

THE POTTS FAMILY

TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REUNION



**Reflecting On Our Past to Enrich Our Future
Part II**

***August 8 -10, 2014
Cornelius, North Carolina***

REUNION HIGHLIGHTS

First Reunion

September 5, 1987, we gathered at the American Legion in Cornelius, NC attended by 100 family and guest.

Second Reunion

August 13, 1988 at Ramsey Creek Park. The program was ably presided by President Charles Moore.

Third Reunion

This was the first expanded format with cookout August 11, 1989; the Crown Jewel Dinner at Vail Commons, Davidson College - August 12. The decor was royal blue with spring flowers and elegant surroundings. The affairs ended with breakfast, August 13 at Nannie and Mickey Potts.

Fourth Reunion

The local format resumed August 10, 11, and 12, 1990 and the center piece was a cookout at the home of Bobbie and Wilson Potts.

Fifth Reunion

August 9, 10, and 11, 1991 was the Blue Ridge Mountain "Fun and Bonding" weekend trip. The transportation was by vans and cars. The family recollections at the outing were priceless. Another highlight was the attempt to teach the "Electric Slide."

Sixth Reunion

August 14, 15, and 16, 1992 and the big event was the famous Potts cookout attended by family members and guests.

Seventh Reunion

August 9, 10, and 11, 1993 was the Williamsburg, VA weekend trip. The transportation was by Ross Charter "bus, vans, cars and planes."

Eighth Reunion

August 13, 1994, was another famous Potts cookout attended by family members and guests. It was momentous because we remembered those we lost during the year, especially our matriarch – Bobbie Lee Torrence Potts, aka, Mama, Nana and by her friends - Bob.

Ninth Reunion

August 11, 12 and 13, 1995, was hosted by our cousins - Butch and Barbara Barnes in Washington, DC. This special weekend included a cookout, tour of Washington D. C. and ended with a heartwarming banquet where we shared our concerns and hopes for the future. It was special also because all the Potts Family attended and we were joined by the Burton and Torrence Families.

Tenth Reunion

August 10, 1996, was another famous Potts cookout attended by family members and guests. The highlight was the Interpersonal Relationships and Techniques Seminar that was facilitated by Ernestine Potts and ably presented by Kimberly and James Potts. We all learned something from the fictitious Evans family as demonstrated during the past year.

Eleventh Reunion

August 8 through 10, 1997, James, Ernestine, Kimberly and Regina Potts graciously hosted the reunion in Nashville. We did not allow the rain to dampen our spirits. Games for the bus trip were planned by Barbara Barnes, then the great fish fry and cookout at the Potts Ponderosa. The banquet theme was "Having Our Say". We shared memorable experiences of what it is like to be an African American over the decades starting with

Papa, Vertie, Nan and Mark Muldrow. It was very emotional and stimulated a lot of input from the audience, particularly Taylor. There was a talent show demonstrating the singing abilities of the family.

Twelfth Reunion

August 8, 1998, we returned to the family home place in Cornelius. The feature activity was a Financial Seminar presented by Cathy on Personal Banking, Insurance and Retirement Plans by Ronald Investment and budgeting by Kimberly and James. Later that afternoon, we hosted our family "cookout" with Tollis Johnson as chef. It was another great event.

Thirteenth Reunion

This reunion was held August 13 – 15, 1999 in Charleston, SC. We stayed at the Mills Hotel and we had a poolside party for on the day we arrived. The next day, we walked, shopped or toured by horse-drawn carriage. At the family banquet, everyone tried to get pictures with Papa. We had fun with a Black History Quiz. The food was great, the socializing was fantastic and the variety of things to-do satisfied all.

Fourteenth Reunion

August 10, 2000, we returned to the family homeplace in Cornelius. At our seminar, we decided to start a family investment club. James and Ernestine prepared the timelines and the general information. Later that afternoon, we hosted our family cookout. This reunion was about a month after the loss our patriarch – Wilson Henry Potts aka Daddy/Papa but we are stronger based on the values he and Mom taught us.

Fifteenth Reunion

August 10, 11, and 12, 2001, we again returned to the family homeplace in Cornelius where we hosted relatives and friends to a feast. We delayed our travel plans in order to travel to Nashville the following October for Kim and Jeff's wedding.

