

# PEOPLE ARE AFRAID

By Roosevelt Fitzgerald

Prof. Fitzgerald has written:

*"This piece is not a part of the series but I felt that it needed to be written and that the public needed to be made aware of the on-going efforts to yet categorize us in a three musketeer fashion of 'All for one and one for all.'"*

Las Vegas Review-Journal

Friday, July 24, 1981

By James Kastelic  
Review-Journal

Purse snatchings on Glitter Gulch by soup-kitchen transients, flop-house drifters and "colored people" may prompt casino patrons to steer clear of the downtown area, a member of the Downtown Progress Association said Thursday.

Jack Binion, president of the Horseshoe Hotel and Casino, said the number of downtown purse snatchings has increased drastically over the past year due to the influx of transients to the Fremont Street area.

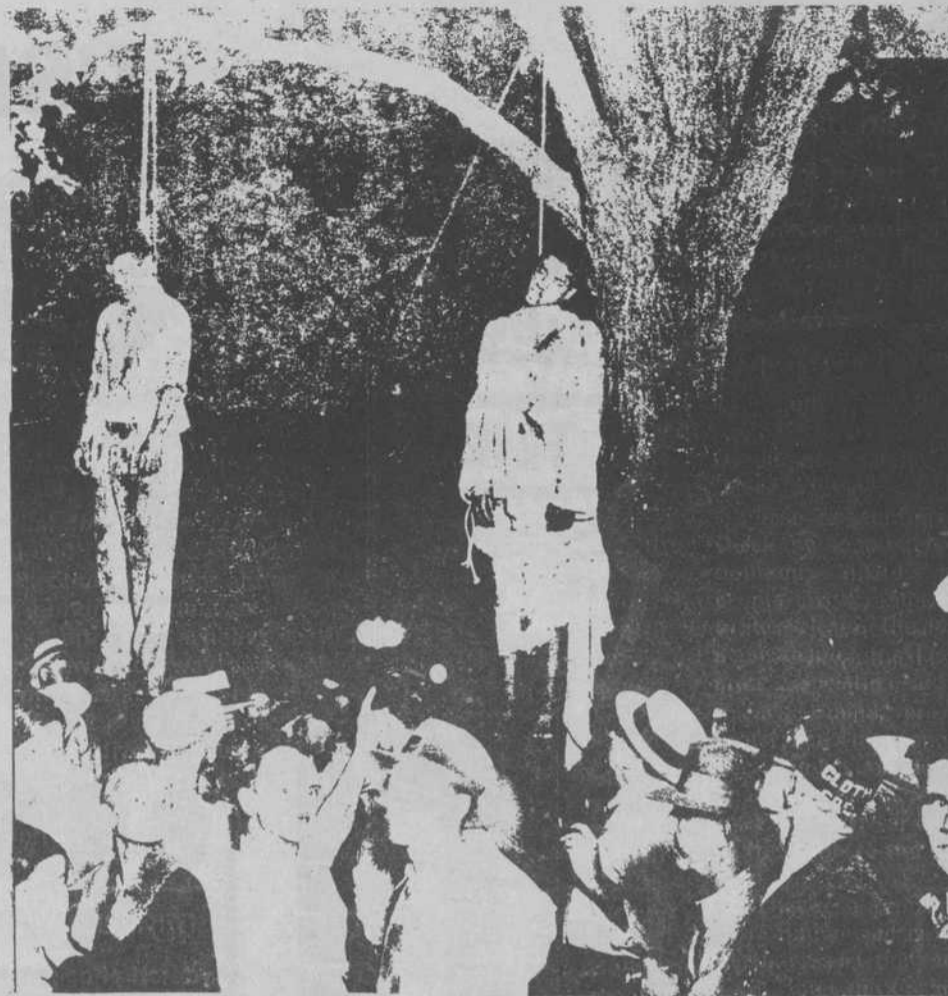
"They're a problem to customers," Binion said during a meeting of the association at the Golden Gate Hotel and Casino.

"People are afraid of colored people. One thing that will kill the downtown trade is if people are fearful of going there," Binion said.

As a resident of Las Vegas, I realize that I owe a great deal to this community. I am acutely aware of the fact that a goodly portion of our prosperity is due to the millions of dollars spent each year by tourists. I, for one, would not want to be a party to any interruption of that cash flow.

The July 24th evening edition of the Review Journal carried a story on page 6B titled "LV Casinos debate crime, transients," which caught my eye, then pricked my interest and ultimately caused me a great deal of pain.

It seems that at a meeting of the Downtown Progress Association, conducted on the day before at the Golden Gate Hotel and Casino, one of the participants is reported to have said that "soup-kitchen transients, flop-house drifters and 'colored people' may prompt casino patrons to steer clear of the downtown area." He went further to say that "people are afraid of colored



## Insurance Corner

By ALEX THOMAS

Ebony Insurance Agency

### TOO RISKY TO INSURE?

Most Americans (97 percent) who apply for life insurance are able to get it. Of the three percent that are not acceptable, about three quarters are related to serious health impairments and the rest to other factors, including extremely hazardous jobs.

To cover persons in "high risk" categories, there are "rated" policies which, naturally, carry higher premium rates.

Life insurance companies are always glad to remove medical "ratings" when they no longer exist, such as in obesity. The same applies in changing from a risky occupation to a safe one. If this is your situation, check with your agent about re-examination. It could save you money.

This, however, does not apply in reverse. If you are safe and healthy when you purchase a policy and become risky in health or occupation two years later, you do not lose your policy or have to pay an extra premium.

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people. One thing that will kill the downtown trade is if people are fearful of going there."

As an ex-colored man, I never realized that people were afraid of me. I still don't know which people are. I was so concerned with the manner in which I was described as being perceived that I spent two days on Fremont Street asking people if they

were indeed afraid of me. I approached each person quite tentatively because I did not wish to risk scaring them to death before I would have gotten an opportunity to pose my question.

The following is a tabulation of my findings. Four hundred men and women were interviewed. There were

sixteen Japanese, twenty-seven Chinese three Koreans, nine Japanese-Americans, fifteen Chinese-Americans, seven Korean-Americans, forty-six Chicanos, eight Mexican-Americans, fourteen Spanish-Americans, five Puerto Ricans, twenty one Cubans, five Cuban-Americans, one Indian from India, four Indians from Moapa, one Indian from Window