



Nancy Abasiokong, home economics agent in the Cleveland County office of the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service, receives a certificate of graduation from Dr. Durward Bateman, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University. Abasiokong has graduated from Extension's Executive Development Institute. Shown with her are Dr. Edgar Boone, institutedirector, (left), and B.K. Webb, director of the Clemson Cooperative Extension Service (right).

## He's 'Powerful' Man At Hospital

BY JIM HEFFNER

Have you ever wondered what happens when the power goes off in a hospital?

It can happen and it could be dangerous.

Suppose, for example, a surgeon was in the process of making an incision, or a nurse inserting an IV into someone's vein.

Obviously, a hospital must have an emergency back-up electrical power source. The Kings Mountain Hospital is well-equipped in that respect. The older part of the building utilizes a Katolite sex-cylinder diesel generator while the newer area has a Cummins V-12 with 470 KVA output. For the uninitiated, that's a powerful engine.

Naturally such sophisticated equipment requires attention. The man charge with keeping these engines in good working order is a transplanted Ohioan, Joe Hager, Chief Building Engineer.

Hager, a powerfully built, soft-spoken man, has been on the job for two years. He and wife, Shirley live in Bessemer City and are the parents of five children, two boys and three girls.

"We moved to North Carolina five years ago," said Hager. "It's funny how that happened. We had a son in the Marine Corps at Parris Island and we came down for his boot-camp graduation. While we were in the area we decided to visit friends in Rock Hill, SC. They took me fishing, a sport I dearly love and I was hooked. I told my wife right then I couldn't see any good reason for going back to Mansfield, Ohio, and she agreed."

Hager has an extensive background in heating and airconditioning, but his job at the hospital involves more than that. He repairs just about anything that breaks. A typical day might include repairs to a nurse-call system, an electric bed, or a coffee urn. Then there's the preventive maintenance schedule.



JOE HAGER

"I believe it's always better to stop a problem before it happens," said Hager. "We have a regular schedule of preventive maintenance on almost everything in the hospital. There's monthly as well as yearly maintenance to be done. It's all on a computer."

The computer print-out Hager consults is extensive, covering just about anything that moves or is powered by electricity, including steam trays, fire alarms, refrigerators or water coolers.

"There is a lot of equipment that needs attention around a hospital," said Hager, "and you just have to take them one at a time."

But the diesel generators are all-important. The hospital couldn't remain operational without them.

"I run them every week for a half-hour just make sure they're working ok," said Hager.

Last September, when Hugo came calling, the generators got the acid test.

"When the hurricane hit," said Hager, "I was at home, but I knew we were going to have to go on generator power, so I started out at 3 in the morning. It took me an hour to get here because of all the downed trees and the strong winds and rain. Sure enough, when I got here at 4 am, the diesels were running. I made some checks and everything seemed to be ok, so I settled down with a cup of hot coffee to wait out the storm. Just about then the Cummins unit died, so I had to go out to the building to check it out. The enclosure has louvered doors for ventilation and the strong winds were holding them open. The rain had blown through the opening and shorted out a circuit board. It took me about five minutes to get everything up and running again."

Hager is being kept busy these days because of changes occurring at the hospital.

The present Obstetrics section will become an outpatient unit and the old outpatient area is being converted to a 20-bed psychiatric unit. An extensive change such as this one requires a lot of work.

"We've been running copper lines, installing new flooring and adding things like exit lights and new sinks. These moves are designed to make life easier for the doctors as well as the patients," said Hager.

One man, of course, cannot handle such a workload. Hager does have help.

"Roy Hamilton and Grady Hoyle work here along with me," said Hager. "They are both really good men. Grady is retired from the U.S. Army and is very knowledgeable. I've asked him for advice on any number of problems and he always seems to have the right answers."

Joe Hager moves around the Kings Mountain much like the fog in Robert Frost's poem, "on little cat's feet." He has a smile for everyone and the nurses, doctors and other employees seem to view him with honest affection. Nobody passes him in the halls without a "Hi, Joe, how you doing?"

