

WHO'S WHO
and doing what
By EDDYE K. KIM

A RICH HERITAGE . . .
There is, indeed, a rich lode of Nevada lore to be dug out of the background of many a local resident.

For instance, take Ray Christensen, Sr., son of Mrs. Lucretia Tanner Christensen Stevenson and descendent of a prominent pioneering family. Watching Ray ride by in the recent Helldorado Days Oldtimers Parade led us to these interesting facts, familiar to some of you, no doubt; possibly not so familiar to others:

Ray's great, great, great grandfather was Green Flake, a native of Kansas who crossed the prairies in 1847 with Brigham Young's first overland expedition from the Missouri River (it took six months). Ray's adventurous antecedent settled in Utah, where Salt Lake City is now located, along with the other Mormon pioneers. His name can be seen on a plaque in the state capitol building in Salt Lake City.



Eddy K. Kim

Flake's offspring moved to other parts of the west, including Thomas Tanner, who settled in Chester, Idaho. Tanner was the grandfather of Mrs. Stevenson and the late Earn Stevenson, who moved to Las Vegas in 1923 with their six children. The children were Ray, Leroy and Thomas (deceased) Christensen, Orin, Susie (Mrs. Maufas) and Juanita (Mrs. Barr) Stevenson. When they arrived here, many of the residents were living in tents and cloth houses.

Juanita, incidentally, was the first Negro child to go from kindergarten through high school in Las Vegas.

Ray, the eldest child, always had a way with horses and today owns a string of about ten complete with stables. He has managed to balance tradition and modernization so that the values of the past are not sacrificed in the name of progress.

Ray participated in the first Helldorado and hasn't missed a parade in more than thirty years. His daughter Beverly won a trophy in one Helldorado parade. Other children are Ray, Jr.; Don and Mrs. Shirley Wright.

We salute you, Ray Christensen, Sr., a grand oldtimer.

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AT HOME IN BRIAR ROOT ACRES . . .

A housewarming at the beautiful new home (1900 Hassell Ave.) of the Bethel Baptist Church's Rev. I. W. Wilson and Mrs. Wilson brought out many friends.

The charming Mrs. Wilson greeted her guests in a cafe au lait lace afternoon dress, while her daughter, Mrs. Curtis Hall, wore a yellow print with matching shoes and granddaughter Yvonne Hall, in white nylon, acted as a junior hostess. Mrs. Rubin Montgomery assisted Mrs. Wilson on the door. Catering was handled by Mrs. Roosevelt Walker and Gertrude Butler.

Many beautiful and useful gifts were presented to this gracious couple, including lawn furniture from the Rubin Montgomerys and Nicholas Paglia, developer of Briar Root Acres, the latter also represented by realtor Marjorie Elliott. Also honoring the Wilsons were Dr. and Mrs. Charles West, Mr. and Mrs. J. David Hoggard, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Fitzgerald, Rev. and Mrs. Wesley, Dr. and Mrs. Hay, Mmes. Jessica Watson, Vera Walker, Myrtle Calton, Lelia Owens, Deborah Moore, Beatrice Tillis, Odessa Bowman, Rae Lee Jones, Eva Carr, Hattie Gunter, Rosie Lawson, Esther Hughes, Susie Hicks, Rose Williams, Esther Langston, Roy Bousley, John W. Moore and many others.

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Attending the area conference meeting of the NAACP at San Fernando Valley State College were local branch prexy Rev. Marion Bennett, Jim Anderson, Joe Neal, J. Q. Hall, Arthur De Vore and Mr. and Mrs. Ira Fears.



HOUSE WARMING—Friends of Rev. and Mrs. I. W. Wilson recently gave their new Briar Root Acres home an old-fashioned house warming. (See Who's Who)

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