Aging In Rural America

A major effort to identify the problems of the rural elderly through a series of intensive mini-conferences in fall 1980 is now on the drawing boards of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Farmers Union, Green Thumb and the 1981 White House Conference on Aging.

Issues of special concern will be explored in detailed workshops in at least five locations in order to gather the broadcast viewpoints from the elderly living in all parts of rural America - small towns, farms, coal mining regions, Indian reservations and mountain communities. In addition there will be numerous smaller community forums around the nation.

The Congressional Rural Caucus, chaired by Congressman Wes Watkins of Oklahoma, has asked its members to encourage participation by the elderly in their communities. This will be the first White House Confer-

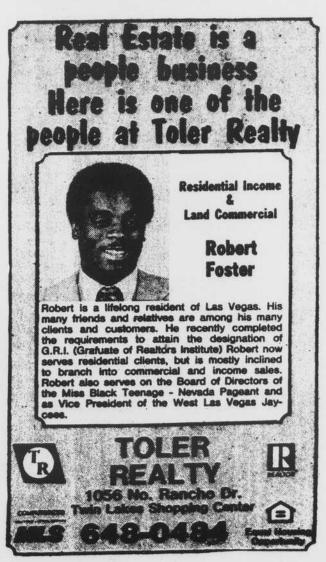
ence on Aging to target special attention to this group.

Employment, transportation, health care and energy costs are some of the issues that impact hard on rural Americans because of their geographical isolation and the lack of services and job options outside of metropolitan areas. A layoff in a small singlefactory town can force early retirement because no other employment exists in the vicinity.

Rising energy costs force many rural elderly who live alone into just one room during the winter. Those who cannot continue to live alone must move in with families because nursing and retirement homes are not readily available.

Healthcare, specialized and routine, can be difficult to obtain because of the rural doctor/ nurse shortage. Lack of transportation to clinics, shopping and nutrition programs is a key barrier because 45 percent of rural older Americans do not own cars and public transit is available in only 300 - 400 towns of the nation's 20,000 with population of 50,000 or less.

Dates and locations of the rural miniconferences will be published later this year.



ASK THE EDITOR Ask the Editor is a weekly feature of this newspaper. Ouestions for the editor should be addressed to the Editor, The Las Vegas VOICE, 510 South Highland, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89106. Answers to the most salient questions will appear in this column.

Question: Why is the draft registration limited to males who are 19 and 20.

Answer: We are not sure about this, but we can surmise that the males were the only ones included because of some of the rigors of military life. Despite what we would like to see as far as equality of sexes in concerned the government of the United States still thinks in terms of a military draft of males only, with females taken in a voluntary capacity only.

As to 19 and 20 year olds being the only ones drafted, we feel that the thinking might have been that the 19 and 20 year olds are just out of high school and have not yet begun a career. They are usually the most healthy of the species also. If any reader knows any other reason please write to us in care of this newspaper.

Question: Why are there so many bankruptcies among Blacks these days?

Answer: It is hard to say. However as you well know, Blacks are usually the last ones hired and the first ones fired. Therefore many Blacks cannot possibly keep up payments made on items as they could if they were working. Whenever there is a high degree of employment among Blacks, the bankruptcy rate usually goes down. The opposite is also true.

Question: Who do you think will win the Ali-Holmes fight?

Answer: Your guess is as good as mine. Ali's age (38) may be a liability to him However, whatever he lacks as far as age is concerned he may make up for in experience, motivation, and general ring-decorum.

On the other hand, Holmes has become a person to be recokened with. Holmes' youth (30), coupled with his desire to beat Ali should make this fight a Jim-dandy.

Question: Where can I go if I think I have gotten a bum-steer on a recent purchase of a car?

Answer: Contact the publisher of the Las Vegas VOICE, Mr. Lawrence Albert, and tell him your problems. His office will then advise you of possible steps to take or refer you to someone who might be able to help you.

Question: What is being done to reopen the Aladdin Casino?

Answer: It appears that the Gaming Commission is holding fact on its requirements made two weeks ago on the owners of the Aladdin. However, Wayne Newton has submitted an application for gaming and liquor licenses to the proper authorities, and the authorities have promised to expedite the investigation of Mr. Newton's application. Prospects look good that the Aladdin will be back in full operation soon.

Marion Anderson **Gold Medallions**



U.S. Representative Jim Leach (R-Iowa), author of the "American Arts Gold Meda-llion Act," today announced that Marian Anderson will be featured on one of the first two gold medallions to be minted by the U.S. Treasury in 1980, which will be available for public purchase July 25.

The one-half ounce Anderson medallion marks the first time American citizens will have the opportunity to buy American gold in any size other than the 400-ounce gold bars sold periodically by the Treasury at auction.

Leach noted that his two fold purpose in introducing the legislation was to honor outstanding American artists and reduce U.S. subsidization of the South African economy.

"To this day, millions of Americans can hear the echo of Marian Anderson's in-spiring rendition of 'He's Got the Whole World in His Hands'. But in reflecting on her lifetime of contribution to God, country and the American people, it is no less true that one can say of Marian Anderson: 'She's got the whole world in her hands', " said

Leach, who selected Anderson and the nine other artists to be honored in the medallion

series over the next five years. "The message of her autobiography, Oh Lord, What a Morning, is a message for all time, "Leach said. "She wrote: '...My mission is to leave behind the kind of impression that will make it easier for those who follow ... In life, if you have a purpose in which you can believe, there's no end to the amount of things you can accomplish'.''

In 1939, fifteen years before the Supreme Court ruled that the Little Rock schools should be integrated, Marian Anderson made history when she mesmerized a crowd of 75,000 singing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. The concert was held outdoors after a controversy over racial discrimination flared when the Daughters of the American Revolution banned Anderson from singing in Constitution Hall. Eleanor Roosevelt resigned her membership in the DAR in protest.

The Iowa Congressman noted that last year Americans bought approximately \$900 million worth of foreign gold coins and medallions containing an ounce or less of gold, primarily from South Africa.

It strikes me as irrational if not immoral for Americans to subsidize through gold purchases the repressive government of South e have the c country to make gold available to the public in an affordable form," Leach said. Orders for the Anderson medallion will be

accepted beginning July 15, 1980. Order forms and instructions will be available at all post offices. The daily price of the medallion will be based on the previous day's closing spot price of on the New York Commodity Exchange, plus a premium to cover production and distribution csts. The toll free telephone number to obtain the daily price is 800/368-5510.