



"More and more people are coming to the county to enjoy the pleasures of small-town living."

Harold Beasley

Interview by Jack McNeely

Harold Beasley came to Walker County in 1969 when he purchased a mobile home at Duskin Point Marina as his family's weekend getaway. Married with two sons, the family enjoyed lake life and grew to love the community and its people.

When he retired from Hayes International in August 1986, he approached his son, Mike, to join him in a business venture. They purchased Duskin Point Marina in November 1986. The marina since that time has doubled its capacity and continues to serve Smith Lake, its residents and its visitors. Now there are three generations of Beasley's involved with the marina.

Many folks refer to Harold as "Mr. B." When not at the marina, chances are Mr. B is patrolling the grounds at Musgrove Country Club either playing the game he loves, placing wagers on the regulars or enjoying a nice dinner with his friends of loved ones.

Q: What do you love most about Walker County?

A: I would definitely say the people and the laid-back atmosphere of lake living. When we lost Mike in a boating accident in May 2001, we received so much support during that time. Friends and family gathered and started the Mike Beasley Memorial Poker Run to raise money to purchase underwater cameras and other necessary diving equipment to locate drowning victims. This year will be the 14th annual poker run. We continue to raise money to help support the Smith Lake Task Force and donate to local volunteer fire departments that surround the Smith Lake area.

Q: What have been significant changes in Walker County during your lifetime?

A: The most significant changes would have to

be how much the county has grown. The industrial park is booming and we have a chamber of commerce that helps bring professional fishing tournaments to Smith Lake. A lot of folks don't realize how much these fishing tournaments benefit Walker County. I do and I appreciate the efforts of our business leaders. More and more people are coming to the county to enjoy the pleasures of small-town living.

Q: How can Walker County improve?

A: We need to continue to recruit new businesses to the area. This will provide more local jobs for our residents. And more can be done to encourage tourism for Smith Lake. This would also help the neighboring counties as well. •