

## Lawyer George Thomasson Always Has Time, Advice For Hometown

George B. Thomasson, popular Kings Mountain lawyer for 35 years, agrees with President Abraham Lincoln who said, "A lawyer's time and advice are his stock in trade."

In fact, Thomasson's spacious law firm on West Mountain Street in Kings Mountain is decorated with the Lincoln plaque, a picture of President John F. Kennedy and a comical plaque by Shakespeare, "Let's kill all the lawyers." It is also furnished comfortably with two old-timey rocking chairs and opens up into a spacious law library in the renovated suite of offices once occupied by C.E. Warlick Insurance Agency. He shares his offices with his administrative assistant Karen Moss and his secretary, Linda Beach.

The furnishings reflect his and wife Marion's love for antiques and for collecting. A beautiful cherry rolltop desk they picked up at an auction in the 1950's is in the reception area and decorated with decanter collectibles with heads of such statesmen as Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, Paul Revere and George Washington. His love for his alma maters, Davidson College and Duke University, and his busy activities with the Kings Mountain Lions Club over many years of living in Kings Mountain are quickly observed by the visitor who can have a will drawn up, discuss a legal matter and purchase a Lion's club broom all at the same time. A photograph of George's father, Kings Mountain pioneer Charles F. Thomasson, is atop the rolltop desk in the entrance area and pictures of his wife, Marion, and their daughter, Ann Arthur Thomasson are proudly displayed on his desk. The deer heads prominently mounted on the walls came from a deer hunting trip to Oakland Plantation. There is a picture on the wall of his restored 1953 Ford and diplomas and certificates that reflect a busy career.

Born and reared in Kings Mountain, George Thomasson graduated from Kings Mountain High School and enrolled at Davidson College in 1941. Uncle Sam interrupted his schooling and about to be drafted he volunteered for the U.S. Army Infantry and served in France and Germany. The GI Bill helped him graduate from Davidson College in 1948 and from Duke University Law School in 1951. He recalled there were only three women in his graduating class in law school and that bar exams he passed in North Carolina and the District of Columbia each took about three days to complete. Bar exams were tough in those days, he recalled. The GI Bill paid his tuition and gave him \$75 monthly for living expenses and helped him fulfill a lifelong ambition of his father who managed Elmer Lumber Company, to graduate from law school and pass the bar. His first job was with the U.S. Government in Durham as a contract officer but he wanted to return home and settle down in Kings Mountain, so he hung out his shingle at the former Faison Barnes law office over the old Griffin Drug building in 1953. In later years he rented office space from Haywood E. Lynch and also shared second floor office quarters in the Thomasson-Peeler building downtown with tenants like the Kings Mountain Merchants Association and secretary Ida Joy, Dr. N.H. Reed, optometrist, Dr. D.F. Hord, dentist, Dr. W.L. Ramseur, medical doctor, and insurance man Ben F. Beam. Back in the early days when his was a one-person office, secretaries in the Merchants Association answered his telephone when he was out of the office with a client. "We climbed those steps to those offices for many years and enjoyed a good practice and good relationships with everyone who worked in the various offices," recalled Thomasson. Later, when redevelopment came to downtown, Thomasson rented space in the new Blazer building but his clients again had to climb steps to the second floor. In 1980 his present office became available and he asked Gillie Falls and BDF Construction Company to do the renovation. Marion Thomasson decorated the office. His fourth office downtown in his last and best, he says, because it's convenient for his clients who can park across the street with easy walking distance on the street level. Unlike the early years when he prosecuted criminal cases in Recorder's court and handled a variety of cases, his business is busy now as a civil practice and he spends hours each day at the Cleveland County Courthouse in Shelby and Gaston County Cour-



GEORGE B. THOMASSON

thouse. He was Kings Mountain's fourth lawyer when he moved back home, joining veterans J. Roan Davis, Jack H. White and Ector A. Harrill. In recent years the Kings Mountain law community has had as many as eight lawyers at one time practicing and residing in Kings Mountain.

