

REYNALDO MARTINEZ, Western High Teacher

And

HELEN ANDERSON, Kit Carson Principal

Launch Best Human Relations Project Ever

The program developed from a project plan organized by the Southern Nevada Human Relations Commission to set up Junior Human Relations Commissions in all Clark County High Schools and Junior High Schools.

Western High School, under the direction of Mr. Martinez, must be commended for initiating a most ingenious project in cooperation with Mrs. Anderson.

If all Clark County High Schools would follow the pattern established by Western, the problem of race relations in our community would immediately be lessened and eventually solved.

The VOICE wishes to commend the Review-Journal for covering this event so magnificently. We are also grateful for permission to reprint the story as it appeared in the February 11, 1968 issue of the "Nevadan".

At 3 p.m. Friday a week ago the pupils at Kit Carson Elementary School were acting strange. Strange for kids, because classes were ended for the day and except for the smallest kids the kids were hanging around.

By all standards of normal child behavior they should have been bugging out, going home,

By Bill Vincent

to kick a can around, snagging a stick for the log or phoning up sides for a tough game of Off Side in the vacant lot.

But there they were hanging around and sneaking into the all-purpose room. It was like Santa Claus was going to come.

What they were waiting for was a school program. Kids were staying after school to learn something. And the second and third graders were there illegally — truancy in reverse — because what was planned that afternoon was strictly for fourth, fifth and sixth graders.

Western High School seniors were coming in with music, biology, athletics, cheer sections and most of all good fellowship and understanding to give the Kit Carson pupils a shot of enthusiasm for learning, about things and people. The process seemed to work both ways. The seniors discovered they were something special in the eyes of the young. And if they did a thing, then it was OK.

This was a special course in applied human



"Man, look at that eagle."

relations. And in the more-than-an-hour session the words were not spoken. They didn't have to be. Kids aren't dumb.

It was the second of a series of sessions to cross fertilize the minds and hearts of elementary and high school students. After the pilot project has broken ground at Kit Carson and Western, it is hoped that the program will be extended to other schools.

The idea originated with the Human Relations Commission of Southern Nevada. It was then taken to Western where Carrol Johnston appointed a Junior Human Relations Commission composed of Reynaldo Martinez, Pat Hearsh and Sharon Beatty. Martinez, a teacher of government, was appointed as advisor. The purpose is to tear down psychological barriers separating different races and cultures.

At the session we attended, the ambassadors of goodwill from Western started the learning with biology. The Wildlife Study Center of Western provided a factual look at nature, nature in the live form of a red-tail hawk, a five-foot snake and a midget falcon.



Happiness is a big friend.