Parks photography

exhibition scheduled

Gallery 214 at Winston Square lustrations of 80 duotone will present a "Gordon Parks Retrospective Exhibition of Photography," beginning Thursday, Nov. 22.

The show features 171 of Park's works, many of which appeared in Life magazine during Park's 20 years there as a staff photographer. The exhibit, sponsored by Urban Arts of the Arts Council, will continue through Dec. 22. It is free and open to the public from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday; and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays. Winston Square is located at 226 N. Marshall St.

Parks, born in a small Kansas town to a poor farming family, became a director of major motion pictures and won an Oscar. A man who never graduated from high school, he has been given 15 honorary doctorate degrees and many awards for his writing, photography and musical compositions.

Parks' first acclaim was for his photography, which became well known during his 20 years with Life magazine.

The exhibition was organized by Martin H. Bush, director of the Edwin A. Ulrich Museum of Art at Wichita State University in Kansas. The 132-page catalogue, written by Martin Bush, is entitled "The Photographs of Gordon Parks." It includes an interview with the photographer and il-

photographs selected from the exhibition.

The photography exhibit. which continues through Dec. 22, spans Parks' entire career, reflecting the eventful life of this multitalented man.

Born in November 1912, Parks eventually went to Minneapolis, where he worked as a piano player in a brothel, as a waiter in the city's large hotels and as a train porter. It was during his work as a train porter that he interested became photography, often meeting photographers as he traveled to assignments.

In 1941, he became the first black man to win a Julius Rosenwald Fellowship to study photography, an event that changed his life. He used the fellowship to go to Washington in 1942 and work with Roy Stryker on the Farm Security Administration program to photograph America.

He later gained recognition as a fashion photographer, especially for Vogue magazine, then was a staff photographer for Life magazine from 1948 to 1968.

His photographs have portrayed Harlem street gangs, Paris fashions and street scenes, the American civil rights movement and personalities such as Gloria Vanderbilt and Muhammad Ali.

Parks began writing his three-



part autobiography in 1963 with "The Learning Tree," which he eventually directed as a motion picture. The book, focusing on his childhood and adolescence, was translated into 12 languages and sold three million copies. The triology continued with "A Choice of Weapons" and "To Smile in Autumn."

Parks also wrote "Born Black," the story of living black heroes, and "Flavio," about an impoverished Brazilian boy. His most recent novel, "Shannon," focuses on a wealthy Irish immigrant family in New York in

1912. In 1968, Warner Brothers-Seven Arts chose Parks as the first black man to direct a major motion picture. His direction credits include "Shaft," "Shaft's Big Score," "The Super Cops," and "The Sitter."

Also a poet, painter, and musician, Parks has composed five piano sonatas, a ballet, two symphonies and motion picture scores.

On Nov. 30 through Dec. 1, special guests at the exhibition will include Maya Angelou and Shep Morgan.

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Military News

Stanfield ends Navy training

Navy Airman Kenneth D. Stanfield, whose wife, Tammy, is the daughter of Loretta J. Stewart of 2124 Waughtown St., has completed recruit training at the Recruit Training Command of the Naval Training Center, San Diego, Calif.

During Stanfield's eight-week training cycle, he studied general military subjects designed to prepare him for further academic and on-the-job training in one of the Navy's 85 basic fields.

Stanfield's studies included seamanship, close order drill, Naval history and first aid. Personnel who complete this course of instruction are eligible for three hours of college credit in physical education and hygiene.

A 1980 graduate of Parkland Senior High School, he joined the Navy in August 1983.





By Gregory Davis

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