

A P P R E C I A T I O N   D I N N E R   H O N O R I N G

BRO. JAMES D. ELDER

MT. ZION U.F.W. BAPTIST CHURCH  
47 BEAVER STREET  
NORTH EDISON, NEW JERSEY

BISHOP ANDERSON ADAMS, PASTOR  
ELDER A. LOVETT, JR., ASST. PASTOR

DECEMBER 12, 1981

7:30 P.M.

Bro. James Dolphos Elder, Jr. was born July 30, 1903 in Memphis Tennessee to Minnie Florence and James Dolphos Elder, Sr. He has one sister, Mrs. Emma Matthews.

In 1924, along with his mother and sister, Bro. Elder moved to New York. He attended Elementary School in Hempstead, Long Island and went on to graduate from the High School located there. He attended City College in New York City where he spent two years studying a Pre-Law Course. After four years of attending Brooklyn Law School Bro. Elder received his Bachelor of Law Degree.

On June 4, 1931, Bro. Elder and Viola Taylor were joined together in Holy Matrimony. God has blessed them with two children, Janet and Eric, six Grandchildren, and two Great Grandchildren.

Bro. and Sis. Elder in their desire to move to the suburbs, purchased a half-acre of ground in what was then known as Potters Crossing. They then purchased a cabin from a local resident, had it moved to their lot and moved into it on May 11, 1935. Bro. Elder found it convenient to commute from Rahway to Pennsylvania Station in New York City about one block from the General Post Office where he was an employee.

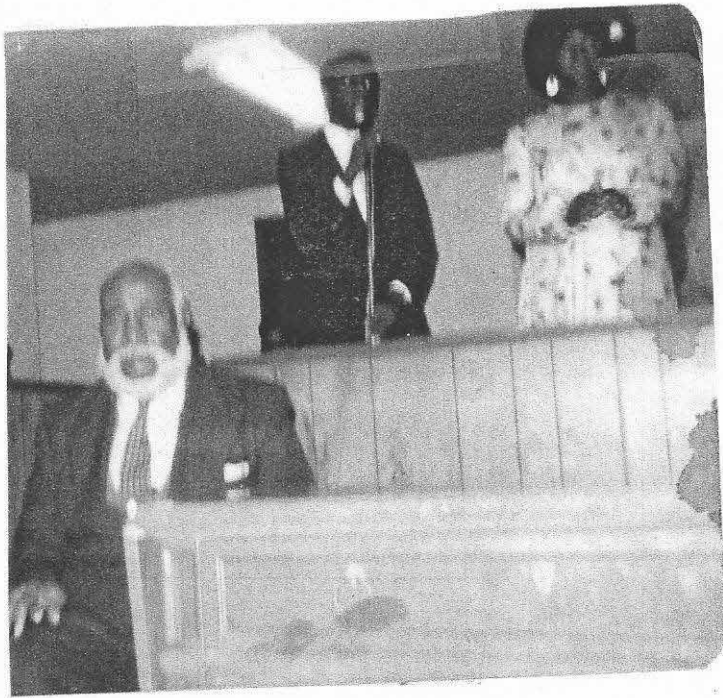
It was in 1935 that Bro. Elder became a member of Mt. Zion U.F.W. Baptist Church. He served on the Trustee Board for many years and was appointed the Chairman of the Board.

It was soon realized that in Potters Crossing, because of its fine location and excellent possibilities, steps had to be taken to make it a better place in which to live. Bro. Elder, as sort of a dreamer, organized the Potters Civic Improvement Club, Inc. Through the efforts of the Club, the name of the community was changed to North Edison.

