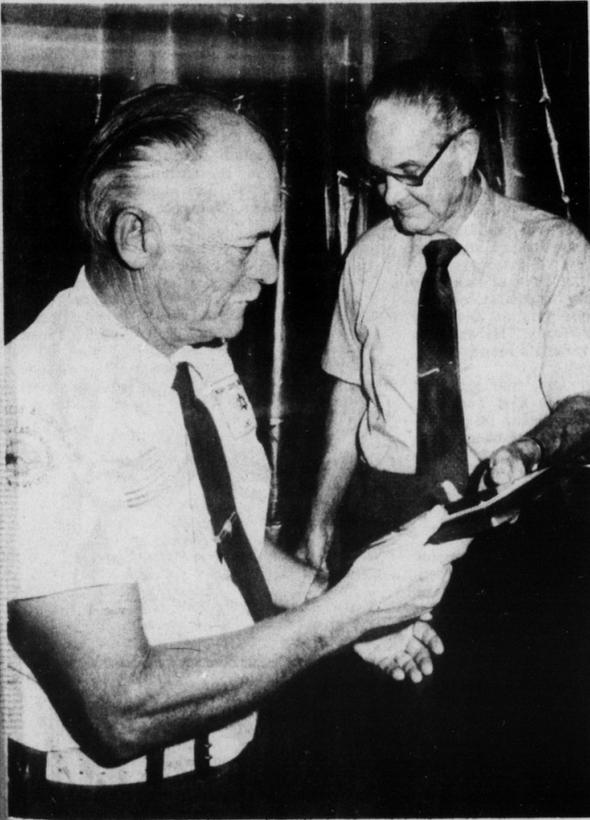


# Dixon Is Saluted For 20 Years Service To Squad



By TOM McINTYRE  
Editor, Mirror-Herald

The Kings Mountain Rescue Squad celebrated its 20th anniversary Saturday with a special dinner at the Depot Center, where Delbert Dixon was recognized for his full term of service.

Dixon is the only charter member of the rescue squad still active.

Col. Charles A. Speed, director of the N. C. Emergency Medical Services Department, presented Dixon with a plaque "In appreciation . . . for 20 years of dedication and volunteered services to the Kings Mountain Rescue Squad."

As guest of honor Saturday, Dixon had no knowledge he was to be honored. He was late for the dinner because he was handling an emergency call.

"I won't make a speech," Dixon said. "But I will say thank you."

Following the dinner rescue members and their wives heard reports by rescue squad board member Tom McIntyre, Sen. Ollie Harris and an address by Col. Speed. Senator Harris capsuled the past

20 years of service by the rescue squad, commenting on how it all began in 1958. He said the squad was born out of an incident in which two Oak Grove men were trapped in the bottom of a well.

The Harris Funeral Home ambulance was dispatched to aid the men, but "more help was needed. We removed the men from the well by lowering a third man down in a bucket."

Harris said both men survived, but the town realized something else was needed when such emergencies arose. He said Delbert Dixon was one of the local men who took the initiative to create the squad.

Harris gave the squad a 1948 ambulance to get started. When money was raised and newer equipment could be purchased, the ambulance went back to Harris. He next gave it to a group in Grover to start a rescue squad. From there the ambulance went to Upper Cleveland County where a third rescue squad was started.

"When that squad bought new equipment they told me the ambulance was worn out and could they

throw it away and keep the siren," Harris said.

Col. Speed, who has served the State of North Carolina for 43 years as a state trooper and later head of the State Highway Patrol, took over directorship of the N. C. Emergency Medical Services in 1975.

In his remarks Saturday he said rescue squads began about 1946 in North Carolina and quickly spread across the state. "The beginning of volunteer units began based on the knowledge and experience and value of advanced medical training in the military," he said.

Speed said it takes a special breed of person to involve himself totally in such work, "a person who has initiative and a desire to truly help his fellow man. And if a person assumes the responsibility for taking someone else's life in his hands to keep him alive until he can be taken to professional medical help, this dedicated person must have exceptional training."

Speed said a well-trained Emergency Medical Technician compares with a doctor in some ways. "When the EMT is working to save someone's life in a ditch along the road, on a mountainside or in a dark house, he compares with a doctor who works with his equipment and backup teams in a hospital."

He said over the years training programs for rescue workers has increased and said it will continue to increase. The top of the line "will for rescue workers to become paramedics. These people have 800 to a thousand hours of training and in some cases can perform the same functions that a medical doctor can. In Guilford County there are paramedics who work under the sponsorship of the hospitals."

Speed said men "like Delbert Dixon are the ones who deserve the credit because they had the vision in the first place. They were the pioneers that helped us get to the state of emergency readiness North Carolina now has."

RECEIVES AWARD — Delbert Dixon, the only charter member of the Kings Mountain Rescue Squad, receives a plaque from his fellow members for 20 years of service. Col. Charles A. Speed, director of the N. C. Emergency Medical Services, is shown presenting the plaque. The event was held in conjunction with the KM Rescue Squad's 20th anniversary Saturday at the Depot Center.

## Wins Miss Poppy Title

Amy Dixon, six-year-old daughter of Mrs. Charles Dixon and the late Mr. Dixon, won the title of Miss National Poppy for North Carolina during the annual American Legion-

Auxiliary convention during the weekend in Winston Salem.

Miss Dixon competed with other contestants from 25 districts who had earlier chosen their representatives. She represented Kings Mountain Unit 155, of which she is a junior member, and District 23.

Eight young people participated in the contest Friday evening at Hyatt House. Miss Dixon advances to Southern Division competition among winners from 11 other states and that winner receives an all-expense - paid trip to national convention competition in August in New Orleans, La.

