

File Copy!!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Another Vegas 'First'!

LAS VEGAS

10¢

Voice

Vol. 2, No. 52

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Thursday, December 24, 1964

First Nevada License Issued For Negro Detective Agency

CHALK UP ANOTHER "FIRST" for Las Vegas in Nevada's ever-widening sphere of equal employment opportunity. And credit Milton C. Armstrong, a rugged individualist who makes his own "breaks", with achieving another notable advance for colored people.

Armstrong, who a little over a year ago became the first Negro security guard in a Las Vegas bank, has now become the first of his race to be licensed by the State of Nevada to operate a private detective agency.

Shortly after the first of the new year, the 39-year-old former military policeman intends to open his own office in the Golden West Shopping Center headquarters of Bob Bailey Realty. He will specialize in confidential investigations and security.

Armstrong is well qualified to handle his new business. Before becoming an officer at the Third St. branch of First National Bank in downtown Las Vegas, he was a technical sergeant in the Criminal Investigation Division for seven of his 20 years service with the U.S. Army and Air Force. His detail, numbering up to 50 men, was almost entirely white.

Armstrong will start off in his new venture with at least one important client. In addition to his bank job, he also is Director of Security at the Carver House hotel at 'D' and Jackson sts.

According to Armstrong, he had no trouble obtaining his precedent-shattering position with First National Bank after learning that his age prevented him from joining the Las Vegas Police Dept. Eligibility requirements for the local force are governed by a code established by the American Association of Police Chiefs. Race is

not a consideration and Armstrong emphasized his belief that his color had nothing to do with his failure to be employed by then Police Chief Leo Kuykendall.

"Chief Kuykendall told me that if he had his way, he would hire as many ex-military policemen he could find, providing they qualified otherwise," Armstrong explained. "But if you're older than the maximum age requirement, the only way you can get in the police department is by having previous civilian police experience. That left me out. I went right into the service from high school--and believe me, I received a liberal education from Uncle Sam.

"I was sort of dubious about getting a job at the bank," he admitted. "But I took along my service record when I applied and there was nothing to it. It was so easy, I was surprised. . . No, I didn't go through any of the local "opportunities" agencies--although I understand they've done a lot of good. I like to do things on my own.

"The way I look at it, a man's qualified or he's not qualified. That's what these kids of school age should realize. Learn to do something worthwhile and learn to do it right. That's half the battle."

A native of Baltimore, Md., Armstrong met his present wife, a local girl, when he was stationed at nearby Nellis Air Force Base in 1952. They now live in a new home in Regal Estates. Armstrong's son by a first marriage lives with his mother in Maryland.



ANOTHER "FIRST" FOR VEGAS--Milton C. Armstrong (above) is first Negro to be licensed by State of Nevada to operate private detective agency. He will establish office in Golden West Shopping Center early in 1965. Former military policeman also was first of his race to become security guard in Las Vegas bank. He also is Director of Security for Carver House. (See story this page.)

HIYA, SANTA!



DOOLITTLE CHRISTMAS PARTY--Photos above were taken at community-wide Children's Christmas Party at Doolittle Center last Saturday. Santa Claus (above holding child) is center of attraction for hundreds of excited kids. On extreme right, Santa's helper, Art Lurie, passes out gifts to scurrying small fry. (For additional photos see page 3)