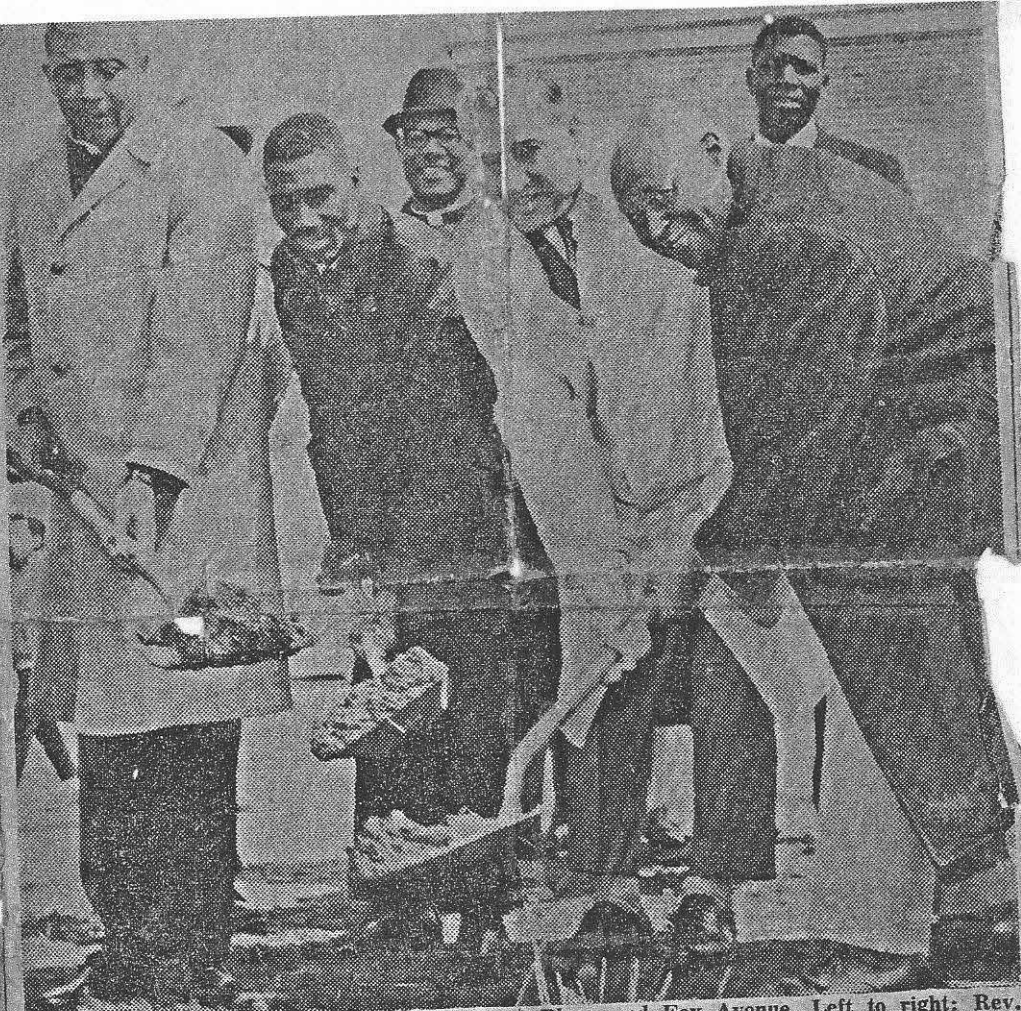
The North Edison Civic Improvement Club, Inc. received full support from our Mayor Anthony M. Yelencsis and the Township Council. An Urban Renewal Program was begun and the Mayor appointed Mr. Elder as one of the Commissioners of the newly created Housing Authority of the Township of Edison. Many problems arose along unfortunate lines. The program developed and the problems were solved in a highly satisfactory manner, as can be plainly seen on inspection of the entire area.

The bus route extension was obtained through the efforts of the North Edison Civic Improvement Club, Inc. It is now the fervent desire of the residents of the community that said route will be reestablished because it is vital to its rebirth.

Our new Church was dedicated to the purpose for which it was built, at the groundbreaking ceremony in January, 1967. The Mayor attended the affair along with our Pastor Bishop Anderson Adams, Bro. Elder, Chairman of the Church Board of Trustees and many others. Our Church is located on grounds selected by Bishop Adams and Board Chairman Elder.