Sixteenth Reunion

August 9, 10, and 11, 2002, we started our weekend with the seminar which was an in-depth WILBOB Investment Club meeting at the Jetton Fire Station. Later, we moved to a new venue for the cookout and gathering – Torrence Chapel Park, It really seemed fitting to host the event close to our home church. We entertained about 50 guests. The children enjoyed the playground.

Seventeenth Reunion

August 8, 9 and 10, 2003 – Atlanta, Georgia. We arrived in Atlanta on August 8th. The Ross Family led us on a Black History tour that highlighted a visit to MLK Memorial Museum. Later we had a great cookout and poolside party arranged by the Holiday Inn. There were some great pictures taken of the kids and adults enjoying the event. The next day, we toured, shopped, relaxed. etc. At the banquet, Ernestine presented the program theme: "The Fabric of Our Family: Patterns of Influence in Shaping Our Lives". Marconi, Trina, Mark, Cathy and Mickey made expressions on influences shaping their lives. The Barnes presented the family with a booklet – "One World, One Heart by Susan Polis Schultz. We returned to Cornelius on August 10. The shortfall for the trip came from WILBOB Investment Clubs rather than family members.

Eighteenth Reunion

August 13, 14 and 15, 2004. The weekend started with a feast prepared by Vertie's. Mick and Nan. The next day, we held our seminar on Health and Wellness for Life at TorrenceChapel. Topics included lifestyle changes, diet, nutrition, exercise and you and your doctor. The feature activity was an outing arranged by Mick and Nan to the Knights Stadium where the Knights played the Durham Bulls. So who cares who won – we were together. Worship the next day was at Torrence Chapel.

Nineteenth Reunion

August 12, 13 and 14, 2005. We met at Mick and Nan's for the annual family feast. The seminar the next day was held at Mick & Nan's also. The topic was "Who Moved the Cheese" based on the book by Spencer Johnson, MD. It was about CHANGE. Story background was given by Ernie with Ron, Kim and Brother contributing. At the end we all revealed something we learned and how we were going to apply it to our lives. Each person expressed an individual goal they were going to work on during the year. It is confession time! Later that day, we moved to another new venue at the American Legion Park in Cornelius. Brother and Ernie were honored for their contributions to the reunion. They were surprised at the honor. Breakfast was at Prime's Restaurant the next day and then on to church at Torrence Chapel.

Twentieth Reunion

August 11, 12, and 13, 2006. Savannah, GA here we come. We had a very memorable tour of historic Savannah. The next time we go we will have to have the same tour guide, she was so insightful. We stayed on Tybee Island and enjoyed the sun, family and friends. One thing we will remember, no matter what, we must ask our elders before we enter the ocean. The Banquet was festive and full of memories from the past.

Twenty-first Reunion

August 10, 11, and 12 2007. We are back in Cornelius. We had a seminar led by Jeff and Kim Forde about Going Green. They shared several ways to start being kind to the environment for future generations. The cookout as always was fantastic. It featured food, fellowship and fun. Sunday we worshipped together at Torrence Chapel and at our meeting began planning for next year.

Twenty-second Reunion

August 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11, 2008. The Reunion Theme was: "The Key to Our Tree – Engaging the Generations. - Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. We stayed at the Colonial Property in four hotel-like cabins. Then we claimed our spaces. Each cabin hosted their own breakfast and some meals. There were tours to Dollywood, fishing, shopping. Then we had the family cookout followed by Heritage Bingo – what a unique way to present the family's traditions and history. The banquet was "The Potts Legacy" guided by Kim and Ernestyne. Mark and Claudia Muldrow, Marconi Robinson spoke on behalf of their generations. Mickey spoke for the Seniors. Jeff Forde presented a wonderful keepsake – a CD Slide Show Presentation – The Key to Our Family future.

Twenty-third Reunion

August 7, 8, and 9, 2009. The Reunion returned to Cornelius, NC. We started the weekend on Friday with dinner hosted by Mick, Nan and Vertie. The seminar was held on Saturday at the American Legion in Cornelius. The topic was on estate planning, living wills and planning for the sates of life and death. We continued the celebration with an indoor cookout prepared by Tollis Johnson and David Morrison. We entertained about 100 guests. We surprised James (Brother) with a special recognition (cake and a GPS) for his third but not final retirement. We ended the weekend at Torrence Chapel for Revival.

