



Photo/BOBB HANE

Lee Dixon in front of his store near Ridgeway

Family store prompts Dixon to return to roots

By **Bob Hane**
Staff Writer

Lee Dixon has returned to his Fairfield County roots, and has reopened a store once run by his grandfather and his uncle.

Dixon's Store is located four and a half miles out Longtown Road in the Ridgeway area. Dixon believes his grandfather, the late John Lyles Dixon, constructed the building in the 1950s for Lee's uncle.

His uncle was killed while working at the store and his grandfather ran the establishment until the early 1970s.

In addition to hot dogs, coffee, sweet iced tea and sodas, Dixon's Store offers garden supplies in-

cluding soil and plants, hooks, line, poles, reels, bait and tackle, deer hunting merchandise, feed and ice.

The store is open from 5 a.m. until 7 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. On Wednesday, the store opens at 5 a.m. and closes at mid-to late afternoon.

Of great importance to Lee is that the store is a relaxing place that parents may bring their children without hesitation.

John Lyles Dixon died when Lee was only eight years old. Nevertheless Lee remembers "a

See **DIXON**, Page 3A

■ DIXON

Continued from Page 1A
giant of a man."

He recalls a man with a drive to succeed in the world of business, as well as to be a good steward of the land.

In addition to being a merchant, a farmer and a breeder of Tennessee Walking Horses, Dixon, Lee said, served his commu-

taking care of people," Lee said, adding "good honest work" to his list of important things in life.

A single man with no children, Lee had reached the point that he was ready to take a leap of faith and reopen his grandfather's store.

Although he, one day, hopes to build a house and furnish it with nice things, today Lee is content to work hard in pursuing his dream of owning and running a relaxing family-oriented store free of the stresses of life in larger cities.

1950s for Lee's uncle.

His uncle was killed while working at the store and his grandfather ran the establishment until the early 1970s.

In addition to hot dogs, coffee, sweet iced tea and sodas, Dixon's Store offers garden supplies in-

...the great importance to Lee is that the store is a relaxing place that parents may bring their children without hesitation.

John Lyles Dixon died when Lee was only eight years old. Nevertheless Lee remembers "a

See **DIXON**, Page 3A

■ **DIXON**

Continued from Page 1A
giant of a man."

He recalls a man with a drive to succeed in the world of business, as well as to be a good steward of the land.

In addition to being a merchant, a farmer and a breeder of Tennessee Walking Horses, Dixon, Lee said, served his community as County Commissioner of Agriculture and as a member of the Fairfield County School Board.

The elder Dixon also helped put his brother and sisters through college.

Lee chose a career in retailing, but with a different twist from that of his grandfather. He worked his way up in the area of interior design and home furnishings, culminating his career at a top-of-the-line store in the Columbia area.

Highly successful in his career and deeply involved in the family horse business, Lee said, "I had literally gotten burnt out."

About this time, Lee remembered his grandfather's admonition, "If you don't like where you work, go somewhere else."

More and more Lee was drawn back to his Ridgeway roots.

"I'm very blessed," Lee said. "The Lord has given me a lot."

Things, he realized, are not what are of ultimate importance.

"What is important is God and

taking care of people," Lee said, adding "good honest work" to his list of important things in life.

A single man with no children, Lee had reached the point that he was ready to take a leap of faith and reopen his grandfather's store.

Although he, one day, hopes to build a house and furnish it with nice things, today Lee is content to work hard in pursuing his dream of owning and running a relaxing family-oriented store free of the stresses of life in larger cities.