

'It's Just Wonderful'

## 2,600 Greenvillians Living In Federal, Low-Rent Housing

By JACK P. TATE

More than 2,600 Greenvillians live in federal low-rent housing at Mountain View Homes, Woodland Homes and Fieldcrest Village.

The Greenville Housing Authority, working in conjunction with the federal government, provides these modern homes for low-income families who otherwise might be poorly housed. The size of the family determines the size of the dwelling and the total amount of the family income establishes the amount of rent charged.

For instance, a family of two adults with an income of \$110 a month would pay only \$20 a month rent. A family of two adults and five children with an income of \$50 a week would pay \$33 a month. The rent charged varies from \$18 to \$73 a month.

Robert G. Chamlee, executive director of the Greenville Housing Authority, said, "The city and federal governments realize that some people just can't afford safe, sanitary, decent housing. These homes were built to solve this problem."

Each home has a living room, kitchen, bathroom and one to five bedrooms, depending on

Rice and told him the home was a disgrace to Greenville County.

A few days later we returned to the home with Rep. and Mrs. Rice. It wasn't long after that the delegation approved a committee to study the building of a new home."

the size of the family. A family of seven with a seven-room apartment would pay the same rent as a family of two with three rooms if their incomes were the same.

Included in the rent are heat, gas for cooking, hot and cold running water and electricity at the Mountain View Project. Each apartment also has an electric refrigerator, gas range, built-in cabinets, gas space heater, gas hot water heater, good closet space and a modern bathroom.

Mrs. Frank Perry, a resident of Mountain View Homes since 1944, said: "When my husband and I came to Greenville, we just couldn't find any place to stay. Finally, someone suggested we try Mountain View and we've been here ever since. It's convenient and comfortable. It's just wonderful."

She is especially pleased with the proximity to bus service, shopping centers and schools.

E. E. Scott, chairman of the Greenville Housing Authority Commission, said that demand for the low-cost housing dropped off just after Donaldson Air Force Base closed. "But," he added, "the demand is now back to the original level."

A family of seven can be admitted to the homes with a maximum income of about \$3,800, if the children are all under 21. However, before this family would have to leave the apartments, their income would have to increase more than 25 per cent above the original

level. The same figure applies to all income levels.

Mr. Chamlee attributes much of the success of the projects to the commissioners who are appointed by the mayor and approved by council, and serve without pay. Those presently serving include: E. E. Scott, chairman; Dixon F. Pearce, J. Mac Rabb Jr., James A. Hoyt, and Herbert H. Provence.

Mr. Scott pointed out that the three projects will be amortized or paid off by 1970. "Bonds were sold in 1945 to repay the federal government for the cost of construction," he said.

"Fieldcrest Village, built in 1951, was the most expensive project, costing \$3,125,000. It also has the most living units — 348. Woodland Homes, in 1952, with 248 units, cost us \$2,017,000. And Mountain View Homes, built back in 1941 at a cost of \$432,000, has 88 units," Mr. Chamlee said.

"The yearly profit made by the projects," he continued, "is used to pay off the bonds and the interest on them."

Mr. Chamlee emphasized that the apartments do not have to pay direct city taxes, but that they do pay \$20,000 per year to the city in lieu of taxes. "That's another reason we must receive rent payment every month from the apartment occupants. These units are low-rent, not free."

According to Mr. Chamlee, Greenville has much less low-cost housing than similar-sized cities.

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