

## BUSINESS

# Warlick & Hamrick Insurance celebrate 50 years of business

REBECCA PISCOPO

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Warlick & Hamrick Insurance recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. Larry Hamrick, Sr., co-owns the family business with deep community ties, alongside his son Larry Hamrick, Jr.

On Tuesday, Hamrick, Sr. revealed a framed deed for the 1916 Arthur Hay Agency, which operated in Kings Mountain, before he and John Warlick purchased the business in 1971. The Hay Agency was one of the oldest (founded in 1883 by Lewis G. Hay) in the south.

"We have deep roots in the community," Hamrick, Sr. said.

The family business, which takes pride in building a personal connection with customers, gives a lot of credit to the female employees who continue the legacy of keeping in touch with Kings Mountain.

"The most important people are the ladies up front. They are long-term employees. Ladies deal with the public on personal insurance," Hamrick, Sr. said.

Betty Sue Morris, certified insurance service representative (CISR), certified professional service representative, and customer service agent, has 48 years of experience.

Carolyn Carringer, CISR, follows with 37 years.

Hamrick, Sr., who graduated with a Business Administration degree from UNC-Chapel Hill and served in the Marines, has been a partner for 50 years.

The independent agency, that handles mostly general property and casualty insurance for commercial and citizens, was honored last week by one of their loyal customers, Auto-Owners Insurance. They presented Warlick & Hamrick Insurance with a 50 year plaque and lunch.

It isn't only their customer relationships which have evolved and have become treasured over the company's combined 100-plus-year heritage, but running the business has also changed.

Hamrick, Sr. acknowledges that his son brought modernization of technology to the business. Whereas the girls up front used to run their fingers across the keys of a typewriter, they have now used computers since the 1980s.

"Computers have brought it (business) along," Hamrick, Sr. stated.

It has allowed them to extend their customer base. However, Hamrick, Sr. claims that he still likes the personal relationships and



Larry Hamrick, Sr., left, and his son, Larry Hamrick, Jr. recently celebrated Warlick & Hamrick's 50 years of service to the KM community.

long-term affinity with customers such as the YMCA, Cleveland 20/20, the Kings Mountain Little Theatre, and North Carolina Special Olympics.

"We've always been a hometown, Main Street

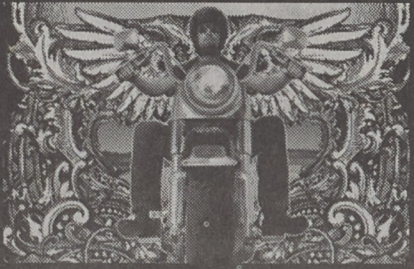
agency serving the community," Hamrick, Sr. said.

"We're making an effort to stay connected (to KM)," said Hamrick, Jr., adding that he and his father are a part of Rotary Club, Lions Club, and the Chamber of Commerce.

"We've done a pretty good job serving the community."

As for the bond between father and son at work, Hamrick, Sr. said, "We've been pretty much at peace. We have a pleasant relationship."


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Recognizing those business that made an impact on our past and those that continue to shape our future.

**At Play... *For everything there is a season.***  
A look back at times with friends. From the pool hall to the ball field and everything in-between.

**With Friends... *The ties that bind.***  
Remembering those that made a difference in our communities.

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A look at historical homes and what life within them was like, and how they are used now.





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