

# Black Officials Take Oaths

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government. "It's a commitment I take very seriously and of course I need everyone's help. I want the people to talk to me," he stated.



Rep. William "Pete" Cunningham

As black legislators in the General Assembly, Richardson, Barnhill and Cunningham will all be members of the Black Legislative Caucus, a group within the Assembly comprised of the 16 black legislators in North Carolina. The Caucus acts as a support for black legislators and its members usually serve as an united front on issues. "When there are only 16 black legislators out of the 170 in the General Assembly," explained Richardson,



Rep. Howard Barnhill was accompanied by his wife, Lois, in the chambers of the House of Representatives before oath-taking ceremonies began.

"We can't afford to go our different directions."

"There are more things we can get done as a group," added Cunningham.

When the swearing in ceremonies began at 1 p.m. on Monday, Barnhill and Cunningham took their places in the House chamber while Richardson took his across the hall in the upper chamber of the Senate. Oaths were taken in the House and Senate chambers simultaneously. Hundreds of family members and friends of the legislators filled the galleries to witness the ceremonies.

The 137th session of the NC session began immediately following the swearing in. Richardson had stated before the session his desire to serve this year on committees that dealt with human services. During the session, he was named as chairman of a committee that will consider bills affecting veterans and senior citizens.

## Simpson-Gillespie

### Sponsors Bake Sale

Fellowship Group No. 4 of Simpson-Gillespie United Methodist Church will sponsor a Bake Sale on Saturday, February 14, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The event will be held at Bethlehem Center, 2705 Baltimore Ave.

The public is invited to attend. The Building Fund Project group No. 9 of Simpson-Gillespie recently held a Sweethearts Banquet at Cochrane Junior High School. Dr. Don Steger was the guest speaker and her presented the topic, "Faith in Yourself and Faith in God." Music was rendered by the choir of Union Chapel United Church of Christ.

STATESVILLE AVENUE  
Rev. Wilburn Sanders, members and friends of Statesville Avenue Presbyterian Church celebrated the church's 35th anniversary recently.

At the program held at Johnson C. Smith University's Student Union, all present gave appreciation for the church's increased membership, its strong organizations, and the members' continued love for Christ.

Statesville Avenue extends appreciation to all who have supported the church over the last 35 years and invited the public to worship.

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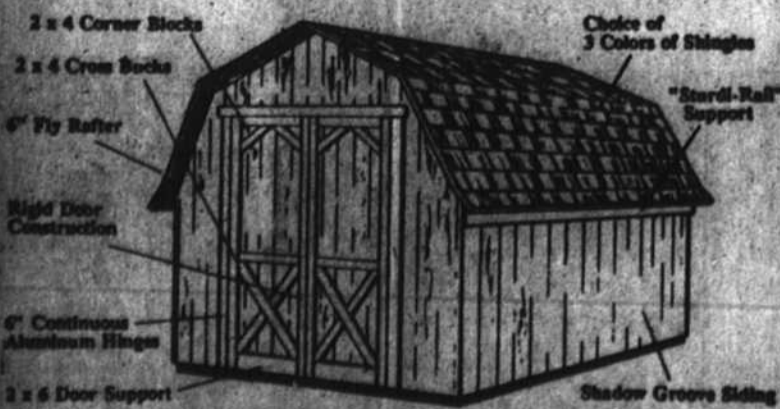
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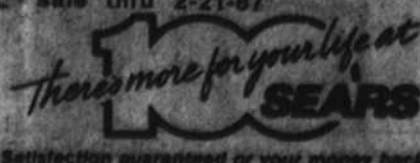
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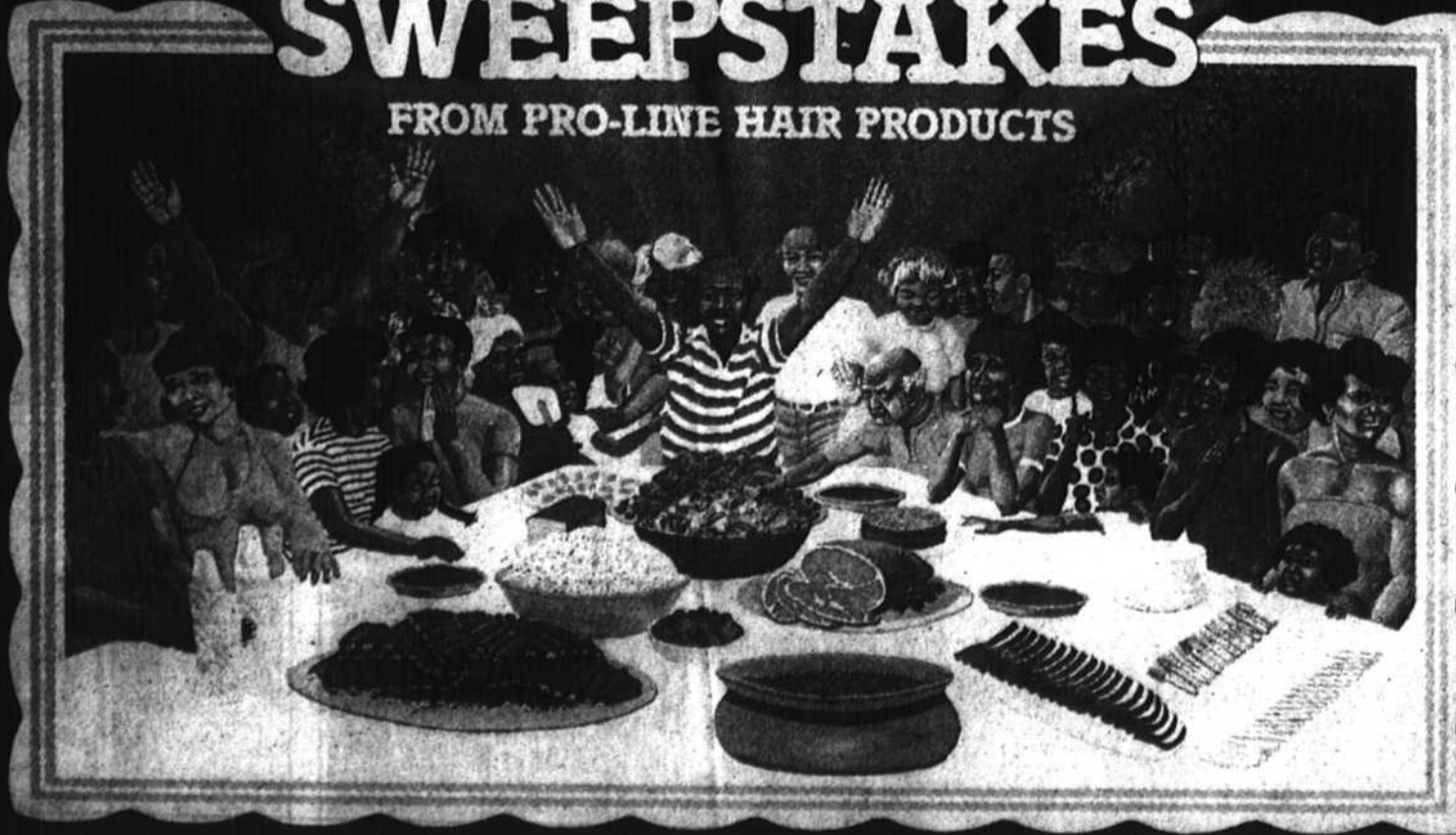
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