

# I Remember...



Fridays were about getting our chores done, loading up the station wagon and Gracie Ellen. Gracie Ellen was Daddy's red fishing boat that we turned into a ski boat.

## Gracie Ellen on Lake Gaston

In the 1970s and early 1980s when my sister and I were growing up, we had a hog operation in Halifax County. Since hogs insist on being fed every day, we couldn't go on vacation. Lake Gaston was only 12 minutes away, so our parents bought a trailer close to Camp Willow Run. This was our vacation.

I wish I had a dime for every kid Daddy taught how to ski or hydro slide. Sometimes someone would bring a huge inner tube and we would all take turns being snatched around the lake. With an inner tube attached to the back of the boat, Daddy would forget that we were his kids. All he cared about was throwing us off. Sometimes some poor nut would challenge Daddy saying he couldn't be thrown off. Let's just say we saw some amazing airborne feats over the years. No one every stayed on!

Daddy would stay in that boat for hours every weekend pulling, no doubt, hundreds of us kids (and adults). We never thought about how hot or tired he was, nor how much all that gas cost. But he never complained. I think he loved it. I know we did.

*Wanda Garren, Lincolnton, Rutherford EMC*

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### Guidelines:

1. Approximately 200 words.
2. Digital photos must be at least 600kb or 1200 by 800 pixels.
3. No deadline, but only one entry per household per month.
4. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want yours returned.
5. We pay \$50 for each one published in the magazine. We retain reprint rights.
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7. **E-mail:** iremember@carolinacountry.com  
**Or by U.S. mail:** I Remember, Carolina Country, 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616

## Our first bathing suits

When I was growing up in the western North Carolina mountains, we went swimming in the neighborhood creeks in summer. We were an all-girl family, and our neighbors included a few more girls. We would get together and clear the rocks from a deeper place in the creek and use the rocks to dam up the creek more. It was never deep enough for swimming but deep enough for splashing—and sometimes bathing. For this we wore whatever old clothes our mother would allow.

My sister Jane and I wanted real bathing suits. We were in our early teens (this was the mid-1930s). We heard through the local grapevine that a neighbor wanted someone to help him hoe corn and would pay 10 cents an hour, so we applied for the job. We worked off and on, when we could get away from chores at home.

Finally we had the princely sum of \$2 each. We immediately ordered our bathing suits from the Sears, Roebuck catalog. They cost \$1.98 each (no tax) and we had 4 cents to mail our letters. Postage at that time was only 2 cents.

We were so proud of those plain, black, tank-top bathing suits!

*Frances Davis, Candler, Haywood EMC*

## Saluda days

My mother's brother's house in Saluda was only a block or so from downtown. I can remember in the 1940s, Mom's brother (last name Lawter) taking me down on Main Street. I'd sit on an old wooden bench and watch and listen to the old-

timers tell stories and swap knives. I will be 70 in September, but I remember Dad fussing at me when we were taking this picture because I wasn't holding the fish right.

*Michael Huggins, Gastonia, Rutherford EMC*



My dad, James Leland "Miller" Huggins, and me at my uncle's house in Saluda.



This is my mother (Jheri Greene Wood) with her mother (Maggie Greene) in North Carolina.

### Coast to coast

My mother was the youngest of 15 children, born in the mountains of North Carolina. Her father, looking for work, moved his wife and the youngest family members to Washington state to work in the lumber industry. Upon retirement, my grandparents moved back to North Carolina.

Many years later, my mother herself moved back to North Carolina in order to take care of her ailing parents. As her only child, I moved from Washington across country with her. At 8 years of age, I can remember the absence of a culture shock. We had moved from a small town in northern Washington, rich with forests, to the mountains of western North Carolina. Other than the amount of snowfall, they are very similar.

However, the beauty of this area has compelled me to stay and raise my own two little boys. As an adult, I have been back to visit Washington. I can truly say that I have seen the beauty of this country from coast to coast, but Carolina is my home.

*Paula Tate, Morganton, Rutherford EMC*

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32	11.99	11.64	14.35	12.16	20.91	18.29	52	22.66	20.30	39.73	32.07	71.23	57.23
33	11.99	11.64	14.57	12.38	21.35	18.73	53	24.59	21.96	43.23	34.48	78.23	61.16
34	11.99	11.64	15.01	12.60	21.35	19.16	54	26.60	23.71	47.16	36.88	86.10	65.54
35	12.08	11.73	15.44	12.82	21.35	19.60	55	28.88	25.73	51.54	39.73	94.41	70.35
36	12.16	11.81	16.10	13.48	22.23	20.48	56	30.98	27.04	56.13	43.01	103.16	77.35
37	12.25	11.99	16.54	14.13	23.54	21.35	57	33.34	28.44	61.38	46.73	113.66	85.23
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39	12.43	12.25	18.29	15.88	26.60	24.41	59	39.29	32.11	74.73	56.13	139.04	105.35
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