way to help his fellow farmer.

Lastly, the people were not lazy. They knew and accepted the fact that they had to work hard for what little they got in return. Still, all in all, these present times are the best of times – at least they are to this couple.

This college student received an “A” Well Done on her written report.

I hope this encourages you to interview relatives about their earlier experiences, so you can have an account of your family history to share with your loved ones.

On Sunday, October 10, 2010 at 2:30 p.m. our Snellville Historical Society’s fall meeting will be held in the Community Room at City Hall. Our speaker is Stewart Ewing whose topic will be *Arrival of the Scots and Scots-Irish in America and the Migration through America*.

We are happy to announce two new members: Pat Hammond and the Snellville American Legion.

The History Committee met and began compiling information needed to update the written history of Snellville. If you are interested in helping, please contact our office.

A fun place to be on Saturday morning from 8-12 is the Snellville Farmer’s Market. It is open each Saturday morning through October. Hope to see you on Saturday.

Need a gift? We are selling the Snellville Historical Afghans for \$30.00. Come by the office on Monday, Wednesday or Friday mornings from 10:00-12:00 to make a purchase. We also have Pap Ewing’s book *Snellville Consolidated School* available for \$45.00.

We had wonderful Snellville Days on May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Over two hundred people came by to see our

historical display in the Courtland Williams Building. A big THANK YOU to our members who worked at our display.

A surprise visitor to our display was a descendent of Thomas McGuire who was the owner of the Promised Land Plantation. The family name of these descendants of Mr. McGuire is Mauldin. Jim Mauldin, his wife Bridget, son Samuel and daughter Madison live in the Snellville community.



Jim and Bridget Mauldin with son Samuel and daughter Madison  
Descendants of Thomas McGuire

We appreciate the military pictures you have donated. Please continue to bring your photographs to share with our organization. We will make a copy and return the original to you. It is because of people’s generosity that we have the wonderful collection we have today.

Our member and former President, Thomas “Pap” Ewing, will speak at the Gwinnett Historical Society meeting on Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

We need volunteers to work in the Historical Society’s office. We are open only two hours on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We are trying to build a work group so that a person has to work only two hours every other week.

A Snellville Historical Society pin has been designed and is for sale to our members. The cost is \$5.00. We encourage you to purchase a pin and wear it to show your support for this fourteen-year-old organization.

**See you on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars!**

Carolyn Kirkland

# Snellville's First Tennis Court



photo from Charlene Williams Canady

Tennis in Snellville

## By Elaine Shell Mitchell

One morning in 1950, Snellville awoke to the rumble of a front loader tearing up "Miss" Annie Mae Shell's beautiful flower garden.

The people in town thought Mr. Guy had lost his mind and was living dangerously since he knew how highly his wife thought of her flowers, but when asked what he was doing, he would only smile and say, "You'll see."

Mr. and Mrs. Shell's oldest daughter, Vivian, had just completed her college education and while in school she had learned to play tennis. Playing tennis was all she could talk about, and she frequently said, "I wish we had a tennis court in Snellville."

Finally Mr. Shell said, "If you can talk your mother into giving up her flower garden, I will build you a tennis court."

In came Mr. Arthur Stancil and his front loader. It took the town about three weeks to discover what was going on. Mr. Ralph Head finally figured it out, and after that, it became a town project.

The Shell home became the recreational center of Snellville. While people waited their turn to play a set of tennis, they would go to the Shell's front porch and sit around a big kitchen table and play cards, Spoons, Crazy 8 and Hearts. It could be a long wait because old and young alike enjoyed playing the game. Play would begin in the afternoon after chores were done and continue until the wee hours of the morning.

The tennis court was a clay court, and the people of Snellville enjoyed many years of tennis there until the City built a community court located on Lenora Church Road in an area where at one time Dr. Richard Carlin's original office was located.

# Gwinnett County Summer of 1910

## Grand Opera

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### Caruso Coming To Atlanta Next Week

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Atlanta will have the greatest company of singers in the world next week when the Metropolitan Opera Company from New York plays here.

This company includes such distinguished artists as Caruso, Martin, Carl Jorn, Scotti, Geraldine Farrar, Olive Fremstad, Gadaki, Louise Homer and Bella Alten. These singers are known all over Europe and America. Caruso is the leading tenor in the world and the highest priced.

