

**Chronicle Profile**

**Capt. Price : A Friend to man**

BY AUDREY WILLIAMS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

George Price couldn't afford the price it would have cost him to go to medical school.

"No, I couldn't afford to be a doctor," he says. "I was a poor man raised on the farm. But I've worked in just about all aspects of a hospital, except for coronary care and the psych ward."

Despite obstacles, Price, 49, managed to attain most of his ambitions. Today, he serves as the first and only black captain of the Forsyth County Ambulance Service and for the past 13 years he has been associate minister to the Rev. I.L. Anthony of Oak Grove Baptist Church in Walkertown.

To Price, a stranger becomes an instant friend and extending his large, but helping hand is second nature to him.

"I enjoy people," says Price. "I don't know any enemies. When people treat me wrong - I forgive them."

Before he was promoted to his present rank, Price says he worked himself into the intensive care unit, not knowing who or where he was.

"Instead of me telling everybody else what to do," says Price. "I'd do it and I ended up in the hospital."

A hefty 6-1, 280-pounder, the day shift's third man in charge contends with chiding from fellow employees. As Price explains his new fruit diet, which is supposed to last for seven days, Anthony Parks, an emergency medical technician in the unit, intervenes and says, "Yeah, then it's meat the rest of the year."

Price laughs it off.

Full of childhood stories about growing up on his grandmother's farm in Stokes County five miles

north of Walnut Cove, his massive frame shakes with laughter when he reminisces about his rock-throwing and mischievous cousin James.

Price began his medical career as an equipment manager at the old city hospital in 1952 when he was 18. He later took on a big responsibility.

"My income was so low when I got married," he says, "that I had to go to work for Hanes at the dye house."

In 1961, Price went to work as a stemmer for R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. Not long afterwards he took on a second job and went back to the old city hospital, only this time to work directly with the patients as a nurse's assistant.

When Price was named head of all the third shift's male nurses' assistants years later at Forsyth County Hospital, he says he soon realized that he wanted a transfer not only into another area of medical services but to get away from a problem he had to deal with every morning at 6:30 a.m., 30 minutes before knock-off time.

"The lady in charge of nursing services didn't like me," he says. "She always gave me a hard time because I had to leave early in order to be at work at Reynolds by 7 a.m. I did that for 17 years."

Since he couldn't get a transfer, Price finally quit his job at Forsyth in 1968 and went to work with the county's new emergency medical service unit.

Within six months, an enthusiastic Price was made assistant supervisor. And a year and a half later, he was named head supervisor.

"I give God the praise for everything that I've done," he says.

An associate minister close to 13 years now, Price says he would someday like to pastor his own church.



**For Capt. George Price, being a minister blends in well with his work as a staff supervisor for the county emergency medical unit (photo by James Parker).**

His gold name plate, embellished in black letters, reads: Rev. George Price.

"Most everybody knows I'm a minister," he says. Parks overhears and interrupts again, "Yeah, he preaches to us all the time. 'Don't do this and don't do that.'"

Again, Price laughs and continues with his conversation. He knows it's all in fun.

It's seldom that Price rides along on the ambulances anymore. His primary duty is to remain at the station to channel calls, supervise and give ad-

vice. And though he says he's no longer fast enough for all the running, in the Walkertown community, where he makes his home with his wife, Inez, people know that Price still hasn't forgotten how to help whenever and wherever he can.

"If the ambulance service out there needs help, I'll do what I can to help," he says. "I like where I live out in the open."

"I always said, 'Give me a house by the roadside and be a friend to man.'"



**LeSeanda Michell Brunson**

**Brunson named finalist**

Miss LeSeanda Michell Brunson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman A. Brunson Sr. of Jeketer Drive, has been selected as a finalist in the 1984 Miss North Carolina Teen-ager Pageant scheduled for the new Marriott City Center Hotel in Charlotte on Saturday, July 14. The winner will represent North Carolina in the annual Miss Teen All-American Pageant to be held in Miami on October 24-27.

Brunson will compete with approximately 40 other young women from all over North Carolina. She will attend East Forsyth High School in the fall and is a graduate of Barbizon Finishing and Modeling School in Greensboro.

In her spare time, Brunson likes to swim, skate, dance and model. She is planning a summer European trip with Barbizon and hopes to model while there. Her future ambition is to become a fashion designer and professional model.

Brunson's sponsor to the Miss North Carolina Teen-ager Pageant is the Winston-Salem Chronicle.

**Pvt. Blackwell completes Marine training**

Marine Pvt. Edward L. Blackwell, son of Edward L. and Catherine Byrd of 4005 Butterfield Circle, has completed training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in Parris Island, S.C.

