



The Walthour-Moss Foundation
 Post Office Box 978
 Southern Pines, NC 28388

THE WALTHOUR-MOSS FOUNDATION IS A 501 (C)(3) EXEMPT ORGANIZATION.

The Foundation News is available by email. To be added to the email list please send a message to director@walthour-moss.org.

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Foundation News

A PUBLICATION OF THE WALTHOUR-MOSS FOUNDATION



VOLUME SIX *THE MISSION OF THE WALTHOUR-MOSS FOUNDATION* "TO PRESERVE OPEN LAND, TO PROTECT AND IMPROVE WILDLIFE HABITAT, AND TO OFFER A PLACE FOR EQUESTRIAN PURPOSES" SEPT. 2010

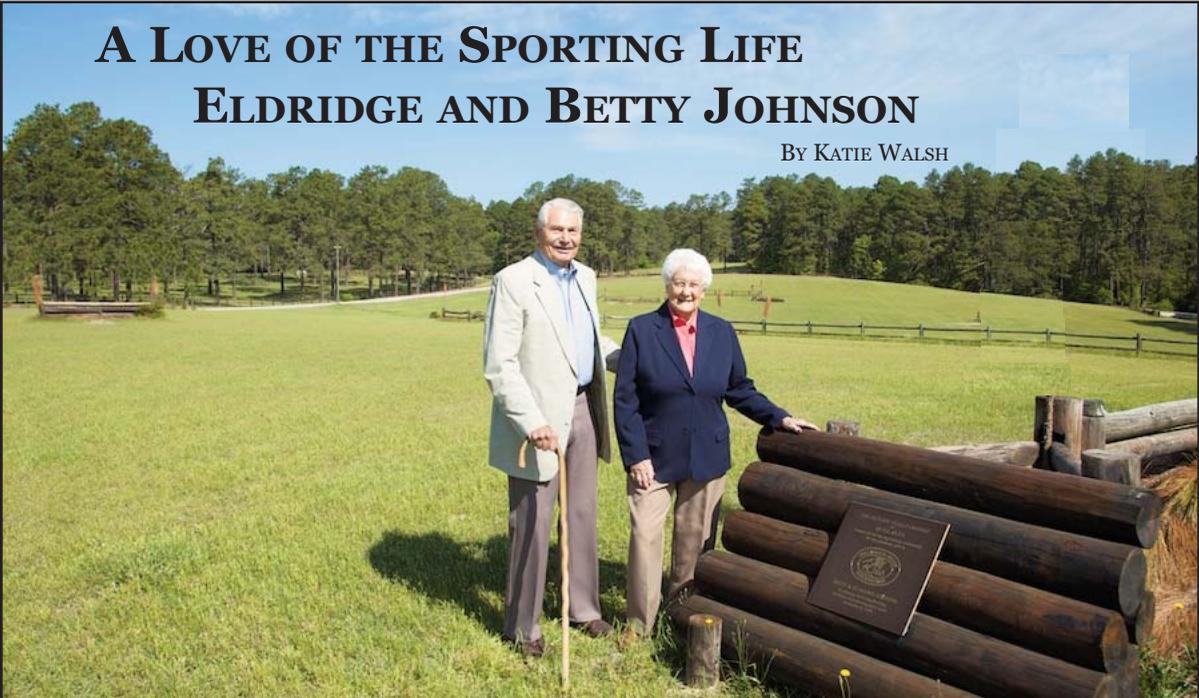


Photo by Caroline Young

BETTY AND ELDRIDGE JOHNSON BESIDE THEIR PLAQUE HONORING THEIR DONATION TO THE FOUNDATION

Southern Pines residents benefit from the glorious legacy given to them by forward-looking individuals who value the equestrian lifestyle and open land that supports that lifestyle. Betty and Eldridge R. Johnson are two such philanthropists who have enriched this community with their generous donations of land.

On a brilliant spring afternoon at Quail Glen, their farm on Young's Road, Betty and "El" gave an account of their introduction to the area, and their subsequent support of the preservation of land by The Walthour-Moss Foundation.

In 1926, long before the 1978 creation of The Walthour-Moss Foundation, El, a young lad of six, came to North Carolina with his parents, brother and sister to visit his grandfather at his Pinehurst home, Boxwood Court. Grandfather Johnson also owned 2,000 acres of land around Drowning Creek in what is now Hoffman, NC. He called the property "Plantation A" with the intention of acquiring a "B," "C," and "D."



