

The Story Of A Mother, 9 Kids

Mrs. Juanita Kimble, a nurse's aide and mother of nine children has claimed squatter's rights last Friday on a vacant apartment in a building owned by Columbia University.

Hundreds of her friends and family helped her move in, fixing plumbing and connecting electricity.

The building located in the Morningside Heights section of Manhattan has been vacant along with several other buildings in the community, for several years.

In 1965 the Board of Estimate approved a master plan for urban renewal on Morningside Heights.

Among other things, the plan was supposed to protect Heights residents against unregulated expansion by Heights residents.

Federal Judge Constance Motley, who was Manhattan Borough President at the time worked out a compromise between the institutions' need for more space and the residents demand for a virtual veto on institutional growth.

The resolution passed by the board bound Columbia and nine other institutions represented in Morningside Heights to restrict their expansion during the next ten years to certain specified sites.

Violated Agreement
Columbia University violated the Board of Estimate's resolution and evicted over 300 tenants from the Morningside Heights section.

Mrs. Kimble who has never been on welfare until she recently became ill needed additional space for her nine children to live.

"My children deserve more than they have been receiving," states Mrs. Kimble.

"We have been living in cramped quarters, and I find it extremely hard to raise children under these conditions.

"The welfare department has been paying a large sum of money for us to live in the Stadium Motel in the Bronx," she added.

"We need a decent apartment to live in with enough space for comfort. I have been for months, trying to find my family some place to live.

"The only apartments available to us have been in rat and roach infested neighborhoods," she stated.

Mrs. Kimble and her nine children are hoping that Columbia University will either permit her to remain where she is, or that they will help her find a "roomy" place to live.

"We haven't been evicted yet and the police have remained pretty quiet. Of course, we haven't given them any trouble either. We were told we might be subject to criminal trespass but I'm not moving.

"I certainly hope that this is a sign in our favor," she added.



KIMBLE'S CLAN — On Friday night, April 30, Mrs. Juanita Kimble said that she had enough of the eight weeks in two hotel rooms and years of terrible housing. Claiming squatter's rights, Mrs. Kimble and her nine children took over an apart-

ment in a vacant building owned by Columbia University in the Morningside Heights section of Manhattan. Hundreds of her friends and family helped her move. They moved in her furniture, fixed the plumbing, and turned on the lights. Mrs.

Kimble and her nine children are sitting there waiting to see what Columbia will do with her. Pictured above are Mrs. Kimble, some of her nine children and friends and relatives. (Harris Photo)