



**HELPED BROTHER CELEBRATE**—Ira Dixon, who was one of 10 children, poses on his 90th birthday with his two living sisters and brother. From left, Lucille Sellers, Mr. Dixon, Mylie Huffstetler and Lee Dixon, standing.

Story And Photo  
By Lib Stewart

## Five Generations Help Dixon Note 90th Birthday

For 90 years Ira Dixon has lived in the Bethlehem Community and never far from his present house where he reared a family of 10 children, nine of whom are living.

Wednesday at noon the children and their families, which include 28 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren surprised him with a covered dish luncheon and a birthday cake.

"I really didn't know they were going to do all this," said Mr. Dixon, as he greeted the large crowd of family members who ate at the dining room table, kitchen, den, backporch, and spilled out in the yard.

Five generations of Dixons were present for the get-together and included sons Nelson, Marion, Roy, Gene, all of Kings Mountain, Frank of Grover, Dr. Harley Dixon of Paducah, Ky., who was unable to attend, and daughters, Frances Dotson, Sarah Faye Ruppe and Helen

Wells. Two sisters and a brother, Lee Dixon, Myle Huffstetler and Lucille Sellers, were special guests. Ira Dixon held his great-great grandson, one month and 17 days old Glenn Scott Smith on his lap for a five generation picture for his scrapbook.

Born in a family of 10 children, "Mr. Ira" grew up on a farm near where he lives today. He was the son of the late Robert and Frances Dixon. He and his wife, the late Mattie Lee Blackburn Dixon, also had 10 children, nine of whom are living. Their oldest, Robert Dixon, died at a young age and Mrs. Dixon died three years ago.

The family have been life-long members of Bethlehem Baptist Church.

On warm spring-like days, neighbors can observe Mr. Dixon walking a mile a day, up the road from his house to Mr. Sidney's Barber Shop, which is owned and operated by his son, Roy Dixon, and spending the day at the barber shop talking with friends. His apparent good health and humor belies his age.

A retired farmer, Mr. Dixon says he enjoys farming and wouldn't ever want to do anything else. The Bethlehem community is his home and he's never wanted to move away. Many of his family live nearby and a son, Marion Dixon, resides with him.

Stories of life on the farm took up much of the dinner conversation around the Dixon table. Marion Dixon, a well known carpenter, was kidding his uncle, Lee Dixon, about the time that Lee Dixon caught Marion when he fell from a tree. According to Mr. Ira, Marion Dixon was cutting a tree at the Lee Dixon home and fell out of the tree and landed on Lee Dixon, who broke his fall and probably kept him from being seriously injured. In the process, Lee Dixon broke his glasses.

The Dixons are a close-knit family who enjoy each other and nothing is more pleasant than an afternoon reminiscing with them about the good ole days.

### Screening Set

The Kings Mountain Senior Center and the Cleveland County Council on Aging/Senior Center, in coordination with the Cleveland County Health Department, will be offering a variety of health screening to all seniors in the area on Monday, March 10, at Central United Methodist Church from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

All senior citizens, regardless of income are invited to take advantage of the opportunity to have testing for height/weight, anemia, diabetes (remember to eat a good meal at least 2 hours before), glaucoma, blood pressure, hearing, urinalysis, vision, SMA 12 or 18 (blood exam), tetanus vaccine, and nurse evaluation. All tests are free except for the blood exam.

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First, wash the skin over and around the blister thoroughly. Then, prick the side of the blister gingerly with a needle that has been sterilized over an open flame and gently press out the fluid. Bandage the blister leaving the skin intact to begin healing.

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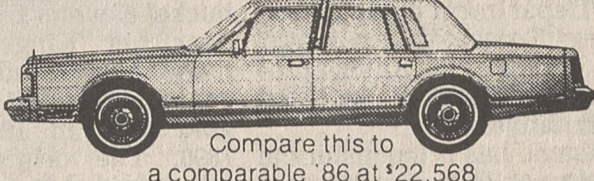

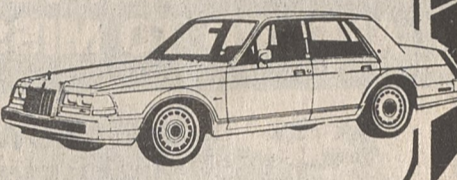
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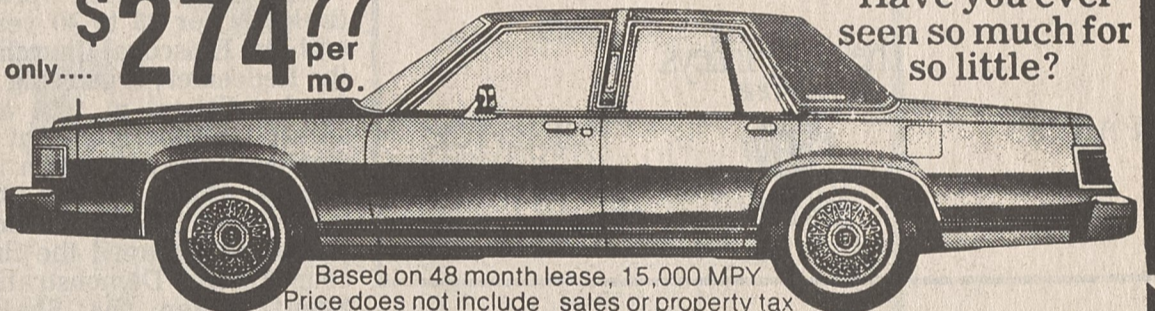
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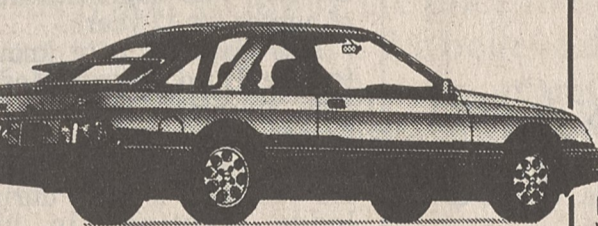
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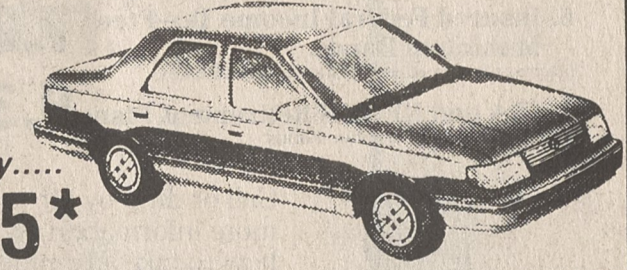
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