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ATTRACTIVE SYLVIA MICKLE  
...Varsity cheerleader

## Sylvia Mickle Is Beauty Of Week

Sweet sixteen is the age of our beauty, Sylvia Mickle. And at this precious age Mickle has already proven that she is a leader.

A few of her past times include, Varsity Cheerleading at West Mecklenburg, Senior High School, being active on the student council, Red Cross, Project Aries, and the Fellowship of Christian Girls. She is also a member of Future Business Leaders of Tomorrow and plans to become a lawyer.

But what makes our beauty so unique is that she has better things to do than watch a lot of television.

"Television puts me to sleep. I spend a lot of time listening to music and studying," Mickle revealed.

Our Libra beauty also enjoys cheering, swimming and dancing. "I took

tap, jazz, baton and ballet for two years," Mickle said. "I love to dance."

Mickle's dislikes include the high cost of living. "I dislike the high cost of everything. If a lot of people could get together maybe they can come up with something to stop it," Mickle said. "Stop giving people what they want."

Her philosophy of life ties right in with her solution to inflation, "To strive for the best and you'll get far in life."

"People with attitudes of 'I can't do it' won't get anywhere like that," Mickle explained.

Mickle is the daughter of Mrs. Mattie Mickle of 3501 Otwell Court. "My mother is my favorite person because she does so much for me. I've come a long way with her," she said.

She has one brother, two sisters and attends O'Zion Baptist Church.

## Operation Christmas

### Basket Will Be Held

by Susan Ellsworth  
Post Staff Writer

Families with children and senior citizens will be special guests at a Christmas party sponsored by Big Ways radio and Kroger Sav-On.

"Operation Christmas Basket," to be held Dec. 16 from 2-6 p.m. at the Charlotte Civic Center will feature a dinner, games, and gifts for the children.

One thousand guests are being invited to "the biggest Christmas party ever," according to Ms. Eleanor Pettis, co-ordinator for the project along with Jim Black from WAYS.

Kroger Sav-On will donate food, Betty McCarroll of McCarroll Catering Service will prepare the food, and the Mecklenburg Jaycees will wait on tables.

Dinner will consist of turkey and dressing, sweet potatoes, green beans, rice

and rolls. Pepsi Cola Bottling Company will supply beverages.

While adults play bingo, children will be entertained with a puppet show, magic display and participate in sing-along Christmas songs.

Santa will arrive for a special visit to distribute toys to the children that were wrapped by the Mecklenburg Jaycees.

Among the toys will be Cadaco basketball games, Fun Stuff Incredible Hulk dolls, Meyercord Juggling Clown Kits, Raggedy Ann and Andy Musical Mobiles, Superior Roll, A Coin Banks, Tinkerbell Cologne Doll sets, and a special Huffy BMX 24 inch bicycle.

Toys are furnished by Big Ways. Can goods and dry foods may be donated and placed in special bins found at all four Kroger Sav-On stores.

The Jaycees will collect food items and pack them into food stuffs for some of the families attending the dinner.

Guests are being referred to Big Ways through the Christmas Bureau, Bethlehem Center, the Council on Aging and others.

Individuals and families mainly from Mecklenburg County will be contacted personally by volunteers from King's College.

This is the largest Christmas dinner that Big Ways has ever sponsored.

### DUCK-TALK



The only PERSON who listens to both sides of a FAMILY argument is the LADY next door.

# HUD Reconsiders Foreclosures

★★★

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## 800,000 Face Bleak Christmas?

### Some Help

### On Way For

### Fuel Bills

Special To The Post  
Raleigh—Even with help on the way in January for fuel bills, this will still be a bleak Christmas for most of North Carolina's approximately 800,000 poor residents, according to Robert H. Ward, director of the Division of Social Services of the N.C. Department of Human Resources.

"With incomes already below the poverty level and the continued erosion of these meager incomes by inflation, I am afraid our state's poor are in for a long cold winter and not a very bright holiday season," Ward said.

He indicated that if it had not been for the tremendous voluntary effort of the state's more fortunate citizens during the past Christmas seasons, these occasions would have also been bleak.

"Churches, organizations and individuals have shown great concern for our state's poor during past Christmas seasons. But with inflation continuing to gnaw away at these very limited incomes, I urge everyone to dig a little deeper this year to share with the poor. I urge this realizing that everyone's income has also been hit hard by inflation."

