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Dr. Brian Dial



**Wadesboro Native Ada Dalla Pozza, NC State Educator and Champion of Families, Dies at 91**

Ada Braswell Dalla Pozza, a pioneering educator and one of the most important figures in Cooperative Extension's 100-year history, who devoted decades to improving the lives of North Carolinians, especially its women and children, passed away January 31 at the age of 91. She was a native of Wadesboro.

Mrs. Dalla Pozza of Cary served the North Carolina Cooperative Extension at NC State University for more than 70 years as an agent, faculty member, mentor and volunteer. Ms. Ada, as she is affectionately known, provided leadership to improve the quality of life for families and helped create leadership institutes for rural women, many of whom became elected officials. Dalla Pozza won numerous state and national awards and held countless leadership positions. She was the Raleigh News & Observer's Tar Heel of the Week. In a March 9, 1980, article headlined "Home economist has clout - event at the U.N.," she was quoted as saying, "I've always liked to help people." Indeed, she left that commitment to people, as well as her enthusiasm and expertise, as her legacy to the organization she served so faithfully. Dr. Carolyn Dunn, professor and interim head of NC State's Department of 4-H Youth Development and Family and Consumer Sciences, says that Dalla Pozza "cared deeply about the youth and families in North Carolina and made it her life's work to serve them. She paved the way for the work that continues today."

Born in Anson County in 1922, Dalla Pozza said that her early years gave her an advantage when it came to understanding farm families' struggles. She was raised on an Anson County farm - a farm she, as a teen, and her sisters began operating after their father died of leukemia. Her acquaintance with Cooperative Extension - an educational outreach partnership of NC State University, NC. A&T State University, the US Department of Agriculture and county governments - stretched back to those childhood days. Taking part in the organization's 4-H program, she became the state and national Dress Revue champion in 1937, when she designed and constructed a red plaid floor-length formal dress with matching red bolero jacket. She also made her own undergarments and pocketbook for the competition.

Dalla Pozza began her career with Cooperative Extension in a position that offered no pay: assistant home economics agent in her home county. Then in 1944, after earning a bachelor's degree in home economics from what is now the University of North Carolina-Greensboro, she moved to a paid position in Union County. She worked as an emergency World War II food preservation assistant, a position that called for her to teach families about healthy nutrition and safe food preservation at a time when the United States government was rationing food. Some of the preserved food, such as home-canned pork chops and sausage, also went to the front lines, bringing Dalla Pozza thank-you letters from a number of servicemen.

She was married in 1945 and moved to New Jersey, came back to North Carolina, and then went to West Germany. But in 1953 she and her husband Martin moved back to Anson County where Martin became a dairy farmer. She taught high school home economics briefly, then rejoined Cooperative Extension to serve as a home demonstration agent. She went on to serve as a district agent, and then in 1969 as state home economics agent. During her career she pursued a master's degree in administration part-time through the University of Tennessee and also took advanced-level courses at NC State.

Perhaps Dalla Pozza's greatest influence came as adviser to the North Carolina Extension Homemakers' Organization, now known as the North Carolina Extension and Community Association. The homemakers themselves were influential in shaping state and local policies in support of the state's families.

She began the university's former "University Days of Wheels" program, which bused women as far as New England for briefings on disparate topics, from mushroom farming to international trade. She also led the homemakers on a tour of UN committee headquarters throughout Europe. In 1974 one of her tour groups arrived at the United Nations on the same day as Yasser Arafat, the late head of the Palestine Liberation Organization. According to the N&O, hers was the only group cleared to go into the UN building that day, given the security concerns around Arafat's visit.

In 1982, the year of her retirement, homemakers launched the fund-raising campaign to name an area of NC State's McKimmon Center for Extension and Continuing Education in her honor. In a campaign brochure their state association commented on her "love, interest and unselfish guidance" to the state's families. It also acknowledged her involvement and guidance in educational programs; leadership training seminars; workshops; and tours at the local, state and international levels; as well as her service to state and national education groups.

Dalla Pozza's accolades included the NC State University Alumni Association Award of Merit, the NC State Grange Woman of the Year and National Association of Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Distinguished Service Award. She also was named to the North Carolina 4-H Hall of Fame and the inaugural class of the North Carolina Family and Consumer Sciences Foundation Hall of Fame. She was instrumental in organizing both the North Carolina Family and Consumer Sciences Foundation and the North Carolina Extension and Community Association Foundation. These two groups have raised millions endowments and enhancement funds and in grants to enhance the Cooperative Extension family programs that she helped build.

Dalla Pozza also created the Ada B. Dalla Pozza Family and Consumer Sciences Association Endowment, which provides professional development funds for agents from across the state. She has made additional gifts to the NC State University Club (where she served as first woman president and where an atrium is named in her honor), the Carol Caldwell Scholarship Endowment and the Jane S. McKimmon Society. She also supported numerous endowments for 4-H, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Extension and Community Association programs.

At the 2012 NC State University Alumni Association awards reception, when she received the Award of Merit, Dalla Pozza said, "Throughout my life my goal has always been to better the families of North Carolina through this non-formal, land-grant mission called Extension home economics. I graciously accept this award of merit on their behalf and challenge those of you in the audience to continue this work for all North Carolinians."

**ABA Pastor's Appreciation Banquet**

In a release from the Anson Woman's Missionary Union: It was a cold, rainy night on Tuesday, January 21, but pastors and their spouses and Woman's Missionary Union Directors and their spouses responded to the invitation to an evening of food, fellowship and great spiritual singing provided by the Master's Trio from Marshville. A delicious chicken dinner with side dishes and desserts was prepared by the Associational WMU Leadership Team and Ben Williams.

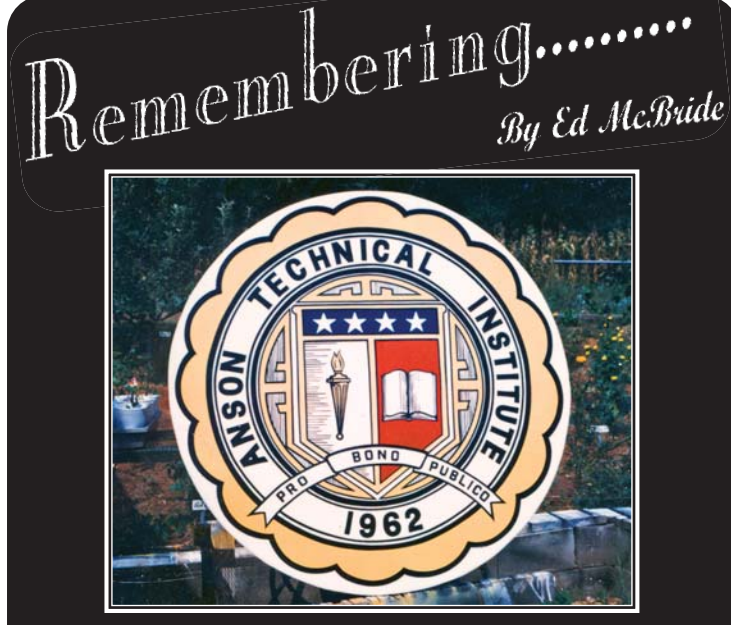
Faith Baptist Church hosted the event in their beautifully decorated fellowship hall. Associational WMU Director, Delores Thomas along with Faith WMU Director, Myra McRae welcomed everyone. Anson's Assistant WMU Director, Jennifer Lee read the names of missionaries having birthdays that day and led in prayer for the missionaries' health, language learning and mission success. Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Lee thanked the Pastors, WMU Directors and their spouses for the many ways they reach out to the people of Anson County and to others in mission efforts, noting that when we work together, more can be accomplished.



Several new pastors were introduced, followed by the blessing of the meal by Rev. Doug Moore, pastor of Faith Baptist Church. Everyone enjoyed the food, the fellowship and the inspirational music offered by The Master's Trio, comprised of Mrs. Mary Threatt, Mrs. Diane Belk, and Mrs. Sandra Threatt.

Note was made of the next Associational mission event—the book review of "We've A Story To Tell," on February 18, 6 pm at the Polkton Depot with special guest, Mrs. Sharon Raye. A Soup and Sandwich Meal with dessert will be offered to attendees. To that event, attendees are invited to bring hygiene kits packed in zip lock bags to be given to local schools.

Announcement was also made of the Anson Baptist Association's Annual Meeting, March 25, hosted by Deep Springs Baptist Church, with special guest speaker, Mrs. Tana Hartsell, President of WMU NC. Fellowship begins at 6 pm, followed by the program at 7 pm. Churches are invited to bring their church flag or banner and also to bring new, packaged underwear for homeless boys and girls. More information will be announced via newsletters.



**Anson Technical Institute**

This one goes back a day or so... More like several decades or whatever!

I had the pleasure of doing this sign on August 29, 1975 - all in full color. After this time the college went through a few changes, then many changes...and now it is a part of South Piedmont Community College.

I can even remember when General William A. Smith left money to Ansonville that was the seed for the school - many years ago. I remember the "Home Ec" house and the building where we had shop classes when I was a teenager, with all the machine tools downstairs for students to learn on. I also remember that was hard cement! We had a "star drill" and pounded it with a hammer to make the holes to bolt the machinery to the floor.

Oh well, you can see that South Piedmont Community College has come a long way from that time...many moons ago!! Ed

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