Post Staff Writer
As the "business incubator" project slated for the Beattles Ford Road area begins to take hold, Getchel Caldwell, Johnson C. Smith University's Assistant Vice President for Development, has volunteered his services as chairman of the Incubator Committee.

The business incubator idea was born out of the West Trade-Beattles Ford Area Merchants Association, spurred by the Association's president, Nasif Majeed. To incubate means to cause to develop or take form, usually by planning. The incubator project for west Charlotte will, it's predicted, develop economic growth in this predominantly black residential area. And, black residential area. And, Caldwell's position with this project is an intricate part of the planning

"I and others are forming a proposal to be submitted to the N.C. Technological Development Authority, requesting a grant for up to \$200,000," he explains, "We are also looking for a place to house the incubator."

Caldwell has much experience in getting such tasks completed. He not only handles similar duties, as far as grant writing, for Smith, his professional background includes teaching urban studies at Smith and Union County Community Action. also working as executive director of



Inc. Caldwell has been the recipient of complimentary citations from both the City of Atlanta and from Union County.

Caldwell describes, "The concept of the incubator is a means to help small businesses and newly formed businesses make it through their formative years by providing assistance services for which they'd normally have to pay large sums of money. It (the incubator) will be a great assistance to minority-owned businesses, having, also, the poten-

The grant money, if awarded, will finance the start up of the incuba-

'The grant money, however, must be matched by local funds," Caldwell points out. "We're going to raise the money," he informs. "We're in the process now, and have strong commitments.'

Another aspect of Caldwell's responsibility as chairman of the Incubator Committee is to identify financial sources. As to whether any public sector funds are being sought, Caldwell remarks, "There have been no formal discussions with the City."

volved in this project, he concedes, "Because Johnson C. Smith wants to play a role." Indeed, the West Trade-Beatties Ford Area Merchants Association is working with Smith on Project Catalyst, a development project near the univer-

The proposal Caldwell and assistants are formulating will be submitted by December 30, 1985, as stated in an earlier report.

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Concerns on the location of the incubator are being discussed by the Merchants Association at this time. Also in discussion, according toAssitant vice president Caldwell, is whether the incubator will be a multi-use operation or if it will center on one specific industry. The reason Caldwell became in-

Spirit Square Kicks Off Christmas Celebration

Spirit Square Arts Center, 110 E. 7th Street, will kick off December with Christmas activities beginning on Friday, December 6, at 10 a.m.
The annual Clay Works Christmas Sale will be held in People Place on

Friday and Saturday, December 6-7, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Tiles, weavings, and decorative and functional ceramics made by students and instructors in the Clay Works program will be on sale.

In conjunction with Kid's Day Uptown, a variety of activities will be sponsored by Spirit Square on Saturday, December 7, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Richard Mayberry, Director of Printmaking at Spirit Square, will lead a workshop in making Christmas Cards in the Printmaking studio. A workshop in Christmas Decorations will be led by April Carder in Room 214 of the uptown arts center, and in Entertainment Place, Rosalynn Cobb Blankenship will lead children in the singing of Christmas carols.

In addition to the Spirit Square-

sponsored workshops and activities, the Tarradiddle Players will present "Christmas All Over The Place," in Entertainment Place on December 6 at 7:30 p.m., December 7 at 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., and again on December 8 at 2 and 4 p.m. Tickets are available in the Spirit Square Box Office. Those interested in reserving seats may call the Box

Office at 376-8883. The Pewter Rose Bistro will join in the Christmas celebration on Friday, December 6, from 6-9 p.m. with arts and crafts on sale made by local

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artists. Refreshments will pe served and restaurant owner Helen Scruggs will be on hand to sell and autograph cookbooks.

For more information, call Spirit Square Arts Center at 372-9664.

Spirit Square Arts Center is supported in part by grants from the Arts and Science Council-Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Inc., the North Carolina Arts Council, the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, the State of North Carolina, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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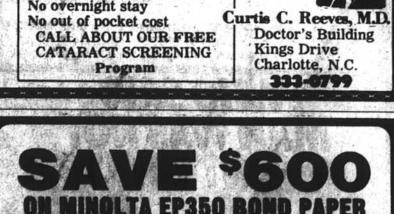
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