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White Leads Bears Against Golden Bulls

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NICHELE BENNETT VIEWS
...Positive aspects of politics

165,000 Eligible To Get Help With Heating Bills

Faircloth Picks Black Woman

Eva M. Clayton of Warren County has been appointed vice chairman of the campaign to get Lauch Faircloth elected governor.

Mrs. Clayton is chairperson of the Warren County Commissioners and a former assistant secretary of the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development. She is president of Technical Resources International, a planning and management firm in Raleigh.

Between 1977-1980, Mrs. Clayton was the highest ranking Black woman in Gov. Jim Hunt's administration. The county commission chairperson recently stated about Faircloth, "Lauch Faircloth is the right man for the right time for North Carolina. He has a commitment to a healthy economy and increased job opportunities for all of North Carolina." Mrs. Clayton professed.

The only Black woman in North Carolina who is a county commission chairman, believes Faircloth is committed to fairness which will ensure equal access of the resources of our state's economy to minorities and women.



Ms. Ethel Guest, action director of the Anita Stroud Story Hour supervises the children in their various activities. (Photo by Peeler)

Average Household To Get \$202

Special To The Post
RALEIGH — An estimated 165,000 low-income households across the state will be eligible for financial help with their heating bills this winter through the federal Low-Income Energy Assistance program.

Bonnie Cramer, assistant director for program administration in the Department of Human Resources' Division of Social Services, said Low-Income Energy Assistance provides a one-time payment to help eligible households pay their heating bills. "It's not the purpose of the program to pay all of a family's heating bills, but to provide some relief from the high cost of energy," she said.

Last year more than 145,000 households received assistance under the federal assistance program, with payments averaging \$202 per household. The size of the payment a family receives under the program depends upon the number of people in the household, their incomes, the region of the state where they live, and the type of heating fuel they use.

Cramer said North Carolina's share of the estimated \$1.875 billion in federal funds authorized by Congress for this year's Low-Income Energy Assistance program is \$29.6 million. The Department of Human Resources has been designated as the state agency responsible for administering the program. County social services departments across the state will determine eligibility.

Cramer said only households that have heating bills are eligible for financial assistance. Applicants also may be eligible if their heating bills are included as part of their rental payment. Persons who live in public housing and are subject to additional heating charges may qualify for partial payments. Households that receive a utility allowance from the HUD Section 8 program also may be eligible for a partial payment if their utility allowance does not cover all their heating costs.

Eligible households must have total countable incomes at or below the 1981 non-farm poverty level. The amounts paid for Medicare and hospital insurance premiums are deducted from income. Households that have working members may deduct work related and child care costs from their earned income. Some other types of income are not counted at all such as loans, income of children under 14, and in-kind contributions.

The non-farm poverty level for different size See 165,000 on page 5.

Ethel Guest Proudly Keeps Miss Stroud's Dream Alive!

By Loretta Manago
Post Staff Writer
No one thought much about who would carry on the Anita Stroud Program when Miss Stroud was well and able to care for "her children" herself. No doubt it seemed that Miss Stroud would continue forever to lift children from out of despair to hope. But as the years steadily passed and increasing age and poor health slowed her steps, the thought of who

Second in a series

would continue what, Miss Stroud had begun was an ever present one. Fortunately for Miss Stroud and her children there was a woman who sensed a need to give her life more direction, more meaning and had come to Miss Stroud to offer her services. That woman was Ethel Guest. For years she worked alongside Miss Stroud, learning the skills of

this sacrificing woman, acquiring the patience and growing in love for the children with whom she had constant contact. As director of the Anita Stroud Program, Ms. Guest has devoted 22 years of her life to this cause. With Miss Stroud as an inspirational mentor Ms. Guest is continuously engaged in discovering new adventures for the children to benefit from, and in making the public aware of the Anita Stroud program and its objectives.

A former Charlotte Mecklenburg School teacher, Ms. Guest is a professional artist, who studied at A&T State University, Howard University, Boston University and the New York School of Interior Design.

Ms. Guest actively exhibits her art work, appearing in several one-person and group shows. Affiliated with many art organizations, Ms. Guest has been distinguished with numerous honors and awards including the Nine Who Care Award (1982), The Human Service Award - Black Women's Caucus (1982), The Governor James B. Hunt Volunteer Award (1982), and the National Sojourner Truth Meritorious Service Award (1982).

There are others who, in addition to Ms. Guest, have felt the need to become directly involved in the work of Miss Stroud. One of those persons is Nadine Houston. Her association with Miss Stroud began as one of "Miss Nita's children" but her work with the missionary began as a teenager at camp. "When we would go to camp I used to be one of the counselors," reminisced Mrs. Houston.

That was years ago. Now grown, Mrs. Houston, a music teacher at Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church has returned the See Ethel on page 13.

Our Beauty Believes Jackson Should Become President?

