



Rabun County's
**READERS' CHOICE
AWARDS
2017**

2017 Reader's Choice a chance to celebrate

Our readers have spoken! In these pages you will find who you, our readers, have selected as the Best of Rabun County for 2017.

As is the annual tradition, our offices were flooded with ballots as our readers used their voices to select their favorites in categories like Best Fried Chicken, Best Doctor, and Best Beauty Shop. In all, 83 companies or individuals won awards in 96 categories.

Eight of the reader's choices won awards in multiple categories and three took home more than two. Among the multi-award winners were Reeves Hardware, Fortify Kitchen & Bar, Wicked Pig,



Kevin Shields
Publisher

Henry's Restaurant, Universal Joint, McDonalds, Ingles Market, and Clayton Paint & Flooring.

Congratulations to Wicked Pig for winning the most awards this year with four.

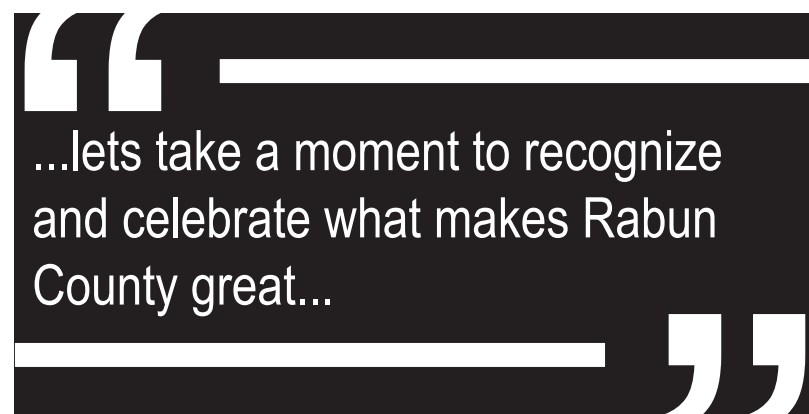
This year was a mixture of first time winners and a few old favorites who are winning for the fifth year or more in a row. While Ryan Honey, of Wicked Pig, is a first time winner

for Best Chef, Lisa Holcomb, of Oinkers, won Best Server for a sixth consecutive time.

Once again, winners came from all corners of Rabun County, showing that if you have a great product, people will go wherever you are located to purchase your wares. From Dillard to Tiger to Clayton, Rabun residents reward the best with their patronage and, as is seen in these pages, their votes.

As you flip through these pages, notice these awards are greatly appreciated and cherished as many of the businesses took the time to publish a thank you note to the community.

We have also published a few of our favorite photos from the pages of The



Clayton Tribune to celebrate Rabun County.

With the political divide over certain issues in the county becoming deeper and wider and with the national political scene resembling an all-out war, let's take a moment to recognize and celebrate what makes Rabun County great — our people, our businesses, our way of life. From the best doctor to the

best wings to the best volunteer firefighter, this is our chance to celebrate the successes that help define Rabun County.

Congratulations to our winners!

Kevin Shields is the publisher of The Clayton Tribune. He can be reached at 706-782-3312 or emailed at kshields@theclaytontribune.com.

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MedLink Georgia, Inc. congratulates
Jennifer Marcellino, MMSc-PA-C,
for winning **BEST DOCTOR/PA** and
Ramona Watts for winning **BEST NURSE**
in *The Clayton Tribune's*
2017 Readers' Choice contest.



MedLink Rabun

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(L-R) Ramona Watts, LPN and
Jennifer Marcellino, MMSc-PA-C.

