



Dickey, Ledford, Lee Win Local Elections

Incumbent District Six Commissioner Jim Dickey retained his seat on the Kings Mountain Board of Commissioners Tuesday by defeating Jan Deaton in a runoff election.

Dickey, a 10-year veteran of city politics, received 693 votes to 427 for Deaton in one of the city's best turnouts ever for a runoff.

Dickey ran first among four candidates in the October 6 primary, but failed to receive a majority vote. Humes Houston ran unopposed to win the District Two seat for the third time and Curt Gaffney defeated William Orr for the District Five seat. All three will take office in December.



JIM DICKEY

Dickey's big support came in West Kings Mountain (Districts Four, Five and Six) where he

collected 437 votes to 258 for Deaton. Dickey received 256 votes in East Kings Mountain (Districts One, Two and Three) and Deaton received 169.

Dickey received congratulations on the victory outside the Armory as the final count was announced.

"It was a well, hard-fought campaign, and I appreciate it being that way," he said. "I received a lot of good help."

Dickey said he began campaigning in August and spent countless hours over the weekend telephoning citizens and urging them to vote.

"I congratulated Jan awhile ago," he said. "I think Jan and I handled the campaign very nicely. She was good competition."

Newcomer Jerry Ledford won a seat on the Kings Mountain Board of Education by a landslide Tuesday and June Lee edged board chairman Marian Thomasson by 24 votes for the second inside city seat.

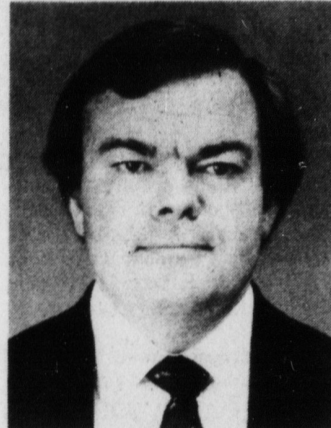
Ledford received 1,081 votes, Lee 749 and Thomasson 725.

Ledford will take office in December and Lee will begin her second six-year term on the five-member board.

Ledford, entering politics for the first time, led the voting at every area precinct, and by sizeable margins at most of them. Mrs. Lee ran second at two voting places, and Mrs. Thomasson was second at two.

"I'm grateful that the hard work paid off," Ledford said following the victory, "and I'm thankful for everyone that supported me. I'm pleased that a lot of people showed a lot of confidence in me and I will try to live up to the confidence they expressed."

Mrs. Lee could not be reached for comment Tuesday night. Ledford's biggest support



JERRY LEDFORD

came in West Kings Mountain, where he gathered 580 votes to 407 for Thomasson and 399 for Lee. He received 243 votes at East Kings Mountain to 166 for Lee and 143 for Thomasson.

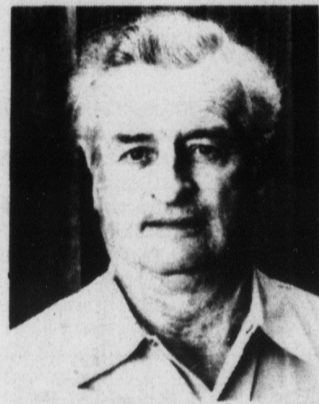
At Grover, Ledford received 171 votes, Thomasson 111 and Lee 103, and at Bethware Ledford had 87, Lee 81 and Thomasson 64.

The Ledford victory and Thomasson defeat probably will



JUNE LEE

not change the Kings Mountain Board's feeling on the possibility of a merger of the three county school systems. Mrs. Thomasson and Ledford had both already gone on record as opposing a study, as had board member Kyle Smith. Mrs. Lee and Bill McDaniel have said they have not decided, and the fifth board member, Harold Lineberger, has not made a public comment on it.



DENNIS McDANIEL



VICKIE SMITH



RONALD QUEEN

McCarter Is Re-Elected

Grover Mayor Bill McCarter defeated Martha Byers by two votes Tuesday to win his fourth two-year term of office, and Grover voters elected four new members to the five-member Town Council.

McCarter received 100 votes to 98 for Mrs. Byers, who had served the past four years as a commissioner.

