

Mrs. Parker Is "The Heartbeat" Of JCSU's Family

By Karen Parker
Post Staff Writer

For nearly 40 years, Mrs. Inez Parker has been like a heartbeat to the Johnson C. Smith University family—a vital center and driving impulse.

In 1944 she arrived on the university's campus as an English instructor, and later served as chairman of the English Department. "I did that for 25 years," Mrs. Parker spoke proudly as she sat in her small apartment located less than a block from the university's main campus.

She remembers several students whom she taught who have utilized their education to excel in the professional world.

Mrs. Parker has been selected as an achiever for the special Black History edition of *The Charlotte Post*. She is no longer an instructor at Smith, but is presently preserving local and national black history through her latest project, an archives department in the school's Duke library. "I'm delighted with the progress blacks have made over the years, especially economically and politically," Mrs. Parker revealed. "That's why I'm trying to build the archives."

Biddleville-Five Points and the Presbyterian Church seem to be the priorities in Mrs. Parker's life. Biddleville-Five Points is the lively community in which Johnson C. Smith was planted in 1867. The Presbyterian Church is the denominational faith on which Johnson C. Smith was built and the faith



Mrs. Inez Parker
.....Beloved English instructor

adopted by Mrs. Parker long before she traveled from the deep South to Charlotte early in her life.

Her belief in education and religion motivated her to write two books: "The Biddle-Johnson C. Smith University Story, A Historical Narrative" (1975) and "The Rise and Decline of the Program of Education For Black Presbyterians of the United Presbyterian Church U.S.A., 1865-1970 (1975)."

Her first book is about the history of Johnson C.

Smith. It has pictures of some of the most influential people in the university family. Also included are several directories which inform readers about the presidents and students of Smith.

Mrs. Parker's second book is equally intriguing. It presents the background of black Presbyterian schools and colleges throughout the South.

"I've always liked the religious atmosphere at Smith, though it is changing somewhat," Mrs.

Parker laughed. When asked why she has remained at the university so long, Mrs. Parker made it clear she has no intentions of departing.

"It's so beautiful here," she expressed dreamily.

"You can see any kind of bird you want to on that campus — cardinals, bluebirds and blackbirds. And, I don't know what I'd do if I couldn't see and hear students on the campus every day," Mrs. Parker admitted. (She always misses them when they leave for holidays.)

Mrs. Parker seldom misses a basketball or football game if the Golden Bulls are on the field. A member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, she attends Biddleville Memorial United Presbyterian Church.

Speaking about black progress, Mrs. Parker feels the race has advanced, yet it still has a

long way to go." She added, "Many of us are just realizing we shouldn't be shy about political directions." Mrs. Parker doesn't feel enough blacks are seeking opportunities in business either.

THE
CHARLOTTE
POST

To get the best for your advertising dollar, call our advertising executives.
376-0496

Great American Fashion

Recognizes

**Black History
AND SALUTES
BLACK ACHIEVEMENT**

North Park Mall • 597-8139

Manager: Betty Simpson

'G.Q. Fashion For The College Man!'



HIGH TIMES AT HIGH TIDE!



THE LOVE BOAT

Lookin' for love? Let The Love Boat take you away!
Escape! With the crew that knows what cruisin'
is all about!

WEEKNIGHTS
AT 5:00

WPCQ-TV 36

Cablevision - CABLE 12
Vision Cable - CABLE 6

BE
THERE

Exclusively Yours Hair Design Inc.



Cordially Invites You To Attend...

Open House
Feb. 26, 1984

from one to five o'clock p.m.

Enjoy the Spacious, Comfortable
Atmosphere....

Linsten and Lizzie Williams, Owners
Patsy McCoy, Asst. Manager

376-1328

1603 West Blvd. (Beside Sandhurst Apartments)