

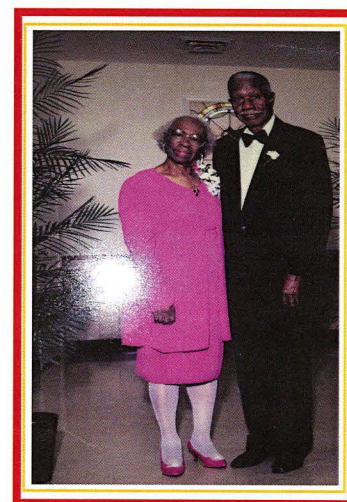
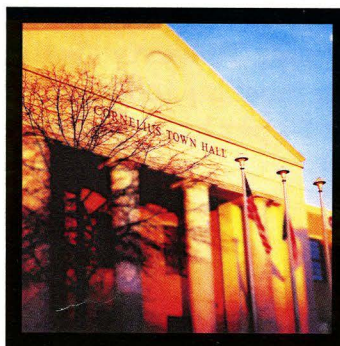
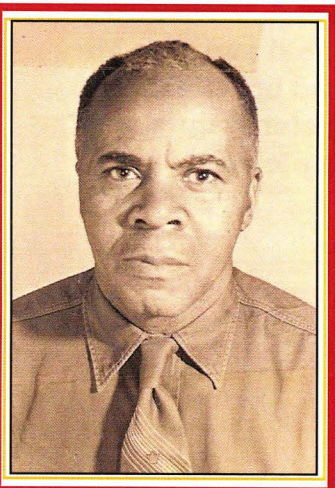
Celebrate Black History Month

"Building a Legacy"

Rivens & Potts Families

Saturday, February 28, 2015

2:30-5:00pm



Cornelius Town Hall, 21445 Catawba Ave.

FREE Public Event

- ◆ Performances
- ◆ Children's Activities
- ◆ Hear and Learn from the Rivens and Potts Families
- ◆ Family Memorabilia
- ◆ Refreshments

For more information on these or other PARC Department programs & events, please visit our website at www.cornelius.org/parc, or call us at 704.892.6031 ext. 160.



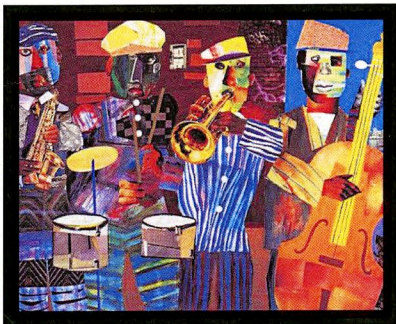
Celebrate Black History Month

cornelius  center

**School's Out Art Party
Friday, February 13**

10:00am - 1:00pm

Cornelius Arts Center, 19725 Oak Street



In honor of Black History Month, some of this drop-in event's art projects will be centered around famous and talented African-American artists like Romare Bearden, Faith Ringgold and Jean Michel Basquiat. This event is designed for ages 3 and up. Children 6 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Register at the door and fee is \$5 per hour, per child. Cash/check only please.

***Native Tongues* featuring paintings by John Hairston, Jr.**

February 9 - March 13

Cornelius Arts Center, 19725 Oak Street



Drop by the Cornelius Arts Center this month and view the work of talented local artist, John Hairston, Jr. John's paintings explore archetypes and heritage through rough strokes and vibrant tones. *Native Tongues* will be on display February 9 - March 13. For more information, please call 704-896-8823 or parc@cornelius.org. This exhibition is FREE and open to the public.

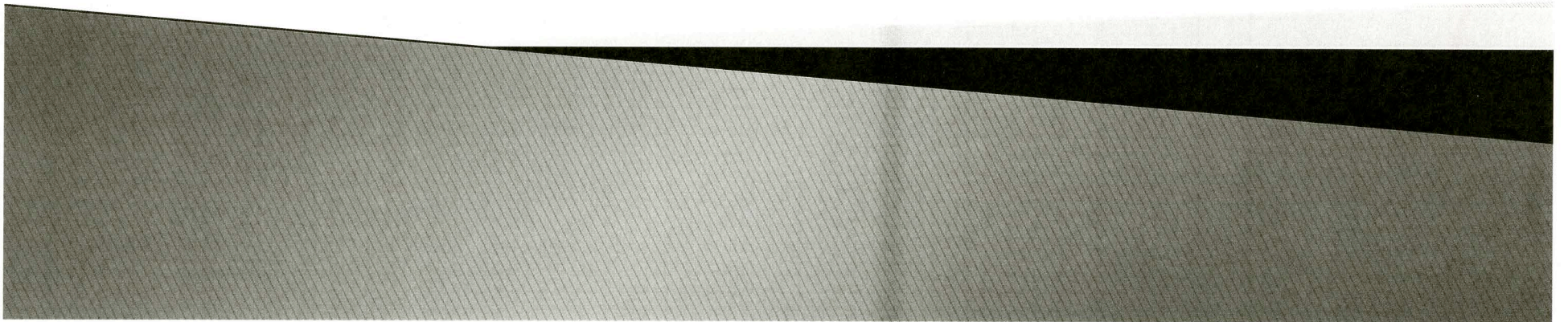
For more information on these or other PARC Department programs & events, please visit our website at www.cornelius.org/parc, or call us at 704.892.6031 ext. 160.



