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PRICE 20c

Low Income Can Get Assistance

By Sandra Bowers
Post Staff Writer

If you live in one of the Charlotte Target Area, need fuel and running short of cash because of the severe hardship of the unseasonable cold winter, you'll be happy to learn that there is an agency here that can assist you.

According to W.H. Draddy, Director of Management for Charlotte Housing Authority, persons living in target areas—Grier Heights, North Charlotte, Cherry, Third Ward, West Morehead, First Ward, Southside Park, Five Points and West Boulevard—are eligible to receive \$50 allocation for the City of Charlotte from the winter crisis assistance program. "The money must be used to purchase fuel, oil, coal or firewood," Draddy said.

To apply, contact Family Housing Service, Inc., 403 N. Tryon Street at 375-4489 or 375-4494.

Citizens having difficulty residing in the nine target areas, were allowed a maximum of \$50 worth of fuel, and those who need fuel can apply for help until the end of March.

An amount of \$15,600 that was left from its winter crisis assistance program can help tenants living in the nine low-income areas of Charlotte keep warm and the \$50,000 Community Development Department, which also expires at the end of March, has provided fuel, money and other help to more than 450 poor persons here since it began Feb. 1.

Through Feb. 25, 239 homes were winterized with plastic weather stripping and 50 gallons of oil, a half ton of coal, and a load of firewood were made available for 455 persons or up to \$50 cash to help pay gas or electric bills.

City Council authorized the program after the plight of poor families and elderly people trying to survive one of the coldest winters on record in unheated and underheated homes was brought to public attention.

The city has spent \$14,167 to buy fuel and make cash payments to residents of the target areas. The average spent per home was about \$36 — \$13.95 less than the \$50 per home allocated in the program budget due to the fact that many residents had small oil tanks that wouldn't hold \$50 worth of fuel.

About 220 persons who have applied for help have been referred to other agencies because they didn't live in a community development target area.

Cooperative

Office Banquet

Scheduled

Students, who work part time while attending school through the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Cooperative Office Occupations (COO) program, will entertain their employers with a banquet Thursday, March 17, 7 p.m. in the Independence Ballroom at the Radisson Plaza Hotel.



MS. WILLIE MAE BEST
...Graduate of Barber-Scotia

Ms. Willie Best Is Beauty Of Week

By Melvetta Wright
Post Staff Writer

The ambitious Libra-born lady who represents the Post as Beauty of the Week in this issue is Ms. Willie Mae Best, a native of Hartsville, N.C.

Ms. Best is a graduate of Barber-Scotia College with a Bachelor's of Arts Degree in Business Administration. While at Scotia she was an honor student, the captain of the cheerleading squad and became a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

The daughter of the late Rufus Best and Mrs. Sarah Best, our Beauty later plans to return to school, probably the University of South Carolina in Columbia, where she will pursue a Master's Degree in Business Administration. But presently she is employed by Collins and Aikman as an Industrial Engineer. She is one of the first Black women to hold an executive position with this company and sees the job as having great possibilities for promotion. Among her other many duties, Ms. Best visits various colleges and universities for the purpose of recruiting qualified students for the company. She was recently transferred from Charlotte to Spartanburg, S.C.

Our Beauty was one of the many persons who enjoyed seeing "Rich Man, Poor Man, Book II" on television and was disappointed, as were many of us, when the series went off the air. But she is pleased that her other favorite program, "60 Minutes," still airs.

"60 Minutes" appeals to her because "it gets down to the roots of things and is very informative to the public." Ms. Best's favorite actress is Diana Ross because she feels that Miss Ross possesses the same type of ambition that she herself has.

Her parents are the persons who stand at the top of the list of those she admires the most because of the way they overcame the struggles they encountered.

**Hearing Set For
General Revenue**

Sharing Funds

The Charlotte City Council has scheduled a public hearing for Monday, March 28 at 3 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall to receive comments and suggestions on the possible uses of General Revenue Sharing Funds for fiscal year 1978.

countered in rearing four children and the guidance they sought to give their offspring.

Our Beauty's favorite colors are, naturally, red and white, and she enjoys that "good ole homecooking." While talking to one of Ms. Best's admirers, this reporter discovered that she can really "burn a pot."

