

**With Major Home Repairs**

# Nettie Mason Is In Need Of Help!

By Loretta Manago  
Post Staff Writer

Nettie Mason is buying the little blue house at the end of Ellen Street. One day she looks forward to ownership of the property. However, unless the Jim Walter's home receives some major repairs, there won't be much to own.

Mrs. Mason's housing problems begin with the front door. Three of the window panes of the front door are broken and replaced with cardboard. Anyone could push through those slats of cardboard and unlock the door.

In the living room, the furnace that supplies the heat, often overflows kerosene.

There are other problems in the kitchen. The door won't open. If there was ever a fire, there would only be one door to exit from and that would be the front door. Also, a portion of the kitchen floor is beginning to rot. Just walking over it you can feel the floor weakening. That the kitchen sink leaks and the lights don't work only add to the problems.

Unfortunately, the problems don't stop there. In the bathroom, part of the floor has rotted where the toilet has seeped water. This has resulted in Mrs. Mason's daughter, Sonya, falling through the decaying planks. Now, even the tank fails to operate properly. The only way that the Masons can use their toilet is to fill it with water and then flush it.

Boards have replaced the window that was once in Mrs. Mason's son's room. The entire frame of the window was kicked out by Tommy Morrell, one of Rev. Morrell's three children, who was placed under Mrs. Mason's care by Social Services during his wife's illness. According to Mrs. Mason, Rev. Morrell had promised to pay for repairing the window and to assist her financially during the time she kept his children. She never received a dime. Rev. Morrell could not be reached for comment.

Similar to the kitchen, the lighting doesn't work in the boys' room either.

Every morning hot water has to be heated for baths. There is no hot water heater. Rats have drilled holes in the thin plastered walls. Electric outlets in the girls' room are unusable. The Masons were given a refrigerator by Social Services with no promises that it would



The Masons pause momentarily to take a picture in front of their home. On the front row left to right are Valerie, Sharon, Anthony and Angela. (Back row) Andrew Davis, Sonya and Mrs. Nettie Mason.

work. It doesn't.

Mrs. Mason has tried to do what she can to keep things from falling apart. She has replaced the useless wood on the unstable floors. She has sealed doors where the cold air has threatened to come inside. But that's simply not enough.

What she needs is help to make these repairs. Since she and her husband separated a few years ago, Mrs. Mason has had her hands full. Raising six kids, keeping them clothed and fed eliminates the possibility of Mrs. Mason saving enough money to improve her housing condition herself.

Receiving limited financial resources, Mrs. Mason, who recently found employment with the Atlantic Design Company, remarked: "Since our separation, my husband has to pay the house payment and has to give a small amount for child support. Before I started working I received assistance from welfare, but that will be reduced because of my job and I've still been able to get food stamps."

With this, Mrs. Mason has made the impossible work, feeding and clothing six children by getting the most out of her money. "I shop the thrift stores for furniture and clothing," she commented.

Although it is this enormous responsibility of raising six kids that has hindered Mrs. Mason from repairing her house over the years, it is those same

about bills and other things but the kids help out all they can," confirmed Mrs. Mason. That help comes in various forms; the two oldest daughters, Sonya and Angela, often assume leadership roles in the family, by getting the younger children dressed, and seeing to it that they are fed. Angela even works on the weekend to help her mother financially. Her oldest son, Andrew, who acts as the man in the house, hands out the discipline. The three remaining children, Anthony, Valerie and Sharon's bright and inquisitive faces are enough to uplift any mother's spirit. They, too, know the meaning of helping. Valerie, who received one dollar from her father on her birthday, pushed aside the visions of candy that danced in her mind and gave the money to her mother.

This kind of togetherness makes the Masons a closely knit family. Though their needs are many, they don't dwell in self pity. They have a faith that warms the heart. No, Mrs. Mason is not looking for a handout, she just's looking for a helping hand. If any individual, civic organization or church would like to assist the Masons, please contact Nettie Mason at 523-4975 or at 4415 Ellen St. (off Wilmont Rd.).

six kids that keep her going.

"I love my kids." When Mrs. Mason says that you have to believe it because as her kids huddle around her looking to her for protection and comfort, you can't help but feel the tremendous amount of love that none of their problems have been able to destroy.

"I get a lot of pressure

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McCreary Branch YMCA offers cross country skiing for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community.

Prior experience is not necessary. This is a lifetime sport that is easy to learn and provides opportunity for great fun and fellowship. This sport is not to be confused with downhill skiing.

This program is limited to children, 10 years old and older, and to adults.

Registration must be completed by February 4. Orientation will be conducted Monday, February 13, 1984 at 7 p.m. The trip is scheduled to leave McCreary YMCA for Moses Cone Memorial Park at Blowing Rock, North Carolina, on Saturday, February 18, 7:30 a.m. and return between 8:30 and 7 p.m.

The trip fee, which includes needed equipment and instruction, is \$35 per person. Bring your own lunch. You may use your own transportation or we will help with car pools. Transportation is available at \$5 per person for groups of 10 or more people.

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## Communication Arts Revamp To Market Demands

Johnson C. Smith University's Communication Arts Department is undergoing a revamping that will emphasize a "practitioner approach" in its coursework and will limit its scope to majors that have market value.

"We should avoid training students for excessively narrow specialisms in which there may be no jobs by the time they graduate," cited department chairman Dr. Albert Kreiling. "It's misleading to encourage large numbers of students to pursue 'creative' careers for which only a few possess real talent and in which there are few jobs even for the talented."

Kreiling's plan is two-fold. The first is to restructure the communications arts program into four main concentrations—Public Relations-Organizational Communication, Publications, Graphics and Broadcasting. The second part is to draw upon the distinctive characteristics and advantages Johnson C. Smith University possesses, particularly in being located in a major media market.

"Few of the leading communications schools, and fewer still of the black schools, are situated in markets as desirable as ours in Charlotte as a context for communications education," explained Kreiling. "By using talented professionals in our teaching program, primarily in Special Topics courses; by involving them in co-curricular activities such as the depart-



Dr. Albert Kreiling  
....Two-fold plan

mental seminar series; by broadening and strengthening our internship program and by developing cooperative education opportunities, we can make Smith's program an exceedingly attractive and competitive one."

Such an example is provided by WSOC's recent involvement in support of Kreiling's efforts.

"WSOC will be providing guest lecturers from the professionals on our staff," explained Jean Bohn, WSOC community relations director. "Some of the areas we'll cover are broadcast ethics; television sales, rating, news, programming, and production; radio past, present and future and community affairs. We're planning to host faculty at our studios and we are interested in serving on an advisory board."

"We're extremely happy to work with Johnson C. Smith University," emphasized WSOC vice president and General Manager Greg Stone.

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