Potts Family

Building a Legacy

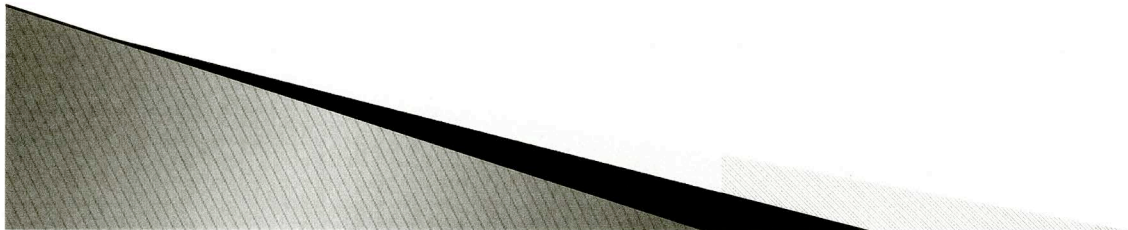
The Wilson Potts Story



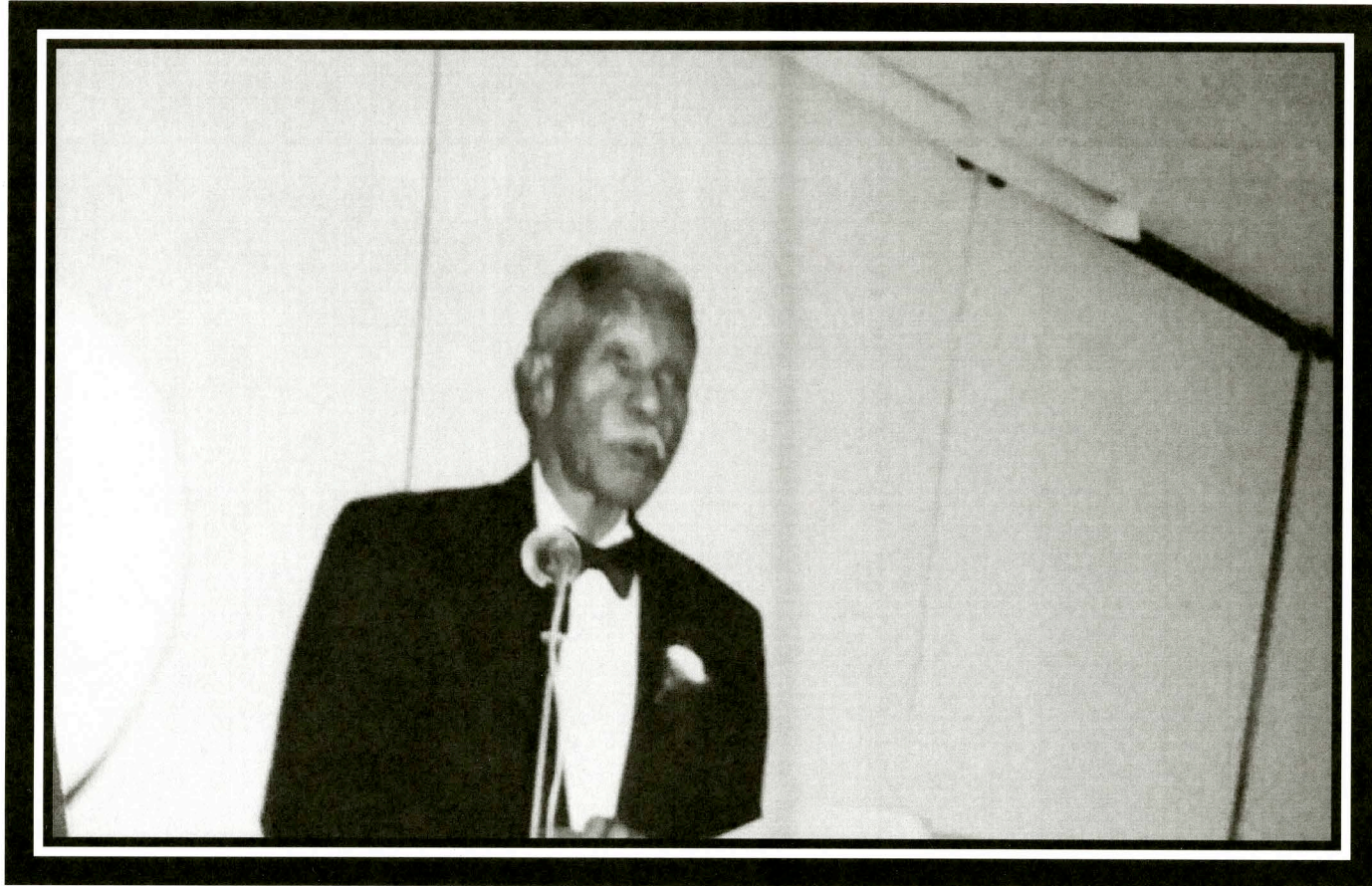
Purpose of Presentation

Story of Wilson Potts

- Personal – establishing his connection to Cornelius over a century ago
- Family – married for 60 years & raised six children
- Professionally–started barbering at early age, owning, operating the shop and training barbers
- Social & Civic – part of team to get water and street lights to Smithville
- Faith–based – Christianity was his spiritual guide. He joined Torrence Chapel at early age



