

ROBBINS

From 4A

week begins a journey toward the cross. Let me encourage you to attend the Lenten services that will be held in one of our city's churches every Wednesday afternoon at noon until Easter.

Whether you are a believer or not I trust you will take a fresh look at the sacrifice of Jesus because we live on the edge of two worlds and at any moment we may move into our afterlife never to return. Hope to see you in Heaven.

J.R. Robbins is the pastor of Faith Baptist Church.

HEFFNER

From 4A

some beautiful ballads in his day, and he was unexcelled at the keyboard.

McGlohon, of course, lived in Charlotte and his son, Reeves, lives in Mount Holly, where he is employed as an assistant superintendent of schools.

I understand that most people don't enjoy the jazz produced from the late 20s through the mid 60s, but it is truly an important part of American history.

I love to listen to a good jazz tune, played by experts, such as Brubeck, and try to follow the melody through all the note progressions. Brubeck and Desmond had no equal. Sometimes they would go off on a tangent and you'd think they were playing a different tune, but their instruments would always converge on the melody they started with. It was true artistry.

Brubeck, at 82, continues to make music and play concerts. He has a couple of sons who are accomplished jazz musicians that play with him.

I've never been to a live Brubeck concert, but if he ever comes near this area, I'll be there. *Wendy Quilano*
Maybe he'll play Little Girl Blue.

ANDIE

From 4A

that's not as much fun as the surprise day off, kind of like found money.

As I drove in to work this Tuesday morning I'm convinced I saw two flakes. The radio said it was snowing in Charlotte. I read in that other paper that a big front was making its way across the Great Plains toward us.

At least I'm an optimist.

14 graduate nursing program

Fourteen students graduated from the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA II) program at Cleveland Community College on January 29.

The program is a 160-hour course. Once the course is completed, graduates are included on the North Carolina CNA Registry.

Kings Mountain graduates were Angela Richardson, Lenora McKinney, and Leslie Ballard.

For more information call 704-484-5316.

Gentleman Gene tries retirement

If you've lived in Kings Mountain very long you probably recognize Gene Dye and his old, dark-blue Ford truck with the ladders on top.

Gene has been doing electrical work in homes and businesses in Kings Mountain for over 50 years, and he's been driving that truck since 1983.

Gary Stewart Editor

Just recently he was dumfounded to learn that the Kelly Blue Book gave the '83 a trade-in value of \$338. Why, it only has 100,000 miles on it!

Dye, the middle son of the late Samuel Comann and Emma Mae Goforth Dye, was a Depression child. At a very early age, he learned to work hard.

The family lost its home during those lean years and moved to Charlotte. They returned to Kings Mountain a couple years later and moved into a small rental house located on what is now the Kings Mountain Country Club golf course.

The family farmed Plonk land nearby. But once again tragedy struck. Their house burned and they moved into the old Plonk house that was later Kings Mountain Country Club for many years.

During those years, Gene and the other boys helped their parents farm. When they were able, "Mr. Sam"

and his oldest son, Hobart, built the house on what is now Castlewood Drive, where the elder Dyes lived out their years.

Gene was a member of Central United Methodist Church until Joyce Dixon stole his heart. After their marriage he joined First Baptist Church, diagonally across Mountain Street. He had been sprinkled as a Methodist, but chose to follow Baptist belief and was immersed. He often said if baptism had anything to do with salvation, he was set!

Through the years he has been very active in church. He has taught Sunday School classes and is an ordained deacon. At one time he served on the Deacon board alongside his father-in-law, the late Lee Dixon, and his oldest son, Lee Barnett "Barney" Dye.

After school and after World War II was over, Gene worked a number of jobs before entering the Navy for a two-year stint. When he returned home, he went to work for Hoke Electric.

Under the capable instruction of the late Lester Hoke, Plato "Tater" Goforth and Jim White, he found his niche. Soon he was catching most of the after-hour and weekend calls. For 10 years after their marriage in 1955, the Dye family had no vacation. His employer didn't give vacation time and the family couldn't afford to go without a week's pay.

He worked for Hoke Electric for 14 years. He worked for Moss Electric for two years, and returned to Hoke until he went into

business for himself in 1969. He operated Dye Electric Company for 34 years. Joyce worked right alongside him, and gave herself the title of office manager.

Gene received his North Carolina unlimited electrical license in 1967 by passing a grueling 8-hour exam in Raleigh. That meant he could work anywhere in North Carolina and do electrical jobs of any value. At that time there were only two electrical license classifications. Today, there are a number of classifications from unlimited, limited and intermediate to seven special restrictive licenses. Not many electricians engaging in small town electrical contracting go for anything higher than intermediate license.

