

# Kings Mountain Herald

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KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA



MELISSA HOPKINS

## Phone Call Was Answer To Prayer

Bertie Stewart's telephone rang on Mother's Day and it was a call she had prayed for about 25 years.

The caller was her 27-year-old niece, Melissa Jan Hopkins, whom she had not heard from since she was adopted at age four and had not seen since she was age two.

Mrs. Stewart said she lost all contact with her brother's child, but that she hoped to have a real family reunion at the August 19

Carpenter reunion.

Melissa (who was born Charlene Anne Carpenter, daughter of Winona Bailey Carpenter White, now of Chicago, Ill. and the late Charlie P. Carpenter, Jr. of Kings Mountain) said she learned about her Kings Mountain aunt through a friend who read the Carpenter history, "Carpenters A Plenty." She said that her adopted parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry O. Hopkins, had told her at an early

age that she was adopted.

She told her brother, Jay, also reared by the Hopkins family since the age of three months, and they called Mrs. Stewart who put them in touch with their mother.

Melissa and Jay (Charlene and Charlie Carpenter) have not located the rest of their family. The five Carpenter children were raised by different families, except Melissa and Jay who were raised together in the small

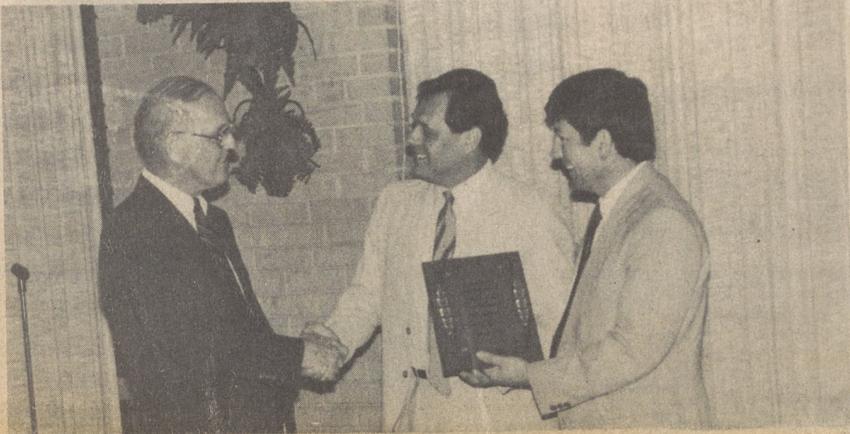
town of Quanah, Texas, population 5,000. Mr. Hopkins worked in a department store and farmed and Mrs. Hopkins worked for a cotton buyer as a bookkeeper.

Melissa Jan graduated from Quanah High School in 1975 and attended Wayland Baptist College in Plainview, Texas. She was runner up for "Miss Wayland" her sophomore year. She received her B.S. in Special Education in December 1979

and her first teaching position was in Clearwater, Kansas.

She lived and taught learning disabled students in a log cabin in New Mexico and was one of seven teachers with 65 students, ages 10 to 20. It was there that she met and married her second husband, a counselor at the school. She told her aunt about many of the "happenings" in her life in a six page letter recently and expressed the hope that she

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TEACHING AWARD - Supt. Bill Davis congratulates Steve Baker, center, after Baker received the KM Schools Excellence in Teaching Award Monday night at the fourth annual Academic Banquet. Looking on is Principal Ronnie Wilson.

## Boiler Manufacturer To Build In Area

Combustion Engineering, Inc. of Stamford, Conn., manufacturers of large utility company boilers, will begin construction in October for a new facility at the former Great Dominion metal products plant on Highway 29 near Kings Mountain.

The joint announcement was made by Tom Tate, Larry Hamrick, Sr., and L.E. Hinnant of the Kings Mountain Development Corporation, Kings Mountain Major John Moss and Plant Manager Joe Andrews.

Cleveland County and Kings Mountain commissioners Monday endorsed a bond project to bring the new industry to Cleveland County.

Andrews said that plans are for the current Dominion building to be expanded from about 42,000 square feet to about 75,000 square feet. He said the new plant should employ 90 people by the end of the first year of operations and will be a maintenance and service center for large boilers used by utilities and industrial customers.

Mr. Tate, president of the non-profit KM Development Corporation, said that plans are for the Development Corporation to issue bonds of up to \$2.3 million for the purchase, renovation and expansion of the former Great Dominion building and for the corporation to lease the

facility to Clancys and Theys Construction Co. of Raleigh. The construction company, he said, will guarantee the bonds, and sublease the facility to the Connecticut firm.

The bond proposal was

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## Alexander President Of Retired Employees

Charles L. Alexander, former Kings Mountain Postmaster, has been tapped President of the North Carolina Federation of Chapters of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, commonly known as NARFE, at their annual state convention just concluded in Raleigh, N.C.

As alluded to in Governor Jim Hunt's address, to the convention, there are approximately 40,000 retired federal employees in North Carolina. Also, active federal employees may join the organization with a minimum of five years service.

The state is divided into six areas. Each area is comprised of local chapters. Each chapter meets monthly for the purpose of conducting business of interest to federal employees and retirees. There are 42 chapters throughout the state.

Alexander has been a member of NARFE for 15 years, having joined while still postmaster. His duties, in an official capacity with NARFE, began in 1979 when the Shelby Chapter 1985 was organized. He was elected president of that chapter and



CHARLES ALEXANDER

served in that capacity for two years. In 1982 he was appointed to the position of Area II vice president and in 1983 to vice president of the state organization. He served in this capacity until his appointment to the State Presidency this week. The outgoing President is Aaron Berryhill of Charlotte.

NARFE membership embraces all federal agencies.

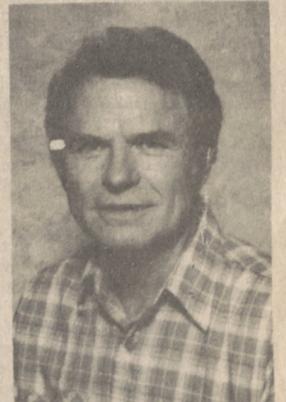
## Anderson To Speak At Dixon Homecoming

Dixon Presbyterian Church will conclude its four-month celebration of its 40th anniversary during special homecoming services Sunday.

Rev. J. Eade Anderson of Cabot, Arkansas, will deliver the sermon during the 11 a.m. worship hour. Rev. Anderson, who was Dixon's Summer Assistant Pastor in 1948 and 1949 when he was a seminary student, is now chaplain of the V.A. Medical Center in Little Rock. Rev. Anderson served the Dixon Church with the late Rev. P.D. Patrick when the church building was constructed on Dixon School Road.

Rev. Anderson later served as pastor of Olney Presbyterian Church in Gastonia.

Sunday School will be held at 9:30 a.m., and a covered dish



REV. EADE ANDERSON

dinner will be spread at 12:30 p.m.

The public is invited to attend.

## Academic Awards Given

Sixty-five Kings Mountain Senior High School students were honored for academic excellence at the fourth annual Academic Awards Banquet Monday night at KMSHS Cafeteria.

The students with a 3.5 grade point average and higher repre-

sent the top 21 students in the Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Grades.

The students with the highest cumulative grade point averages were Sophomores Lisa Buchanan and Norma Webster who tied at 4.167; Juniors Liza Blanton and Kevin Scott Ingram

who tied at 4.278; and Senior Charles Tracy Bolin whose average was 4.233.

Handsome engraved plaques were presented to all 65 honorees and the top five students received a special gift.

Dr. Bob Pittilo, Professor of Education at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte, was the keynote speaker and challenged the students to achieve even higher marks through work and self discipline. "Carry pride in doing something worthwhile and doing it well," he told the large group of students and parents and grandparents. He also took the occasion to challenge the 18-year-olds to exercise their right to vote.

Assisting in presenting the awards were Supt. Bill Davis, KMHS Principal Ronnie W. Wilson, Assistant Principals Blaine Froneberger and Mrs. Jackie Lavender. The banquet meal included fried chicken with baked potato, broccoli with cheese, fruit salad, and strawberry shortcake. The invocation was given by Steve Baker. The cafeteria staff, under the direction of Mrs. Paul Hord, served the meal.

The academic awards "for diligence in the pursuit of academic excellence" went to the following students:

Seniors: Thomas Ray Batchler, April Susan Biggers, Lisa Birkovich, Charles Tracy Bolin, Patricia Kay Davis, Shawn Kent Gibby, Kimberly Annette Goodson, Todd Wofford Gossett, Barbara Jean Lovelace, Joy Gayle McCoy, Eva Yvonne McKinney, Pamela Jo Morrow, Saranan Murray, Lisa Jo Nation, Jill Lawrence Plonk, Scott Tracy Scism, Carolyn Eva Smith, Jeffrey Scott Smith, Crystal Ann Stroupe, Sandi Lynn Watterson and Laura Lynn Wright.

Juniors: Thomas Shane Barnes, Angela Gaye Blackwell, Mary Elizabeth Blanton, Mark

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## Mrs. Clemmer Named National Award Winner

Mrs. Virginia Clemmer of Gastonia, stepmother of John Clemmer of Kings Mountain, one of WBTB Jefferson Award Winners for public service benefitting local communities, is one of five national winners in that category.

Mrs. Clemmer will receive \$1,000 and the National Jefferson Award, a gold medallion featuring a replica of the Great Seal of the United States of America on the front and on the reverse signatures of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and the Hon. Robert Taft, Jr. and the inscription, "In Recognition of Outstanding Public Service."

At a ceremony at the U.S.

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VIRGINIA CLEMMER

## Malcolm Patterson's Rites Held Tuesday

Funeral services for Robert Malcolm Patterson, 57, of 301 W. Mountain St., who died Sunday at 3:15 p.m. in Kings Mountain Hospital, were conducted Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock from Boyce Memorial ARP Church of which he was a member.

Rev. William H. Tyson officiated at the rites and interment was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Mr. Patterson was a native of Kings Mountain, son of the late John Martin and Roberta

Simonton Patterson. He attended Erskine College and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and was Assistant Vice-President and Treasurer of The Citadel Life Insurance Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Barclays American Corporation of Charlotte. He was a Navy veteran of World War II.

Surviving are two sisters, Miss Marian Patterson and Miss Leone Patterson, both of Kings Mountain.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.