Photo Courtesy of The Tutis Archives

BOXWOOD COURT, PINEHURST, CIRCA 1930

More than just a dream, the possibility of establishing other plantations was a reality, as Eldridge Reeves Johnson, young El's grandfather, had invented the Victor Talking Machine. It was an improvement over Edison's phonograph that, instead of a cylinder with a penetrating needle, used a double sided needle that lifted the sound from circular grooves in hardened shellac. The shellac records emitted better sound and lasted longer than the cylinder. Grandfather Johnson named the company "Victor" because his invention was "victorious" over Edison's model. Nipper, the black and white dog looking into the Victor phonograph became an icon for the company with the logo "his master's voice."

At the time of El's first visit to North Carolina, Grandfather Johnson was a Director of the Pennsylvania Railroad, which was the largest railroad by traffic and revenue in the United States throughout the first two thirds of the twentieth century. Grandfather Johnson had built a railroad spur to the back lawn of his



Photo Courtesy of The Tutis Archives

PLANTATION "A"

home in Moorestown, NJ. Typically, after Christmas dinner, young El with his family would board a private Pullman car behind his Grandfather's home, go to bed and wake up the next morning in Aberdeen, North Carolina, where a cart and mule would be waiting to take them to Plantation A, a working farm with an improved tenant house.

On these winter vacations with his family in North Carolina, young El learned to love the longleaf pine forests, its meandering streams and thickets rife with quail, squirrel and deer. The farm housed bird dogs and retrievers. El hunted game, transformed box turtles into pets and rode mules, first minis then bigger ones.

In 1946, after his return from World War II and his service in the 389th Army Infantry in occupied Japan, El told his father of his plan to reside in North Carolina at Plantation A. Fearing such a move was not best for his son, El's father, who inherited the property, sold the 2,000 acres and it eventually became part



Photo courtesy of Sandra Brown

EL AND BETTY (SECOND AND FOURTH FROM RIGHT) WITH FAMILY IN AFRICA

of the North Carolina Game Lands.

In 1960, he married Betty from Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. Both raised dairy cows, and they settled on 300 plus acres between Westchester and Newtown Square in Chester County, Pennsylvania, at the end of the Main Line (the western line of the Pennsylvania Railroad from Philadelphia). At one time, they had forty-two dairy cows with pipeline milkers, and several farms in Maryland cultivating corn, wheat and soybeans. "Farming was the best life you can imagine," Betty says. "We are so lucky to have that life."

Both loved to shoot, ride horses, fox hunt, and farm. The rural lifestyle bound them together and eventually brought them to North Carolina. Diana and Bill Goff, friends from Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, convinced them to come to Southern Pines for the Moore County Hounds Hunter Trials in March of 1968. El had fox hunted with hunts all over the



Photo courtesy of Sandra Brown

THE JOHNSON FAMILY COMPETES IN THE FAMILY CLASS AT THE DEVON HORSE SHOW

northeastern United States as well as in England, Scotland and Wales, but he had never forgotten his boyhood at Plantation A. With the assistance of professional horseman Dick Atkinson, El and Betty transported their horses and six children to Southern Pines for a visit. They stayed with Lloyd Tate during the first visit and at Tremont Farm and Young's Cottage on subsequent trips.

In 1968, the Johnsons looked at land owned by Pappy Moss that was, at that time, at the very end of Young's Road. When Pappy first showed El the property, El said that he would like to "think about it," and about a month later, he called Pappy and agreed to buy the forty-five acres that hosted a small frame hunt box on Young's Road. They named the farm Quail Glen for the bounteous covey that nested in thickets along the creek on their property. Unfortunately, in the 1970s, a disease, ulcerative enteritis, eventually decimated the quail in the entire area.

