

CHARLIE FERGUSON COMMUNITY CENTER

1398 REINHARDT COLLEGE PKWY; CANTON 30114 / 470-563-8272

TANNISH WELCH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TANNISH’S LINEAGE FROM KEITH FAMILY OF KEITH PLANTATION IN KEITHSBURG. BORN AND RAISED ON PEARIDGE; NOW RESIDES IN WOODSTOCK. DAUGHTER OF PHYLLIS HUNTER AND DAVID BARRON. MARRIED (DREW) WITH 3 DAUGHTERS (TIANA-FORENSIC CHEMIST, TARIAH-USCG, TAYA-DATA ANALYST. VP OF HR FOR DEVICE SERVICES GROUP (DALLAS TX) AND VOLUNTEER POSITION: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CFCC

CFCC
IN 1980, A COMMITTEE WAS FORMED LED BY MR. CHARLIE FERGUSON TO DETERMINE STEPS TO FORM A VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT. THE LAND WAS DONATED BY THE STONE FAMILY; COUNTY CONTRIBUTED \$50K, AND COMMUNITY RAISED REMAINING FUNDS AND NO COST LABOR. FIRST ALL BLACK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT IN THE STATE OF GA. AFTER THE COMMUNITY COULD NO LONGER SUSTAIN THE FACILITY, CHEROKEE COUNTY STEPPED IN.

IN 2015, CHEROKEE COUNTY MADE PLANS TO BUILD A NEW FACILITY (ACROSS THE STREET) AND RETURN THE OLD FACILITY TO THE COMMUNITY. THE OLD FACILITY NEEDED EXTENSIVE REPAIRS SO WAS REPLACED WITH A NEW FACILITY VIA A CDBG GRANT. DOORS OPENED IN JULY 2023. TANNISH WELCH WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT/EXEC DIR AFTER THE SUDDEN, UNEXPECTED PASSING OF DEA JOHN HEARD.

CENTER’S MOTO: ONE VILLAGE, ONE COMMUNITY

CENTER’S MISSION AND PURPOSE:
It is the mission of the CFCC to strive to conserve what our ancestors left to the descendants of the community by providing charitable programs and activities that will address the community’s needs in education, mental and physical health, and social areas. The purpose of the center is to fulfill the mission and for such other charitable and recreational purposes as will qualify it as an exempt organization.

ARSHA BROWN, CREATIVE DANCE (DAUGHTER OF TOYA MORRIS-- GREW UP ON PEARIDGE AS WELL.
SONG: STAND UP FROM HARRIETT by CYNTHIA ERIVO

CFCC IS NOT A COUNTY FACILITY AND THUS MUST OPERATE VIA DONATONS, CORP SPONSORS, COMMUNITY PLEDGES AND RENTALS.

CONDENSED STRATEGIC PLAN

EDUCATION & LITERACY

- TUTORING/MENTORING (PARTNERSHIP WITH CCSD)
- GIRL SCOUTS
- NUMEROUS LEARNING OPP’S: FIRST TIME HOME BUYER, MAINTAINING HOME OWNERSHIP, FRAUD PREVENTION- SENIORS
- TECHNOLOGY TRAINING

WELLNESS INITIATIVES

- 1ST HEALTH FAIR (SPONSORED BY NORTHSIDE) DEC (175 PARTICIPANTS)
- 2ND CURRENTLY PLANNED FOR JULY 13TH
- LUNCH N LEARNS (DIABETES, STROKE PREVENTATION, CANCER AWARENESS)
- WISH LIST: BETHESDA HEALTH (LARGE POP OF FOLKS WITHIN 3 MILES OF CFCC W/O ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND FOR WHATEVER REASON WILL NOT VISIT THE OTHER MOBILE CLINIC SITES).