Hospital Administrator, Hewitt Reep puts it all in the proper perspective. "I'm extremely pleased with Joe, both as a man and as an employee," said Reep. "He's a very nice fellow and an exceedingly capable member of the hospital staff."

So if you have the misfortune to be hospitalized in Kings Mountain, to paraphrase a large insurance company, you're in good hands with Joe Hager.

## Senior Center Calendar

**TUESDAY, MAY 8-**To kick-off Older Americans Month, senior citizens will play putt-putt at Cleveland Mall at 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$1. Transportation will be provided. Call 734-0447.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 9-**Blood pressure clinic will be held from 10-11:30 a.m.

**THURSDAY, MAY 10-**The annual picnic for senior citizens will be held at Lake Crawford from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Seniors from the Cleveland County Council on Aging/Senior Center will also attend. Participants need to take a bag lunch. Beverages will be furnished.

**FRIDAY, MAY 11-**The annual walk for fun and fitness will be held at 10 a.m.

**SATURDAY, MAY 12-**The county-wide Jamboree will be held at Shelby City Park from 7-10 p.m. The Senior Center Band from Cleveland County Council on Aging/Senior Center will provide the music. At the 8 p.m. break clogging students from Debbie Ward's School of Dance will perform and at the 9 p.m. break Wagon Wheelers will perform square dancing. Tickets at available at the Senior Center at \$2 or can be purchased at the door for \$3.

**FRIDAY, MAY 18-**The monthly social will be held from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. "Sweet Ambitions" will provide country music.

**MONDAY, MAY 21-**The annual Health Fair will be held from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Central United Methodist Church. The Kings

Mountain Senior Center/Aging Program and the Cleveland County Council on Aging/Senior Center, in cooperation with the Cleveland County Health Department, will be offering a variety of health screenings to all of the seniors in the area. All seniors, regardless of income, are invited to take advantage of the opportunity to have testing for height/weight, blood pressure, anemia, diabetes, glaucoma, and hearing problems. SMA-12 blood analysis will also be done by a registered nurse after all tests have been completed. Appointments will be made with the Health Department for all participants needing a pap smear. All tests are


free, with exception of the blood analysis. Free transportation will be provided by calling the Senior Center by May 17.

Kings Mountain Swinging Mountaineers Band is looking for a volunteer of any age to be a substitute piano player when needed. This will require practicing on Tuesdays at 11 a.m. and some weekend trips. To inquire, call Monty Thornburg at the Senior Center.

In addition to special activities in May, the regular programs will be held Mondays through Fridays at the Senior Center on North Piedmont Avenue.

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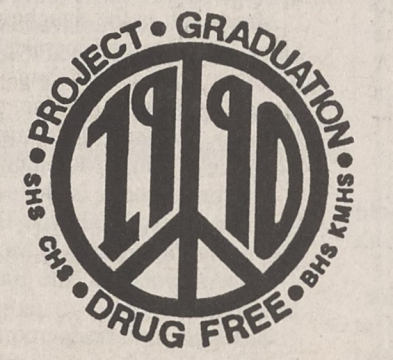
**RE-ELECT**



**MARSHALL RAUCH**  
25th Senatorial District  
Democratic Primary  
**TUESDAY MAY 8TH**

Paid For By Friends Of Senator Rauch

Help Support!!  
Cleveland County's



**"An Alcohol/Drug Free Celebration for Graduating Seniors"**

Tuesday, May 29th  
9:30 p.m. - 6:00 a.m.  
Cleveland County Fair Grounds  
Volunteers or for Donations  
Call 480-0000  
or write Project Graduation '90  
P.O. Box 17111, Shelby, NC 28151

n o r t h c a r o l i n a n e w s p a p e r s

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Source: NC Press Services, Inc. State Survey of 1017 people, November 1989

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