

Chiles' Professional Achievements Are Numerous!

By Lori Grier
Post Staff Writer

This week's achiever has traveled from Maine to Miami as a general building contractor for 22 years. You've probably dined and cheered your team to victory inside some of his buildings, but whether you know it or not you have used his creations in some form or fashion.

He's 63 year-old Thomas Chiles, who retired from his profession in April, 1983.

Before Chiles became a general building contractor, he had his sub-masonry contracting business. He recalls building Gaston College, Cotswold Elementary School, Providence Nursing Home, Lincoln High School and Providence Center simultaneously. "That was pretty tiresome. Although I had a foreman on each job site, I had to make rounds to all of these job sites everyday," he reminisced.

The professional achievements he is proud of are numerous. The Brick Laying Council Award went to him and his team as they were judged best masons and apprentices. The fact that he is owner of Chiles Construction Company, formerly at 630 North Graham Street, now located at 1816 Russell Avenue, tops his list of



Thomas Chiles
....General building contractor

professional achievements along with the following: general brick superintendent for West Charlotte High School's gymnasium and its first workshop; McDonald's Cafeterias I & II; Spring's Office Building, Fort Mill, S.C.; Central Bank in Kansas City, Mo.; Cotswold Junior High School; Walin Central High School, Walin, N.Y.; Providence Nursing Home and superintendent for the building of the first part of Gaston College, Gastonia, N.C., and the ABC Warehouse. "All of that just about takes in my whole life," Chiles added.

Another achievement he is proud of: "I was able to school all of my boys so that they could have a better education than I did." According to Chiles, "My sons were never in-

terested in the contracting business, and I never pushed them into it. I wanted them to be happy in doing what they wanted to do, and I'm proud of their accomplishments."

He doesn't know if the number of blacks in the general building contracting profession has increased from 20 years ago. The blacks he knows in the profession are doing a fairly good job.

Black History Month is important to him for two reasons. "It gives us a chance to see the achievements blacks have made throughout the years, and it gives our young blacks a chance to see what their

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forefathers have accomplished," he answered.

The son of the late Vaughn Leon Chiles and the late Hattie L. Chiles, he has one sister, Mrs. Wilhelmina Williams. He and Ruth Chiles have five sons—Robert, president of the Greensboro National Bank; Thomas, who has a trucking business; Darrell, product manager for Wick in Boston, Mass.; Steven, manager of Burger King in Memphis, Tennessee, and Phillip, city fireman—and they attend Greater Bethel AME Church where Rev. Levi Brown, Jr. is pastor. The 1979-80 "Man of the Year" at the church is a member of the Board of Trustees, Stewardship and Finance Committees, and William's Memorial Club. He is also a former member of the Board of Directors of Menilic Construction. Chiles is a 1934 graduate of Second Ward High School and a 1946 graduate of Chicago Technical Institute of Engineering where he received a B.S. degree. He served as a

yeoman in the Navy from 1943-45 and took a refresher's course in engineering at San Diego Junior College in 1945.

"I would like to see more of our young people get involved in engineering and the computers. Everything is computerized now. Kids should adapt themselves into going into these particular fields," Chiles suggested.

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