Twenty-fourth Reunion

August 12, 13, 14 and 15, 2010. We returned to Washington, DC for the first time in fifteen years. Who can exceed the hospitality extended by Cousins Barbara and Butch Barnes and family – Lanham, Md.; In addition, we were greeted by Cornell Harvell from California, Arlandis and his DC family – some whom we had not seen in years. Vickie Burton Baxter and her family also surprised us coming from Charlotte. We were also hosted by Rodney & Ruby Potts and family and Kevin Holt. Then – what a delicious feast – enough to feed an army. We tried to dance it off. The next day – Friday – we went in different directions depending in interests – Six Flags, Smithsonian, shopping or nothing. On Saturday, we went on the White House Tour. The Stinson, Grier, Nelson Family Reunion was in DC. Also, coincidentally, we all booked at the same hotel and followed one another into the White House. Saturday night, the banquet theme was "POTTSibilities: A Union of One planned by Kim & Jeff Forde. The program a pictorial and quiz of Washington, DC, POTTSibilities by our third generation family.

Twenty-fifth Reunion

Our Silver Anniversary in 2011 was back in our homestead of Cornelius, North Carolina!! Our theme for this year was Reflecting On Our Past To Enrich Our Future. Friday the kids went to Emerald Pointe in Greensboro for water fun in the sun. We had a great dinner hosted at Nan and Mick's home. Saturday we had our traditional seminar and this year the topic was Resolving Conflicts Effectively. We all learned the different ways to approach conflict and there are more sharks and wannabe sharks than we thought☺. We had our Banquet at the Cornelius Town Hall. The space was transformed into quite a banquet hall fit for the occasion. We enjoyed a slide show, great food and most of all memories to propel us for the next 25 years and beyond. Sunday we were able to worship together at Torrence Chapel.

Twenty-sixth Reunion

The reunion for 2012 was also back in our homestead of Cornelius, North Carolina – continuing our goal of saving for the following year of travel!! Our theme for this year was Building The Way For Future Generations. As several family members stated, we built a home – the Philadelphia House “Brotherly Love” which was labeled as a Habitat Extreme Makeover. We divided into two shifts. There was some competition between the two shifts on which group did the best. We hung interior doors, cut and laid floor molding. We were pictured in the Habitat International/NRI Annual Update/ July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012. In addition, we had a cookout hosted by Mick & Nan Potts family which includes Vertie on Friday. Saturday afternoon, we hosted about 60 guests plus family at the American Legion with an indoor cookout. During the program, we paused in memory of the loss of Eva Daphne Potts who was the first born child of Wilson and Bobbie Potts. On Sunday, we were able to worship together at Torrence Chapel.

Twenty-seventh Reunion

How awesome was this! The theme for reunion 27: “Unity, Love Circles The Family. Avista Resort, 300 North Ocean Drive, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. What great work by Marconi in making the arrangements. Everybody had fun on the Beach, at the POOL, in our Rooms or out shopping. Cookout at McLean Park. The food was delicious. Three “Sharks” Tina, Claudia and Missy were in charge of the fish and they cooked and cooked and kept us all straight so nobody dared get out of turn. Banquet. Theme Tina presided as Mistress of Ceremony. She was meant for this and she showed it. Great work! We sang, We prayed, We pledged and We ate. The Slide Show during dinner brought many, many memories. There was Invocation and Prayer by Vertie and Mickey. There were presentations by Marconi, Milton and Michelle. The grand and great grandchildren led the Grace, a song led by Trina and Cathy. Brother told the next and next, next generation that torch is being passed, we must keep it going. One of the highlights of the program was the FAMILY TREE designed by June on the theme while explaining the origins and significance of the branches of the tree. An emblem was placed on the tree in memory of our deceased loved ones. Charles Jeffrey Moore was the cherished son of Charles and Cathy Potts Moore. PRAISES, PRAISES TO THE NAN and GERALD POTTS wing of the family for planning such and outstanding Family Reunion Trip and carrying out a great program. Arrangements and accommodations were outstanding. The Fellowship among Family and Friends ranks as one of the best if not the best.

Schedule of Events

Date	Activity	Time
Friday, August 8	Kid's Outing Movies & Bowling	1 pm
	Family Dinner	5 pm
	Old Homeplace (Now Bet's)	
Saturday, August 9	Breakfast	On your own
	Habitat for Humanity Group	8 am
	Decoration & Setup Group	10am
	Lunch	On your own
	Meeting @ American Legion	5pm – 8pm
	Clean-up	8pm
Sunday, August 10	Breakfast	8 am (On Your Own)
	Church at Torrence Chapel	10 am
	Sunday Dinner	12:30 pm
	Family Restaurant Huntersville (On your own)	
	WilBob Meeting	8 pm -9pm

The Meeting
Saturday, August 9, 2014
5:00 p.m.