"I sincerely hope that emergency fuel funds to be distributed in January do not cause people to become slack in their voluntary efforts to help the poor. I realize that \$34.4 million sounds like a lot of money. But, the maximum any individual or family will get is just a one-time payment of \$200," he added.

"Contrary to popular belief, I feel strongly that these people are not poor because they want to be, but that they are victims of circumstances."



Ms. Vanessa Harris  
...with Rosalind and Geneva

### For Christmas

## Rosalind And Geneva Will

## Have Special Doll House

by Teresa Burns  
Post Staff Writer

Christmas has arrived early for Rosalind Harris, 6, and her sister, Geneva, 2, this year. Right now a special, large doll house sits in their living room.

It's special because it wasn't made from wood or plastic assembled in a factory. Instead the doll house evolved from love, pop stick sticks and nearly 250 hours of patient work by their mother, Vanessa Harris.

"I started at the beginning of August. I stopped for a vacation and a test, but I usually worked on it about three hours a day," Harris said.

The creation started when Harris' daughter, Rosalind noted that her dolls were looking for a house. Doll houses big enough for 12" dolls cost \$200. "So we decided to make one," their mother said.

"The children would

hand me the sticks and I'd glue one row and wait for it to dry. I didn't use a plan or design, just my imagination," she continued.

The house is made of popsicle sticks glued together with Elmer's glue. There's green carpet in front for the grass, and even a fence. It's painted white and little Rosalind calls it the "President's House."

"I like it real good," Rosalind began, "Skipper and Marie are going to move in tomorrow. I love it!"

The sturdy two story frame house has wall to wall carpeting; a roof made from aluminum and basal wood shingles; a kitchen with matching table cloth and curtains; a bedroom; and a living room. All rooms are even completely furnished with popsicle stick furniture.

Since furnishing would have cost \$90, Harris said, "We made our own. The

furniture was expensive. So I made the furniture while I was building the house."

Harris taught a crafts class at the Afro-American Cultural Center last summer. "It inspired me. I taught 12 children how to make African huts with popsicle sticks and they put hay roofs on them," she said.

Already the Harris' are planning an extension to the doll house. Rosalind says her dolls need somewhere to park their cars. So according to Harris, "The next thing is a garage."

After that she plans to put wheels on the doll house. Whatever Harris does has to comply with her full work schedule. Whether it is sewing her clothes or her daughters', making Christmas stockings or Santa Clauses out of little books - anything Harris does can be labeled creative.

### 30,000 Families Eligible

### Under Court Settlement

by Susan Ellsworth  
Post Staff Writer

Families having home mortgages insured by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that lost their homes through foreclosure may be able to get their houses back or secure another house.

Under a court-approved settlement, 30,000 families are eligible, according to a recent news release.

HUD must now consider the requests for foreclosure avoidance it rejected on May 17, 1976 through Jan. 31, 1979, and has barred foreclosure and evicting people eligible for repossessing.

The settlement also requires HUD to consider relief for former homeowners who didn't apply for HUD assistance because they weren't told help was available before the foreclosure.

HUD had foreclosed more than 78,000 houses. Many of these houses were boarded up and vandalized.

The lawsuit was settled when HUD agreed to establish the Home Mortgage Assignment Program to give relief to homeowners in temporary financial difficulty.

### 24,000 To

### Get Fuel

### Assistance Funds

by Susan Ellsworth  
Post Staff Writer

Twenty-four thousand low income individuals in Mecklenburg County will receive fuel assistance funds this winter.

Over \$34 million will be distributed among 7,000 recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

Seventeen thousand individuals from 6,700 families receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) will secure allocations, according to Edwin Chapin, director of Social Services for Mecklenburg County.

Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. recently approved plans for a federal program providing up to \$200 for fuel costs.

Under this plan, now awaiting federal approval, AFDC recipients would get a flat \$100 supplement, Chapin said.

The SSI recipients (blind, disabled, or aged low-income people) will be given \$100 to \$200 depending upon their income.

The fuel cost assistance checks will be mailed within the first 10 days of January.

"Our state program should reach as many needy citizens as possible," Governor Hunt said.

