



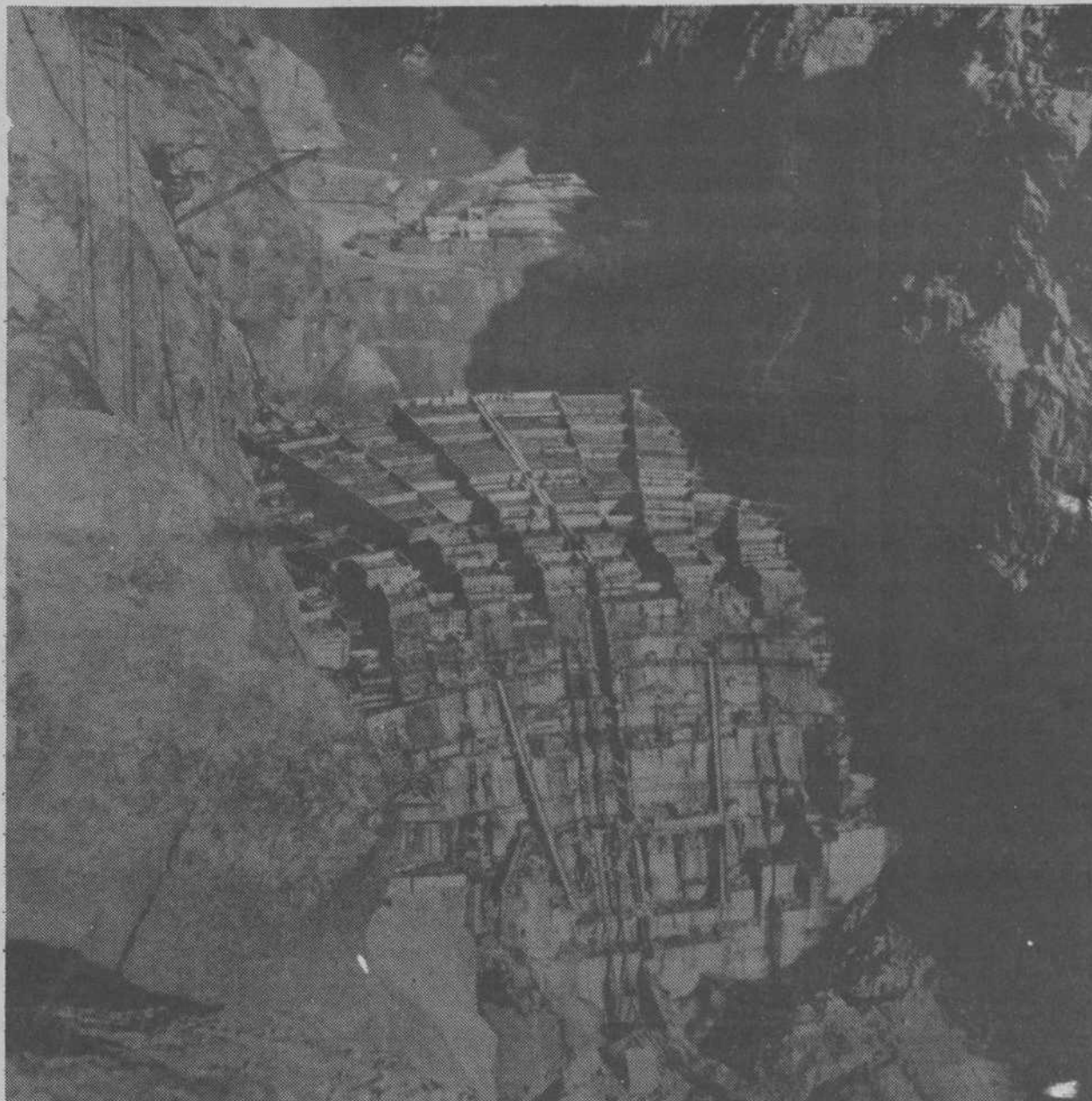
Professor Fitzgerald is director of ethnic studies at University of Nevada-Las Vegas

Louisiana, Mississippi and other southern states, and informed them of the job opportunities here. Because of the recently passed Executive Order and the establishment of the FEPC, Blacks did not encounter difficulties in securing employment. As a matter of fact, they were actively recruited.

