

Citizen of the Week



Each week, the VEGAS VOICE will feature a Black person who has made or is making valuable contributions to the Balck community. This week we are featuring the Rev. Willie Davis, Pastor of the Second Baptist Church, located at 500 E. Madison in Las Vegas.

Rev. Davis was born on March 12, 1937, in Boligee, Green Country, Alabama, to Mr. and Mrs. Moses Davis. He has five brothers and three sisters. He attended elementary school in Boligee, and was graduated from Parker High School in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1956. He attended and graduated from the Union Baptist Theology Seminar in Birmingham with a Bachelor of Theology Degree, and has received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from, the same institution. He has attended the College of the Rockies School of Theology in Denver, Colorado, the University of Wyoming at Laramie, Wyoming, and Weber State College in Ogden, Utah.

Said Rev. Davis: "My first goal is to serve as pastor of the Second Baptist Church of Las Vegas, Nevada. My primary goal is to lead the church in fulfilling missionary objectives, and that is winning the lost to Christ and developing each member of the church to their fullest potential.

Rev. Davis, who came to Las Vegas in 1978, was formerly pastor of the New Zion Baptist Church in Laramie, Wyoming, and the New Zion Baptist Church in Ogden, Utah. He was licensed to preach the gospel in 1967.

Since coming to Las Vegas, Rev. Davis has become actively involved in community affairs. Among other things, he is involved in a jail ministry at the Clark County Jail, is a trustee of Christian Athletic Association, and is a member of the Southern Nevada Literacy Council (Adult Education). He is also a member of the Executive Board of the Las Vegas Branch of the NAACP.

He has served as the Second Vice-President of the Western Baptist Convention, Moderator of the Utah-Idaho District Association, a member of the Governor's Black Policy Advisory Council for Utah, and a member of Weber County Commissioners' Advisory Board. He was a Board Member of the Weber Mental Health, the Weber Mental Health Black

Advisory Council, A special Consultant to Ogden Area Community Action Agency, and is presently a Professional Counselor for Thiokol Corporation, Clearfield Job Corps center, Clearfield, Utah.

Rev. Davis is married, and has three children, Darryl, who is also a minister, Lisa, and Dawn. His hobbies and interests are reading, listening to music, bowling and auto mechanics.

Under the administration of Rev. Davis, the Second Baptist Church has been designated as a Center for Reading by the Clark County Community College. Classes are held at the church on a regular basis.

Rev. Davis plans to continue studies in Sociology, and to pursue further religious studies.

The VEGAS VOICE salutes Rev. Willie Davis for the excellent work he is doing at the Second Baptist Church and in our Las Vegas community.

New Book Published

A new book has been published by the University of Nevada Press which challenges our way of thinking about the 1950s: *Nevada's Turbulent '50s: Decade of Political and Economic Change* is a refreshing look at a period largely ignored in Nevada histories. The West altered the national life style during this decade and Nevada helped lead the way.

The 1950s were pivotal to Nevada history. Governor Charles Russell changed the face of politics in the state and broke the power of the Republican machine. Many organizations set up during Governor Russell's term of office still survive today: state purchasing, civil service, conservation and natural resources, economic development, and the state park system.

Besides major reform in the state bureaucracies, events were taking shape that would have long-range effects in Nevada. Gangster infiltration brought gambling under local and national scrutiny. Nevada enjoyed an "invisible" mining boom that brought in more revenue than the Comstock Lode. The rapidly growing tourist industry became vital to the state's economy. Organized labor was forced to defend its status with a right-to-work law at stake. The state's school system was reorganized and the University of Nevada was torn by conflict. The Nevada Atomic Test Site came into being.

For many people, the 1950s represent a drab, backward era, but author Mary Ellen Glass found this an exciting time marked by political upheaval and economic growth. Glass examines the impact of the 1950s in Nevada and the mood of the nation as well.

Nevada's Turbulent '50s is the fifteenth title to appear in the University of Nevada Press's History and Political Science Series.

Atlanta Killings Causing Mental And Emotional Problems Among Black Youths

Young Blacks in the Atlanta area are showing signs of mental and emotional sufferings as a result of the slayings of the 27 children and young adults.

Grady Hospital Psychologist, Dr. Lewis Katoff, said that the killings are causing a great deal of stress among both the children and parents. He has asked the parents to try to help the children deal with their fears and not to add to their children's anxieties.

Katoff compared the Atlanta children to those in Belfast, North Ireland. Said katoff: "The only potential parallel is Belfast, what the impact of living in a "war zone" might be."

He stated further that much of the fear is healthy, and has instructed he parents to talk about the problem, but not to force their children into any conversation concerning their fears.

The impact seems to be especially strong for single working parents. Many parents are afraid to send their children to take out the garbage.

Reynolds Supports Minority Programs

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. —As a part of its ongoing program of support of minority organization programs, R.J. Reynolds Industries, Inc. has contributed \$2,500 to the special contribution fund of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

In making the award, Marshall Bass, RJR's corporate director of personnel development, said, "We have reviewed with interest, the accomplishments of the NAACP's programs. RJR continues to share the goals and objectives of the NAACP."

NAACP Secretary Benjamin L. Hooks acknowledged the contribution with the comment, "I believe that this represents a healthy and growing relationship as we strive in our own way to achieve a better life for all Americans."

The special contributions fund is the NAACP subsidiary which supports the association's programs in education, employment, housing, voter education, legal rights, economics, prison reform and youth development.

The NAACP, founded in 1909, has approximately 5 million members, making it the largest secular Black organization in the United States.

R.J. Reynolds Industries, with headquarters in Winston-Salem, N.C., is the parent company of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.; Del Monte Corp. (canned and prepared frozen foods, beverages and fresh fruit); R.J. Reynolds Tobacco International, Inc.; Aminoil USA, Inc. (energy); Sea-Land Industries Investments, Inc. (containerized shipping); and R.J. Reynolds Development Corp.

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Thousands marched with SCLC and Alabama State University students recently to protest the proposed merger of Alabama State University with the predominantly white Auburn University. Left to right, leading the march are Montgomery County Commissioner Frank Bray; Mrs. Johnnie R. Carr, president of the Montgomery Improvement Association; ASU's SCLC vice president Catherine Coleman; SCLC President Joseph E. Lowery; ASU's chapter president Charles Anderson; SCLC Board member Rev. N.Q. Reynolds; Joe Reed, Montgomery city council member and president of the Alabama Democratic Conference; Rev. John Nettles, Alabama state president of SCLC; Montgomery County Commissioner John Knight and Atty. Donald Watkins, a Montgomery city council member. (Photo by Elaine Tomlin)



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