Born October 2, 1953, Ms. Best exhibits those characteristics that seem to have been incorporated into the form from which all Libras were made. She's likeable and easy-going. She's patient and believes that "the best way to get around any problem is to go through it."

Appropriately, Ms. Best believes that beauty lies in the personality of an individual rather than in the physical make-up. If this is true, and many believe it is, then Ms. Best is truly a beautiful person. And, so as not to disappoint those who disagree and believe that beauty is a pretty face, our Beauty fits well in that category, also.

Congratulations and best wishes are in order because our Beauty hears the tinkle of wedding bells coming closer and closer. She declines giving a date at the time, but says that it will happen in the very near future.

Hats off to Ms. Willie Mae Best, an ambitious, independent and appropriately cited Beauty of the Week.

Neighborhood Organizations

NWCAA Brings Community Changes

By Hoyle H. Martin Sr.
Post Staff Writer

The Northwest Community Action Association, a federation of 12 neighborhood organizations, has been successful in initiating "drives" and "protests" that have resulted in 16 community improvements during its 4-year history.

Under the direction of L.C. Coleman (Westside Improvement Association), Howard Campbell (University Park Improvement Association) and the leadership of the other 10 affiliated organizations, projects including additional school buses, increased black voter turn-out, neighborhood rezoning, the building of parks and sidewalks and the rerouting of truck routes were successfully pursued. Working behind the scene effectively

Food Stamp Office Opens New Site

The Mecklenburg County Food Stamp Office will open at its new location on the fifth floor of the East Independence Plaza Building, 951 South Independence Boulevard, Monday morning, April 4, according to Larry Goolsby, Eligibility Director for the program.

The last day of operation at the present location, 800 Briar-creek Road, will be Tuesday, March 29. The office will be closed Wednesday, March 30, through Friday, April 1, to allow time for moving into the new offices.

The office telephone number will remain 374-2677.

The new location is at the intersection of South Independence Boulevard and South McDowell Street. It is located at City Bus Route No. 3. Free parking space is available adjacent to the building, with access from South Independence Boulevard and South McDowell Street.

Goolsby said he expects the new location "will better serve the needs of food stamp clients" and he expressed the hope that "inconvenience due to the move will be kept to a minimum."

The relocation was approved by the Board of County Commissioners, based on recommendations made by the Mecklenburg County Board of Social Services. The move was necessitated by a termination of the County's lease for space for the Food Stamp Office in the Merchandise Mart Building.

11th Graders

To Attend College

Outstanding students in the Charlotte area will have a chance to attend college while still in the eleventh grade.

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte has received a \$14,173 National Science Foundation grant to allow 25 high-ability students to participate in an urban environmental study program.

Information may be obtained from Dr. Gerald L. Ingalls of the Department of Geography and Earth Science at UNCC (Phone 597-2293).



UNEMPLOYMENT HAS TAKEN ITS TOLL

.....Idle workers linger behind post office

Black Community Accused Of Moral Incompetence

By O. Imania Uhura Aka
(V.W.P.)
Special To The Post

In every community in the United States, there are homeless, wayward, and sometimes destitute individuals, and our beloved Queen City is no exception. It, too, has its share of individuals who are less fortunate than you are, and the least of these have their own particular meeting place. If you are no stranger to the Queen City you have the spot, its one square block bordered by West Trade and West Fourth Streets on the north and south, and by South Mint and South Graham Streets on the east and west.

The center of the Block is occupied by the Charlotte branch of the United States Postal Post Office. At one time or another all of us have had reason to pass this particular spot, because Charlotte has not yet become the megalopolis that would not require us to venture into the heart of the city. And how ironic, that it's in the heart of the Queen City where you will find its most needy citizens.

It is an indictment of the universal society that these individuals are forced to live as they do, but to bring the matter closer to home each one of us bears a responsibility to aid these people, thereby aiding the entire community.

Case in point, I would like to introduce to you one Mr. Oscar Hardy. Mr. Hardy is an ebony colored black man, who stands over six feet, and his gray hair and beard are close cropped about his head and face. Oscar will be 57 years old this coming Sunday. He was born March 20, 1920 in Gaston County, N.C. Mr. Hardy is not a resident of Charlotte. I suppose you would classify him as a transient, one who's just passing through. He does have family living here in the city, a cousin in Cherry, a nephew in Grierstown, and a few relations in Huntersville, so I guess you can say that his "roots" have branched out and held firm here.

