

# Winston-Salem Chronicle

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## ROOTS OF BLACK Winston-Salem



This week, the concluding installment of the 12-week Roots of Black Winston-Salem looks at the decade of the 1970s and the progress that blacks have made in at least 210 years of Forsyth County history.

The saga began back in the Moravian village of Salem when the inhabitants brought in laborer Johannes Samuel in the 1760s.

We introduced you to the handful of other blacks who attended the first school in the early 1800s.

Later on, blacks helped keep the home fires burning during the Civil War and began to take their place as tradesmen.

The city of Winston emerged as a growing industrial city on the brains and brawn of black men and women who came by foot, wagon and train to work in tobacco factories.

Yet many of those factory workers went into business for themselves and they build a business establishment that outstrips the present day.

The community they knew has been rebuilt and split up by urban renewal and other upheavals. However, the struggle for a better life continues to the present day.

## Cicely Tyson

### Beneath The Elegance, She's Down To Earth

By John W. Templeton  
Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL -- Her hair is black, her dress, light maroon and her heart -- pure gold.

That's Cicely Tyson, the world's most acclaimed black actress and possibly the nicest and most intensely spiritual superstar one might ever meet.

Case in point. At the end of an hour and a half of question and answer session with students on the UNC campus, she announced it was time for one last question.

Several persons in the audience pointed towards a little girl of about ten who had been standing up for more than 20 minutes.

Miss Tyson acknowledged their gestures but noted she could not see the youngster for the lights. The actress asked the questioner to come down front.

The young miss sheepishly walked down the aisle and

paused at the stage's edge to ask her question. Miss Tyson beckoned her up on stage and rewarded the youngster with a hug.

"What role did you play in Roots," the youngster asked of Miss Tyson.

The actress replied, "I was Kunta Kinte's mother." When the questioner made a quizzical look, Miss Tyson added, "Don't you believe me?" to howls of laughter from the audience.

Throughout the Monday night encounter, Miss Tyson kept the crowd alternately in stitches and enraptured with her blend of wit and philosophy. She became most serious when asked about the roles she has played.

"I was doing an interview three months ago and, the interviewer asked 'Because I had been very outspoken about the roles black women are forced to play, didn't I think I was going to the other extreme by projecting people who are so positive,'" she said.

question... then I proceeded to count the number of women I had done in the past five years," she recalled. "It didn't even take all five fingers on my left hand. Now compare those with all the black women who have been in the movies. I don't believe those are enough positive roles of black women to even it out."

Tyson recently won the international Foreign Drama Critics Award for best actress for her role in "Woman Called Moses," however; she most appreciates the two Emmys she won for "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman."

"That was the one that my mother was able to see before I lost her," said Miss Tyson. "I was able to hear her say, 'I'm so proud of you.'"

The actress is not troubled over when her next award

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Alderman Vivian Burke (left) helps to dedicate East Winston Park, located behind Sunrise Towers to the Rupert Bell Park in honor of the late recreation

center director. Mrs. Ruby Bell and her son Rupert Bell, Jr. and her daughter Joan B. Bell witness the dedication.

## Blacks Channelled To Retarded Class

By Sharyn Bratcher  
Staff Writer

Although the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System is only 32 per cent black, 71 per cent of the children in the educable mentally retarded class are black, and only 10 per cent of the gifted and talented program is black, according to the school system's 1978 figures.

Placement in special education programs is not related to race, says C. Douglas Carter, special assistant for instruction, but

other educators suggest that a racial element may creep into the selection process.

"I've never allowed myself to be pulled into a racial argument about it," says Carter. "The child is the important thing."

"I am not a doctor or a psychologist, so I cannot speculate as to the reasons why we have children who need the program. My job is to deal with the results—the children," said Carter.

One teacher pointed out the difference in minority

percentages between the Educable Mentally Retarded program, 71 per cent black, and the Learning Disabled program, 29 per cent black. "There is not as much stigma attached to the term learning-disabled," he explained, "so a lot of middle class parents pressure the schools to put their child in an LD program, whereas a poor black parent might just accept the school's verdict that the child is retarded."

That is not the case,

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## In Black Areas Of City

## Low Mortgage Activity Continues

By John W. Templeton  
Staff Writer

For the second consecutive year, the four federally-chartered savings and loan associations headquartered in Winston-Salem made approximately three per cent of their Winston-Salem loans in the traditionally black areas of the city, according to records made available to the Chronicle.

