

# OBITUARIES

**CHUCK BALLEW**  
KINGS MOUNTAIN - William Charles "Chuck" Ballew, 78, 202 Edgemont Drive, died July 3, 1999 at Kings Mountain Hospital after a lengthy illness.

A native of Pickens County, SC, he was the son of the late Meredith Anderson and Gladys League Ballew. He was a member of First Presbyterian Church, and was a long time member of the Kings Mountain Kiwanis Club and the American Legion.

He attended Clemson University and graduated with honors in Textiles. He worked for J.P. Stevens and Burlington Industries for 13 years. He then went into yarn sales and later had his own sales company, from which he retired after 30 years.

He served in the United States Air Force during World War II. He was a fighter pilot and flew in 97 combat missions in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, and Yugoslavia. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross. His rank was Captain when he received his Honorable Discharge.

He is survived by his wife, Lou Ballew of Kings Mountain; son and daughter-in-law, John and Ellie Ballew of Signal Hill, CA; daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Greg Kilburn of Irmo, SC; and grandchildren, Steve Kilburn and Katie Kilburn of Irmo, SC.

A graveside service was conducted by Dr. Richard Newsome at 2 p.m. Monday at Woodlawn Memorial Park in Greenville, SC.

Memorials may be made to First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 1188, Kings Mountain, NC 28086 or to the charity of the donor's choice.

Harris Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

**J.W. RAYFIELD**  
KINGS MOUNTAIN - J.W. Rayfield, 78, 250 Putnam Lake Road, died July 3, 1999 at Gaston Memorial Hospital, Gastonia.



RAYFIELD

A native of Gaston County, he was the son of the late Harrison and Helen Yount Rayfield. He was also preceded in death by his wife, Elizabeth P. Rayfield; and sister, Pauline Scism.

He was a member of Patterson Grove Baptist Church and the V.F.W. He was a retired building contractor and served in the infantry in the United States Army during World War II.

He is survived by his sons, Kenneth Rayfield and wife, Patricia, of Matthews and Mike Rayfield and wife, Debbie, of Kings Mountain; daughter, Judy Whisnant and husband, Laurin, of Kings Mountain; grandchildren, Jeffery Rayfield and wife, Stephanie, of Matthews, Jason Rayfield of Charlotte, and Elizabeth Whisnant of Kings Mountain; and great-grandchildren, Crystal Rayfield and Melissa Rayfield.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Terry Bird at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Patterson Grove Baptist Church. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Patterson Grove Baptist Church, Challenge to Build, 301 Oak Grove Road, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

Harris Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

**CLAUDIA BOWERS**  
KINGS MOUNTAIN - Claudia Jean Bridges Bowers, 43, 1444 B York Road, died July 3, 1999 at Gaston Memorial Hospital, Gastonia.



BOWERS

A native of Mayfield, KY, she was the daughter of the late Claude Bridges. She was the former office clerk for Swift Construction Company, Greenville, SC.

She is survived by her companion of 13 years, John Carlton Threatt of Kings Mountain; mother, Day Bridges of Mayfield, KY; daughters, Brandy Toon and Lee Ann Benjamin, both of Mayfield, KY; brothers, Tommy Bridges and Mark Bridges, both of Mayfield, KY; and five grandchildren.

The funeral will be conducted by the Rev. Bobby Mims at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 10 at Ollie Harris Memorial Chapel. Interment will be in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Harris Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

**HATTIE HASKINS**  
KINGS MOUNTAIN - Hattie Mae Stewart Haskins, 85, 111 Farris Road, died June 30, 1999 at Cleveland Regional Medical Center, Shelby.

A native of Cleveland County, she was the daughter of the late John A. and Adelaide Hambricht Stewart, and wife of the late Howard Walter Haskins Sr. She was a homemaker.

She is survived by her sons, Jack C. Stewart and wife, Eloise, of Kings Mountain; David Haskins of Atlanta, GA; Anderson Bailey Haskins and wife, Ruth, of Grover; and Howard Walter Haskins Jr. and John Haskins and wife, Pam, of West Palm Beach, FL; nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A graveside service was conducted by the Rev. Doug Allen at 11 a.m. Saturday at Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Harris Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