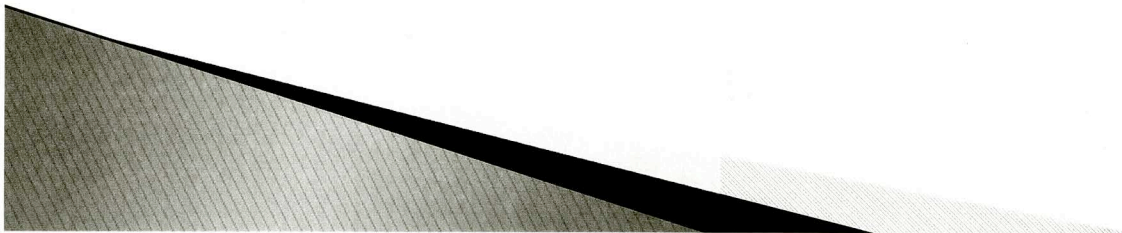
Wilson Henry Potts



Wilson Potts

Personal

- ▶ Born March 24, 1912 in rural Cornelius
- ▶ Parents – Lafayette & Buna Watts Potts
- ▶ Parents died by age 6
- ▶ Raised in Smithville by maternal grandmother and older sisters
- ▶ Attended Smithville Rosenwald School
- ▶ Started barbering around 1926
- ▶ Barbered until 1998 (72 years)





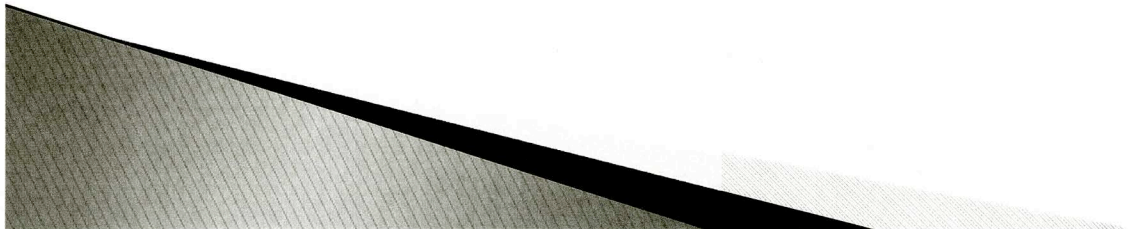
Wilson
&
Bobbie
Potts




60th Wedding
Anniversary

Wilson Potts Family

- ▶ Married Bobbie Torrence – 1933
- ▶ 1934 – He and Bobby along with baby – Eva Daphne (Daphine) moved to NYC
- ▶ Became trained and certified as a barber during this time
- ▶ 1935 returned to NC and James Lafayette was born
- ▶ 1937 – Gerald (Mickey) was born



Wilson Potts Family

- ▶ 1938 – Peggy was born (died Jan 1939)
 - ▶ 1939 – Bettie Jean was born
 - ▶ 1946 – Ronald was born
 - ▶ 1948 – Jackie was born (died shortly after birth)
 - ▶ 1950 – Cathy Nadine (now Moore) was born
 - ▶ 1987 – Family had grown from marriages, 9 grandchildren, we held our First Annual Potts Family Reunion
 - ▶ 2014 – We celebrated our 28th annual reunion
- 

