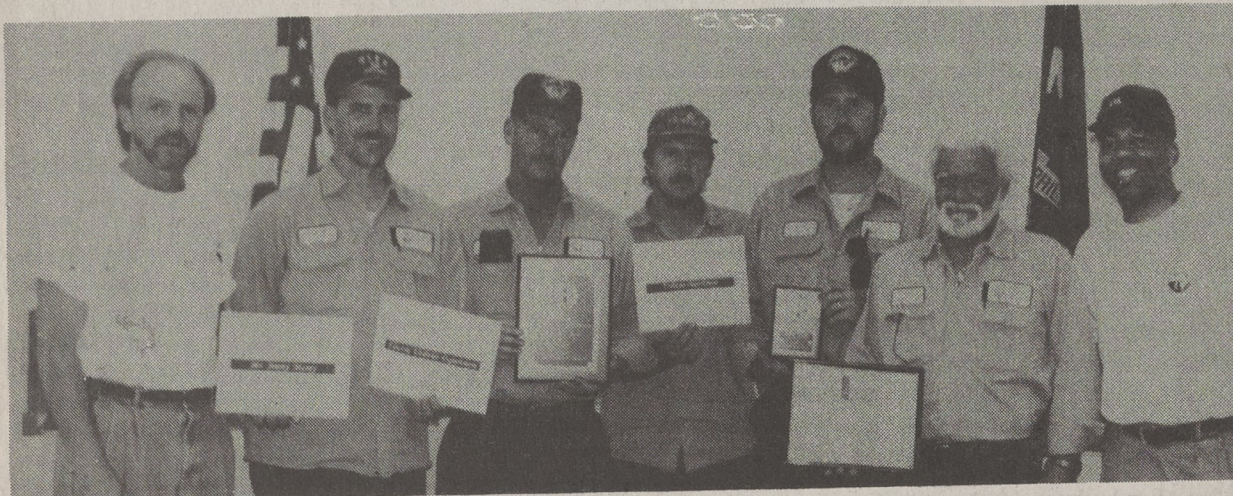


DEDICATION - People's Baptist Church dedicated the first phase of its new building program Sunday to a capacity crowd of worshippers at special services at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. led by Pastor John Houze, assisted by Dr. Corbin Cooper and Rev. Eugene Early. Phase I of the building program utilizes a metal structure featuring a temporary sanctuary in what will be the fellowship hall and several classrooms. The church is blue carpeted with blue cushions on the pews. Some of the furnishings were donated by other churches of the community.



Pictured are members of the City of Kings Mountain Electric Department, one of the safety award winners of the Pacemaker Award for Excellence. From left to right, Utility Director Jimmy Maney, Rick Chapman, Gene Waldroup, John Houser, Bob Boles, Tom Roddy and Director of Human Services Winston Bagley. Not pictured: Scott Buchanan, Nick Hendricks and Timmy Adams.

Moss Lake clean-up underway

The clean-up by a Gastonia dredging company from a diesel oil spill at Moss Lake Friday afternoon could run into the thousands of dollars and was still underway yesterday.

Walt Ollis, Water Superintendent for the City of Kings Mountain, said there is no danger "whatsoever" to Kings Mountain's drinking water supply.

A subcontractor for John Jenkins dredging on the upper end of Moss Lake Friday afternoon sank his barge and diesel oil from a 30-gallon tank leaked into the lake.

Ollis said he was told that the tank was full on Friday but had been used all day and whatever was unused spilled over.

Booms were installed by emergency crews across the lake Saturday to trap the oil that got into the upper end of the city-owned lake. Ollis said that the oil was also trapped by brush along the shore and was well contained in the upper end of the lake and was nowhere close to the intake of the water plant.

City officials were not notified by company officials about the spill until Saturday, according to

City Manager Chuck Nance, who said that Moss Lake residents notified the city's lake officer Friday evening and others who monitored the situation. Some residents of the lake said they saw the barge sink and had watched the progress to contain the spill and cleanup during the Memorial Day weekend.

Nance, who was on a weekend camping trip, found out about the spill Sunday at 9:30 p.m. But Finance Director Maxine Parsons was on the scene during the weekend as well as other city officials, according to Ollis.

