

After 25 Years, Rountree Ready For Change Job Both Rewarding And Frustrating

By TOM MCINTYRE
Editor, Mirror-Herald

GROVER — Glenn Rountree has the speech and gentle mannerisms of a man of the cloth most of the time. But there are times when he doesn't sound like he's talking from a pulpit.

This week he sounded more like a man who has just about had it.

It all has to do with his work. Rountree is in charge of the Grover Cemetery and has been for about 25 years. Now he is ready to give up the job. It has nothing to do with the pay, which is a token amount, because when he first began his work he received nothing. In fact it cost him out of pocket.

"Back in the early 1950s," Rountree said, "my mother-in-law, Mrs. Charles F. Harry, went for a ride. After a time we stopped at the cemetery, got out of the car and went walking."

He said at that time the cemetery was overgrown in broom-sage. Mrs. Harry turned to Rountree and said, "There is something you can do for me. See what

you can do about getting this cemetery cleaned up and keep it cleaned."

Rountree brought mowers and got home help and they began clearing out the broom sage and mowing the grass. That was the beginning. When Corley Martin, then in charge of the cemetery for the Town of Grover, decided to step down Rountree took on the job. Martin stayed around to counsel him.

"After that a few of us in town formed a Lions Club and the club took on the project of keeping up the cemetery," Rountree said. "The club is still taking care of the cemetery through funds raised by selling birthday calendars and from special donations from the public. This past year the project almost sank because the calendar sales were down and so were the special gifts."

Rountree said the club project is an important one for Grover because the town really cannot afford to give the cemetery perpetual care.

The "cannot afford" aspect is one of the things Rountree harped about to the town board this week. According to the

long-time caretaker the burial lots in Grover Cemetery are so cheap that people from communities such as Gastonia, Shelby Kings Mountain and Blacksburg, S. C. are coming in and buying plots. He said many of these people "are without any connection whatsoever with Grover. They have purchased lots here simply because they are cheaper than lots in their own communities."

Monday night Rountree slated his case to the town board, asked for and received an increase in the price of burial plots. Rountree said the town was selling burial plots for six and 10 persons at \$100. The new price, retroactive back to Jan. 1, 1978, is now \$200 for six-person plots and \$300 for eight-person plots. And, in the next few years, when the new section of the cemetery is open, Rountree suggested the town sell only two and four-person plots at \$250 and \$500.

The town board acted on the six and eight-person plots, but not on the two and four-person plots Monday night.

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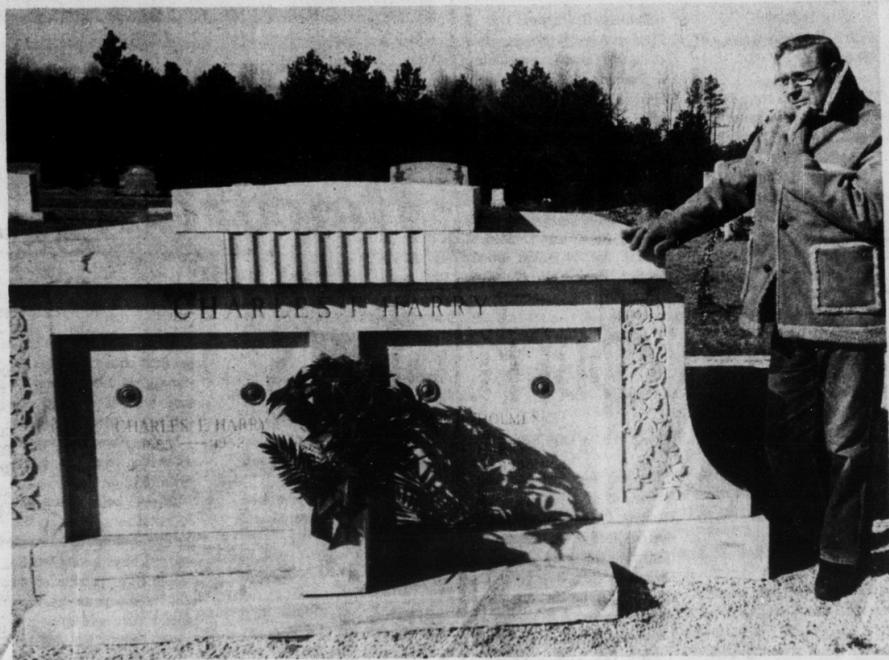


Photo By Tom McIntyre

ROUNTREE'S DOMAIN — Glenn Rountree has been caretaker of the Grover Cemetery for the past 25 years, but now he is ready to give up the job. It has been rewarding at times and frustrating at others. Here Rountree stands beside the burial crypt of the lady who got him started in the job — his mother-in-law, Mrs. Charles F. Harry.

