

Winston-Salem Chronicle

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75 CENTS

"Power concedes nothing without a struggle." — Frederick Douglass

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TIS THE SEASON



The Nguzo Saba (The Seven Principles) are represented by seven candles. The candle lighters lit them at last Sunday's Kwanzaa Celebration.

First Kwanzaa Celebration Kicks Off at Russell Recreation Center

By MARK R. MOSS
Chronicle Staff Writer

The first candle lit for Kwanzaa represented unity.

When it came to celebrating this African-American holiday, Sunday night to celebrate the first annual event at the Carl H. Russell Recreation Center Sunday night.

The fourth candle, symbolizing Cooperative Economics, was also well-represented. The event was sponsored by the Winston-Salem District Missionary Society of the A.M.E. Zion Church, and organizers raised more than \$6,500 to help send missionary representatives to a convention in Detroit in 1994.

The goal, said the Rev. Horace C. Waiser, "was to make us more cognizant and aware of our African-American heritage." Waiser, a presiding

elder of the African Methodist Episcopal church, was one of the event's main coordinators. His wife, Kay S. Waiser, president of the Winston-Salem District Missionary Society of the A.M.E. Zion Church, served as both coordinator and as an emcee.

The couple considered the first annual Kwanzaa celebration a success, and from the smiles and festive ambience, it was apparent the audience thought so, too. One of the biggest smiles was worn by Minnie Ervin, a member of Bethania A.M.E. Zion Church, who was crowned the queen of the celebration because her church raised the most money, slightly more than \$2,000.

"I'm here to celebrate and I hope you all will celebrate with me," said Syteria Puryear, the mistress of ceremonies.

Kwanzaa, an African-American holiday based

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Womble, Newell: A Farewell Bid

▲ Blacks lose power on board, call for members' unity

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

The loss of Virginia Newell and Larry Womble from the city's board of aldermen means African Americans will no longer have half of the votes, but Newell said the black aldermen didn't always vote in unison when they had the chance.

"I didn't see us having that kind of power during the time when we should have had it," Newell said. "But if they work together and are committed to the

African-American community, they can get a lot done."

Newell, who retired after 16 years as East Ward alderman, said Vivian Burke's vote to become mayor pro-tempore four years ago hurt the power block African-American aldermen had.

"I thought for a democrat and an African American it was a poor move," Newell said. "We've been set back for a number of years. It's been a tug-of-war, but if people forget about party and think about the people the

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Oil Co. to Move Tainted Soil From New Walkertown Rd.

Lexington firm to begin cleaning contaminated soil

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

A state environment official said A.T. Williams Oil Co. will have its petroleum-contaminated soil moved to Lexington next week where it will be cleaned.

Leesha L. Fuller, regional manager of the Winston-Salem office of the state Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources, said the oil company will have the soil moved by Cunningham Brick Co. of Lexington, who will test the soil for further contamination.

Williams Oil is replacing underground storage tanks at the Wilco Gas Station on Akron Drive because leaks in the tanks contaminated the soil with petroleum. The soil was transported from the store at 653 Akron Drive, a predominantly white neighborhood, to the Wilco store at 2500 New Walkertown Road, an area inhabited mainly by African Americans.

Residents near the Wilco Gas Station on New Walkertown Road caused an uproar last week and their actions forced the company to stop cleaning the soil in

their neighborhood. The oil company had to register with the Department of Health, Environment and Natural Resources before the soil could be moved.

Fuller said the state allowed the soil to be moved there because the other site in consideration, 3331 Thomasville Road, was closer and would save money.

"They had more room on the New Walkertown site and there they had pavement," she said. "Since New Walkertown was closer, it was much cheaper and probably could have saved taxpayers' money. All of that was taken in consideration."

The sites at New Walkertown Road and Thomasville Road were the only sites considered, but Williams Oil has 11 Wilco stations across the city.

Fuller said she visited the site at New Walkertown Road but didn't smell any harmful fumes. She said environmental racism does exist, but there was no danger to the residents from the soil cleaning.

"Environmental racism and other types of racism does exist," she said. "But I don't think this was a case of it."

Steve Williams, vice president of Williams Oil,

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NEWS WEEK NEWS AT A GLANCE

Students' Viewpoint

It appears that third-graders also have something to say about violence. Last week, 20 children from Mineral Springs Elementary School presented Mayor Martha S. Wood a collection of "talks" poems and drawings that expressed their views on violence.

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Art Opening

Aaron Siskind's black and white photographs documenting Harlem in the 1930s and the early 1940s opened last month at WSSU's Digger Gallery.

Complete story A7

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THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY

On Dec. 12, 1963, Kenya gains independence from Great Britain.