NEW CHURCH UNDERWAY—Officials of the Mt. Zion United Free Will Baptist Church joined Edison Mayor Anthony M. Yelencsics yesterday in turning over first shovels of dirt for the new building to be constructed at Lyle

Place and Fox Avenue. Left to right: Rev. Carwell Thomas, Rev. Anderson Adams, Yelencsics, and James Elder. (Coronet Photo by E. T. Wilgins)

## Ground Is Broken For New Church

EDISON—Ground was broken yesterday for the new home of the Mount Zion Unified Free Will Baptist Church at Lyle Place and Fox Ave.

Mayor Anthony Yelencsics of Edison, and Gerald Bell, guidance counselor of the J. P. Stevens School were guest speakers at the event.

The Rev. Collie Edwers, former pastor, also addressed members of the congregation. Spirit Praised

The Rev. Anderson Adams, in his morning sermon, praised the spirit of cooperation which made it possible for Mount Zion to lead the way in making the community a better one in the township.

Services at the present church in Virginia Ave. were conducted by the Rev. Carwell Thomas. Deacon Aurelius Lovett was cited for his long devotion to the church.

The Rev. Robert Anderson, assistant pastor, offered the invocation, and the Rev. Curtis Gilmore of Newark was the master of ceremonies.

ment will provide room for indoor recreation, adult and children classrooms, the baptistry and kitchen facilities.

James O. Elder is chairman of the board of trustees and Mrs. Anna Raiford is the church secretary.

The new church has been designed by H. B. Trezenen of Plainfield, architect, and will be built by the Ajar Construction Co. of North Plainfield.

Church officials are hopeful that services can be held in the new church by mid-summer.



