

# RENO · SPARKS NEWS

## A MEMORABLE FIRST

by Mrs. Alfred O. (Alice) Smith

The Minneapolis Branch of the NAACP has good reason to be proud of its position as host of the 62nd annual NAACP national convention, held July 4 through 9. The city owes a vote of thanks to the local affiliate for extending the invitation, as well as meritorious commendation for having that invitation accepted. Housing a national convention is a feather in the cap for any group, and having the NAACP convention in Minneapolis succeeded admirably in putting the city on the map in the U.S.A. and abroad in a great big way.

The eyes of the world focus on the functions of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the end result of such excellent publicity stands any metropolis in good stead. The NAACP firmly maintains its role on the American scene, refusing to lose sight of original goals and concepts. Long before the nation as a whole felt the full fury of national unrest in the 1960's, and in a time when it was worth one's life to engage in the battle against bias and bigotry, the NAACP was an adamant crusader for needed social change.

Dedicated to the protection and advancement of every citizen's human dignity, the NAACP maintains eternal vigilance and effectively works diligently in the field of civil rights.

One of the most impressive events at this convention was the awarding of the 56th annual Spingarn medal, given to the Negro person who has made the most outstanding achievements during the year. It was awarded the Rev. Leon H. Sullivan of Philadelphia, Pa., for his stimulation, encouragement, and assistance to minority persons and underprivileged persons in developing their own business. He was an inspiration to each of us.

The entire event was invaluable. Mrs. Bertha Woodard, Reno-Sparks Branch NAACP President, and I as Secretary were proud to represent our chapter and grateful for the opportunity to participate in this convention.

## Motor Vehicle Deputy Director Little Enjoying New Locale

Freddie Little, Deputy Director of the Motor Vehicle Department for the State of Nevada, and his wife Barbara, former Las Vegas who moved to Carson City following Mr. Little's current appointment, are renting in the capital city and becoming true aficionados of the local scenic and recreational advantages. Although both miss friends in the South, they are enthusiastic about the people and places in Northern Nevada and make numerous trips and soirees becoming familiar with the local scene.

The Littles are the parents of a seven year old son. Mr. Little's nephew, Freddie E. Little, also makes his home with them.

Originally Mississippi natives, the Littles plan a Christmas vacation to Picayune, Mississippi and New Orleans, Louisiana to visit their many friends and relatives in those cities and adjacent towns.

Mr. Little is a well-known sports figure and can usually be seen enjoying the spectator sports available, particularly in the fight game, continuing his interest in the field in which he specialized.



MRS. ALFRED O. SMITH

## Fells Speedy Disposal Firm Receives Widespread Public Support

Public support is favoring allowing Speedy Pick-up Service, operated for some years by Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Fells, to haul garbage and trash from the unincorporated areas surrounding Reno. The Fells firm has suffered numerous set-backs following the failure of county officials to relicense their firm, explain why the license was denied, or to notify them of forthcoming bidding on hauling contracts.

Residents of the Sun Valley area and Lemon Valley, among others, were featured on television this week in pictures of citizens hauling their own refuse in defiance of an award to another firm. They maintain that they were well pleased with Speedy Pick-Up and feel that this firm has every right to operate. They also maintain that they have the right to choose from whom they buy this service, rather than be restricted to the firm chosen by Washoe County Commissioners following the questionable bidding procedure.

The boycott follows a petition drive in which customers of Speedy Pick-Up expressed their feelings to the authorities and which was without result.

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## Sacramento Zoo Visited By Young Reno Students

The high point of the summer for seventy plus Glenn Duncan school first and second graders will surely be their recent trip to the Sacramento Zoo. Much pre-study and planning, as well as extensive fund-raising, made the trip possible, aided by a substantial gift from the Reno Kiwanis club and a donation from the educational fund of the Reno-Sparks Branch of the NAACP.

Mrs. Brigitte Bartl, teacher and trip-coordinator, reported that the planning group and concerned parents held bottle and paper collection drives, rummage sales and bake sales to send the students and ten chaperones on the two chartered buses. Food for the packed lunches was also donated.

Many of the youngsters among the fortunate travelers were "follow-through" students, having been enrolled in the "Head Start" program. The trip was a memorable first for most of the students, and all agreed that they would love to go again and will try a similar campaign for a future trip.

Glenn Duncan, one of Reno's newest schools, is located at 1200 Montell Street, in the heart of Reno's North East and serves many minority students who live in the adjacent area. It was named in honor of the late Glenn Duncan, Sr., former State Superintendent of Schools, and much loved English and Debate teacher for many years in the Ely school system.

## Washoe County Schools To Have Intergroup Education Coordinator

Washoe County School District is assessing the applications it has received for the newly created position of Coordinator of Intergroup Education, a position paying \$16,510 beginning salary, and administering including concepts of inter-racial harmony in the total education of the school child at all levels.

Resume submission closed on August 12, giving the administrators time to select a competent Coordinator prior to the opening of the fall session. The chosen applicant must have a minimum B. A. or B. S. Degree and be qualified for a Nevada State Administrative Credential. A minimum of three years teaching experience with minority students is also required.

Dr. Marvin Picollo, Washoe County School Superintendent, is a former Rhodes scholar, and firm advocate of the importance of the inter-group education concept.

## Eastern Volunteer Aids Race Relations Projects

The Reno Race Relations Center has been augmented by the volunteer services of Mrs. Fran Buskirk, a Pennsylvania native who has been aiding the efforts of the local staff in stimulating employment opportunities for minority persons among local employers. Interested in civil rights and community activities, Mrs. Buskirk has enjoyed her stay in Reno, but plans to return to the East following a visit with children in California.

Several relatives from England will meet Mrs. Buskirk upon her arrival in Pennsylvania, and the group plans a long reunion and many interesting side-trips to acquaint the visitors with the United States. Fran will be missed by the Race Relations Staff and Reno friends and it is hoped she can be persuaded to return often.

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