There are 60 people in the orchestra, more than 100 in the chorus and the ballet is as large as the average traveling company.

There are 250 people and 14 carloads of scenery. Seven miles of rope have been used in preparing to handle the scenery on stage.

The operas will be given in the Auditorium Armory which seats 6,100. Caruso appears to be the chief drawing card as the house for his appearance in "Aida" on Wednesday night is more than three-fourths sold out. There will not even be standing room that night 30 minutes after the doors open.

If an organist can be secured to properly manipulate the huge new \$50,000 organ, it will be used on Monday night to augment the orchestra in Lohengrin. The trouble is that the instrument is so large and has so many new features that no one but an expert can play it properly. It works by electricity and compressed air.

The railroads have arranged to run special opera trains after the performances, Wednesday and Saturday nights for the convenience of those who wish to attend the operas and return home on those nights.

*Gwinnett Journal April 27, 1910*

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## THOMASON

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### Placed Under Heavy Bond by Judge Brown

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On June 21, J. J. Britt, W. J. Hewatt, C. E. Harbin, J. A. Hewett, Mose Nash, B. R. Hay and Henry Britt of Cates district, swore out a peace warrant before Justice of the Peace, J. A. Brown, of Lawrenceville, against J. B. Thomason, a white man living on the farm of James Sawyer in the community of the above named parties.

The case was tried Monday, and a big crowd was present. The trial lasted all day. O. A. Nix appeared for the prosecutors and I. L. Oakes for the defendant.

After hearing the evidence, Judge Brown passed an order requiring Thomason to give a bond of \$800. Thomason could not give the bond and was placed in jail.

Thomason has had considerable trouble with the people in the community. He seems to have lost out in each case carried to court, and then he became a terror to the community. He made threats and did various things to arouse the community against him. The women were afraid to leave home, and the entire neighborhood was in a state of dread.

*Gwinnett Journal June 29, 1910.*



## Pharr's Academy

Rain, rain and our farmers are getting behind with their crops.

Seems that ice cream suppers are getting to be very common with some of our people.

Some sickness is reported in our corner at present.

Rev. J.P. McConnell, of Grayson, preached at Mt. Zion Sunday afternoon.

Cyril Snell, of Snellville, visited the Sunday school at Mt. Zion Sunday afternoon.

C.W. Bradford, candidate for tax collector, spent one night last week here.

Several from here attended preaching at Snellville Saturday and Sunday.

S.C. Williams went to Lawrenceville Monday.

Mrs. G.W. Pharr spent a few days last week at Milledgeville. Misses Lucile and Grace, who have been attending school there returned home with her.

Mr. James Sawyer, of Snellville, was here recently in his auto. Mr. Sawyer had just run his machine for the first time. He says he has confidence enough in himself to learn to run an automobile.

Saturday and Sunday are regular meeting days at Mt. Zion and a good crowd is expected out.

*Gwinnett Journal June 18, 1910.*

## Gwinnett County Summer 1960

### South Gwinnett Wins County Track Meet

By Judy Stancil

The county track meet was held at South Gwinnett on April 18, with six schools participating. They were Lilburn, South, Duluth, Dacula, Central and West.

South took the first place trophy with 77 points, Central was runnerup with 54 points, West was third with 39 points and Dacula was fourth with 29½ points; Duluth 19½, Lilburn 5.

The winners in each event were as follows:

440 yd. Relay – Garner, Swanson, Harrison and Ferguson from South, 47.9 sec.

Mile Relay – Cooper, Pratt, Yancey and Ferguson from South, 3min. 55sec.

120 yd. High Hurdles – Yancey from South, 17.3 sec.

100 yd. Dash – Garner from South, 10.9 sec.

Mile Run – Sosebee from South, 5min. 16.2 sec.

440 yd dash – B. Wages from Central, 57.7 sec.

180 yd. Low Hurdles – Ferguson from South, 22.4 sec.

220 yd. Dash – Garner from South, 25.2 sec.

880 yd. run – Copeland from West, 2min 16.7sec.