Bro. Elder, Bishop Adams and Mayor Yelencsis

Ground breaking Ceremony - January, 1967

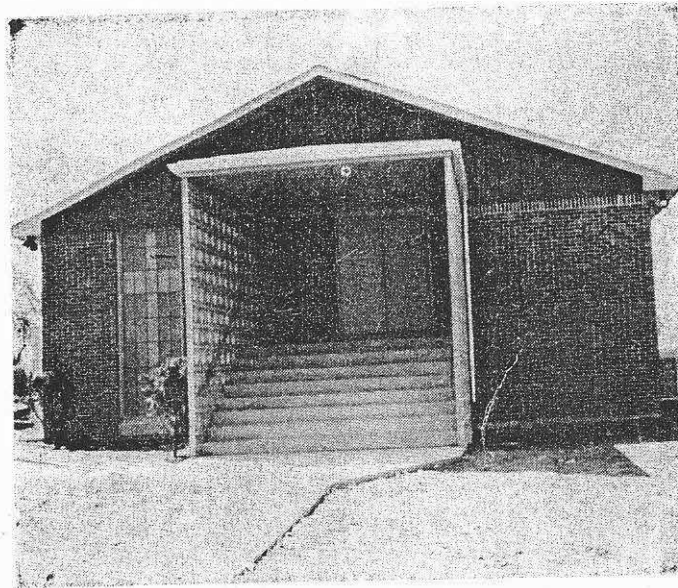
# *Souvenir Journal*

MOUNT ZION UNIFIED FREEWILL

BAPTIST CHURCH

Celebrates its

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY



And Completion of

The

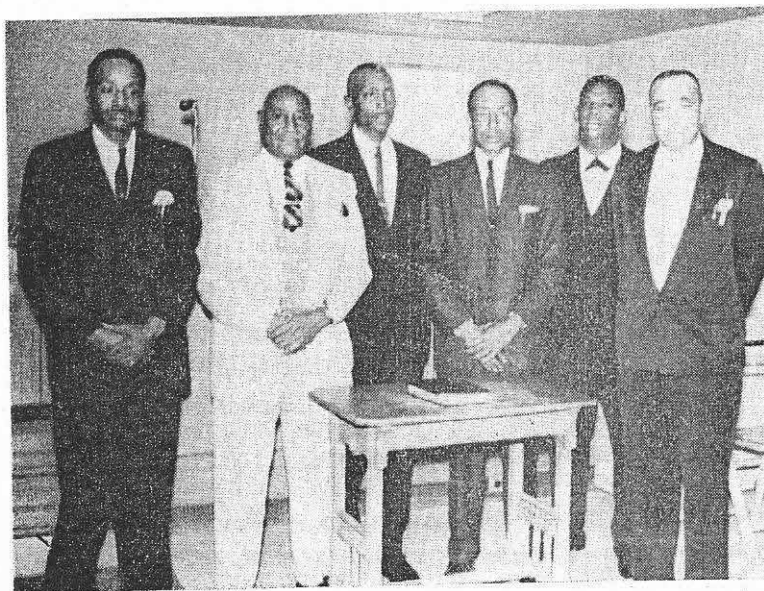
New Church

47 Beaver & Lyle Streets North Edison, N. J.

THE REVEREND ANDERSON ADAMS, MINISTER



## TRUSTEE BOARD



James Elder ..... Chairman

Otis Kinmon ..... Co-Chairman

Allen C. Crews

George Kinmon

J. Freeman

Sam Hester

L. Robinson

C. Adams

R. Howard

A. Raiford





JAMES D. ELDER, Chairman Board of Trustees

**Mt. Zion U.F.W. Baptist Church, Edison**

Organizer and FIRST President of North Edison Civic Improvement Club, Inc.

**Commissioner, Housing Authority — Township of Edison**

Commissioner Elder has devoted many years of Faithful service to the community in striving to make it a better place in which to live.

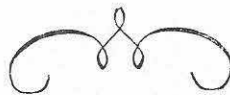
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*Boro Motors, Inc.*

**F O R D**

ANTHONY M. YELENCSICS, PRES.

METUCHEN





NEW JERSEY STATE LEAGUE  
OF MUNICIPALITIES — 1963

JAMES D. ELDER  
COMM. HOUSING AUTH.  
EDISON TWP.



MAKE IT OFFICIAL—Demolition and site clearing contract for Edison's Urban Renewal project is signed by Mrs. Joan Juzefyk, secretary of the Juzefyk Excavating Co. of Elizabeth. Her husband, Peter, is at her right. Watching, clockwise, are Thomas J. Kovak, Housing Authority executive director; James Elder, authority member, and Willard Dunham, authority chairman. The 77-acre project is planned for North Edison.

*Compliments*

**HOUSING AUTHORITY**

*Township of Edison, Edison, N. J.*

**OFFICERS**

WILLIAM A. SEAMAN, Executive Director

WILLARD DUNHAM, Chairman

J. WALTER DOLL, Vice Chairman

**COMMISSIONERS**

JAMES D. ELDER

WILLIAM E. LAMBERT

THE REV. J. H. MARTIN

STEVEN MASLEY

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CLARK, NEW JERSEY

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*Compliments of*

**THE LAKE CONFECTIONERY**

427 Lake Avenue

Colonia, N. J.





# Park dedication honors James Elder

By MICHELE J. KUHN  
 News Tribune staff writer

EDISON — The late James D. Elder, a man who spent many years working for the good of the North Edison community, was honored yesterday as a park was renamed for him on Grove Avenue.

The park, formerly known as Gro-wood Park, is the site of a \$1 million state Green Acres and federal block grant project which calls for the construction of ballfields, a basketball court and, eventually, a community center.

Members of the North Edison Civic Improvement Club yesterday presented Mayor Anthony M. Yelencsics with a check for \$35,912.40 to be used for the construction of the 2-acre park.

The check presentation took place in the presence of several members of Mr. Elder's family, including his wife Viola and two children, who looked on.

Mr. Elder, whose home stood on the site of the renamed parkland, is one of the founding members of the civic organization which was started in 1945 as the Potters Civic Improvement Club Inc. The group is responsible for getting the name of the area changed to North Edison.

