

Clerk

From Page A14

take out warrants against boy friends or girl friends or husbands and wives," he said.

Many of the disputes could be settled out of court with the aid of agencies in the area. And no one would have a court record using that problem solving method, he said.

The Time-Out Program for Men, run by Family Services, Inc., is designed to help men end abusive behavior and learn alternatives to violence. The Forsyth County Victim Assistance Network offers crisis intervention and professional counseling as well as other services for victims of crimes.

And the Neighborhood Justice Center of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Inc. offers two programs to avoid trips

to court.

Their Dispute Settlement Program provides a neutral party to help mediate disputes through compromise. And their Community Penalties Program often arranges for victim restitution and rehabilitation for non-violent felons.

"There are a lot of people who bring things to court that might be solved by another avenue," Honaker said.

Many people seeking warrants in domestic disputes later drop the charges in court. But they must pay court costs of \$40 each time, he added. And they can accumulate criminal records of their own for making false reports or using the courts to harass another person.

At the time a complaint is made, the clerk of court decides whether to issue a warrant or a summons.

The suspect will be arrested when served with the warrant but only has to appear in court on a designated date to answer the charges when served with a summons, said John Alexander, the first and only African-American clerk of court.

The clerk asks the complainant to swear in with his/her left hand on a Bible and right hand raised. Testimony is then heard, and if probable cause is established, the clerk issues the warrant or summons.

The same procedure is followed when someone is arrested by law officers.

The suspect is brought to the clerk's office before going to the police station for fingerprints and mug shots. After a warrant is issued against the suspect, the clerk sets bond for the defendant. Not all of the paper work done

by the clerk's reaches the person it is issued for.

There are an estimated 50,000 to 75,000 undelivered processes stored in cabinets along the back wall of the clerk's office, Phillips said. They cover all aspects of criminal activity from outstanding murder warrants to untended traffic citations.

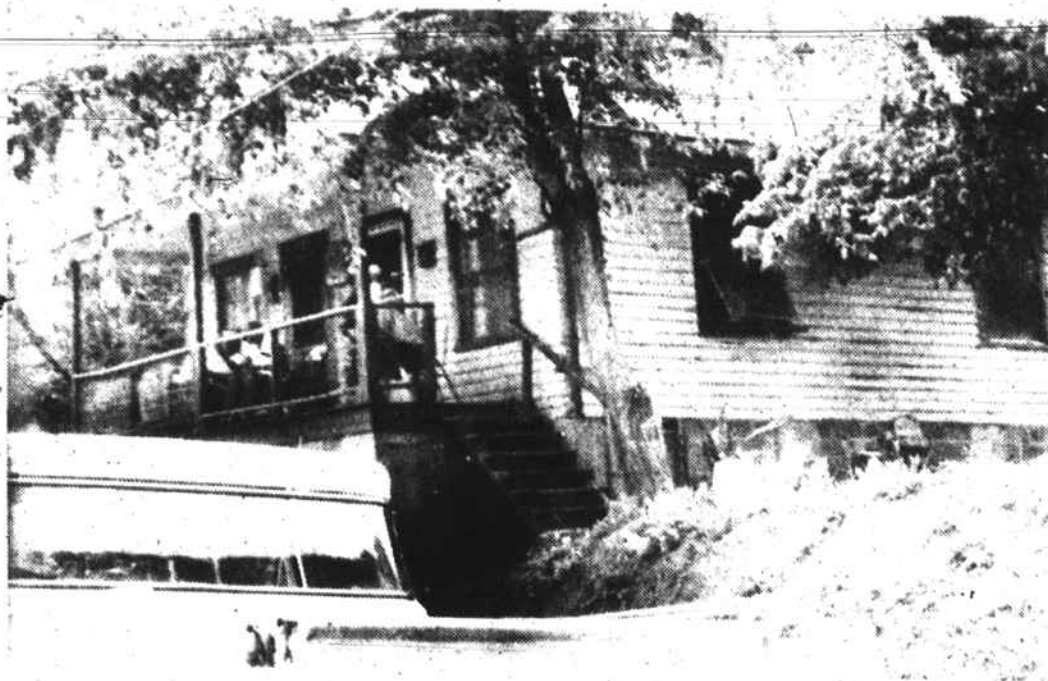
The busiest shift at the office during week days is between 8 and 11 p.m. And Saturday and Sunday nights "run neck and neck" for busiest weekend times, Alexander said.

Many fraud and bad check charges are made during the day shift, domestic violence offenses occur more often during second shift and third sees many people brought for drinking and driving violations.

"Most of the time you get a mad rush and then it will slack off," said Nancy Phelps, who became the first woman clerk of court when she was hired in April of this year.

War

From Page A1



A reputed drink house is located in the 1400 block of Parkview Street (photo by Dennis Schatzman).

Mrs. Lois Hanes, co-chairman of the project, said at the June 16th gathering that syringes, beer cans and liquor bottles had been picked up during a neighborhood clean-up campaign held in early June.

A similar effort was held for a second section of the community on June 20th. The East Winston Restoration Association sponsors the ventures.

Bishop Willy Davis of Christ Rescue Mission Apostolic said he agrees with an area policeman. The officer told him little change could be affected in the area until residents were re-educated in other ways to live.

"Until we can train people's minds that we are human beings -- we don't have to be on drugs -- we can get what we want legally," Davis said, "we are going to have problems."

Mrs. Newell said illegal drink houses are responsible for much crime and nuisance in the neighborhood. Drug users and prostitutes are keeping residents awake at night. And many older citizens are afraid to even sit on their porches after dark she said.

It is a farce to read in the newspapers that someone has been shot in a "local drink

house," she added. "If the newspaper and police department know it's a drink house, why is it still there?"


Mrs. Newell said residents accept too much in the community in the name of "I can't tell on my brother." She urged those attending the meeting to turn in their own mothers and brothers if the relatives were committing illegal acts.

"You are not only harming yourself, you are harming the neighborhood," she said of residents' reluctance to aid police in investigating criminal activity.

A square of the city bounded by Cleveland and Cameron avenues and 12th and 17th streets is the target area for "The East Winston Community: Bringing Itself Back," Mrs. Newell said. If the project is successful, other areas will be added later.

The area has been designated for urban renewal by the Board of Alderman as part of the redevelopment plan for East Winston.

Sub-standard housing is slated for demolition along Cameron and Gray. The land is then to be sold to private developers for rebuilding with single family dwellings.



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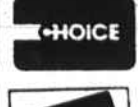

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