The only incumbent commissioner to win was Ronald Queen, who ran second in a 12-man race for commissioner. Others elected were Dennis McDaniel, Bill Camp, Jim Howell and Vickie Smith.

McDaniel, a lifelong Grover resident and employee of Foote Mineral in Kings Mountain, was the top vote-getter with 130 votes. Other commissioner totals were Queen 114, Camp 108, Smith 103, Howell 95, Grady



BILL McCARTER

Ross 92, Kenneth Anthony 78, Quay Moss 72, Juanita Pruette 59, Edward Philbeck 54, James Grindstaff 39 and Tom Childers 26.

It was the second time in the past three elections that Mayor McCarter has won a narrow victory. In 1977, he ran a write-in campaign and defeated Kings Mountain High School teacher Dean Westmoreland by one vote. Two years ago, he ran unopposed.

"I'm more happy that it was a good, clean campaign than anything else," McCarter said. "I expected it to be close, but didn't have any idea it would be two votes. It could've gone either way."

McDaniel said, "I appreciate the people of Grover supporting me, and I will serve them to the best of my ability."

Mrs. Smith said she was "overwhelmed" at being elected. "I'm anxious to learn and just tickled to death," she said. "I'm ready to get in there and work."

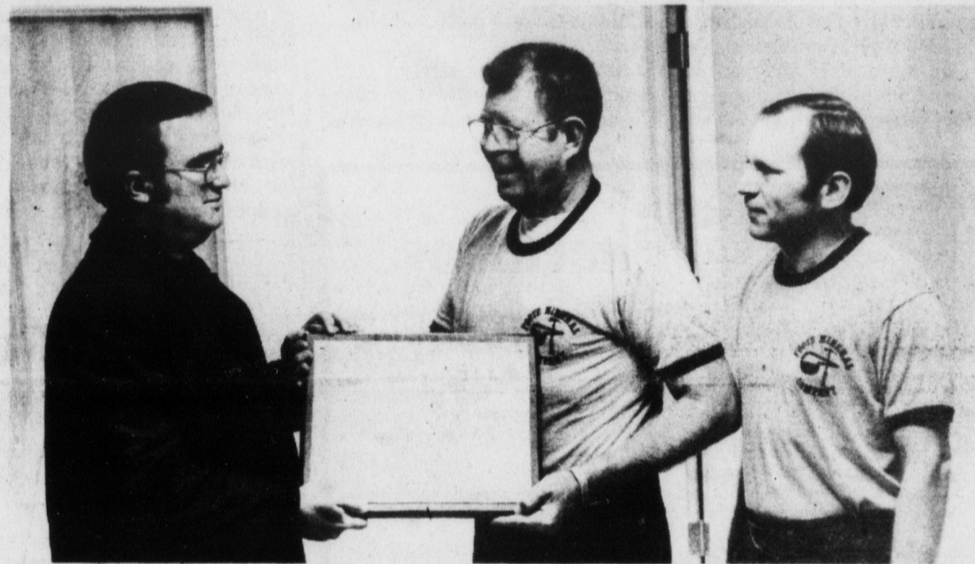


Photo by Gary Stewart

WINS AWARD - Foote Mineral Friday was presented a plaque for having gone one year and 600,000 man hours with a lost time accident. Sandy Griffith, left, of Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, presents the award to Walter Cooke, plant operations manager, as Robby Camper, safety supervisor, looks on.

Grover Closes Street

Grover Town Council Monday night voted 3-2 to close an 873-foot portion of Maple Avenue.

Commissioners Quay Moss, Juanita Pruette and Ronald Queen voted in favor of the request by Minette Mills and

Grover Industries, and commissioners Edward Philbeck and Martha Byers voted against it.

The two mills made the request because they anticipate future expansion, but Charlie Duval, secretary-treasurer of Minette Mills, said that mill will not expand for at least three years.

Maple Avenue runs behind both industries in the area of the Minette Mills ballfield, which is the playing site of little league, Babe Ruth League, and some softball teams in Grover.

Minette has said it will provide an access road to the ballpark, and repair of water and gas lines affected will also be paid for by the mills.

Shelby Approves Of Study

The Shelby City School Board went on record Monday night as approving of a study on the possibility of a merger of the three county school systems.

