



Dorothy Collier Best, wife of the late James Best of *Dukes of Hazzard* fame, is a Bethlehem resident and an energetic supporter of the Hickory Community Theatre

Life in the Theatre: Dorothy Collier Best

Dorothy Collier Best of Bethlehem, wife of the late Dukes of Hazzard star James Best, met with me to discuss her love of our area in general, and her ongoing passion for the Hickory Community Theatre in particular.

Layne: Where are you from originally?

Dorothy: Originally, I was born in Wisconsin, but I moved to Los Angeles when I was seven. So, I was raised in L.A. But Jimmy didn't care for L.A. much, so when his series, the *Dukes of Hazard*, was not shooting, we were off in other places, mainly Florida. So, before coming here, I lived in Florida for 20 years. And then we moved up here in December of 2006. I like Florida, but I got tired of it being hot all the time. We wanted to get someplace that had seasons again. We have several friends in North Carolina, so we started looking around. We had lived on Purgatory Point, and Fort Christmas, Florida. So, when we came and saw that it was named Bethlehem, we said 'Aw that's perfect! It fits right in!' (Laughter). We came here and saw the lake and the Catawba River basin system. Jimmy and I were huge fishermen. We loved to fish.