



## **Gordon Neville**

Gordon Neville's family has lived in Orange County for so long that they have a creek and a road named after them. Gordon's family came to Orange County in 1756 to take ownership of property they acquired from a Lord Granville grant. The family still owns 285 acres of that original tract. The land and farm has been continuously owned and operated by nine generations of the Neville family. Gordon petitioned the NC Department of Agriculture for a Bicentennial Farm designation this year. His farm, Mount View Farm, has been designated as one of the first North Carolina Bicentennial Farms. He and his wife Pat live in the house that his grandfather built in 1926 from the sale of oak timber for railroad cross-ties in Carrboro. Gordon was born in this house.

Gordon has two speeds – **STOP** and **WIDE OPEN!** His boundless enthusiasm for any project means that he gets a lot done. His dedication to a task is well-known by his acquaintances. Recently he single-handedly took on a project to get an official highway marker on NC54 West acknowledging White Cross area native Congressman Carl T. Durham for his contributions to this area and the nation. This project was turned down twice at the state level but Gordon persevered and got it done in 2015.

When Antioch Baptist Church, his family church for most of his life, decided to expand a few years ago, Gordon was the Budget and Finance Committee chairman. He worked diligently to get donations and pledges so the church could have at least half of the required funds committed before starting construction.

Gordon has been a member of the Orange/Durham Cattlemen's Association for 23 years. He has served two terms as President. He was responsible for creating their Lifetime Achievement Award during his tenure on the Board. Two of our past Town Treasures, Bob Strayhorn and Bob Nutter, have received this cattlemen's award.

Gordon was a star student/athlete at Chapel Hill High School. He attended NC State with a baseball scholarship and a NC Dairy Products Academic Scholarship. He is a Lifetime member of the NC State Alumni Association and the Wolfpack Club. He and his wife Pat are sponsors of the Caldwell, the Animal Science and the Veterinary Medicine Scholarship programs.

Gordon remembers Chapel Hill and Carrboro as small villages. As a young man, he sold fruits, vegetables, eggs and chickens at the original Chapel Hill curb market. He bought his first 4-H cows with proceeds from those sales.

He is concerned about the pressures being placed on his rural community. Much residential development is occurring beyond the rural buffer and creating excessive traffic beyond the buffer. Pressure is being applied to his community to allow more residential development. Most small Orange County farms are constantly under pressure to just survive due to declining commodity prices. We will soon lose these valuable lands and the people who worked them for so many generations.