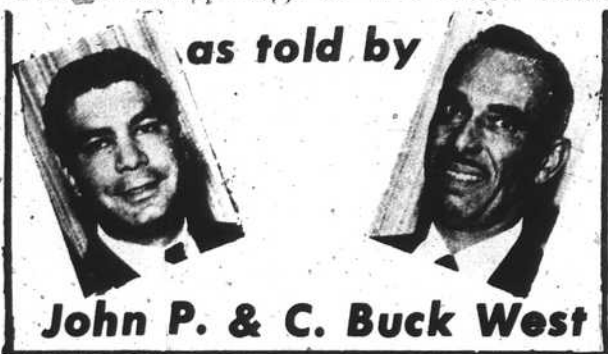


# Hidden History

The Unsung Saga of the Black Man

as told by



**John P. & C. Buck West**

ANTAR

Poet, Soldier, and Great Chivalrous Figure of the East (A.D. 600)

"The most renowned warrior among the Greeks was Achilles; the greatest poet, Homer. Antar is the Achilles and the Homer of the East combined. What Roland is to the French, what Siegfried is to the German, what St. George is to the English, that Antar is to 355,000,000 souls of the Mohammedan world. In the literature of the East, he is known as "Abul Fouaris" (the Father of Heroes).

"Gottheil says, 'Even in the cities of the Orient today, the loungers over their cups can never weary of following the exploits of this black son of the desert, who, in his person unites the great virtues of his people, magnanimity and bravery with the gift of poetic speech.'

"Few started lower in life than Antar; few, if any, have risen higher, in the esteem and affection of those who once despised them. He was born of a slave mother in the midst of one of the proudest of all peoples--the Bedouins, horsemen and plunderers of the desert, who pride themselves to this day on the purity of their descent from Ishmael, son of Abraham and Hagar, and on their famous Arabian horses.

"Moreover Antar was extraordinarily ugly. He was 'flat-nosed, bleary-eyed, harsh-featured, and had long, drooping ears.' He was also hare-lipped and black.

"But, like David of the Scriptures, Antar was destined to flash into fame. One day, when he was only fifteen, war broke out between his tribe and a neighboring one over the possession of a famous mare named Jirwet. Antar entered the battle as a common soldier; he emerged from it the hero of the day. Thanks to his skill, the enemy was signally defeated. His father, proud of him now, set him free. He became the protector of his tribe, its mainstay and leader.

"When other tribes reproached the Abs because they had a Negro as their chief, Antar declared that he had a sword that was ready to prove that though he was lowly born his ancestry was as good as theirs.

"From this period onwards his life, like that of the Seven Champions of Christendom, is so much interwoven with chivalry and romance that it reads more like fable than fact.

"His poems are of the most exalted nature, combining the spirit of war with sublime devotion and ecstasy. One of them was accorded the highest honor possible to a Moslem writer--it was hung up at the entrance to the great temple at Mecca. There were only six other poems so honored. These seven poems are known as the Moallakat.

"Several European critics, among them Ernest Renan, have warmly praised Antar's verses. Lamartine says of his poem in the Moallakat, 'It is one of the finest lyrical chants in any language. In many places it equals the best in Homer, Virgil, and Tasso.'

"Larousse says of him, 'From his infancy he gave proof of extraordinary force and courage. By the brilliance of his acts he redeemed his extraction and won his freedom. Like most Arab chiefs, he was as skilled in the poetic art as in the use of the sword. . .

"Deprived of the advantages of good looks and birth, he won merit by force of soul, by the power of his spirit, and the indomitable energy of his character, occupying the foremost rank among men."

"Mohamet, who lived at that time, declared that Antar was the only Bedouin he ever admired."

## VOICE READERS COMPRISE A \$30,000,000 MARKET

# EDITORIAL

## Our Goals First-Personalities Later

PEOPLE MUST BE ABLE TO TALK to one another, if they are to understand one another. People must come together to talk, and they must have some common denominator to hold their interest in constructive conversation. When the common denominator is a major issue in the lives of these people, they seek, and they usually find a line of communication with one another. Through the medium of communication, they seek counsel of one another in a common quest for answers, and solutions.

The Negro residents of our community, by the accident of their African ancestry, have the common denominator of being classed as second-rate citizens. They have the unenviable denominator of being deprived of equal opportunity because of the blood of their ancestors. It makes no difference how completely Caucasian a Negro might be in physical appearance, he is denied equality of American citizenship, with the same resistance that faced his African ancestors, provided his identity is known. The American Negro is a mixture of all bloods of all races, but his African blood sets him apart from all the other American mongrels.

