

Chronicle Profile

Fate Played Prominent Role In Life Of Urban League President

By EDWARD HILL JR.
Staff Writer

Life can be full of strange twists and turns. We start out with one goal in life, only to find that fate may change our direction several times before we find our niche.

That was the case with Thomas J. Elijah, president of the Winston-Salem Urban League. A native of New York, Elijah had ambitions of becoming a doctor in his youth. But because of the difficulty blacks had getting into medical school at that time, Elijah says he had to make another choice.

So Elijah decided on business. He attended Central State University in Ohio where he received a degree in business administration. Elijah later attended Brooklyn Law School.

But fate came into play again and Elijah found another twist in his life.

"My father had a real estate business in

Brooklyn," says Elijah. "I started out working with him and I became very interested in the business."

In an effort to become more familiar with the field, Elijah says he took courses at National

"They threw paint on my house and bricks through the windows. That made me realize that as long as you're black, you're black."

-- Thomas J. Elijah

Technical Institute, a real estate school in New York.

Eventually, Elijah became an expert of sorts, landing a job first with the New York City Housing Authority, and later with the state housing authority.

Then fate made its presence felt again.

"I owned several real estate companies during my time in New York," says Elijah. "I was very successful in those days. I thought I had it made."

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Under the presidency of Thomas Elijah, the Winston-Salem Urban League has implemented several programs and has made great strides in the community (photo by James Parker).



H. Hamilton Allen, M.D.
Surgery

Thomas L. Clarke, M.D.
Obstetrics & Gynecology

Charles Kennedy, M.D.
Pediatrics

Dr. Charles Kennedy (left), president of the Twin City Medical Society, presents a check for \$1,000 to YMCA representative Dr. H. Hamilton Allen. The donation is part of the Y's current funding campaign drive (photo by James Parker).

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Clark And Hall Exchange Vows

Cynthia D. Clark and Dwight M. Hall were married on April 9 at Second New Bethel Baptist Church with the Elder Victor Clark officiating.

Mrs. Charles Hairston and Miss Cynora Clark served as matrons of honor.

Bridesmaids were Miss Sharon Clark, Miss Theotis Sellara of Atlanta, Miss Rachel Evans, Mrs. Albert HAirston and Mrs. Harrison Porter.

Allan Mekulchek served as best man. Groomsmen were Tommy Mitchell of Raleigh, Timmy Mitchell of Ft. Worth, Texas, Charles

Hairston of Winston-Salem, Roy Reynolds of Cary, Romie Throckmorton of Cary, and Warren Hall of Ahoskie.

The bride, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E.L. Clark Jr., is a graduate of North Carolina Central University and is an instructor at Durham Technical Institute.

The groom, the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Hall, is a graduate of East Carolina University and an instructor at Durham Technical Institute.

The couple will make their home in Cary.



Cynthia Clark Hall

sears

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