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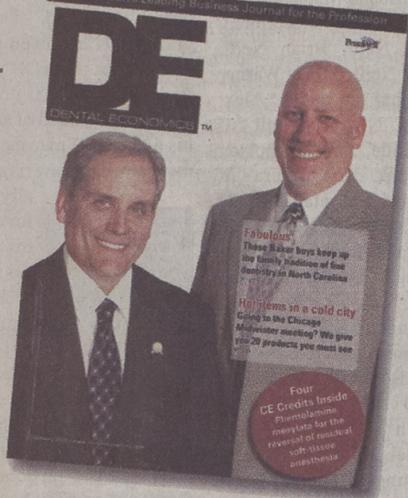
Kings Mountain Herald

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The Nation's Leading Business Journal for the Profession



National News

Bakers' 100-year dental legacy featured in national magazine

By EMILY WEAVER
 Editor

Two familiar faces graced the cover of a national magazine recently.

Drs. Stephen and Bryan Baker were on the cover of Dental Economic's February issue. Inside pages shared the story of their family's 100-year legacy in the dental profession and of the modern facility where the Baker brothers hang their lab coats today.

The family practice began with Dr. Luther Philip Baker. After graduating from the country's first dental school in Baltimore, Md. in 1907, he came to Kings Mountain and opened up a small office on Mountain Street. This was where the legend began...

Dr. L.P. Baker worked without a dental assistant, without a chair. It was stand-up dentistry back then and if a patient needed x-rays they had to be sent to Charlotte to catch an appointment with a traveling x-ray technician.

But Dr. L.P. Baker was innovative for his time. "I think he worked on a lot of things to improve the practice," Bryan said. "He had one of the first cathode x-ray machines - one of the first ones on the east coast they said."

Dr. L.P. Baker's son, Robert N. Baker, helped mold the practice too. He graduated from the Baltimore Dental School in the 40s, joined the Coast Guard and helped soldiers up and down the east coast during World War II. The foot-top dental engine, similar to a sewing machine with a foot pedal, that dentists had become accustomed to using was about to change.

Dr. Robert Baker put a motor on it to increase efficiency. He also developed and patented a push-button instrument still used in offices today.

Bryan's and Stephen's father, Thomas P. Baker, started down a different path in college. But the trail ended up leading back home to the family business. After serving as a dental assistant in the Air Force during the Korean War, he came home, enrolled at Lenoir-Rhyne College, finished his degree and went to UNC-Chapel Hill where he graduated with his dental license in 1961.

For a period of time, Drs. L.P., Robert and Thomas Baker worked side-by-side in their Kings Mountain office. Bryan followed some of his father's footsteps, attending Lenoir-Rhyne and graduating from the dental school at UNC-Chapel Hill in 1988.

He joined his father at Baker Dental Care, about a month before Robert retired. Stephen attended Lenoir-Rhyne and graduated from the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery. He returned to work with his father and brother to once again fulfill the legacy of a Baker father-and-sons practice.

Dr. Luther Baker served in the dental profession 57 years. Dr. Robert Baker practiced about 47 years. Dr. Thomas Baker retired at 37 years. Stephen and Bryan joked that, following that pattern, Bryan would have to practice 27 years and Stephen 17. But Steven has surpassed that mark with 18 years of experience under his dental scrubs. Bryan has practiced 21 years.

Although Bryan and Stephen hope that one of their children will consider carrying on the family business, not every Baker becomes a dentist. But some do branch out in different forms of dentistry from the family tree.

Bryan's and Stephen's uncle, Luther Philip Baker,

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HERO SAVES HIS FAMILY

Father pulls kids from burning home

By ELIZABETH STEWART
 Staff writer

"The Daddy was the hero," says Kings Mountain Fire Chief Frank Burns of the Kings Mountain father who braved intense heat and smoke four minutes after midnight Thursday to pull his family to safety as fire engulfed their home at 602 Temple Street.

"A desperate rescue effort and the family did

everything right," said Burns, who hailed Shane (Buddy) Drum, husband of Tammy Drum and father of four, who miraculously woke to flames and smoke that spread quickly in their house which left the family with few material possessions but with their lives.

Burns said a half second more in the sleeping household could have spelled disaster.