His home base though is in Gastonia where he lives with his youngest sister, her husband and their nine children. He's seldom there more than

three days out of a week, though. You see, Mr. Hardy has a bit of the wanderlust in him. He frequently commutes as far south as Spartanburg, S.C. He also goes to Kings Mountain as often as he can. Not very much of a wanderlust if that's as far as he goes, you say? Oscar Hardy has been blind since birth, which makes his travels border on the adventurous.

I met Mr. Hardy on that block one night last week while out seeking a conversation with those who frequently gather in back of the main post office. As I walked up I noticed that he was blind and that his hearing is very keen. I had on rubber soled shoes and was nearly 10 feet away when he spoke to me. "Hi ya' doin, can you help me out there?" As I dropped a few coins in his ashtray I asked him if he'd mind my sitting down. "Help yourself" he replied. As we began to talk about this and that, I realized at once, here is an intelligent individual who has a definite opinion of himself, his peers and society. I asked if he'd mind my asking him a few questions about himself. "No, fire away," was his reply. I then asked him to tell me the highs and lows of his travels, what he has been exposed to and been involved in. Oscar Hardy unfolded in front of me life, some of it as I know it, but then life as I hope no one should ever have to see. He told me that he goes where his mind leads him experiencing life as it is but, trusting in the Creator to make sure that he makes it back alright.

Mr. Hardy attended the School of the Blind in Raleigh, N.C. "You can learn just about anything you want to learn at that school" he told me, but he quit at the age of 17, because he became "tired of being bossed around and abused. You see a majority of the staffers at the school were white and prejudiced and is no respecter of disability."

He continued, "Life is rough on a blind man, you can't enjoy life like you want to. See BLACKS on Page 16

Minorities Efforts Jeopardized

The efforts of minorities to achieve economic parity in the foreseeable future are seriously jeopardized by steady deterioration of the nation's centers of commerce, according to the head of the nation's oldest national business organization. Dr. Berkeley G. Burrell, tenth President of the National Business League, today warned that unless minorities can produce a healthy economic climate in their communities, efforts to achieve economic parity may well be doomed. Said Burrell: "Among the many obstacles confronting us, the one, I think, which most threatens to undermine and destroy our parity struggle is the absence of a national economic policy for the revitalization of America's centers of commerce. Thus, turning our commercial centers around and restoring them to patterns of productivity growth must become a national priority."

Addressing the Mid-Winter Conference of the National Association of Minority Contractors, sponsored by the Minority Contractors Resource Center, Burrell decried the steady deterioration of our urban communities and noted the impact of persistent economic stagnation on the Black community, saying: "Our current problems of inflation and sluggish recovery from the worst recession since the Great Depression, place tremendous pressures on unstable income areas. As a result, the Black market is seriously depleted."

Burrell noted that Booker T. Washington founded this organization when he concluded that there was a need for a structure that could bring Black business persons together for consultation and to secure information and inspiration from one another. Washington had an abiding faith in America; but he had an even greater faith in Black America. According to Burrell, that faith is being severely tested today because the same issues and concerns that confronted Black Americans in 1900 still confront them today. He continued: "Four hundred years after Blacks helped to create the first American enterprise through the trade of their lives into bondage — we are still a poor race. For when we divide our total assets among the millions of our population, it does not represent a very large per capita."

Turning to the plight of minority contractors, he noted: "Of all Federal contracts awarded, 74 percent of them went to big business. Only 26 percent were awarded to small business firms, despite the fact that the small business community represents 98 percent of all business firms in the country. Yet, of the 26 percent that went to small business firms, 25.3 percent were awarded to white small businesses. That means that only seven tenths of one percent of the \$60 billion worth of Federal contracts went to you minority contractors."

Burrell urged the minority contractors to join in the parity fight to demand their fair share of huge government expenditures.



L.C. Coleman
NWCAA leader

efforts NWCAA president L.C. Coleman said, "We seek no reward, but to see an improvement in the quality of our lives through a better living environment."

In commenting on these

TURTLE-TALK



...If it weren't for FOOLS,
WISE MEN couldn't make a
LIVING.