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# Holiday Can Be Hazard

The holidays should be a time to relax and enjoy family and friends. But it should also be a time to be on the lookout for fire hazards. Don't let your holiday season be ruined by tragedy.

The biggest year-round danger is careless smoking, which accounts for more than half of all fatal residential fires in the country. Accordingly the Better Business Bureau urges that when you're entertaining for the holidays, you provide plenty of large, noncombustible ashtrays designed to prevent cigarettes from falling out. Keep all matches and lighters out of the reach of children. And when the party's over, check all rooms to be certain no cigarettes are burning any where.

It may be part of your holiday tradition to sit around a cozy fire, but make sure you're doing it safely. If you use manufactured logs for the fire, be careful with them; they can't be handled like natural logs. Read the instructions on the wrapper carefully. To make sure they ignite properly, these logs, made of sawdust and wax,



should not be unwrapped before use. And they shouldn't be added to a hot fire because they can cause a dangerous flare-up. Don't start a fire with more than one of these logs, because the heat could become too intense.

Don't try to poke at one of these logs, because part of the wax and sawdust could stick to the poker and then drop to an unprotected rug or floor.

When you burn natural logs, use logs that fit the size of your fireplace, but don't overload it. Be careful when moving a burning log because if it breaks up, embers and sparks may scatter.

Don't burn gift wrappings or evergreen branches in the fireplace. They may cause the first to flare up faster than you expect, and scraps of burning paper may be carried up the chimney and onto the roof or yard.

No matter what type of logs you burn, remember to open the flue first and to use a firescreen.

See TIPS Page 8



Patrick Hairston: "If blacks got together we could close Northside Shopping Center tomorrow."

## Chronicle Profile

### 'Velvitized Segregation'

In 1966 17 blacks working in the tire shop at McLean Trucking Company filed suit against the company for discrimination. Although they won the suit, they lost that battle. One of those 17 plaintiffs is still fighting discrimination wherever and whenever it arises.

Patrick Hairston, a mechanics helper, is a no-nonsense man who sees many issues facing blacks here in the city. "There are many problems," he said in a recent interview, "but the main one probably is economics.

Hairston, a youthful-looking man of 50, is convinced that segregation is still with blacks today as it was years ago. He contends that blacks are underemployed and the victims of "velvitized segregation". "Whites used to say that we were under-trained. Now they are saying that we are over-qualified. They tell us they're sorry they can't hire us because we have too much training. We leave there thinking we're something great when we're just been discriminated against. The situation has been smooth over...velvitized."

He sees many of the problems aggravated by the fact that "so-called leaders" in the black community are engaged in a power struggle. "They all want to be chiefs. They're misleading the black community by not telling blacks the things they are supposed to know. As a result the little people suffer."

He feels that as yet no one has attacked the school system in the right direction. "Busing is the hang-up," he said angrily. "People have always been bused. I was always bused pass white schools and vice-versa. But most of the influential people in the black community don't get out and argue the issues." In addition, he continued, "Teachers who finish Winston-Salem State University (a predominantly black institution) have to go to other cities and states to find jobs. Most of the teachers are hired from other cities, so they don't care what happens to us. We need more Winston-Salem natives who're part of the problems."

The police department, Hairston said, has no black detectives. "We need black detectives who can relate to black folk. You may see some blacks in plain clothes but they're only undercover agents. And since we commit all the crimes," he continued, "we should have some black judges to try them. If we can't elect them, then we should have some method to appoint them."

He said the federal government has said that blacks in the city constitute 33 per cent of the population and therefore should have 33 per cent of city and county jobs. "If you subtract jobs like janitors, garbagemen and the like from the total, you'll find that the city is not living up to that standard." He said not one employer in the city is in compliance with the civil rights act of 1964 (in regards to hiring and promotion).

He strongly suggests that blacks adopt a plan of selective buying to get the jobs that should go to them. "We spend more money in the grocery store than anybody else," he said emphatically. "Yet, everybody in the store with managerial positions are white. If all blacks would bind together and not buy anything in that store we could get a black supervisor. We could close Northside Shopping Center tomorrow if we did that."

In fact, he asserted, "If we were a people who were together, these problems would be moot." To solve some of these problems, however, he said black leaders must first come together themselves. "We need a common place to meet to map out a plan of attacking various problems.

Hairston said that the NAACP is the most viable organization for blacks in the world, but should deal with more than just civil rights. "The NAACP needs to change. We need more positive action programs. He lost a bid for president of the organization recently, but still intends to work within the framework of the organization.

His philosophy points clearly to his concept of what a leader should be: "In this Title oriented society, we must judge a person not by his titles but by his actions."