Readers' Choice 2017 Winners

- Antique Store Butlers
- Appetizers Wicked Pig
- Appliance Store..... Deal's Appliance Services Inc.
- Asian Restaurant Hana Asian Bistro
- Attorney J. David Smith
- Auto Body Shop..... Matt's Paint & Body
- Auto Mechanic Troy Hopper/Dean's Automotive
- Auto Parts Store..... O'Reilly Auto Parts
- Auto Salesperson Nathan Dunham
- Auto Repair Shop Wiley Tire and Automotive
- Bakery Ingles
- Bank..... Rabun County Bank
- Bank Teller/Branch..... Mary Crawford
- Barber Shop City Barber

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 >>>



Tribune File Photo

Catching air

Jonathan Kuhn gets airborne Saturday on his homemade sled at Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School as his friends record video. The Auburn resident's sled was made from an old road sign. (First appeared in the Jan. 28, 2016, edition)

ingles

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Teddy King, pastor of Persimmon Church of God

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Pastor Teddy King

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—Winners—

- Barbecue Oinkers
- Beauty Shop/Salon Holly's Salon
- Beautician Holly Payne
- Biscuits Tiger Food Mart
- Breakfast Rusty Bike
- Building Supplies Store Reeves Hardware
- Cellular Phone Dealer Verizon
- Cheese Shop Fromage
- Chef Ryan Honey
- Chiropractor Dr. Richard Vail
- Church Battle Branch Baptist Church
- Church Pastor Teddy King
tied with Madison McCrackin
- Convenience Store I-Mart
- Cup of Coffee Starbucks
- Dentist Dr. Jeremy Holloway
- Deputy Kyle Shook
- Dessert/Location Fortify
- Doctor/P.A. Jennifer Marcellino

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5 >>>



Tribune File Photo

Easter joy

Rylan Adkins blasts away from the Easter Bunny on Saturday morning after winning a new tricycle during the Rabun County Recreation Department's Easter Egg Hunt. Three lucky winners in different age groups each won a bicycle for finding one of three winning eggs. (First appeared in the March 31, 2016, edition)

Voted 2017 Best Insurance Company & Best Insurance Agent

Rabun County Farm Bureau



Randy Henson



Brian Kilby



Richard Vaughn

"Thank you Rabun County for voting me Best Insurance Agent."
- Brian Kilby



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Thank you Rabun County for voting

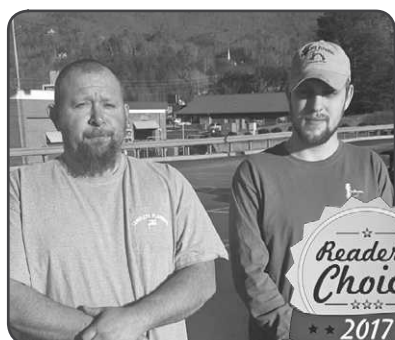


"Best Fast Food Restaurant" in The Reader's Choice Award.

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KINGWOOD Country Club & Resort



