

Blacks Treated Like Dirt

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and had only been in several months received home leaves more regularly than the blacks.

At one time Williams was able to leave the prison camp because he had someone who would sponsor him. However, that leave was short lived.

"It was right after Thanksgiving in 1974. My sponsor was bringing me back to camp when a guard at the prison camp thought they smelled alcohol on my sponsor's breath. After that, I was told that my leave had been

suspended for 90 days. But, I didn't get my leave back until May of 1975," he said.

He also stated that blacks have a harder time getting out on parole than the white prisoners. "I was told by the judge at the time of my sentencing that after I served one-third of my time, I would be eligible for parole.

However, when I went before the parole board, they said my parole was unfavorable," he said. He said he was told that his unfavorable parole had something to do

with a prison sentence in 1953.

As a man who could be characterized as hostile towards prison officials, Williams states that "prison only builds hate in men."

Before he was released from the prison camp in McLeansville, he attended school for 30 days where local businessmen and civic organizations came to talk with inmates and tried to give them hints on how to live in society even with prison records.

Williams feels that some of the problems that blacks are having in prison could be alleviated with the aid of black churches and civic organizations.

"It's a shame that local black churches and organizations don't take the interest of the prisoners at heart. There are some white organizations who are constantly putting on some kind of activity for the inmates, but very little or none from the blacks.

"After all, we're humans too," he added.

Target Project

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the project community and to hire service workers to help aid the elderly.

In a Chronicle interview with two of the young women, both said they were recipients of public assistance and they were very happy with this new project.

"I would rather work anytime than be on welfare," stated Ms. Richardson.

To her, this is a chance for her to be self-supporting. "Now, I'll be able to work just like everybody else," she said.

Although they had been out of school for several years, both admitted that the courses were rather hard, but they were determined to finish the course.

Ms. Richardson and Ms.

Johnson each have three children and Ms. Conrad has two.

Ms. Johnson stated that she had received her GED test, but under the new program, she finished a home nursing course.

Both young women stated that most of the girls who receive public assistance would rather be off, but there are not enough programs being implemented to train them.

"I was very shocked and surprised when James Reeves, manager of the Target Project Program talked to me about the program. However, I'm now very glad that I listened to what he had to say. Otherwise, I would have missed the opportunity that I now have," says Ms. Johnson.

Target Project Program

Gets Additional Funding

"With the allocation of new federal funds, we are now more able to implement more programs and receive a lot more community participation," says Mrs. Barbara Ferguson.

Mrs. Ferguson, who is project manager of the Kimberly Park Terrace, was speaking in reference to the Target Project Program which was funded last year by the Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

"Under this program, we've been more able to serve the residents in this project area," she said.

With the money being allocated by HUD, Mrs. Ferguson said they have been able to start a scouting program, home nursing classes, sewing classes and establish a movie night.

"One of the best things about the movie night is that the residents were so elated over the fact that they would be seeing first class films, they decided to implement a movie committee," she said.

The committee put on several projects in order that they can help pay for the purchase of films.

"Even if after the two year grant is up, and the government doesn't allocate any more money for this particular program, there just might be enough community participation that they will keep the program open," Mrs. Ferguson said.

She feels that the new program has greatly increased the participation by residents. "Many of them have always wanted different kinds of programs, but there was never any money being allocated," she states.

She continued by stating, "a lot of parents in the project area have always wanted their children to be a member of the scout group, but were financially unable to do so.

"But, with this new program we've been able to establish a scouting program and the program has gotten so large until there is now a waiting list to join," she says.

Presently there are 26 cub scouts, 16 boy scouts and 49 girl scouts and nearly \$5,000 has been spent for equipment and uniforms.

Another thing about the program that makes her equally thrilled is the new look the apartments are taking on.

"We've been able to add new roofing, a new electrical system which would enable residents to have air conditioners, new weather stripping and renovation of bathrooms. And, by the end of 1977, we're hoping that complete modern kitchens will be installed," she said.

"One of the things which I am most pleased with is not only the participation, but the program is giving the residents a chance to be a little more self-reliant," she said.

James Smith

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