During 50 years of service Gene has become friends with most people in town. His smiling face and friendly conversation made for more than just a working relationship. Children, who now have grown children themselves, remember him giving them oatmeal cookies from his lunch bag. Most people look upon Gene as a good friend, a father figure and a person they can trust.

Most of his memories are pleasant. But, there were some sad times. Once he was wiring a house in Blacksburg for the late building contractor, Travis Smith. The house was not close to other houses. Travis had some heart problems. No one else was around, and Travis had an attack. Gene was able to get his nitroglycerin and flag down

a passing motorist to get help. They got him to the hospital in Shelby, but he died soon afterward.

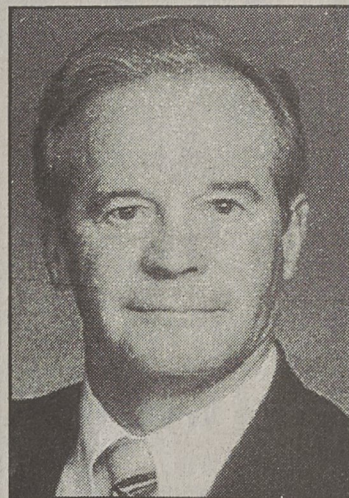
A second tragedy occurred when Gene was doing some repair work in Kings Mountain. Some children were playing in a car, and accidentally pulled it out of gear. It rolled back over another child. Gene heard screams and ran to help. He knelt by the child's mother and used his handkerchief to try to stop the bleeding. But before the Rescue Squad arrived the child died.

Gene could have been a veterinarian. He often gave medication to his animals, but he also knew when he needed a professional's help. A neighbor once said if she believed in reincarnation, she would like to come back as Gene Dye's cat.

He could have also been a nurse. After Gene's mother died in 1979, his father's health began to decline. He was eventually diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease.

In order for him to stay home, the family had to commit to taking care of him. Gene and other family members did everything from meals to laundry, and Gene was the one that saw to Mr. Sam's tub baths which were soothing to someone with Parkinson's.

Recently, his nursing skills were required when his wife of 48 years, Joyce, was diagnosed with cancer and was in three hospitals in a matter of weeks. She finally underwent two surgeries in Charlotte. Because she needed extra care, Gene spent many nights on the sofa in her hospital room. His win-



GENE DYE

ning smile and conversation soon won the admiration and friendship of hospital personnel.

After Joyce returned home and started chemotherapy, Gene's skills were required for dressings, etc. Of course, he willingly assumed all of the home responsibilities, including cooking.

As for his electrical business, he had already cut back and decided to officially dissolve Dye Electric Company. He had been crawling in attics and under houses for years and his knees weren't what they used to be.

But he keeps those state licenses which were so hard to come by, just in case he decides to do a few small jobs that don't require crawling.

As always, he's enjoying his family, including Joyce, sons Barney and his wife Debbie, Rex and his wife Tonya, and grandchildren Lauren, Hannah, Samuel, Madison and Sarah.

Letters Policy

We appreciate your letters and encourage you to write. Because we receive so many letters, however, we must impose guidelines to ensure that as many readers as possible are able to share their views. We therefore limit the number of letters that any one person may have published to one a month. Also, we ask that you keep your letters short, no more than two pages double-spaced or one page single-spaced. Handwritten letters are accepted, but must be legible.

We will not publish third party letters, unsolicited poems, thank-you letters or letters from anonymous writers; names, addresses, and phone numbers must be included and letters must be signed in ink. We reserve the right to edit letters for grammar, punctuation, clarity, brevity and content.

Letters must be received no later than 12 noon on Monday of the week they are to be published. Mail letters to Publisher Mike Blanton, P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086 or fax them to (704) 739-0611.

Corrections & Clarifications

We will correct any substantial errors that appear in the newspaper or clarify any statements that are unclear. To request a correction or clarification, call the editor at (704) 739-7496 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday or fax (704) 739-7496.

News Deadlines

The following deadlines apply for news items.

Deadline for B Section news is 12 noon Monday. This includes lifestyles news, people stories, weddings, engagements, anniversaries, reunions, club news, church news, business news, school news and community news. Items received past the deadline will run in other parts of the paper if time and space permit. Otherwise, they will be held until the following week.

Deadline for A Section news is 5 p.m. Tuesday. This includes city and county news, sports, and miscellaneous items. In cases of Tuesday night meetings and ball games, items will be taken up to 9:30 a.m. Wednesday. Items received past the deadline will be withheld until the following week.

