

Citizens of the Month

Bobby & Betty Ann Crafton

By Charlie Underwood



Bobby Andrews Crafton was born on a cold snowy day in Pulltight, Tennessee on January 24, 1935 to Wallace and Nellie Crafton. He has four sisters; Leo Burns, Ann Reed, Sue Speakman, Fay Adair, and one brother Charles (deceased). Bobby attended Simmons Hill and the College Grove School.

Betty Ann Waters was born August 25, 1935 in Rutherford County near Kirkland, Tennessee to Lenzie and Lurene Waters. She is an only child. Her father died when she was only 5 years old. Betty Ann attended Eagleville School where she excelled in math and basketball.

Bobby and Betty Ann met at Parkers Theater and Restaurant in Eagleville in 1952. Betty Ann says that she thinks "Gone With The Wind" was showing that night. After dating a while (you didn't get in a hurry back then) they got married on November 26, 1955 in Luka, Mississippi. They went to Luka because you didn't have to get a blood test there to get married. They have lived in Eagleville since the beginning of their marriage.

Both worked in Nashville for 37 years traveling back and forth every day. Bobby retired from Nashville Sash and Door and Betty Ann retired for American General. That was a lot of driving and they even bought a Jeep for the slick roads in the wintertime (which is still in mint condition today).

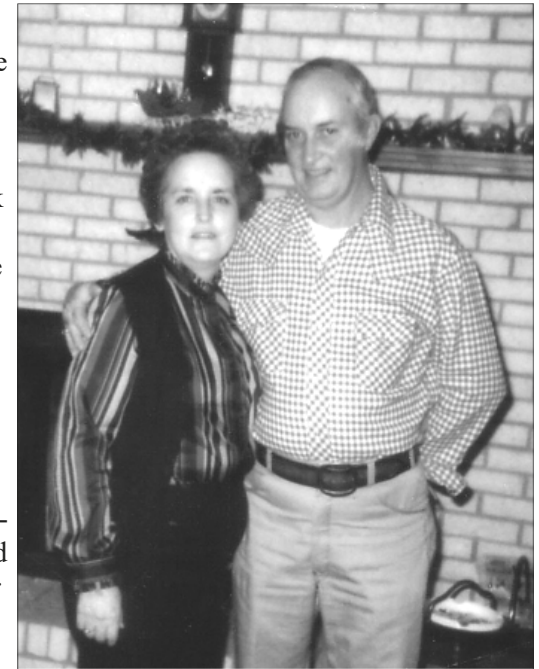


In 1975 they bought Cheatham Springs Farm along with their friends and neighbors, Larry and Alma Hazel. There was some really long days back then working in Nashville and then coming home to work on the farm try to make it successful. Bobby has often said that if it wasn't for the late Mr. Jordan Redmond, they might not have made it. He was a lot of help for Bobby and Larry.

Even though they have retired from public work they continue to operate Cheatham Springs Farms where they

raise cattle, goats, donkeys and peacocks. Bobby and Larry cut and bale hay for the public and for their own use. Betty Ann does a lot of needlework, quilting, knitting, embroidery and crochet. Some of her handiwork goes on the auction block at ice cream suppers to raise money for the church.

Since they have retired, Bobby and Betty spend much of their time working in their yard and resting. Just about any afternoon in warm weather, you can find them sitting out under a shade tree waving at people driving by. Bobby is always glad to discuss (or argue) about Nascar or baseball. They also vacation in the Smokies regularly as they have for many years.



John Hyden, pastor of Harpeth Lick Cumberland Presbyterian Church, has this to say about the Craftons. "Bobby and Betty Ann are the 'faithful ones' as my mother called them. They will be the first ones to arrive for all projects and the last to leave. When my father started as pastor of Harpeth Lick Church, Bobby and Betty Ann were some of the first ones to help revive the small rural church. For many years the Craftons were about the only ones you could count on to be at church except for John Redmon, who they brought with them. They also started the annual ice cream supper every first Saturday in June and the many country breakfast. They have given their time, effort, and money to every improvement that has been made throughout the last ten years. There are no words that could possibly describe all that Bobby and Betty Ann have given to Harpeth Lick Cumberland Presbyterian Church. *They truly are the faithful ones.*"