Tuesday morning city officials were holding an assessment meeting with representatives of the Division of Natural Resources Water Quality Division, environmental cleanup officials and David Jungardner, president of John Jenkins Inc.

Nance said the barge was connected to a dragline and the operator was returning to shore to refuel and the barge went down about 20 to 30 feet off the shore in six to eight feet of water. One of the cables may have been too tight and tilted the barge. The diesel fuel in the tank leaked out.

Hazardous materials team members from the county and other emergency crews worked for several hours Saturday morning to contain the spill.

Carolina Aggregates, a subsidiary of John Jenkins Inc., owns the dredging equipment and had just got its equipment in place and running to dredge the accumulation of sand at the upper end of the lake, according to Ollis.

"Our people at the water plant are on top of it and are continuing to monitor the situation," said Ollis.

"We could never have planned a better practice session in emergency preparedness," said Ollis, who speculated that even if all 30 gallons had spilled into the water that the diesel fuel would have floated on top of the water and there would have been no danger of contamination.

No warnings were issued to city residents about water usage.

The spill occurred on the side of the lake farthest from the Kings Mountain water plant. The fuel oil left little more than a film on the top of the water, lake residents said.

Nance said it would be up to the state's Environmental Protection Agency to decide whether to fine Carolina Aggregates for not reporting the spill on Friday.

"It bothers me is that the city had to be contacted by the property owners first instead of by the contractor," said Nance.

Cherryville truck museum plans facility improvements

The Board of Directors of the C. Grier Beam Truck Museum in Cherryville has approved extensive upgrades to the facility which opened in 1982.

The museum opened as Carolina Freight Carriers Corp. celebrated its 50th anniversary. It is operated as a charitable trust and is managed by a board of directors which is independent of the company. The

museum has no affiliation with the company except as its supplier of promotional items used by the company in its marketing of services.

In making the announcement, Palmer E. Huffstetler, president of the museum, stated that the changes are designed to make a more lively presentation of the company's history.

City approves appraisal of City, Davidson lakes

City Council unanimously voted Tuesday to appraise the Davidson and City Lake properties at fair market value with an eye to "seeing if we want to try to sell them."

The motion was made by Councilman Jim Guyton, seconded by Councilman Jerry White.

Guyton, chairman of the city utility committee, has said at several city utility committee meetings recently that the city is losing money on the lakes.

The city is spending \$300,000 for state-mandated improvements to the dam at Davidson Lake this year and must make improvements

to the City Lake dam in the near future.

"When the time comes to sell we need to place some restrictions on the property," said Councilman Ralph Grindstaff, who said that adjoining property owners must be considered.

A group of property owners visited the recent utility committee meeting to question the rumored sale of the properties and asked that some restrictions be placed if the property is sold.

"I don't want to see anyone's property devalued," said Grindstaff.

MORGAN

From Page 1-A

celled in soccer. She holds the state bowling record in Special Olympics. The four-foot 11, strawberry blonde endurance swimmer goes to Raleigh this weekend to swim free style and backstrokes in the state championship Special Olympics.

At North Shelby Awards Day she won the principal's leadership, career participation and community-based training awards, arts and honor chorus awards and was the only one of the six graduates who graduated with high honors. She has an all-A record for the past 10 years in school.

Sissy has been attending the special school for 15 years, learning social skills and vocational training from a talented and caring staff. Now she plans to look for a job at a fast food business or clothing store.

In-between job hunting she is dreaming of making wedding plans and babysitting for her younger sister, Marlowe Higginbotham, 8. She also attended her brother Philip's graduation from Crest High School and is planning a family trip to Clemson University to see her brother, Brandon, receive his degree. Summer vacation days will find her swimming at Lake Montonia and at the beach.

Special guests at her graduation were her father, Vernon Morgan of Gaffney, SC, and her grandmother, Mrs. Lewis Morgan of Grover. She is the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Earl Marlowe of Kings Mountain.

Forty-five family members and close friends gathered after the graduation exercises for a celebration dinner at Satterfield's Restaurant hosted by Sissy's mother and stepfather, Mr. and Mrs. John Higginbotham.