The percentage remained constant despite a 10 per cent increase in mortgage activity in the city limits.

At least one of the associations, Piedmont Federal, has launched a study to determine why such a small percentage of its loan portfolio went into the 13 census tracts with a predominately black population in the 1970 Census.

The S&Ls made \$69.09 million in

residential mortgages in the city limits in 1978. Of that total, \$2,084,350 went into the traditionally black area.

According to the City/County Planning Board, blacks have become a significant percentage of the population in six other census tracts since 1970. The S&Ls loaned

\$4,925,400 in those areas.

The Chronicle reported in December that the four associations made three per cent of their mortgage loans in the black area in 1977, based on documents known as Mortgage Loan Disclosure Statements. That year was the first year the statements were required.

The statements, which break down a financial institution's loans by census tract, are required by a federal law designed to prevent a practice known as "redlining"—the denial of loans to certain depressed areas.

Since December, a new federal law

called the Community Reinvestment Act has taken effect. It requires financial institutions chartered or receiving insurance from the federal government to study the credit needs of their target communities.

The record of the associations in meeting

those credit needs, particularly in low-income communities, is part of the regular examination by federal authorities.

Tom Hicks, vice president at Piedmont Federal, said he has begun a study to determine how much home buying activity there is in the traditionally black areas, after looking at the disclosure statement information. He is also looking to see how many home buyers use VA or FHA financing instead of conventional savings and loan financing.

Hicks also noted the low average amounts loaned by Piedmont. In the 13-tract area, the association lent \$673,700 to 41 homeowners, an average of about \$15,000. The average price of a home in Winston-Salem is \$43,000.

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Max Robinson

## Television News Pioneer Stresses Working Attitude

By Yvette McCullough  
Staff Writer

GREENSBORO - The attitude of a black journalist can either make him or break him, said Max Robinson, the first black network anchorman here Saturday.

"The mistake most black journalists make is to go into the job telling the boss what's wrong with the organization, instead of showing what they can do, then telling him what's wrong," Robinson said. "A person's attitude is the least talked about, but very important in journalism and the media."

Robinson was the keynote speaker for the second annual Mass Media Conference luncheon, which was held on the campus of A&T State University. Robinson told the crowd of professional journalists and aspiring journalists that being a reporter "is a commitment of a

"It is not just a job, not easy mogy, but a commitment of a lifetime."

Robinson is the first black anchorman on a weekday network news show. He joined the ABC Network last year after serving as a local anchorman in Washington, D.C. on "World News Tonight" he is anchored out of Chicago.

Robinson told the group that being a television newscaster is a very high risk profession.

"There are enormous pressures in television and news because its basis is ratings and making money," Robinson said. "Your TV news career can end within seconds, and it is very difficult to take such a high risk position."

The future of television, Robinson said, will be influenced by the viewer and the participant.

"To be a journalist you have to have an unquenchable thirst for knowledge and information," Robinson said.

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It's amazing how much kids know today. If someone had told me that I could sit down and have an intelligent conversation with a four year old, I wouldn't have believed it.

Baby books tell you that at a certain age a child is supposed to do this or that. Evidently, most children haven't read the book.

I am surrounded by people who have children and can't help but be impressed by the advanced kids of today. They are learning to walk sooner, talk sooner and when I say talk, I mean talk.

I was shocked recently when my four year old niece told me who Idi Amin was and then walked to the shelf and pulled out a book about him. I have to stay on my toes when I talk to kids because they tell me some things that I didn't even know.

It is amazing when I think back to when I was four. Although I can't remember it vividly, I know I wasn't as advanced as some of the kids are today. Some of the things that they are learning in kindergarten I didn't learn until I was in first grade and I think that's true for most of my generation.

If I talked to another parent today they could probably reel off a list of accomplishments for their child also. I don't know the reason for the advancement of kids today. It may be the influence of television, good or bad, kids are being exposed to things a lot sooner.

Also, credit must be given to some parents. The parents are more educated and are able to teach their children things at home, before they go to school.

Recently there has been talk about mandatory kindergarten for all five-year-olds. I don't know enough to know whether that would be good or bad, but I do know that kindergarten has helped a lot of kids. However, the teaching of a child should not be left to the schools, the parent should be just as involved.

One woman told me she didn't think kids were learning as much as they could today because of the lack of interest on the part of parents.

"It doesn't matter how much education a parent has if she doesn't take the time and teach her children things," the woman said.

"The parent should be concerned enough to see that their children get their work and not be so concerned