Marine Cpl. Kelly A. Austin, son of Mr. and Mrs. June L. Austin of 520 Pimlico Drive, has reported for duty with 2nd Force Service Support Group in Camp Lejeune.

Marine Sgt. Joseph W. Davis, son of Mae and Claude H. Davis II of 2726 Fondly Road, N.E., has been awarded the Navy Achievement Medal for superior performance of duty while serving with 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing Marine Corps Air Station in Cherry Point.

Navy Seaman Luke K. Davis, son of Mrs. Willie K. Walker of 2313 Bowen Blvd., has completed recruit training at the Naval Training Center in Orlando, Fla.

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

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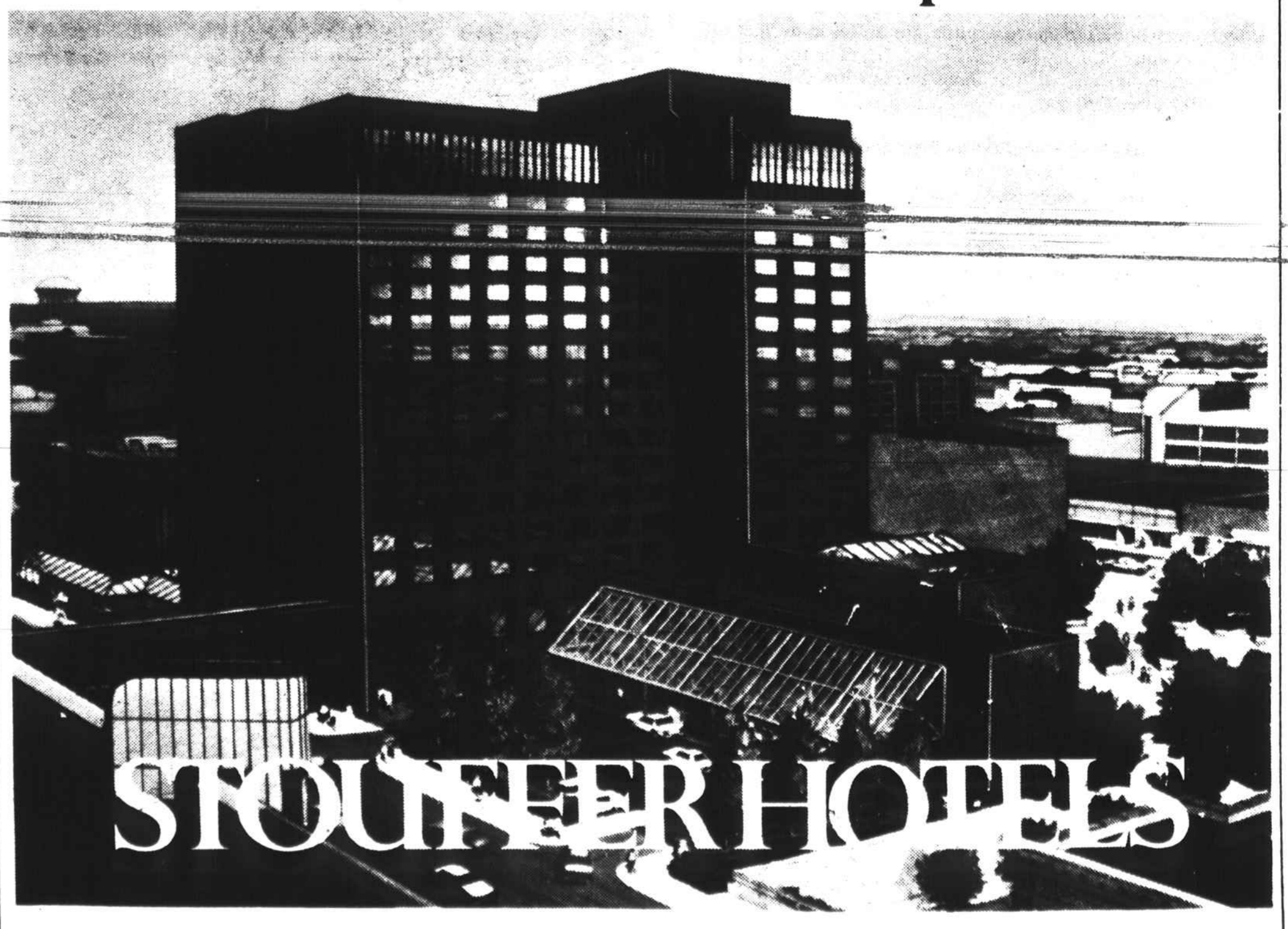
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