

Imperial Palace Auto Collection Buys "Father Divine's Throne Duesenberg"

Long the home of unique and historic automobiles, the Imperial Palace Auto Collection in Las Vegas has purchased a 1937 Duesenberg custom built for "Father Divine," the leader of a religious cult that flourished during the Depression. The very expensive car was a gift to "Father" from an admirer.

The 7,800 pound automobile was built on an extra long chassis, the wheelbase measuring 178 inches. It became known as the "Throne Car" because the rear quarter section can be removed to expose the occupants on the elevated rear seats.

The car is closely associated with Father Divine. His messianic career began in 1915 when George Baker, a black preacher from Georgia, set up headquarters in Sayville, Long Island. He gained both black and white followers by feeding the hungry, helping them get jobs, and promising them eternal life, security and equality. In return they gave him total loyalty and all earnings were communally shared.

Complaints from his Long Island neighbors about the crowds who frequently shouted and sang half the night resulted in the arrest of "George Baker, alias Father Divine, alias God" for disturbing the peace. The judge, who appeared to be in good health, gave Divine the maximum penalty. Four days

later the 50-year-old judge dropped dead. From his prison cell, Father Divine said, "I hated to do it." The impact on his followers was powerful, and many new devotees flocked to his "Peace Mission Movement."

The movement ran many businesses under the name "God Incorporated." As the profits poured in, Father Divine invested shrewdly in real estate, buying at one time a large hotel for half a million dollars, believed in suitcases of cash. Many of his followers were wealthy and gave him expensive gifts. Besides the Duesenberg, he received a 73 acre estate in Philadelphia. It is said he left some \$10 million in the care of his second wife, "Mother Divine."

In his heyday, Father Divine claimed 20 million followers who accepted him as Master of Omnipotence, Dynamo of Salvation. Before his death in 1965 he assured his followers he was not dying, merely "dematerializing" and would return in another body.

The Duesenberg Throne Car will be on display soon in the Imperial Palace Auto Collection on the fifth floor of the hotel's parking facility. The Collection, which features more than 200 antique, classic and special interest cars, is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

CHILD WATCH

By Marian Wright Edelman
President, Children's Defense Fund

Half of all black children in America today are poor.

Given this fact, one would assume that our Congress would not take any action which would make this tragic situation any worse.

But, unbelievably, it may. At this writing, Congress is considering a bill which could wreak havoc on survival programs for poor and near-poor American families. Congress may have already acted on this measure by the time you read this. This bill, introduced by Senators Phil Gramm (R-TX) and Warren Rudman (R-NH) would eliminate the budget deficit by 1991 through deep cuts in federal spending.

All programs would not suffer equally, however. In

its present version, Gramm-Rudman would protect tax breaks for the well-off and large chunks of the federal budget such as Social Security and much of military spending. This means that programs for poor children, already cut to the bare bones, would have to bear twice their share of the spending reductions.

Under the current plan, these cuts would hurt every single program that now serves many black families struggling to survive. To meet the tough deficit reduction targets, across-the-board cuts of ten to twenty percent are entirely possible.

What would a 20 percent cut mean for poor black

RENO CSA

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costs of mortgage payments, management services, and other operating costs would be obtained through rents paid by tenants of the apartments. Rental would be set at "fair market value" as set by HUD. Tenants would pay 25 percent of their income in rent with the rest guaranteed by HUD through Section 8 subsidies.

Under the auspices of the Community Services Agency

School parent conference day reset for Nov. 12-14

Parent conference days for elementary students in nine-month schools have been scheduled for Nov. 12-14.

On conference days, school will be dismissed two hours and 50 minutes after starting time. Lunch will not be provided on these days.

Kindergarten parent conferences will be held all three days and kindergarten students will not attend classes.

Roller Skating Special Scheduled

The City of Las Vegas is sponsoring a Roller Skating special activity for elementary age children. This event will be held on Nov. 13 during Parent/Teacher Conferences.

A \$2 fee includes transportation to and from the local recreation center and skates. Pre-registration is required. Registration and sign-up available at all City of Las Vegas community centers. For more information, call 386-6297.

children?

- Hundreds of thousands of black children could have their only access to a doctor threatened by cuts in the Medicaid program.

- Hundreds of thousands of black students could be denied the extra help they need to keep up in class, provided under the Chapter 1 Education for the Disadvantaged program.

- Many more black children could be going hungry more often, due to cuts in school lunch programs, Food Stamps, and other nutrition programs.

- Thousands of black children could have to be cut from Head Start, a preschool program that has been proven cost-effective time and again, but which, even now, is only reaching 18 percent of those eligible.

of Washoe County, the project was initiated in 1983 with the formation of the Board of Directors of CSA 202, Inc. In August, 1983, application was made for highly competitive HUD Section 202 funding with final approval being granted on September 26, 1985 in the amount of \$1,655,300.

A total of \$125,000 was designated for purchase of property with \$1,530,300 allocated for structure design, construction, and scheduled for completion in May, 1986, the complex will include two elevators for convenient access, a recreation area, and central dining. The facility is located within very close proximity to Citifare, Washoe County's public transportation system. Once complete, the Reno Housing Authority will be contracted to manage the units. Funds to cover the

land improvements. Community Development Block Grant funds from the City of Reno provided financial assistance to this project. These funds were essential to making the project a reality.

The project is an important step towards addressing the Reno Housing Assistance Plan goal of providing 60 units for elderly housing to supplement the Reno Housing Authority's 730 housing units and the 570 Section 8 federally subsidized residences currently available. Approximately 20,000 people in Reno and Sparks are now in need of low-cost housing and 2,000 people are currently on the Reno Housing Authority's waiting list for housing assistance.

C.S.A. has identified the most noted problems of the elderly as consisting of housing, health care,

transportation, and the need for social interaction. The primary cause of problems of the elderly is declining income. The average cost of a one bedroom apartment in 1985 to Washoe County is \$448 per month and the cost of housing can consume more than 50 percent of a person's income. It is not unusual for two families to share an apartment. Current public housing and rent subsidy programs do not cover this need. C.S.A. has recently submitted a second proposal to construct 30 additional units of HUD 202 Senior Housing.

Community Services Agency of Washoe County is a non-profit community action agency established to plan, implement, and administer a broad range of services and activities designed to address major poverty problems in Washoe County.

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