

## Durham Resident Filling New Job

Mrs. Bernadette Watts, a native of Greenville and a former extension home economics agent in Durham, has begun her new duties in Raleigh.

Mrs. Watts has been promoted to a district program leader by the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service. She has been placed in charge of all extension home economics programs in a 34-county area of Western and Southwestern North Carolina. Her new office is at North Carolina State University, state headquarters for the extension service.

Mrs. Watts has a B.S. degree from Bennett College and a M.S. degree from East Carolina University. She joined the Extension Service in 1971 in Durham County, where she won recognition for her work in family resource management, human



MRS. WATTS

development, foods and nutrition and gerontology.

She was selected as one of the outstanding young agents in the state in 1976 and in 1982 she was picked for the Dean's Award at East

Carolina University for outstanding work in home economics.

While she moved her office to Raleigh, Mrs. Watts will continue to make her home in Durham for the immediate future.

## ...Also

**OSAGE BEACH, MO** — Mrs. Bernadette G. Watts, former home economics extension agent, Durham County, has been selected to receive an award from the National Association of Extension Home Economists.

Mrs. Watts and three other Tar Heel Home Economics Extension Agents will be given distinguished service awards at a recognition dinner at Tan-Tar-A, October 7.

Mrs. Watts received

the honor for her service to Durham County. She is being recognized for developing monthly site "lunch and learn" sessions that reached nearly 500 persons. Program sites included hospitals, insurance companies, a university and a tobacco factory; learners took classes in nutrition, time and financial management, comparative shopping and water conservation.

Mrs. Watts is currently a member of the state and national associations

of Extension, Home Economists and the state and national Home Economics Associations.

She belongs to the North Carolina Family Life Council, Durham Day Care Council, Durham Nutrition Council, and Epsilon Sigma Pi, extension honorary fraternity.

She resigned her Durham County post in August to become a district program leader for the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service.

## Local Teachers To Head Student Travel

Mrs. Rita Thorpe and Mrs. M.V. Thorpe have been selected by the American Institute For Foreign Study (AIFS) to accompany a group of students on a travel adventure abroad. This trip is organized by the American Institute For Foreign Study of Greenwich, Connecticut. To date, 300,000 teachers, students and adults interested in international educational travel have participated in AIFS programs since it was founded in 1964.

Group members of "London, Paris, Switzerland and Germany" spend nine spring vacation days visiting the exciting capital cities of London and Paris, and enjoying the more leisurely pace of visiting the Swiss Alpine resort of Lucerne, the Black Forest, Heidelberg and the Rhine. A professional guide-lecturer leads sightseeing visits to Notre Dame, the Louvre

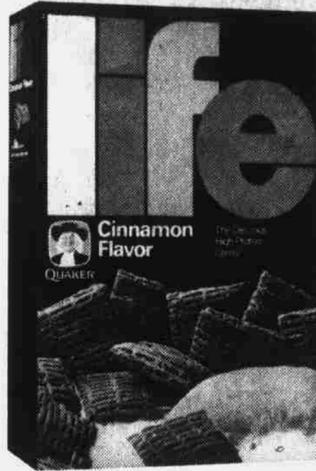
and the Arc de Triomphe in Paris; and to Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London and the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace in London. Away from all the hub-bub, the

group enjoys a relaxed cruise down the Rhine, watching a timeless panorama of the castles and vineyards glide by. This program is especially attractive because it

combines visits to the "must see" sights in each locale, with drives through the surrounding countryside to enhance the sense of national and regional setting — plus allowing for plenty of free time for individual

exploring and shopping. There are still places available in this group. For further information, parents, students and interested persons may call (919) 544-3395 or (919) 471-2016.

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## Barbara Wyatt Overcomes Difficulties

By Thomas W. Pauken  
Director of ACTION

Her grandparents had been slaves. Her parents were the first blacks to settle in Abilene, Kansas, but when Barbara Wyatt grew up in the early days of the century, Abilene was a completely integrated community, and Mrs. Wyatt was the first of her race to graduate from high school there. Not long afterward she attended a dance given in honor of the 9th and 10th Cavalry, black regiments that had long been famous in the territory. Across a crowded room, Barbara's eyes met those of the youngest horse soldier present. The bells were ringing that night and wedding bells soon followed.

Until World War II, Mrs. Wyatt was an Army wife, raising a family — two boys and two girls. Cynthia, the youngest, was four when her father, Master Sergeant Glen Bowman, went off to the South Pacific a combat soldier. He did not return, and Mrs. Wyatt, widowed, was left to raise the children alone. She had previously passed a civil service examination and for the next eight years she served as an assistant nurse at the Army Hospital at Fort Riley, Kansas. With the children growing up and their education to be considered, she began

looking for a higher paying job with greater responsibility. She found it — an opening at the Veteran's Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa. With her qualifications, her application was accepted sight unseen. The difficult move was made, whereupon, she ran into a 15-month road block because of her color.

Quietly, tenaciously, she fought back and, finally, the State of Iowa sent its representative who sat down with the hospital administrators and said "look here—"

In finally gaining employment at the level for which she was thoroughly qualified, Mrs. Wyatt led the way for others of her race to do the same, no longer consigned to the lowest job level regardless of capabilities. That was more than thirty years ago, and in the interim, Mrs. Wyatt's children grew up, graduated from college, married and had children of their own.

In 1971 Mrs. Wyatt retired officially, but unofficially she's been a very busy lady. She joined ACTION's Foster Grandparent Program and is working with emotionally disturbed children at Smouse School in Des Moines. Her supervisor, Mary Caligiuri, says of Mrs. Wyatt: "She has patience of a saint. Her

assigned children have developed a close relationship with her. They all wish to try and live up to Grandma Barb's expectations."

And what has Grandma Barb to say? "These children provide me with spiritual thoughts. You learn that there are other people who need help and prayers. In this program you don't have the time to feel sorry for yourself. The children I work with give me love and understanding, and I face the problems more easily."

Mrs. Wyatt is also involved as a volunteer in child abuse cases, using the quiet strength of her personality and the depth of her professionalism in helping to resolve these damaging relationships.

As for her own children, they are all doing well in the world. Cynthia is married to Tom Vaughn, former Detroit Lions football star and now a bank president in Chicago; another daughter, Barbara Jean, is a bank official in California. One son is an executive with AT&T and daughter Dee is a housewife. There are ten grandchildren and that makes for lots of good company.

Mrs. Barbara Wyatt, wife, mother, nurse, volunteer. She's what America is all about.



MISS KIMBERLY JORDAN OF DURHAM, right, a freshman at North Carolina Central University, is a 1982-83 recipient of the university's National Alumni Scholarship. Making the presentation recently was Ms. Dora Carrington, president of the university's Alumni Association, which awards the scholarships on the basis of academic merit and potential. Miss Jordan is a chemistry major.

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