

To Whom Does It Belong?

The West Las Vegas Power Structure - Part XII

By George A. Burns

The power structure of West Las Vegas has indeed evolved into an even more powerful and organized coalition of organization, civic, political and business leaders and spokespersons since this series began just twelve short weeks ago.

The main purpose of this series was to really gain some input from those leaders of course, but our main thrust was to get opinions, views and feedback from those whom the leaders represented, those being the residents of the West Las Vegas community.

Ideally, it would have been great to have been able to have gained the opinions of every resident of West Las Vegas, but this would have been impossible. But what was derived from mostly every person questioned was a variation of many answers. Some were quite emphatic in their opinions of the power structure. There were also found to be those who felt favorably of the way the present leadership was handling its responsibilities, and of course there were those who were critical of those same leaders and in their job performance.

Also derived from every person talked to was an expression of hope, hope in the present leaders of West Las Vegas and a deeper hope in the future leadership of the community. In fact, almost everyone questioned expressed a desire for more involvement on the part of the youth in the community, especially in the political arena. Attesting to this very fact was Patricia Stevens who stated in Part X of the series, "I've always felt firm in my belief that the younger ones should educate and groom themselves more to take a leadership role in the future."

Those At The Helm Of Leadership In The West Las Vegas Power Structure

Just who are those who're at the "throttle of control" in the West Las Vegas Power Structure?

Well during the past 12 weeks, we have found that these individuals come from all walks of life and they too have a variation of backgrounds. Some have made their presence known for years in the area, while others are newcomers on the scene. Some are educationally astute, while others lead more in the direction of and on a "common-sense" basis. Some, such as the older power brokers of the community have been referred to as "the old guards", while the upcoming leaders of tomorrow, who happen to maybe be younger, more aggressive and creative in their thinking, but perhaps lacking the wisdom and experience found in the older leadership, are often referred to as "the brain trusts of tomorrow," or "the best and the brightest," etc... But dismissing "cliches" or titles, we find that the West Las Vegas community is bestowed with a group of well trained and sophisticated leaders, and though they may not be perfect by any means, they are all in their own way, through their various organizations, attempting to alter the course of the West Las Vegas community and attempting to make things better for it, and working vigorously attain fair, just and equal treatment towards the community from "the powers that be."

Also in the past 12 weeks, we have noted a very important and significant trend on the part of the West Las Vegas leadership. They seem to be joining forces as one, unified in their efforts to achieve their "piece of the pie" for the community! And that's a fact that's becoming clearer and more evident every day.

During the past 12 weeks, this series have proven to be challenging, exciting and very informative, and just as we didn't have the opportunity to talk to

every resident of West Las Vegas, the same held true as far as the leadership was concerned. But we have listed below, names of those whom we felt to be among the "power brokers" of the community. Those young and old ones who are at the helm of control in the West Las Vegas power structure are felt to be among those listed. The listing of names is not in specific order of importance, and hopefully we will include most of whom we feel to be at the "throttle of control" in the structure.

Just as we've not been able to talk to every resident and leader of West Las Vegas during the past 12 weeks, we, in our greatest attempt might miss some individuals who are considered to be just as important and vital as those named, and those who may consider themselves to be vital forces in the community, and feel their roles to be of significance importance. But those listed are the opinions of the community residents either questioned directly or indirectly about whom they felt to be the key leaders in the West Las Vegas Power Structure.

To Whom Does The Power Structure Belong?

It belongs to each and every resident of the West Las Vegas community! But it is to be noted and equally realized that it's the responsibility of each and every person who considers themselves to be a leader of the community and part of the structure to see to it that West Las Vegas begins and continues to grow and be a part of the Las Vegas economic

and power structure as well, today, tomorrow and forever! That should be the aim of the West Las Vegas Power Structure and to every person who considers themselves to be a vital, important and forceful part of it.

The general consensus lists the following to be among today's leaders:

Rev. Marion Bennett, Assemblyman Lonie Chaney, Assemblyman Gene Collins, Ray Willis, State Sen. Joe Neal, Bob Bailey, Evan Williams, County Commissioner Woodrow Wilson, City Commissioner William Pearson, Sarann Knight-Predy, Gwyn Brown, Roosevelt Fitzgerald, Shelby Givens, Morris Arberry, David Washington, Ernest Fountain, Virginia Brooks-Brewster, Jerry Lockhart, Leonard Brown, Rev. I.W. Wilson, Bishop Ernest V. Webb, Rev. Edward M. Smith, Rev. A.J. Thompson, Rev. James Allen, Rev. Sam Roberson, Rev. Ted Culveston, Rev. Willie Davis, Rev. S.P. Parks, Otis Harris, Elijah Green, Danny Curtis, James Tyree, Betty Brown, Ruby Duncan, Alyce Keyes, Dr. James McMillan, James (Jimmy) Gay, Jimmy Love, Dr. H.P. Fitzgerald, June Whitley, Theron Goynes, Raymond Blankes, Dr. Thomas E. Wilson, Richard Blue, Dr. Herschel Williams, John Edmond, Steven Cook, Ed Brown, Willie Shields, Judge Addeliar Guy, Judge Earle White, Jr., James Toler, Lucille Hughes, Booker Evans, Lubertha Johnson, Bonnie Juniell, Atty. James (Jimmy) Porter, James Chaney, Marjorie Elliot, Booker T. Evans and Erma O'Neal.

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