

Olga Webb's illness made husband Nayman dig in to meet the challenge

FAITH, HOPE, DETERMINATION REMAINED HALLMARKS FOR OLGA'S BEAUTY & SUPPLY DURING PERIODS OF ADVERSITY

Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice in-depth reports on many Las Vegas black businesses striving to make their mark in the area and total community. Last week we developed the first installment on the growth of Olga's Beauty and Barber Supply. The report continues this week depicting the many adversities and struggles experienced by the owners Nayman and Olga Webb during their years in operation. Despite these experiences, the Webbs have refused to look back. This installment shows how they have succeeded particularly during the serious illnesses of Olga Webb.

Adversity does not always deny one opportunities. One who is determined to succeed can sometimes see doors opening for a "greater tomorrow"—a renewed path toward growth and development—a beckoning toward success — if one takes the bold step — steps that allow one to "see the rainbow."

Such determination, despite early experiences of struggle and adversity best describes the path chosen by Nayman and Olga Webb.

The Webbs opened their first beauty and barber supply during 1974 at the Shopping

Center then identified as the Golden West Shopping Center, near the corner of West Owens and "H" Street. This initial outlet was located at 1056 W. Owens next to the NAACP offices. It was a period of trial and error.

Although Olga Webb had postured this career with an early start in Los Angeles working for a

Stardust Hotel.

With their meager savings, the Webbs bought some beauty and barber supply products. They struggled with early transportation problems thus faced a slow development of clients. Nayman Webb, while a new resident in Las Vegas, faced early problems of getting adequate transpor-

their second store in the Twin Lakes area near the K-Mart during 1979 as another wholesale and retail outlet. They opened their third store in the Civic Center in North Las Vegas during 1980.

Their next goal was to answer the beckoning in the Sparks, Nevada area. It became their fourth outlet during

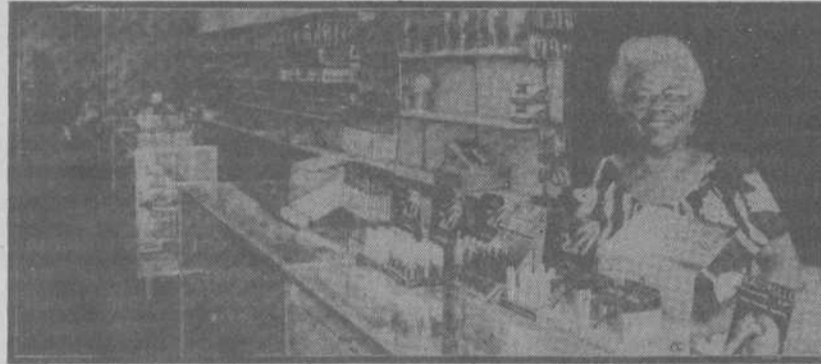
1981.

Olga Webb became seriously ill during 1982 and received a heart bypass operation. During 1983 she was again hospitalized and given a leg by-pass operation and while in the hospital found that she needed a kidney operation. The recovery period had been a long suffering period for Olga Webb

but she has persevered and now has returned to work about two weeks ago.

Strong-willed Nayman Webb fought through those trying years during Olga's absence.

NEXT WEEK: What has given the Webbs the will and strength to survive successfully?



Olga's Beauty & Barber Supply
2101 Civic Center
Pictured Olga Webb

distributor, she gained much "solid" experience here working shortly after arrival in Las Vegas at the Nate Collins Forward Move Beauty Supply. During this period, Nayman Webb, a former insurance broker, first worked as a waiter at the

tation. Developing a credit line at that early stage was very critical. After many hard sacrificing months they were finally able to receive some dependable transportation thus propelling opportunities for expansion.

The Webbs opened

KEOUGH PRESENTED KING AWARD

Donald R. Keough, president and chief operating officer, The Coca-Cola Company, was presented the Second Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Award during ceremonies recently at the M.L. King Commemorative Breakfast in Kingston, Jamaica.

The award, presented jointly by the Jamaica America Society and the United States Information Service, is presented to an outstanding Jamaican humanitarian in alternate years.

Keough, the first non-Jamaican to be honored, follows Jamaican Prime Minister, Edward P.G. Seaga, who was presented the award last year.

In receiving the award, Keough said, "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. challenged all of us to share the responsibility for the quality of human life, and he lived, worked and died for freedom and human dignity for all mankind." Keough continued,

M&M Products Co. Continues Production

ATLANTA, Ga.—A minority owned hair care products company in Atlanta has decided to rebuild its manufacturing facilities, heavily damaged by fire on Jan. 14, without waiting for insurance reimbursements.

M&M Products Company, the nation's 11th largest Black owned company, had its manufacturing operation shut down by the blaze. Co-owners Cornell McBride, President, and Therman McKenzie, Executive Vice President, said company priorities "won't allow an open-ended delay brought about by time needed for assessments and insurance adjustments."

McKenzie said he and his partner had made that decision to ensure "that our people stay employed and that we have no delay in shipping to our distributors." He said insurance appraisals could take several weeks, meaning a delay in rebuilding the 29 Royal Drive facility in south Atlanta. "We don't want anything to tamper with our shelf position, because we're strong and want to keep it that way," he continued. He said the commitment to rebuild immediately is in keeping with the aggressive approach he and McBride have always followed.

The two Black pharmacists have taken several such steps in their 11 years in business. Their company's growth from a \$500 investment in 1973 to \$45 million in

sales indicate that most of their gambles have paid off. In addition to being the country's 11th largest minority owned firm, it is the world leader in ethnic hair care product sales in Africa and the United Kingdom.

Less than ten days after the fire, management had figured out a way to bottle its leading products on an "interim manufacturing line." "Traditionally Black people have had to do a lot of things for themselves and that tradition continues to generate innovative approaches,"

McKenzie declared. He said company engineers and manufacturing line employees came to him and McBride with the idea. "Suddenly we were manufacturing again—if only on a limited scale—and that kind of dedication and thinking caused us to go ahead with the idea of rebuilding immediately," he said.

Paul Turner, Vice President of Finance, said only preliminary estimates of loss have been determined and public adjusters are working "around the clock" to assess such losses. "We know that certain equipment which is no longer manufactured was heavily damaged and it's difficult to ascertain cost for repair or updating," Turner said.

McKenzie said the company will be at full capacity within 30 to 45 days.

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