

## THE MAKING OF "A SEASON TO REMEMBER"

A production of Model High School in collaboration with  
the Watters District Council for Historical Preservation.

Produced by

Model computer instructor, Bill Hosmer, district technologist  
Lee Green and MHS students: Hunter Hays, Jordan Woodford, and Austin Wynn.

July 2017

In 1954 someone at the Model/Claxton state champion football game in Claxton made an 8 mm, home movie of that famous playoff. This old movie has been sort of floating around, now, for nigh-on 62 years. Although, a lot of people know about this old movie, with many having actually seen it... no one seems to know just who made the movie. If anyone has any information as who may have made the film, please contact Jack Dickey at [jdickey@dickeyseed.com](mailto:jdickey@dickeyseed.com) or phone 470 309-1260. Anyway, it was decided that the Watters District Council for Historical Preservation would feature the showing of this movie at its August 2017 meeting.

Now, it must be remembered that those old 8 mm movies were without sound, and the video quality was not to good, either. Most of the people who had seen this movie over the years had the advantage of Coach Woodard narrating it. No one could have done it better. This was his team. He had coached them and molded them into the state champions they were. He knew every play, every jersey number, every player's capability and attitude. He even knew what every player was thinking! But alas, Coach is no longer with us, and as far as anyone knows, no one ever recorded one of Woodard's narrations. So, the next move was to see if the game was audio recorded by Radio Station WRGA when they broadcasted the game back in 1954.

The method by which WRGA used to broadcast the game to their Rome Georgia listing audience was a real piece of work... to say the least. The Station's sport caster during those days was a fellow by the name of Lee Morey. Bell South Telephone Company transmitted Lee's coverage to WRGA by way of direct hookup... and we mean DIRECT hookup. They had Lee in sort of a crow's nest affair up on a telephone pole alongside the football field at Claxton, Georgia. They had a telephone set plugged directly into the phone wires on that pole. At the other end of the wire was WRGA's phone in Rome, Georgia. From WRGA's set, Lee's voice went out over the air to the entire WRGA's listing audience. Pretty clever? Lee Morey was later given a small statue of himself, sitting on the top of a pole.

So, could it be that Lee's telephone pole game call got recorded by WRGA? No such luck. WRGA's Nell Reagan advised that in those days the Station usually didn't record those sorts of things. And, even if they had, it would have been unlikely they could have found it after sixty-something years! Although that didn't work, it was still worthwhile to tell just innovated folks were in those days. Next best thing... get a modern-day radio sportscaster to overlay the audio. No one was better suited for that job than Rome WLAQ Radio Station owner and manager... and sportscaster, Randy Davis. Randy gladly said yes.

Now all we needed to do was get Randy and the movie film at the table with computer experts. So, Model High School was contacted, and they gave us Mr. Bill Hosmer, a Model teacher and computer instructor. The School had just purchased a new movie software program, and Bill was anxious to try it out. He took our old movie and, along with three of his students, when right to work on it.

In order to match up all the names and numbers of the players, and get a firsthand account of the game, we were able to get six of the game's players to come in. We, also, brought in four of Model's seven cheerleaders and a coach that were at the game. After several sessions and many hours, we came up with a professionally produced video documentary that features interviews with the players, cheerleaders and coach. The game has now been completely digitized and overlaid with both voice and background sound. The total length of the documentary is 68 minutes.

What started out to be just another program for one of our historical council meetings has now grown into a unique and very historical masterpiece. So many things fell into place at just the right time. The WATTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR HISTORICAL PRESERVATION, Inc. is proud to announce this project. Preserving our history and heritage is what we're about. It's in our title! *JD*