TO DATE, MOST OF OUR PROGRAMMING HAS FOCUSED ON SENIORS:

- LUNCH N LEARNS
- CHRISTMAS GALA

COMMUNITY FUN

- BINGO NIGHT
- FREE LINE DANCE CLASS
- PROGRAMS: BLACK HISTORY, WOMEN HISTORY



David C. Keith



Smut Jim Keith



David and Nancy Keith



Martha Lois Keith Gregory



Artie Keith



TRUSTEE BOARD



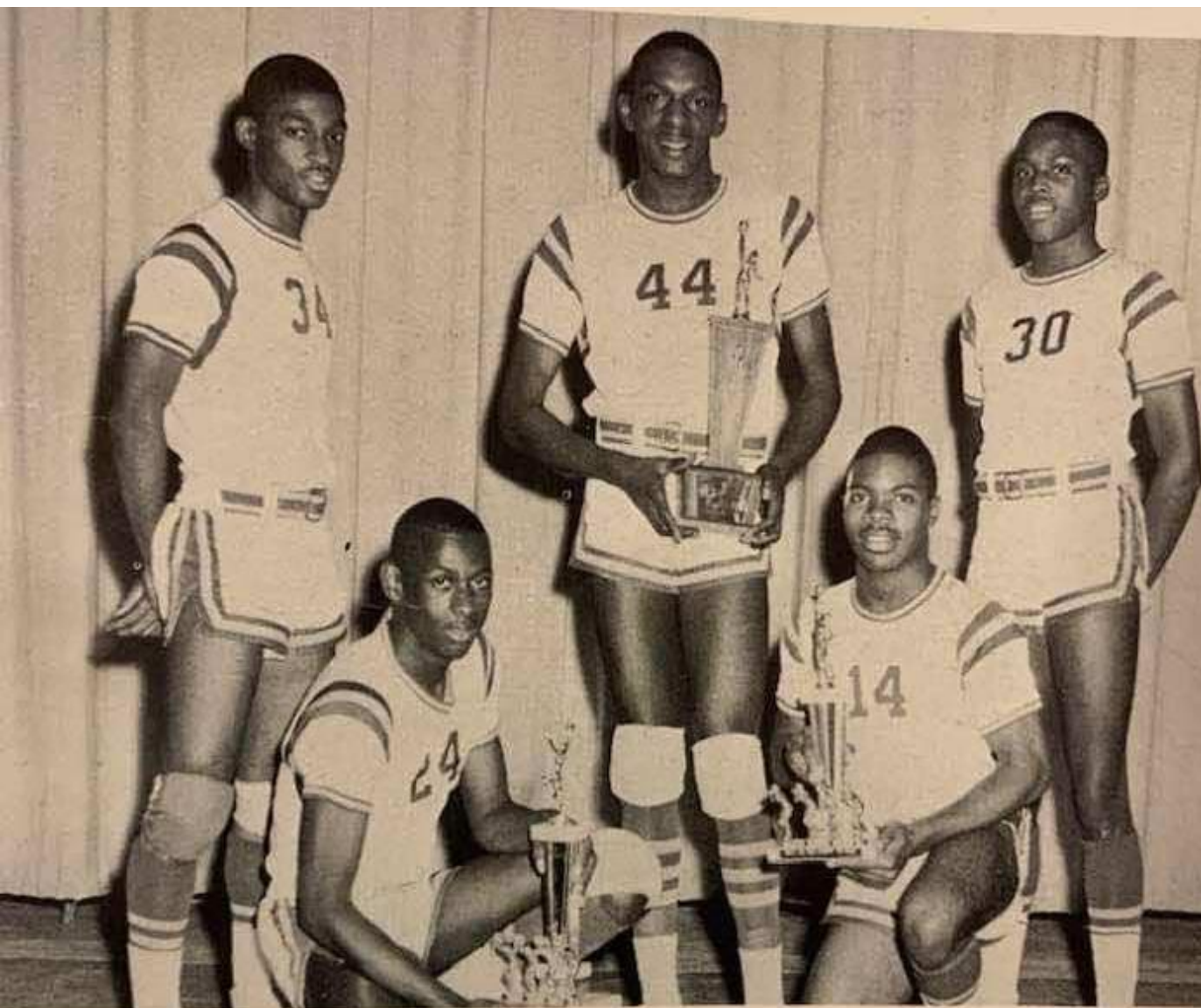
Left to Right, First Row: Mr. Charlie Ferguson, Sr., Chairman.

Mr. John Henry Morris, Rev. Oscar Jordan.

Second Row: Mr. Johnnie Price, Secretary, Mr. Noble Langston, Treasurer, Mr. Dillard Watts, Mr. Eugene Gay, Mrs. Gertrude Watts Hubert, Principal, not pictured.

