

JC's NOMINATE NEGRO

MISSOURI EDUCATOR DISPROVES 'NEGRO' INFERIORITY

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Muller Honored For Distinguished Service

ROBERT E. MULLEN, a resident of West Las Vegas since 1953, is one of three finalists in the 14th annual competition for the Distinguished Service Award of the Las Vegas Junior Chamber of Commerce. He is Chief Probation Officer for Clark County.

Mullen, 33, survived the preliminary eliminations from among 60 candidates along with local businessman Darwin Lamb and Las Vegas City Commissioner Phil Mirabelli. The award will be made Saturday night at a 7 p.m. ceremony in the Elks Club on Las Vegas Blvd., South.

Award ceremony chairman Don Gilday said the judges for the contest include a district judge, a county commissioner, a clergyman and two businessmen, one from downtown and one from the Strip area.

The award ceremony will be taped for later TV showing. Gus Guiffre will be master of ceremonies.

Donal (Mike) O'Callaghan, State Director of Health and Welfare, was the 1963 winner. Others honored in recent years include Clark County Commissioner Bill Briare and businessman Jim Cashman, Jr.

Curiously, O'Callaghan, who will present the award Saturday night, preceded Mullen as Chief Probation Officer here before joining Gov. Grant Sawyer's cabinet in Carson City.

Mullen, a native of Hastings, Neb., is believed to be the first Negro to gain the finals of the Jaycee competition. "Moon" was a Las Vegas police officer and county Deputy Sheriff before becoming associated with the county probation department. He and his wife, the former Orangia Turmon of Las Vegas, have three children, Larrye, 12; Leroy, 9 and Robert, 7, all students at Kit Carson School.

"I feel deeply honored to have been selected among the final three nominees for the Distinguished Service Award," Mullen said. "It will inspire me to greater efforts in my work--especially among the school dropouts here."



ROBERT E. MULLEN
Distinguished Service Award Nominee

WEST VEGANS URGED TO KEEP AREA CLEAN

"CLEANLINESS is next to Godliness!"

The City of Las Vegas has spent thousands of dollars recently to clean up our streets and alleys of rubbish, garbage and other unsanitary and unsightly debris. Alleys have been bladed and watered

for better appearance.

All residents of West Las Vegas are urgently requested to help keep our streets and alleys spic and span following this costly operation so it need not be repeated. A little thought and care will save all of us money because (see page 16)

St. Louis Children In Startling Gains Under Dr. Shepard

A CRUSADING NEGRO educator has definitely proved that Negro school children are the intellectual equals of their white contemporaries.

The man responsible for giving the lie to the image of Negro inferiority in learning is Dr. Samuel Shepard, Jr., 56-year-old assistant superintendent of the Banneker School District in St. Louis, Mo.

The Banneker district is a 15-square-mile area with 23 elementary schools serving some 16,000 "culturally disadvantaged" children--mostly Negro--staffed by 500 Negro teachers.

Dr. Shepard embarked upon his crusade six years ago when the St. Louis secondary schools installed the "track system" of academic rating based on the Iowa Basic Skills tests. Pupils rated as "superior" were placed on Track 1; "average" on Track 2, and "below average" on Track 3.

When St. Louis first gave the tests in 1957-58, the 23 Banneker schools had 47 percent below average (Track 3), 46 percent average (Track 2), and only seven percent superior (Track 1). These ratings confirmed studies in other parts of the country showing that Negro children, on the average, scored six months to four years behind white children of the same age and grade.

Today, thanks largely to Dr. Shepard's tireless efforts, the Banneker district conforms to the national norm for whites! Only 11 percent of Dr. Shepard's pupils are now below average, 67 percent are average and 22 percent superior!

REFLECTING THESE truly amazing gains in academic achievement is the fact that some of the Banneker schools now have better attendance records than white schools in St. Louis--jumping from percentages in the 80s to 91.1. One Banneker school hit 95 percent attendance last year.

Even more significant, vandalism in the (see page 3)