

New Couple in Town Find 'Kin' at Rites

By THOMAS A. JOHNSON

Mr. and Mrs. William Morris walked a mile in the cold yesterday morning to stand shivering on the corner of Bedford and Willoughby Avenues during the dedication of the Martin Luther King Jr. Building.

Mr. Morris, who is new to Brooklyn, said: "We don't know any of the people, but we knew that anything to do with Dr. King would be like family. We knew we would feel a welcome wherever Negroes were honoring Dr. King."

The Morrises, who are in their early 20's, came recently from North Carolina. To keep warm they stamped their feet on the ice-crusted sidewalk as they attended one of the ceremonies here commemorating the birthday of the slain civil-rights leader.

"I guess, like most people, we never thought that much about him when he was alive," Mr. Morris said, "but now that he's gone we can see he was a great man. It makes me wish I had known him personally or talked to him. Still, on a thing like this it feels like family, you know?"

'Everybody's Family'

A community organizer, Mrs. Perlina Walls, said:

"We are family, everybody's family—that was the thing we all felt in the movement Dr. King so personified. I stood in man College crown on the Spelman College campus [in Atlanta] during his funeral and, although there was a special place for the King family, we always felt we were all family. That's the new thing black people feel

and Dr. King helped to bring it about."

Yesterday she stood in the cold with the others, watching the dedication of the building by the Bedford Stuyvesant Youth in Action Community Corporation. Like the others, she stamped her feet and pulled her coat tightly around her.

The building, at 930 Bedford Avenue, was formerly a salesroom for a company that sold motorcycles and scooters. It will be renovated by the community corporation to provide classrooms for a work-and-study antipoverty program. It is said to be the first Brooklyn building named for Dr. King.

Pledge by Mrs. Chisholm

On a platform in front of the single-story brick building, Representative Shirley Chisholm told the crowd of 500 that she and other black members of Congress would "press to make sure that Jan. 15 is made a national holiday."

The crowd cheered. Youths near the front of the crowd who wore the red, green and black buttons favored by black nationalists raised clenched fists and shouted: "Right on!"

About a block away a young mother of two small children observed the day in her basement apartment. "The kids catch cold easily," she said, explaining why she was not at the dedication.

She said she had taught her children the significance of the day with the help of material about Dr. King that they had brought home from school.

The young mother who requested that her name not be used, said she played a

scratchy, borrowed recording of some of Dr. King's speeches.

"I especially like that saying he always used," she said. "It reminded me so much of my grandmother and some of what she called the slavery-time sayings."

She found the place on the recording and played it for a visitor. "Lord," the voice of Dr. King said, "we ain't what we oughta be, we ain't what we want to be, we ain't what we gonna be, but thank God, we ain't what we was."