Theme: "Reflecting On Our Past to Enrich Our Future – Part II"

Mistress of Ceremonies

Ashley Muldrow

Opening Song

Lift Every Voice and Sing
Page 9

Prayer

Patrick Muldrow

Black Family Pledge

Camryn Moore
Page 9

The 'Meeting' Purpose

Mark Muldrow, Jr

The "Greeting"

Fourth & Fifth Generations

Acknowledgments/Remarks

The Host Families

Closing Song

Lift Every Voice and Sing
Last Verse, page 8

Grace

-----The "Eating"-----

Fun & Games

LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

First Verse

*Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ing with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song, full of the hope the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.*

Last Verse

*God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by thy might, led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee:
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.*

BLACK FAMILY REUNION PLEDGE

Leader: *Because we have forgotten our ancestors,*

People: *Our children no longer give us honor.*

Leader: *Because we have lost the path our ancestors cleared kneeling in
perilous undergrowth,*

People: *Our children cannot find their way.*

Leader: *Because we have banished the God of our ancestors,*

People: *Our children cannot pray.*

Leader: *Because the old wails of our ancestors have faded beyond our
hearing*

People: *our children cannot hear us crying.*

Leader: *Because we have abandoned our wisdom of the mothering and
fathering,*

People: *Our befuddled children give birth to children they neither want nor
understand.*

All: *Therefore, we pledge to bind ourselves again to one another,
To embrace our lowliest, to educate our illiterate,
To feed our starving, to clothe our ragged,
To do all good things, knowing that we more than
Keepers of our brothers and sisters,
We are our brothers and sisters.*

No better time to say thanks

Potts is on many people's minds at Father's Day

By Jim Brown

It was 1912 when a little boy came crying into a world of poverty, just west of Cornelius, off Highway 73. The youngest of six children, his mother and father died when he was very young and he was practically raised by an older sister. As he approached manhood, opportunity and education were limited . . . to those with a different color of skin.

At the age of 21, having just taken married Bobbie Torrence, the young man, Wilson Potts, considered the future of his family with hope and determination.

"I wanted to give them a chance to have an education," Potts said recently from his Barber Shop in Cornelius. "I didn't have a chance myself. I wanted to give them a chance."

And somehow, along the way, he also proved what others have proved in life . . . that an education is not the most important thing. Wilson Potts, one of the most respected businessmen in Cornelius and the greater North Mecklenburg area, has barbered in Cornelius for 53 years, owning and operating his own business for most of that time. He worked long hours . . . and different jobs . . . to be able to provide a good education for each of his six children.

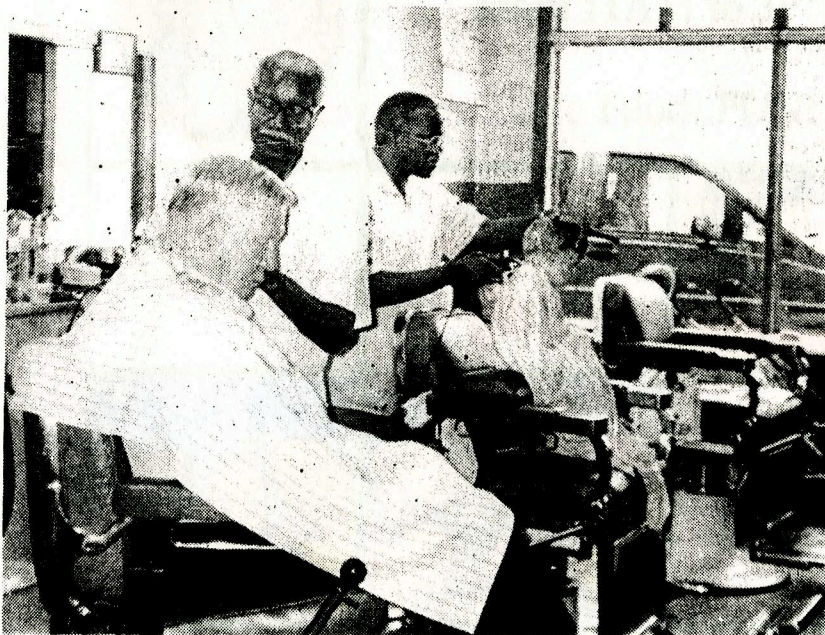
This Father's Day, Wilson Potts' six children, Daphne, James ("Brother"), Gerald ("Mickey"), Betty, Ronald, and Cathy, are grateful for the example their daddy has left them.

