

# LAS VEGAS SHOWCAST OF THE STAR



## PROFILES

by Percy Villa

(ED. NOTE: Bob Bailey, one of the most respected members of the Negro community of Las Vegas, and a friend and supporter of the Israelite from the beginning, takes over for Percy as today's guest columnist, J.T.)

### Let's Break Bread Together

In the past fourteen years of my life, I have had the opportunity of being the first in a number of challenges.

However, this first, as a guest columnist for Villa has become a great opportunity for me to talk shoulder to shoulder or in this case, especially with Percy, to talk "Bellie to Bellie". You see Percy and I find any old excuse to have lunch.

Percy and I feel that Jews and the Black Americans have a lot in common. We don't really care whether or not our positions are those of the Jewish or Black community because we are friends first and ethnic, religions and racial, second. In between the clatter of our forks and conversation we have decided that the incidents which have been occurring in New York with the Jews and Blacks in because they don't break bread often enough

There is no doubt in my mind that Negroes and Jews have had a similar experience in this country and were interdependent upon each other for many years. The Jew to the Black for economics, the Negro to the Jew for opportunity. This relationship was a marriage because of necessity.

During the old days, Jewish merchants and politicians had to look to the Black community for support because white Americans did not particularly like either one of us. Some of us remember the old signs that use to read "No Niggers, Dogs or Jews allowed". This was not too long ago. As a result we found some solice in our mutual depression. In fact you will find that Negroes and Jews are more kind to dogs than any other groups of people, small wonder.

I would find it short sighted not to thank my Jewish friends for some of the opportunities that I have had since my family settled in Nevada. My first real TV opportunity was with Morrie

Zenoff at Channel 13. He was the object of many a letter of economic threat if he did not discharge me, however; I was still working for Morrie when he sold the station.

I shall never forget the hours I spent with Hank Greenspun, before, during and since I wrote the column in the Las Vegas Sun. There were times when I was ready to become L.V.'s own "Rap Brown" but Hank would always help me find another



BOB

way of accomplishing my objective to help my people. Al Freeman, who made it possible for me to get into all of the V.I.P. affairs at the Sands, thereby giving my wife and I some social outlet during a most segregated period in our town. Then there was Rabbi Liebowitz

who would come to our assistance in time of need and reassure us, the only way to fight the "Goyem" was to stick together and through education out smart them. In fact Liebowitz spent so much time on the westside that the Temple declared him as the Absentee Rabbi. Those of us who knew him loved him.

During the most trying

time of the Nevada Equal Rights Commission as chairman, I made an appeal to the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League for a grant to subsidize our pitiful allowance given by the State. With the help of our Supreme Court Justice Dave Zenoff we were awarded the first grant ever given to a state agency in the history of the A.D.L.

I could go on and on but Percy does not have the space in his column and my stomach is getting full. It is tragic to realize that as the Jew and the Black American become more of the affluent society we are trying so hard to be like the "Goyem" instead of simply living our own beauty and being proud of our past association with each other. As white-minutes depend upon each other whether to be critical of one another. This is what is happening in New York.

Well it's time for me to close as the waitress is bringing the check and I've already had a few drinks. I wish you all the best. So with a warm hand shake and a full stomach, Percy and I part in warm friendship and understanding. Mozeltov!!!



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