Shot – Hudlow from Dacula, 38' 7"

Discus – Todd from West, 102' 10¾"

Pole Vault – Coggins from Duluth, 10'6"

High Jump – Masters from Dacula, 5'2"

Broad Jump – Ferguson from South, 19' 1½"

*The News Herald April 20, 1960*

### Mrs. G.F. Snell Has 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Mrs. G.F. Snell, widow of the late Gladstone Frederick Snell and daughter of the late Thomas Pinkney and Frances Lanford Cofer celebrates her eightieth birthday Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup> in Snellville

with her large family of 10 children, 21 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and 17 in-laws, making a total of 65 in her immediate family to help her celebrate this and other special occasions

*The News Herald September 1, 1960*



## Officer Don To Be At Snellville Friday

Officer Don of the Popeye Club of TV fame will be at Snellville Elementary School, Friday, April 22 at 8 p.m. Admission will be 50¢. The program is sponsored by the PTA.

*The News Herald April 20, 1960*

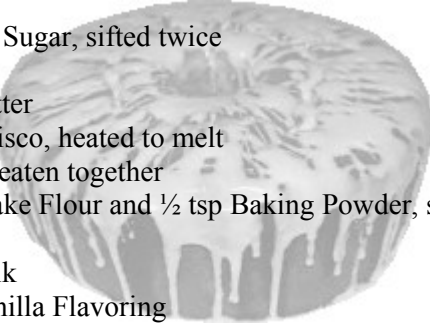


## Tastes of Snellville...

The following is a favorite recipe of Carol Dalton (Mrs. "Peanut" Dalton.)

### Perfect Pound Cake

2 cups of Sugar, sifted twice  
1 cup Butter  
½ cup Crisco, heated to melt  
5 Eggs, beaten together  
3 cups Cake Flour and ½ tsp Baking Powder, sifted twice  
1 cup Milk  
1 tsp. Vanilla Flavoring  
1 tsp. Lemon Juice



Cream butter, shortening and sugar until sugar is dissolved.  
Add beaten eggs.  
Add flour mixture and milk alternately.  
Add flavorings and beat 2 minutes.  
Pour into tube pan that has been greased and lightly floured.  
Place in cold oven.  
Turn oven to 325 degrees and bake 1½ hours.  
As soon as possible, remove cake from pan and place in cake plate with the lid on, preferable a plastic lid.  
Cool completely then wipe excess moisture from inside lid.

### Glaze

Combine 2 cups confectioners sugar (sifted) with 1/3 cup lemon juice.  
Wisk till completely dissolved and drizzle over cake.

## We Remember...

### Snellville High School Alumni Deaths



**James E. Tuck** was a graduate in the class of 1943. He died May 20, 2010.

On June 1, 2010 **Hazel Nash Cruce** died. She graduated in 1947.

**Mary Ellen Jordan Moore**, a graduate of the class of 1934, died June 7, 2010.

**Hewlett B. Bud Johnson** graduated in 1948 and died June 22, 2010.

**Roy T. "Red" Lee** died May 14, 2010. He was 88 years of age.

On June 25, 2010 **Lamar Williams** died. He graduated in 1941.

**Arthur Lamar Garner**, who graduated in 1942, died on July 29, 2010.

### Also Remembered. . .



**Christine Moon Clay** was 91 years old when she died May 8, 2010.

On May 10, 2010 **Nellie Ruth McCart Ewing** died. She was 84.

**Donald Burton Jones** died June 15, 2010.

On July 9, 2010 **Cynthia Snell** died.

**Jeff Richardson**, the son of Stiles and Edna Richardson, died July 17, 2010.

**Officers of the Snellville Historical Society**

*President.....Carolyn Kirkland*

*Vice President.....Elaine Roberts*

*Secretary.....Janet Gibson*

*Treasurer.....Lynette Couch*

**Directors at Large**

*Ann Britt*

*Neita Snell*

*Emmett Clower*

**Annual Membership**

**Individual \$15.**

**Family... \$25.**

**For information contact**

**Carolyn Kirkland .....770-972-4729**

**Or**

**Lynette Couch.....770-972-1457**

**Snellville Historical Society Office Hours**

**Snellville City Hall**

**Monday, Wednesday and Friday**

**10:00am—12 noon**

**770-985-3512**

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**Editor: Sybil Pate Deacon.....770-963-0216**

**Wayne and Gloria League**

**Nick and Carolyn Kirkland**

**Dick Deacon**