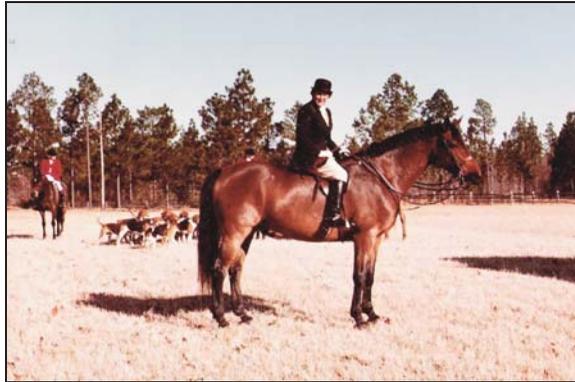


Photo courtesy of Sandra Brown

BETTY HUNTING WITH THE MOORE COUNTY HOUNDS

The Johnson family, particularly the parents and the two girls, loved the Southern Pines equestrian lifestyle. The children spent vacations in North Carolina riding their ponies unrestricted around the town and enjoying the camaraderie of their friends on neighboring farms owned by the Mortons, the Hubereths, and the Goffs.

Land bought from Pappy Moss came with covenants that allowed unrestricted use for fox hunting by the Moore County Hounds. Such privileges were agreeable to the Johnsons. When in Southern Pines, the parents and willing children fox hunted early mornings, attended hunt breakfasts often in Ginny Moss' kitchen after hunting, met at adjacent farms for cocktails, and enjoyed dinner parties at neighboring farms.

The sporting life suited them so much that in the late 1970s the Johnsons bought an additional 359 acres of land between Furr Road and Lake Bay Road. An aging peach orchard occupied a portion of the property on what is now Moor Meadow. El established a vineyard of local Muscadine grapes and

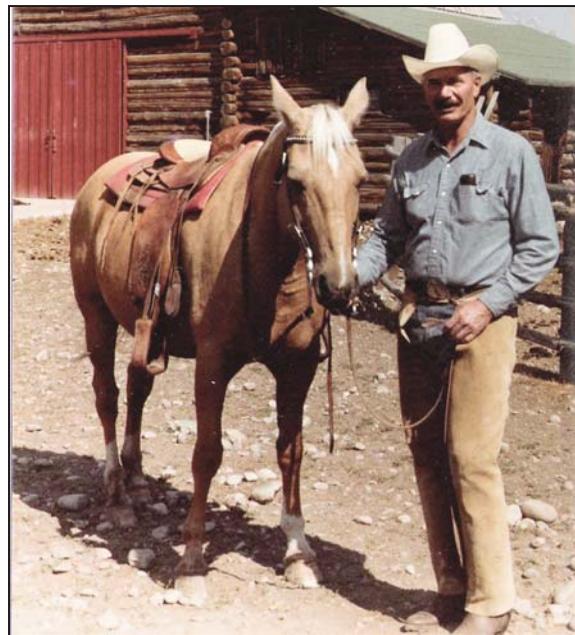


Photo courtesy of Sandra Brown

ELDRIDGE WITH A WESTERN PAL

planted rows of pecan trees in addition to the orchard. He personally hunted the remainder of the acreage and allowed fox hunting by the Moore County Hounds.

In the back of his mind, El says he envisioned acquiring and enjoying a large acreage like Plantation A, the idyllic farm of his childhood. But the family stayed at Quail Glen and farmed and hunted the 359 acres that they called The Vineyards.

Pappy Moss died in 1976, leaving a bequest of 1739 acres of land in Southern Pines to a charitable trust, which was the predecessor to The Walthour-Moss Foundation, that he and Ginny first established in 1974 as a vessel for land preservation. With the consummation of this bequest in 1978, The Walthour-Moss



Photo by Landon Russell

MOOR MEADOW, HEART OF THE VINEYARDS

Foundation became a reality. The stated mission was, and remains, “to preserve open land, to protect and improve wildlife habitat, and to offer a place for equestrian purposes.” The Walthour-Moss Foundation became an anchor that secured the continuance of Southern Pines horse country and a magnet for other generous donations of land for similar purposes. Over the next several years, Ginny Moss gave 151 more acres to The Walthour-Moss Foundation, bringing the total to 1890 acres. In 1985, the Foundation purchased the Maxwell Forest land, 315 acres west of Furr Road and north of Young’s Road, in what became known as the North Country.

The Johnsons spent the majority of their time farming in Pennsylvania where they still raise crops like corn and hay, along with chickens and fallow deer. Winter vacations were spent in North Carolina. Finding it increasingly difficult to manage two farms, in the early 1990s, the Johnsons subdivided The Vineyards with the intention to preserve large parcels of land and to provide generous riding easements and equestrian access.

