

Winston-Salem Chronicle

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"The NEWSpaper Winston's Been Waiting For"

20*

20 Pages this week...

Saturday January 13, 1979

Can the Wachovia Building Ignite?

By Sharyn Bratcher
Staff Writer

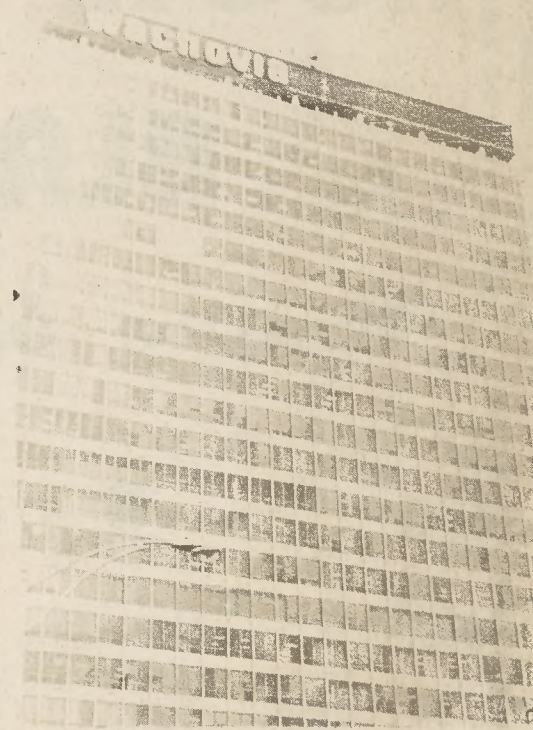
Could we have a "Towering Inferno" in Winston-Salem?

As assistant fire marshal, it is Oscar Beal's job to see that we don't, by inspecting the high rise buildings in the Twin City, and seeing that they meet minimum safety requirements, but experts concede that the Wachovia Building might present the most problems in case of fire. The Wachovia Building has no fire alarms, no heat or smoke detectors, no sprinkler system, and no engineered exhaust system. In case of fire, the occupants of the 18-story building would have to be notified by telephone. Beal noted that one fire drill in the Wachovia Building took 27 minutes to evacuate the occupants, because of the communications problems. He compared this to an Oregon fire drill which took less than three minutes. The Wachovia Building was built in 1966, just a year before stricter fire codes were passed by the state of North Carolina.

Lester Burnett, who manages the Wachovia Building for its owners JMB Properties, says that a communication system is scheduled to be put into the building by the fall of next year, as well as devices which automatically send the elevators back to the first floor in case of a fire.

Burnett pointed out that the building already has a fire sump in the heating and air conditioning unit. The fire sump shuts off the floor on which a fire breaks out to prevent it from spreading to other parts of the building.

"In the South people are more apt to get struck by lightning than to die in a high-rise fire," Burnett noted. "In the South has the highest death rate from fires in the nation," said Beal. "Other states are more fire conscious than we are," he said. "After the movie 'The Towering Inferno' was shown here, we got calls for about three days, but that was it."



The Wachovia Building

Two high rise buildings that were given good marks by Beal for fire safety were the Federal Building and the Integon Building.

The Federal Building has smoke and heat detectors, pressurized stairways, and a fire command center, at which computers monitor the detection devices and can immediately pinpoint the source of an alarm. The alarms are also set to notify the fire department automatically when they register danger.

The only problem with the Federal Building, said Beal, a number of false alarms from the smoke detectors picking up smoke polluted air from the tobacco company.

Ira Baity of Integon described the new devices to be used in his company's new building. The building will have a fire command center, similar to that of the Federal Building, and a complete sprinkler system, as well as heat, smoke and ionization detectors. The 18-story structure, which will initially house 1,000 employees, will also have pressurized stairways, the device to send elevators to the ground floor in the event of fire, and a direct line from the alarms to the fire department.

Winston-Salem has never had an office building fire with a high death toll, as some cities have had. He hopes that citizens become more fire conscious despite their good fortune. The Department of Public Safety offers a program on fire safety to any group who requests it.

"We'd especially like the program to be seen by senior citizens and children," says Beal. "They are the ones who die in fires."

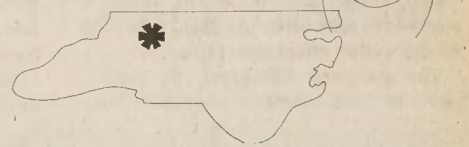
The Roots of Black Winston-Salem run deep throughout the city's history and you can follow the path of those roots beginning this week in the Chronicle.

A four-page section featuring profiles on the first blacks in Forsyth County and the first black church, plus an overall look at the black role in area history kicks off a 12-week series which will run up to the present day.

The Chronicle's Sharyn Bratcher pored through old Moravian records and nosed around graveyards in finding such stories as that of the local slave who was granted his freedom by special act of the N.C. General Assembly after an act of life-saving daring.

It's your heritage. Don't miss a line of it, beginning on page five.

ROOTS
OF BLACK
Winston-Salem



King Legacy Recalled

By Sharyn Bratcher
Staff Writer

It has been eleven years since the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A new generation who knew him only as a figure in a history book has come of age. But there are still people who treasure personal memories of the man, those fortunate enough to have met him.

Dr. King's work in the civil rights movement brought him to North Carolina on several occasions. On one visit to Winston-Salem he spoke at Galilee Baptist Church.

Larry Womble recalls that visit: "...He spoke at Rev. Warnie Hay's church...and I remember an incident that wasn't funny then, but it is now, looking back on it. It was just after the bombing of those churches in Alabama, and that's what he was speaking about. He had just begun to describe the destruction of those



Rev. Dr. Martin
Luther King

churches when there was a power failure, and the lights went out. We all thought, 'It's happening here!'"