KM Students Are Below The National Average

By GARY STEWART
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain District board of education Monday night learned that students here were below the national average in comprehensive tests given in September.

Howard Bryant, director of instruction for the system, released the test results and noted that even though KM students are below the national average, the results were about what he expected.

In most cases, KM students showed "a year's growth" since tests were given in September of 1976.

"We feel the program shows that students have grown as expected," he said, "but we also know that we have a lot of work to do."

Tests were given in grades one, two, three, five and seven.

Bryant also spoke on the high school competency tests that are being given for the first time this year. This year's tests will not have any bearing on graduation, but next year's will.

Bryant reported that 300 10th graders, or 90 percent of the class, took the test and the following results were given.

On the reading test, 35 students were below the suggested competency level.

On the math test, 106 students (35 percent) were below the suggested level.

In both reading and math, 30 students were below the competency level.

In the math test only, 76 (25 percent) scored low.

In reading only, only five students scored low.

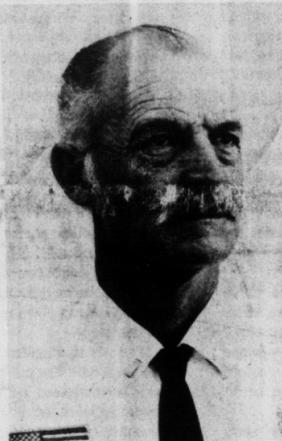
Bryant said high school counselors are studying the students who scored low and will come up with remedial courses.

In other action Monday, the board:

— Was told that the school system had received \$19,000 in CETA funds to employ a High School Youth Opportunity Specialist on January 15. Supt. Bill Davis said he has someone in mind but at present is clearing up a question of certification.

The purpose of the program, Davis said, is to identify disadvantaged students and to develop prescribed plans

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DELBERT DIXON

Region C Selects KM's Dixon

Delbert Dixon of Kings Mountain has been elected to serve on the Executive Committee of the Region C Emergency Medical Services Council.

Dixon was elected secretary to the Council, a position he has held for the past year.

The Council, which includes McDowell, Rutherford, Polk and Cleveland Counties, met on January 4 to elect officers and discuss EMS problems in the four county region. The Council was organized in 1974 to act as an advisory committee to the Isothermal Planning and Development Commission.

State and Federal grant monies have been approved through the Council for purchase of vehicles, ambulance and emergency room equipment and communications equipment.

Dixon is employed by Lithium Corporation of America and resides in Kings Mountain. He has been active in the Kings Mountain Rescue Squad for 20 years, serving as captain for seven years, and is the only chartered member of the Kings Mountain Unit that is still active on the squad. He holds the rank of second lieutenant on the squad, serves as EMT Coordinator and is certified by the state as an EMT Examiner.

Other members of the Council from Cleveland County are Larry Revels, Assistant Coordinator for Cleveland County EMS and John Washburn, administrator of Crawley Memorial Hospital.

Other officers elected to the Council are Dr. Jerrill McIntire, chairman, McDowell County; Marvin Arledge, vice chairman, Polk County; and Dr. Hobart Rogers, treasurer, Rutherford County.

Objects To Being Kept In Dark

GROVER — Harold Herndon, the new town commissioner here, got a little hot under the collar Monday night when Mayor W. W. (Bill) McCarter brought up appointing an insulation inspector.

Jim Howell, a Grover resident, was sent to a two-day workshop for inspectors held in Charlotte Dec. 15-16 to qualify himself to handle inspections of installed insulation materials in new construction. The town paid the \$12 registration fee for Howell.