60th Wedding Anniversary



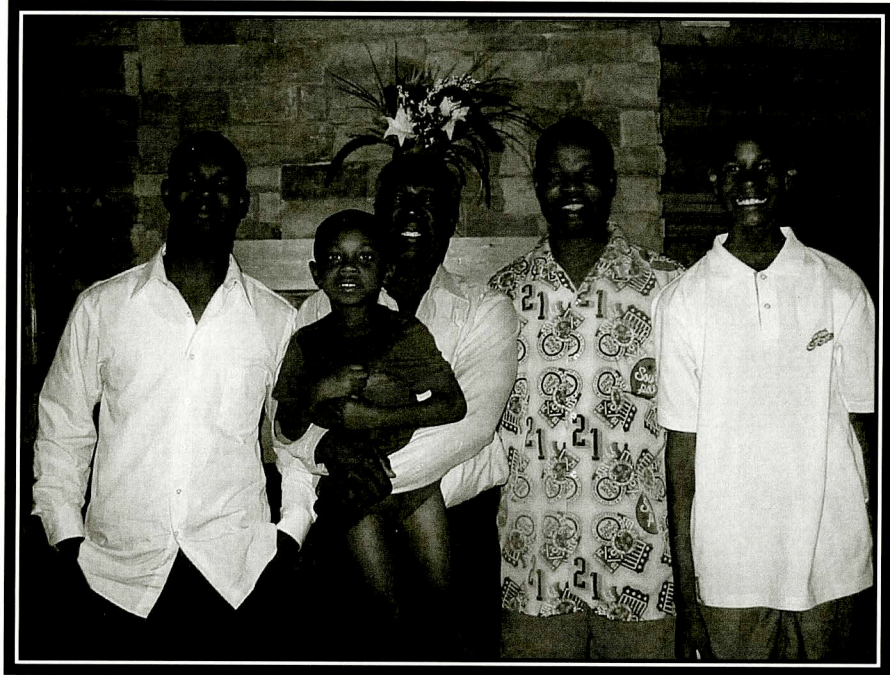
Daphne Potts



Daphne's Family



James' family continued

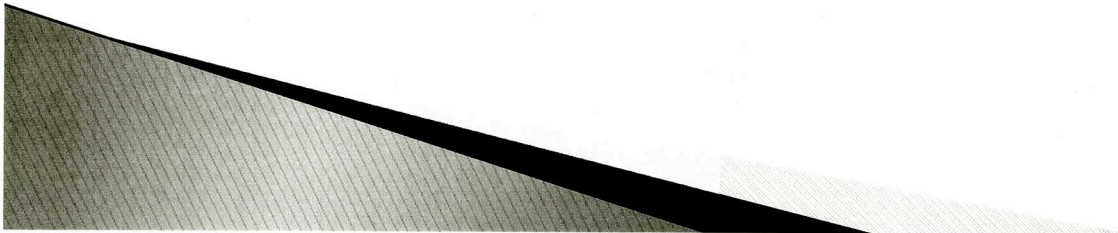


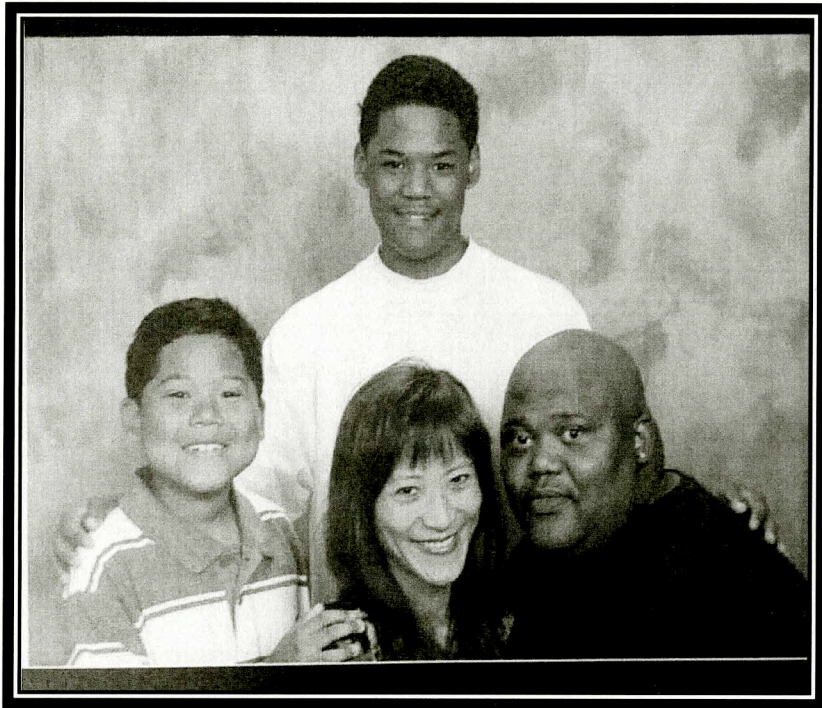


Gerald Potts & Family



James Potts and Family



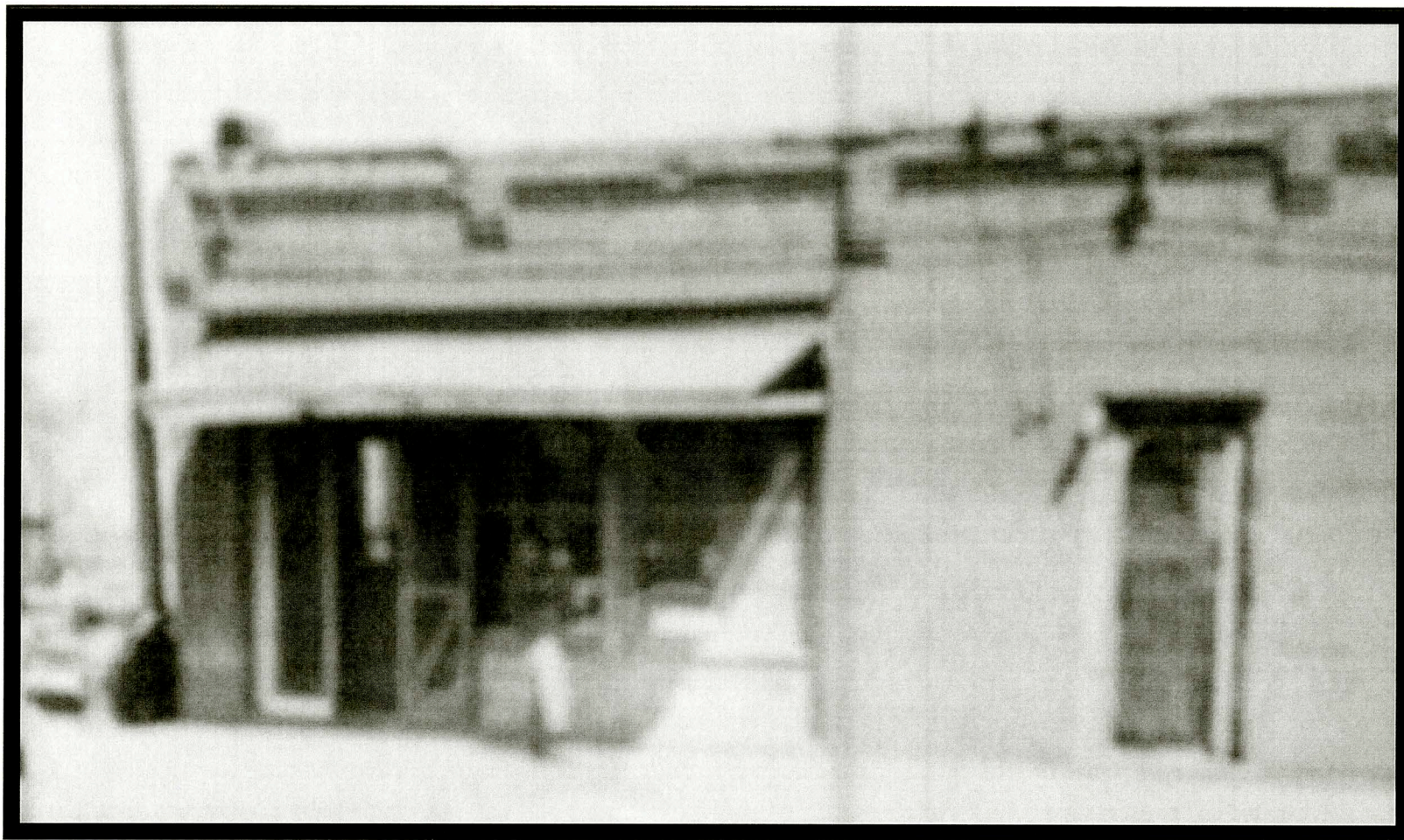


Bettie Jean Potts & Family





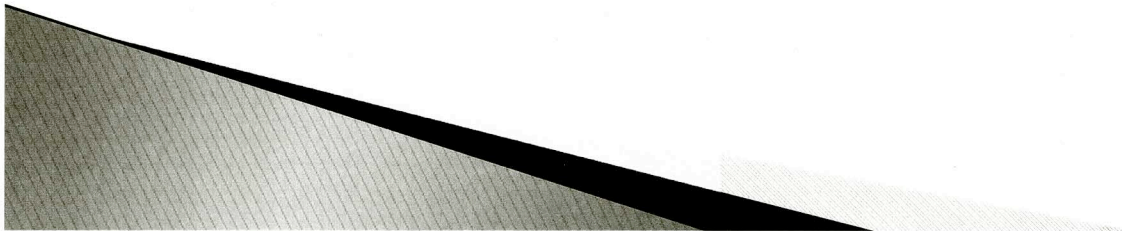
Brick Row



Wilson Potts

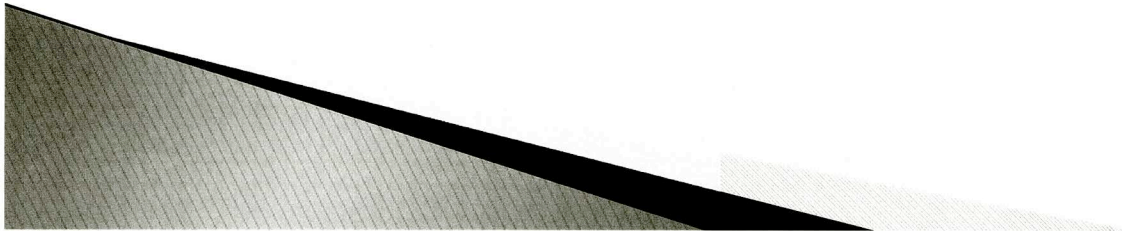
Professional

- ▶ About 1942 – Started barbering on Brick Row with Rutt Norton another black barber but the customers were white only
- ▶ 1947 – moved next door on Brick Row with Mr. Clarence Blake a white barber owner
- ▶ James (Brother) started going to barber school during the summers with the intent of joining him
- ▶ 1956 – Mickey started barbering with him



