

PPPT ON THE MOVE

By Ed Brown

"We are some of the early people," said Erma L. O'Neal, director of Poor People Pulling Together. "I have lived here all of my life. I've seen the Westside when it was nothing. I saw Regal Estates when it was known as Donkey Town."

It was Erma O'Neal, a Housing Commissioner for the City of Las Vegas now serving her second four-year term, reminiscing about those



Elizabeth Johnson early days of her life with her parents and six brothers and two sisters — all of whom are still living in Las Vegas.

O'Neal has been a campaigner and a "doer" all of her life. She has been among many in the forefront of the civil rights struggle in the valley.



(L-R) Angela Fuller, Delores Jackson, Vickie Brown

Her community work had started early when she joined a group known as the Black Afro Society Club. They would corral the young people and talk over problems affecting the youth. She later became a Vista volunteer.

One of her pride and joys has been the organization and development of Poor People Pulling Together.

PPPT was founded by a group of concerned residents in public and private housing. Those residents felt there was a need to act together to improve conditions for everyone in housing all over the community. The organization is now involved in other areas to include welfare and justice.

The name of the organization was originated by Erma O'Neal in early 1970. Tenants of Gerson Park Projects were among the



Brenda Burks

early pioneers.

PPPT is funded by a Community Development Block Grant and the United Way. Incidentally, it is the only black agency funded by the United Way.

Another project which provides a considerable

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EBONY'S GALLERY OF FAME



Jackie Robinson, born in Cairo, Georgia, January 31, 1919; first Negro to play in major league baseball, 1947; Most Valuable Player Award, 1949; former vice president, Chock Full O'Nuts; co-chairman, Freedom National Bank in Harlem; baseball commentator on ABC-TV; columnist in national press.

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