DAVE F. TERRY WITH CHILDREN





David Barron-Forward, Oscar Pickens-Forward. STANDING: Tommy Blacky-Center, and John Durham-Guard.

Your community

NORTH

Jessie Davis was a baseball pioneer

Man they named park after brought the game to African Americans

By Johnetta Dillard
Senior Reporter

In 1958 Thurman Zachery organized the Winston Pros baseball team, the first recreation program for African Americans in Douglas County.

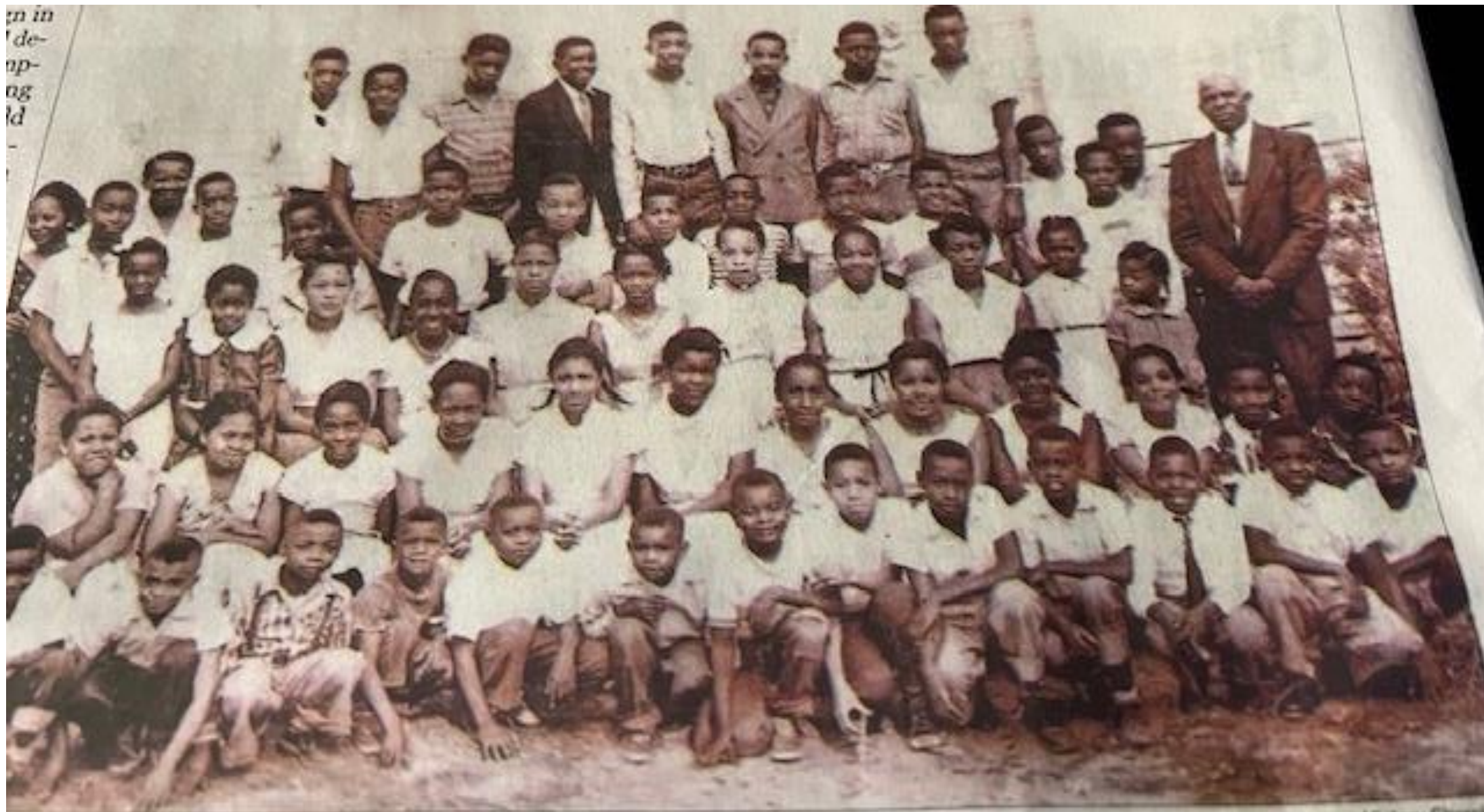
Another baseball fan, Jessie Davis, would later become manager of the team that he would relocate to Douglasville and rename the Douglasville Pros, thus beginning in 1989 the city's first organized recreation program for African

A team photo of the Douglasville Pros. At far right in street pants is manager Jessie Davis.



