

# **The Brannon's/McGahee's**

If you've ever asked yourself "Who use to own the place where I now live," I hope the following pages will put a face and a feeling to the family who came to know Brannon Estates as their home. Though it was first known as Brannon Farms, back in the mid 1800's, when James C. and Martha E. Brannon, two young Georgians, came to buy 160 acres, a portion of which is Brannon Estates, for about \$42.00. Here the Brannon's worked the soil for over 5 generations with the Great Granddaughter, Mary Elizabeth McGahee ("Ms. Libby") and Great, Great Grandson, Dale McGahee, still living on a portion of what is and always will be home to them.



**Meet Anderson B. and Irene R. Brannon,  
son of James C. and Martha E. Brannon.**

**Libby's Grandfather and Grandmother, the  
2<sup>nd</sup> generation to live on Brannon Farms.**

**Irene had 2 sons and 6 daughters.**

**Ernest B. Brannon, Libby's father.  
(1<sup>st</sup> one on left)**



No one knows the exact date when the first generation of Brannon's settled here and named it Brannon Farms, but it was certainly around the Civil War period. James and Martha Brannon were born in 1837 and 1845 respectively and the War broke out in 1861. It had to be nothing short of a miracle that they both survived such a horrific time, for as history notes, Union General William Sherman took over Atlanta on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1864.

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**Irene and Anderson Brannon with young Ernest at the family home.**

**This is the original Brannon home that sits at the corner of Sugar Pike Road and Old Brown Road. Libby says she too was born in this home. It wasn't until after Sugar Pike Road was paved in 1961 did Libby and her husband Ewell build their home right down the street from where she was born. The original Brannon home is still there today.**



**Taken February 2010**



## ***The Brannon's/McGahee's***



**Ernest B. and Addie M. Brannon  
Libby's Father and Mother**

**Libby was the only child of Ernest and Addie Brannon. Somehow you can tell she was the apple of her father's eye and made her parents proud that she and her husband, Ewell McGahee, would build a restaurant chain called "The Western Sizzlin" while maintaining and living on the family's farm.**