"The thing I have admired the most about Daddy has been his determination to guide us in the right direction," Daphne Potts said recently. "And he loved us all."

"Mickey" Potts has barbered alongside his Dad for 39 years. At 18 he wanted to go to college, but older sister and brother Daphne and James were already in and the money just wasn't there. "But after having a job for two years, with money in my pocket and driving my own car . . . college was the farthest thing from my mind!"

When asked what it was that he admired the

most about his father, Mickey says, "There's a bunch of them: the way he raised us, what he instilled in us about treating people right, having good work habits, and, being there when we needed him. He



was always there."

Wilson has also been an example in the area of community involvement. In the 1940's he walked house-to-house to get petitions signed to encourage the county to pave Hill Street in the Smithville Community. He also was part of a group of men who bought the old school building in Smithville in order to convert it to a community center.

In the early 70's, Potts joined hands with Wes Rood, then mayor of Cornelius, and Hugh Roy

See POTTs-page 2A

Potts a hero to his children

(Continued from page 1A)

Rood, then mayor of Cornelius, and Hugh Roy Smith, of Smith's Nurseries, in a beautification project. The three were responsible for planting flowers all over town. "I worked flowers from the Family Mart (currently The Beverage Mart) to behind the liquor store," Potts said.

Hugh Roy Smith's widow, Beulah, remembers with fondness Potts' involvement with the project. "Wilson came right in and I don't think he's ever stopped," Smith continued, "You couldn't ask for anyone to work any harder than Wilson Potts did."

And while many in Cornelius have felt his contributions, his

family has followed his lead. Mickey served with the Cornelius Fire Department for many years in addition to coaching baseball on the Bronco and Pony league levels. Daughter-in-law, Nannie Potts, has put in countless hours of service on the town board. Grandsons Gary and Jerry Potts are currently serving as volunteer firefighters . . . following in their father's

and grandfather's footsteps.

And, of course, behind every good man is a good woman. Wilson and Bobbie Potts were married for 60 years before she died in 1993. "I did all the work," Wilson said, "But she had the harder job (of taking care of the children)."

Wilson Potts is, according to Mayor Wes Southern, "the listening post for the community."

According to former Mayor Harold Little, "He is an asset to Cornelius in business relations."

But more importantly, to his six children, "He was there all the time."

"I'm just proud of him being my Father," Mickey Potts said. "I hope I can show some of the same qualities that he had. Cutting hair at 83? I don't think I'll make it!"



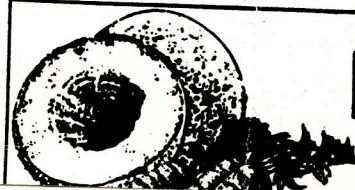
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FARMERS MARKET

