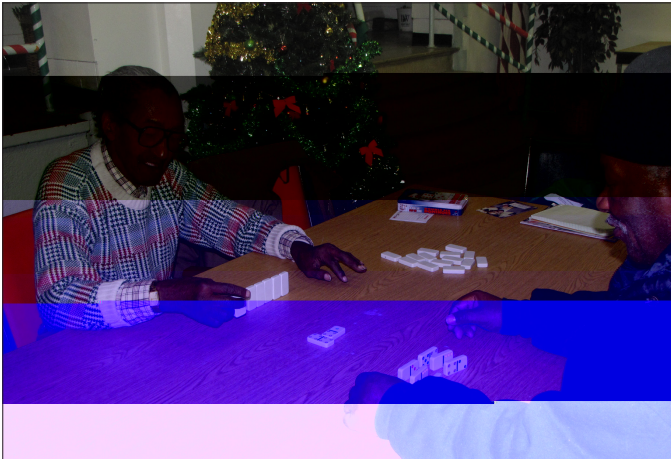


Senior Spotlight: Henry Fouschee



Henry Fouschee, left, ponders his next move as he plays a game of dominoes with Rodney Middleton at NCC Douglas Homes.

When a resident of NCC’s Douglas Homes falls ill and ends up in the hospital, there is one thing they can count on –a visit from Henry Fouschee.

“I would like someone to come and visit me if I was in that position,” said Fouschee, 86, who has lived at 15 Hill Street for nearly 30 years and knows just about every building resident by name. “If they need a shave, I shave them too,” he adds.

Fouschee, a native of Durham, N.C., was raised in a family of eight children, three of whom are still living. At the age of 9 or 10, his family moved north to Newark, where he attended Charlton Street School and later South Side High School, now Malcolm X Shabazz. One of his schoolmates at the high school was former New York City Mayor Ed Koch.

“He developed films,” recalled Fouschee, saying Koch worked on the films at his home on Charlton Street.

Fouschee, who lived on Hillside Place, enjoyed art and drawing as a youngster, but “hated” spelling.

“Instead of doing my spelling, I was drawing cowboy pictures. The teacher hit me with a 12-inch ruler across my finger. I was sitting under the desk and so mad I was getting ready to cry,” he said.

When Fouschee arrived home from school, his father had already received the report of his son’s activities and had something waiting for him.

“He tore my butt up,” he laughed.

Fouschee, who loves to play dominoes, could also be very mischievous during his elementary years, recalling how he almost was expelled for dipping the end of a girl’s long hair in an ink well.

He eventually joined the Army after high school and spent 20 years in the service, serving in Europe. Fouschee said he was trained to be an Army nurse and spent two years working at a North Carolina hospital following his discharge.

He also married and had a son. His first marriage didn’t last long, but he did later re-marry and had another son. His last job was working as a supply clerk, but around Douglas Homes, Fouschee seems to always be working. He is a floor captain assigned to four floors, where he checks on residents to ensure they are alright.

“He’s very considerate and looks out for the older tenants of the building,” said Jackie Durio, manager of Douglas Homes.