

Ms. Hattie Harris:

Alcoholism Presents Major

Problem To Public Housing

By Abigail L. Flanders
Post Staff Writer

Each day, Hattie Harris awakens in her small apartment in the Fairview Homes, looks out of her door at the people who live around her and wonders what new problems the day will bring.

Will someone become upset about an increase in their rent, or will it be an unusually high electric bill? Whatever it is, Hattie Harris, as President of the Resident Organization knows that they will all look to her for help in finding the solutions to their problems.

For four years, which is believed to be the longest period of time that the position has been held by anyone, Hattie Harris has been the President of the Resident Organization in the Fairview Homes Community. One of her duties is to call a meeting of the residents once a month so that they may voice their grievances. "Most of the time I have a special guest from maybe legal aid to tell the residents about their rights and how the law can work in their favor. Sometimes I have someone from

the Health Department to talk about rodents and someone from Alcoholics Anonymous to talk about alcoholic problems," Ms. Harris said.

Alcoholism presents a major problem to those living in low income or public housing, according to Ms. Harris. "Sometimes people can't talk about it in the meetings, so they wait until after the meeting to ask personal questions," she said.

Out of all of the problems that plague a public housing community, such as Fairview Homes, Ms. Harris seems more concerned with the plight of the elderly. "Sometimes their checks are lost or stolen and it takes at least a month or better to get another one. I've asked for better transportation for the elderly; perhaps a special van to pick them up once a month and take them to cash their checks, get their food stamps and maybe even refill their medication."

Hattie Harris has been living in the Fairview Homes for nine years. During that time

she has worked diligently to improve herself as well as her environment. "I was a tenth grade drop-out, but since then, I have taken some nurse's aid training courses and I do private practice in this capacity," Ms. Harris said. Although she is the head of her household and supports two teenagers, she finds life pleasant because she has suddenly found a new world in her work as both a nurse's aid and the President of the Resident Organization. "I admit that the biggest problem that I personally have is getting people off their front porches and out from in front of their television sets and into some of these resident meetings. This is where they should iron out their grievances. That's what we have them for," Ms. Harris stated emphatically.

Her life, her work, her thoughts and her feelings are directed toward the betterment of people—People who so desperately need her warmth and sincerity as well as her help—The people with whom she shares a common ground.

Editor's Note - This is the first of a series of articles Milton C. Branch Jr., manager of special passenger services at Eastern Airlines, will submit to the Post describing his travel around the world. A native of Charlotte, Mr. Branch is a former basketball star who attended the University of Colorado and Howard University where he studied sociology and psychology...

By Milton C. Branch Jr.
Special To The Post

When Christopher Columbus first saw St. Thomas, he named it and the surrounding islands after St. Ursula and her 10,999 virgins. But he never bothered to land on what is now the capital of the U. S. Virgin Islands. He'll never know what he missed. With dramatic mountain peaks, clear crystal blue waters, pure white beaches, fascinating under-water gardens and reefs, St. Thomas has become one of the world's most dazzling resorts.

The only major city on St. Thomas, and the capital city of the U. S. Virgin Islands, is Charlotte Amalie, a pretty bustling town with handsome Danish colonial houses built on sides of the encircling hills

overlooking a magnificent harbor. St. Thomas attracts visitors from throughout the U.S. because of its friendly people, fine hotels, water sports, endless sunshine, international restaurants, and ease of entry. (Because the Virgin Islands are U. S. possessions, there's no need to change currency, no passports, visa's or shots.) The deep water harbor at Charlotte Amalie is one of the most popular ports of all for many luxury cruise ships because of one of St. Thomas' most famous attractions—duty free shopping.

