

AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY



AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY -- Uncle Sam played by Baron Perez holds America's Birthday cake in Harley Harmon Elementary School's bicentennial program "This is Our Country." Other celebrants are from left, hula dancer Lavern Croft, Paul Revere played by Teroy Andrews, mountain man Troy Laman, and cowboy Joseph Smith.

\$148 G's Fleischmann fund for Nevada Grads

Supt. of Public Instruction Kenneth H. Hansen announced that approximately 148 one-year scholarships for college study will be available from the Max C. Fleischmann Foundation in 1975.

Each \$1,000 scholarship will be for Nevada high school seniors graduating in the spring of 1975 or who have graduated mid-year during the 1974-75 school year.

To be eligible for consideration a student must be a resident of the State of Nevada and have taken either the Scholastic Aptitude Test or the American College Test and requested the release of the score to the Faculty Scholarship Committee.

The selection criteria includes the ability to do College work; high school grades; personal qualities and financial need. The financial need of the applicant shall be considered equal to the

PRESENTATION



ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY PRESENTATION -- Willa Bywaters, AKA member and social worker (center), and Gloria Brown, AKA member and C.V.T. Gilbert Sixth Grade Center physical education teacher, present the Heritage Series publications to William L. Evans, C.V.T. Gilbert Principal, in commemoration of Black History Week.

The purpose of these booklets is to provide readers with examples of Black women who have achieved success in five major occupational areas. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority presented sets of the series to all sixth grade centers to illustrate that women, especially Black women, are talented, productive, and are contributing to the progress of society.

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The Max C. Fleishmann Foundation Col- lege Scholarship pro- gram is designed so that every high schoolin in Nevada will be allot- ted scholarships on the basis of senior student enrollment. Applications are av-

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BLACK PERSPECTIVE ON EDUCATION IN NEVADA

By: Charles L. Kellar A Bicentennial Feature

When the United States Supreme Court issued its famous decision in the case of Brown v. The Board of Education (349 U.S. 294) in 1954, there was but one school in Clark County which had any appreciable number of Black students. It was built as a branch of the Las Vegas Grammar School in 1922 at the corner of Washington and D Streets, in the area known as "West Las Vegas." Later, it was given the name, "West Side School."

Although the decision in the Brown case declared that discriminatory services were inherently unequal, and that all students, Black and White, were entitled to the equal protection of the law, and that any situation which fostered the separation of Black and white students was unconstitutional and unlawful, the Board of Trustees and the administrators of the Clark County School District administered the schools as if they were totally unaware of this legal principle.

In 1956 Guild Gray took office as Superintendent of the Clark County School District. There were fourteen schools at the time. Thereafter, the District built in West Las Vegas, Kit Carson, Madison, Kermit Booker, Matt Kelly, C.V.T. Gilbert and finally Jo Mackey. To each of these schools were assigned Black pupils, with the result that 98% of all the children of these schools were Black children. The regulations discouraged attendance at schools outside of their "neighborhoods" by Black children. White children living in the Black area had no difficulty in obtaining assignments to any white school of their choice.

The Las Vegas Branch of the NAACP, under the leadership of Rev. Marion D. Bennett and Charles L. Kellar, made remonstrances against this practice and appealed to the District to cease the practice of assigning Black children to schools which had only Black pupils. It was the contention of the NAACP that this practice deprived the Black children of the equal protection of the law and denied them an educational opportunity to go to school with other races and ethnic groups and learn from this multiple experience. This practice limited their horizons and exposures, and failed to prepare them for life. The NAACP believed that a quality education included this broad, multiple experience and could not be obtained in segregated schools. It was also aware of the historical fact, that wherever there were separate schools, those provided for the Black children had the least facilities, were denied libraries, assembly rooms, adequate play facilities and equipment, were not physically maintained as well as those reserved for the white children, and were provided with inferior staff. These protests did succeed in getting the District to adopt a policy of providing integrated education in the junior and senior high schools, but the need of Black children in the kindergarten and elementary schools were totally disregarded.

The Las Vegas Branch of the NAACP following the principles above outlined by its National Office instituted the lawsuit entitled: Herbert E. Kelly, Sr., Josephine Pickard, Shann Pickard, Jessie Metcalf, Edmond L. Lewis and Alvin W. Scott, Plaintiffs, vs James I. Mason, the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Clare W. Woodbury, Helen C. Cannon C. Donald Brown, Glen C. Taylor, John F. Anderson and John Doe I thru VIII, their agents, servants and/or employees, Defendants. It was started in the United States District Court for the District of Nevada as a Class action. When Dr. Mason resigned and Kenny C. Guinn became the Superintendent

of Schools, his name was substituted in the place of Dr. Mason and the case was finally known as Herbert E. Kelly, Sr., vs Kenny C. Guinn. Herbert E. Kelly, Sr. was a Black teacher in the Clark County School District who believed he had been the victim of racial discrimination, inferior assignments and pay. The case was assigned to the Hon. Bruce Thompson for trial. By the time that it came to trial on October 14th, 15th, and 16th, 1968, Herbert Kelly had lost his position as a teacher in the Clark County School System. At the conclusion of the trial, Judge Thompson found that the Clark County Schools were segregated and that it was the duty of the School District to formulate and propose a plan to accomplish the inter-gradation of the six West Side elementary schools.

Needless to say, the School District was not anxious to change its policies and procedures. It procrastinated, tried a "Voluntary" integration plan where any student on the West Side might request assignment to a white school outside of the West Side area. This did not work. Finally on December 2, 1970, Judge Thompson filed a judgement and decree ordering the defendants to adopt and effectuate an integration plan to be put into effect upon commencement of the 1971-1972 school year wherein the elementary schools of Clark County would be so organized that the West Side schools would be desegregated with the result that the Black student enrollment in any grade level, in any elementary school in Clark County "shall not exceed 50% of the total enrollment in such grades." The School District appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the judgement was stayed pending the appeal. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the judgement of the lower court. The School District still was not satisfied. It again appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and requested that all the judges of the Ninth Circuit Court meet en banc and review the matter. This appeal was denied. The School District then applied to the United States Supreme Court for a writ of certioria. The United States Supreme Court refused to grant a stay and the District was required to follow the order of Judge Thompson dated May 10, 1972.

Even though the NAACP had been victorious in all these court battles, Clark County was not yet ready to follow the court order. Certain dissident white parents organized themselves into a group called "Operation Bus Out." They obtained an order from Judge Carl Christensen of the Eighth Judicial District Court staying the federally ordered integration. The Nevada Supreme Court, however, intervened and the Hon. David Zenoff, then Chief Justice of the Nevada Supreme Court, issued an order staying the effect of Judge Christensen's order. The integration of the Clark County schools was finally accomplished by putting into operation the "Sixth Grade Center Plan." According to this scheme, the six Black elementary schools were made Sixth Grade Centers. All the pupils in the Sixth Grade, Black and white, were assigned to these Centers. White pupils were bussed from their neighborhoods to these Centers, while the Black children were bussed from their neighborhoods to the white areas during the entire twelve years of school. White children were bussed only for their sixth year. Many of the white parents boycotted the schools, opened new schools for their children, or sent them out of State to avoid integration. In spite of these efforts, integration has been a success in Clark County! The entire community has benefited therefrom.

It now has the benefits of a Black member of the Board of School Trustees in the person of Bernice Moten.

ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE