



Around Town
with Ed Brown

This past weekend considerable emphasis had been placed on the work of the LA VERDAD Newspaper, the weekly Spanish language newspaper -- and justifiably so. Our hats off to them for doing such a great job for the latinos. There was a big bash held at one of the big area hotels in honor of the paper with many notables on hand. Fine. They deserved it. But, how about the Las Vegas VOICE? This paper, which has operated without a single bit of interruption since 1963 -- the ONLY Black newspaper in the whole state of Nevada -- what about the Las Vegas VOICE? Lawrence Albert, the Owner/Publisher, undertook these reins during September 1974. Like his predecessors, Mr. Albert has experienced many, many trials and tribulations. I know this from personal experience. The VOICE, since 1974, has gone through many changes and I'm talking about changes in the full context of the word. A newspaper, like anything else, exists if the operating capital is there. In the newspaper business, revenue is generated through advertisements and subscriptions. There have been times that this just did not exist. You could count the number of newspaper ads and subscribers on practically one hand -- and all not the fault of the newspaper. Despite their continued efforts to seek advertising from the hotels, entertainment industry, the bottlers, the department stores, food markets, automobile dealers, clothing stores, restaurants and a host of others, many did not consider to be a viable force or a productive entity in the community. As a result of this attitude, the paper and the community suffered. Now look at the Las Vegas VOICE. It has come through hard times at considerable financial loss, but prodded on and on. Look at the Las Vegas VOICE now. There's big progress, more are seeking advertising space in this paper. More will be grabbing for space in the near future. But, the VOICE needs more than that to be a real voice in the community. The Las Vegas VOICE needs a staff of writers -- it needs a sales department. It needs to be transposed for a weekly feature sheet to a full-fledged reporting newspaper.

How can this come about? The answer is simple. The whole Black Community needs to unite its powerful forces and rally behind its only weekly printed voice and help it to gain the stature of our dailies. How can we do it? United, the community should have a big bash for the Las Vegas VOICE like the one held for the LA VERDAD and pay tribute to its many years of faithful and dedicated community service. We should all get behind the paper and bring the subscriptions up 10,000 fold. The more we all put into it, the more the community will benefit. I, for one, pledge to join you in bringing all of this into fruition. Let's start today and plan for a big bash for our Las Vegas VOICE!!!

NEW DAY BEGUN

by

Benjamin L. Hooks



Since its founding just after the turn of the century, the NAACP has maintained as one of its principal concerns the question of open housing for minorities. This epoch-long campaign resulted in the enactment of the 1978 Open Housing Act. This law finally assured the Federal Government's official protection against racial and other forms of discrimination in housing.

Despite historical gains in expanding housing opportunities for minorities, Charles Smith, Jr., a Mobile, Alabama black man today faces a charge of murder because he was forced to defend himself against attackers who sought to drive him and his family out of their newly purchased home in a white neighborhood.

The case is a haunting reminder of the Ossian H. Sweet tragedy of 1925. Upon moving into his new house in a Detroit suburb, Dr. Sweet and his family found themselves under attack by a white mob who sought to drive them out of the neighborhood. In defense, shots were fired from the Sweet house killing one member of the mob. Consequently, Sr. Sweet, his wife, two brothers and seven other persons were charged with first degree murder.

The NAACP retained Clarence Darrow, one of the most celebrated trial lawyers in American history, to defend Dr. Sweet. Two years later, a Michigan judge dismissed all the charges.

In the Smith case, the family -- his wife Beatrice, and children, twins Ruthie Derschelle and Ruben Dynelle, 13, Robbie Deneitia, 11, and Rakema Dionne, 7, -- moved into his home at 275 South Faure Drive. The neighborhood was suspected of being a Ku Klux Klan stronghold.

Soon, a brick was thrown through a window. This was followed by two more brickthrowing incidents. Next, a fire bomb was thrown into their backyard. Mr. Smith doused the flame with a garden hose and called the police. As had happened earlier, the police did nothing. This time, though, the police, accompanied by the Fire Marshall and a Federal Bureau of Investigation agent, returned the following day to look around.

But, instead of inspecting the fire bomb area, the FBI agent gave the Smith's house a through search. The investigators also denied that the Klan was involved because, one maintained, the institutional purveyors of racial violence took pride in their work and always left a note.

Finally, two white teen-agers sought to accost and attack two of Mr. Smith's children and their teen-age friends as they were driving to a local store on Labor Day. Sensing trouble, the youths sped back home. There a fight broke out between Mr. Smith's children and two white attackers.

Mr. Smith, who had a permit to carry a pistol, fatally shot one of the men, 20-year-old Daniel Neal, just as he allegedly was swinging a machete at him. The police, whom the Smith family had called during the fight, now arrived and arrested the father on first degree murder charges.

The NAACP, however, maintains that the case was one of conspiracy between the two white men and, possibly, a larger segment of the community, to deny the Smith's their constitutional and legal rights to purchase and enjoy their home.

FOR SALE BY OWNER

3 bedroom, 2 bath, large kitchen and dining combined located in quiet culdesac in Twin Lakes area. Washer, dryer, refrigerator, drapes at every window and chandelier included in price. Fenced back yard sprinklers front and back. Asking \$43,500. Call 457-8171 for appointment to see.

APPRECIATION
CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

RALPH LAMB, Sheriff

JOHN T. MORAN, Under Sheriff

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

400 EAST STEWART AVENUE
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101
PHONE 702 461-1111

April 24, 1978

REFERENCE

COMMENDATION

The Reverend Jesse Wesley
Bethel Baptist Church
400 West Adams
Las Vegas, Nevada 89106

Dear Reverend Wesley,

I want to commend you for your invaluable assistance to this department in negotiating with the armed suspect who held eight persons hostage for half a day at the Hot Hut Bar on the 15th of April, 1978. Sergeant Tom Coune has advised me of your part in this incident, your understanding and your realistic approach to the problem at hand.

Negotiating a hostage situation as, perhaps, one of the most delicate and precarious tasks a police officer has to face, considering the potential for loss of life. Your immediate response to our request for assistance and your effectiveness in achieving a rapport with the suspect are worthy of commendation. You were instrumental in persuading the suspect to surrender and release the hostages.

Please accept the Certificate of Appreciation which we have prepared for you as a token of our esteem.

Very truly yours,
Ralph Lamb
RALPH LAMB, SHERIFF

RL:mlp

Something BIG is going to happen to YOU
WATCH FOR DETAILS SOON IN THE LAS VEGAS VOICE!!

Patalo FLOWER SHOP
FLOWERS ARE AN INEXPENSIVE AND HEARTFELT GIFT OF LOVE
IN THE BOLLERU PLAZA
2300 East Desert Inn Road, #7
Las Vegas, Nevada 89109
Phone (702) 731-6600

COUPON
GORDONS GIN
\$5²⁵ Quart
Tax Inc.
T. J. SWANN 750 M.L. \$1.40
ANDRE CHAMPAGNE \$2.35
Tax Included
CHY-INN BAR
CHEYENNE AT CIVIC CENTER
FREE ICE WITH PURCHASE
COUPON

ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE