

New DVD brings Cutler's past to life

By Jennifer Archibald
Staff writer

Jim Stoops of Cutler has put together a DVD of Cutler memories.

He started the project in January - gathering photos from the Cutler community. He said he collected old photos from at least 25 families.

"Clayton Hutson had the

most," he said.

People had their photos in drawers, boxes, and albums. Stoops said he thought it would be nice if a lot of those scattered pictures could be brought together and preserved on a DVD. Although Stoops has lived in Cutler the past 15 years, he is not a native of there, nor is he a history buff. He said he's just experienced in making DVDs, so he

came up with the idea.

The 37-minute video is packed with nostalgia. There's the Cutler Hotel, Cutler's first postman (William Wilson), the old Cutler school, Ball Hill Methodist Church, basketball teams, and tons of Senior Class pictures.

The sound on the DVD is just as appealing as the pictures. It's recorded organ and piano music by Lola Bordner and recorded piano music by Phyllis Cook. Both formerly played for the Cutler Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Bordner just died in June.

The music is mostly a medley of traditional church hymns, but mixed in are some lively old tunes.

Stoops said the images cover the period of the early 1900s to the present. A number of photos take the viewer back to the Cutler downtown of yesteryear, with places like the Hutson Garage, Mocherman's Regal Store, and the Cutler Bank. Stoops also added some pictures of the current downtown.

Segments of Cutler history are presented in groupings and cover churches, the school, businesses, bridges, Adams Mill, and more.

Stoops said the class pictures go back to 1930. He also included images from the Cutler yearbooks of 1954, '56, and '58 - the only yearbooks published.

"I included every page from the 1958 yearbook; it was the last year of the school," Stoops said.



Stoops

He and his wife, Helen, are ever reminded of Cutler's history. They live across from Adams Mill, with the dam as their back yard.

Stoops has chosen well-known Cutler places to distribute his first 150 DVDs. On Sept. 11, he'll be at Don and Cheri's Patio & Garden from 4 p.m. to 7, and on Sept. 12, he'll be at Adams Mill from 2-5 p.m. Another place will be the fire department's bean supper on the last Saturday of September.

Stoops said he's just aiming to cover his costs on the project, so he's charging just \$3 per DVD (a little more if shipped).

For more information, call him at 765-268-2742 or email, jstoops57@yahoo.com.



Cutler memories

The pages of Cutler School's last yearbook (1958), along with other images of Cutler's past are included on a new DVD. It was produced by Jim Stoops of Cutler, with photos provided by the community. The cover on the DVD shows the Cutler Presbyterian Church. Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald

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