For many years in the 1950's and 1960's George Thomasson was on the bench at Kings Mountain Recorder's Court which used to meet every Monday afternoon at 2 p.m. in the old City Hall, now the Kings Mountain Police Department. His practice involved both civil and criminal matters and he replaced Jack H. White on the bench when Senator White went to Raleigh. Judge Thomasson presided at the last court session here on Dec. 2, 1968 when court cases were moved to Shelby District Court. He also served as city attorney for the City of Kings Mountain for 11 1/2 years.

"I enjoy Kings Mountain and Kings Mountain people have been good to me," he said. Thomasson said he had never regretted his decision to practice law in his own hometown. Clients turn to George for assistance in civil suits, in handling real estate matters and estate deeds and wills and his reputation as a straightforward and honest lawyer has earned their respect.

Thomasson has served as both an elder and deacon in First Presbyterian Church, as president of both the Kings Mountain Lion's Club and Kings Mountain Jaycees and is active in the N.C. Bar Association and N.C. State Bar Association.

He is an avid Duke Blue Devil fan who has not seen the Blue Devils begin a 5-0 season before since 1957. He and his wife and Marion's sister and brother-in-law, Winston and Peggy Miller of Burlington, have been following the Blue Devils all season and recently sat with the Duke fans in Knoxville, Tennessee. George thinks this will be Duke's finest season in football.

Fishing is also a pastime of George and his friend, Clyde Whetstone back from bluefishing on the Outer Banks, Golfing is another hobby he enjoys.

Thomasson has no plans to retire soon. In the near future he plans to welcome a new member of the family, a son-in-law, when he gives his only daughter in marriage.

George and Marion Thomasson live on Phifer Road, a short distance from town and often ride in his 1953 vintage car. "I really feel younger today than I ever have and enjoy life and Kings Mountain more than ever," he said.

Thomasson's sense of humor is also reflected in his office furnishings and perhaps accounts for his success in the business and for the fact he has no gray hair. An example of his good humor is one of the plaques on his office wall which reads, "Be sure brain is engaged before putting mouth in gear."



**SHIRTS TO STUDENTS** - Gary Whitaker, right, First Federal Savings & Loan executive, present tee shirts to West School Principal Shirley Bynum and Kindergarten students who will wear them proudly at the West School Festival planned for Oct. 22 from 4 until 8 p.m. Students pictured are Front row, Laura Propst, Ian Blanton, Deidrick Thompson; second row, Christopher Bennett, Bess McGinnis, Mandy Jarrells, Drew Neisler; back row, Emily Welborn, Marylee Dilling, Michael Ingram and Anna Ramey, First Federal has given tee shirts to Kindergarten children in the District Schools for the past three years.

## John Gamble

**NEW IDEAS  
OLD VALUES**

**VOTE FOR  
COMPETENCE and INTEGRITY  
N.C. House**

Pub. Adv. By John Gamble Campaign Committee, Gary E. Cho Jr., Treas.