The three boards—Shelby, Cleveland County and Kings Mountain—had an informal meeting two weeks ago to discuss the possibility of a study.

Shelby Superintendent Johnny Presson said a study by an "outside" group would cost around \$50,000.

The Kings Mountain and Cleveland County boards have not acted on the matter officially. The Kings Mountain board's regular November meeting is scheduled for Monday night at 7:30 at the School Administration Building on Parker Street.

State Attorney Promises Creek Investigation

Ed Gavin, attorney with the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, last week promised landowners in the Kings Creek area of south Kings Mountain that the state will begin an investigation into what is causing fish kills, dirty water and odors in the creek.

The department held a public hearing Wednesday at the Kings Mountain Community Center on a request by Foote Mineral that it be allowed to continue to discharge an average of two milligrams of flouride per liter of water into the creek from its mineral processing plant.

Citizens, thinking that might possibly be the reason for the above-mentioned problems, protested. By the time the four hours of testimony were over, citizens appeared more convinced that the flouride is not the problem.

Witnesses from Foote Mineral, one dental expert, and a scientist with the Division of Environmental Management testified that flouride is odorless and colorless and could not possibly be the reason for the problems.

But, as testimony wore on, it became more and more obvious that there is something else being discharged into the creek that is the reason for those problems, and that it could be chlorine being discharged by the North

Carolina Department of Transportation, which operates the North Carolina Welcome Center and I-85 Rest Areas.

Gary Tweed of the N.C. Division of Environmental Management in Asheville, said Foote Mineral and the DOT are the only companies permitted to discharge anything into the creek.

He said the DOT operates a small "package" treatment facility which treats domestic sewage, and that chlorine is used to kill the bacterias in the sewage. He said "around 10,000 gallons" a day is permitted to be discharged into Kings Creek.

He said at times it could cause an odor similar to household clorox.

John Caveny, a landowner in the area, stated earlier Wednesday that he often walks the creek early in the morning and a clorox-type odor is "breathtaking."

Tweed said under normal circumstances the treatment "would not have an odor" but in times of heavy use of the rest area, it could have.

Foote has discharged flouride into the creek since 1975. It has a permit allowing it to discharge an average of two milligrams per liter of water.

The flouride, Foote employees testified, is necessary to separate

different minerals from ore. The company has its own re-cycling system which includes a company-owned reservoir and pond in addition to Kings Creek.

In many instances, plant operations manager Walter Cooke said, no flouride is discharged into Kings Creek. The only time more than two milligrams would be discharged would be due to seepage or heavy rains.

The state recently passed a guideline of allowing only 1.8 milligrams per liter of water to be discharged into the creek, and that was the reason for Foote asking for a variance to allow it to continue under its original permit. Cooke said if the company is not allowed to continue as is, it would have to discontinue producing felspar and that would result in huge losses of profit for the company, and loss of jobs for employees.

Dr. Charles Adams, spokesman for the citizens, said at the end of the hearing that his group misunderstood Foote's request, and thought that Foote was requesting that it be allowed to discharge a greater amount of flouride. Over 120 citizens had signed a petition opposing Foote's request.

"It sounds like it's not flouride causing the problems," Dr. Adams said. "But something is coming into the creek, perhaps chloride. The petition was a

good thought but perhaps was started wrong because of misinformation. But we're concerned about things coming into the creek."

William Livingston, Foote's attorney, said Foote was "not aware of the other problems and is not prepared to deal with what's causing the odors and dirty water. But Foote Mineral is here for a long time and wants to be accepted in the community, and is prepared to investigate."

Foote has offered to assist the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development in identifying pollutants in the creek. Gavin said the results of the investigation will be made public and action will be taken against anyone found to be discharging any toxic chemicals into the stream.

Lewis Barts, Wildlife Enforcement Officer for Cleveland and Rutherford counties, testified that hunting and trapping on the creek has decreased over the past several years "because animals follow food supply and there's not that much food in Kings Creek."

Steve Dunn, a scientist with the Division of Environmental Management, said he ran tests to find fish in the creek on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of last week. He found live fish in some areas but no sign of life in others.