

Education

After 30 years of service.....

REV. GEORGE WARD RETIRES FROM CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

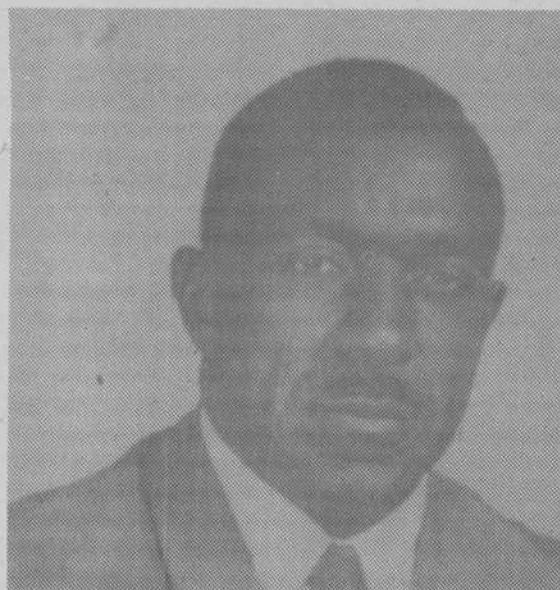
On June 4 Rev. George Ward retired from the Clark County School District after having taught here for 30 years.

Born in Forest, Mississippi, the son of the late Fannie and George Ward, he came to Las Vegas in January, 1942. All of his years in Nevada have been spent in West Las Vegas, where he is a lay minister in the Church of God in Christ.

Ward received his early education in Las Vegas at the 5th Street Grammar School. As a youth he served in the Navy in the Pacific Theater of Operation during World War II, then returned to Las Vegas following the war and completed his schooling at the Las Vegas High School.

He continued his education, receiving his B.A. degree from Arizona State University, and M.A. and M.S. degrees from Northern Arizona University. He has done post graduate study at UNLV, Utah State, UNR, the University of Utah, Arizona State University and Los Angeles State.

Ward's first teaching contract was for \$3,000.00 per year plus \$200.00 extra because of his military service. His first teaching assignment was a fifth grade



Rev. George Ward

teacher at the old Westside Elementary School. His last assignment was as a teacher at the Clark County Evening High School.

Ward recalls that life was rather strange for Blacks in Las Vegas during the 40's. "We were called Negroes then in West Las Vegas," he says. "There were no role models, only janitors, maids, dishwashers and yard boys. The best jobs for women were in the powder rooms in hotels and for men the best job was picking up dice that fell from the gambling tables. These were the "big shot" jobs."

He continued, "We could only leave the Westside to go to school

or to work. There were no school buses, no libraries, no nothing - only sand and dust."

"Nobody was interested in the education of Black youth during those days," he said. "There were no grants or any kind of aid. Scholarships for Blacks were a 'no-no'. Teachers were told then to just take care of the Black youngsters and leave them alone. Counselors ignored the Blacks. Boys were sent to Shop classes and to the ball teams. The girls were sent to cooking and homemaking classes."

He related that during those years he saw only "one picture of some Black people in a school textbook. They were in a Southern cottonfield. There was a caption under the picture that read: 'Our Negroes are all good workers and they can all cook and sing well.' Everything was stacked against us. We had to motivate and educate ourselves. Most Blacks dropped out of school."

"I have seen many changes in the Clark County School District in

the past 30 years," he continued. "When I was hired there was only one high school and two elementary schools. There were only five Black teachers, all in the elementary schools. Today there are many more."

Ward has taught in five Las Vegas schools during his career. "Today I have former students in every state in the Union and in some foreign countries," he proudly states.

He feels that his years as a teacher have been rewarding and quite gratifying. "I have touched the lives of students in every walk of life," he muses. "during my last years, I taught the second generations of some of my former pupils. I have had pupils of every race, nationality and creed. I meet them wherever I go in Las Vegas. I did not win them all; I lost a few. But even Jesus Christ did not win everybody."

A number of things stand out vividly in his mind. "One," he recalls, "was the tape exchange program that I organized between my pupils and children of the same age in other countries. The idea was to promote international friendship. For this I received the Outstanding Citizenship Award."

Being a family, Ward is very proud of his wife, Earlene, who is an Elementary School Teacher for the Clark County School District; his two daughters, Phyllis and Lynn; and his three grandchildren.

Ward leaves the following advice to the youth of today: "...Work and study hard. You must be determined. Nothing is easy

TEEN ACHIEVER RECOGNIZED

Miss Kenya Owen, age 14, daughter of Mrs. Barbara Chambers of Las Vegas, Nevada, has been selected to compete in the 1983 NEVADA MISS T.E.E.N. Pageant to be held at The Showboat Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada on the weekend of July 22-24, 1983. This Pageant is the Official State-wide Finals for the MISS T.E.E.N. NATIONAL PAGEANT to be held at Kiva Auditorium, Albuquerque, New Mexico, December 3, 1983. Contestants are between the ages of 14 and 18 and must maintain at least a "B" average in school. They are required to contribute at least 12 hours of Volunteer Service to a non-profit organization. This program promotes awareness of the needs of others, and participation in the community. MISS T.E.E.N. is very proud of its association with the March of Dimes, through its participation and support of their programs. Throughout the Nation, 1982 MISS T.E.E.N. Contestants

contributed 600,000 hours of Volunteer Service work.

Among the prizes the Winner of the 1983 NEVADA MISS T.E.E.N. PAGEANT will receive is an all expense paid trip to compete in the NATIONAL FINALS, and a \$500.00 Cash Scholarship to the school of her choice. Over \$30,000 in Cash Scholarships, Awards and Prizes, including a brand new Lincoln-Mercury LN-7 Car for use during the Queen's reign will be awarded at the National Pageant in December. Contestants will be judged on Scholastic Achievement, Volunteer Service, Formal Presentation, Interview, and a choice of Speech or Talent. MISS T.E.E.N. being a scholarship Pageant, no swimsuit competition is required.

Miss Kenya Owen is sponsored by R.J. Robinson of the Memory Lane Lounge in Las Vegas. Her hobbies include running, swimming, and collecting Michael Jackson photos.

ARC Offers Advanced First Aid Course

Everything that you always wanted to know about first aid, from how to fix a scraped knee to how to deliver a baby in an emergency, will be taught in an Advanced First Aid class to be offered by the Clark County Chapter, American Red Cross, beginning August 2.

For information on how to enroll in the course, call your Red Cross at 384-1225.

teaching. Now he plans to get some well earned rest. Then he'll get involved again.

anymore. You can make it if you try. Set a goal, have a dream. You must aspire. Look up, not down or around. Use your education to help uplift other Blacks. You must not exploit them. For God's sake, let no one crush your spirit or destroy your dreams. You must not lose hope; when you lose hope, you're finished. 'Rise up, you mighty nation; you can accomplish what you will.' Live a clean, decent life. As long as your mind is clean and your body is clean, your are as good as anybody else and better than many. 'Cast down your bucket where your are.' Ward has enjoyed

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