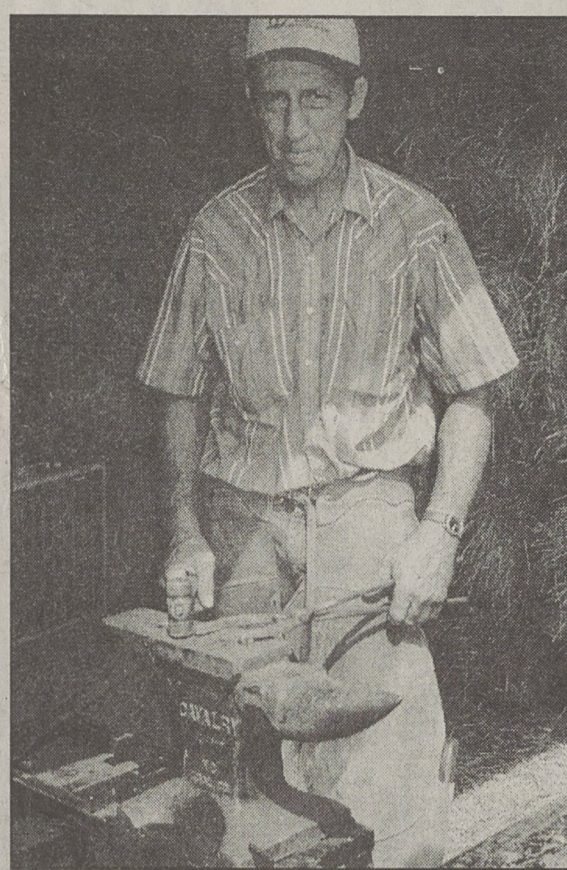
**GEORGE HAWKINS**  
SHELBY - George Cecil Hawkins, 55, 414 Clegg Street, died July 4, 1999 at Carolinas Medical Center, Charlotte.

A native of Cleveland County, he was the son of the late John Kent Hawkins and the late Mary Addie Lee Edwards Hawkins. He was retired from the City of Boiling Springs.

He is survived by his wife, Cathy Hawkins of the home; daughters, Lindsey Blaine Hawkins of the home, April Dawn Hawkins of Fallston, and Betty Ann Hawkins of Shelby; stepdaughter, Annette Lynn Hawkins of Shelby; stepson, Michael Eugene Hawkins of Shelby; brothers, Glenn Hawkins of Swainsville, Chivov Hawkins of Forest City, Ray Hawkins of Lattimore, William Hawkins of Blacksburg, SC, and Boyd Hawkins of Lawndale; sisters, Janie Lou Hunt of Boiling Springs, Shelby Jean Shehann of High Shoals, and Frances Sue Hawkins of Forest City.

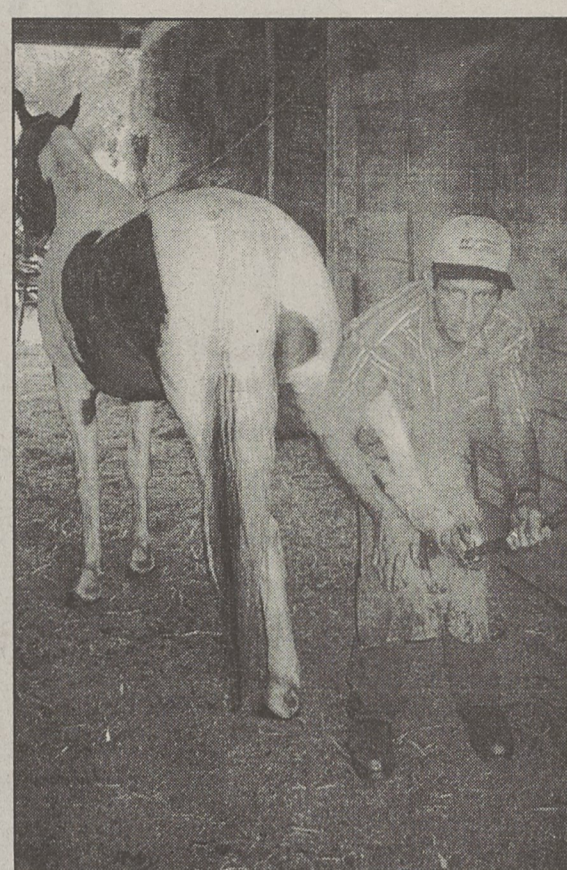
The funeral will be held Thursday at 11 a.m. at Cleveland Funeral Services Chapel. Burial will be in Sunset Cemetery.

Cleveland Funeral Services is in charge of arrangements.



ALAN HODGE/THE HERALD

Boiling Springs farrier Chuck Lemons has been shoeing horses for three decades. An artisan with hammer and anvil, Lemons is known far and wide for his equine expertise.



ALAN HODGE/THE HERALD

Boiling Springs native Chuck Lemons has been making his living shoeing horses for thirty years. A recent day out in the barn had Lemons giving this calico horse a new set of specially hardened "hot shoes."

## If the shoe fits...

Boiling Springs professional farrier Chuck Lemons can make a horse walk anyway he wants him to

BY ALAN HODGE  
Staff Writer

Chuck Lemons of Boiling Springs never met a horse he didn't like. A professional farrier, Lemons has been shoeing horses for over three decades. One of the Piedmont's best known and most talented farriers, Lemons is a living legend among the horsey set.