Retirement home says thanks to barber duo

Father-son team give unselfishly

By JOSHUA BARACH
Staff Writer

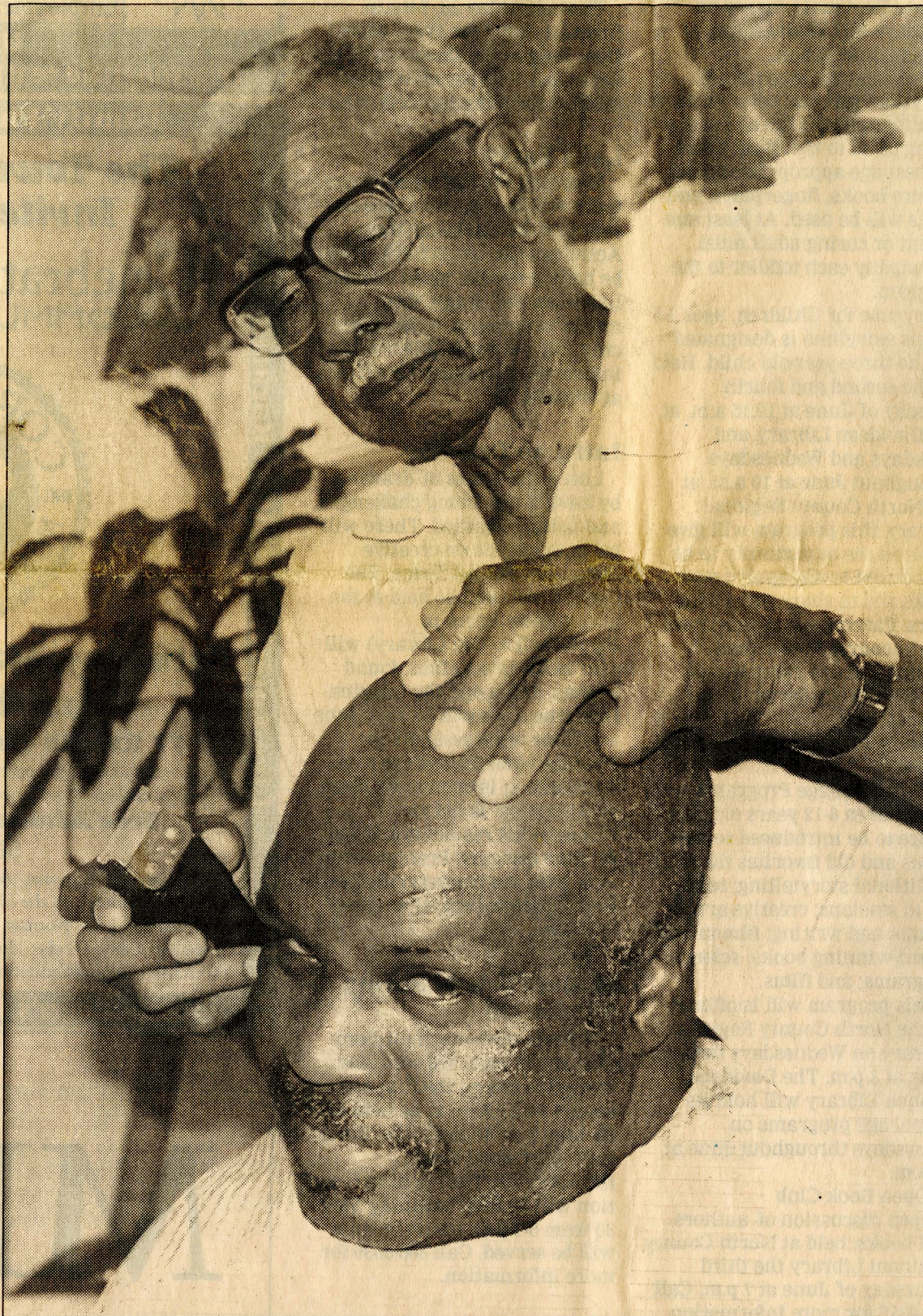
Wilson Potts, 86, has been cutting hair for 72 years. His son, Gerald, has been at it about 42. With 114 years of experience as barbers between them, the father and son team at Potts Barber Shop on Catawba Avenue in Cornelius is an institution.

And recently, they were honored for their volunteer efforts at the Huntersville Oaks Nursing home, where they take time each month to trim residents' hair.

Beginning at nine in the morning, the barbers each may cut the hair of 15 or 20 men before they leave at lunch time. Lois England, volunteer coordinator at The Oaks, calls the free services of Wilson and Gerald Potts invaluable.

One recent day, as the two of them clipped away at the The Oaks, residents waited in line patiently and chatted over the hum of the electric shears. Many residents who ordinarily are vocal sat quietly waiting their turn as if something profound was about to happen. Gerald Potts was training an apprentice of sorts, someone to relieve them when they are not

(See BARBERS, Page 5A)



Wilson Potts gives The Oaks resident David Blakeney an "all the way" hair cut. (Photo by Joshua Barach)

BARBERS: *Father and son honored for volunteer work at Oaks*

(Continued from Page 1)

available. When the barbers finished, the look of appreciation on their clients' faces was unmistakable.

