

LOCAL BLACK PROFILES CONTINUED



Mrs. Ethel Pearson, a native of Guthrie, Oklahoma, moved to Las Vegas in 1945. She is a graduate librarian and an accomplished pianist and organist. She is a member of the Second Baptist Church.

Her community activities include Past Treasurer of Westside Democratic Club, Member of American Red Cross, NAACP, Council Worker and Medicare. Mrs. Pearson organized and served as captain of the Westside and Madison Neighborhood Councils. She was responsible for public transportation in the Regal Estates and Windsor Park Areas. She also was active in the re-opening of "F" and "D" Streets, closed by the Freeway; and for a stop light being installed at H and Bonanza and many more community projects.



Rev. Marion Daniel Bennett, Minister of Zion United Methodist Church, North Las Vegas, Nevada. Since he has been the pastor, the church has been relocated and education facilities have been completed. The church is valued at over \$175,000.

Rev. Bennett was educated in Greenville, South Carolina, Morris Brown College, Atlanta, Georgia, Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Georgia, and the University of Nevada.

He is past president of the NAACP, and has been an active member of many other organizations. He is married and has 2 children.



Claude H. Parson, Project Director, Title IV (Advisory Specialist) responsible for promoting school integration in the elementary schools (Clark County)

Parson has been an educator in Clark County for 14 years. He has taught for 4 years in the elementary schools, 10 years as an industrial arts teacher in Jr. High School, and later as an Industrial Arts teacher at Clark High School.

Among the many other activities of Mr. Parson, he has been a pastor for 4 years at Vegas View Church of God in Christ.

Parson has his B. S. degree in Education from State University of New York in Oswego, his M. A. in Education from Arizona State University and is eligible for a Nevada Administrative Certificate. He is enrolled at University of Nevada, Las Vegas, in an Educational Specialist degree program in school administration.

He is married and has 3 children.



Reverend O. L. Jefferson, Pastor of the St. John Church of God in Christ, is a staff member of Bunker Brothers Mortuary as a Family Counselor. Part of his duties are, Chaplain, and counseling for Funeral Security Plans.

Reverend Jefferson is active in civic and community affairs. He is Chairman of the Safety Committee of the Area Council P.T.A. In 1969-70 he was 3rd Vice President of the Area Council P.T.A. He is married and has 2 children.



Huedillard Fitzgerald, Assistant Director, Southern Nevada Manpower Training Center, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Mr. Fitzgerald is a long time educator in Nevada. He began teaching in Clark County in 1947 as an Art Instructor and later became the first black elementary school principal. Among the many things to his credit, he has been a vocational counselor and work training evaluator for the Clark County Schools.

Fitzgerald has assisted in the organization of and has been a member of or is now a member of too many organizations to mention.

Since his arrival in Nevada, 1946, he has pioneered many fields on the behalf of Black Nevadans. He is married and has one son.



J. David Hoggard, past President of NAACP, presently; Executive Board Member of NAACP, member of Zion Methodist Church, Nevada Equal Rights Organization, Las Vegas Savings and Loan Association, Board of Directors, Welfare Rights Organization. He has been employed by Clark County School District, Circulation department of a local daily, Executive Director of the Economic Opportunity Board from 1968 to present. Hoggard was born in New Jersey and moved to Las Vegas in 1946.



James A. Gay is Director of Communications for Hughes Nevada operations, office located in the Sands Hotel, Las Vegas.

During his twenty-four years in Las Vegas, Gay has been associated with the NAACP, NCCJ executive board, local culinary executive board, area council Boy Scouts, thirty-third degree Mason, Elks Club, Trustee of Second Baptist Church, and President of Las Vegas Chapter of AM & N college alumni association.

Among his many accomplishments, Gay can boast many firsts for Las Vegas Blacks, 1. licensed mortician, 2. appointee to any governmental post, 3. Black bathing beauty contest, etc.

He is a graduate of; Arkansas AM & N College, Worsham Mortuary Science, and Elsinore Naval Academy Aquatic School. He is married (29 years) and has four children.

Gay's most recent accomplishment, winner of 1970 Fremont Invitational (more than 3000 participants).