

Chronicle Profile

Barber School Founder Shares Knowledge And Experience

By EDWARD HILL JR.
Staff Writer

After almost two decades of mastering the art of barbering, Ghuneem Furqan decided it was time to share his vast knowledge and experience with other blacks who wanted to learn the trade.

"I've always believed in the importance of knowledge and sharing it," says Furqan, president of Pyramid Institute of Barbering on Ogburn Avenue. "People shared their knowledge with me, so I decided to do the same for others."

A native of Reidsville, Furqan (pronounced Furkan) attended Modern Barber School here in Winston-Salem in 1959. He then went on to serve as an apprentice at several local barber shops before returning to Modern to pursue an instructor's certificate. After receiving his certificate, Furqan taught there and later at other barber schools in the state before opening Pyramid in 1978.

Furqan says Pyramid is the only black barber school in the city and one of only three in the state. Just like the pyramidal structure that took years to complete, Furqan says his barbering school was built on that same principle.

"The pyramid represents the elements of life," says Furqan, who also works as a laboratory technician for R.J. Reynolds and Bowman Gray Technical Center. "The school also represents life because it is designed to give the black man a craft that can help him lead a meaningful life."

"Barbering is a trade that you can always use, no

matter where you go on Earth. It takes minimum training and can provide a lifetime of rewards."

Pyramid is a fully accredited, nationally recognized institution for education in the art of barbering and styling. Mary Gambill is a full-time instructor and Furqan teaches two courses, one during his lunch hour.

The barbering course lasts a little over nine months and includes 1,528 hours of theory and practical instruction. The total tuition is \$1,165, which includes tools and textbooks.

Part of the students' training includes cutting, shaving and general hairstyling. For a nominal fee, customers get their hair cut and styled by one of the 15 students presently enrolled in the school.

Lester Carpenter has been bringing his two sons Aaron, 12, and Christopher, 11, to Pyramid for two years. Although he admits he could take them to other shops, he says it is his way of "helping the school help someone else."

"It's a black school trying to help blacks," says Carpenter. "That's what impresses me and that's why I bring them here."

William Jones, a new student at Pyramid, says he decided he wanted to find a meaningful trade in life, so he investigated the school.

"I heard about it from a friend of mine," says Jones. "I checked it out and found out it was about blacks helping blacks. Since I am a veteran, the VA could finance my education here. It was definitely a good decision."

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A senior citizen checks her card during a bingo party this past Saturday in a packed house at the Sunrise Towers (photo by James Parker).

Local Chapter Of Top Ladies Entertain Parents

The Winston-Salem Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction Inc., recently treated the parents of the Winston-Salem Chapter of Top Teens of America to a picnic and splash party at the home of Mrs. Thelma Small. The Top Teens are the youth auxiliary of TLOD.

The guests had to wear the name of a celebrity on the top of their head and the other guests had to guess who each person represented. The TLOD scrapbook, which won second place during the national convention, was also on display.

Special guests were Mr.

and Mrs. Thomas Elijah, Mrs. Joan Cardwell, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Lewis, Joseph Bradshaw, Mrs. Margaret Tennille, Mrs. Eunice Ayers, Dr. and Mrs. Luritz Creque, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin, Mrs. Wilhemena Lash, Mr. and Mrs. Hanes, Mr. and Mrs. Wilkes, Mr.

Coleman, Attorney and Mrs. George Archia and Mrs. Chlories Shore. Mrs. Dorothy Graham Wheeler, Mrs. Modesta Earl, Mrs. Gail Lindsay, Mrs. Rhonda White and Mrs. Grace Lowery hosted the picnic. Dr. Callie Coaxum is the president and Mrs. Thelma Small is the founder.

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Small Elected Dean

Mrs. Thelma Small was Winston-Salem Chapter of elected national dean of Top Ladies of Distinction pledges of Iota Phi Lambda Inc. and member of the Sorority Inc., during its national convention held recently in New York City. Mrs. Small is the past president and current dean of the National Association of University Women, the pledges of the Beta Alpha Chapter in Winston-Salem. Mrs. Small is a retired teacher with the Stokes County School System. Since her retirement, she has been involved in many community organizations including founder of the

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