## Subscribe To The Herald

# BURCH ELECTRIC

101 SOUTH BATTLEGROUND AVENUE  
DOWNTOWN KINGS MOUNTAIN

• 739-9395 •

RANGE PARTS - ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES  
FOR  
CONTRACTORS AND GENERAL PUBLIC

**FREE DELIVERY TO SITE OR OFFICE!**

**TRENCHER AND OPERATOR AVAILABLE FOR RENT!**

**REPLACEMENT PARTS FOR:**  
• Modern Maid • Tappan  
• Frigidaire • Whirlpool  
• General Electric  
• And Many More!

**INSTALLATION SALES SERVICE**

**TAPPAN**

**HOURS:  
Mon.-Fri.,  
8 A.M.-5 P.M.**

**MUST BE SOLD**

## PICK UP A PICKUP

**MAKE AN OFFER**

- 2 WHEEL DRIVE - 4 WHEEL DRIVE TRUCKS AND VANS -

<p><b>1983 CHEVY S-10</b> ..... \$4988 Two-Tone, Automatic, A/C</p> <p><b>1982 FORD VAN</b> ..... \$5488 Club Wagon, Low Miles</p> <p><b>1985 CHEVY C-10</b> ..... \$7988 Long Bed, Automatic, A/C</p> <p><b>1982 CHEVY CONVERSION VAN</b> ..... \$6988 Low Miles, Much More</p> <p><b>1986 FORD BRONCO II 4X4</b> ..... \$12,988 Nicest Around, All Power</p> <p><b>1987 MAZDA B2000</b> ..... \$6988 SE-5 Package, AM/FM Stereo, 5-Speed</p> <p><b>1986 MAZDA B2000</b> ..... \$7888 LX Package, Lots Of Equipment</p> <p><b>1987 F-150</b> ..... \$12,788 Lariat Package, Nicest Around</p> <p><b>1986 CHEVY S-10 BLAZER 4X4</b> ..... \$11,488 Tahoe Package, Two-Tone</p> <p><b>1983 MAZDA TRUCK</b> ..... \$3988 Camper Top, Automatic, "Nice"</p> <p><b>1984 GMC JIMMY 4X4</b> ..... \$8988 Sierra Package, Red/Black And More</p> <p><b>1986 C-10 4X4</b> ..... \$11,888 Scottsdale Package, V8, Short Bed</p> <p><b>1983 S-10 4X4</b> ..... \$7688 Ext./Cab, Tahoe Package</p> <p><b>1975 FORD F-100</b> ..... \$2995 Long Bed, Priced To Sell</p> <p><b>1983 GMC S-15</b> ..... \$3988 Long Bed, AM/FM, Sharp</p> <p><b>1984 CHEVY S-10</b> ..... \$5888 5 Speed, A/C, Stereo</p>	<p><b>1984 C-10</b> ..... \$6988 Silverado Package, Priced Right</p> <p><b>1983 FORD BRONCO 4X4</b> ..... \$7988 Automatic, A/C, Two-Tone</p> <p><b>1986 FORD RANGER</b> ..... \$7888 Ext./Cab, Automatic, A/C, AM/FM Stereo</p> <p><b>1984 CUSTOM DLX</b> ..... \$7588 3 Speed, A/C, Nicest Around</p> <p><b>1977 C-10</b> ..... \$3995 Scottsdale Package, Automatic</p> <p><b>1983 C-10</b> ..... \$7688 Scottsdale Package, V8</p> <p><b>1984 JEEP CJ-7</b> ..... \$7988 Laredo Package, 6 Cylinder</p> <p><b>1987 SUZUKI SAMURI</b> ..... \$7788 Low Miles, Local Car</p> <p><b>1985 FORD 150XLT</b> ..... \$10,588 Camper Top, V8, Automatic, A/C</p> <p><b>1983 CHEVY S-10</b> ..... \$5988 Sport Package, Much More</p> <p><b>1984 FORD BRONCO II 4X4</b> ..... \$8888 6 Cylinder, Automatic, A/C, More</p> <p><b>1985 FORD BRONCO II 4X4</b> ..... \$9988 XLT Package, Automatic, A/C, Stereo</p> <p><b>1984 TOYOTA 4X4</b> ..... \$8888 Ext./Cab, 5 Speed, Stereo</p> <p><b>1985 CHEVY ASTRO VAN</b> ..... \$8988 PL Package, Automatic, A/C</p> <p><b>1985 CHEVY S-10 BLAZER 4X4</b> ..... \$9988 Tahoe Package, All Power</p> <p><b>1981 MAZDA B2000</b> ..... \$7988 5 Speed, Low Miles, Camper Top</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>1984 C-10</b> ..... \$7988 Scottsdale Package, Lots of Extras, V8</p>
---	--

**VILLAGE AUTO SALES** WILKINSON BLVD. AT REDBUD DRIVE  
824-0900 • Toll Free 1-800-522-0997

Subscribe To The Herald

**You Are Cordially Invited**

*to experience the all new Cadillac for 1989*

THE ONLY WAY TO TRAVEL IS CADILLAC STYLE.

**GOWEN GREEN**

*Oldsmobile-Cadillac*

2339 East Franklin Blvd., Gastonia, N.C. 704/867-6347, Charlotte 704/333-3435

*Mr. Goodwrench*

**GM QUALITY SERVICE PARTS**

GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION