



RUBY DUNCAN

'Our struggle continues as it must...it is no longer without light' — Ruby Duncan

OPERATION

LIFE

...spearheading community help.

"Operation Life" is designed to bring new and continued hope for West Las Vegas and parts of North Las Vegas," said Rudy Duncan, executive director of Operation Life Community Development Corporation.

She was speaking to the attendees at the recent Community Development Administration - Office of Economic Development conference at the Marina Hotel. It was designed to reach the Western Region Title VII grantees.

Charles H. Mumford, Office of Economic Development, opened the spirited conference inviting full participation

from the conferees during the three-day confab.

Duncan spearheaded the conference and fully involved her staff in all phases of the project.

One of the unusually interesting topics was one labeled "Where Are We?" Included in the panel were David Cohen, QED who spoke of the special impact program; Alvin Goodwin, president, Omaha Community Development Corporation and Peter Palm, executive director Lummi Indian Tribal Enterprises. It drew much participation among the audience.

Alice Santana, Board Chairperson of the Central Coast Counties Development Corporation,

related the experiences of that organization within the recent year and shared ideas on their method of resolving some of the allied problems which often occur.

Danny Curtis, Operation Life Community Development Corporation tour director, lead the tour to the local agency's special impact area and projects.

Other participants in the conference included: Albert R. Fleming, executive director Lokahi-Pacific Community Development Corporation; Jay Bertram, Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation; Donald Maxwell, executive director, CDCKC; Herb Blitz,

manager, Builders Block, Inc.; Barbara Norris, Harlem Commonwealth Council and George Spriggs, Vice President, Harlem Commonwealth Council.

During the conference it was pointed out that the achievements of Operation Life is full of a rich heritage that can be

traced over a road of visible accomplishment in which a number of dedicated persons are responsible.

Duncan said that the organizations concern for economic development in West and parts of North Las Vegas (Special Impact Area) cannot ignore

the three levels of society—namely, the individual, the family and the community.

"Our struggle continues as it must," Duncan continued. "It is no longer without light. Operation Life Community Development Corporation brings new hope for West Las Vegas."

NAACP Pushes Senior Housing

The Las Vegas chapter of the NAACP will soon open its \$6 million, 115-unit senior citizens housing project at Harrison and Eastern Avenues.

Jim Tyree, deputy director of the Economic Opportunity Board and resident agent for the Nevada NAACP Housing Board, is the driving force behind this dynamic, needed thrust.

"I love a challenge and trying new ventures people say cannot be done," said Tyree. It was one of the reasons he wanted the NAACP to get into the housing business.

Tyree said blacks have been missing out on those types of projects because no one sat down and taught them how to apply to the federal government for funding.

"I think it's a new venture, it's a new challenge, something that hadn't

been done. A lot of people said we couldn't do it and that the federal government wouldn't let us handle that much money. You know the kind of talk that comes out of West Las Vegas. You kind of turn a deaf ear to those types of things, and go ahead and do it," he added.

The project will be new to the Las Vegas chapter, but not to the national office of the NAACP.

The NAACP National Housing Development Corp. has been in the housing business for quite some time, Tyree said, and it will have a controlling interest in the local housing project.

NAACP president James McMillan and Tyree are on the local housing board along with three members from the national housing corporation. McMillan will serve as treasurer for the board.



Summer fun is on the run...

School the year 'round

This summer, Oran Gragson Elementary School will become the third elementary school in the Clark County School District to operate as a year-round facility. Fay Herron Elementary opened as a year round school seven years ago and Tomiyasu just completed its first year in the program.

Principals at the three schools believe the year-round program to be highly successful and a most promising educational adaptation, not only for student and parent benefits, but also for District budget woes. These schools, due to their staggered sessions, can operate at up to 133 percent

capacity.

Called the 45-15 plan, students attend classes for 45 days (regular nine't session) and have 15 days (three weeks) off. This program has the advantage of permitting students to get a respite from lessons several times a year instead of the one continuous three month break in the summer that comes with con-

ventional school schedules.

The parents and students enrolled in this program are constantly surveyed to determine

any problems or complaints but so far, District officials report satisfaction with the program. And, students who have returned to the conventional schedule upon entering secondary

schools after a year or more of the year-round experience, have often voiced a preference for the year-round schedule. Approximately 3,000 children have attended the year-round facilities in Clark County and another 2,900 are currently registered in the three schools.



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