SECOND GRADE





CANTON JUNIOR HIGH - STUMPTOWN





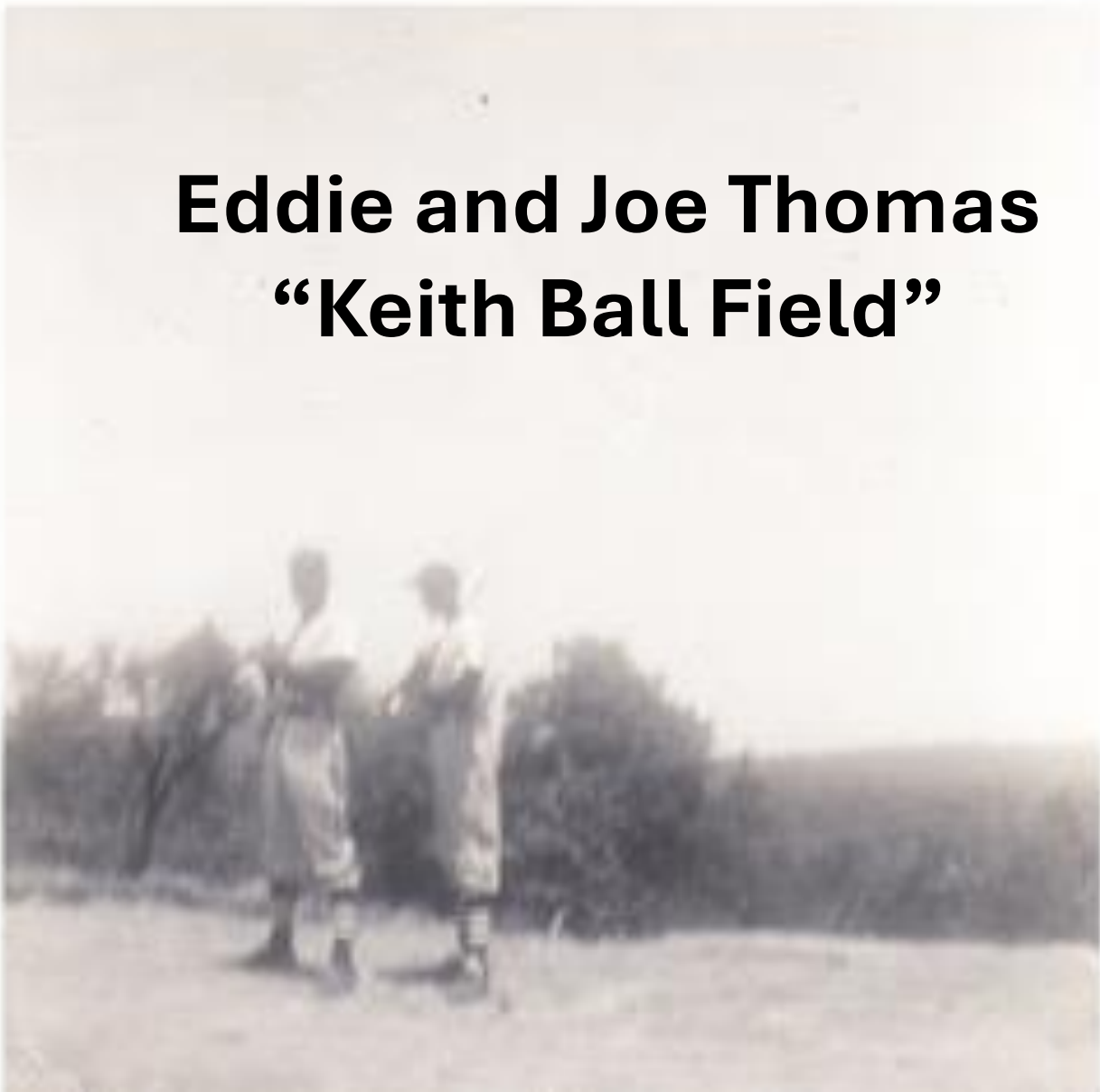






Professor Edgar Billingslea (former principal at Cherokee County Training School, and Walter Keith, oldest son of Dave Keith.

