

Greenville

## HOUSING

To build a home, a Negro must have 50 foot frontage. No more than this is available to them unless they are a Dr. Frisby, that is, they hold a status position in the community.

The average rent rate is \$35-40 per month. In the outlying areas, such as Leland, average rent rates are \$15.

There is a city ordinance which requires adequate plumbing in all homes in Greenville. Most homes have at least running water as well as complete baths.

Several of the Negroes have bought their homes through real estate agencies, lawyers and private firms. These home owners are paying exorbitant interest rates. For example, one twenty-three year old Negro man related that he paid \$300 down on a \$2400 home two years ago. He pays \$22.50 per month, \$5.00 of which is used to reduce the remainder of the cost of his house. The other \$17.50 is interest on the note. This report was confirmed by a Negro businessman who works for Greenville Lumber Co., which handles the construction of homes and is in the housing business. In other words, this young man and many others, particularly those living on Broadway Place, Carver Circle and Mobile Street on the North End. The homes on these streets have been sold to Negroes by Henry Crosby, Lawyer Bogan, George Solomon and George Price. These men have also handled real estate for other Negro home buyers. Their practice runs along lines similar to those in the above stated case. In other words, these home buyers are paying approximately 80% interest monthly. The above mentioned businessman estimated that 1 out of 4 Negro home are paying this sort of interest. If the Negro purchases his home through Greenville Lumber it is 8%. Federal programs also have fair rates (these could not be obtained from the above mentioned man.)

## Employment.

Some northern factories have moved into Greenville in the past few years. These companies hire Negro men (at reduced wages) but will not hire Negro women. They do, however, hire white women. These women, in turn, hire Negro women as babysitters at approximately \$18 a week. This places economic restrictions on the Negro by reducing the earning power of the Negro family. Negro men are paid "women's wages" and women are paid "children's wages".

There are several Negroes capable of handling better jobs but these jobs are never even mentioned to them at the Miss. Employment Agency. This institution is totally segregated in both physical layout and available jobs. This service also uses its powers to apply pressure on the Negro community.

Other changes that have taken place involve jobs which at one time no white man would take. For example, at one time the freight lines had only Negro drivers. Now there is only one Negro at each station. On the other hand, none of the major factories are totally segregated.