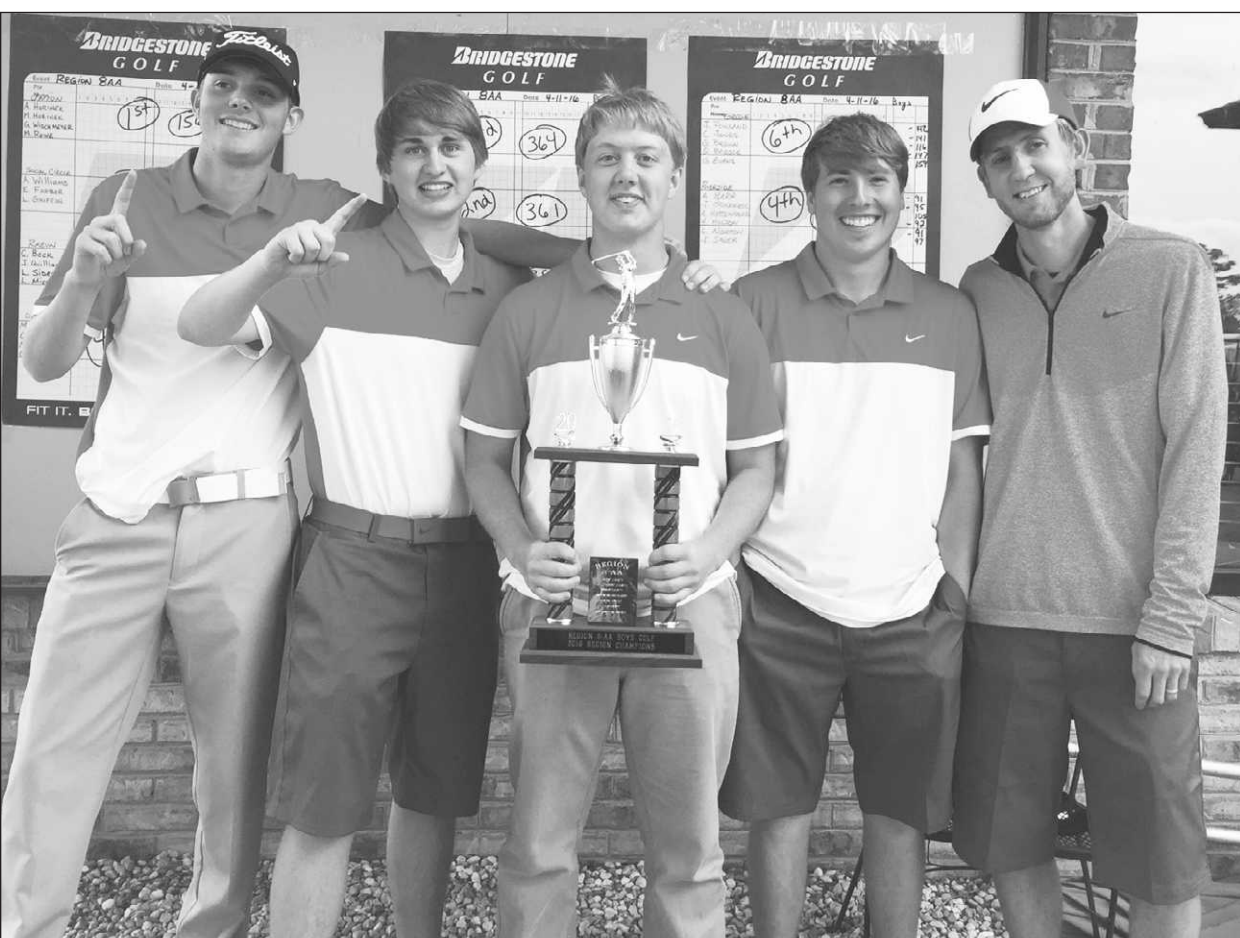
The Golf Course staff at Kingwood Country Club & Resort would like to thank the readers of The Clayton Tribune for this honor. We greatly appreciate and accept this award and look forward to serving you for many more years to come.

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Submitted Photo


Champion Golf Team

Rabun County High School's boys golf team members pose with their first place trophy Monday afternoon in Monroe after winning the Region 8-AA tournament. Pictured, from left, are Lance Moore, Jake Addington, Sam Speed, Seth King and Coach David Adcock. The Lady 'Cats brought home a third place finish.

—Winners—

- Drug Store..... Clayton Pharmacy
- Elected Official..... Chad Nichols
- Electrician Jeff Hunter Electric
- EMT..... Josh Hickox
- Fast Food..... Chick-fil-A
- Feed Store..... Reeves Feed and Farm
- Financial Advisor Ara Joyce
- Firefighter Tim Wall
- Fine Dining Fortify Kitchen & Bar
- Flooring..... Clayton Paint
- French Fries..... McDonald's
- Fried Chicken..... Henry's Restaurant
- Furniture Store.... Keller Furniture Co.
- Gas Blossman Gas
- Gift Shop Reeves Gift Shop
- Golf Course Kingwood Country Club
- Grocery Store Ingles
- Gym..... YourTime Fitness
- Hamburger..... Universal Joint
- Hardware Store..... Reeves Hardware

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>>




Holloway

Family Dentistry

My staff and I would like to give a big thank you to the community for being so kind and supportive this past year and we look forward to the opportunity to take care of you and your families in the years to come!