Womble found Dr. King somewhat different from his expectations. "I expected a great big man," he said, "and when I met him, he was small, soft-spoken man. But he took time with people..."

Dr. Jerry Drayton, chairman of the state Human Relations Commission, has more personal recollections of King.

"I knew him since he was in junior high school," said Dr. Drayton. Drayton attended Morehouse College in Atlanta, and he worked in the church of Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr.

"King studied the social gospel," Drayton explained. "It was taught by a professor at Morehouse. You know, most ministers who have studied the social gospel believe, as King did, that religion

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Durham Fire Raises Doubts

By WAYNE LOTTINVILLE
Special to the Chronicle

The weekend fire in Durham that destroyed the offices of The Carolina Times and E.N. Toole and Son Electric Company may be just the climax of an ongoing dispute that has been smoldering for years between the three remaining businesses of the city's once-famous Hayti district and the Durham Redevelopment Commission.

In the thirties, forties, and early fifties the Hayti district along Pettigrew Street was the hub of black-owned businesses in Durham--and perhaps the Southeast--and boasted more than a hundred thriving businesses.

Then along came urban renewal, and according to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development philosophy of the time, urban renewal meant leveling everything in sight.

Until this past Sunday morning, only three black businesses remained in the Hayti district; all were located in a single building on Pettigrew Street that stood like a lonely fortress in the midst of blocks of cleared land.

The fire that swept through the building over the weekend destroyed two of these remaining businesses leaving only one, Service Printing Company, which suffered smoke and water damage.

The Durham Redevelopment Commission, until recently the city's urban renewal agency, was created in the late fifties.

"Very few people opposed it," recalls Vivian Edmonds, current editor and publisher of the burned-out Carolina Times.

Initial plans, projections, and information suggested this would be a wonderful thing for Durham, Edmonds remembers, replacing slums with new homes, businesses, and a small industrial and shopping center.

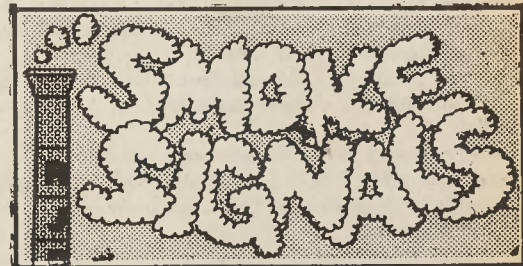
"We found out that that was a ruse," says Edmonds caustically. "The Redevelopment Commission has torn down everything and nothing has been rebuilt."

Edmonds charges that urban renewal was not for the benefit of the black population of Durham's Hayti district, but for the benefit of white businesses in nearby downtown who needed room to expand.

By 1977 Edmonds was certain HUD's urban renewal promises would not be lived up to because the Redevelopment Commission was scheduled to dissolve at the end of June, 1978, and no renewal had occurred.

But the Durham city fathers supplied the funds for one

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The recent cold spell in our city prompted many residents to run to their thermostat and turn it up. However it didn't take long for power officials to start saying turn it down, turn it down.

I'm sorry to say this but I can't really be energy conscious these days. I'm very suspicious of anyone who tells me we're running out of this and we're running out of that.

I can remember a couple of years ago, when I obeyed the restrictions, I turned my thermostat back. I walked around my house in a sweater and I drove my car sparingly to save on gas.

I remember having to wait in long lines to get gas and having to shop in the dim light at stores because we were cutting down. I remember all those things, and I certainly don't want that to happen again.

But I also remember that the price of gas, oil and electricity went up and up and still hasn't come back down. I remember oil officials telling me one month that there was a shortage and the next month telling me I could get all I need.

I remember all the rumors or stories saying that the gas shortage was really a hoax. However today I don't know what or who to believe. When it is cold I dress warmly and sensibly, but I don't sit around in a cold house either.

Pneumonia is not one of the most welcome sights I want to see. Maybe I'm wrong. Maybe there is an energy crisis. Maybe in a couple years, the long lines at the service stations will be back. I don't know. Maybe after a certain hour all the lights will have to be out. I don't know, but I do care.

I think I'm like many Americans who have been misled about the energy situation for so long that we don't know what to believe. I know if the power and oil companies give us the whole truth I would be only too happy to cooperate. Until then, I'll just go on day to day as I have in the past.

-Yvette McCullough



Staff photo by McCullough

Mr. and Mrs. Hilliard Summers stands in the smoke charred ruins of their home on Indiana

Avenue. See story page 3.

Black Families Stress Learning

By John W. Templeton
Staff Writer

Dr. Lee Cloud, a local native home for the holidays, recently discussed the complexities of music composition with a visitor in the manner of a college professor who has worked with some of the country's leading artists, credentials he had to his credit.

After a while, Emmitt Cloud, his father, entered the room, dressed in work clothes and visibly tired. After knocking the door, he paused and looked on with pride as Dr. Lee Cloud spoke.

The look the older Cloud gave was not unlike that of a man who has seen an investment pay off. In fact, that was precisely the look the father gave.

That brief moment demonstrated a tendency that has fueled a massive change in educational opportunity for

black students. That tendency is emphasis black families placed on education as a way of getting ahead.

Since 1954, according to U.S. Census Bureau demographer Larry Suiter, the number of blacks in college has risen from 159,000 to 1.1 million in 1977. Currently, 26 per cent of blacks between 18 and 24 attend college.

That increase is due in large part to the black family, says Dr. Kenneth R. Williams, chancellor emeritus of Winston-Salem State University.

"The attitude of the black family has been and still is now that education is the surest way for a young person to go up in life," he said.

"The most outstanding feature is the extent to which families will be willing to sacrifice with fathers literally working three jobs and the mother two and not buying

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