

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OBSERVATION — THE EXPECTED TURNED INTO THE UNEXPECTED

By Betty Brown

The Clark County School District Board of Trustees Meeting held last Thursday proved to be a confrontation between the Board and the black community, but one that took some unexpected turns with unexpected ramifications.

The expected confrontation centered around the Board's proposal to turn the Mabel Hoggard Elementary School — the only remaining elementary school in the West Las Vegas area — into another Sixth Grade Center.

Members of the black community are protesting this proposal on several grounds: first, the Mabel Hoggard School, named for one of the black community's and the greater Las Vegas community's most renowned educators and citizens, is a great source of pride to the residents of West Las Vegas; secondly, the school was exempted from the Las Vegas School District's integration plan by a federal judge several years ago; and thirdly, the parents of the school area and the members of the black community at large feel that the children of the West Las Vegas community, having borne the brunt of the school district's integration plan by being bused to other schools 12 out of their 13 school years as opposed to white children of Las Vegas being bused to integrated schools only 1 year (for the Sixth Grade), have been treated unfairly and that the burden of any further busing should not be thrust upon them.

Rev. Sam Robeson gave the sobering reminder that when it all boils down to it, all parents and all children, black and white alike, are in the same boat here and what is best for the children is what should be considered and done. He suggested that

the Board, when planning for additional schools, consider building some of those schools on the Westside.

Rev. Jesse Scott asked the Board not to disturb Mabel Hoggard School, because "it is the last semblance of unity and the last community school on the Westside."

Carolyn Shelton remarked that the issue should be the best education for all the children and not the color of their skin. She said that the community should be willing to go back to court, if necessary, in order to solve this issue equitably.

Emotional comments came from Lula Shingles, a member of the Mabel Hoggard PTA, who said, "Your integration stinks! I don't think we're getting a fair chance on this busing deal. There are many white elementary schools and only one black elementary school. Your busing deal is unfair when black children have to be bused 12 years to the white children's one year. It's unfair and you know it! You ought to go home and get on your knees and think about it!"

Mrs. C. Green said she didn't mind integration, but she called for 'fair' integration, while Alberta Lyons said that changes are needed in the School District's plans, but not the presently proposed changes.

She further remarked that the children of Mabel Hoggard School are achieving. And while achievement test scores were not mentioned again during the course of the meeting, it has been mentioned later by several sources, that the achievement test results show Hoggard third and sixth graders scoring below school district averages in reading, language and mathematics.

Florie Wilson of the PTA said the black community is looking for quality and equality in education for its children and that if the same quality teachers, books and standards were provided all children, then all children would receive quality and equality of education, no matter where the school is located.

Georgann Owens, a white parent representing the Hoggard School PTA,

also voiced the opinion that the children at Hoggard School are achieving. She said that, as a minority person who has lived in the black community for nine years and with three children, she could attest to the fact that the Mabel Hoggard School atmo-

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SARAH ALLEN CREDIT UNION DOING GOOD BUSINESS

During July 1981, Sarah Allen Credit Union received a Block Grant from the City of Las Vegas, to operate a financial institution in the West Las Vegas community. The grant awarded was to be disbursed to qualified loan applicants for home improvements and refurbishing. Included also in

the grant was \$10,000.00 for a single business loan.

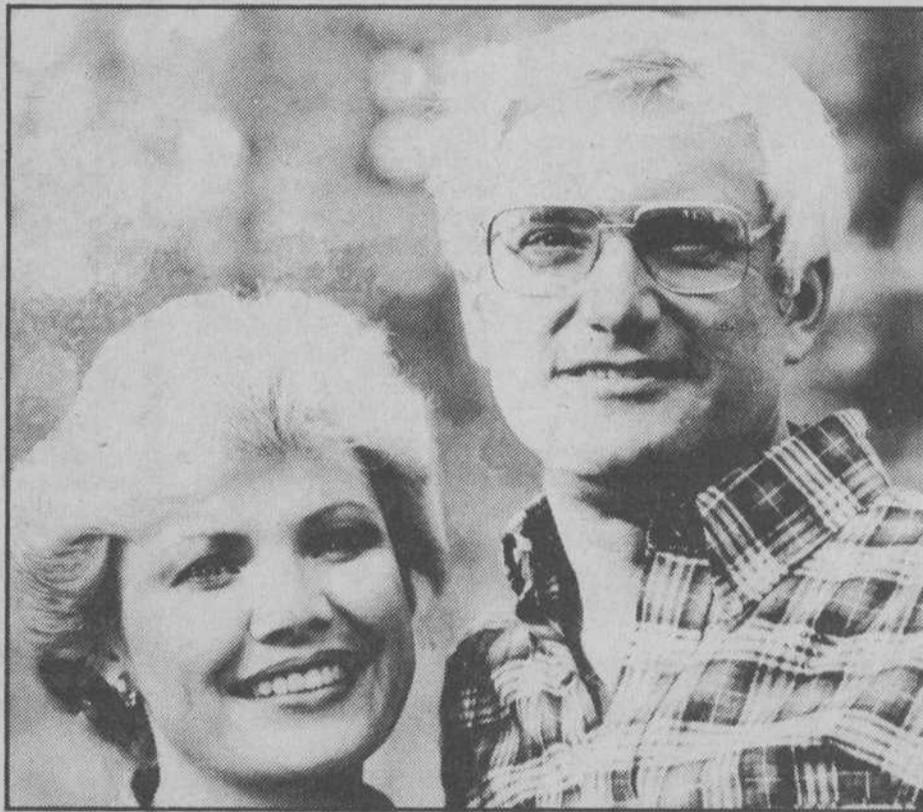
At the beginning of the fiscal year, there were eight \$5,000.00 home improvement loans to be made. To date, eight (8) home improvement loans have either been made or are pending funds.

The single business

loan went to Katherine McCormick to open a beauty salon and eventually a health spa. The beauty salon is currently under construction and is expected to open within a few days. The grand opening will be set for an early date. The new beauty salon is located at 900 W. Owens in the Nucleus Plaza.

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GRAND OPENING

of the

SANTINI FOR SENATE CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS

Friday, April 16, 1982

5-8 p.m.

3810 South Maryland Parkway

A copy of our report is filed with the Federal Election Commission and can be purchased from the F.E.C. in Washington. Authorized and paid for by Santini for Senate, Elaine Galatz, Treasurer.



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