Wilson Potts Professional

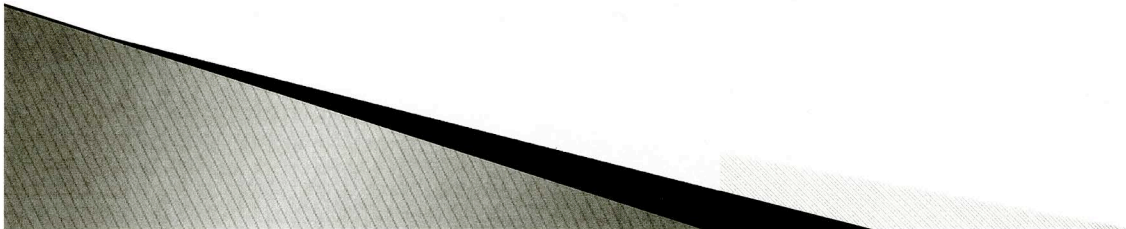
- ▶ The barbershop is more than just that
- ▶ In the 50s, there was a pool table in the backroom (no gambling?)
- ▶ Hot water, soap and towels were provided for that weekend date or Saturday shower
- ▶ You could always get your shoes shined by all the Potts boys – Brother, Mickey and Ronnie; Stinson boys – Barry, Wilson and Ronnie; Forney boys – Wilbert and Gilbert or Peewee



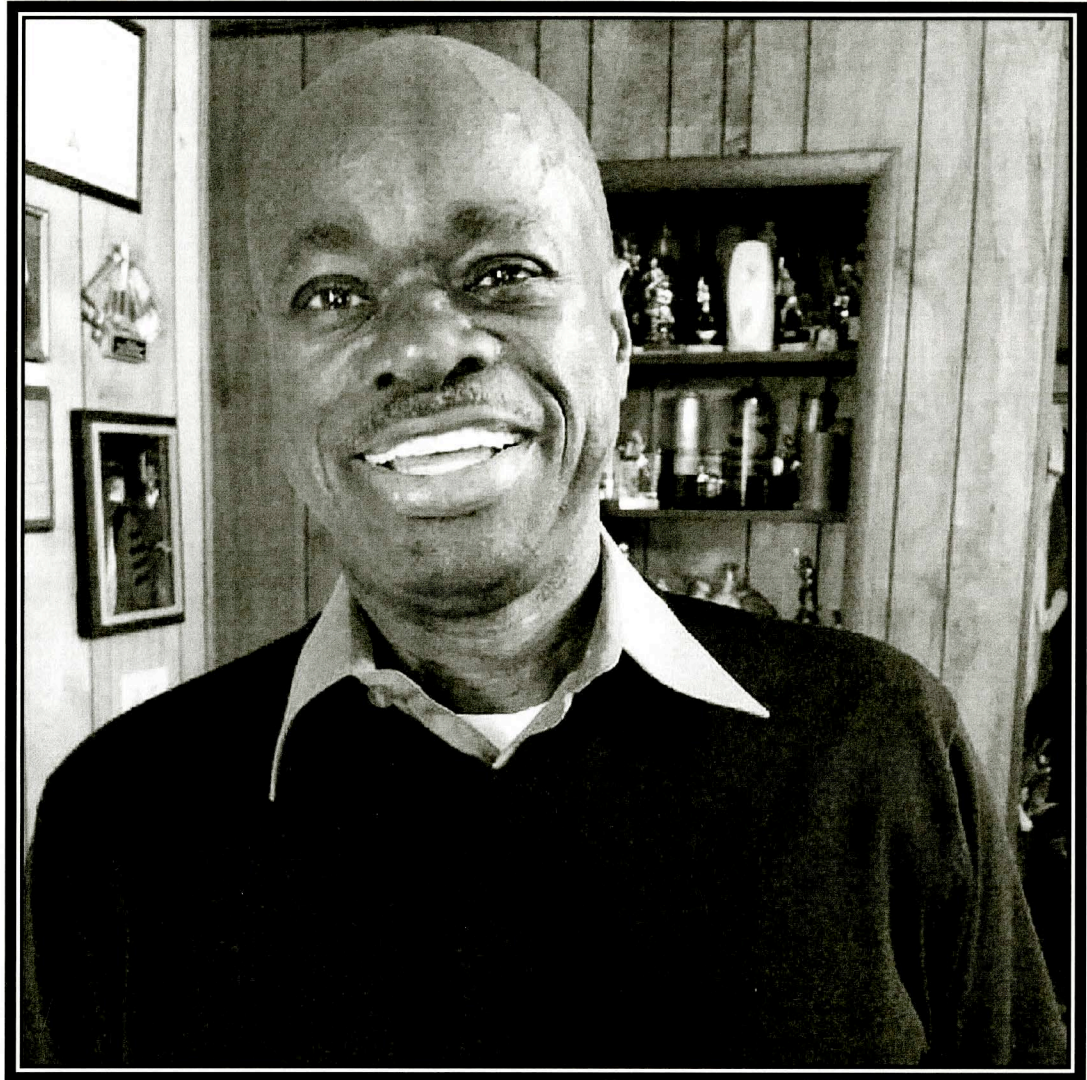
Wilson Potts Professional

Potts Barbershop Now

- ▶ 1996 – Sold the business to his son – Mickey
- ▶ 1996 – James left to start his own business in Davidson and Chad Hill replaced him
- ▶ 1998 – Mark Muldrow was hired
- ▶ Wilson helped train both
- ▶ 2007 – Martiaues Henderson was hired