Some Residents and Business Owners Say City Officials Neglect Some Black Neighborhoods

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

Some African-American business owners and residents are upset with excessive trash and dilapidated buildings in their neighborhoods.

Ed McCarter, co-owner of Special Occasions Bookstore and Gift Shop, 112 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, is upset about a few houses near his store that he says breeds miscreants.

"They come to this house and drink (alcohol) and do all sorts of unacceptable behavior," McCarter said. "It's bad for the neighborhood and the only two black businesses on the block."

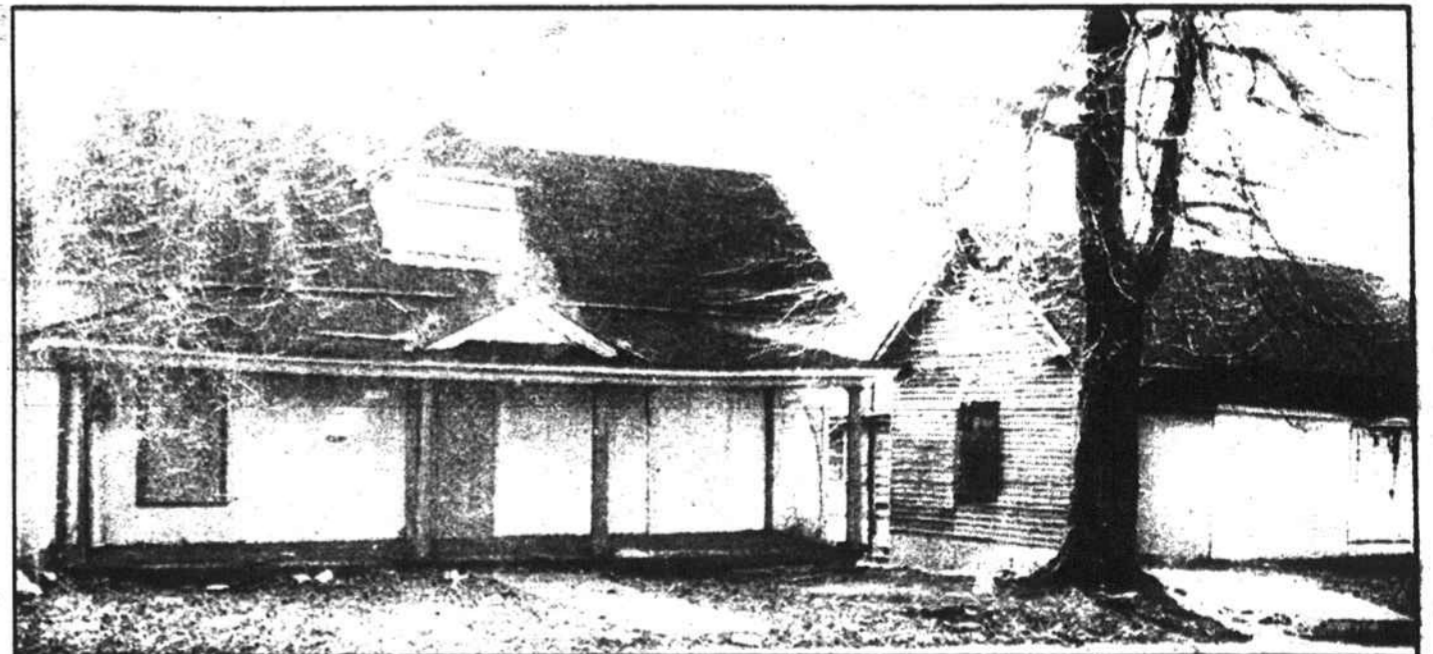
McCarter said the drunkenness and trash in the neighborhood hurt his business.

Special Occasions and Forsyth Seafood Market are the only two black-owned business in the area. But area residents also want something done. Some, like Pauline Jackson, also feel the houses need to be occupied, but that the city needs to better clean up the trash and glass from the area streets.

Jackson, who has lived at 1317 Lawrence St. for more than 30 years, said the neighborhood has gotten worse in the last five years.

"The corner is a spot for disaster," she said. "People come from other areas to drink and they throw bottles and trash out in the street. It's just an eyesore for older people who has to live with this sort of stuff."

Jackson said their efforts to beautify the neighbor-



Residents say these abandoned houses on Lawrence Street is fodder for drunkenness and vandalism.

hood are in vain because the city allows trash to build-up.

Cynthia Watlington, who has lived in the area since 1985, said she and others have to clean up the streets because the city sometimes take up to a week to respond to her calls.

"There's a lot of broken glass on the streets from

people who get drunk and throw bottles," she said. "What's left (after the city comes by) we end up getting it up."

Former Alderman Virginia Newell, said she has urged the city to clean up the streets in that area for

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