Bowling, soccer and swimming charms on a gold charm bracelet were gifts from her family.

A die-hard Charlotte Hornets fan, Sissy received a Hornet charm from her aunt, Ginny Arnette.

On Graduate Sunday at First Presbyterian Church she received a white Bible.

"What happened to Sissy at birth July 10, 1973 was a fluke," said her mother. "It was a genetic but not inherited disease that some people have and are not as lucky as my daughter and her friend.

"Sissy's beau was several months old when his disease was diagnosed after surgery. They are both very responsible young people and children of doting parents."

Sissy, who may get her versatility and bright outlook on life from her doting mother, says she got a "better than average chance at life" and thinks the doctor who delivered her at birth may get a clipping of this story.

By all accounts, the pretty girl in the red cap and gown was all smiles.

Who knows? She may even break another record and drive that red Corvette she has her eyes on.

RHONEY

From Page 1-A

was assistant principal and coached at Burns High School in the Cleveland County system and taught business subjects from 1974-84 and was on the faculty at Burns Junior High from 1984-86. He taught in the Gaston County Schools at Bessemer City High from 1986-88. He has 21 years experience in education.

A native of Valdese, he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Appalachian State University and a certificate in administration from Western Carolina University. He resides at Woodbridge.

"I am very excited about working at Parker Street School," said Rhoney.

Rhoney says he sees the new alternative school as a good program county-wide.

"We need a commitment from the entire community of parents and students to make this much-needed program work," he said.

Parker Street School enrolled 63 students during the recent school year.

ELECTION

From Page 1-A

current City Council who has spoken publicly about the election. The mayor favors a two year term.

Gene White, retired city planner who led the successful petition effort which called for the election, is encouraging voter turnout with newspaper advertisements and handouts. "Regardless how people vote it will take only about 20 minutes of their time and it's important," said White.

TYNER

From Page 1-A

"I'd been working all my life to have my own place. I was never afraid I couldn't do it."

Tyner had offers to go elsewhere but he said he wanted his own place in Cleveland County and he liked Kings Mountain. Years later he and his wife, Bradine Lail Tyner, built a home at Moss Lake. Mrs. Tyner remains active in the business.

The family includes three children, Kevin Queen, David Tyner and Kyle Tyner. Queen joined the company as general sales manager and an officer in 1987. Tyner says long-range plans are to approve Queen as his successor when he retires.

Life has been good to him and he says he's thankful for the good health to enjoy it.

"I've no thought of retiring yet," he laughed.

"Yet you come to realize it would be something nice to do.

"Retirement would give me more time to enjoy life a little more if that's possible."

When he has time Wade swims, skis, boats, indulges his photography hobby during another hobby-travel - and answers the call of the wild each duck hunting season. He also deer hunts.

His community service is legendary.

He was a charter member and past president of Shelby Civitan Club, served on the advisory boards of Salvation Army, Cleveland County Museum, Cleveland Community College and KM District Schools, is senior active member and was president of KM Rotary Club where he was a Paul Harris Fellow.

President of the Kings Mountain Chamber which merged recently with Cleveland Chamber, he remains on the board of directors and also on the board of Home Federal Savings Bank and Security Capital. He is active in First Baptist Church. He has been president of Pinnacle Homeowners Association in North Myrtle Beach, SC for eight years.

Active in the state Automobile Dealers Association for 25 years, currently on the board of directors and secretary of the association in 1985, Tyner earned the North Carolina Time Magazine Quality Dealer Award in 1993. He is the immediate past president of the North Carolina Automobile Dealers Association which includes 700 franchise dealers in the state. For 10 years he has been recipient of Ford's Distinguished Achievement Award.

Since his association with the state and national automobile trade associations, the successful dealer has been kept hopping, attending workshops and seminars trying to keep on top of the ever-changing industry.

There are numerous plaques on his walls which reflect the expertise of Tyner and his staff in sales records. More plaques were added this week as he holds special 25th anniversary events at the dealership.

"We have progressed from pen and paper to satellite communications with Ford Motor Company," says Wade.