Herndon was disturbed because, he said, "I didn't know a thing about this until this minute. When did we vote to send Jim Howell to that workshop?"

Town Clerk Gloria Horton said she had called Commissioners Tommy Keeter and Martha Byers concerning the matter, but had been unable to contact Herndon. Mayor McCarter said the town needed to make preparations to appoint an inspector since the board had agreed earlier not to use the Cleveland County Inspection office.

The mayor said he would table the matter until Herndon had more time to think about appointing Jim Howell or someone else to the job. "I want you to be happy," the mayor told Herndon. "Howell was not given assurances he would get the job even when he agreed to attend the workshop."

"I'm happy," Herndon said. "I have no objection to Jim Howell as the inspector. But I do object to being kept in the dark about things."

Herndon made the motion to appoint Howell as the inspector.

The town board also passed a resolution placing Grover under the N. C. State Building Regulations and set a fee of \$10 for permits to licensed contractors to install insulation materials in new construction and a fee of \$10 for the inspection.

State law made such practices mandatory as of Jan. 1, 1978 in the matter of insulation materials as an energy conservation measure.

Ruth Dedmon Seeks Clerk Of Court Office

Mrs. Ruth Dedmon has filed as a candidate for Clerk of Superior Court in the May 2 Democratic Primary election.

The Shelby native is seeking her third term to the county office. She is the wife of Roy Dedmon and they have one son, Rodney, a student at Burns High School.

In filing for the office, the incumbent said, "I have tried to serve the people of

Cleveland County fairly and impartially, without fear or favor, in accordance with the law. I have also tried to be a public official whose honesty and integrity have always been unquestionable. You as a citizen of this county deserve such services at the hand of any public official."

Mrs. Dedmon also stated, "There is no substitute for experience. With the ever increasing duties and responsibilities being placed upon the Clerks of this state at each session of the Legislature, many times we find ourselves having to sit in a judicial capacity. Experience is also necessary for the protection and preservation of the many important records of this office for which the Clerk, under law, is custodian, particularly in the field of estates.

"This office administered more than \$2-million during the last fiscal year," the candidate continued. "This is big business. Yet we have consistently received excellent audit reports from the State Auditor."

The Cleveland County Clerk's office has been referred to frequently as one of the best and most efficient in the state. Mrs. Dedmon said, "My staff and I have worked very hard to make it that way. We hope you will afford us the opportunity of serving you another term."



MRS. RUTH DEDMON
... seeking a third term

Masters, Jones File

Bennett Masters of Kings Mountain has filed to run for the office of Cleveland County Coroner and Rep. Robert A. Jones of Rutherford County is seeking reelection to the N. C. House of Representatives in the 40th District.

Masters, who is completing the unexpired term of the late M. D. Walker, served for six years as assistant coroner and as coroner for more than one year. Associated with Harris Funeral Home

for 14 years, Masters is vice president of the firm.

In his filing statement, Masters said he feels he is qualified for the position because of his training and background experience he has as assistant coroner.

"The office is a highly professional service," Masters said and further, that it serves a great purpose in the county. He said in his brief time in office he has tried to update the office and at the same time save the taxpayers some money.

"If elected," he said, "I will continue to run the office in the most professional and economic way."

The term as coroner is for four years.

Robert A. Jones has held the third seat in the 40th House District (Cleveland, Rutherford and Polk counties) for the past 10 years and is seeking his sixth term, subject to the May 2 Democratic Primary, in 1978.

"I am grateful to the people of these three counties for electing me to this position of trust for the past 10 years," Jones commented, "during which time I have tried to always vote in accordance with the manner that I believe the majority of the people in this district would have me vote and to represent you the same as if you were there yourself."

Jones said he hoped the voters continued to elect one representative from Rutherford County as has been done since the 40th District was created.

Jones has served as chairman of the Rules Committee, Ethics Committee,

Sex Discrimination Study Committee and the Property Tax Study Committee. He is also a member of the Elections, Judiciary, Finance, Wildlife, Constitution, Courts and Judicial District Committees.

Masters is the first candidate to file for the office of coroner and Jones makes the third incumbent to file for the 40th House District race.



BENNETT MASTERS
... running for coroner



ROBERT A. JONES
... seeks House re-election