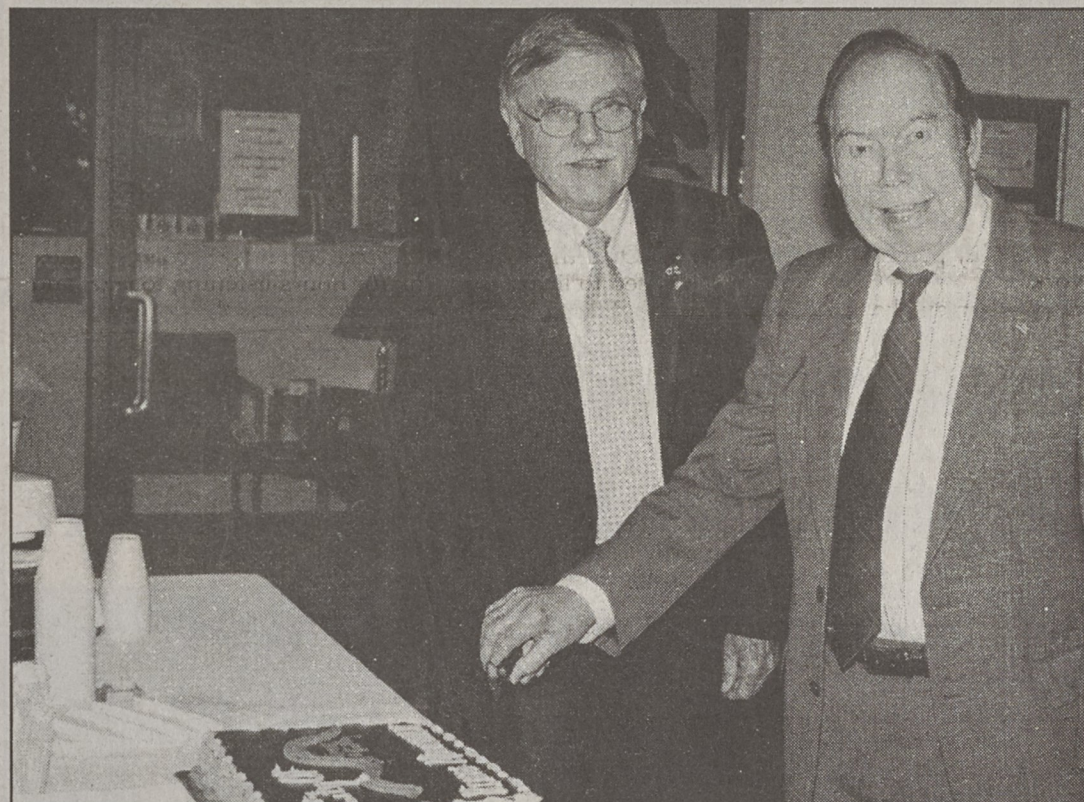


PHOTO BY ELLIS NOELL
Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey and former Mayor John Henry Moss cut into the town's birthday cake last week.

City of KM notes its 130th birthday

Kings Mountain celebrated its 130th birthday Feb. 11. The city hosted a birthday party with cake and ice cream at city hall.

Events Coordinator Ellis Noell shared some of the town's history with the Herald.

Kings Mountain was originally in the path of a north/south trail used by Native Americans. It was settled by Scot-Irish and German pioneers prior to the Revolutionary War. In the early 1870s, Southern Railway

completed a line running through the town which connected Charlotte and Atlanta.

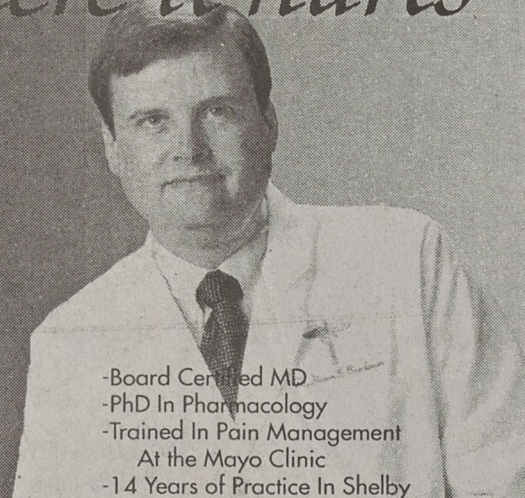
The town was originally called White Plains due to the mica in the soil which gave it a white color.

Postmaster Mrs. James Wright Terry changed the name to commemorate the battle of Kings Mountain. The town was chartered in 1874. William Andrew Mauney was the first mayor.

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