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Black Experience In Southern Nevada



Bob Bailey remembers the day they drained the swimming pool at a top Strip hotel after a fully-clothed Sammy Davis, Jr. jumped into the water.

He remembers the night jazz singer Josephine Baker refused to do a second show at the El Rancho Vegas until there were blacks in the audience. Hotel managers quickly and quietly sent some of their maids and porters home for a change of clothes and reserved two front row tables for them.

Bailey, a local radio and television personality, is one of 12 black Las Vegans who share their personal pasts in an oral history transcription project completed by the special collections department at UNLV.

"Black Experience in Southern Nevada" began last year under a grant from the U.S. Office of Education to the Nevada State Library. Interviews were collected since 1974 by UNLV students in Nevada history classes and special projects in sociology and ethnic studies.

Eleven of the surviving participants will be honored at a coffee and reception from 1-3 p.m. Feb. 17 at the West Las Vegas Branch Library, 1402 "D" Street. Family, friends and the public are invited.

In addition to Bailey, narrators are James A. Gay 111, Lubertha Johnson, Sarann Knight, Lee Henry Lisby, Rev. Claude H. Parson, Stella Parson, Arlone Scott, Ruth Sweet, Cora Williams and Woodrow Wilson. Rev. Prentice Walker died in 1977.

The honorees will receive copies of their interviews and a complete set will be deposited at the West Las

Vegas Branch. duplicates also will be available at UNLV, the University of Nevada, Reno, and New York City's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Rev. and Mrs Donald M. Clark also will be recognized for their donation of letters, notes, clippings, documents and photographs to UNLV's special collections department. Rev. Clark of San Francisco was active in the West Las Vegas community, NAACP, the Economic Opportunity Board and other civic and governmental organizations.

Elizabeth Patrick, project editor and indexer, said the oral histories are not intended to represent the complete story of black experience in southern Nevada.

"One of the objectives of the project was to make it possible for the black community to become aware of its history and what rich resources it has," Patrick said.

"I hope the success of the project will encourage others to look through their attics for materials which can help tell the story," she added.

**SUPPORT
THE BLACK COMMUNITY
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"An Uninterrupted
Publication Since 1963"

15¢

Jim Seastrand Seeks N. L.V. City Council Seat

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The people of North Las Vegas should have as much protection from crime as is practical, and emergency medical service (paramedic) readily available.

I believe in attacking crime two ways: First, a strong and effective police force with a good show of patrolling officers in the neighborhoods and on the street. We need to let it be plainly known that North Las Vegas people

tough on law-breakers, and that we intend to make North Las Vegas people as secure and safe as we are able. Second, an attractive sports and recreation program to give youth some constructive and challenging opportunities to grow into self-disciplined adults. A ball in the hand of a boy will prevent more crime than a black-jack in the hand of a policeman.

We need to provide sufficient funds so that emergency medical service is quickly available through the fire and police departments. A well-trained specialty paramedic unit is essential to give quick and effective medical assistance to our citizens.

Fund to provide for public safety, maintain and clean our streets, and other necessities, will be available as the City prospers through prudent management, and broadening our tax base. This will occur through improving our City's image and its resultant residential and business expansion. I intend to promote a favorable community and political environment which the citizens, business, and industry leaders find consistent, progressive and worthy of their confidence. This is essential to stimulate residential, and industrial development.

I favor support of local economic development programs such as the Southern Nevada economic Development Council and the industrial committee of the Chamber of Commerce. With an aggressive cooperative attitude we can accelerate our city to an improved position in Southern Nevada.

I am seeking election to the North Las Vegas City Council to help bring our City to its rightful position of importance as the third largest City in Nevada.

It is my desire that we can all have an increased pride in our City.

Jim Seastrand, and his wife, Rosel, have lived in North Las Vegas 20 years. They presently have three sons living at home. He is an Air Force veteran, a former Stake President in the L.D.S. Church, and presently a

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