

# HARRY

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ambulance driven by Ollie Harris. At one point during the treatment he was confined to an iron lung.

Charlie's two Grover cousins also suffered polio that year. Brice Harry died in 1954 at the age of 9. Jaquitha Rountree Reid, who contracted polio four weeks before, suffered no permanent paralysis and damages. None of the children had been in contact with each other before the epidemic raged the county.

After his marriage in 1956 to Ann Lutz and his treatment at Kestler Institute for Rehabilitation in West Orange, New Jersey, his battle with polio was uphill. He learned to drive an automobile with a special brace on his left arm and hand controls. The first brace was made of a little girls' leg brace to fit Charlie's small arm.

July 29, 1992 Charlie underwent successful double bypass surgery at Carolinas Medical Center. Even in the hospital he was on the telephone doing business as usual.

"I can't climb steps and walk around the block but there are many things I can do," says the warm and friendly Harry who is 6 feet 4 1/2 inches tall and weighs about 225 pounds.

And, he does. Four years ago he ran successfully for county commissioner on the Republican ticket and won. He's on the ballot again in November in a field of six candidates for three seats. Win or lose, he hopes he was able to pay back in some small measure what his county has done for him.

"My basic philosophy is to do what I can do and enjoy it," says Harry, who says he has worked for

more jobs and to raise the tax base to relieve the individual homeowner from heavy tax burdens.

He proposed the new makeup of Cleveland County Economic Development Commission include representatives of Kings Mountain, Shelby, Boiling Springs, Cleveland County Chamber and County Water District plus four appointees from the commission. That new board has the total authority to hire and fire and essentially removed political element out of the equation. The director works at the pleasure of the elected board.

He thinks the expansion of the industrial corridor between Grover and Kings Mountain will attract more industry to the area and more jobs bring an upturn in the economy.

Harry was appointed by the commission to help work out the hurdles in the volunteer rescue squad/paramedic system in the county and believes the effort was successful with a joint system of volunteer and paid EMS personnel. The paramedic system is saving lives in Cleveland County and he applauds the work of all rescue personnel. The Grover all volunteer squad was the first squad to be staffed by paramedics in January 1991.

The enhancement of the 911 system with the renaming of all roads and improvements of the county mapping department were some of the programs he saw completed during his term of office.

The county bought a computer system so that revaluations could be done internally, another step in what he calls progressive leadership. Since revaluation is done every eight years, this work was once done by an outside firm which cost \$200,000.

Harry says he is distressed at tremendous demands put upon social services and mental health due

to the slow economy and worries about the doctor shortage in the county.

Although his was an unpopular decision during school consolidation in the 1960's, Harry was on the side with those favoring a Kings Mountain-Grover-Bethware school system merger.

He said he believes the state legislature will force a school merger of all systems in the county. That is not a popular opinion held by some Kings Mountain constituents, he says, but he believes a county-wide school system is in the future.

He says rivalry between the school systems will never end and he hopes it won't. "Competition is good," he says.

Harry was instrumental in the founding of Carolina State Bank, here and in Shelby. Both banks were opened on the same day and only the second time in the history of banking, on April 8, 1991.

Harry describes his close association with his brothers in the family business as a real team effort. Jim Harry is vice president in charge of yarn and yarn manufacturing. John Harry is vice president in charge of yarn dyeing. The mill employs 300 in Grover and 90 in Tryon.

Harry's son, Scott, runs a hardware business in Wilmington and is married to Beth Ellis and they are parents of Elizabeth Harry, 14 months. Robin is married to Lloyd Smith Jr. of Shelby and they are expecting their first child in January. Mrs. Harry formerly owned and operated McNeilly's in Shelby.

Harry said one of the major accomplishments of his administration was the completion of the county bond projects which put all the schools in good shape and the much-needed expansion of the court system.

In 1988 Harry was the first

Republican ever elected in county-wide elections. He had run unsuccessfully in 1984 and 1986. He says he believes in the two party system and believes it has finally arrived in Cleveland County with three Republicans and three Democrats on the commissioner ballot in the general election.

Harry is president of Grover Industries, chairman of Carolina State Bank of Shelby and a member of the board of directors of WundaWeve Carpets of Greenville, SC and several other small companies. He is an elder of Shelby Presbyterian Church, a life member of Shrine Bowl board of trustees, and on the board of United Way of Cleveland County, Piedmont Council Boy Scouts of America and Cleveland County Mental Health Association.

"Being elected means to serve," says Harry. He says he always votes his best judgment, regardless of politics, and prides himself as being open minded and willing to listen.

He favors district representation within the county with expansion of the board from five to seven members and enhancement of the educational system. Insisting on fiscal responsibility and giving stability to the board are goals he practices.

"I support change when needed but I also support common sense leadership," says Harry, 56.

Harry's father was mayor of Grover for over a quarter century, serving in the 40's and late 60's and early 70's. "Dad thought that was a way to repay a little debt to the town he loved," said Charlie. "I feel the same way."

Kings Mountain Lions Club will meet Tuesday night at 7 p.m. at Holiday Inn. Lions District Governor will be present for a special presentation, according to club president Dougle Davis.



Mayor Scott Neisler, right, receives white cane candy from Lions Club President Dougle Davis. The annual drive for funds to help the blind will be conducted by local Lions Club members this weekend.

## Lions selling candy

The late Bill Stone, long a promoter of white cane drives for the Kings Mountain Lions Club, will be honored by local Lions conducting Candy Days Thursday, Friday and Saturday for benefit of projects for the blind.

Lions President Dougle Davis said the Lions will be stationed at Harris-Teeter, Winn-Dixie and Revco Drug Store to offer white

cane candy mints and accept donations to help the blind of the community.

Stone, a leader in the local club's efforts for the blind, collected more than \$8,000 over the past several years, said Davis.

"Every penny stays in Kings Mountain to help the blind," he said.

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KRISTEN LONG

## Kristen Long three years old

Kristen Leigh Long, daughter of Bryan and Leigh Ann Long of Cherryville, was three years old on Sept. 25. She was honored on her birthday at a party at Play Palace in Shelby with her friends.

The decorated Little Mermaid cake was served with vanilla ice cream, chips and pizza.

Kristen is the granddaughter of Farchel and Juanita Blanton of Kings Mountain and Butch and Renna Long of Cherryville. She is the great-granddaughter of Margaret Harrison of Cherryville.

Guests attending included Ian Blanton, Ethan Blanton, Ashley Sigmon, Jessalyn Smith, Todd Pearson, Kyersten Vinsett, Ross Finger, Kevin Harris, Michelle Lail, Christopher Lail, LeAnna Boyles, Rebecca Fisher, Brittany Day and Terra McSwain.

Kristen also celebrated her birthday with her preschool class at First Baptist Church. Decorated gingermen sugar cookies, ice cream and chips were served.



JACOB RILEY BRYANT

## It's a boy for Bryants

Lisa and Dennis Bryant announce the birth of their third child, Jacob Riley Bryant.

He was born at 12:58 p.m. September 24, 1992. He weighed eight pounds, 14 ounces.

He has three older brothers, Travis, Matthew and Keith.

Grandparents are Doris Garris, Raymond and Debbie Garris, and Evelene Bryant and the late Burman Bryant.

Great-grandparents are Maudie and John Queen, Mack Garris and Lloyd Elder.

Great-great grandfather is Odell Parker.

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