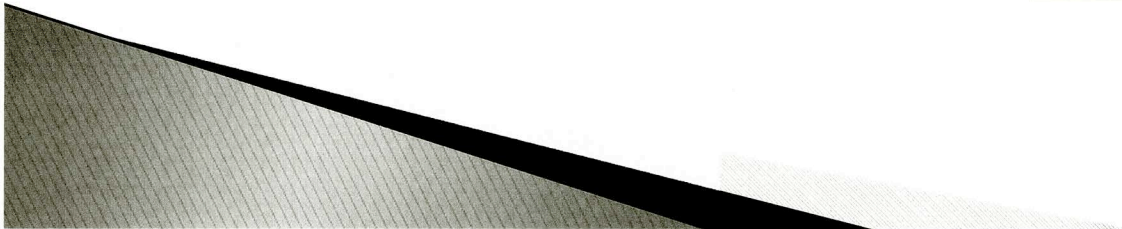
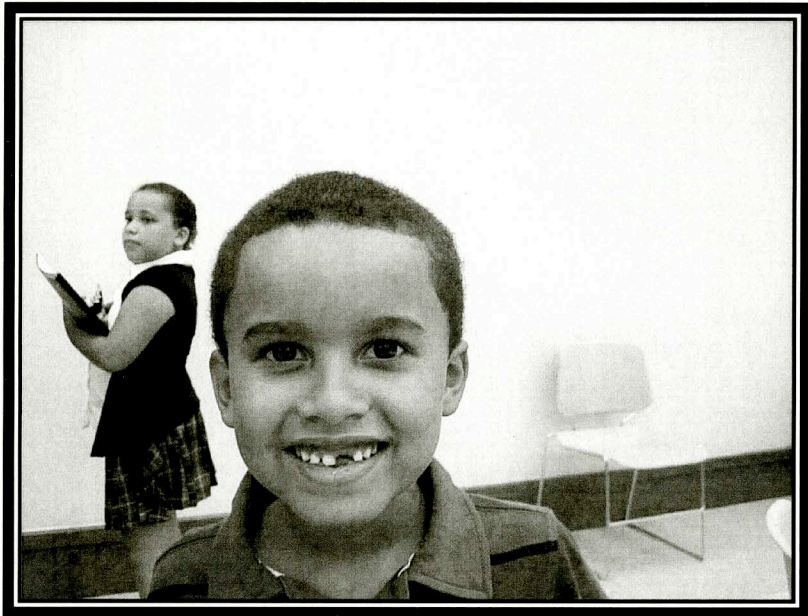


Ronald Potts



Cathy Moore & Family





The Potts Barbershop Today

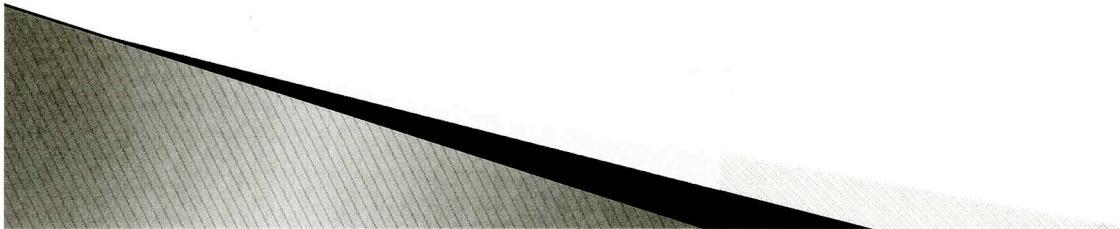


47)
nty
ith
e's
ike
ho

Wilson Potts Professional

- ▶ 1957- Wilson bought the barbershop from Mr. Blake
- ▶ 1960 - Moved the shop from Brick Row to current location and added a third barber - Jerry Kornegay
- ▶ Later - James Raeford joined replacing Jerry who opened his own shop in Huntersville
- ▶ 1972 - Toots Burton - a black man entered the segregated barbershop. Wilson told him to have a seat. That was the peaceful end to segregation.

