

Rev. S. T. Cooke Has Served God 57 Years

Big Little Minister Is Retiring



REV. S. T. COOKE
...Serving 57 Years

Rev. S. T. Cooke has probably delivered 1,000 sermons during his 57 year ministry. He has also preached hundreds of funerals and performed hundreds of wedding ceremonies.

The well known Kings Mountain pastor of New Bynum Chapel AME Zion Church is retiring this month as he celebrates his 80th birthday.

Mr. Cooke has been described by some as the "biggest little minister in the Western North Carolina Annual Conference."

He's looking forward to remaining active in his church and enjoying his two grandchildren, Everette Bernard Thombs, Jr., age six, and Claire Elizabeth Thombs, age four, who are visiting this summer from District Heights, Md.

"I've really enjoyed my work in the ministry," said Mr. Cooke who was the first Black to run for a seat on the board of city commissioners and who has served on numerous city boards, including the Kings Mountain Hospital Board of Trustees for 10 years, the Zoning Board of Adjustments, the Human Relations Committee and on the Heart Fund committee, among others,

since moving to Kings Mountain in 1941.

Sunday will find the popular minister filling the pulpit for the last time at New Bynum Chapel Church where he served four years and on two separate occasions, coming to Old Bynum Chapel in an earlier pastorate. A native of Henderson in Vance County, Cooke is son of the late William Haywood and Katie Harris Cooke and it was in the Central North Carolina Conference that his ministry began to take shape. He attended Henderson Normal Institute, Tuskegee, Ala. and Livingstone College in Salisbury. He also studied and learned the barbering trade which he has followed for more than 63 years. His barber shop on City Street in Kings Mountain was a gathering place for many customers for many years.

Joining the Central N.C. Conference in 1923, Mr. Cooke carried with him a deed and \$12.00 general claim. So grateful were the members they named it Cooke's Chapel. Douglas Chapel Circuit, Union Chapel and Creedmore, Myers Chapel, Selma and Smithfield Cir-

cuit were other churches served in that Conference. He led in paying off debts and building churches. His name on three cornerstones and his efforts on behalf of Livingstone College during the depression years were wholesome and genuine.

Churches in the Western North Carolina Conference he served included Richards Chapel, Byers Chapel, People's Choice, Admore, St. John, Bynum Chapel, Henrietta Circuit, Rudisill Chapel, Bethel, Rockwell, and Neely Grove Station in Cramerton.

Ordained to the ministry in 1923, he met his wife, the former Marion Taylor of Oxford when he went to her home church as a visiting preacher. "That was one of the best day's work I ever have done," says Mr. Cooke who says of his wife of almost 50 years. "She sat where I sat. She looked out upon the world through my eyes. She bled through my wounds. She wept in my tears, a wonderful wife she has been to me."

On a recent Sunday the congregation of New Bynum Chapel honored Pastor Cooke at an Appre-

ciation Day and dinner on the grounds. The group of friends present took the occasion to give Mr. Cooke a check for \$1133.00 and six of his former congregations took part in the event.

Reporting as a delegate to the recent Conference, Billie Faye Wilson, said that "Rev. Cooke has capably pastored the church for four years and since that time he has brought 37 souls to the Lord and has always been a statue of faith and guidance for us all. Although Mr. Cooke will be retiring from the ministry at the end of this conference year we are assured that he will never tire from bringing forth the word of God."

The Cookes are parents of a daughter, Mrs. Helen Thombs. Dr. and Mrs. Everette B. Thombs and their two children live in District Heights, Md. The Cooke's oldest daughter, Kathy Cothran, died in 1971.

Participating churches were Union Bethel of Cornelius, Rockwell of Charlotte, Neely's Grove of Gastonia, Jordan Grove of Siler City, St. Stephens of Gastonia, St. Paul United Methodist Church of Kings Mountain, Mount Zion Baptist Church of Kings Mountain,

Doggett Grove of Forest City, Waddell's Chapel of Shelby, Galilee United Methodist Church of Kings Mountain and Congregational Church of Kings Mountain.

Mayor John Henry Moss extended congratulations from the City of Kings Mountain.

Mrs. William Hager was master of ceremonies for the Appreciation Day ceremonies and also participating in the day event were Carl Bennix, Sandra Aldrich, William Orr, Mrs. Margaret Leach, Mrs. Nina Mitchem, Mrs. Kittye Winston, Mrs. Janie Vaughan, Joel Marable, Roy Brown, Rev. Mr. Green, Wilfred Rice, Rev. Russell Shipman, Harry Perry, Rev. Daniel Frazier, Lucio Wilson, Cleveland Walker, James Rice, O.V. Ellis, Moses Russell, Mrs. Genell Cranke, Uzza Parker, K.C. withrow, Rev. Howard Shipp, Rev. S.I. Clement, James Adams, Douglas Sutton, William Hager, and Rev. Donald Campbell. Present to sing were members of the Inspirational Choir, the Golden Gate Chorus, the St. Paul Choir, Zionettes, the Union Bethel Hallelujah Chorus, and the Junior Choir of the Bynum Chapel Church.

Tuesday

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KM Woman Killed In Shootout

Kings Mountain Police are still investigating the early Monday morning shootout at Chesterfield Apartments which left one woman dead and five persons injured.

Beverly Ernestine Mauney, 22, of Apartment 23, Chesterfield Court, was dead when city police arrived on the scene shortly after 12:23 a.m. The body has been taken to Chapel Hill for an autopsy.

Injured with gunshot wounds were her father, Ernest Mauney, her brother, Eugene Mauney, J.R. Queen and Kings Mountain policeman Johnny Belk.

The Mauneys and Queen were transported to Kings Mountain Hospital by the Kings Mountain Rescue Squad and Belk was taken by police car. Belk was admitted and was to undergo surgery Monday. The other three men were treated and released.

City Police are withholding complete details of the incident until

their investigation is complete. But a member of the Kings Mountain Rescue Squad said two groups of people, one black and one white, were shooting at each other inside and outside the low-rent housing project. He estimated 10 to 15 persons in each group and said he spotted "many" guns, including pistols, shotguns and rifles, lying around.

The police department issued the following statement through the office of Acting Chief Jackie D. Barrett:

"At approximately 12:23, officers Billy Benton and Gary Sale and Sgt. Johnny Belk were dispatched to Chesterfield Court on a disturbance and possible discharging of explosives.

"Upon arriving, Officer Benton heard what he thought were gun shots and he told the other two cars to back out a minute.

"Benton then pulled up to Apartment 23 and got out of the car. He started walking up the walkway and was met by Gene Mauney at the door and (Mauney) said that his sister had been shot and that they needed an ambulance.

"Benton called for an ambulance and went into Apartment 23, and Officer Sale went in behind Benton. When Benton entered the Apartment, he saw a white female lying face down in the kitchen.

"Sgt. Belk pulled up behind the other two officers and someone shot Sgt. Belk in the legs. No arrests have been made."

Officers from the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department, Boiling Springs Police Department, Gaston County Sheriff's Department and the Kings Mountain Police Auxiliary assisted in the investigation.

None of the police officers participated in the shooting.

Funeral arrangements for Ernestine Mauney are incomplete and will be announced by Harris Funeral Home. She is a Kings Mountain native and daughter of Ernest Mauney and Mrs. Wilma Boyles Mauney. She is also survived by one daughter, Kelly Mauney; one brother Gene Mauney; and three sisters, Phyllis and Crystal Mauney and Mrs. Patricia Shaer, all of Kings Mountain.



UMM. UMMMMM!—There are two words to describe the pie consumed in the city's Fourth of July celebration pie eating contest Friday at Deal Street Park—umm. umm. Connie Phillips is shown during the competition. Several other events were held, including pig

and rabbit chases, watermelon eating contests, and swimming and putt golf contests. Other pictures will appear in Thursday's Herald.

Photo by Gary Stewart

KM Rescue Squad To Ask For County-Paid Employee

Kings Mountain Rescue Squad Captain Johnny Hutchins will take its request for an additional county-paid employee to the full board of county commissioners July 21.

Hutchins said the request was turned down for the second straight year during 1980-81 budget preparations by the county board.

Additionally, the Rescue Squad may ask for additional funding for operation of ambulance service.

Captain Hutchins said he would prefer not to see an increase in ambulance fees charged by the county for transports made by the squad, and that some other source of funds be used. Hutchins says that ambulance fees could be increased and still be below fees charged by ambulance services in nearby counties.

Cleveland County Board of Commissioners budgeted more than a quarter of a million dollars this year for the ambulance program which has marked its success by the use of many volunteers. Kings Mountain, along with Shelby Rescue Squad, charge fees in order to offset the cost of full time employees. Kings Mountain Emergency Services is among three of the county's five squads which operate strictly with

volunteers and make no charge for services. KM Rescue Squad and Shelby Rescue Squad each receive \$250 a month for operations plus \$10 a transport for the first 50 transports and 12 cents a mile for each transport.

Captain Hutchins contends the KM squad is losing money in the ambulance end of its rescue operations, pointing out that reimbursement from the county does not meet the costs and

noting that many calls are made for which no reimbursement is made. Hutchins says he will suggest that some formula be developed to pay the squad for calls answered, not just for transports. Last month, he said the Squad made 110 calls but only 81 of the calls resulted in transports.

Kings Mountain Rescue Squad is the County's oldest rescue service.

Steering Committee Planning 'Then Conquer We Must'

Area people are hard at work on "Then Conquer We Must," an outdoor drama to be staged this Fall to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain, according to Kings Mountain Mayor John Henry Moss. The drama will be staged at 8:30 p.m. in the Kings Mountain National Park Amphitheatre Sept. 26-28 and Oct. 3-7, Moss said.

The Mayor has appointed Limestone College President William Briggs as chief executive officer for the outdoor drama, which will become the centerpiece of the 200th anniversary celebration.

"As a native of Kings Mountain, I am delighted to share in this highly appropriate activity. I am challenged and excited and look forward with the assistance of an excellent steering committee to producing a thoroughly authentic, colorful and entertaining theatre event," said Briggs.

Mayor Moss and Dr. Briggs have attracted a blue ribbon group of citizens to serve on the outdoor drama steering committee.

The Committee will make policy and serve as the im-

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