

# **Copeland Ruritan Club**

## **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**



### **October 1962 – 2012**

**September 29, 2012**

## History of the Copeland Ruritan Club

The Copeland Ruritan Club was organized in October of 1962. A group of five men in the community felt a concern for a better community that would make a positive impact on the family, neighbors and friends. With this as the goal, they met in the Masonic Lodge along with the Zone Governor to make plans for a Ruritan Club in the Copeland Community. The second meeting of this group was held in the lunchroom of the school and a Ruritan Club was organized with 24 charter members.

The early monthly meetings were held in the Copeland lunch room. There was much enthusiasm in those first meetings and by the end of the second year, the members borrowed \$35,000 to build a Community Building that served the community in various ways for many years. During the following years, club membership grew by leaps and bounds, whereby, the Copeland Club became the second largest in the nation and members began to receive national acclaim. The Ruritan Club was organized as a non-profit organization. All money received by the club through fundraising projects, gifts and building rental went for needed projects in the community, and that guiding principle continues today.

Much of the success of the Copeland Ruritan Club can be attributed to the people in the community who have supported the many varied projects, ranging from Fish Fries and Gospel Singings, to Barbecue Chicken dinners, Golf Tournaments, Talent Shows, Cash Give-A-Ways, Organized Softball and Hot Dog sales, to Bingo games and many other projects. And, hopefully, all who supported and participated in those events enjoyed Fellowship and felt Goodwill which resulted in Community Service. Those objectives have always been the guiding principles of our Club.

A special note of appreciation goes to the Copeland Homemakers Club which was organized in the mid-fifties. The members were always by our side and gave outstanding support for forty-eight of our fifty years of existence. Without the support of these ladies, we just might not be here today; they were that supportive!

The current goal of the Copeland Ruritan Club is to continue to provide opportunities for Fellowship, create a sense of Goodwill and provide Community Service where there is a need, as the Club has always done. With continued success with these three guiding principles, the Copeland Community will continue to be a good place to live, work, and to raise a family.

May God Bless each of you and May God Bless our Community,  
Copeland Ruritan Club

## Copeland Ruritan Club 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Welcome .....	Jerry Venable, President Copeland Ruritan Club
Invocation.....	Brent Crissman, Treasurer Copeland Ruritan Club
Pledge of Allegiance.....	Vicki Danley, Member Copeland Ruritan Club
Recognition of Special Guests .....	Jerry Venable, President
Ruritans and Their Communities.....	Willis Overby, Past President Ruritan National
History of Copeland Ruritan Club .....	Brent McKinney, Past President
Presentation of Scholarship Award.....	Brenda McKinney, Chair of Social Concerns
50 Year Service Award Presentation.....	Jerry Venable, President
Copeland Club Memories .....	Power Point Presentation
Comments.....	All are Invited to Share a Memory or Special Expression
"America".....	All
Reception and Fellowship	

## **America (My Country, 'Tis of Thee)**

by Rev. Samuel F. Smith – 1832

My country, 'tis of Thee,  
Sweet Land of Liberty  
Of thee I sing;  
Land where my fathers died,  
Land of the pilgrims' pride,  
From every mountain side  
Let Freedom ring.

Our fathers' God to Thee,  
Author of Liberty,  
To thee we sing,  
Long may our land be bright  
With Freedom's holy light,  
Protect us by thy might  
Great God, our King.