

# RENO • SPARKS NEWS

## Jesse J. Hall, Jr. Named School Principal

Jesse J. Hall, Jr., was named principal of Sierra Vista Elementary School in Reno at the Washoe County School Board meeting Tuesday the 27th, becoming Washoe County's first Black principal. Chosen Washoe County Teacher of the Year in 1970, Hall joined the staff of Traner Junior High School nine years ago and was the first Black teacher in the county, which now employs 12 Black teachers.

"Serving as principal will enable me to help more students than a teacher is able to help," Holloway said, citing his appointment as a healthy indication of better conditions for minority persons in the area as well as in the educational system. Hall took his B. A. degree from State Teacher's College in Fay, N. C. in 1962, and received his Master's Degree from the University of Nevada - Reno Campus - in June of 1970.

Active in community affairs, Hall worked on the Northern division of the Nevada Coalition's Open Housing Bill committee, appeared on the Martin Luther King birthday television program, and directs music at the Second Baptist Church. He composes gospel music. Hall and his wife Nancy have two children. He expressed the hope that his tenure as principal will "build rapport with students -- not only of one race, but of all races."

## Red Tape Snarls N.E. Reno Recreation Project

Unforeseen bureaucratic set-backs have delayed the Northeast Reno Recreation Complex beginning. This plan was to have provided a swimming pool and other badly needed recreational facilities in the heart of the minority community in Reno.

With \$300,000 currently available, including a \$150,000 grant from the Fleischman Foundation \$60,000 from the City of Reno, \$60,000 from the Washoe County School District, and \$30,000 from the Fair and Recreation Board, planners still need \$150,000 in federal funds to build the complete complex. Technicalities in dates of submitting corrected plans delayed funds, and the government must now approve the updated plan.

Reno Recreation Superintendent Gene Sullivan expressed disappointment and annoyance at the delay. Black committeemen Robert Houston and Rev. Vincent Rhompson have expressed the worry that the money presently allotted for this complex by the city may be spent somewhere else before the Federal funds come through. They said, "We feel there is really a need for better communication between the state, the city, and the community. It is vital to get a better recreational facilities for these kids and get a pool and get the kids off the streets this summer."

The full recreational plan is to include playing fields, tennis courts, and track areas. Approval must be obtained from the regional office of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, as well as the Washington office, and also the National Park Service and U. S. Forest Service. Stan Euston, chief of the regional planning for the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation indicated approval of the plan at the regional level and that it would be sent to Washington some time last week. A decision on the updated plan can be expected from Washington by the end of May.

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### DEADLINES

News Items - Before Noon Fridays

Advertising Before 5 p.m. Fridays

## Traner Recreation Program Needs Volunteers

The Traner Recreation Program, sponsored by the City of Reno Recreation Commission, is in need of volunteer help if the program is to continue. Serving an average of 50 to 75 young people daily, the Traner program offers recreational opportunities to persons living in the North East area where more than 75% of Reno's Black residents and many other minority persons live.

Bob Houston, Program Director of Traner's recreation activities explained that scheduling covers the hours from seven to ten Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights, during the winter program. Movies are shown twice a month on Saturday mornings. Offered are: basketball, volley ball, pingpong, gymnastics and other games. In the summer, Little League baseball and a girl's basketball team become a part of the program.

Swimming is arranged at the YMCA pool twice monthly. When the Traner Recreation Complex is built, swimming will become a regular part of the program. Currently, more parent volunteers and life guards would make more swimming possible. Houston's staff includes Lonnie Tolano, Jerry Holloway, Ben Newsome, Carolyn Feemster, Valerie Levoroni, B. Fell, C. Cheatham, C. Cole and M. Buker. More participation by area youngsters, more diverse programming, and safer supervision would result from adding willing volunteers to the current staff.

## HEADSTART

Mrs. Cleo Means of Black Springs and Mrs. Geraldine Decker of Northeast Reno attended the Head Start Convention in Tucson, Arizona. Both active in Head Start Activities, which is administered through the Washoe County E. O. B. Mrs. Means and Mrs. Decker attended sessions on parent involvement and community activity, as well as receiving valuable help on funding programs and the goal and evaluations of the Head Start program.

National Director Mrs. Draper of Washington, D. C. stated "This is the most successful convention I have ever attended." More than 300 delegates representing five states, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas and Arizona profited from the meetings. Mrs. Means made several requests and contributed information in her special area of interest Career Development and Parent Participation.

The Local Head Start program will benefit greatly from the material brought back by Mrs. Means and Mrs. Decker.

## Cooke-Harris Nuptials

Recently announced were the April 3 Reno nuptials of Mr. and Mrs. James Earl Harris, both member of the Washoe County Equal Opportunity Board staff.

Mrs. Harris, the former Kerry Cooke, was originally a Los Angeles girl, but has lived in Reno most of her life. She is in the secretarial department at E. O. B.

Acting Neighborhood Youth Corps Coordinator James Harris, who was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, spent his school years in Herlong, California, where his family - the Elihu Vann family - still lives. He has been active in Reno community affairs since 1967, and served as vice-president of the Afro-Americans for Black Liberation, of which he was co-founder. He is also active in the Northern branch of the Nevada Coalition and has been its Chairman.

## Winston-Baltrip Wedding

Daniette Winston and Michael Baltrip of Reno will be married on May 8th at Holy Temple Church of God in Christ.

Miss Winston, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Winston, is a graduate of Reno High School and is employed as a secretary for the Civil Service Commission. Mr. Baltrip the son of Mr. and Mrs. Reed Baltrip of Chowchilla, California, is employed by KOLO-TV Station a film process or in Reno Nevada.

## 200 Youths To Train

Damon "Duke" Drakulich, appointed Coordinator of the Governor's Council on Youth Opportunity by Mike O'Callaghan, revealed a proposed six months training program for youths aged 18 to 27 at the Clear Creek Camp, located between Reno and Carson. The program will train youths in many phases of construction and heavy equipment operation and will provide G. E. D. as well.

Two hundred young men will have the opportunity to enroll in this program. First priority goes to Nevadans, and if enough Nevadans are not found to fill the program, others may enroll from Northern California, Hawaii and Utah.

Drakulich, former University of Nevada, Reno coach and until recently Coach at Hug High School assumes the post of youth coordinator well qualified to deal with young people. A native of Reipe Town, Nevada, Drakulich has nine children of his own, and his professional career has been in teaching and coaching young people.

Young men interested in hearing more about the Clear Creek opportunity can contact Mr. Drakulich through the State O. E. O. office in Carson City, or inquire through their local Equal Rights Commission or E. O. B. office.

## HELMS CONSTRUCTION LEADS THE WAY

"Helms believes in going above and beyond what is expected of us in regard to minority hiring in our apprentice program," Rev. Willie Wynn, EEO coordinator for that firm stated this week. Under current contractual obligations, Federal requirements call for Helms to employ five trainees. They have instead hired nine, seven of whom are Black, one American Indian, and one Caucasian.

Under arrangements with Operating Engineer's Local # 3, the youths are learning to drive the heavy trucks and learning skills which will qualify them to be Journeymen. The Seven-2 program pays only \$.80 an hour toward the salaries of the men enrolled, who start at \$3.48 an hour. The contract always them to employ the trainees for 1,000 hours each.

Named Contractor of the Year for 1970 by the Association of General Contractors in recognition of the excellence of their programs, Helms believes in and practices true Affirmative Action. "This is simply good business practices, as well as good citizenship and compliance with the law," according to Helms management. Right On, Helms Construction!

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