

## HELLDORADO BICENTENNIAL ALL THE WAY

Elks Helldorado for 1975 and 1976 has been designated as "Bicentennial All the Way", according to exalted ruler, Rex Jensen, and his bicentennial committee who met recently and made this decision. "Funsters of all ages should begin now to get ready for one of the biggest and best celebrations ever in Las Vegas," these experts on celebrations said.

Clark County Bicentennial Commission received this information with gratitude, this is the 41st year of the Helldorado in Southern Nevada. It depicts "Our Heritage", and "Festivities" as well as "Horizons" of future, which are the three major areas in development of bicentennial. They are also the main ideas always developed by the Elks Helldorado. "This function is a real contribution to the success of bicentennial in Southern Nevada", Lilia Zona, Chairman for the Bicentennial in Clark County stated when receiving the information.

Plans are well under way now on the Elks Helldorado Bicentennial week celebration, beginning on May 21st. With the traditional Barbeque, then the rodeo on May 22, 23, 24 and 25. The old timers parade May 23rd, and the youngtimers parade on the 24th. A swap meet, arts and crafts display and other exciting events are all a part of of celebration plans.

"All the Way Bicentennial" means red-white-blue--and patriotic themes wherever possible," the Elks committee promised.

It won't be long now before the Elks and helpers begin selling Helldorado buttons, advertising begins and the public will become aware of the unusual events coming up during the traditional May celebration.

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# LAS VEGAS VOICE

NEVADA'S BLACK COMMUNITY WEEKLY

## MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

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Woody's  
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Swift's Barber Shop  
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Kelly's Liquors  
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El Rio Club  
Bruce's Liquors  
All Places of Business on Jackson Street  
All Places of Business on "D" Street  
Vegas Village  
Thrifty Mart  
Skagg's  
Sugar Hill  
Poor People Pulling Together  
Mc Neal Quick Check  
Carey Arm Apartments (at Office)  
Villa Capri (at Office)  
Dr. West's Office  
Baby Bug's Coffee Shop  
Clark County Court House  
Windsor Park - All residences  
Berkley Square - All residences

Regal Estates - All residences  
Vegas Heights - All residences  
Sunset Manor - All residences  
Rancho Circle Theatre  
Blue Bird Auto Parts  
Love's Cocktail Lounge  
Golden Egg  
Town Tavern  
Hughes' Liquors  
Mom's Kitchen  
Beauty Shops on Jackson Street  
Wesley's Barber Shop  
Community Store  
Fashionette Beauty Shop  
Mom Brunow's  
Library  
Cheyenne Square Barber Shop  
Forward Move Barber and Beauty supply  
Modernistic Shoe Shop  
Dot's Cleaners  
Moulin Rouge Beauty Shop  
Moulin Rouge Barber Shop  
Ruby's Draperies  
Legal Aid Office  
Wild Goose Bar  
7 - 11 Store  
Big "8" Market  
Continental Beauty Salon (West Owens)

## WHAT IS BLACK EXTRAVAGANZA?

by John T. Stephens II

What is it about Black Extravaganza which grasps an individuals aspiration and transcends him or her to a spotlight of recognition? The magic of performing before an audience, the feeling of knowing that while on the stage at that particular moment, you are the center of attraction. The countless hours of rehearsals, costume making, precision timing and nervous anticipation. Whatever it might take so that you can accomplish that one level of achievement or perfection. This is what Black Extravaganza is all about.

Last year the production sponsored an essay contest entitled, "WHAT BLACK EXTRAVAGANZA MEANS TO ME." The response wasn't overwhelming, but the few received were impressive. Wanda Allen emphasized, "It's like being on the 'Love Train,' Blacks altogether and expressing themselves through their talent." Kenneth Hooks, said, "It meant Pride," while Bonnie Doris Finley, age 14, went on to say, "Black Extravaganza titles a spectacular cultural production whereas Black Sisters and Brothers unite." "This production means to me the same as the Watts Festival means to Los Angeles." Pamela Smith wrote, "This program is a start toward the future; why can't we get together and support it." Shirle Bailey commended, "The authenticity of every performance accentuates the reality, beauty and strength of each performance." Gloria Burkes won the contest and her essay was probably a summary of all that was just mentioned; however, there was one that even though she didn't win still deserves credit, Alice Faye Jefferson. Alice wrote a poem and named it, "Black Extravaganza."

It has been said that Black Extravaganza has become the epitome of Black oriented programs in the city. Maybe so, but let's give the credit where it's due. The local public response has been the most obvious approval of the show. Which brings to mind one Sunday evening in 1968 at Doolittle's Recreation Center, with a participating cast of approximately 90 people, two local bands, and a PA system with technical problems, the first Black Extravaganza was born. Peering from backstage of

one side of the curtain, it was somewhat frightening to see the bleachers and floor area packed with people. A capacity crowd, which had turned out to see the birth of something new and different in the City of Las Vegas.

That particular day is very reminiscent in my mind because everything seemed to have gone wrong. The show started late, the sound system was bad, and the performers were taking more time than they were allowed; but even under those frustrating moments, the crowd was patient and enjoyed every minute of the show. It seemed as though it would never end and there was more than enough variety to please anyone's discriminate taste.

Now seven years later, that long past Sunday, in '68 has become history. The show has been trimmed and tapered into a three hour spectacle in music and fashions. The participants are put through a stiff competitive audition. Performance and discipline are stressed so that an individual can give his best. It's the finished product that reflects the quality of the show.

The program has been a pace setter and for this reason the directors have put emphasis on its new format toward becoming a doorway to the Strip. Its directors, Willie Jacobs, Jr., Al Brown and Charles Collenberger and myself truly believe that this can be attained. Personally speaking, I think that with the support of Black Vegas, Black Extravaganza will accomplish all of its appointed goals.

### Black Extravaganza

A time when 'we the black people' have a chance to walk down the ghetto streets with pride,  
A time to set all of our hand me down jobs aside.

To be able to enjoy the gift of being black,  
To have and to hold the memories that's been brought back.

A time to show and display our talents,  
to put on great displays,  
A time to prove to the people,  
that we have found our way.  
A time to lift up our heads,  
and show those white folks what we do best.

A time when 'we the people' are able to show our brotherly love,  
to have and to hold 'true Blackness' that we're proud of.

To be able to lift our fist into the air and shout  
'RIGHT ON!'  
To let the world know that we've only just begun..

Sister Love,  
Miss Alice Faye Jefferson  
Age 18

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