

WORK

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penalty. Banks was black; the two murdered people white. Georgia's death penalty law has been upheld by the Supreme Court, despite evidence to show it is unequally applied.

Blacks accused of killing whites are more likely to get a death sentence, and the sentence is imposed in differing degrees in different parts of the state. Other things being equal, whether a convicted killer gets the death penalty depends largely on his race, the race of the victim, and the part of the state where the trial is held.

I suppose all decent people should be grateful that the Wilmington Ten have been cleared and that Jerry Banks has been freed and vindicated. But it's hard to be too appreciative of a system that works, when it works so slowly, when it corrects its errors only after imposing great suffering on innocent people, and when it

misfires so often.

The state shouldn't be playing dice with men's lives. Banks, an innocent man, might have been killed by the state in accordance with the law, as have others before him.

For just as the criminal justice system makes mistakes in jailing innocents, so too has it made mistakes in letting off accused persons in racially-motivated cases where the evidence seemed to assure a conviction. Certainly the acquittal of Klansmen accused of shooting blacks — even with considerable reliable evidence against them — indicated racism is not absent from the jury box.

The criminal justice system is viable only so long as it commands respect from the citizens it protects and from the citizens who come in contact with it. There were too many instances recently that have eroded the respect it should command.

Nevada Coffee Roasters, one of the new ventures in Las Vegas, is now under new ownership and now has the stimulus to be real successful.

Jim Lucas, a one-time salesman for Coffee Roasters, started the plant just 7 months ago. By the sixth month, he became Vice President and now has moved into the ownership area, along with Mae Ethel Scott and others.

A native of Lake Providence, La., Lucas was lured to the Las Vegas area by his sister

in 1959 and worked in a number of jobs before hitting this endeavor. He developed a keen ability to sell the product and developed numerous accounts.

"There's a coffee market of 300,000 pounds per month in the Las Vegas area," said Lucas. "All we want is a percentage of that. We have the products that will compare with the best. We just want a chance for potential clients to test ours. Our coffee beans come from Columbia, South America."

Presently, Coffee Roasters has a contract with the Nevada Test Site and serves a number of hotels and businesses in the area.

Mae Ethel Scott is Vice President and Secretary of Capitol Ventures Investment Co., Inc. and serves as a Vice President with Coffee Roasters.

Capitol Ventures

specializes in financing for various enterprises.

A tour through the plant provides an interesting insight into the processing of the coffee beans. The beans go through 8 cleaning processes before roasting and packaging. Lucas foresees the plant hiring as many as 15-25 people to cover the projected demand for the business.



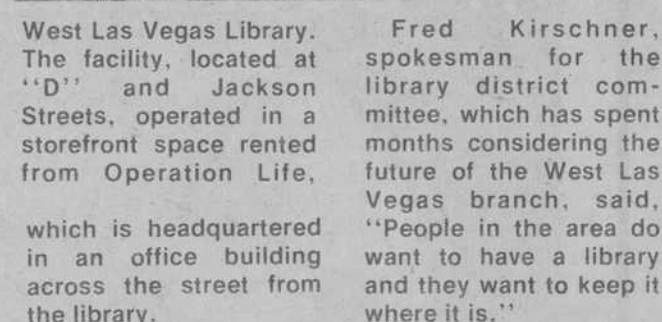
JIM LUCAS



MAE ETHEL SCOTT



LaTOSHA KELLY



KISMET EVANS

NEW BLACK BUSINESS — COFFEE ROASTERS

Woman To Stand Trial

District Court Judge Joseph Pavlikowski set the trial date for Thursday after Ann Sweet, 47, of 305 N. 10th St., pleaded "not guilty" to charges of murder and use of a deadly weapon in commission of a crime.

Sweet, accused of beating and stabbing another woman to death with a kitchen knife, will stand trial in District Court July 27.

According to

testimony presented in Justice Court earlier this month, Sweet on April 21 went to the downtown apartment of Madeline Swain and allegedly beat and murdered the woman.

Metropolitan Police officers, who were called to the scene, also testified Sweet was so intoxicated she was incoherent, although she continued to sputter obscene names for the dead woman.

West Las Vegas Library Gets Boost

The West Las Vegas community received a much needed and deserved boost last week, when the trustees of the Clark County Library District decided to keep open at its present location the

West Las Vegas Library. The facility, located at "D" and Jackson Streets, operated in a storefront space rented from Operation Life,

which is headquartered in an office building across the street from the library.

Fred Kirschner, spokesman for the library district committee, which has spent months considering the future of the West Las Vegas branch, said, "People in the area do want to have a library and they want to keep it where it is."

CLARK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

TELECOURSES

The Telecourses at Nellis Airforce Base began in January 1981 and has been a continued success since its introduction.

The Telecourses, offered by Clark County Community College, are designed for students who are unable to attend regular classes because of their schedule and time limitations. Examinations are given at the each eight week course and grades are based on these exams.

No classroom instruction is required, however, the student

has access to his lessons through video tapes and television monitors, printed material, text books and study guides. The courses may lead to an Associate in General Studies degree.

TESTING DATES

Clark County Community College will be offering courses for the fall semester in the Airframe and Powerplant program. Due to FAA regulation limiting the size of the class and the popularity of the A & P program, prospective students must take a

General Aptitude Test as part of the selection process and application for admission. Testing dates are:

June 1, 2 and 3 — 3 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.

June 4 and 5 — 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

The courses to be offered are:

A & P General, a course designed as a prerequisite for the Airframe curriculum and the Powerplant curriculum.

SELF HYPNOSIS

Clark County Community College will be offering instruction in hypnosis this summer. The course, Self Hypnosis for the Lay Person I, will be designed to teach participants how to apply hypnosis.

Areas to be covered are:

Dispelling Myths and Preconceived Ideas; Self-Hypnosis Conditioning; Self-Confidence and Self-Image; Concentration; Memorization; Self-Hypnosis for weight and smoking control.

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CENSUS REPORT

The median age of Americans has risen to 30, up two years from 1970, the Census Bureau said Sunday. Florida had the oldest median age in the nation at 34.7, and Utah had the youngest, 24.2.

Nevada was right on the money in the median age category with 30.3. The census report on age characteristics of America's 226.5 million residents also showed a continuing gap between sexes, since women live longer. The median age for women now is 31.3 years, and 28.8 years for men.

It showed different median ages by race, with whites having the highest median age at 31.3, to 24.9 for blacks and 23.2 for Hispanics.

In 1980, 83.2 percent of the U.S. population reported their race as white. Of that figure, the bureau listed 6.4 percent as being of Spanish origin. Blacks made up 11.7 percent of the population. Other races accounted for the rest.

Among racial groups, whites are considerably older than Hispanics and blacks, the figures show. According to Census Bureau official Don Starsinic, only 21.3 percent of whites are under 15 years of age, and 12.2 percent are 65 or over. That contrasts with 32 percent of Hispanics and 28.7 percent of blacks are over 65.

Hispanics and blacks traditionally have had higher birth rates than the white population," Starsinic said. "But the rate for all of them is declining."

The report showed about 53 percent of the nation's 26 million blacks lived in the South. Studies indicate the number of blacks migrating to the South during the decade appeared nearly equal to the number migrating to the North and West.