



PIRATE'S REVENGE

FIRST EDITION

MAY, 2007

Message from Peggy...

Springtime always brings the promise of fresh growth. As we see this spring in, I am encouraged by the accomplishments of the past two years and renewed by the new initiatives the BHS Preservation has planned. This newsletter, *"Pirate's Revenge"*, will answer the call for more timely information and offer a special feature article spotlighting our members.

We want to begin collecting all the rich oral history for future Pirates. Our first endeavor with Jack Wallace was recorded last fall. This video – as well as some innovative possible reuse plans for the building prepared by the ECU School of Interior Design -- will be available at the Pirate Day Alumni Reunion on July 21, 2007.

In the spirit of continuing our exterior improvements, we have made remarkable progress. As you can see from the photo of the front doors, the members have accomplished visible changes on their workdays. We look forward to the feasibility study results, May 14, 2007. An exciting proposal from a window restoration specialist, Double Hung Windows, should be ready by early summer.

Everything we have been able to accomplish highlights the power of hope, pride and ingenuity among ordinary citizens engaged in a collaborative effort. We're so grateful you are joined with us in this important effort in your own unique ways!!

Peggy

"It is the grace of God that helps those who do everything that lies within their power to achieve that which is beyond their power." - Abraham Joshua Heschel (1907-1972)



Special Note:

Currently, the State Historic Site in Bath, NC has a display in their main case in the lobby featuring the Swindell Store, from January 1, 2007- June 30, 2007. Beginning July 1- December 31, 2007, the Bath High School will be featured. We encourage you to take time to view these two important public buildings from the 20th century. Both were built in the same era by the same builder and the timing of their renovations may well be linked.

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Save These Dates for 2007...

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March 19, 2007

April 21, 2007

May 12, 2007

May 14, 2007

June 4, 2007

June/July 2007

July 21, 2007

September 22, 2007

Update at BCCC

Workday at BHS

Bath Fest, Bath

Town Council Mtg

BHSP Board Mtg

Workdays TBA

Pirate Alumni Day

Golf Tournament & Annual

Raffle

Spotlight on a BHS Graduate

Doris Wallace Eakes: Cultivator of Opportunity

At some point in her life, Doris Wallace Eakes has had everything she wished for when she stood on the front porch of the Pinetown farmhouse imagining possibilities for her life. When they were young, she and her siblings helped with the farm work, and she says she “floated through school,” dreaming about wealth, influence, and opportunity.

After her 1956 graduation from Bath High School, Eakes became an extremely successful businesswoman who, with her husband Joe, owned or managed numerous retirement homes, motels, and restaurants. Eakes says she cannot completely explain the sources of her creative business sense: “I think I came to this earth with a lot of knowledge I didn’t study for. I do know there’s a lot that I know that I didn’t learn in school.”

At her farm the day after a class reunion in March, Eakes wore jeans and sandals and had red-painted nails. Her shirt most exuded her personality: on a black background, accented with a few red roses (her favorite flower), were pink and white overlapping words like “cheerfulness,” “amusement,” “devotion,” “tranquility,” and “destiny.”

Eakes is motivated by a combination of religiously-inspired passivity and issue-driven activity. She likes the ideas of **“FROG: Fully Rely on God”** and **“Don’t take it upon yourself to right a wrong—let God.”** But being a social activist, she wants to see positive change in her lifetime and says, “I can’t stand for somebody to tell me I can’t do something.”

In the year following her BHS graduation, she was not allowed to return to nursing school because she had gotten married. In her productive life since then, however, she says, “I’ve taken care of more people than most nurses do.” Traveling internationally with her military husband broadened her worldview.

Her father, Carmer H. Wallace, Sr. helped found Roanoke Bible College and pushed for qualified teachers in all Beaufort County schools. Eakes has continued the family tradition of helping people gain the education they want and need by endowing scholarships for students pursuing nursing, business, or ministry at Cape Fear and Beaufort County community colleges, Roanoke Bible College (RBC), and Maryville College (in her husband’s Tennessee hometown).

