

Family-owned campground marks its 35th anniversary

By Jack Authelet

It was an historic occasion with a decidedly different beat as members of the Foxboro High School Jazz Ensemble were guests of the Daniels family to celebrate the 35th anniversary of Normandy Farms Campground and RV Park on West Street.

It was also Mardi Gras Weekend at the popular campground and a recreational vehicle show had been planned as well, but for a solid hour, the young musicians of Foxboro High were center stage before a most appreciative audience. Many of the greats of the jazz world were represented in selections and a real crowd-pleaser was the sentimental "I'll Be Seeing You," a classic from the World War II era.

The campground was started in 1971 by the late Norman Daniels and

his wife Jan on land that had been continuously farmed by members of the Daniels family since 1759. Norm was the sixth generation on the land. His children, Albert (Dan), Robert and Janis, their children and grandchildren are the 7th, 8th and 9th generations.

Dan singled out many campers for special recognition, some of whom have been patronizing the campground for 30 years.

Also recognized were long-term employees including Lisa Hall with more than 25 years. Staff members with 20 years included Steve Lovell, Jean Lincoln and Luanne MacAulay. Lester Goodwin followed with 12 and Bryan McLean with 10.

The Daniels family found itself on the receiving end of recognition as (Please turn to page 9)



THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY of Normandy Farms Campground was marked by the presentation of a plaque to Albert and Doris Daniels by Crossroads RV which was holding a rally at the facility. The memorabilia seen in photo included dinnerware from the original Normandy Farm, founded in 1759, and a pewter plate, portions of which had been melted down to make bullets over the years.

(Photo by Jack Authelet)

Campground marks its 35th anniversary

(Continued from page 1)

Barry Johnson of Crossroads RV presented them a plaque recognizing not only their 35 years in business but the receipt of the 2005-06 designation of Campground of the Year (their third).

Going beyond his recognition of the park itself, Johnson said members of the Daniels family had become legends in the campground industry.

Reflecting on the earlier years, Dan recalled the challenges of farm life, the years of raising chickens and sheep, the sharing of the family land between Norman Daniels and his brother Doug, who started a tree farm on the opposite side of the road.

Dan paid tribute to hard working family members, faithful campers, employees and the community of Foxboro for the success they have enjoyed.

The Daniels family, which has raised in excess of \$100,000 in a sustained commitment to the Jimmy Fund and the battle against cancer in children, turned the anniversary celebration into yet another good will mission.

Recognizing that some of their guests were natives of the New Orleans area, the proceeds of a raffle conducted as part of the celebration which raised in excess of \$600 was donated to the Hurricane Katrina relief effort.

NORMANDY FARMS HIGHLIGHTS

- 1971:** Campground opened reaches \$59,377.27
- 1972:** Fee: \$3.50 per night
- 1974:** Enlarged to 65 campsites
- 1975:** Fee \$5.50 per night
- 1976:** Recreation Hall built
- 1979:** 220th anniversary, Normandy Farm
- 1982:** Two pools built (Numbers 3 and 4)
- 1983:** Started raising money for Jimmy Fund
- 1984:** Fee \$12.00 per night
- 1985:** Voted National RV Park of the Year
- 1988:** New office dedicated
- 1991:** First pool remodeled
- 1993:** Al Daniels receives first annual Stan Martin award
- 1994:** Jimmy Fund total
- 1995:** Voted RV Park of the Year for second time
- 1996:** Celebrated 25th anniversary
- 1997:** Received Woodall's 5W rating for Excellence
- 1998:** Honored for dedication to customers
- 1999:** Voted Employer of Year by Camper News
- 2001:** Jimmy Fund donations total more than \$100,000
- 2003:** Featured on the Travel Channel
- 2004:** National award for best brochure
- 2005:** Voted nation's best RV Park for third time
- 2006:** Celebrating 35 years of operation