



# Alice Key

"A long time ago — a million years B.C. Everything in life was absolutely free But no one appreciated a sky that was always blue And no one congratulated a moon that was always new So it was planned that they would banish now and then And you must pay before you get them back again."

The above lines, in part, are the lyric to the verse of the song, "Pennies From Heaven," introduced by the late Bing Crosby; later, unforgettably recorded by the great blind singer, Al Hibbler. It has been more than 40 years since the tune first enjoyed its immense popularity, but in recent weeks the verse keeps running through the mind of the writer. Could it be possible that those words constitute an important message to the Blacks of this country and the operative word is "pay?"

Blacks in Las Vegas have to be among the most powerless people anywhere and it is maddeningly frustrating to know that the pitiful plight of Las Vegas Blacks stems not from oppression but from our own apathy. It is near impossible to make others understand (or even understand ourselves) that we here in Las Vegas would rather remain a people unrepresented in local government, victims of discriminatory employment practices, police harassment and arrant patronization and also to continue to exist in a community without visible signs of economic development of progress, despite the fact that our community is located in a city enjoying unprecedented growth and prosperity, rather than pay the slight cost for a chance in the status quo.

Everybody can afford the price of equality and justice. The price is concern and involvement. What does it cost to take a few minutes of one's time to become a registered voter? How much effort does it require to make the decision that a united

people with a united effort is the answer to problems Blacks face here and everywhere? How much loss of ego must one suffer to make a commitment to work with others toward a common goal?

How much is the sacrifice to one's sense of self-importance to put aside one's personal feeling to make a genuine effort to cooperate in a thrust to achieve community unity in a positive, all-out campaign to overcome the inequities which exist?

What is the cost of a few minutes of one's time on election day to go to the polls and vote? How much of one's time and energy is dissipated in attending a meeting called to offer a forum to address the very real and very grave problems with which Blacks in Las Vegas are faced?

If we are truly committed to the goal of equality of opportunity and justice for all, we are going to have to contract ourselves to assume the responsibility for the cost. Nobody can do it for us — nobody is going to do it for us — and nobody should do it for us. If we are satisfied with high unemployment, if we are content to sit idly by and see people of all ethnic origins (but ours) move in on us replacing us on our jobs and double dipping in social programs, while those in authority look down on us in contemptuous indifference, then let us continue on our fragmented path with no one group willing to work with the other and with most of us, while indignant at our lot, unwilling to become involved in any civic or political endeavor designed to bring about change.

The real tragedy of the situation in Las Vegas is that the number of Blacks living in Las Vegas and in North Las Vegas is so great that with any kind of united effort and strategic planning, we could write our own ticket. Political clout is what we need for political clout is power. Do you believe that employers or elected officials would dare treat

notice of large

## Talked About Woofter

# McMillan Hits Strong On TV-13 'Probe' Set

Appearing on TV-13's Sunday afternoon panel program "Probe," Dr. James B. McMillan, president of the local chapter, NAACP, made a very effective-impressive appearance dealing with the issues that affect the black community.

Of significance, was Dr. McMillan's response to the question that dealt with the off-discussed proposed debate between State Senator Joel Neal and Las Vegas City Commissioner Roy Woofter.

Panelist Bob Palm, staff writer for the Las Vegas Sun asked,

"Should Woofter and Neal debate?"

"If the debate would be of any benefit, fine," said McMillan. "I have no objections to that. I don't know what the subject would be — what they would be debating. If that would help, fine. I have no objections to Senator Neal and (Commissioner) Woofter debating the issues in the black community, the representation that he gives us — whether he's a competent commissioner for the black community."

On the matter reported earlier that Woofter was



McMillan

seeking a seat on the CETA board, Dr. McMillan responded, "Somebody in the black community said they wanted Woofter to sit on the CETA board instead of Ron Lurie.

Well, I don't know how that came about because I had made no recommendation that Woofter would replace Ron Lurie on the board."

He continued his point, "But then Ron Lurie made that idiotic statement of saying that there are more whites and hispanics that are more disadvantaged than blacks. That's ridiculous! That's why we need representation on that (CETA) board."

McMillan stated that while these matters were being discussed throughout the community, he was "out of town."



INSTALLED — Eva Simmons is administered the oath of office by Juvenile Judge John Mendoza, in a recent ceremony, to become a new member of the Clark County Juvenile Probation Committee. Simmons, a personnel administrator at the Clark County School District, replaces Esther Langston on the seven-member advisory committee.

## Library To Collect On Overdue Books

The Clark County Library District board of trustees agreed earlier to hire a collection agency to aid in retrieving delinquent books.

It was noted that some borrowers are keeping \$20 or more worth of overdue books. This practice will cease with the hiring of the agency, Collection Consultants, Inc. who will be employed on a 90-day trial basis, beginning July 1.

Under the new get-tough policy, librarians will turn over collections notices of large

delinquent accounts to the agency, which will attempt to secure the overdue materials. As a means of tracing the borrower, local credit bureaus will be contacted. The bureaus will, in turn, record delinquent library accounts on patron's credit records.

The agency will be paid 16-2/3 percent of all materials retrieved, with payments not to exceed \$1,000 per month. The agency would also retain 40 percent of any overdue fines it collects.

## 'Soul Joe' Works Only Special Cars

By Ed Brown

Milton "Soul Joe" Miller is an import from Detroit, Michigan landing in Las Vegas, via Salt Lake City, with his '44 Ford Deluxe which he picked up for \$140.

He was a proud man with only a few coins in his pocket but was an auto mechanic body man and with limited experience. On arrival, he immediately set out to find a job landing one with Al Sawyer as a body shop foreman. He stayed there three months.

His work caught the eyes of Cashman Cadillac. They hired him as a "new car body man and painter." "Soul Joe" was on his way.

"I am the originator of the two-tone Seville. That was my patent — my work," said Miller. "The first two-tone that came out of Cashman Cadillac was done by Milton 'Soul Joe' Miller and my helper. Al Sawyer gave me the name 'Soul Joe.' He worked at Cashmans for 7 1/2 years.

He owns the Soul Auto Body and Paint Shop located at 926 North Main.

"I'm good — really good," he brags. "I'm among the best there is. Nobody can beat Soul Joe. I am involved in every aspect of a job. I am the main source. I give total

personalized service. That's the key."

A look at Soul's auto lot backs up his magnetism. While the SENTINEL was on location, the entire area was buzzing with activity. The lot was full, yet cars were standing in line extending out on Main Street waiting for service.

There were Mercedes, Cadillacs and Lincolns — some chauffeur driven. Soul Joe kept yelling, while moving from car to car giving job estimates, "I'm good — really good."

Some of his clients have included, Redd Foss, Lola Falana, Gladys and Bubba Knight, Susie Creamcheese and many, many others.

Miller is very proud of his "work force." He says, "We are a family."

"I pay 50 percent of my charges to my guys. They get half on the labor," he continued. "If any of my employees feel that my pay on some jobs is a little low, I work with them and give them what they deserve. I want to keep them happy." His method works and it is evident with the busy activity that grinds in the shops each and every day.

Soul Joe specializes in nothing but luxury cars — Mercedes, Rolls Royce, Cadillacs, Jags, Ferraris, Excalibers, Lincolns, antiques, ambulances, etc.

Soul Joe is good — real good.