Our nation came into being because it was a haven of freedom from tyrannical rule. Pilgrims from Europe pioneered, but pilgrimages from every corner of the earth followed in rapid succession. America became the meeting ground and the melting pot of people from all lands and all races. They mingled and they intermarried, progenerating a population of every imaginable blend and mixture. The people of America are today the most mongrelized people of the world. Ironically, the American Negro can boast of less mongrelization than any other people of

this nation, but he is looked down upon by other Americans. This factor gives the Negro the most binding common denominator, and makes him an enigma in a democratic nation.

THE SOCIAL REVOLUTION taking place in America today was generated by the Negro's impatience with the snail paced racial reforms of the past century, since his ancestors were declared free by Presidential Proclamation and established as citizens by Constitutional Amendments. The momentum of social reforms, taking shape in America today, must be reenergized by each Negro doing his part in a unified effort. Unity will turn the tide. We must have communications for developing this unity. WE MUST GET TOGETHER IF WE WANT EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY.

The Las Vegas VOICE is your voice. It is the only focus of communication that is practical, as well as available for the tasks ahead. The VOICE was established to fill our void of communications. This instrument for "keeping in touch" offers refreshed hopes of pulling us together to accomplish our missions. We beg your faith in us. With your faith behind it, your Voice will be heard, and victory will be both rapid and complete.

Read the VOICE. Look carefully for announcements of meetings. Attend all meetings and dedicate yourself to a united effort.

UNITY WILL PROVIDE THE POWER FOR TOTAL VICTORY. LET US UNITE AND WIN. SUPPORT THE VOICE! IT WILL ALWAYS SUPPORT THE CAUSE.

Dr. Charles I. West  
Publisher

## Pray It Is Not Too Little Too Late

The Clark County School Trustee Board finally granted the necessary approval to activate a teacher-student exchange program (on the elementary level) at the Board's regular business meeting, last Thursday night. Mrs. Helen Cannon, board member who has offered strong opposition to the plan since its inception, last September, made a motion of denial, but it died for want of a second.

John Walker, Matt Kelly elementary school principal, had conceived the plan after attending a seminar at Stanford University with several members of his teaching staff on the premise "that looking ahead to the eventual desegregation of schools it is essential that the Clark County School District take initial action to promote a step-by-step movement in the direction of desegregation."

Objectives of the proposed plan which will be effected next week are listed as (1) To help teachers improve professionally through an exchange of ideas and experiences. (2) To create an understanding among teachers of the need for the continual evaluation of existing educational programs throughout the District as we strive to meet the needs of all our children. (3) To provide an opportunity for teachers to work together so that we have a better understanding of other teachers, ourselves, and the total school program. (4) To provide children with experiences which help them develop an awareness that we live in an America which is multi-cultural, pluralistic and inter-dependent.

The Exchange program has been designed to involve from four to six teachers in the exchange. John Bass, a fourth grade teacher at Matt Kelly and recent winner of the Teacher of the Month Award, and Joseph Mancusa, Vegas Verdes sixth grade teacher are fully prepared for the exchange. A sixth grade teacher at Crestwood elementary school, Louis Hurt, and Crestwood school's principal, Don Kenny are reported as also being interested, but action on other exchange plans had been suspended pending the Board's decision.

UNDER THE PROGRAM, teachers will select three students from their classes to accompany them on the exchange. Teachers will ex-

change classrooms of the same grade level, when possible and original plans were that the exchanges would extend over a period of six weeks. It was felt that a shorter period of time would not allow enough time for the expected outcomes to accrue. It is not definite whether the long delay in gaining Board approval will affect the tenure of the exchanges now that the school year is in its waning weeks.

Every provision has been made to meet any unanticipated set-back. Teachers will pick up the children at their own schools at 8 a.m. and transport them to the exchange school. In the event the teacher is ill, the principal will transport the pupils. Special passenger insurance has been purchased for the duration of the exchange.

A final evaluation of the program attempting to identify the sensitivities, feelings, attitudes of the parents, teachers, and students involved will be made by utilizing a teacher log of teacher observations, evaluative check lists, parent questionnaires, pupil questionnaires, pupil sociometrics and principal evaluation.

### NOTICE

All tenants of large apartment concerns, or housing developments--PLEASE pick up your copy of the Las Vegas VOICE at the office of your respective buildings.

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