

Valuable Scholarships to 255 Negroes

CHICAGO, Ill. -- Four sets of identical twins, a statistical rarity, were among 225 outstanding Negro students from coast to coast named as first winners of National Achievement Scholarships last week.

Four-year scholarships to colleges of their choice will be presented to colored scholars from 33 states and the District of Columbia. The winners of these valuable awards, some of them

valued at \$6,000, were selected from 4,200 candidates nominated by their secondary schools.

Identical twins included on the list of successful candidates were from Philadelphia, Pa.; Memphis, Tenn.; Cleveland, Ohio, and Catonsville, Md. Dr. Robert C. Nichols, research director of the National Merit Foundation, said the odds against such an occurrence were "astronomical."

The program is underwritten by a grant of \$7 million from the Ford Foundation to provide at least 200 scholarships annually through 1969 and cover costs of administration by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Ford Foundation funds will go to 203 of this year's recipients. The other 22 scholarships allotted this year were provided by 11 additional corporate sponsors.

Awards range from \$250 to \$1,500 a year, depending on college expenses and individual student needs.

Hugh W. Lane, director of the project, described the program as a talent search seeking to honor the most able and worthy Negro students in the nation.

There were 629 finalists nominated by a selection committee that included experienced college admissions officers and high-school counselors. The final selection of winners was

made by a second committee on the basis of information supplied by the students and their schools and the results of a three-hour battery of examinations.

(DONDERO, from page 1)

cedures. And I did say that I hoped the authorities in Washington who must pass on our requests for financial support to keep Operation Independence going wouldn't decide to chuck it all because we couldn't seem to get along together out here. But that's as far as it went."

OPERATION INDEPENDENCE operates a Child Care Center and community library at Balzar and Concord Sts. in West Las Vegas. Adair, a 22-year-old Floridian who arrived here Feb. 28, was appointed head librarian of the local facility by Mrs. Johnson shortly thereafter. Adair expressed his criticisms of the administrative set-up that controls Operation Independence in a letter dated March 26 addressed to VOICE publisher Dr. Charles I. West.

Explaining that he had received a copy of the Adair letter upon which last week's VOICE story was based, Dondero suggested that Adair was misinformed in "broadly hinting" that no effort was being made to make Operation Independence a locally-staffed, autonomous project in accordance with funding proposals submitted to federal authorities in Washington.

He revealed that after the original "research demonstration" grant to the sponsoring Nevada Tuberculosis and Health Association for Operation Independence financing ran out last January, the Reno-directed TB and health organization was advised by Washington to apply for a renewal in its own name because Operation Independence was not as yet deemed stable enough to conduct its own program efficiently.

Dondero recalled that after the county board was set up to conform with federal regulations pertaining to the allocation of funds to programs such as Operation Independence, plans to phase out the TB and health group's control of the local program were instituted. He said these plans were discussed at a February meeting involving himself, Elaine Walbroek, then executive director of the TB and health group, and the co-chairmen of the Operation Independence Planning Board, Robert Reid and Earl Brunner.

A COMMITTEE OF THREE Operation Independence advisory board members was then set up to negotiate with the TB and health group for effecting local autonomy for Operation Independence according to Dondero, resulting in an agreement that the TB and health organization would be phased out of the picture within one year. Dondero said it was his recollection that a joint statement of harmonious relations was issued by all parties to the agreement.

"Actually, I fully expect the transition will be completed in considerably less than a year," Dondero commented, indicating that he was in a position to facilitate the phasing-out process in his dual role as chairman of the Economic Opportunities Board and president of the state TB and health organization.

He further indicated uncertainty as to how long Mrs. Walbroek, who now serves as executive director of the county Economic Opportunities Board with offices at 3051 Paradise Road, would remain in that position, but expressed "complete confidence in her ability to do a good job and her sincere dedication to the best interests of the Operation Independence program she personally launched and nurtured."

Dondero said every effort would be made to bring more West Las Vegas people into the Operation Independence picture on a paid basis "if and when the necessary funds are available." He said any questions concerning the overall operations of the county Economic Opportunities Board should be directed to Mrs. Walbroek or program coordinator Doyle Longhurst at the Paradise Road office, telephone 735-6012.

Mrs. Walbroek this week confirmed that the federal Welfare Administration had made an additional research grant of \$36,000 to Operation Independence and that the first payment of \$9,000 would be forthcoming in about two weeks.

She said that all paid personnel connected with Operation Independence was from West Las Vegas except one executive who was required to have a master's degree. She said no qualified applicants from West Las Vegas answered a recent public advertisement for the position in Operation Independence that will pay a minimum annual salary of \$10,000.

Neither Dondero nor herself have ever received any monies allotted to Operation Independence, Mrs. Walbroek said, explaining that funds for conduct of the county board are furnished by a different branch of the government than the one that has allocated grants to Operation Independence.

(Editor's note: The county Economic Opportunities Board is currently seeking qualified female secretarial help. Requirements include two years experience, a typing speed of 50 words per minute and shorthand speed of 90 words. Applicants will be screened and tested by the Nevada State Employment Service at 135 South 8th St., Las Vegas.)

(MARIAN, from page 3)

which Miss Anderson had opened. But this was a dramatic moment, and a dramatic choice was demanded.

It was, alas, little more than a gesture. First of all, Miss Anderson's operatic experience was practically nil, and she was obviously at sea dramatically on that awesome stage. Furthermore, her voice, while no less beautiful under proper circumstances, was no longer the size for that kind of auditorium; she had to force to be heard at all, and no forced voice is attractive. Third, Ulrica in *Un Ballo in Maschera* is supposed to be a Negro, so the breakthrough was not all that significant.

Miss Anderson took it on with her accustomed grace, however, so that we now have Negroes at the Met and other houses in all kinds of roles.

If it were only the fact that Miss Anderson's career has been a series of such steps, all of them equally crucial, she would easily deserve the tributes that will come her way now that she has decided to retire. But there is at least one more reason to honor and lament her farewell: that she was above all a supremely gifted musician.

Secretarial

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ASTRONAUTS 'FETED--Nevada Sen. Howard W. Cannon (center), a member of the Senate Space Committee, greets astronauts John Young (left) and Virgil Grissom at Washington reception after their historic two-man Gemini flight around the earth.



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