



CEDRICK JACKSON SITS ASTRIDE HORSE AS ELLIS LOOKS ON

*Staff photos by John Raulston*

Ellis, who lived and worked at Bonny Oaks, eventually attended Chattanooga State Technical Community College, receiving an associate degree in social work.

At first, he became a relief counselor at the school, and in the last several months was promoted to full-time counselor, living in a cottage with six young men, advising them, helping them, befriending them.

Ellis, about five feet six inches tall, weighing 126 pounds, relies on his gentle powers of persuasion to accomplish the task of helping young people who he says are "equipped with their own special problems."

The young counselor, a professing Christian, said: "I feel that every individual, especially young, deserves...a fair chance at options and possibilities, whether black or white...especially those who may not be in a family situation, a home situation.

"Another thing, during my counseling, I constantly tell the younger one out there...that life consists of experiences, good or bad. They make us what we are...(but) how you take the experience and apply it to your life (will) predict the outcome...learning from experience."

Speaking of Bonny Oaks, Mr. Clay said, "We're alive and well...the basic thing that has happened to us is a change of management, and that's from the independent board of directors to the Division of Human Services of Hamilton County."

And he has said of young Coleman: