

"Teacher Of The Year" Award To Mabel Hoggard



OUTSTANDING TEACHER -- The Clark County Classroom Teachers Association, at its installation dinner in the Palomino Room of the Hacienda Hotel, Saturday, April 20, enjoyed enthusiastic acclamation from more than 400 guests at the announcement that Highland School first grade teacher, Mrs. Mabel Hoggard, was recipient of the Association's "Teacher of the Year" award... Making the presentation to Nevada's first Negro teacher is former Clark County School Superintendent Walter D. Johnson who held that position when Mrs. Hoggard pioneered the district in 1946.

Complete rules of eligibility for the Clark County Classroom Teachers Association's "Outstanding Teacher Award" are not known to the writer. It was noted at the Banquet, in which Mrs. Mabel Hoggard was so honored, that one of the requirements is 15 years of service. That Mrs. Hoggard is the possessor of all other requirements is indicated by the unanimous vote of the Association in her selection for the award. That she exemplifies all that is desirable as a standard bearer for her profession was evidenced in the standing ovation accorded her at the announcement that she was the 1968 award recipient.

Much has been written and noted (and deservedly so) of Mrs. Hoggard's complete dedication as a teacher. Little has been said of her watchdog vigilance and quiet militance against bureaucratic indifference to insurance of effective classroom methods of teaching.

Characteristic of Mrs. Hoggard, who is first, foremost, and always the teacher, is that after former Superintendent Johnson made his presentation, indulging in understandable nostalgia about the days when she first appeared on the Las Vegas scene as the District's first Negro teacher, Mabel Hoggard, with her innate dignity and naturally engaging modest demeanor, reminded him (and assembled guests) that when she was engaged to teach here in Las Vegas, although she was an American citizen, and a qualified school teacher, she was not permitted the security of a contract in the District as was the natural procedure in the hiring of teachers. She observed that "You can see, progress has been made, but there are still miles and miles to go."

Mrs. Hoggard made no allusion to the subject in her gracious acceptance speech, but her unstinted admiration of the late Maude Fraser whose tenure as School Superintendent preceded that of Superintendent Walter Johnson is well known. Mrs. Hoggard is always fulsome in her praise of Mrs. Fraser for the concern and help given her after the two became acquainted.

Mabel W. Hoggard, a native of Pueblo, Colorado, received her early education in Des Moines and Colfax, Iowa. Graduating Cum Laude from Bluefield State Teachers' College with the degree of Bachelor Of Science in Elementary Education, she did post graduate work at West Virginia State College, the University of Chicago, and at Nevada Southern University.

Mrs. Hoggard's diversified work experience is indicative of her deep interest in the areas of activities she shares with those dedicated citizens of most concern.

She has worked as Teaching Principal of an elementary school in Jenkins, Kentucky, and Delbarton W. Virginia. She also served on the administrative staff of the Public Housing Authority in Williamson, W. Virginia.

AFTER MAKING Las Vegas her home, she served on the administrative staff at the Jefferson Ave. USO. She pioneered the teaching field for Negroes in 1946 when, as Nevada's first Negro teacher, she became a second grade teacher at the Westside School.

She is presently a first grade teacher at Highland Elementary School.

Never idle, she has utilized her summer vacations (when not matriculating in extracurricular studies) by serving as Director of Operation Independence Day Care Center, and as Teacher, Summer Day Camp, Trinity Methodist Church, West Charleston Blvd.

Mrs. Hoggard's professional activities have included serving as Treasurer of the Las Vegas Class Room Teachers' Association, and as a delegate to the NEA (National Education Association) in Ely, Nevada, and to the NEA National Convention in Portland, Oregon. A Life member of the NEA, she is a holder of Life Teaching Certificates in the states of Kentucky, West Virginia, and Nevada.

Naturally, she is involved in community activities. For two terms she served as Secretary of the Clark County Chapter of the American Red Cross, a board member of the Las Vegas Community Concert Association, and executive board member of the Las Vegas branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. She is presently an active member of Zion Methodist Church, the NAACP, Las Vegas League of Women Voters, LV Community Concert Association, and the Clark County Republican Central Committee.

On October 11, 1962, she was recipient of a plaque from the Las Vegas Rotary Club honoring her as "Teacher of the Week".

Mabel Hoggard, lauded by many as "teacher of every week" is a devoted family woman. Married to J. David Hoggard, she lists her family members as - quote - "one granddaughter, eight grandsons, three sons, and one husband."

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