### Roast Chicken

To test a roast chicken for doneness, stick a skewer into the thickest part of the leg. If the juice that runs out is clear (not pink), it's done. You'll also note that the meat has shrunk back somewhat from the ends of the drumsticks.

Under the settlement homeowners whose applications for assignments were turned down will be reconsidered at their request.

Former homeowners that HUD denied assistance to will either get their old homes back, if it has not been resold, or will secure another home from the HUD inventory of foreclosed houses.

Mortgagors who have not already been contacted by HUD are advised to call their nearest HUD office to request consideration.

December 18 is the deadline.

Charlotte homeowners should contact the region four office at 415 North Edgeworth Street, Greensboro, N.C. 27401. The number is (919) 699-5378. Ask for Fannie Andrews or David Morehead.

### Auto Decals

### Go On Sale

### January 2

City of Charlotte auto decals will go on sale Jan. 2, 1980. The cost of the 1980 decal will be \$5.

All residents who garage a vehicle within City limits are required to purchase a decal for each vehicle registered with the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles by Feb. 15, 1980.

The penalty for not having a decal displayed on a vehicle is \$15. The decal must be permanently affixed to the windshield.

Decals may be purchased at the following locations:

- 1) North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles License Plate Bureau, 2949 Freedom Drive, Freedom Village Shopping Center
- License Plate Bureau, 6058 East Independence Boulevard
- 2) Any location of City Service Center (formerly Mobile City Hall)
- 3) City Hall, 600 East Trade Street, First Floor

Auto decals may also be purchased by mail. Send a check payable to the City of Charlotte for \$5.15 to: City of Charlotte, Treasury Collections-Auto Decals, 600 East Trade Street, Charlotte, NC 28202. The amount stated, \$5.15, includes postage.

In order to purchase an auto decal, citizens must have the registered owner's name, the car owner's address and the North Carolina license tag number.

### Senior Citizens Class

The Methodist Home Recreation Center will conduct a Senior Citizens Exercise Class every Thursday at the center from 10-11:30 a.m. A doctor's approval form must be completed before admission to the class is permitted.

There is no charge for this program.

## Abusing Prescription Drugs

## Is Practice Doctors Encourage

by Susan Ellsworth  
Post Staff Writer

Abusing prescription drugs is a practice both doctors and patients encourage.

"Doctors are not getting trained in the effects of drugs," warned Dr. J. D. Allen, executive director of Open House, Inc., a Charlotte drug treatment center.

"All they know is what they read in the 'Physician's Desk Manual' and what drug manufacturers say," he continued. "They don't know the potential for abuse."

This is only one side of the problem. Many times a patient contributes as much to his addiction of prescribed drugs as those doctors who don't exercise good judgement.

A worried, anxious patient exerts pressure "to

### Second In A 3-Part Series

get a symbolic gesture that the problem can be taken care of," Dr. Allen explained. This gesture usually takes the form of a prescription.

Many patients prefer to treat the symptoms of emotional stress instead of solving the problem causing the stress. They become dependent upon drugs for relief, Dr. Allen said.

He described the two most common drug abusers as the white, middle-class housewife using medication to wake up, get through the day and sleep, and the addict who manufactures symptoms of illnesses to receive prescriptions. Addicts often sell these medicines, too.

While alcohol is abused by all economic groups, each group has its own preferences.

Lower middle-class women usually become hooked on diet stimulants, amphetamines and dextro-drine, Allen said.

Middle-class women exploit valium and librium, relaxers that mask anxiety, he continued.

Stimulants such as primate and dextrin are favored by upper middle-class women who also choose the calming effect of valium.

"Drug abuse is a symptom," Dr. Allen emphasized. When treating the drug abuser, one is often dealing with a mental health problem, he added. All areas of a person's life, including

family situation and drug history must be considered.

"Ten percent of the drug-using population self-medicates," he said. This practice makes them feel good and escape from depression. Stimulants taken to supply energy and improve social interaction become a necessity to the drug abuser.

People with what Dr. Allen termed an addictive personality are the most prone to drug abuse. He described them as being subjected to isolation and a lack of emotion. The drug abuser discovers that drugs open a new field of emotional sensations.

For the last series article, the Post will discuss the cooperation between the criminal justice system and drug treatment services.