

Sheriff's Aide Terms Education Key to Success

(Following is an address delivered by Deputy Sheriff Carolyn Branch Owens at Highland School during Negro History Week. Mrs. Owens, daughter of prominent North Las Vegas businessman Marshall Branch, was born in Las Vegas and attended the University of Colorado and Nevada Southern following graduation from Las Vegas High. She is now connected with the Identification Bureau of the Clark County Sheriff's Office.)

EDUCATION--THE GOLDEN KEY
By Carolyn Branch Owens

THIS WEEK has been proclaimed Negro History Week. In your classrooms and elsewhere this week you have heard the life stories of famous Negroes and what they have contributed to not only Negro history, but to the history of the world. I know your hearts were filled with pride the same as mine. Not only the pride of knowing these persons were Negroes, but pride in your racial heritage.

During the days of slavery, to acquire an education was the burning desire of most free Negroes, especially those who had been slaves. No Southern communities, and only a few in the North, had free public schools open to Negroes. Just think how fortunate you students are in being able to enjoy the freedom of education. But how many of you really appreciate this freedom?

Your daily attendance is not the only way you can show your appreciation. Tell me, how much do you contribute to your classes? By this I mean, are your lessons always done to the best of your ability? Do you listen attentively to your teacher and respect your classmates?

You students have now reached the age where it becomes necessary to realize how important you are to the community and how important education is to you. Your future, the future of the Negro race and the very future of the world, depends on how you accept this responsibility.

IT USED TO BE that a Negro student who lacked the initiative to sacrifice a few immediate pleasures in order to reap the harvest of future treasures, could fall back on the old excuse of racial handicaps. In other words, he could always justify fluffing off his studies by asking why he should waste his time getting a good education when the doors to better jobs were closed to him, a Negro, no matter how much education he absorbed. This excuse won't stand up today.

I want you students to take a good look around your own community. You are surrounded by Negro businessmen, doctors, lawyers, teachers, real estate agents, nurses and many other wonderful examples of the harvests you can reap through a good education. Today, the Negro college graduate is even more fortunate than his white contemporary. After graduation, he doesn't have to seek employment. Rewarding employment now seeks him! The color of a Negro's skin was once a hindrance. This no longer is true. The only thing that can keep you from obtaining the better things in life--a good

Words of Wisdom



CAROLYN BRANCH OWENS
Addressed Highland Students

job and a respected place in the community--is lack of education.

So prepare yourselves well for the bright future that lies just ahead. Be ready to grasp opportunity when it presents itself. There will be times when the going is rough, but anything really worth having is worth hard work and sacrifice. At times, it may seem difficult to open certain doors, but through proper preparation, hard work and the will to get ahead, you will find you have the Golden Key to open these doors.

That Golden Key, of course, is EDUCATION.

Madison Teachers Aid Scout Program

FOUR MADISON SCHOOL TEACHERS have dedicated themselves to promote two Brownie Scout troops at their school following investiture into the Girl Scout program at Doolittle Center recently.

They are Miss Elizabeth Bennett, Mrs. Edna Perkins, Mrs. Dorothy Wilson and Mrs. Audrey Williams. Mrs. Pat McNutt, Central District Supervisor, and Mrs. Shirley McDaniel, Kit Carson Neighborhood Chairman, worked with these new volunteers on orientation and programming.

Children, parents and Girl Scout leaders are preparing a 20-minute program to be video taped and telecast to kick off Girl Scout Week in March.

AAs Hear LA Attorney

AN INTERGROUP MEETING of local Alcoholics Anonymous fellowships scheduled for Las Vegas City Hall on Sunday night, Feb. 28, at 7:30 will be addressed by one of the outstanding AA speakers from Los Angeles, a Negro attorney who achieved prominence in his profession during 20 years of sobriety.

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