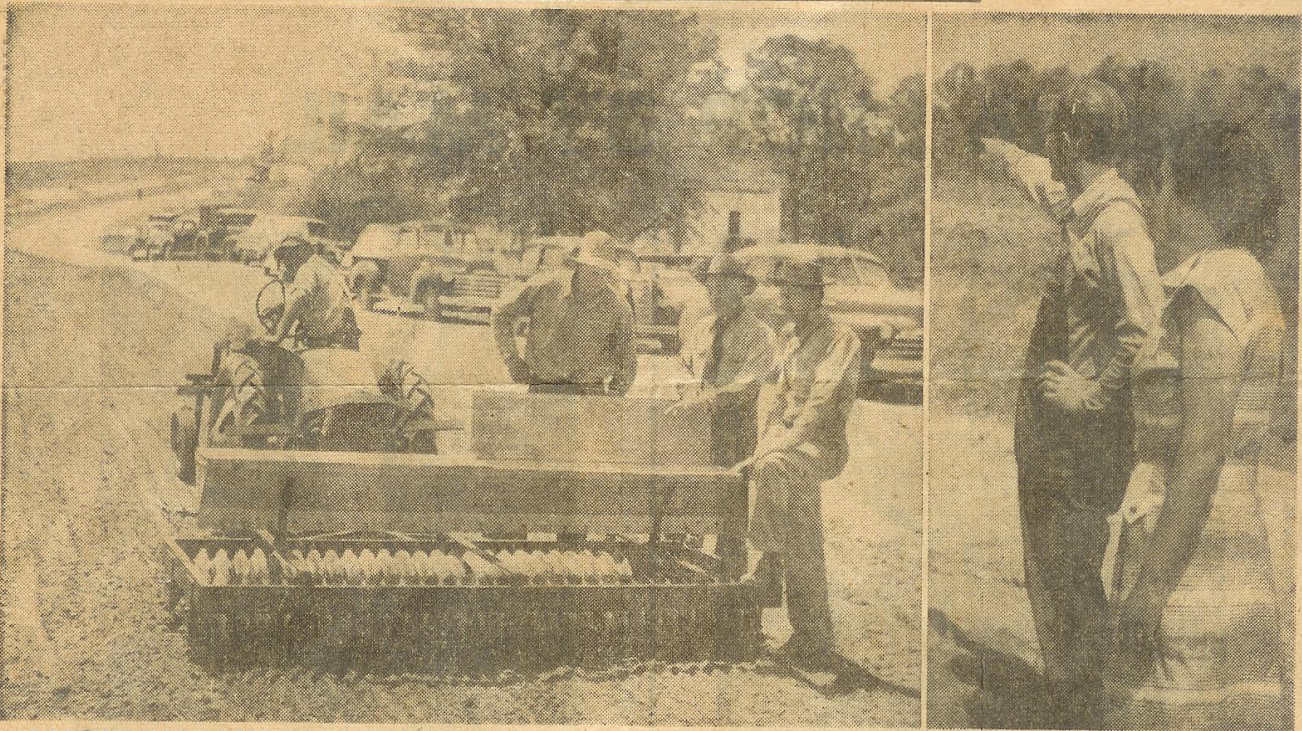
**Libby at 9 years old (1933)**



## **The Brannon's/McGahee's**

The Brannon's were a hard working family who also knew what community meant. Much like we have "Community Day" here at Brannon Estates, whereby we pull together for the good of sprucing up and saving money with our sweat equity, the Brannon's were active participants in the Union Hill Community Improvement Club. The organization is long gone, but we can feel that we are giving back and keeping the spirit alive when we come together each year to keep our common area beautiful.

8-B The Atlanta Journal ★ THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION SUNDAY, MAY 6, 1951



### **LUCKY MAN'S 20-ACRE FARM MADE OVER ON COMMUNITY FIELD DAY**

CANTON, Ga., May 5—The Union Hill Community Improvement Club holds a field day each spring and fall. One farm is chosen to be improved for each occasion. This spring, Clyde E. Owen, right, with wife, was the lucky man. At left are some of the face-lifting participants and some of the machinery used in terracing, meadow stripping, road sloping, line ditching, pasture

making, field plowing, harrowing and planting. They are, left to right, R. L. Crowe, Mr. Brannon, T. L. Robinson, soil technician, and N. E. Fackley, Canton banker. More than 100 neighbors turned out for the demonstration. The women made quilts, clothes for the children, pillow cases and aprons and served a tasty luncheon for the dust-covered working men.—Photos by C. E. Owen.



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Libby tells the story of growing up here, not like any daughter would who grew up on a large farm with field hands, cattle and dirt roads, but like a life she saw beyond. It's as if this safe haven of home was a looking glass out into a world she couldn't wait to grow up and experience. She tells a magical story of when she was young and gypsies in wagons would travel down Sugar Pike Road, stop at her home for water and continue on their way. She remembers asking her father, Ernest, "Where are the gypsies going and where will they sleep?" His answer was "I don't know where they're going but they'll sleep in their wagons." And so the adventure began for Libby and she thought the gypsy life was for her when she'd grow up. Thank goodness, she changed her mind and instead fulfilled and continues to fulfill her traveling adventures but always returns to Brannon.

### **Brannon Farms**



(Looking west)

# **The Brannon's/McGahee's**

## **Brannon Farms**



(Looking east)

This is how Brannon Farms looked prior to Brannon Estates being developed and then built around the Brannon home. When Libby finally decided to sell off the land to a developer, she insisted on one major condition: that the homes here would be grand and elegant or she wouldn't sell. Now, the family name lives on forever here at Brannon Estates and you can feel a connection when you turn onto your street that's been named after one of the family members.



## **The Brannon's/McGahee's**

For over 58 years, Libby and her husband, Ewell, lived a long and blessed life on Brannon Farms. They raised two sons, Dale Brannon McGahee and Donald Ewell McGahee, both of whom still watch over their Mom and the Brannon/McGahee home. This land gave so much to this family that it invokes such a strong bond, much like a protector of sorts. How best then to honor the family than to have these fine homes, in Brannon Estates, stand like monuments to a family to live on forever.



**Mary E. ("Libby") and Ewell F. McGahee**

# *The Brannon's/McGahee's*

**These are the last pictures taken of Brannon Farms before it became Brannon Estates.**



Brannon



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