Aware of the importance of the location of the Johnson land to the growing equestrian community along Lake Bay and Furr Roads, The Walthour-Moss Foundation approached the Johnsons about a possible purchase of acreage for community use. El and Betty sold the remaining 209 acres to The Walthour-Moss Foundation at less than half the value of the land (in what is called in philanthropic terms a “gift-sale”). This momentous purchase marked the beginning of The Walthour-Moss Foundation campaign to preserve a significant portion of the North Country for the community. The Johnsons’ gift-sale not only brought The Foundation holdings to 2,980 acres, its great consequence was that it stimulated others to donate land or money to purchase North Country land for preservation. Without the Johnson tract, The Walthour-Moss Foundation may have remained primarily within its early Young’s Road boundaries.

When asked about their philanthropic motivation, Betty Johnson remembers the gracious way people have treated her.



Photo courtesy of Mrs. E.R. Johnson

EL AND BETTY ENJOYING THE SPORTING LIFE

“Everybody shared access to their land and enjoyed people coming through. They respected the land, and practiced common courtesies such as walking horses past barns and outbuildings, and leaving family dogs at home.” Betty wants others to enjoy the freedom to ride over expansive stretches of forest and through neighboring farms and to enjoy the equestrian lifestyle that she and El so appreciate.

In keeping with this philosophy, for many years the Johnsons graciously permitted the Moore County Hounds to host their annual Hunter Trials on their property near Old Mail Road. In 2008, the Johnsons generously donated ten acres of the Hunter Trial Fields at Quail Glen to The Walthour-Moss Foundation and donated a conservation easement on the remaining fifteen acres. These gifts will ensure that the Hunter Trials Fields will be preserved in perpetuity.

Betty and Eldridge Johnson are role models. They have come full circle through their



Photo courtesy of Mrs. E.R. Johnson

THE JOHNSON FARM, CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

enjoyment of the riches of our rural lifestyle to giving back to the community so that future generations can also share in the joy of the sporting life.

Blossoms from the few remaining peach trees still brighten the spring landscape around Moor Meadow. In fall, one can gather sweet grapes from the remnants of the Johnson Muscadine vineyard or pluck a pecan right off the tree. On a winter hack through the woods from Old Mail Road to Yadkin Road through the Hunter Trial Fields, look for the Johnsons on their deck. They still enjoy the temperate North Carolina winters. Walk slowly through their property. Wave and remember them for their generosity and love of community. When you speak to them, thank them for their many gifts.



Thank you to Betty and El Johnson for sharing their story, to Katie Walsh for putting it on paper, and to Betty Johnson, Sandra Brown, Caroline Young and The Tufts Archives for sharing their photographs.

PASTURELAND SURVEY

The Environmental Impact Research, Conservation and Development, in association with North Carolina State University and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be conducting a survey of Moore and Richmond county equine and livestock owners with pastureland. This survey will be administered by a technician who will be going door to door asking open-ended questions.

There are several goals that this survey will address regarding longleaf regeneration. The objectives are to identify and document longleaf pine mortality and regeneration issues within pastures and to also identify other conservation issues and document concerns that landowners may have. These concerns can include lack of water, problems with fencing as well as other issues. The final goal of the project is to identify conservation needs and share opportunities with farm owners interested in Farm Bill programs and other federal, state or local incentive programs.

For further information or questions regarding the survey, please contact survey technician, Lauren Lansdowne, at lfansdo@ncsu.edu or 910-603-6780.



THANK TO THE JUMP CREW OF THE 2010 BUSHWHACKER CLUB

Over two days in early September, members of the Bushwhacker Club rebuilt and repaired over twenty jumps in the main Foundation and in the North Country. They volunteered their time, energy, tools and muscles to get the job done. Wow! Thank you to the Jump Crew!!

THE 2010 JUMP CREW

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| David Dillard | Norm Minery |
| Nick Ellis | Dick Moore |
| Marged Harris | Jody Murtagh |
| Kerrie Hayes | Kevin Riley |
| Susan & Kris Lindamood | Neil Schwartzberg |
| Antonio Martinez | John Williams |



Photo by Landon Russell

THE HOMESITE HILL CREW



Photo by Landon Russell

THE NORTH COUNTRY CREW



Photo by Landon Russell

REBUILT JUMP ON HOMESITE HILL

