

BUSINESS THIS WEEK

Travel Agency Goes A Step Beyond

By DAWN GIBSON
Special To The Post

Warm white beaches, crisp clear water and blue skies in lands rich with culture are some of the adventures offered by the travel agency, Caribbean Tours Ltd.

"After my trip to Jamaica in 1983, I knew I wanted to come back and open a travel agency so people here could travel and be exposed to other places at a reasonable rate," says Gwen Fetherson, owner and originator of Caribbean Tours.

To realize that ambition, Fetherson took courses in travel at Queens College and did research while she was employed by the City of Charlotte.

Since 1983, her business has grown and has allowed others to share in the experience of travel.

Fetherson describes her trip to Jamaica as a learning experience that exposed her to a different culture and educated her about a foreign land.

"Education is really valuable in this day and time and exposure enlightens you in more ways than one," Fetherson says.

Andrea Pinkston, a client of Caribbean Tours, says she has found that travel expands the knowledge one already possesses.

"People in general, especially in the black community, need to travel more in order to broaden their horizons because that helps them in the business world," Pinkston points out. She is currently planning a trip to New Zealand through the agency and later plans to open a restaurant in Jamaica.

Fetherson and Robert Hardin, a travel consultant with Caribbean Tours since 1987, offer travel tips based on their experience and research.

Clients find a wealth of information within the office. When you walk in you feel as if you are ready to take on an new adventure just by looking at the posters of exciting places that decorate the wall.



Robert Hardin, travel consultant, and Gwen Fetherson, owner, Caribbean Tours.

STRICTLY BUSINESS Profile

Gwen Fetherson: Owner and founder of Caribbean Tours Ltd.
Location: 4801 North Tryon St. **Business started:** 1983
Nature of business: International travel.
Special features: Bon voyage parties, video presentations, tours, packaged specialties.

When travelers make the decision about where they want to go, they then have to consider

the form of travel, and the overall expense of the trip. Caribbean **See TRAVEL on page 4A.**

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