

WHO'S WHO and doing what

By EDDYE K. KIM

OUR SECOND TEACHER OF THE WEEK...

ANTHONY THOMAS, who has gained considerable renown as a vocalist and choral director here in Southern Nevada, is an instructor in music, speech and drama at ROBERT O. GIBSON Junior High. (See photo)

Mr. Thomas attributes much of his success to the late MARIE BROOKS STRANGE, his voice teacher at Tennessee A&I. When he left his home town of Lake Charles, La., to attend Tennessee A&I, young Anthony already possessed a pretty good singing voice and thought he knew how to use it. After knocking out a few bars for the famous professor, he waited for Mrs. Strange's congratulations.



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"Young man," she said, not unkindly, "you have a lot to learn." Anyone who has heard Mr. Thomas lately will agree that he learned his lessons well.

PROF. L. L. LUSK taught him choral directing at Tennessee A&I, where he received his B.S. degree in music. He also attended Grambling College in Louisiana and later studied voice under WILLIAM VENNARD at the University of Southern California.

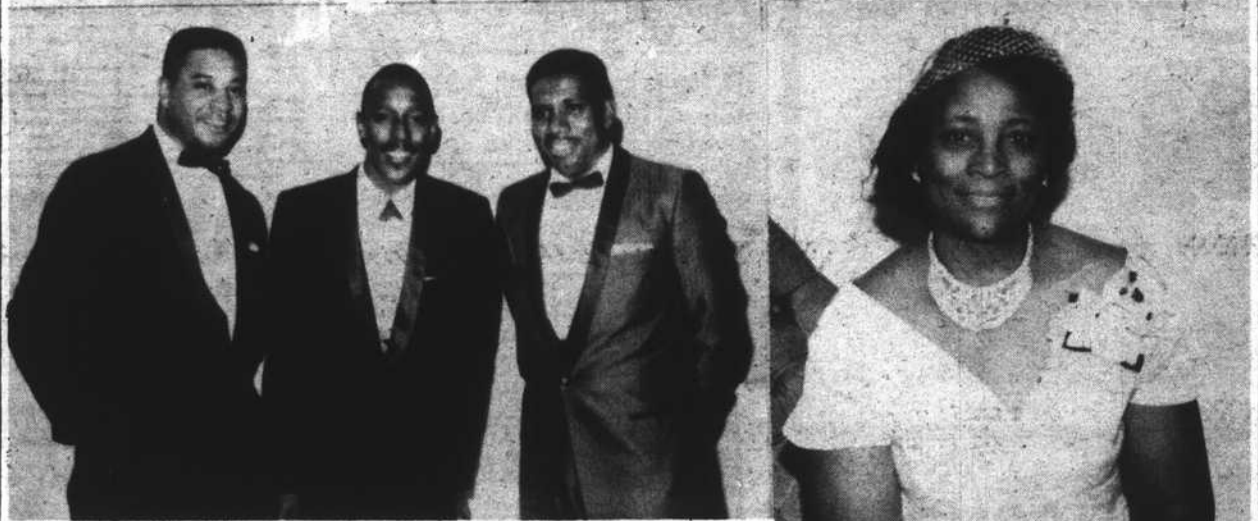
Mr. Thomas made his debut as a vocalist in 1961 at the Las Vegas Convention Center in the famous Christmas opera, Amal and the Night Visitors, under the direction of local conductor ANTONIO MORELLI. He has since taken part in several other Las Vegas productions and is the only Negro in the Temple Beth Shalom choir, singing bass.

He presently directs the choir at Zion Methodist Church and served in the same capacity at St. James Catholic Church. Right now he is busily engaged in training young voices for Negro History Week programs during the week of Feb. 8-14. He also is active in the Musical Arts Workshop here.

Although he has had several attractive offers to hit the concert trail or go on the road with musical groups, Mr. Thomas prefers to stay put in Las Vegas.

"I don't particularly like traveling," he told us. "Teaching is much more rewarding, it seems to me, than giving concerts. Once a concert is over, what is left? Just another concert in another town. I find it much more of a challenge to remain here in Las Vegas, searching out and developing new talent--boys and girls who may some day become prominent artists right here in the entertainment capital of the world."

Music Teacher, Charity Worker Saluted



IN THE SPOTLIGHT--Anthony Thomas, shown above center with Las Vegas Police Officer Wilbur Jackson (left) and VOICE Religion Editor Rev. Donald M. Clark at recent Debutante Ball, is honored as Teacher of Week in Eddy K. Kim's "Who's Who" column this week (left). Mrs. Lucille Hughes (right) also is saluted in this week's column following her installation as Third Vice President of Las Vegas Chapter 119, City of Hope.

Mr. Thomas is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and the National Teachers of Singing. He lives at 305 Rossmoyne Ave. in North Las Vegas with his charming wife, CARRIE, and their infant son, MICHAEL ANTHONY. His own middle name is DAVID, especially fitting for a "singer of sweet psalms."

SALUTATIONS TO A LADY OF MERCY...

MRS. LUCILLE HUGHES has been a hard-working member of the City of Hope organization for five years, serving as both a trustee and historian for Las Vegas Chapter 199. At the recent annual banquet of the local group in the Plantation Room of the Showboat Hotel, she was installed as Third Vice President. Congratulations, Lucille! You may be sure that your efforts in behalf of this 50-year-old medical and hospital service for needy members of all races and creeds is appreciated. (See photo)

NOTES FROM A LITTLE BLACK BOOK...

Gamma Phi Delta Sorority met recently at the home of yours truly and Basileus THELMA TOMS appointed standing committees for the coming year. Quick to get into action was DEBORAH MOORE'S Committee of Artists of Tomorrow, which immediately began prepara-

tions to audition local boys and girls with promising talent in various fields of art. Interested youngsters are urged to call EDYTHE ABINGTON at 642-7209, HELEN ANDERSON at 642-7042, or Mrs. Moore at 642-5046. Other committee members are HELEN CROZIER and RUBY GARLAND... JACKIE GAUGHAN, genial host at the El Cortez Hotel, had DR. AND MRS. ARTHUR PITTMAN from his home town of Omaha, Neb., and the TILL TOMS of this city as his guests for dinner at the Flamingo Hotel and the Della Reese show... MRS. HATTIE GUNTER promised us some material on her son, a captain in the United States armed forces, who visited her here recently, but we haven't seen anything yet. What happened, Hattie?... JOHN WEST, No. 1 Son of VOICE boss man DR. CHARLES WEST; is back home after three years in the service and also promised to let us in on some of his experiences as a clinical psychologist for Uncle Sam. We're still waiting. How about it, Bones, old boy?

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