Eddie and Joe Thomas “Keith Ball Field”





Last high school graduation, class of 1967 being led by Sylvia Forsh Baker (highest honor of 11th grade).



St Paul Senior Choir at Old St Paul in 1958:

A W A R D



**Otis Keith receiving
a Scout award**

**Easter Sunday at Papa
Keith's house**





Sunday School Class – Old Hickory Log



**Forsh Children at new church building before
it was completed**

**Frankie Shepherd,
Evelyn Byrd Mitchell.....**





**Lydia Forsh, Doris Morris,
Rev. R R Freeman,
and Beatrice Forsh**



Girls' Basketball Team



(Faint, illegible text)





Grave debate in Cherokee

Developer's plan to relocate cemetery stirs opposition

By D.L. Bennett
Staff Writer

The graves of dozens of Cherokee citizens and generations of their descendants may be dug up and moved to make way for a Cherokee shopping mall.

Developers of Cherokee Place plan to relocate the 127-year-old cemetery of Historic Log Cabin Presbyterian Church, one of Cherokee County's three black churches.

There are no written records of how many were buried at Historic Log Cabin church grounds, and developers say there are still 500 graves. There is hope about the fate of the church's founding in 1872 and predicted the move that 1970s.

Some churches and churches are reluctant to agree to move the first to make way for a shopping center.

"We think the dead should be left alone," said the Rev. Ernest Holmes, pastor of the 800-member church. "I don't believe in moving the dead. They shouldn't be disturbed."

Developer Mike Turner says the small cemetery is on property owned by Historic Log Cabin Co. of Atlanta and made it make way for a proposed expansion of the shopping center.

Historic Cherokee Place is a 400,000-square-foot "center city" and owned by J.C. Penney and Best department stores at 1240 U.S. 1-177 in Canton. The 100-acre site eventually will include Cherokee's first regional shopping mall. The cemetery was its main site.

Turner said having a cemetery inside a regional shopping center is just a matter of time. He plans to apply to the city for a permit to move the



Last night, Charles Ferguson has buried his wife, mother and father in the 127-year-old cemetery, Church of Cherokee County. He is opposed to a developer's plan to relocate the cemetery.

"If it is relocated, then families will have the chance to be buried together. There will be perpetual care. I've not been to judge what's good and bad, but we'd like to relocate the cemetery."

PHIL WATSON
Editor

turn to judge what's good and bad, but we'd like to relocate the cemetery."

With at least 400 graves, Turner's proposed relocation might be the biggest work project ever attempted in Cherokee. He expects to move at least 100 graves.

no longer put on line until it would cost.

The Historic Log Cabin is the oldest black church in Cherokee County, which has long been one of the state's black population.

The church was founded just seven years after the end of the Civil War as a Methodist church for the freed slaves. It was the graveyard was located on two acres of land donated by Philip Smith, who was buried there in 1889.

Church members originally built a large building near the cemetery on Highway 177.

They also used wooden services in a brick building on nearby Williams Drive in 1907. Members used an annex building about 200 people about 1910.

There hasn't been a lot of the cemetery.

and John Henderson. "I wanted green grass with a white path," said the cemetery's white oak and green grass of the more recent burial — at least one at least in 1940.

Believed all Cherokee County graves, there are many graves are located along Highway 177.

Graves were kept and kept. Some graves for the cemetery's foundation and some graves that have passed away were off the ground and then any new graves.

Believed the church has a separate cemetery. Members would go to where the first was, he said. But they don't want to dig up and move.

The developer believes he has done the right thing. He has bought a piece of land

Heard makes history as black councilman

By Charlotte Rusch
Cherokee Tribune Staff Writer

History has been made in the city of Canton, according to the new Canton City Council member, John Heard. Heard was sworn in at the April 6 meeting of the Canton City Council as the first black councilmember.

"My appointment lets me know that we are progressing in more ways than one," said Heard. "As a councilman, I represent all the citizens of Canton, not just the black citizens."

