

File Copy !!!



Schools Reopen Next Week; New Phone Numbers Listed

LAS VEGAS

Voice

Vol. 3, No. 35

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Thursday, September 2, 1965

Does This Picture Seem Familiar?



"You've mentioned unemployment, housing, education, police brutality, and despair... but, what was the reason for the riot?"

By Whitney M. Young, Jr.

National Urban League
Executive Director

MIAMI, Fla. — This is probably the one city in the nation where Negroes regard poverty as paradise. It explains the absence of large-scale rallies and demonstrations, or widespread unrest and social upheaval.

The average Negro family here lives in poverty or right next door to it. But after chopping cotton in Alabama for \$9 a week, bussing dishes in a Miami Beach hotel for \$45 is elysian. And living in a "concrete monster" apartment house or in the dreadful, frame bungalows of "Good Bread Alley" still beats an Alabama shanty, if not by very much.

His housing is terrible, his job chances are strictly menial, and his prospects for putting his children in college are virtually non-existent, but still Negro men come down.

The lure is jobs, menial jobs, the kind a black man can't find readily in Cleveland or Milwaukee. Operating a hotel elevator or opening and closing a door doesn't tax anyone's thinking capacity — and such jobs are abundant in a city where 90 percent of all enterprise is service-oriented rather than industrial.

Unfortunately, most white Miamians regard the absence of protest rallies as a sign that "all's well" when it isn't. T. Willard Fair, the Urban League's executive director, says that conditions in nearby Perrine "resemble a concentration camp;" that he found 23 people living in a three-room shack in Miami and that the Central Negro District is "the leading area in every vice and social ill you can name, including dope addiction."

These unpleasant realities from which municipal officials hold themselves aloof, are gradually corroding the patience of Miami's Negroes. They see the world entirely different from white residents, busy congratulating themselves for a few fine strides in quality education by the school board. When Fair compared the ghetto in 1962 with a study made 20 years earlier by Dr. Warren Banner, League research director, the only change he could find was paved streets.

The public housing authority is trying to place relocation housing in the path of ghetto expansion; Negroes seeking homes in transition neighborhoods are subject to intimidation; and only one firm, the Pix Shoe store chain, is known to operate an aggressive on-the-job training program for Negro employees.

Social Security Benefits Increased 7 Per Cent

A SHORT TIME AGO, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the most far-reaching changes ever made in the Social Security Act. Among these changes was a 7 per cent increase in cash benefits according to Ed Cocks, district manager of Social Security Administration in Las Vegas.

(See SECURITY, page 15)

Contest Winners



YOUNG BEAUTIES--Top awards in first annual Doolittle Pool Bathing Beauty Contest went to these happy youngsters. Front (from left) are Feliece Roberts, crowned Missy Doolittle Pool (8-11 year category); Elaine Fox, Miss Doolittle Pool (12-16 years); Patricia Sullivan, 1st runnerup, and Cecilia Simon, 2nd runnerup to Miss Fox. Rear (from left) are Sonia Willis, selected Baby Doolittle Pool (4-7 years); Debra Jamerson, 2nd runnerup to Miss Willis; Cynthia Willis, 1st runnerup to Miss Roberts, and Iris Davis, 1st runnerup to Miss Willis. Mrs. Shirley McDaniel was contest director. (See 'Who's Who' page 6)

By contrast, one airline has just three Negro employees on its staff of 260 workers, a record that is tragically typical for the area.

The fault is predominantly educational. The League's "Skills Bank" set up to recruit, screen, and refer professional, skilled and semi-skilled applicants to industries, is "bankrupt," Fair says. "We just don't have enough referrals."

If Negroes are to rise out of poverty in Miami and energize the city's spotty economy, a vast educational and retraining effort will be required. Bishop Coleman F. Carroll, Miami's Roman Catholic leader, has integrated many Catholic schools. But only some 200 Negro pupils are attending classes with whites in the public schools.

Miami is an energetic and growing city. It opened its heart to Cuban refugees from Castro, including thousands of trained professional men and women, integrating them rapidly into its economy. But it has not shown a like inclination to help Negroes to help themselves — most of whom come to the city with fewer skills from the South than Cubans, who grew up under the Batista dictatorship.

Eleven Westside Schools Assigned New Call Numbers

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBERS have been assigned to 11 of the 12 elementary schools in West Las Vegas and the adjoining portion of North Las Vegas, together with all eight junior high schools and the five public high schools in Greater Las Vegas.

Most of the new numbers are now in service but some of the schools are still using the old number listed for them in the July, 1965, issue of the Telephone Directory (see page 377, yellow section). The only school in the Westside areas which has NOT been assigned a new number is LOIS CRAIG, which will continue to be reached by calling 642-0363.

New numbers for Westside ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS follow:

- KIT CARSON 649-2336
- MATT KELLY 649-2328
- MADISON 385-1846
- WESTSIDE 385-1840
- HIGHLAND 649-2338
- BONANZA 385-1841
- JO MACKEY* 642-9036
- QUANNAH McCALL 649-0363
- MARION CAHLAN* 642-9052
- LINCOLN 649-2330
- J. E. MANCH 649-2337

(It also should be noted that the HELEN J. STEWART School at 201 East Washington Ave., which serves mentally handicapped children from all sections of Greater Las Vegas, may be reached by phoning 384-1882.)

New numbers for JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS in Greater Las Vegas follow:

- JOHN C. FREMONT 734-6431

(See SCHOOLS, page 16)