- Jeremy Holloway



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WE

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Peter McIntosh/For The Tribune

Fourth of July

Lake Rabun boaters enjoy an evening of fireworks July 3, 2016, as part of Rabun County's annual Fourth of July celebration. (First appeared in the July 7, 2016, edition)



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Thanks to all our clients for your votes. We appreciate your business.
- Louise Phillips
"Best Secretary"



Louise Phillips has been working for me for over 24 years. She has always been a great employee; very loyal and trusted. I am thankful for her working for me all these years.

I also want to thank all my clients for their business and support and their vote for Louise.

- Mike McCracken,
Accounting Services

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Klark Byrd/The Clayton Tribune

2016 Dillard Bluegrass and Barbeque Festival

ABOVE: The Dillard Bluegrass & Barbeque Festival's overall winning barbecue team for 2016 was Bald Hawg BBQ. Accepting the winning platter from Steve Tomlin, left, was Andrew Cloer of Simpsonville, South Carolina. Cloer also received a 700 pin. The reserve and grand champion platters were accidentally switched in the ceremony. (First appeared in the Aug. 11, 2016, edition)

BELOW: Hank Belew, right, presented Steve and Jane Tomlin a congratulatory platter at the 20th annual Dillard Bluegrass & Barbeque Festival. The Tomlins have a reputation of hosting "the best of the best" cooking competitions.



THANK YOU RABUN COUNTY

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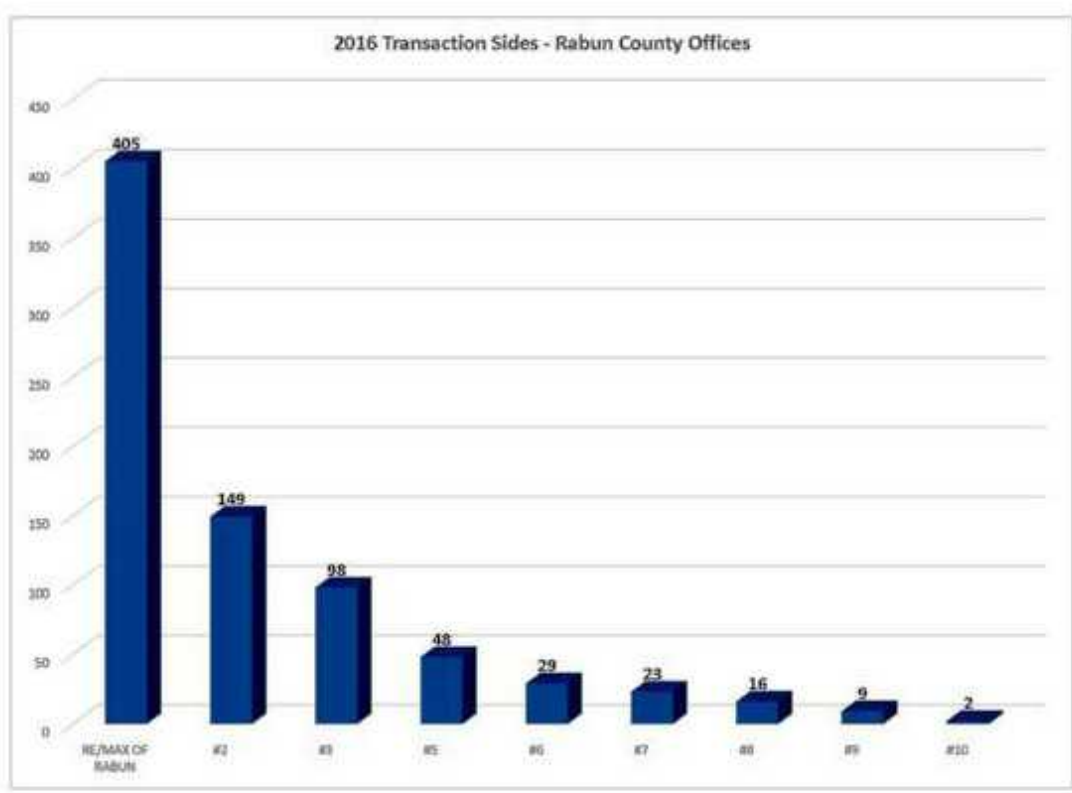
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Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed. Source: GMLS

