ths of hatred, by some

avowed racists, were so

ter would go to any ex-

treme to "protect their

way of life". Those of

them who professed to

be Christians did not

have even a glimmer of a

notion as to what

Christianity was all

about. Had they, they

would have known from

the aggregate teachings

of the Bible that God

does not smile upon

hatred. He does not say

that white people should

love their white neigh-

bors or that Black people

should love their Black

neighbors. Quite simply,

He commands us to love

our neighbors, all of

Anyone who does not

dosoisnota

Christian-no matter

search and see how long

them, as ourselves.

EBB OF PEBBLE WAS TO TOUCH SHORES OF AMERICAN LIFE

By Roosevell Fitzgerald

Life goes on. For some, it it seems never to change. The 1950s were filled with major occurrences and, believe it or not, most had something to do with Las Vegas.

Nuclear power really came of age during that decade and Las Vegans viewed the flashes and the mushroom clouds almost on a weekly basis. The Nevada Test Site greatly affected the future of the world and, of course, Las Vegas, Its presence brought yet another means by which black people could be discriminated against. Perhaps, had the authorities and personnel directors realized the dangers of radiation exposure, there would have been more Black workers utilized. The Nevada Test Site

its own at a later date. On January 21, 1954, the U.S.S. Nautilus was launched. Surely some of its components were developed, atomic time in our history which weaponry became a primary ingredient of the Cold War. On at least

episode will be a story of

one occasion, President for all - a time that is Dwight Eisenhower threatened the use of the ultimate force.

state during the 1950s. We've already men-Shah of Iran and Joseph McCarthy - the "commie" chaser. There was a numberless flow of those who came to observe the above ground Flat which were initiated January 27, 1951. In Pat Nixon visited her birher father had been a shift boss in the mines and she had been born

only making the news as entertainers while appearing at the local hotels or when there activity. But what of the masses of the Black population? What were

described as one of hanging around driveins, driving red on black A large number of dignitaries visited our

detonations at Yucca 'made an offer they September of 1952, Mrs. that we can tell about thplace in Ely, Nevada. 1950s. For our purposes, in a mining camp. Black people, in Las page, in a local Vegas, were generally

Ford Fairlane 500s or green on cream chevy impalas? Well, they were trying to make a living, and they were also trying not to be taken to the "whipping ground" - a place on the Blue Diamond Road where recalcitrant Black were taken and couldn't refuse. There is quite a lot

Las Vegas during the half of that decade. On the fifth day of February 1956, there was a full newspaper acknowledging the forty-fifth birthday of the Boy Scouts in Southern nevada. There were no Black wassomekindofpolice boys shown. Just a few days later, the Westside School presented a play titled "Land of The they doing during that Dream Come True" in which the children acted "pop" historians would out the meaning of have us believe was a American citizenship. time of "happy days" The incongruities between what they did and racism was to touch all how they were forced to live are unbelievable.

Black Las Vegans had become aware of what was taking place in Montgomery, Alabama. been precipitated by Rosa Parks were to

shores of American life. day of prayer, in support of the Montgomery boycott, was sponsored by the local chapter of the NAACP at the Second Baptist Church at "E" Street.



Lubertha Johnson

change, in more ways than one, the complexion of the domestic scene in the United States. The ebb of that pebble in the pond of

On the youth scene dary schools, the few

there was also activity. While there was no great number of Black students in the secon-

strumental in organizing many extra-curricular permittedto.Still,there League and Robert were only eleven Black Johnson was elected students among the 403 president of an organization of Young high school graduates of Las Vegas' schools. Democrats. Mrs. Rose Bobby Tidwell was one **Daniels became Precinct** of nine students who Chairman of the Westtravelled to St. Louis for side Voter Registration a music festival. To drive. Mr. H.P. Fitzgerald became the first some extent, even at that time, the more Black school principal in the history of the state of creative students were much less paranoid and Nevada. He was appointed to head the new more prone to accepting their fellow man - the Kit Carson Elementary other eight students School. were all white.

who were active in as

Basic Magnesium. The

chapter had been reac-

tionary.lthadbeensuch

because, prior to the

brown decision of 1954,

Black people had been

nationally considered

not to be really full

fledged citizens of the

The organizational ef-

forts of the NAACP was

beginning to take on new

directions. Attempts at

increasing membership

carried a new meaning

for Black Las Vegans.

Locals knew of the even-

ts, not only at Mon-

tgomery but also at

Baton Rouge, Little Rock

and other places

throughout the country.

They realized that a dif-

ferent mood was

sweeping the country.

No one realized, really,

but a civil rights

movement was in its em-

The next four years

would bear witness to

those events which

would help lead to the

beginning of Las Vegas'

rendezvous with

Westside business

groups organized to

raise funds to furnish a

room at Southern

Nevada Memorial

Hospital. Rev. V.C.L.

bryonic stage.

destiny.

United States.

