

# Assembly Hearings on State Rights Bill Awaited

## Negro History Week Honors Famous Colored Personages

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# VOICE

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### CHURCH, SCHOOL PROGRAMS SLATED STARTING MONDAY

NEGROES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD pay homage to men and women of color who have distinguished themselves down through the ages next week when they celebrate Negro History Week. Here in Las Vegas, lady Elks of Paran Lodge have cooperated with other civic groups, churches and schools in arranging a number of attractive commemorative programs. (See photo)

Persons of practically all nationalities with Negro blood in their veins have made many notable contributions to the progress of mankind since the earliest days of recorded history. But numerous present-day Negroes themselves are unfamiliar, or only slightly acquainted, with the great achievements and stature of many of their more illustrious ethnic brethren.

It would take all the space available in this edition of the VOICE just to list the more outstanding Negroes of history and briefly sketch their accomplishments. The VOICE is now assembling material for a series on the greatest of these famous Negroes of yesteryear, most of them dating from the Renaissance to the first half of this century. They will include:

ALLESSANDRO DEI MEDICI, first reigning Duke of Florence, credited by the Italian historian, Cecchereghi, with possessing uncommon wit and wisdom and a fine sense of justice "that would have done credit to a Solomon."

Abraham Hannibal, General-in-Chief of the Russian Empire and comrade of Peter the Great.

Antonio Vieira, often acclaimed as Portugal's greatest orator, prose writer, preacher and missionary; one of the greatest statesmen and linguists of his time.

John VI, King of Portugal and colonizer and developer of modern Brazil.

Alexander Sergavitch Pushkin, father of Russian literature and apostle of freedom.

Joachim Murat, King of Naples and renowned cavalry officer of Napoleon, one of whose four sons married a grand-niece of George Washington.

George A. P. Bridgewater, private musician and personal friend of King George IV of England, one of the most brilliant violinists in history; accompanist to Beethoven, who wrote a sonata for him, and eulogized by Samuel Wesley, famous organist and composer of hymns.

Gen. Alexander Dumas, Haitian-born son of a French marquis who became Commander-

### Support History Week



ELKS OFFICERS--These newly elected officers of Paran Lodge 1508, IBPOEW, have cooperated with ladies of the local Elks club in arranging programs for Negro History Week, Feb. 8-14. (See story.) From left: James Bowie, Treasurer; Clarence Guise, Esteemed Lecturing Knight; Dr. Roy G. W. de Hay, Exalted Ruler; John Snoddy, Tyler, Johnny Crockett, Grand District Deputy.

in-Chief of Napoleon's armies, which included at least twelve other Negro generals.

ALEXANDER DUMAS, pere, son of the General, considered by many critics the greatest, most prolific and most jovial writer the world has ever known; who won additional fame as a soldier, duellist, hypnotist, cook, gourmet, entertainer, bon vivant, romancer, excavator of buried cities and champion of human rights.

Alexander Dumas, fils, grandson of the General, foremost French dramatist of the 19th century, re-maker of the French theatre, and one of the world's most original thinkers.

Ira Aldridge, one of the world's greatest actors and often referred to as "the greatest of the Othellos."

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, brilliant English musician and first modern Negro to achieve international fame as a composer.

Vicente Guerrero, an ex-slave who became the combined George Washington-Abraham Lincoln of Mexico by first freeing it from Spain and then liberating its slaves.

Bernardino Rivadavia, one of South America's noblest statesmen and first president of the Argentine Republic.

ANTONIO CARLOS GOMES, Brazilian composer who became the first native of the New World to write an opera that received recognition as a masterpiece in the highest European musical circles, and personally hailed by the immortal Giuseppe Verdi as his successor.

Alexander Petion, Haiti's first and most beloved president, distinguished for his rare humanity and forbearance.

Mary Seacole, Jamaican born heroine of the Crimean War and forerunner of the modern Red Cross nurse.

Estevanico, pioneer explorer of the Southwest and discoverer of New Mexico and Arizona.

Jan Matzeliger, a native of Dutch Guiana who gave supremacy in the shoe industry to the United States by inventing a lasting machine.

And so on through Paul Laurence Dunbar, first great Afro-American poet, the better-known Booker T. Washington, George Washington Carver and others.

### Judiciary Chairman Promises Changes

CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS throughout Nevada were observing a policy of "hopeful waiting" this week as the Assembly Judiciary Committee prepared to conduct public hearings on the controversial State Civil Rights bill introduced in the Assembly last week.

Following widespread denunciation of the proposed law as "completely inadequate", as one Negro leader expressed it, Assembly Judiciary Committee chairman Mel Close Jr., Las Vegas Democrat, promised that the bi-partisan sponsored measure would be "severely revised" before the committee sends it to the floor of the lower house.

Public hearings on the bill are tentatively scheduled for next week in Carson City.

Bob Bailey of Las Vegas, chairman of the Nevada Commission on Equal Rights of Citizens, said the commission is extending invitations to civil rights and other interested civic leaders throughout the state to attend a meeting in Carson City next Monday and Tuesday (Feb. 8-9) to discuss possible amendments to the bill.

Assemblyman Close said he agreed "in essence" with prominent members of the Nevada colored community who protested administration provisions of the proposed act, which bans discriminatory practices in the areas of public accommodations and employment, but fails to mention housing, education or election procedures.

The bill provides for primary enforcement of the proposed law at the lowest local level, with recourse to district courts. Many proponents of a strong state law feel that such a procedure would entail unduly long and costly legal actions.

### Education Starts in Home Schools Head Tells PTA

A CHILD'S EDUCATION should start in the home according to Clark County School Superintendent Dr. Leland Newcomer.

In stressing this point during an address to a joint meeting of West Las Vegas elementary school PTAs at Highland School last week, Dr. Newcomer said he rated the home, the church and the school in that order as important influences on the educational development of young people.

Dr. Newcomer also discussed the controversial subject of de facto segregation in the Clark County school district, a situation pin-pointed recently by the district's decision to build a new school in a predominantly colored neighborhood.

Stating in effect that it was the district's policy to build schools "where they are most needed", Dr. Newcomer said he had hope for "open zoning" in the not too distant future. This would permit parents to send their children to schools outside their own zone where and when vacancies occurred, with transportation

(See PTA, page 6)

### WOMEN'S DEMO GROUP INSTALLATION MARCH 6

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS of the Las Vegas Women's Democratic Club West will be installed at a banquet scheduled for the Hacienda Hotel on March 6.

Named to serve for the coming year along with reelected President Gwen Weekes are Myrtle Banks, first vice president; Lula Vera White, second vice president; Autumn Keyes, secretary; Sarah Ann Knight, treasurer; Ida Crockett, chaplain, and Sarah Hughes, parliamentarian.