—Winners—

- Heating and Air Northeast Georgia Heating & Air
- Cooking Henry's Restaurant
- Insurance Agency Farm Bureau
- Insurance Agent..... Brian Kilby
- Liquor Store Smitty's Spirits
- Live Entertainment..... Universal Joint
- Loan Officer Karen Franklin
- Lunch Wicked Pig
- Massage.....Amara Center
- Meat Market.....Andy's Market
- Mexican.....La Cabana Restaurant
- Nail Salon.....Nails One
- Nurse..... Ramona Watts/Medlink
- Optometrist Dr. Stephen R. Thurmond
- Paint Store Clayton Paint & Flooring Center
- Pawn Shop.....Friendly's Pawn
- Pizza.....Pizza Hut
- Plumber.....Complete Plumbing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 >>>



Tribune File Photo

Wildcats Basketball

Senior Rhodes Jones pushes it to the hoop Jan. 16, 2016, against the Greene County High School Tigers. The Wildcats beat the Region 8-AA opponent 75-55. (First appeared in the Jan. 21, 2016, edition)

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- Ryan Hamilton

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Tribune File Photo

12U Girls All-Star Basketball State Champs

The 2016 12U All-Stars won the Georgia Recreation and Parks Association Class C state championship March 5, 2016. Pictured, front row from left, are Mary Lovell, Sophie Woodard and Chloe Vinson; back row, Coach Todd Stiles, Birdie Jordan, Gracie Deetz, Georgia Hickox, Jenica Steil, Loren Stiles, Krissa Cannon, Brittny Hopkins and Coach Cannon. (First appeared in the March 10, 2016, edition)

—Winners—

- Policeman..... Ryan Hamilton, Clayton Assistant Police Chief
- Printing/SpecialtyHappy Jack Produce
- Produce Osage Farms
- Pub/Bar Universal Joint
- Real Estate Agent.....Deb Butler
- Real Estate Co.RE/Max Realty
- Sandwich..... Subway
- School.....Rabun County High School
- School Principal..... Lisa Patterson
- School TeacherDee Craft
- Seafood.....Rumor Haz It
- Secretary/location Louise Phillips at Mike McCracken Accounting Services
- Self Storage In Town Storage
- Small Engine Repair... Buchanan Small Engine Repair
- Steak (place to eat)..... Fortify
- Sweet Tea McDonald's
- Tax Preparation H&R Block

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 >>>

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Readers' Choice 2017

VOTED 2017
Best Elected Official & Best Deputy

Sheriff's Office GEORGIA RABUN COUNTY

I am encouraged by the relationships that have developed between the Sheriff's Office and community, and I am thankful for the support that has been shown to us. I appreciate this honor, especially this early on, and will continue to work hard to uphold the faith that has been placed in me.

- Sheriff Chad Nichols

It is an honor and a privilege to be chosen for Deputy of the year for the second time. I love to protect and serve the Citizens of Rabun County, and look forward to another great year.

