Adjustment: An Island, At First

David and Susan have lived in Hamtramck for five years above David's parents. Now David's plant is moving to Livonia. They decide to move into a lovely two bedroom apartment that seems fit for a queen.

Susan says she has mixed emotions. "How terrific? The blessings are mixed with problems. The rent is three times what we paid Dad. That's all right. We saved a lot of money with both of us working. David walked to work and I took the DSR bus. Now one car isn't enough. David must drive to work and I have to also. After we had signed the lease, which included a parking space 200 yards from our door, we needed another. Ten dollars more each month. OK what else can we do.

"We are only minutes away from Westland Center. That's great, but I miss George's Sundries on the corner of te block at home. In the new apartment I have to go to Farmer Jack only minutes away by car for a quart of milk.

"We used to have lots of company, now we have very little. We have tried to make new friends in our apartment complex, but people seem to be afraid to talk to us. In the basement of our building women do their laundry with a group of others and each seems to be pretending she is alone with

only her thoughts.

"Our complex has a terrific recreation program, but currently not much is happening until spring. I think we will be able to meet more people when the weather is warmer and people are friendlier."

Susan and David's experience in moving into an apartment complex has been shared by many. At first the apartment seems to be an island surrounded by unfriendly and unfamiliar faces, but as the months go by they adjust to the new environment. They adjust to the rapid turn over of neighbors and learn to form transient friendships. The irritation of inconvenience of some facets of life are overcome by new joys. Close proximity to a corner grocery is overwhelmed by the nearness of a modern shopping center with a wide variety of stores.

Apartment living by its very nature is an education. A cross section of people from every walk of life live in all apartment buildings. Many people find that their horizons are widened, their prejudices and misunderstandings disappear when they see how "the

other half lives."
David and Susan, our young couple, are adjusted now and wonder if they could ever stand the monotony of single family living again.

Co-ops

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He said the turnover is about one per cent per month and the one bedroom units are most in demand with 47 names on the waiting list.

Senior citizens may be able to make it at Holiday Park but there are only about five such co-ops in the metropolitan area. Suburbs have been slow to provide small, low priced units needed by persons on a fixed income.

A survey begun last week by the city of Southfield is expected to count 10,000 residents over 60 years of age. The city housing commission has an application in at the Department of Housing and Urban Development for a \$1.5 million loan to construct 100 senior citizen housing units but HUD won't decide whether to grant the funds until 1973.

In the meantime the B.S.B.S. Land Co., has presented the city with plans for up to 1,800 units of senior citizen apartments and townhouses on 70 acres of land near Franklin Rd. and 1-696. They call it "retirement housing in a swinger community."

Plans include swimming pools, hobby rooms, elevators, a club-house, movies and a restaurant. Developer Robert Stein, who is awaiting rezoning, said rentals would begin at \$150 per month.

"This privately owned and funded development is intended for people of average or above average income."



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