Meeting Notes – Aug. 1, 2023

The LaFayette Rotary Club met at noon on Tuesday, August 1, 2023. Rotarian Judge Calvin Milford was responsible for today's program and invited Adee Nelms, owner of the Blue Button Quilts and Embroidery on the courthouse square, to speak. Ms. Helms expressed what a warm welcome she has received from the LaFayette community when she moved here three years ago. Ms. Nelms has been in business for 20 years, but this is the first time she has had a store front. Her business began out of necessity some twenty years ago. She wanted her daughters to have the same beautiful dresses as the other little girls in her Sunday School class, so she began making dresses for her daughters. Within a matter of months, she was sewing for her community, and from there her business grew to include quilting and embroidery. Her goal is to grow her business here in LaFayette to the point where she can have employees.

Making memory quilts is very special to her. When someone passes away, often a family member will bring the loved one's clothes to her. From those clothes she can make a memory quilt or quilts for the family. She considers quilting to be very purposeful. At the end of the quilting process, you walk away with something that brings warmth and comfort. She often has displays of quilts in her shop. In addition to quilting, she is doing a lot of embroidery, especially on hats and caps. The store also carries fabric, as well as baby items and gifts, all of which can be embroidered, usually on the same day they are purchased.

Once the upgrades to the store are completed, she hopes to have her store used as a venue for classes. Some women in the community are wanting to hold knitting classes there, and Addie would love to teach sewing and quilting classes. Adee originally wanted to be a photographer. She changed her mind and later went to art school, where she fell in love with watercolors. She also supports a non-profit organization, MEND, in Columbus, GA, which supports victims of domestic violence. They provide quilts for women and children in battered women's shelters.

Diane Sherriff