Heard, who works for General Motors, and his family have been residents of Cherokee County all their life. Heard's wife, Delores, works at the Ralph Bunche Center with the Headstart Program. They have two children — Alessa, 24, lives in Carrollton and works for AT&T, and Stephen, 23, lives in Canton and works for the Bank of Canton.

Heard said he is not sure of what his responsibilities will be on the council yet or what department he will be serving over, but promised that whatever it is, he would do his best for the citizens of Canton.

"Serving on the council, you want to be able to do a lot of things," said

people and they made me feel welcomed and part of the family for a long time and not a newcomer," said Heard.

Canton Mayor Walton Davis said he feels Heard will do the city of Canton a good job.

"Heard ran for the position when it was up for election and came in number two," said Davis. "He showed an interest in being on the council and I feel when someone shows this much interest, he should be given a chance to be on the council."



Staff photo by Charlotte Rusch

HISTORY IN THE MAKING: John Heard was sworn in at the April 6 meeting of the Canton City Council as the first black councilmember.

Welcome...
to the
"Historic"
Ralph
Bunche
Center



This building has proudly
provided education for:

- The African American children of the community called this school their home for many years. They attended both Elementary and High School here and were responsible for requesting that the Board of Education name the school after Ralph Bunche. The last two High School class pictures are proudly displayed on this wall. This community continues to take pride in the history of their school.

(Please visit our Parent Room to view our Trophy Case)

- In the early 1970's, this center was the home of many kindergarten children. Additionally, the Head Start program was funded for Cherokee County and the first pre school classrooms were housed in this building.

- After the kindergarten classes were permanently placed the elementary schools, the building housed both Head Start and Special Education classes.

- Today, the building is the home of Head Start, Bright From the Start, and preschool intervention classes.

Dedication



Principal H.A. Bell

Class of 1965 proudly dedicates this issue to
one who has for six years done everything in



Mrs. Lura Hilliard and Mrs. Nellie Keith are responsible for preparing our balanced meals.

Secretary



Congratulations to the Senior Class on the culmination of the Bachman. As you look back over your years of attendance at Saint J. School, may you do so with a smile and no regrets. May you receive rich rewards remembering that: "The people who get on in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want, and, if they can't find them, they make them!" This is not the end. Let it be your beginning.

In the undergraduate members of the student body, may you be inspired by the achievements made by your schoolmates. May the next years be as rich and rewarding as you would want them.

