

## Human Relations Records For Schools



(Left to Right) Southern Nevada Human Relations Commission Executive Secretary Michael Dawson, Randall J. McElhone, President, Nevada Beverage Co., and Al Brown, Human Relations Coordinator, Clark County School District preview a record of achievements of two famous Black Americans who have contributed importantly to the betterment of both their people and their country.

R. J. McElhone donated 500 copies of the record to the Southern Nevada Human Relations Commission for distribution to elementary and secondary schools in the area at a luncheon meeting this week at the Landmark Hotel.

The record relates a short history of Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, a Black American doctor who performed the first open heart surgery in the world in 1893, when a young man was brought to him with a knife wound in the heart. As a result of his daring innovations in the field of medicine new techniques were discovered through surgery in the saving of human lives. Dr. Williams was born in Pennsylvania worked his way through High School, and became a doctor's apprentice. He was accepted at Chicago College for medical training at a time when there were only three Black-American doctors in Chicago. After graduation and establishing himself in the medical profession "Dr. Dan," as he was known, founded Provident Hospital, the first inter-racial institution of its kind. Noting the lack of opportunity for Black Americans

he also provided training for Black women to become nurses. Dr. Williams helped establish 40 more medical schools where Black-Americans could receive training.

Also on the record is a short account of the accomplishments of Mary McLeod Bethune, whose childhood was typical of the times. In 1886 her parents worked a So. Carolina cotton farm. A passer by noted several children pulling a plow and stopped to inquire why.

Mary explained that the mule had died and that the land needed to be tilled. One of seventeen children, she taught her brothers and sisters to read and write, having learned to do so almost by herself. She became keenly aware of the problems besetting Black children as a result of a lack of education and devoted her life to correcting the inequities. With only \$1.50 available she set up a school in Daytona, Florida in 1904. Five eager, bright-eyed girls were the entire first class taught by Mary McLeod Bethune. For desks she used orange crates. Later she bought a small parcel of land for \$5.00 and built a one room school house. From these humble beginnings her dedication to the almost-ignored cause of Black-American's education brought badly needed funds. Eventually Bethune-Cookman College became a reality. In later years recognition and honors were bestowed upon her and when asked how she had done it, she replied, "We prayed it up - talked it up - sung it up." The strength and integrity of Mary McLeod Bethune lifted many Black-Americans from darkness to light through education.

McElhone made the records available to the Southern Nevada Human Relations Commission when he was alerted the Commission was interested in adding to the learning materials available to students. As a result of his concern and commitment each school in the area will be able to add a record to its resource material library.

The Southern Nevada Human Relations Commission established the first School Human Relations Commission at Valley High School in 1965. Today, every junior and senior high has a school Human Relations Commission. An aluminium can recycling program was offered to the school commissions by Buck McElhone, Vice-President, Nevada Beverage Co., as a means of raising funds as well as a public service by cleaning up the environment.



**NEW OFFICERS GATHER** --- Formulating plans for a busy year of volunteer activities at the Southern Nevada Comprehensive Mental Health Center are its new officers, seated, from left, Marlene Campbell, treasurer; and Phyllis Russell, vice-president. Standing, from left, are Juanita McGlothen, president; Jo McGinnis, director of volunteer services; and Evelyn Abele, historian. Secretary Eileen Soule was not present. Volunteers are needed to staff the canteen, serve as drivers, assist in recreational activities and aid in obtaining needed donations for the Center. Persons interested may contact Mrs. McGinnis at 6101 West Charleston Boulevard or call 870-7211. A slide presentation will be shown on Tuesdays at 11 a.m., by appointment.



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