The reason given was a complete switch from ten years earlier with the dam project. The work on that project, in the black canyon of the Colorado River, involved working in intense heat and under extreme duress. In 1941, employers were claiming, stereotypically, that Blacks could handle the intense heat much better than could whites. Every seventh grade science student knows that dark colors absorb and retain more heat than do lighter colors. Whatever the reason, Blacks in Las Vegas had an opportunity to earn money, legitimately, and in large numbers, for the first time in Las Vegas' short history.

Basic Refractories Company of Cleveland, Ohio had mining interests in Gabbs, Nevada which was the site of large deposits of Magnesite and Burcite. Through the auspices of the newly formed Defense Plant Corp., they were enticed to begin extracting the materials. In order to process the minerals, two plants would be necessary. One had to be located at the site of the minerals and the other, because of the extraordinary energy and supportive needs, would be located near Las Vegas, Nevada. The plant would be known as The Basic Magnesium Corporation. Its opening would have profound impacts on the economic conditions existing in southern Nevada but, more importantly, it would have far reaching impacts on social conditions and future development of the area.

The 1940s ushered in a new era of race relations in Clark County. The decade had started with less than 200 blacks in the community



and ended with a figure approaching 5,000. Several thousands of Blacks from the southeastern United States arrived here. They were not well received. Their arrival coincided with the city's

removal of blacks from downtown and their relegation to the westside. They entered an already over crowded section of town.

The opening of BMI created the town of

Henderson and placed it among the top three most populated towns of the state. It also brought about the greatest single immigration of Blacks to the state of Nevada. That event, along

with the establishment almost simultaneously of military bases, moved the southern portion of the state of Nev. along the way to becoming the thriving metropolis it is today.

Black History Group Saves Property By Getting \$40,000 Now

By Larry Still
NNPA News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A successful "grassroots" campaign has raised more than \$40,000 to block the auction sale of the Carter G. Woodson Black History Center and original home, Dr. Bonnie H. Gillespie, executive director of the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, announced last week.

The Center was established in 1915 by the late author, educator and historian, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, to collect,

maintain and disseminate records and information about the contributions of Blacks to American life. It was scheduled to be sold by January 24 for nonpayment of \$60,000 in taxes and other debts.

The fund raising drive to keep the historic property from being auctioned for mostly three years in real estate and payroll taxes was culminated on the eve of Black History Month, starting February 1, a national observance originated by the association established by Woodson.

The ASALH also announced the installation of new national officers for 1986, including Dr. William H. Harris, president; Robert C. Harris, Jr., first vice-president; Darlene Clark Hines, second vice-president, and Jeanette

Hoston Harris (no-relations), secretary-treasurer. New members of the board will be announced later following the balloting for officers last month.

The funds to save ASALH were raised through mail donations, new memberships, contributions at three rallies and a mass cultural program at the Shiloh Baptist Church here. Over 90 percent of the funds

came from the Washington area after the plight of the black history association was publicized, Gillespie stated.

He credited John Raye and Associates public relations firm and the Eagles sales organization with leading the campaign, but emphasized that "thousands of dollars" have been contributed to ASALH by individual board members.

Associated Publishers,

Inc., the separate distribution division of ASALH, is selling 1986 Black History Month kits for \$45 for schools, churches and

institutions, for fund raising purposes. Information may be obtained by contacting the association at 1401 14th Street, NW, Washington, D.C., 20005, 202-6672822.

center on the first floor of the Flamingo Library (1401 E. Flamingo) with a large print book collection, talking books and an Apollo Laser machine for people with vision problems.

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