Miss Florence L. Strickland,
Secretary

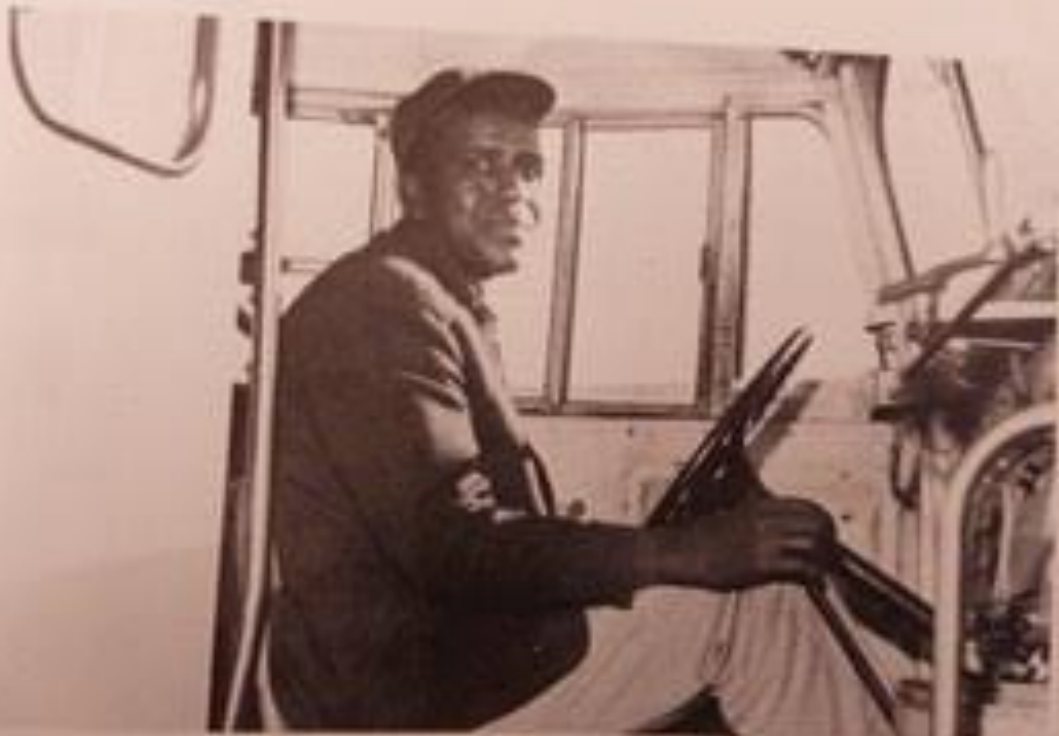


Boy's Varsity Team

KNEELING: David Smith, Tommy Blackwell, Joseph Thomas, William Lee, Oscar Pickett, James Stanley. STANDING: Mr. B. E. Trammell, Coach, Perry Holmes, Eddie Thomas, John Dorian, and James Pickett.



"How do you like to go up on a swing?"



Mr. James Stephens drives our children to and from school safely.



MRS. JOHNNIE P. McPHAIL

B.S., Spelman College
Elementary Education





Row of six student portraits in graduation caps and gowns.

Ralph J. Bunche High School

- Class of
1965



Portrait of a woman, likely a faculty member or administrator.



Portrait of a man, likely a faculty member or administrator.



Row of six student portraits in graduation caps and gowns.



Row of four student portraits in graduation caps and gowns.



Row of four student portraits in graduation caps and gowns.



DAVID BARRON

Basketball, Chorus, Hi-Y
Ambition: Coach



Cherokee County Training School

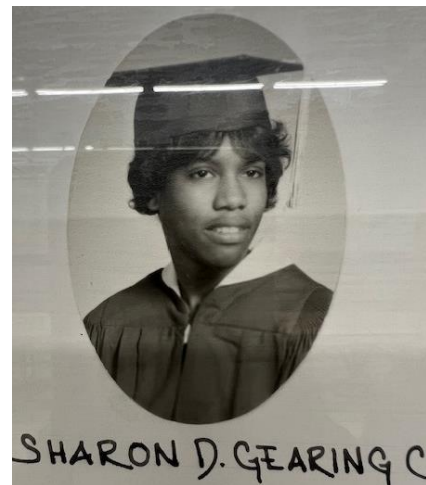


The Cherokee County Training School was the school in North Canton for African-American students. It was later renamed the Ralph J. Bunche School. During the 1966-1967 school term, as part of desegregation, students were given the option to attend Cherokee High School. The school is now used as a center for Head Start and Pre-K classes.

In the two photos, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Billingslea are the couple to the far right. Mr. Billingslea was the principal of the Cherokee County Training School and Mrs. Billingslea was a teacher at the school.

Information and photos provided by the Cherokee County Historical Society. For more information, please call (770) 345-3288 or visit www.rockharn.org.







