



Mondee Tilley/The Mount Airy News
PERFECT ATTENDANCE: Clarence Fagg (left), charter member of the Flat Rock Ruritan Club, was honored Thursday night with an award for 45 years of perfect attendance. The award was given during the club's 45th anniversary celebration.

Flat Rock Ruritans Honor Fagg For 45 Years Of Service

From Staff Reports

FLAT ROCK — The Flat Rock Ruritans celebrated their 45th anniversary last week by honoring one of their charter members, Clarence Fagg, for 45 years of perfect attendance.

President Freddy Badgett introduced Ruritan National Director Fred Venable, who presented Fagg with a certificate and a pin for his longevity with the club.

Venable spoke to the crowd of his many years with the organization.

"I remember my humble beginnings were in Flat Rock. This is where the seed was planted in my heart," said Venable. "This club has got me to where I am today. It makes me proud when I see members like Clarence who have put aside so much of their lives for the Ruritan club."

Venable then gave a brief history of the Ruritan club that spanned back to the days when the first club was chartered on May 21, 1928 in Virginia. He said the first club in North Carolina was organized in August of 1935.

Shortly after the awards presentation, Badgett asked the crowd to bear with him for a moment while he "read the role call." He asked that those present come to the front to stand with him.

As the many names were read, only two men from the crowd emerged, Fagg and Austin Ward. Badgett announced that he had just read the original roll from the charter year, "and these are the only two remaining original members." A standing ovation came from the crowd of club members as Ward was also honored as a long-time member.

The night continued as the club's president showed numerous pictures of Fagg's life that covered everything from his children to the days when "he had hair." Badgett said the event was "the closest thing to a roast as they could get in Flat Rock."

The night ended with one final word from the guest of honor.

"The last 45 years have been good, but as the song says, 'the next 30 years will be better.'" said Fagg.