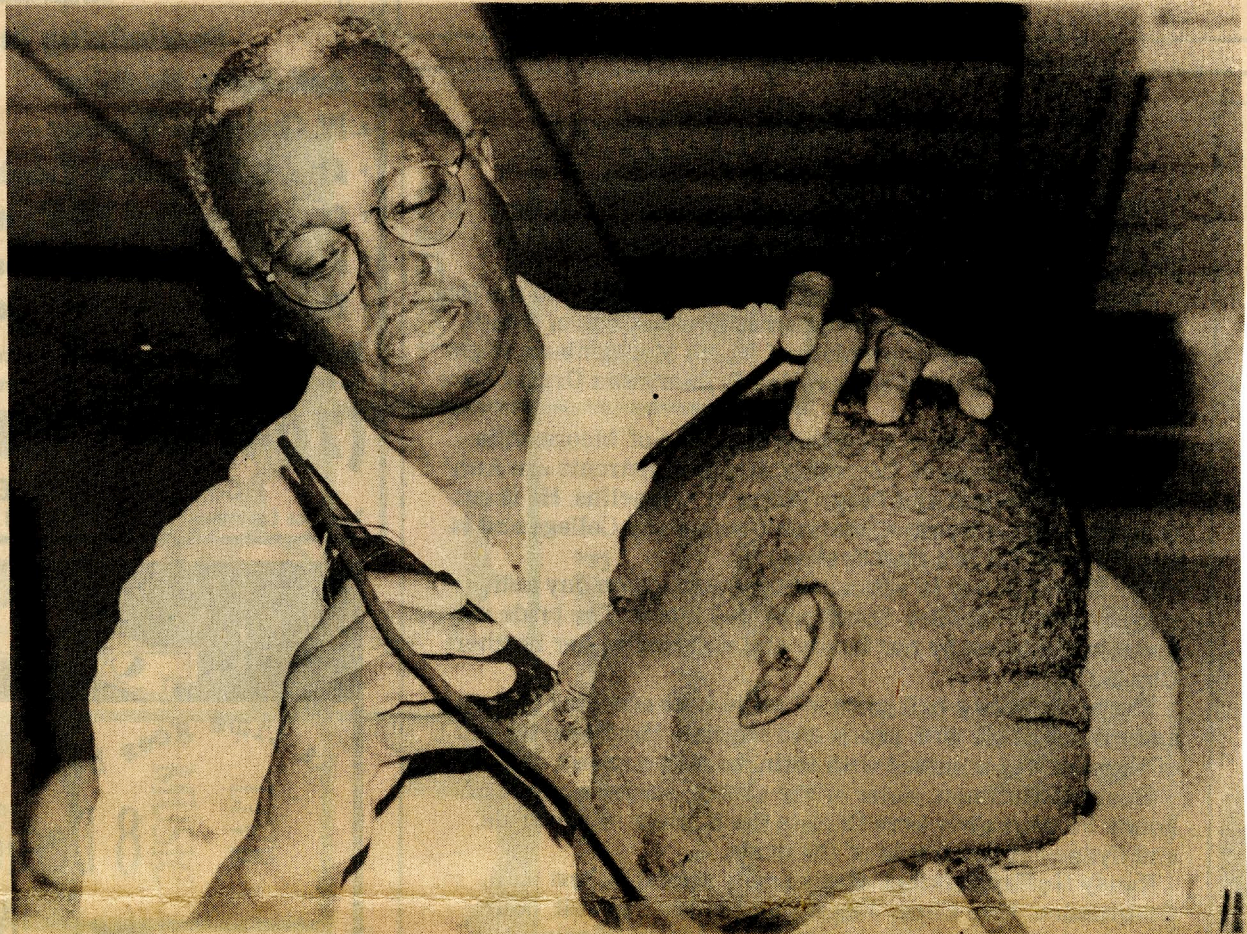
Not only do the barbers relieve the staff at The Oaks from having to perform tonorial duties, but the Pottses are, well, professionals and make sure that all of their customers are satisfied.

In fact, more than a few of the residents were once walk-in customers at the Potts' shop in Cornelius and have had their hair cut by them for as long as they can remember.

Sheree Sherrill, a nurse secretary on the A floor at The Oaks, can't say enough about how much the residents and staff appreciate the Potts' work.

"Both of them do a really good service for us here," says Sherrill. "They have a lot of patience with the residents and they always come with a smile on their faces. They're really good with the folks here."

At age 86, what gives Wilson



Gerald Potts, like his 86-year-old father, volunteers his time and talents. (Photo by Joshua Barach)

Potts the energy to contribute so much to the people at The Oaks, and still maintain his business? Maybe it has some-

thing to do with breakfast.

"I have grits, eggs, a slice of bologna, cantaloupe and some liver mush," says Wilson. He

says he never tires of his volunteer time at The Oaks, and residents there hope he doesn't anytime soon.