

Las Vegas

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Pioneer Enters Into Rest

Theodore "Pop" Toney entered into rest on October 16, 1977, at the age of 72. He was born December 14, 1904 in Pioneer, Louisiana, and was married to Bessie Moore, with whom he lived for 30 years and raised a family of seven children.

In 1941 he moved his family to Las Vegas and helped build Boulder (Hoover) Dam, Davis Dam, worked at the Magnesium plant, and also for 11 years at Reynolds Electric.

He met and married Bertha Johnson September 16, 1953 and raised another family of five children.

1962 saw him form, with two sons, and nephews, "Toney and Sons", the first Black owned Cement Contracting Company, where they worked on such buildings as: Sahara, Stardust, Caesar's Palace, Mint, Fremont, Flamingo, Riviera, Bank of Nevada, just to name a samplong. This encouraged other blacks in the area to form their own companies. Also "Pop" trained other blacks to be cement finishers. I can't begin to call the names of all the people he helped, because it would take too long.

"Toney and Sons" was very successful because of him. There never was a worry where the next job was coming from, because

he was such a genius that he was always in demand. He had so much work he farmed part of it out to other black contractors, in order for them to become independent. Blacks of Las Vegas, not just the Westside, but all over town, looked to him for guidance.

"Pop", as he was known to his many friends, Bishop E.N. Webb, Andrew Jackson, Supt. Logan, Supt. Hall, Supt. O.L. Jefferson, Judge Richard, Ted Marshall, Ralph Lamb, Clarence Sundean, George Franklin, Herman Moody, Rev. I.W. Wilson, Rev. Edison, Ella Parson, Rev. Carr, and a host of others, will be greatly mourned.

Among his other accomplishments was the building of the Westside. He paved the streets, put in curbs, built homes, and encouraged others to become community minded. Some of these streets would not be paved, but for "pop". He donated his services to some worth while organizations.

Because he was not a movie star, or even a politician, he did not get the publicity he should have for all the wonderful things he did for other people.

"Pop" has brought success to a great many families, including Lawrence Albert, Publisher of the Las Vegas VOICE. He was instrumental in bringing Mr. Albert, and other family members to Las Vegas from Louisiana. He taught them many trades and ways to be successful. While Albert was struggling with the Las Vegas VOICE, "Pop" helped guide him and took a lot of the worries off his shoulders. When the IRS came to close down the VOICE, he stepped in and helped. He distributed the paper from the hardest times up until the day he died. The success of this newspaper really began when "Pop" stepped in and helped.

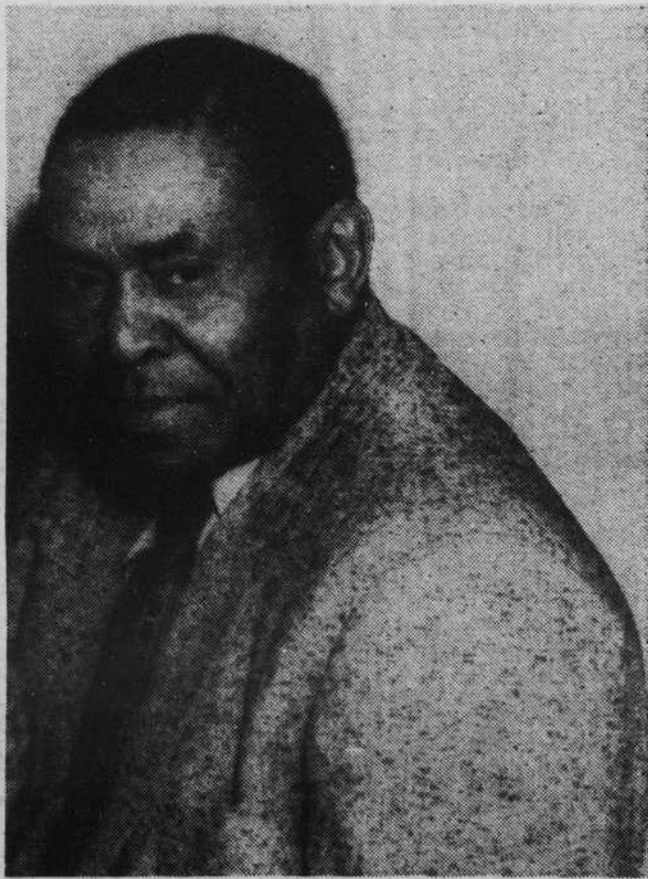
There are not many people who could live to raise two complete families, plus grandchildren, nor could they put up with one woman for 30 years, then marry again and live with another woman for 23 years, until his demise.

Survivors include, his wife, Bertha Toney; four sons, Theodore Toney, Jr. of Los Angeles, California; Leroy Toney, Sebron Toney, and Michael Toney, all of Las Vegas, Nevada; six daughters, Milna Johnson, Sammie Childs, Joyce Chaney, Brenda Pogue, Denise Armstrong, all of Las Vegas, Nevada; and Debra Jones of Corvallis, Oregon; one sister, Sweetie Jefferson of Norwalk, Ohio; four sons-in-law and one daughter-in-law; twenty grandchildren and twenty-nine great-grandchildren;

many nieces and nephews and a host of other relatives and friends.

"Pop" Toney will be missed by many of Las Vegas' finest, including the employees of the Las Vegas VOICE. Mr. Albert says, "I really feel that there will always be a missing link in my life, and others whom he raised and helped to go on to bigger and better things in life."

Funeral services will be held Saturday, October 22, 1977, 11:00 A.M. at Pentacostal Temple C.O.G.I.C., 1117 "F" Street, Las Vegas, Nevada.



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