By Teresa Simmons
Post Managing Editor
With all the commotion about black political candidates and with comments like: "Should he run for this office?" or "This one will be the first black mayor," our beauty has her mind set only upon the positive aspects of the outcomes.

"I would like for Jesse Jackson to become President of the United States," Nichelle Bennett stated. "I think he would improve situations not only for blacks but for whites as well."

As a 10th grader at South Mecklenburg Senior High School our beauty keeps up with current events and enjoys studying German, "because it is a new subject in my curriculum," she added. She also enjoyed studying science under Mr. Brewer while she was a student at Quail Hollow. Art is another favorite subject of Ms. Bennett. She received a certificate of excellence in art in junior high school.

Many aspects of life interest Ms. Bennett; like jogging and keeping physically fit. She runs track, the 440, and also enjoys traveling and in general just going places.

Michael Jackson and the Jacksons are favorite entertainers of Ms. Bennett. "I have just about all their latest albums," she confessed.

Ms. Bennett has two brothers: Shawn and Donovan. She and her family attend Simpson-Gillespie United Methodist Church where Rev. Preston Jones is pastor. "My ambition is to become a surgeon," our beauty projected. It is a goal she has long grasped towards. She is encouraged by her mother, Mrs. Shalia Walker, and her Aunt Vivian. "I really admire my Aunt Vivian. She is more like a teenager when it comes to understanding

the problems I face." The awards and honors Ms. Bennett has received in life have been the good grades in school she has achieved from studying. Her ambition of becoming a doctor will depend on her discipline. So far she makes A's and B's and she admits a few C's. The important characteristic is Ms. Bennett's belief in success; that just as Jesse Jackson has the makings of a good president, so has she the will to achieve her goals.

For Senior Citizens

L. C. Coleman Proposes New Ordinance

By LORI GRIER
Post Staff Writer
Mr. L. C. Coleman, 65, longtime neighborhood activist and senior citizens' spokesman, wants the Mecklenburg legislative delegation to provide relief for the substantial numbers of elderly and mentally and physically handicapped persons effected by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg property revaluation.

Mr. Harry Schultz, director of Charlotte-Mecklenburg's Tax Revaluation Department, knows that the only remedy lies in legislation. "The law requires us to fix a true market value. We are ethically and morally bound to do that. We cannot take condition of ownership into consideration," he said.

Because of time and staff considerations, the department is unable to search out property owners who did not, for what ever reason, appeal the validity of the market value that tax appraisers placed on their homes.

"A survey to locate and identify these persons, he continued, would be one of the greatest causes any organization could undertake."

Schultz said his department, now inundated with work on appraisals of new construction, will welcome



L.C. Coleman
...Neighborhood activist

appears again after January 1, 1984. "The law allows an appeal every calendar year. If we have made any substantial errors in fact, refunds are in order," admitted Schultz. Coleman says 30 to 35 cases he has run across in-

volve "the elderly, the senile and the illiterate who did not understand the mailed notice of their right to appeal before the July 1 deadline... or they felt like it was no use. "These people, see, have no power, never had it, don't know how to get it.

Most are in their 70s to 90s, sit on the porch, go to church and to bed. A long time ago they paid maybe \$5,000 to \$6,000 for a house and now all of a sudden they get a tax bill bigger than any house payment they ever made when they were earning," pointed out Coleman.

Coleman wants Mecklenburg's delegation to the General Assembly to seek legislation with a homestead exemption for those who have incomes below \$600 a month and who have owned the property for 50 years.

On September 9, 1983 he spoke before the County Commissioners and gave each a copy of his ordinance which would help to insure the senior community a better life through the elimination of property taxes for eligible elderly individuals. The tax committee is made up of the Senior Citizens United (100 members) and the Washington Heights Community Action Association (40 members).

The proposal states the following: 1) The committee proposes the exemption from property tax assessment for any senior citizen aged 65 and above who has lived in Charlotte-Mecklenburg for 50 years, resides in his own home and has a fixed income of no more than \$800 a month.

Any individual meeting these criteria would not be required to pay property tax; 2) The committee proposes an amendment to the state law which allows tax exemption for \$8,500 of property value for persons aged 65 and above. Due to the new property revaluation, this amount is insignificant and does nothing to ease the tax burden of elderly, fixed-income residents. The committee would encourage the Charlotte City Council, the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners and the Mecklenburg County Delegates to lobby for an amendment in state law which would allow a higher amount for property value exemption in accordance with the increased tax base; 3) The committee recommends investigation of the possibility of Federal Subsidy or loan to City, County and State Government to help finance the program.

Coleman mentioned that Ms. Marilyn Bissel suggested that they change the 50 years listed in proposal 1 to 20 years. His response was "sure, we'll do anything which can help us out."

He hopes somehow to find a mechanism for a survey to identify the helpless and powerless to reflect the magnitude of the problem. He also plans See Coleman on page 5.

TURTLE-TALK

What we are depends on what we do when we might be doing something else.