

HAWTHORNE

A Bank Was Not One of the Early Luxuries

It is a fact that Hawthorne got along very well for 60 years without a bank. This is not to say the town had no money lenders nor "exchangers" who often charged a fee.

It must be remembered that when Hawthorne became a town the common "media" of exchange were (that's correct -- media is the plural of medium) gold and silver coins or even a "poke" of gold dust. Most transactions were completed with a single book entry or a shake of the hand. Settlement was made when the debtor could produce something of value to the creditor.

Somehow, those transactions were made and completed with a maximum of trust, often settled on the

barter system, and long before the post office money order system came into the picture. Even though most Nevada pioneer camps had to have a bank as well as a post office, newspaper, catthouse and brewer to attain status

proved it never should have been opened); and even in Mina there was a reasonable facsimile of one. Hawthorne couldn't enjoy that "luxury" until the outbreak of World War II.

Even then, the best that

grocery store and drug store.) So, the Navy quickly erected another unit northwest of the Hanson Store and Post Office and the bank moved into the larger quarters. The former bank site became the location of a "dress shop" which had the convenience of a vault for storage of fur coats. Nuf Sed.

When war ended, Security faced a major decision -- would it abandon its wartime "bucket shop" and pull back to Reno with a single office, or accept the great risk of opening a bona fide branch office in Babbitt, maybe even in Hawthorne? A happy compromise was reached.

Tempted by the beneficent offerings of a kindly government, Security agreed to open a actual bank, and did so -- but in Babbitt. It was not until 1965 that Security actually cut bait with the federal government and finally "came to town." The old Chinese Home Cafe on E Street had folded and, finally, a suitable location for a bank was found -- in town, cockroaches, and all. Today, with a change in name to Security Bank of Nevada it remains in business as the first bank ever to establish in Hawthorne.

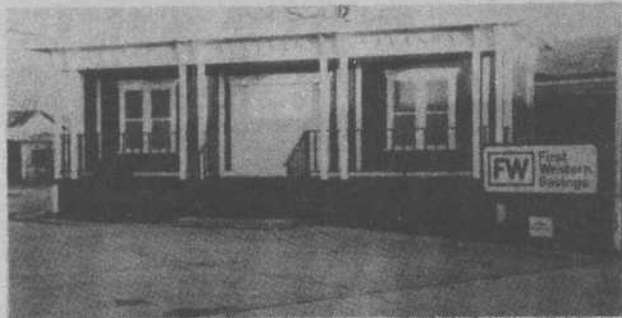
By this time, however, Security was not the only money store in town. The

NAD Federal Credit Union was established in February. First manager of the credit union was Jane Spears, who served from 1951 to 1952, then Carl Barnes, from 1952 to 1961, when he was succeeded by William Verling, who is completed his 20th year as manager

this year.

The most recent "financial institution" to enter the Hawthorne field is First Western Savings Association which opened a one-day-a-week service a little more than a year ago and now is open on a five-day-a-week service.

For information, in Hawthorne, concerning locations of the weekly papers for distribution, contact Clarence Banks at 945-2871.



First Western Savings - Hawthorne Office

as a town, Hawthorne survived without a bank.

Aurora had a bank; so did Rawhide (but later events

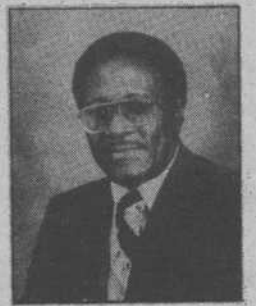
could be conferred upon Hawthorne was a "facility" (this newspaper called it a "bucket shop") located within the confines of the naval ammunition depot which provided nothing more than money exchange service. The Security National Bank of Nevada -- with one office in Reno -- jumped at the chance to accept a subsidized opportunity to eventually open a branch office in Hawthorne.

The first office space provided by the Navy for Security in Babbitt, part of the Babbitt "shopping center" proved inadequate. (It was located on the southeast side of the complex that included the

THE NAACP AND YOU!



Rev. Jesse D. Scott
President
Las Vegas, NAACP



Planning for 1986 — and the future

Although there are a few days remaining in 1985, the Las Vegas Branch NAACP has already begun making plans for its thrust in 1986 and beyond.

However, before we can do any real comprehensive planning, we must have the participation and involvement of committed people.

To that end a committee has been appointed to make contact with all past Branch presidents and executive committee members and invite them to come to a Christian fellowship.

After the fellowship, we hope that these former branch officers and others will agree to help us develop these plans.

First, we must list what needs to be done in terms of the elimination of discrimination against Black people in Clark County and Nevada.

Secondly, we must project or decide what will be done first. This discussion will be based upon what issues that are most damaging or urgently aggravating. Additionally the determination of what will be number one, two or three issues will depend upon the people and resources available to challenge these inequities.

Thirdly, we must establish a budget to underwrite the cost of these efforts outlining possible expenditures and sources of revenue.

Those of us who are committed to the cause of

Freedom have the power in our hands to make the NAACP as active and effective as we want it to be.

NAACP Committee Must Be Reactivated

Our plans call for the reactivation of our youth including ACT/so, the Scholarship Program.

When we consider the disproportionate number of our youth who are unemployed (50 percent) and the number in prison (50 percent) then you know that we have problems.

The drug abuse problem that some of our youth have is killing us morally, spiritually and physically.

If something is not done very soon we will end up with a generation of addicts as our children and grandchildren.

Therefore we need you, the reader of this column to join the NAACP and help us help your children.

We must have the following committees: Legal Redress to investigate the legality of problems arising out of complaints alleging racial discrimination.

Ways and means to initiate sources of revenue as income for the budget.

Fair share to target statistically those corporations that receive patronage from Blacks but do not share the funds and power that their dollars generate.

Make democracy Thrive — Join the NAACP in '85.

Write to the NAACP, P.O. Box 4887, Las Vegas, Nev. 89127. Call 646-1662.



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