The park was renamed by the township at the urging of the organization members.

Mr. Elder, who died in August, 1983, had served as a commissioner of the township housing authority and was remembered yesterday for his work in the community.

"This is wonderful," said Mrs. Elder, who, with tears in her eyes, smiled proudly during the ceremony.

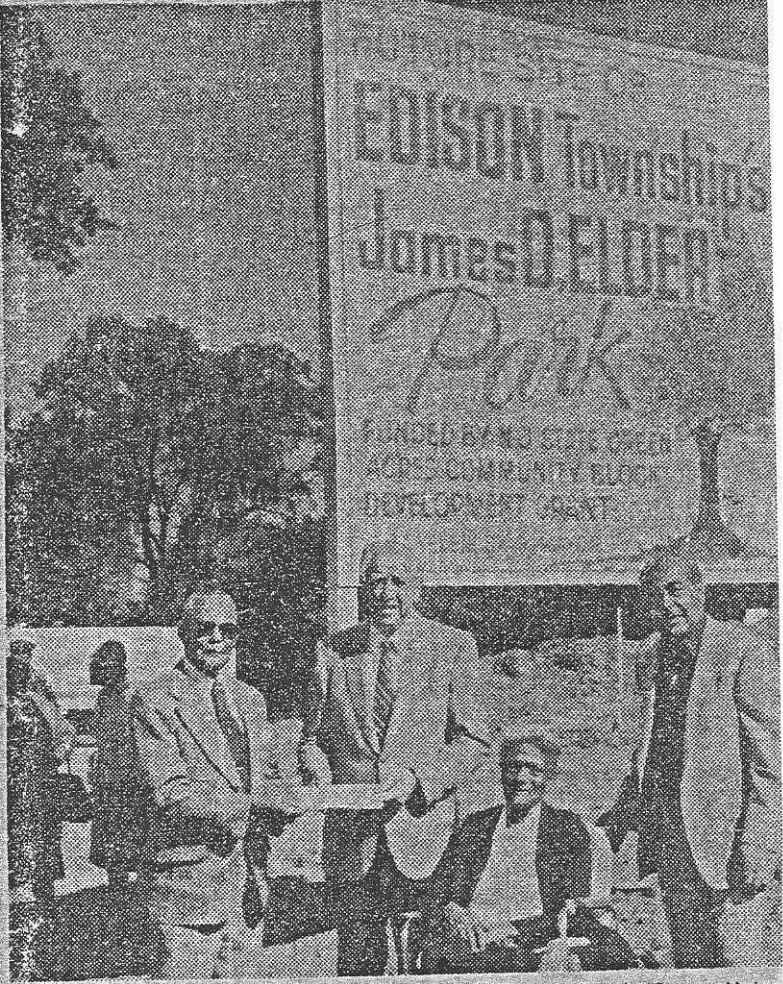
When told sometime back of the park's new name, she admitted she "cried like a baby that someone would do this."

"We're so proud," Mr. Elder's daughter Janet Bellinger said. "I know he would feel great to be honored this way."

The check presentation took place under a wooden sign announcing the park's name as bulldozers moved earth around and workmen continued to mix concrete nearby.

"This money didn't come quickly. It came very slowly through the work of the people here," said Robert Ponder, the first president of the organization.