Although she is still involved in business ventures, Eakes is now mostly an international philanthropist who focuses on helping abused, neglected, and underprivileged children in India, Africa, and the United States. After hearing RBC graduate Ajai Lall speak at Pinetown’s Rosemary Church of Christ about his dreams of opening a mission and helping children in his native India, Eakes helped him found the Central India Christian Mission (CICM).

Even though Eakes has found financial success and has several homes, she remembers the farm value of conservation: “I hate the throw-away society we have become.” She has preserved generations of family photos, the 1970s green and brown flowered wallpaper, green and yellow linoleum, wood-paneled kitchen cabinets, gold appliances and Formica counter tops at the farmhouse where she grew up. She knows BHS could have become just another historic building to be victimized by profit-seekers who don’t care or perhaps even know about BHS’s history.

Always fascinated by the theater, Eakes’s experience as a prompter for a class play made the area behind the curtains on the BHS stage one of her favorite parts of the building. She remembers Betty Lou Alligood and Barbara Austin Latham: the three were “friends all the way from Pinetown.” Eakes’s other memories of BHS include Mr. Blanton’s biology class, a typing class with “pretty and fun” Ms. Jones, a class trip to Washington, DC, and having to wear two different socks as part of freshman initiation.

Over coffee and doughnuts at her kitchen table, she said, “This building, whose walls hold secrets and memories of people who have walked her halls gathering education to face the world, now has the opportunity to open doors for children and adults for centuries to come. This could become such an asset. It’s a vast thing for the community and eastern North Carolina.”

She sees potential for multiple uses that would appeal to a range of residents and visitors: satellite classrooms for area community colleges and perhaps ECU, medical facilities, expanded library space, and a venue for wholesome musical and theatrical entertainment for the community and



Beaufort County, social and educational programs for senior citizens, and music and theater learning opportunities for children.

Eakes’s vision for children’s development programs at BHS is consistent with her philanthropic focus. In February 2005, when Eakes heard about nine-year-old Jessica Lunsford’s kidnapping and assault in Florida, she decided not to only focus on children in India, but also children in the United States, and especially North Carolina.

By June 2005, Eakes had established Trinity Children Foundation to increase the pool of contributors for CICM and North Carolina children’s charities. To complete a trinity of charities, she began supporting Lalmba, a medical and orphan care group in East Africa. In 2006, she hosted her first Trinity Children Charity Ride, for which 32 motorcyclists rode from Eakes’s Kure Beach home to her Townsend, Tennessee estate, and raised \$53,000 for North Carolina children.

She became disillusioned with the corporate world because “honesty is so lacking today. Anything they want—it doesn’t matter how they get it,” Eakes focuses on philanthropy and has become a “morning person.” She uses the quiet “thinking time” to be thankful for her successes, plan fundraising events, and send e-mails. Communication is significant in her life and she says that if she had only one day left in her life, she would spend it calling her friends.

Thinking back to her high school English experiences in Ms. Sledd's class, she described Sledd as "thorough" and herself as "absolutely the most unlikely to do a book." Yet, in the years since her husband's death, she has experimented with writing about her faith and extraordinary experiences. She says, "Everything in my life sort of evolves. Weird things happen to me. Everything that's happened—I've been trying to figure out what I'm supposed to learn from it."

In 2005, she published a collection of poetry, *Voices of the Heart*, and a set of stories called *Whispered Messages to the Heart*. Her first poem "Memorial to Joe," which she wrote in fifteen minutes the day her husband died in 1992, appears in *Voices. Messages* includes a humorous story about the mysterious rabbits she and her family saw following the anniversary of her husband's birthday on July 11, 2002 after the dedication and naming of the library building as the Wallace/Eakes Building at Beaufort Community College. Joining the Tony Robbins Platinum Club allowed Eakes to have new adventures: driving a needle-nose racecar, bungee jumping, riding the Orient-Express from Paris to Venice, and songwriting in Tofina, BC. Before the songwriting workshop, she would say, "I can't carry a tune in a bucket," but during that session, she expanded her writing ability and is no longer shy about singing a capella: "Everyone wrote beautiful songs. It was very enlightening." The chorus of one song she wrote, "Whisper your wish to the wind, my friend..." is reminiscent of her girlhood days on the front porch of the farmhouse.

