

Ann Williamson

Staff Writer/Columnist/Government Reporter — Clay County Leader

From the questionable awards of federal grants in the 1970s to the groundbreaking of Branan Field-Chaffee Road in the year, 2000, Ann Williamson has been on the scene reporting local news to Clay County readers. During her 25 years of experience in writing about local government, she has witnessed first-hand the growth of Clay County and the problems it can bring.

Ann has been a government reporter covering the Board of Clay County Commissioners, Clay County School Board and the Green Cove Springs City Council on a regular basis as well as offering complete coverage of local elections. As a staff writer for the Clay County Leader, she also does feature writing and occasionally reports happenings involving the Orange Park Town Council.

Her awards include two from the Florida Press Association: Second Place in Freedom of Information (1979) and First Place in Investigative Reporting (1983). The scrapbook of articles from the 1979 award is on display at the Clay County Historical Museum.

In 1980, she was nominated by County Commission Chairman Wayne Spivey to be recognized as “Outstanding Young Women of America”, a national awards program honoring remarkable accomplishments by women on a national basis. Criteria used for the award include: “Involvement in profession and community, providing enthusiasm, activity and concern that make the world we live in a more exciting place. The best of our nation’s character is also expressed in each woman’s exciting achievements. Each outstanding women, in her own way, is concerned with making the world a better place in which to live.” The nomination was endorsed by the V.I.A., Woman’s Club of Green Cove Springs.

One of her greatest honors, Ann relates, is when she was asked by the Clay County Administration to write a “Farewell Tribute” to retiring Clay County Commissioner Dale Wilson [1976 - 2000], a former classmate of the Class of 1965 at Clay High School. Her article was published in the Clay County Annual Report 1999-2000, as former Commissioner Dale Wilson left office, following 26 years of consecutive service on the Board of County Commissioners.

Born at NAS, Jacksonville, Ann was educated at Penney Farms Elementary School, Paul E. Reinhold Junior High School, Clay High School, St. Johns River Junior College and Orange Park Beauty Academy.

Ann is the only reporter in Clay County who can say she has been affiliated with four independent publications in Clay County - The Clay County Crescent (Jim and Kay Wilson, Publishers), Clay Today (Bob Huff, Publisher), Clay County Leader (Sarah Boe, Publisher), and the Lake Region Monitor (John Miller, Publisher).

Ann is single and makes her home in Green Cove Springs.