

Freedom Fighter *** of the Week

FORMER RANCHO High School football star Jerry Eppinger, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Eppinger, 420 Freeman St., has been serving with the U. S. Marine Corps in South Vietnam for the past four months and is looking forward to returning to Las Vegas the second week in February.



JERRY EPPINGER

Pvt. 1/C Eppinger, 20, entered the service in 1963 following his graduation from Rancho with the Class of 1962. He was an outstanding defensive player on the Ram eleven during his junior and senior years.

Jerry's parents operate Mattie's Cafe, named for his mother, at 409 Jackson. He has four sisters, Ruth, Hazel and Maxine, and

two brothers, Benjamin and Billy Jr.

The VOICE salutes Pvt. 1/C Jerry Eppinger as our "Freedom Fighter of the Week."

Madison School Parents Organize "Home Circle"

MADISON SCHOOL is off to a good start for this school year with the formation of a school-parent group called The Madison Home Circle. The first official meeting with 56 parents attending was held on Oct. 27, when Mrs. Rosie Brewer was elected chairman of the group. Other parents assisting Mrs. Brewer are Mrs. Carrie Stewart Tyler, assistant, Mrs. Mable Flemming, secretary, Mrs. Jones, assistant secretary, and Mrs. Bobbie Jean Atkinson, treasurer.

Giving full support to the Madison Home Circle are the principal, Richard David, and the Madison School Faculty Council. Since many activities have been planned, all parents are urged to attend the meetings so that the projects will be successful.

Meetings will be held every second and fourth Tuesday evening from 7 to 8 p.m. until further notice.

AN ADULT-TEEN dramatic group and workshop is being organized by the Las Vegas Recreation Dept. under the direction of Nick Sylvester, new city recreation supervisor.

Plans call for the group to meet at 7:30 p.m. on Mondays and Fridays of each week in the Recreation Conference Room of the City Hall Annex at Stewart Ave. and Las Vegas Blvd. North. An annual registration fee

of \$2 per person is contemplated. Further information may be obtained from Sylvester at Dula Recreation Center or by calling

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(WILKINS, from page 2)

sheriff and his deputy are among those who have been charged in connection with the murder of three civil rights workers would "voluntarily" change its registration practices? For 11 consecutive years Clarendon County, S.C., has refused to desegregate its schools, despite court orders. Autauga County, in Alabama, which had less than 2% of its voting age Negroes registered, could hardly be expected to alter its pattern voluntarily.

Given leeway, one county's registrar closed his office October 1 for a "vacation" to last until November 6. One county held registration for one day only in September and October. Another required documentary proof of age, even of persons obviously far past 21 years of age. Another county reserved two out of five registration days for "clerical work."

These are old stories to Negro citizens who are bewildered by the continuing belief of non-Southern white people that the plea of some Southern areas for "more time" is a legitimate one. The truth is that every effort to change racial practices has been met with this "time" gambit, conceived in deceit and executed in bare-faced effrontery.

Voter Registration Is First Job

It is to be hoped that the attorney general, a good man in a hot spot, will read the past record in these vote-denying counties as he would a law brief. The inescapable conclusion here is that the law must be invoked across the board. The addition of only 1 million more Negro voters in the Southern states will be sufficient to initiate local corrective action via the ballot box. Let federal registrars and private civil rights organizations concentrate on getting that million registered.

For as outrageous and as emotionally stirring as are the acquittals in Hayneville, for example, the principal job for civil rights groups now is voter registration. Failure to pursue the main objective can affect the 1966 election and the subsequent composition of the Congress. It could lead to the freezing of federal enforcement and to the installation of county and state governments dedicated to killing or nullifying all civil rights moves.

The defiant Southern counties have underscored again the truism that in politics nothing counts like votes.

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