"We now have electronic fund transfers and credit approval with Ford Motor Credit even on weekends and after business hours plus highly sophisticated Service Bay Diagnostic Systems which fine tune problems in vehicles."

Wade Ford Inc. has doubled its staff since 1970 and expanded its facilities.

Wade's commitment to customer satisfaction is related by his son.

A social worker with the Migrant Workers had been in Cleveland County and on her way back to Raleigh when her foreign car developed major mechanical problems. With deadlines to meet it was imperative she return to Raleigh. She left her car at Wade Ford to be repaired and drove on to Raleigh in the Tyner's personal car. On the following Saturday her car was delivered to her in Raleigh by the Tyners on their way to visit Kevin, who lived there at the time.

Tyner's automotive career spans 40-plus years but his philosophy in business is still the same.

Practice the golden rule, he tells his staff, in pricing and dealing with people.

The automobile business is very demanding on Tyner and his family.

"You've got to stay with it," Tyner says of his job.

He looks forward, never back.

METERS

From Page 1-A

which at first were estimated to be \$120,000 are still in litigation.

"My auditors have been saying that something is wrong," said Ruppe after Stone gave his initial report last week.

"The way I look at it the city owes me."

In the Ruppe account 140060 the billing demand was 128.0 for 12 months and was 136.0 for eight months. Guyton called attention to several accounts where the billing demand was the same for a long period of time and said, "this tells me we are not reading meters."

Councilman Ralph Grindstaff suggested that residential meters be checked on a monthly basis and asked if new software would help red flag the accounts and spot check trouble areas.

"The only red flags I see on a regular basis are the red faces of customers who complain and leave the city mad," he said.

Finance Director Maxine Parsons said that new software and more personnel in the billing department plus training for them would pay off.

Councilwoman Norma Bridges suggested that the city's first chore should be to get the 125 water meters fixed which which are broke.

But Water Supt. Walt Ollis said he does not have the staff to repair meters but said that new meters now being put in are self-reading, disagreeing with Guyton who suggested that the city sub-contract the job of meter repairs.

"The city needs the revenue and we need to eliminate the zero billings," said Guyton.

Ollis said he had personally checked 111 addresses of water customers with zero consumption and found 27 homes vacant, six homes under new construction, and 22 people who had used less than 1000 gallons of water in a month.

Ollis said that the city has 14,000 meters and his first priority has to be water lines.

Utilities Supt. Jimmy Maney said that it has been city policy that when a customer moves that all the utilities are turned off except water. He suggested that this policy be changed to included all utilities shut off when a customer moves.

Grindstaff said he knew of one instance where the owner of the property had died and the property was apparently vacant but several people had been seen washing cars.

Maney said he was not attempting to defend any department but he said the staff had looked last year at many of the suggestions in the audit and is working to make corrections.

"A year ago when my department took on supervision of meter reading, the readers didn't have to read the demand, for instance", he said.

"Other screwy things have happened and we have had to reevaluate and take steps to make improvements."

Responding to Guyton's suggestion to reroute metering and which the utilities committee approved last week, Maney said it isn't a simple matter. Customers could be billed for 45-50 day cycles if the rerouting is done at this time of year when usage is high.

"Can't we do something about those people on fixed incomes who would find trying to pay more a struggle?" asked Councilman Jerry White.

Maney suggested that a representative from water, gas and electric departments check every meter in the city and inventory to see what's there.

"Appeal to the customer to come forward if he's getting free utilities and there are some and then send them a bill.

Maney said that meter readers and the billing department were accountable with reports and in finding and correcting the problems.

"It's a mess with a capital M," said Maney.

Guyton agreed and said he will start going door to door and putting on paper the names of residents and if he finds a person who doesn't pay for either one of the utilities, water, gas or electric, and sanitation that he is going to write it down and take the names to City Hall with copies to the newspaper.

Maney said the problem with Guyton's scenario is that often the occupant of a dwelling is not the one to whom the utilities are billed.

Councilman Rick Murphy suggested that the board implement the suggestions of the auditor, including a rate study expected to cost about \$55,000.

Councilman Phil Hager noted that the board had already approved the agenda to hear only the formal presentation and action was delayed.

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