"The mother and daddy

woke up and he tried to get out of the bedroom and go down the hallway, but the fire was so hot they had to climb out the bedroom window," Burns said.

"When they climbed out and went around the corner of the house, the two sons, Shane, 16, and Austin, 14, were coming out of their bedroom window because they tried to get out of the hallway and could not. The father knew his 8-year-old

"A half second more in a sleeping household and the fire could have spelled disaster."
KM Fire Chief Frank Burns

daughter, Katrina, was asleep on the couch. He kicked the front door in and got the little girl off the couch and brought her out-

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DRAWING THE LINE FOR LBTD VOTE



photo by EMILY WEAVER
 Board of Elections Director Debra Blanton talks to board members Wednesday about polling sites for KM's election on mixed beverages.

Election budget approved

City will have two years to pay for \$60,000 vote

By EMILY WEAVER
 Editor

The price of an average mixed alcoholic drink costs about \$5 at most restaurants. But if every Kings Mountain voter were charged per ballot they would have to pay more than that just to have it on the menu.

Following approval of the mixed beverage referendum budget by county commissioners last Tuesday, the Cleveland County Board of Elections voted Wednesday morning to accept the nearly \$60,000 price tag they had fig-

ured for the City of Kings Mountain election.

The BoE presented four possible budget scenarios to the county:

- Option 1: Four polling sites, one-stop at BoE office - \$61,275
- Option 2: One mega polling site, one-stop at BoE office - \$57,820
- Option 3: Two polling sites, one-stop at BoE office - \$59,145
- Option 4: Two polling sites, one-stop at BoE office and in KM - \$64,845

The first two options were dismissed. The BoE was politely "kicked out" of

See ELECTION, Page 3A

Five to fly with 'Honor'

The Kings Mountain Rotary Club decided this year to send local veterans on a "Flight of Honor" to see the World War II memorial, erected in their honor, in Washington, D.C.

First there were three. Then there were four. Now there are five local heroes that will fly to the nation's capital April 18, thanks to money raised through local businesses.

The five men who will embark on this special journey are Ed Campbell, Sidney Dixon, James Thea Ingle, charter Rotarian Wilson Griffin and David Saunders.

The first four shared appreciation for this opportunity and some of their experiences in WWII with the Rotary Club at its weekly meeting Feb. 19. Around \$500 was needed then, to send the fourth veteran. It was raised within 14 minutes after the meeting.

Over that weekend, a fifth hero was brought to the attention of KM's "Flight of Honor" organizer and Rotarian Steve Padgett. The

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CITY WELCOMES ELECTRICIANS

On the line

City to host hundreds of linemen

By ELIZABETH STEWART
 Staff writer

Hundreds of electric system linemen from some 72 Public Power cities are coming to Kings Mountain this month for four different week-long schools at the Kings Mountain Police Club.

The City of Kings Mountain was chosen by ElectricCities of North Carolina to host the schools. Mayor Rick Murphrey welcomed the "Introduction to Electric Linemen School" Monday morning.

David Young of ElectricCities introduced the program, which will include instruction for linemen with a minimum of three years

experience. The Basic Climbing School ended Feb. 20. This week's school ends March 13, the Intermediate school begins March 23 and ends March 27; and the advanced course of instruction begins April 27 and ends May 1.

Participants are required to climb and work from an aerial (bucket) truck. The school is intended to assist municipalities in certifying that their employees have received the training and have demonstrated to the school instructor's proficiency in some of the work practices involved in Electric Utility Line work required by Occupational Safety Hazards Agency (OSHA.)



photo by LIB STEWART
 Linemen, above, begin training with Electric-Cities and staffers from Public Power electric systems, including KM, at Kings Mountain Police Club.

Each participant receives college credits to be applied toward an associate degree.

Electric Department Head Nick Hendricks said that Kings Mountain linemen have all participated in these schools with the exception of three linemen who will be attending the Advanced Lineman School. He said the Kings Mountain Electric Department has provided instructors for

these as well as many other schools for many years. "We have an excellent staff of linemen," he said

Said Hendricks, "The camaraderie that our employees have received throughout these schools as well as assisting cities during emergency situations will last a lifetime."

"The City of Kings Mountain is committed to safety and training" said the mayor.

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