Her experience at the workshop was so positive that she is working with Edwin Coppard, the workshop's leader, and a singer from Victoria, BC, to produce a CD of her songs, which she believes were "handed down" to her. The CD sales will benefit TCF.

In addition to working on the CD production in the next few months, Eakes plans to visit the film studios in Wilmington, move into a house a block away from the waterfront lot where she used to live in Kure Beach, travel to Spain, and finalize plans for her second Trinity Children Charity Ride.

Her writing is one way she plans to help Bath High School Preservation. Donors may receive both *Voices of the Heart* and *Whispered Messages to the Heart* as a free gift for a \$25 donation to the BHS project.

To learn more about Doris Wallace Eakes and Trinity Children Foundation, see: www.trinitychildren.com.

Submitted by: *Leanne E. Smith*

If you have suggestions for the next featured BHS graduate/BHSP Member, contact us.

We welcome the opportunity to learn more about our fellow alumni & members.

Bi- Annual Publication, May & September[

If you would prefer to receive future newsletters in an electronic version, please contact Surry Everett at surryeverett@bath-nc.com.

2007 Membership Renewal

Remember to renew your Annual membership of \$25.00 or \$250 "Restore a Window" program

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

BHS Class of _____

Membership Levels

- Swashbuckler \$25 - \$74.99
- Maroon/White Pirate \$75 - \$149.99
- Buccaneer \$150 - \$299.99
- Crossbones \$300 - \$499.99
- Blackbeard \$500 - \$999.99
- Friends of T.A. & Molly Brooks \$1000 - \$4,999.99

Please consider "Restore a Window" Program for \$250 in honor or memory of a loved one.

Example:

*In memory of Giles H. Cutler/Audrey W. Cutler
By: The children of Mr./Mrs. Giles H. Cutler*

**Honor ~ A contribution to
BHSP**

Delores Douglas Teachey

Happy Mother's Day

From Betsy & Edwin Gray & Family

Class Notes...

Let your friends and classmates know about marriages, children, grandchildren, travels or more by snail mail or email to

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Pirate's Revenge is a bi-annual newsletter developed by Bath High School Preservation members to provide pertinent information on the progress of our organization in preserving our heritage at the BHS building. To submit articles or receive future issues, please send an e-mail to surryeverett@bath-nc.com and include "*Pirate's Revenge*" in the subject line.

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Thank You's...

- ★ Jo Anne Tuten Childs for providing refreshments ,Harold Cutler, Susan Modlin, Alvin Jarvis, Peggy Smith, Jim Cox, David Everett, David Sayers, Janice Oden, Nelda Ormond on April 21, 2007 workday
- ★ Vernell Boyd Douglas at Country Classics for promoting the BHSP sale items.
- ★ Hunt McKinnon and his students in the Department of Interior Design & Merchandising at ECU for the well-developed display boards and power point presentations to expand the vision for this remarkable historic building and landmark of our community. These models will be displayed July 21, 2007 at Pirate Alumni Day.
- ★ Marti Buchanan and Pamlico Playhouse for providing BHSP bumper stickers.
- ★ Mike & Pat Mansfield - video and photographs of special event.
- ★ June Wallace and Claudia Alligood for organizing Pirate Alumni Day and their helpers.
- ★ Ellen Heck, Betsy Gray, Ilene Elliott McClain, Hilma Elliott, , Alice Wingate, Nelda Ormond for their desserts for Bath Fest on May 12, 2007

If there is anyone we did not mention, we are sorry. It is an oversight and we will gladly recognize you in the upcoming September issue.

Don't Forget... September 22, 2007

Annual Raffle Tickets go on sale June 1
\$100 each ,includes a membership, 2007 08

First Place Week at Splash Landing @
Topsail Island, NC

Second Place Weekend at Grove Park
Inn in Asheville, NC

Third Place A full day of fishing for 4 in
the Gulf Stream aboard a 31 Bertram (EZ
Money) out of Morehead City, NC

Watch For...***The September Issue -*****We Will recognize current and new members*****Looking For...***

Volunteers to serve as BHSP officers and Board of Directors. Please contact Harold Cutler at 944-5771.