- Deputy Kyle Shook

Voted Best Meat Market

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Thank You Rabun County for voting us Best Meat Market! We appreciate your business, Andy & Deborah Hunter

Readers' Choice 2017

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—Winners—

- Tire Store Pritchett Tire
- Towing Service..... Deans Wrecker
- Tree Service Reid Tree Service
- Used Auto Sales..... Duvall Automotive Group
- Veterinarian Rabun Animal Hospital
- Volunteer Fire Department..... Tiger Volunteer Fire Department
- Waiter..... Lisa Holcomb/Oinkers
- Wedding Venue..... Chota Falls
- Wings Wicked Pig



Wildcats Track and Field
 Jadda Laufer clears the bar during the women's high jump event March 22, 2016, during the Rabun County's track meet against Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School. (First appeared in the March 24, 2016, edition)

The Clayton Tribune
 chooses you as our
Best Reader!
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Klark Byrd/The Clayton Tribune

Rabun Gap-Nacoochee crowns homecoming royalty

Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School crowned its homecoming royalty Oct. 15, 2016, at halftime during the Eagles game against visiting Veritas Christian Academy. The homecoming king and queen were seniors Frida Cyuzuzo, right, and Jordan Hajazin, an Eagles lineman. (First appeared in the Oct. 20, 2016, edition)

The Rabun County BOE is proud to announce



Best School, Best Principal and Best Teacher. We Congratulate You!



"It is an honor to be selected as the Clayton Tribune's "Rabun County School of the Year." This school year we've experienced tremendous success both in and outside the classroom. These achievements are only possible with an exceptional faculty and staff who constantly set high expectations for all students. I'd be remiss if I didn't also recognize the supportive Rabun county community. We are grateful to live in an area where our school, families and the community actively work together, creating networks of shared responsibility for student success. Thank you to the readers who voted for Rabun County High School."

- Jonathan Gibson, Principal Rabun County High School

RABUN COUNTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BEST PRINCIPAL LISA PATTERSON



"I am humbled and honored to be named "The Clayton Tribune" 2017 Best Principal. It has been a blessing to be at Rabun County Elementary School this year. I can't thank the parents, students, faculty and staff enough for welcoming and supporting me at RCES. God bless you all!"

- Lisa Patterson, Principal Rabun County Elementary School

RABUN COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL BEST TEACHER DEE CRAFT

"I love spending my days with my first graders. I am reminded on a daily basis how blessed I am to have the opportunity to teach in my hometown with these students. I can only pray that I make a positive and long lasting impact on each of my students, because each of them leaves an imprint on my heart."

- Dee Craft
1st Grade Teacher Rabun County Primary School



We would like to thank you again for voting
THE CLAYTON PHARMACY
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Thank you to our loyal customers and the readers of *The Clayton Tribune* for voting Rabun County Bank

“Best Bank” 5 years in a row!



And, we couldn't be prouder to have **Karen Franklin** voted **Best Loan Officer** and **Mary Crawford** voted **Best Teller**. This is an honor that we greatly appreciate.



As the **only** locally owned and operated bank in Rabun County we can't say thank you enough for showing us your support. For more than 40 years your trust and confidence in us is humbling. Our entire team looks forward to serving you today and in the future. Be sure to tell your friends and family what you already know, Rabun County Bank is “The Best Bank”, five years in a row!

Thanks from all of us: Johnny Irvin, Greg Funkhouser, Gary Keller, Claude Dillard, Yong Kim, Karen Hooper, Sandra Thurmond, Sherry Wemple, Trisha Kelly, Cammey Carpenter, Chris DiNofrio, Fredda Beck, Kathie Roberts, Shelly Backer, Lisa Bonnette, Ashley Wilson, Audrey Brown, Sarah Wall, Sylvia Shook, Stevie Holland, Natalie McCrackin, Karen Franklin, Dan Free, Lorrie Gregorie, Melody Queen, Carolyn Simmons, Linda Garrett, Laverne Hopkins, Mary Crawford, Necole Berweiler, Brenda Green, Keshia Amiri, Savannah Shirley, Margaret Richardson, Shauna Decker, Jennifer Chastain, Kayla Brown, Becky Brown, Amanda Vanhook, Hannah Watson, Sarajoy Booth and Roger Ramey.