Mrs. Dixon and Miss Robin Dixon accompanied Amy Dixon to Winston Salem.

Kings Mountain Unit 155 also won four awards during the convention, including a plaque to Elizabeth Stewart and The Mirror-Herald for a series of feature stories on Kings Mountain schools, entered in competition for the Golden Press Award. The Unit also won two first prizes in foreign relations, and first prize for poppy table arrangement.



AMY DIXON

## Meredith McGill To Study Six Weeks In Scandinavia

Meredith McGill, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. John C. McGill, has been selected to participate in a six-week

study tour in the Scandinavian countries this summer.

The program, sponsored by the University of Wisconsin and the University of Sweden-Lund, allows students and professionals in the field of special education to study similar programs in Sweden and the surrounding countries.

Ms. McGill, who attended Meredith College in Raleigh, graduated summa cum laude from Appalachian State University in August, 1977, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Special Education and a second major in English.

She is employed by Greensboro City Schools where she is teaching the autistic adolescent class at McIver School.

She is a member of the National Society for Autistic Children and of the North Carolina chapter, and was recently elected as state secretary of the North Carolina Federation of the Council for Exceptional Children for the year 1978-79.



MEREDITH MCGILL  
... going to Scandinavia

## Board Amends Ordinance

The city board has approved an amendment to an ordinance concerning the time limit for compliance by citizens regarding clearing weeds and rubbish.

Codes Director Alvin Moretz recommended the board set a time limit of 10 days after receipt of a registered letter from the codes department.

City Attorney George Thomasson suggested setting a time limit would "put teeth into the ordinance."

Moretz said if a citizen does not comply by clearing weeds and debris from their property within the time limit the city can do the job and bill the property owner.

Commissioner Norman King questioned how stringent the city wished to be when dealing with elderly property owners. The board agreed that in such cases that the age and capabilities of the property owner to do the job request be taken into consideration.

Moretz said the city-owned property and property owned by any other entity within the city limits are subject to the same limit of time for compliance.

In other action, the board accepted a petition from three of the four property owners on Suzanne St. from Roxford Rd. to Garrison Dr. for paving. The petition will be added to the standing paving order drawn by the city.

Jobs are scheduled in order according to the date of the petition received.

The board approved a lease-buy agreement with USI of Charlotte on a line truck for the electric department. The 1978 model truck costs \$50,544 and will be heavily scheduled by the department "for the next six years," according to Supt. Harry Wilson.

Mayor John Moss reviewed the proposed \$7,086,835.83 budget for 1978-79 which indicates the heaviest increase is in the city's three utility departments.

Adopted the 1978-79 Revenue Sharing Budget, which sets \$150,000 in general revenue sharing and \$47,226 for capital expenditures.

## Grover Hearing Is Postponed

GROVER — A public hearing on the proposed budget and revenue sharing has been postponed until 8:30 p. m. Mon., June 26.

Following the public hearing there will be a special town board meeting at city hall for the purpose of action on the 1978-79 budget.



MORE ANTIQUES — Kings Mountain Fire Chief Gene Tignor poses with the 1925 American-LaFrance fire engine the department recently purchased for \$700 from Randall's Truck Sales of Shelby. The engine will

be restored and placed on display at the new fire department headquarters in the Governmental Services Facilities Building on W. Gold St. when the complex is completed later this year or early 1979.

## State Approves Center

Kings Mountain Convalescent Center has been approved by the North Carolina Health Care Facilities Association Peer Review Task Force, Administrator Sue H. Payne has announced.

Peer review is a self-regulating effort of member nursing homes to continually improve the quality of care provided by professional nursing home administrators and staff.

Kings Mountain approval came after a thorough on-site inspection by a team of trained professionals

knowledgeable in all aspects of long term health care delivery.

"The concept of peer review and critique is a self-improvement tool which benefits member homes and their residents," said J. Craig Souza, executive director of the North Carolina association. "Associates are often the most beneficial critics, because they not only can help define a problem but can suggest a solution. Effective solutions are important to everyone."

Among its benefits, peer review

provides a means of self-discipline, and an avenue for greater consumer understanding and resolution of problems. It also provides a continuing educational process in helping to deliver the highest level of care at the least possible cost.

Peer review does not supplant the mass of state and federal regulations that govern nursing homes. However, it does add a credible and professional mechanism developed by knowledgeable people whose first concern is quality long term care in safe and comfortable surroundings,

## Drainage Policy Established

Through two public hearings, well-attended by local citizens, the city has been able to establish policies and priorities in surface drainage programs.

Al Moretz, a city engineer, said during the public meetings the present storm water surface drainage project was reviewed and afterwards the meeting was thrown open for general discussion. Moretz said aerial maps of the city were used for review purposes.

From citizen input the new city drainage policies were formed. Currently the city's drainage program provides for work within

established flood hazard areas. Moretz said these areas are basically the most downstream creeks and drainage basins.

"Our present program tends to aid in relief of more general areas," Moretz said. "However, this program will allow for the flexibility to consider other smaller surface drainage problems where a sufficient amount of concern and input has been received."

Moretz said progress is being made in the area of surface drainage within the city limits. An additional amount of money has been set aside in the city budget for storm water

especially for surface drainage.

"The city has received a grant to assist in surface drainage," Moretz said. "And the city is developing a storm water policy and in the near future we will have ordinances more stringent than those we now have."

Moretz said an example of the city's efforts to reduce surface drainage problems is a requirement that a site plan for all new construction be submitted for review prior to the issuance of a building permit.

"This will place emphasis on surface drainage as now is placed on other utilities," he said.