JAMES PICKENS



WILLIE TANNER



JOHN H. McMICKENS



WILLIAM E. LAY



JAMES MORRIS
VICE-PRESIDENT



JOE L. KEITH



ROBERT JOHNSON



DAVID A. BARRON



WAYNE KEITH



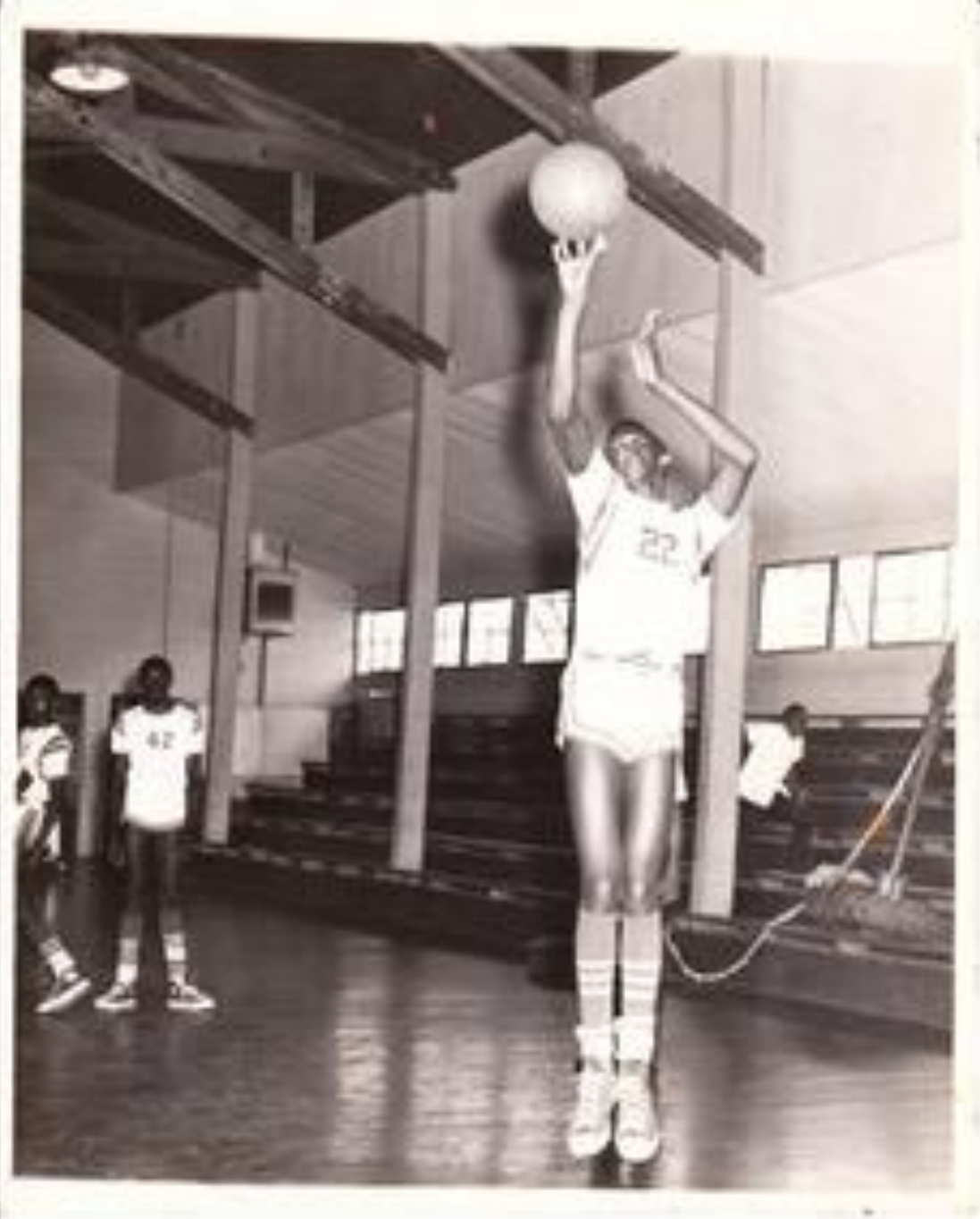
OSCAR PICKENS



PATRICIA A. TANNER
CHAIRMAN of COMMITTEES



BEVERLY WILLIAMS





Morris Inks With Western Carolina

James Morris, a 6-3, 230-pound defensive end, put his name on a national letter of intent Wednesday to play college football at Western Carolina University. Watching the 17-year-old sign were: (standing, L-R) Cherokee High principal Ed

Casey, Cherokee coach Larry Parker, and parents James and Nina Morris. Western Carolina is located in Cullowhee, North Carolina. (Staff Photo By Chuck Blake)

JOSEPH THOMAS



Eddie Thomas, Cotton Department, and Lelia Thomas, Mill No. 2 Weaving, have every reason to be proud of their family. Their son, Joseph, was a member of the '66 graduating class at Marist School in Atlanta. Seventeen year old Joseph attended Ralph Bunche High School and transferred to Marist for his senior year. Throughout school he was interested in sports and was active in baseball and basketball in which he excelled. This same interest and ability has now paid off for Joseph. Among the scholarships offered to him he has accepted a

WALTER THOMAS



four year scholarship to Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Joseph left June 3 to take a job in Milwaukee and play baseball until September when he will enter the University.

The Thomas' son, Walter, is with the Army in Viet Nam. Walter keeps in close touch with his family and just recently wrote to them asking them to accept the fact that the U. S. must remain in Viet Nam. He went on to say he does not care to be a hero but he had rather stay on and fight than for Communists to come to the U.S.A.

