

# RENO • SPARKS NEWS

## RENOITES HEAR CHARLES TAYLOR AND THE HUG HIGH GOSPEL CHOIR



Professor Charles Taylor, pleased with musical trophy awarded during Reno singing appearance.

On Sunday, March 27, northern Nevada was privileged to hear Professor Charles Taylor of New York present a program of gospel music. Professor Taylor has been called the "King of Gospel Music," and on Sunday he indeed lived up to that title, singing many of his own compositions as well as familiar favorites.

The musical evening at Faith Deliverance Church was rounded out by the fantastic Proctor R. Hug High School Gospel Choir, directed by Mrs. Arma Mack. The all-Black youth singing group is relatively recently organized, but has already gained the reputation of being the best in the area.

Arranged and promoted by Reverend John A. Chatman, Jr., the free concert was a rousing success. Chatman and the Public Affairs Committee presented trophies in appreciation to Professor Taylor, Mrs. Mack, and Cynthia Manning, President of the choral group.



Mrs. Arma Mack, Director Hug High School (Reno) Gospel Choir and Choir President Cynthia Manning.

### NORTHEAST RENO OUTREACH COUNCIL

Robert Archie, State Employment Security Director; State Senator Proctor Hug, Sr.; and Assemblymen Woodrow Wilson formed a powerhouse trio of guest speakers, addressing the North East Reno Outreach Council Tuesday, March 23.

Archie fielded questions and complaints regarding the establishment of a branch employment office in the predominantly minority area of north east Reno, explaining that a fund delay had temporarily side-tracked this proposed office, but that it will become a reality within the next few months.

Eliciting an enthusiastic response, Assemblyman Wilson discussed his successful campaign to have the near-disastrous amendment regarding complaintant responsibility removed from the Fair Housing Law. "Woodie's" sponsorship and fight to assure passage of vital bills in the current session has gained him the support of followers in northern Nevada almost equal to that of his fellow southerners.

Proctor Hug, Sr. was receptive to the contention of the Outreach members that the current method of electing Reno City Councilman by vote of all registered voters, rather than restricting votes for each ward's representative to voters in that ward, should be changed. Mrs. Juliette Porter is Chairman of the Committee to effect such a change. Senator Hug explained the difficulty of entering a bill to correct this condition at such a late date in the current session, but will attempt to have such a bill introduced.

Outreach Chairman William Moon will introduce incumbent Councilman for the Fourth Ward Clarence Thornton, at the next Outreach meeting, Tuesday, April 6th, and has also invited the challenging candidates.

### RENO TEEN-AGERS FORM UNITE

A fitting theme-song for newly formed Reno Teen-agers' group UNITE might well be "Bridge Over Troubled Waters." The outgrowth of several minor racial confrontations involving high school students, UNITE was conceived by Hug High School students and organized as a co-educational group of racially mixed youths between the ages of 14 and 22.

Several organizational and discussion meetings have been well attended and featured planning for a dance held March 26 in the California Building of Idlewild Park in Reno, which drew an enthusiastic crowd of 500. Temporary officers hope that many who attended the dance will affiliate with the group and assist the achieving the founding purpose of better understanding and harmony among the various racial segments in this age bracket.

Advisors include the Reverend Vincent L. Thompson, A. M. E. minister and former Assistant Secretary of the Nevada Commission on Equal Rights of Citizens; Mrs. Shirley McKenna of the Reno Police Juvenile Department; Mrs. Donnie Brown, Chairman of the Social Justices Committee; and Sue Toll of the Race Relations Center.

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### EDITH EDWARDS, PIANO SPOT PLAYER, DIES

Edith Edwards, 83, of 1750 Andesite Avenue, Reno, Nevada, once well-known as a piano spot player in famous bands that visited Reno, died Friday, March 19, in a Reno rest home.

A native of Mt. Orvin, Indiana, she attended schools in Connersville, Indiana, and at a very young age because recognized as a talented pianist. She was married to the late Les Edwards and settled in Reno in 1931. During the days of silent movies, she was a pianist in theaters in Connersville. In the heyday of Tony's El Patio Ballroom in Reno, she played with many big name bands, including Paul Whiteman's.

Mrs. Edwards was a charter member of the Daughter Elks, BPOE Tahoe-Reno Temple, and a charter member and organist of the Dorcas Chapter No 30 Order of Eastern Star. She was a member of the Second Baptist Church.

Survivors include her daughter Mayetta Perkins, devoted son-in-law Earl Perkins, sister Lulu Vest of Battle Creek, Michigan, and niece Ethel Bailey of Connersville, Indiana, and several nephews.

The Reverend William Webb of the Second Baptist Church conducted the funeral services. Active pallbearers were Mr. Ellis Fells, Mr. Fred Frye, Mr. Samuel Gibson, Sr., Mr. Frank Nelson, Mr. J. T. Needham, and Mr. John West.

### Equal Rights Commission Seeks Northern Field Rep

Tony McCormick, Executive Secretary for the Nevada Commission on Equal Rights of Citizens, is currently assessing certified applicants from the State Personnel office list to fill a vacancy in the Commission's Reno office. Former Assistant Secretary, Reverend Vincent L. Thompson resigned because of ill health on March 25.

The selected replacement will be designated Field Representative, and this position will be a classified job in the future. Mr. McCormick plans to interview qualified applicants from this certified list both in Las Vegas and Reno and to announce his selection before the end of April.

The Equal Rights Commission processes complaints of discrimination in employment and public accommodation because of race, religion, color or national origin, protecting the civil rights of the four legal minority groups: Black, American Indian, Spanish-American, and Oriental. If the Fair Housing Bill (AB254) becomes law in the current legislative session, the statutory responsibility for investigating complaints of discrimination in housing will also come under the jurisdiction of the Commission.