

Citizen of the Month

John Edward Turner



John Edward Turner has been a life long resident of Eagleville and proudly calls this corner of Rutherford County home. Throughout his life, he has sought to give his best for his family, his church, and his community. A look back indicates he has done just that and a look to the future indicates he will continue to be an important citizen in Eagleville.

John Edward was raised in rural Rutherford County and enjoyed his childhood on a farm. His father had a dairy herd, and John Edward began to establish his own place in dairy farming by helping his father and enjoying ownership of a herd that began at age 14 with two cows. Throughout his life, the hard word and dedication required for dairy farming

has helped to define who he is. He retired from active dairy farming at age 66.

John Edward attended Eagleville School and although he did not particularly like school he had much respect for the many teachers he met and for his principal Urban Elmore. Farming has always been important to John Edward and he not only "milked" cows, he also has raised chickens and hogs, grown crops such as soybeans, corn, wheat and tobacco. He also had a seed cleaning business.

Although he was known as a hard worker, John Edward also enjoys the fun side of life. He has been an avid fisherman, enjoyed duck hunting, and always loved camping with family and friends. Most recently he has worked with his good friend Jimmy Lamb as they have spent their free time restoring old children's peddle tractors and antique farm tractors. He has used his talents in this area restoring bulldoziers, jeeps and other equipment.

The Turners enjoyed living in and restoring the old Sullivan Place, a large two story home with various out-buildings located in the heart of Eagleville. They moved there in 1982 and spent 14 years enjoying the house and entertaining family and friends with open houses, especially delightful during the holiday season.

In addition to the restoration of vehicles, toys and homes, John Edward is an avid Civil War artifact collector and often restores artifacts from battles. Recently he participated in the reenactment of the battles of Columbia, Franklin and Nashville. He was a confederate soldier and enjoyed firing a cannon, at least 40 times, he had helped to build with Jeff Leathers. He also has a bullet molds, buckles, and buttons from the Civil War.

In 1993 John Edward began a new business venture when he started Eagleville Mini Storage. In addition

to providing storage for a variety of people, it also hosts car washes by various youth organizations, especially those from his church, Rocky Glade Presbyterian Church.

Although retired from farming, John Edward is always busy and seems happiest when he is helping others. He has worked tirelessly at the Tractor Club property on Highway 99, clearing the land in preparation for the activities which have occurred there. In preparation for the Lions Club and Community Horse shows, John Edward spent many hours leveling dirt for the show ring. Just as he was finishing up his work day on April 23rd, John Edward began feeling ill. On Monday morning the 26th he had a heart attack. On April 28th, he underwent open heart surgery and received 6 vessel by-passes. Never one to give up, John began a strong recovery program including exercise and is now active again. He is busy working with others in readying the nearby land that will eventually be the Eagleville City park.



John Edward in 1942

