

WHO'S WHO and doing what

By EDDYE K. KIM

REDEDICATION TO THE THEME, "God, Please Let Me Live So That Not My Own, But Other Lives May Richer Be," marked the first annual Christmas season banquet of Pi Tau Sigma, a group of teachers predominantly associated with public schools in the West Las Vegas area. The Greek-letter initials represent "Professional Teachers Society."

Featuring the festive occasion in the appropriately decorated clubhouse of the Las Vegas Municipal Golf Course was an address by Dr. Charles I. West, publisher of the Las Vegas VOICE. Dr. West was introduced by PTS President Henry J. Moore, head of the chemistry department at Western High School, as "a man who has always stood up for equal rights and who has backed his fellow citizens at times when he had to think of his profession last, and his people first."

After congratulating the teachers for organizing the new society and paying tribute to the high ideal expressed in their motto-prayer, Dr. West respectfully offered several suggestions as to how the group could best serve the community.

Directing his remarks principally to primary grade teachers, he emphasized that culturally disadvantaged children "must have their basic three 'Rs' spoon-fed to them during the first three years of schooling" if they are to "catch up" with their contemporaries from more fortunate cultural backgrounds and thus prepare themselves to take advantage of new opportunities for a better life.

Society vice president Anthony Thomas, Robert Gibson Junior High, served as toastmaster for the affair and also sang several numbers accompanied by Joanne Pughsley, Kit Carson Elementary. Following a prayer offered by the Rev. Marion Bennett, pastor of Zion Methodist Church and president of Las Vegas branch,

NEW BOOKS in the NEWS

MISSISSIPPI NOTEBOOK (McKay: \$4.50; illustrated with photographs by Henry Herr Gill) by Nicholas Von Hoffman is the account of ten weeks in Mississippi last summer written by Chicago Daily News Reporter Nicholas von Hoffman. It is a model of reportage. Von Hoffman is a trained and objective observer. The result is a book which probes, with a minimum of emotion, the realities of Negro and white life in Mississippi. No less symptomatic of "the extra molecule" of fear in the very air of Mississippi is the effect of the segregation, bigotry and violence on the white population.

If the stranger was the enemy in that long summer, the moderate and temperate native was no less an enemy. The chapter on the experiences of the Heffner family, who were driven from their home in McComb, Mississippi, may perhaps bring the lesson home to those who believe themselves protected against the alarms and excursions of the Civil Rights issue. The Heffners were not integrationists. But Albert Heffner, an insurance man whose family had been in Mississippi for generations, believed that the lines of communication had to be kept open between the races to avoid violence and terror.

He met with white civil rights workers in his house. That began a sequence of harassment which was to drive him and his family from McComb; obscene phone calls, threats, exclusion, isolation. Even long-time friends were afraid to have contact with the Heffners.

Such an experience does not compare to the brutal and vicious murder of the civil rights workers. But it may have its effect precisely because of that. The murder produces outrage but it is remote. It may in the Aristotelian sense produce catharsis. The other experience, because it is not so remote from our realities, may cause men to examine their own principles and beliefs.

The lesson is clear. As long as the initiative in rectifying a moral wrong or attempting to sustain a moral wrong is left in the hands of the extremists, the problem will not be solved. It will only be aggravated. That is the real lesson of Mississippi. And it is the lesson for the rest of America, as well.

NAACP, President Moore introduced Dr. West. OTHER PROMINENT WEST LAS VEGANS introduced were Mrs. Lubertha Johnson, Operation Independence director; Mrs. Edythe Abington, NAACP youth advisor; Mrs. Thelma Toms, president Alpha Rho chapter, Gamma Phi Delta Sorority; James Gay, Nevada State Athletic Commission; Charles Kellar, Nevada Voters League president; Kermit Booker Sr., president Las Vegas Alumni chapter, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity; Onward Abington, Mark Twain Insurance Co.; A. D. Guy, Personnel Chief, Clark County District Attorney's office; James Anderson, NAACP Labor and Industry Committee chairman; W. J. (Joe) Haynes, Doolittle Recreation Center director and Dr. James McMillan, local dentist. (Oh, yes--they were kind enough to include yours truly.)



EDDYE K. KIM

PTS officers in addition to Mr. Moore and Mr. Thomas are Charlotte Cook, financial secretary, Matt Kelly Elementary; Viola Walton, recording secretary, Highland Elementary, and Arthur Jordan, treasurer, Robert Gibson Junior High.

Margaret Simmons, Kit Carson Elementary, is chairman of the board of governors, which includes Gwendolyn Woods, secretary, Rancho High; Deborah Moore, Kit Carson Elementary; Mel Wood, J. C. Fremont Junior High; William Wynn, Las Vegas High, and Audrey James, Westside Elementary.

Committee members include: PROGRAM, Aquilla Guy, chairman, Helen J. Stewart Elementary; Bobbie Smith, Kit Carson Elementary, and Florence White, Matt Kelly Elementary; EDUCATION, Maggie Pearson, chairman, and Earle Carter, Matt Kelly Elementary; SOCIAL, Lorene Haynes, chairman, Frank Garside Junior High, and Luceryne Simmons, Kit Carson Elementary; WELFARE, Gwendolyn Bennett, chairman, Kit Carson Elementary; LaNeal Rayford, Matt Kelly Elementary, and Jacqueline Hoggard, Highland Elementary; FINANCE, Issac White, chairman, K. O. Knudson Junior High; (See WHO'S, page 16)

Martin's spent 8 years getting ready for tonight.

Isn't it time you enjoyed it?