St. Thomas is without a doubt the most alluring free-port shopping spot this side of Hong Kong. The stores and shops at Charlotte Amalie are tucked away in old Danish warehouses with walls thick enough to withstand a pirate's siege. The normal duty free allowance for U. S. citizens returning home is \$100 and one-fifth of liquor. Returning from St. Thomas, however, you are allowed \$200 worth of duty free merchandise and five-fifths (one gallon) of liquor. It's not hard to spend your duty free allowance on

jewelry; perfumes; china (Wedgwood, Royal Copenhagen, Royal Worcester, Royal Doulton, Dansk); crystal (La-ligue, Waterford); sterling by George Jensen; linens from Belgium, Ireland, Denmark, and Madeira; silks from Thailand; watches (Movado, Tissot, Piaget, Seiko, Omega); cameras (Nikon, Canon, Zeiss), Honduras and Jamaican cigars as fine as Cuban; English leather, Danish pipes by Knute; Cado wall systems; resort wear; wood carvings; Sony cassette recorders, tape decks and components; even emeralds from Columbia direct from the mine—all at considerable savings. If you're like me, with a champagne appetite on a beer budget, be sure to save some time at the end of the day to shop for your duty free liquor allowance. On my last visit, Chavis Regal was about \$5 a fifth. One of the best ways of spending an afternoon is selecting your five fifths at A. H. Reese in Charlotte Amalie. It's like Baskin-Robbins for adults only with different flavored liqueurs: Peach, Pear, Apricot, Blackberry, Tangerine, Coconut, Almond, Apple, Peppermint, even Rose. They have a free tasting bar where you can sample the

many liqueurs, brandies, and wines. By the time you find the five you like best, you'll be lucky to find your way back to your hotel.

The range of hotel accommodations on St. Thomas is wide enough to please the most varied tastes, from small beach cottages right at the edge of a quiet lagoon to furnished condominiums with full kitchens and all the necessities for a family on a budget. The new Frenchman's Reef is one of the largest hotels in the Caribbean and has intimate restaurants, one of the hottest discotheques on the island, a large night club with top name entertainment, banquet facilities for up to 600, and a private beach with water sports concessions.

There's plenty to do at night in Charlotte Amalie, and at hotels and restaurants throughout the island. For dancing, the latest "in place" is La Disco at the Frenchman's Reef Hotel. The Dunegeon Bar at Bluebeard's Castle Hotel (winter home of Bluebeard the Pirate) and the Old Mill Nightclub are both popular with locals and tourists alike. The Mafolie, a Mediterranean-type villa on a



Milton C. Branch Jr.

hillside overlooking Charlotte Amalie harbor is one of the most popular restaurants on the island. They feature prime steak and the island's best frozen Strawberry Daiquiris. For West Indian food, The Galeon House specializes in turtle stew, 18-boy curry and baked fish with fugee. Whatever your tastes, from Orange Julius to Coquille St. Jacques, you'll be able to find it on St. Thomas.

During the day, sports activities naturally center around the sea. The most popular

See Virgin Isles on page 11



Ms. Eileen Neely
...Joins drama club

JCSU Drama

Club Inducts

New Members

Nine Johnson C. Smith University students were inducted into a dramatic fraternity Thursday, April 22.

An Honor's Convocation was held by Upsilon Iota Chapter of Alpha Psi Omega, an organization formed to honor students dedicated to the theater more than 50 years ago. Inducted students were Ronald Burwell, Thomas Glover, Lorenzer Jenkins, Lerol Langston, Wallace Loggins, Eileen Neely, Andrew Rogers, Diane Simpson and Ernest Vann.

Mrs. Henrietta Rhedrick, advisor to members of the drama fraternity, told the new members and the audience the convocation that working backstage is as dignified as performing. For this reason, students honored by the induction showed interest for either or both areas of theatrical production.

Other members of the fraternity are Grant Vinson, Raenard Brown, Helen Council, Elaine Elston, Mary Evans, Joseph Majors, Carolyn McCullough, Marilyn Minor, Theresa Morris, Stephen Sessoms, Phoebe Singleton, Deborah Wadsworth, Vanessa Worsham and Clarence Chisholm.

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