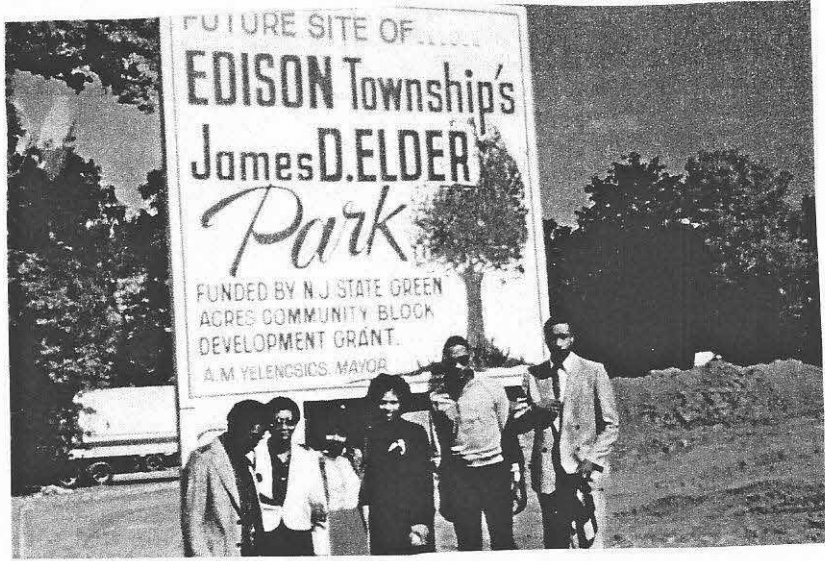
In part, the money presented to the township came from the 1963 sale of the organization's building, located on Inman Avenue, which was demolished for urban renewal. Members also worked through the years on fashion shows and other fund raisers to collect the money, according to Robert Holmes.



TNT staff photo by George Molna

## Future park site

Robert Ponder, past president of the North Edison Civic Association presents a check to Mayor Anthony Yelencsics as Viola Elder, widow of James Elder, and Robert Holmes look on.







Review photo by Kevin Murtagh

Bob Ponder of the North Edison Civic Improvement Club accepts a \$35,000 check from Mayor Anthony Yelencics at the site of the future James D. Elder Park. Elder, who died in August of last year at the age of 80, was a noted civic figure who helped found the Potters Civic Improvement Club, later renamed the North Edison Civic Improvement Club.

# NAMESAKE REMEMBERED

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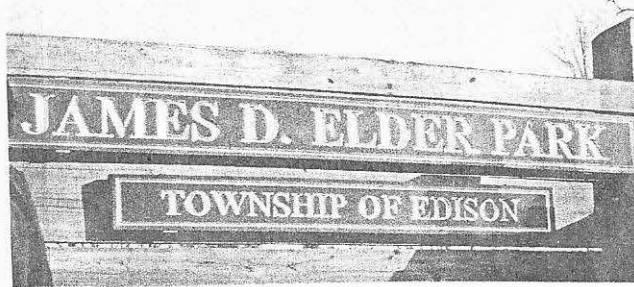
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JASON TOWLEN/Staff photographer (above); JOE McLAUGHLIN/Staff photographer (below)

Family photos and newspaper clippings, above, mark the opening of James Elder Park, below, on Grove Avenue in Edison. The park opened in 1984.







James and Viola were deeply devoted to each other,  
family and friends



WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER

PAST – PRESENT – FUTURE

FAMILY

## **CHILDREN**

Eric Sr. – Wife Cheryl

Janet – Husband Joseph

## **GRANDCHILDREN**

Eric Jr. – Wife Sheila

Sheila – Husband Jerome

Jamarla – Husband Kareem

Troy – Wife Rahsona

Sharon – Husband Mike

Derrick – Wife LaToya

Lamont

Tias

## **GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN**

Rasheeda, Ameenah, Al-Amin, Ar-Rasheed, Jameelah, Shakeena, Imani, Keith, Amanda

Rosalind, Rachel, Deja, Latisha, Justin, Amari, Lawrence, Elshazzab, Lamirrah, Keilan

Tysheem, Nia, \*Shayla

\*Shayla has the same birthday as her great-grandfather – July 30<sup>th</sup>

(Grandparents Janet (Joseph) – Parents Jamarla (Kareem))

## **GREAT-GREAT GRANDCHILDREN**

Nyh-era, Zey-hon, Avia, Mirriah, Alyse, Taleah, Preston, Zayir

Nephew - Joseph - Wife Gladia

Niece – Shirley Ann - Husband Franklin

Great Nephew - Josep

