

BENEFIT POSTPONED

City Officials Throw Chuck's Boys Club A Slow Curve

LAS VEGAS

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This Is Chuck Harris And His Boys At Boys Town Las Vegas



By John P. West

IT IS WITH UNDERSTANDABLE regret the VOICE must announce that the scheduled Benefit for Chuck's All American Boys Club, through no fault of Bob Bailey or of this newspaper, has been called off, temporarily, by circumstances even more bewildering than was the confusion caused by the mix-up on dates in the initial announcement of the proposed affair.

Believe me when I say it's difficult to explain--how do you explain what you don't really understand yourself--how do you explain to kids that somebody at City Hall doesn't like them, or at least, could care less whether they have a Gymnasium and a dedicated program to keep them off the streets or not. No, I don't understand it; all I can do is tell how this curious and callous catastrophe came about.

First I want to tell you something I do know about. About Chuck Harris who runs the All American Boys Club. . . About the unparalleled (in this entire City) work he is doing with youth. . . About how those youngsters respond to the efforts of the man that they know cares about them now and is concerned about their future. . . About the mutual respect these boys and Chuck have for each other.

MANY OF YOU KNOW of the wonderful work Chuck Harris is doing with our youngsters here on the Westside; those of you who don't, may I entreat you to avail yourself of the first opportunity to drop by Chuck's All American Boys Club located in the Golden West Shopping Center. One visit is sufficient to convince you. It was because some of us were brought up short with the realization that nobody, but nobody was making the contribution to our youth so much as Chuck and that Chuck was struggling financially to maintain the Gymnasium that Bob Bailey and I scheduled the fund-raiser at Sugar Hill.

Here, finally, is what happened. A member of the licensing Bureau called the VOICE to inform us it would be necessary to make application for a solicitation permit to hold the affair. It was explained to him that no soliciting was being done; just that all cash receipts at Sugar Hill between certain hours would be donated to Chuck's Gym. He replied that it probably was confusing to us, which at sure in heck was. At

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Southern Negroes Enter Body Politic With Vigor

ATLANTA, Ga.--Four Negro candidates seeking elective offices in Wilcox County, Alabama's third poorest, said that they were seeking "to give the people a choice."

In a conference held at the headquarters of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Negro candidates told of their aspirations to help not only the Negroes but also the white people, who they described as being "just as poor."

Meeting the press were Lonnie L. Brown, 34, candidate for State Senator from the 19th District; Walter J. Calhoun, 30, candidate for sheriff; James H. Perryman, 50, and Donnie V. Irby, 27, candidates for the county road commission.

The political fate of the Negro candidates will be decided on May 3.

The candidates were introduced by Daniel Harrell, SCLC's field secretary in Wilcox County. In his introduction, Harrell said he was telling a brief story of how more than 14,000 Negroes in his county "have overcome the crippling shackles of political disfranchisement."

HARRELL DECLARED that just one year ago there were no Negroes registered in his county, and it was through an intensive voter registration drive conducted by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference that there are now 3,700 Negroes on the registration rolls compared to some 2,100 whites.

"My county, Harrell said, ranks third among the poorest counties in Alabama, and 20th among the most destitute communities in the country."

He said that "the Negro people of Wilcox County are now assured for the first time of fair representation by having demonstrated their courage to enter the body politic, Democracy's most effective method for bringing about social change."

He added that the four Negro political candidates are aware that "they hold an important place in Alabama's history, as well as the history of the United States," and that their decision to seek elective office did not come easily. He said that there have been threats and intimidation and that "we believe there will be more."

HE PRAISED THE FOUR political candidates for "symbolizing the courage and determination of despairing people . . . to make sure that their interests are fairly represented in the future." During a news conference, much interest was directed toward Calhoun, a 6'2" life-long resident of Wilcox County, seeking to become sheriff.

Calhoun told of threats and intimidations that have been made toward him since he qualified to run for the office. He said he had been forced

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