A native of Boiling Springs, Lemons began his life as a farrier under the tutelage of another horseshoe veteran.

"I started out by helping 70 year old Matthew Robinson as an apprentice," Lemons says. "I was working part time in an upholstery shop and shoeing horses with Robinson part time as well. I've been at it full time for about fifteen years now."

With his level of skill, Lemons can shoe a horse in about an hour. Average cost for putting on a set of shoes is around fifty dollars. There is plenty of work around, as evidenced by the fact that most days Lemons will shoe at least six horses. The life of a farrier is often hot and dirty, and not for everyone.

"Only one person in ten who goes to farrier school makes the grade," Lemons says. "The horses are easy to work with, it's trying to please people who think they know more than the farrier does that makes the job hard. If a horse owner tells me how to put shoes on, I just show them the tools and tell them to do their best. You can't learn to shoe horses from a book."

Learning about horses is something that his years in the farrier trade has taught Lemons. In addition to being an expert on the anatomy of a horse's feet and legs, Lemons has also learned to read a steed's moods. Though he admits to being kicked before, Lemons stresses that you can't do farrier work and worry about it.

"Horses are real humble animals if you know how to relate to them," said Lemons. "They'll let you put a red hot shoe on their foot, but if you don't understand their body language and how they think, they can hurt you."

To do his job, Lemons will travel within a 50 mile radius of Boiling Springs. Though people can bring their horses to his shop at home, the majority of Lemons' work is done at the owner's farms from the back of his truck. A portable blacksmith shop, Lemons' truck contains a propane-fired forge, a custom rack festooned with at least two dozen different types of horseshoes, a complete set of tools, and a 112 pound anvil.

"I take the basic shoes and go from there to custom make and fit whatever type of shoe is best for the horse and the use the owner wants to do with it," said Lemons. "Shoes can range from heavy steel coated with a special boron material, to ones made out of aluminum. I can put different weights of shoe on a particular foot to make the horse walk a certain way."

Shoeing a horse is a multi-step process that involves removing the old shoe, cleaning out the hoof, fitting the new shoe to the hoof, then nailing it all together. Just like giving horse a trip to a manicurist, Lemons gives the hoof a coat of polish.

Due to the fact that there are actually more horses in North Carolina now than there were thirty years ago when he began shoeing, Lemons is concerned with passing on his knowledge to the next generation of farriers. Lemons' current apprentice is Brian Harrill of Gaffney, S.C. Harrill is the fifth apprentice that Lemons has taken under his wing over the years.

"I call Chuck the 'master farrier,'" Harrill said. "He knows all there is to know about horses and shoeing. I've been shoeing my own horses for a few years now, but I wanted to learn as much about it from the best person around."

As sinewy and tanned at age fifty five as the leather apron he wears on the job, Chuck Lemons plans to work at his craft for another ten years then retire. In his spare time, Lemons gives horseshoeing and blacksmithing demonstrations to schools and other groups. Also an artisan, Lemons takes used horseshoes and fashions tools and decorative items as gifts.

A modern day version of the "village smithy," Chuck Lemons is a living bit of Americana right here in Cleveland County.

## Hearing set on 4-year terms

Public hearing has been set by City Council for July 20 at 7:30 p.m. on a resolution of intent to amend the city charter and call for a vote at the polls in November on reinstating four year staggered terms. When Kings Mountain voters elected Mayor Scott Neisler and council in 1991 it was to a four year staggered

term. In 1996, terms for mayor and all seven council members were changed to two year terms after citizens ran a successful petition effort and a small turnout of voters approved a change in the city charter.

The mayor, who is not offering for reelection, said continuity and experience are necessary in conducting city business. He said all seven seats and the mayor's seat are up which makes possibility of an all new board.

Councilman Gene White

argued against the idea. saying council should be consistent. White was joined by Bob Hayes and Jerry Mullinax in opposing the motion which passed 4-3.

Supporting the resolution of intent were Council members Phil Hager, Norma Bridges, Clavon Kelly and Rick Murphrey.

Amending the charter and ordinance to revert back to the four year term would have to be approved in a referendum and would not affect the mayor or board to be elected in November.

### KINGS MOUNTAIN WEATHER REPORT

(Compiled by Kenneth Kitzmiller)

	June 30-July 6	Year Ago
Total precip.	.09	.87
Max. 1 day	.09 (6th)	.50 (2nd)
Year to date	20.82	35.53
Min. temp.	70 (1st)	68 (1st, 2nd, 3rd)
Max. temp.	99 (5th)	94 (4th)
Avg. temp.	82.3	81.0

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