

Point of View



Alice Key

Where did all the people go? All of a sudden the town seems empty. Of course some of the folk I can account for. I know the Gamma Phi Delta Sorority's Annual National Convention evokes a general exodus each year about this time which accounts for the current absences. Sorority sisters Dottie West, Verlia Davis, Bonnie Juniel, Ruby Aimee, Martha Jordan, Ida Mae Crockett Gaines, Leola Williams, and Martha Jordan (a few whose names come quickly to mind).

The Gamma Phi Delta Boule this year was held in Philadelphia last week, but our local sorors long ago introduced a plan whereby, following the convention, a group would take a cruise ship — embarkation point dependent, as a rule, on that which is nearest to the convention site. For example, if the Boule is Florida or an adjacent state, the vacationers take off for the West Indies. On one occasion, after a convention held here in Las Vegas, the ladies (some accompanied by spouses), flew to Honolulu.

This year, the junketeers left Philadelphia for New York City where they were joined by Corita Harbert and Bob and Ann Bailey, and all are now happily cruising to Bermuda. Dr. Chas. West went to Philly with Dottie, but passed up the cruise, electing instead to visit home town, Washington, D.C.

Bernice Moten and I were the guests of that dyna-

mic Fordyce Club at its regular monthly business meeting held at the home of the Holdens of Holmes Avenue Sunday. Attending a Fordyce Club meeting is an interesting experience and offers considerable insight as to the "why" of the long and continued success of these former residents of Fordyce, Arkansas who are banded together to engage in a variety of civil and community activities.

In the capable hands of its president, Juanita Simmons, the Fordyce Club completed a considerably heavy agenda with record dispatch, culminating the evening with pleasant and lively a social hour, that included a lovely backyard barbecue dinner, as I have ever enjoyed. I know Bernice joins me in this grateful public acknowledgement to the Fordyce Club for the warm hospitality extended us Sunday.

It was there that we learned the Fordyce Club is one of six local organizations who are co-sponsoring a "Candidates Night" Saturday, Aug. 28 at Doolittle Recreation Center. Cranford Crawford, I believe, is credited for organizing and coordinating this event — and who better?

POLIT-ASIDES

A Republican I know who shall be nameless (at his request), gave us "the" line of the political season. Noting that, as a Republican, he is unable to vote for Senator Cannon or Richard Bryan in the September 14 primary election, he assured that he is supporting their separate candidacies and will work for and vote for Cannon and Bryan in November.

As we went on to discuss the relative merits of the four U.S. Senatorial candidates on the Republican ticket, I mentioned that all four appeared to be rather heavily weighted in the ultra-conservative mold. He replied that in their common zeal for each to be more "right wing than the other," and "out" conservative the others, one will have to put on a hood before the campaign is over.

Speaking of the gubernatorial race, have you noticed the sudden display of Myron Leavitt yard

signs around town? Someone is making the Lieutenant Governor's candidacy for Governor mighty visible in our neck of the woods.

A Note to Late Registrants

Saturday is positively the deadline to register to vote in the September 14 Primary election. We invite you, even entreat you to register before it's too late. Senator Howard Cannon's Campaign Headquarters West on W. Owen (just west of "H" Street) is open daily for voter registration. The telephone number is 646-1080. The Clark County Election Department, 400 Las Vegas Blvd. So., will re-open until 9 p.m. Saturday to accommodate residents wishing to beat the deadline to register.

The best, however, and most fun way to get registered is to drop by the Ethel Pearson Park at Washington and "D" Streets Friday, August 13. Mahlon Brown, Attorney General candidate, is throwing a final Registration Barbecue Party. There will be plenty of deputy registrars on hand. Festivities begin at 6 p.m.

Voter Registration To Close Aug. 14

Voter registration for the Sept. 14 primary election will close at 9 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 14.

The Clark County Election Department, located at 400 Las Vegas Blvd. South is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Beginning Tuesday, Aug. 10 until the close of registration on Aug. 14, it will be open

from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

For those people who have moved since registering, their addresses must be changed by calling the Clark County Election Department at 386-4055 through Aug. 6. After that date, however, addresses may only be changed by coming in to the Clark County Election Department office before Aug. 14.

THE NEW POVERTY

By Norman Hill

At three in the afternoon New York's streets seem more crowded than in summers past. One has the impression, though, that it is more than the oppressive heat that is responsible for the mostly young crowds which appear to co-exist in idleness with the city's constant bustle of cars and trucks and the unending flow of executives in pin-stripes. Walking the city's streets one is, likewise, barraged by an almost unrelenting stream of panhandlers, three-card monte dealers and shopping bag ladies.

Casual observations do not tell us everything about the state of the city nor about this country's economy. But they do give a sense of where we are as we mark the eighteenth month of the Reagan Administration's term in office.

First-hand observations are often an unreliable way of detecting social trends. But sober statistics seem to confirm what one sees in the streets. A grim consensus among economists and social scientists is developing concerning an upswing in poverty unprecedented in the post-war era.

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The new poverty is in large measure the result of the recession which has gripped our country for well over two years. It is likewise a product of the ideologically doctrinaire fiscal policies pursued by the Reagan Administration. In 1982, the experts ominously agree, the ranks of our country's poor will swell by an additional four million Americans, a dis-

proportionate number of whom will be black.

The net effect of this trend is that by the end of the Reagan Administration's term in office, poverty in America will, very likely, climb to the levels of the early 1960s, i.e. to the levels before our nation waged its War on Poverty and before the intro-

duction of the Great Society programs.

In 1978 30.6% of black Americans were to be found among the ranks of the poor and indigent. In 1981 the figure stood at 34.2%. By the end of 1982, a year in which President Reagan promised economic growth and unparalleled prosperity, the percentage of black poor is expected to top 37 percent. Overall, the

percentage of Americans, black and white, below the poverty level may reach 17 percent.

The new involuntary recruits into the ranks of the poor are different from their predecessors. Many were not born into poverty. Many had experienced steady incomes and had proven themselves in the world of work. A significant number of the new poor are blue-collar families which once enjoyed a decent standard of living but have been hurt severely by the decline in jobs in heavy industry. Steelworkers and autoworkers, who several years ago were looking toward a life of hard work, but with just reward, are today confronted by the spectre of repossessions, defaults on mortgages, poverty, and a life with little or no promise.

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PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



Whether we agree or not, politics are important. This is the reason why so many Conservatives in this state would prefer Santini over Cannon for the U.S. Senate and Myron Leavitt over Richard Bryan for Governor.

The political choices of the Conservatives should not be the political choices of the black community. The black community requires political candidates to be much more humanistic in their approach to the political system than that which would be required by the Conservative-backed candidates who on the record show a much greater allegiance to property and the wealthy.

The black community survival would not allow it to support candidates for political office who hold the same views as those who are now presently in control of the national government. The black community cannot and should not contribute to this

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