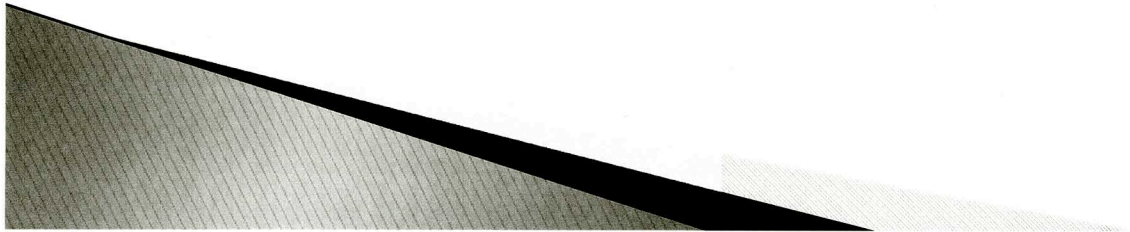
*Ask
Wood
Mayor
Pro Tem
Woody
Washburn*



Wilson Potts

Civic

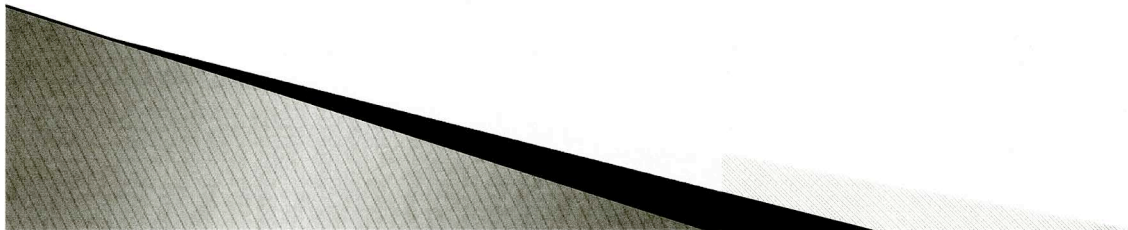
- ▶ Smithville was unincorporated at the time – outside the Town of Cornelius city limits. These men and others were credited with obtaining running water (Gayro Johnson, Harvey Shipp Arthur Nelson, James Forney, James Elmore Caldwell and I believe Fred Torrence,) and street lights for the community.
- ▶ They were the focal group for an early county extension program which promoted home beautification and promoted community cleanups



Wilson Potts

Civic

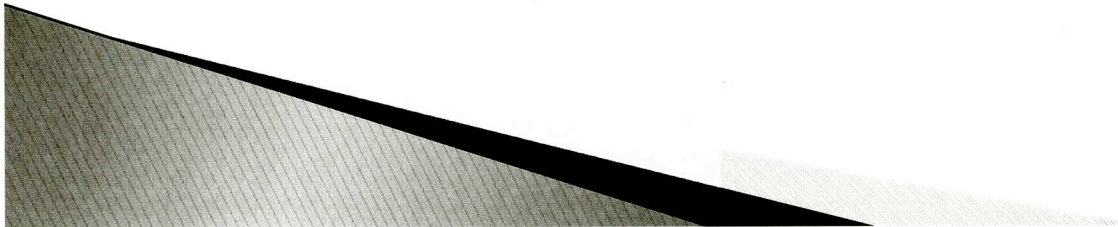
- ▶ Their unstated vision or mission was to create a better community in Smithville
- ▶ This center became a gathering place for surrounding communities
- ▶ It was a place for dances, baseball games, church functions, vacation bible school and summer recreation programs.



Wilson Potts


Civic

- ▶ Wilson was a part of the men and women who brought water to Smithville
- ▶ They collected money for water payments
- ▶ 1955 - The men expanded to form the Smithville Better Community Center
- ▶ They leased the Smithville Rosenwald School from the Board of Education and turned it into the Community Center



Wilson Potts

Civic

- ▶ Gardening was another of his hobbies
 - ▶ Around 1970, he started a beautification project for the entry ways to Smithville on Catawba Avenue. (This was before the city limits included Smithville)
 - ▶ He trained several of the young men from the Smithville Community in his hobby by teaching and guiding them.
 - ▶ 1987 – Grand Marshall for North Meck Christmas Parade
 - ▶ 1996 – Awarded the Cornelius Citizen of the Year
- 

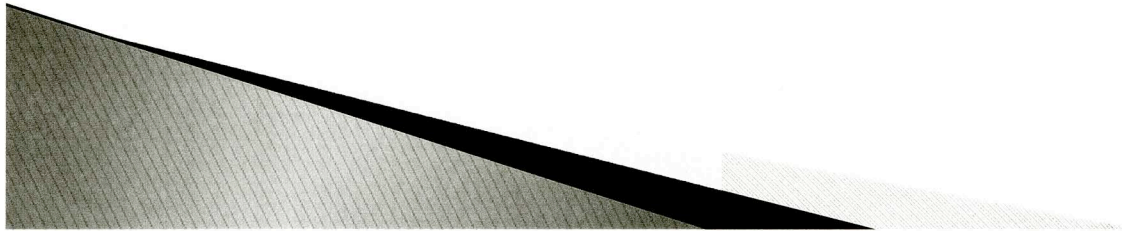
Smithville Community Center Men



Wilson Potts

Faith-based

- ▶ Joined Torrence Chapel at an early age
- ▶ Treasurer of the Trustee Board for many years
- ▶ Chairman of Cemetery Committee
- ▶ Usher Board
- ▶ Steward Board
- ▶ 1999 – Father of the Church



The Legacy Continues

