

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR

A look at the stories behind the faces of Fairfield County

Building a future for others

Local mason enters national hall of fame

Paul James Ford Sr., a Winnsboro resident and native of Fairfield County, is the first masonry instructor from South Carolina to be inducted into the National Masonry Hall of Fame by the National Masonry Instructors Association on July 18, at the Annual Awards Banquet held at Atlantic Beach, N.C.

Eligibility into the National Masonry Hall of Fame was based on Mr. Ford's contributions to the masonry industry.

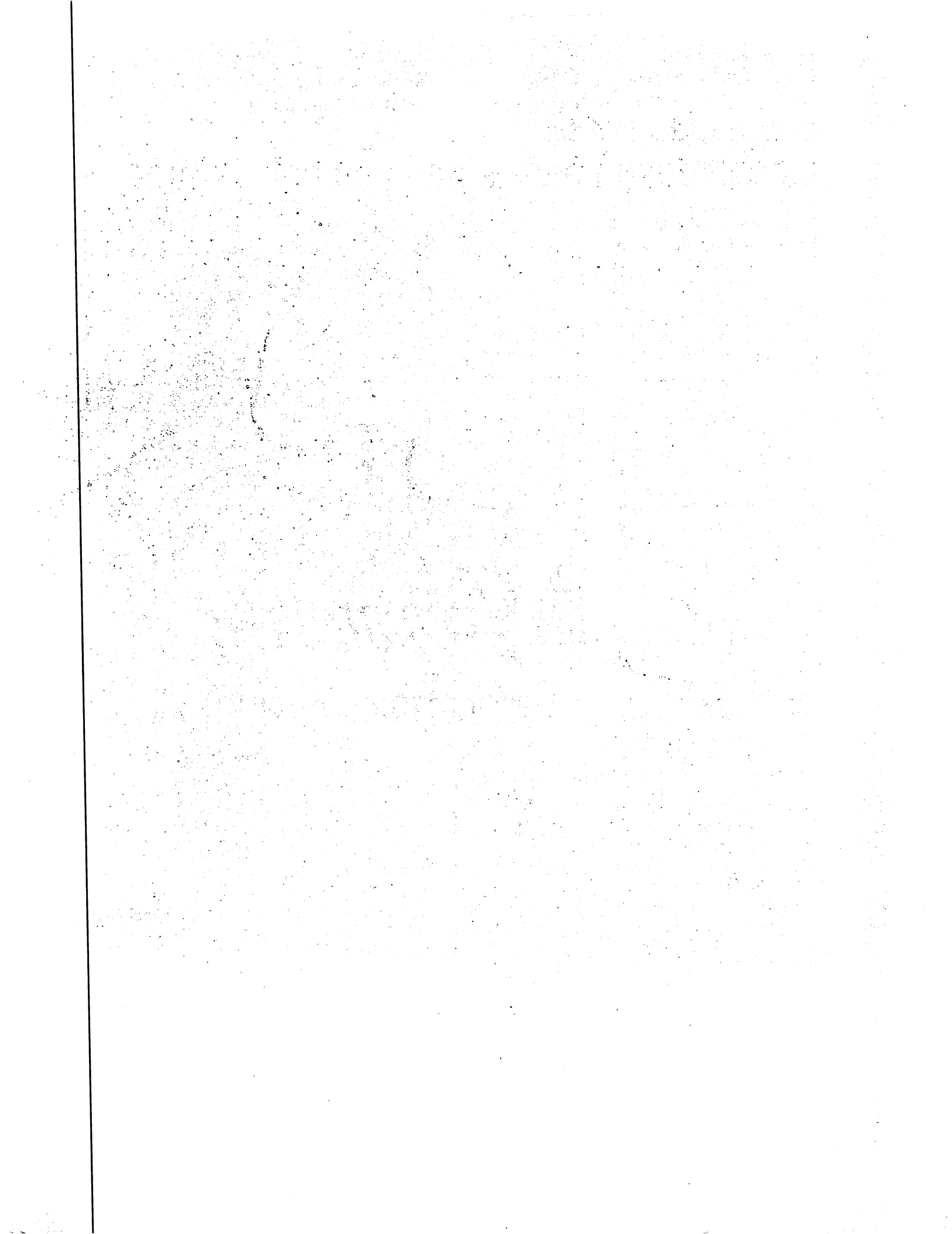
He has been employed with many construction companies, served as a resource person for the Masonry Curriculum Guide, and elected the first president of the South Carolina Masonry Instructors Association. He also served on various committees of the SCMIA, participated in the National Masonry Instructors conferences and taught hundreds of brickmasonry and career orientation students during his 30-year teaching career with the Chester County School District.

See Ford, Page 14



Paul J. Ford Sr. of Winnsboro, right, is presented a plaque marking his induction into the National Masonry Hall of Fame by Alonza C. Lewis, left. Mr. Lewis is the president of National Masonry Instructors Association and resides in Columbia.

August 4, 1995



Former masonry teacher wins award

Paul James Ford, Sr., a native of Fairfield County, and resident of Winnsboro, SC, is the first masonry instructor from South Carolina to be inducted into the National Masonry hall of Fame by the National Masonry Instructors Association on July 18, 1995 at the Annual Awards Banquet. The conference was held at the Sheraton Atlantic Beach Resort in Atlantic Beach, N.C.

Eligibility into the National masonry hall of Fame was based on Ford's contributions to the masonry industry.

Briefly, he has been employed with many construction companies, served as a resource person for the Masonry Curriculum Guide, elected the first president of the South Carolina Masonry Instructors Association, served on various committees of the SCMIA, participated in the National Masonry Instructors conferences and taught hundreds of brickmasonry and career orientation students during his 30-year teaching career with the Chester County School District. Beginning his teaching career at the Elizabeth Heights School in Great Falls, he retired in June 1992 from the Chester County Career Center in Chester.

During Mr. Ford's teaching career, he received superior teaching ratings and was selected several times as the Teacher of the Year by the faculty and staff. He also received many awards for his efforts in the advancement of



Photo PROVIDED

Recognized

Paul J. Ford Sr. (right), is presented the National Masonry Hall of Fame Award by Alonza C. Lewis (left). Mr. Lewis is the president of National Masonry Instructors Association and resides in Columbia.

the profession of teaching and the promotion of vocational education.

His students won many awards as they competed in masonry contests on the local, district, state and with one student place fourth in the national contest. His dedication to the masonry industry and to his students has proven to be instrumental in the production of a multitude of highly skilled brickmasons, professionals, and productive citizens.

Ford is the son of the late Estelle Henry Ford and Ernest Ford, Sr. He and his wife, the

former Thelma Sampson, have four children. Paul Jr. and His wife Karen reside in Hyattville, Maryland with their children Paul III and Nina Estelle. Perdita and her husband Luis Melendez, Jr. reside in East Hartford, Connecticut. Ponya lives in Winnsboro, and Philbert in Charleston.

He is a member of St. John AME Church and a member of the S.C. and National Masonry Instructors Association, Elk Organization and a member of the Advisory Board for Clemson Extension Program.