While those activities The events in Monwere taking place, Mr. tgomery had their effect and Mrs. Grant Collins on Las Vegas. The spirit were celebrating their of freedom was beginfifty-first wedding anniversary . Mr. and Mrs. ning to stir, once again, Golden Miller celebrated in Las Vegas. Mrs. Lubertha Johnson was their Golden Anniversary at the Second Baptist elected President of the local NAACP. Mem-Church. Mrs. Henry bership drives were Moore, Chairman of initiated. The local chap-Missions and Mrs. Lola Branch, Chairman of ter had been active, in the past, but usually publicity, organized only in times of imevents occurring, but minent crises. Such they are too numerous to had been so in the case of employment problems duringtheBoulderDam Black men were still construction project and during labor disputes at

being arrested on a daily basis and those few police procedures in existence, at the time, never seemed to apply to them. Here, as in other parts of the U.S., Blacks who were arrested, charged and found guilty, received the maximum punishment while others were given lesser sentences. Some, however, began to initiate other procedures which, while they still might land in jail, at least their incarceration would be for something worthwhile - civil

At the sanitation district, Black workers began to protest against working conditions and salaries. Their attempts at reciprocity did not go unnoticed. A kind of tension gripped the entire nation and often there were reprisals made against Black people who dared challenge the system.

December 1, 1955. That was the date that it all began-the civil rights movement. On a relatively quiet street corner in Montgomery, Alabama. It seems only fitting that it should start in that place. Mon-

tgomery had been the who are being op- They knew that the depcapitol of the Confederacy almost a hundred years before. A hundred years earlier, Rosa Parks would have been officially a slave. That day, in December, she had technically been a slave and, somehow,

pressed are convinced that there could not possibly be a better way. Oncetheydiscoverthat their condition can be improved, they will cease to tolerate and begin to aspire for a greater, more enhanced



Rosa Parks

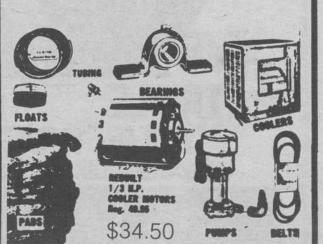
she had looked through the veil and glimpsed freedom. It could never be the same again.

Las Vegas would change, partially because of what she did in Montgomery. A famous author has written in a book called Anatomy Of Revolution, that conditions, however terrible can be tolerated for an indefinite amount of time so long as those

quality of life. The Montgomery situation focused, in fine detail, that relegation to inferior roles and positions was not the way that things had to be for Black

it was realized, both there and here, that the risks involved in upgrading one's circumstances would be great. No one expected any help or protection from the authorities.

BEAT THE HEAT...BEAT HIGH PRICES!



PHIL'S SALVAGE BUILDERS EMPORIUM



Professor Fitzgerald is director of ethnic studies at University of Nevada-Las Vegas

across the blotter

unusual to occur In the case of the Civil We owe it all to her A smallish-lady, with her hair in a bun She was religious right from the start Most people, describing her, Said simply, "she has a good heart' She never meant to make a scene She only wanted to rest who they are. Let us They wanted her to give more than she gave reinitiate the Lazarus

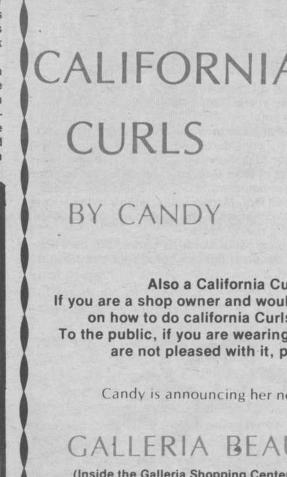
of a list we can generate. I trust that your s will be longer than mine. don't call me" Sometimes its hard to been raised comprehend What causes the Having her fingers rolled

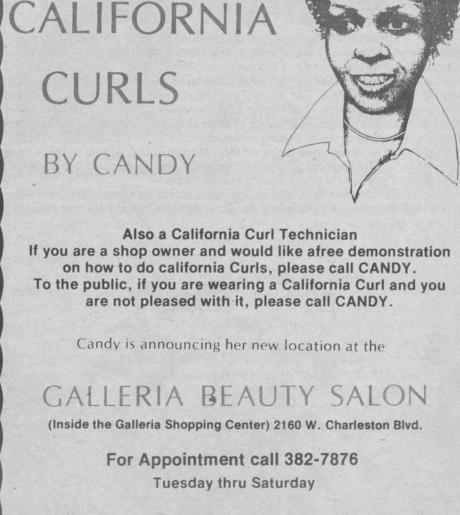
And, she had already given her best "If you end up in jail, That is how she had

Brought an unbelievable amount of disgrace "The Lord works in mysterious ways His wonders to behold' But it's difficult to deal When you're hungry, frightened and cold She was out on bail in a short while The tears welled in her

People who had never contemplated it Began, then, to despise How could they do a thing like that? To a lady such as she Her essence recalls to my mind

What my mother means





SIERRA NEVADA **COFFEE ROASTERS**

GOURMET **COFFEE • TEA • SPICE**

AND EQUIPMENT

COFFEEW/SPECIAL BLENDS

IN-SERVICE COFFEE SERVICE HOTCHOCOLATE COFFEE BREWERS FURNISHED WHOLESALERS—RETAILERS

> CALL FOR SERVICE 384-0250

798 North X LV



Real Estate is a people business Here is one of the people at Toler Realty



Land Commercial

Brenda Dumas

Brenda Dumas moved to Las Vegas from Pomona. California, in 1975. Brenda has been serving her real estate clients and customers for over wo years. She and her husband, Joe, are mempers of Saint James Catholic Church. Brenda's nobbies include reading, bowling and her reently born daughter. Ebonee



648-0484