

WESTSIDE SCHOOL ALUMNI SEARCH UNDERWAY (1922-1969)

by H. P. "Fitz" Fitzgerald

This is the first of a series of articles identifying some of the people who were at the Westside School between 1922 and 1969. These profiles will continue weekly until the Alumni Reunion Banquet to be held at the Union Plaza on Sunday, May 29 at 7 p.m. Tickets will be \$35.00.

HENRY J. MOORE, SR. —

Henry J. Moore was a star football player at Wisconsin University and Alabama State where he majored in chemistry with minors in mathematics and physics. He was a research chemist with the U.S. Bureau of Mines in Boulder City, Nevada when he became one of the only four Black teachers in Clark County, and the State of Nevada in 1947.

While at the Westside School from 1947 through 1953, Moore coached winning teams in basketball and track. And many of his former team members are now doctors, lawyers, school counselors and teachers, and some are in the Clergy. Moore ended his thirty-year career with the Clark County School District as a counselor at Western High School in 1979. Moore is married and the father of two children.

JOHN F. MENDOZA—John F.

Mendoza, now District Court Judge, Dept. V in Las Vegas, attended the Westside School, and graduated from the University of Notre Dame 1951, cum laude. He also attended, or was affiliated with Northwestern University, University of Texas, National College of Juvenile Justice, and the College of State Judiciary. Judge Mendoza has held almost two dozen positions in the field of law, and has received honors and awards too numerous to mention. He is founder of the Latin American Bar Association, and a former member of ARC-9 Program for Adoption of Hispanic Children. He is married and the father of five children. He is also a member of the Westside School Alumni Association Advisory Board.

DEPHANNE "LYNETTE" THOMAS

Daphanette Thomas attended the Westside school, where she received much of her elementary education. Thomas is now employed as a Graduate Research Assistant at Iowa State University, working on her Ph.D. degree.

Thomas has received numerous civic and service awards, including the Outstanding Young Woman of America in 1982. She now resides in Ames, Iowa.

Yvonne Atkinson-Gates has announced her candidacy for reelection to Clark County Board of School Trustees as the representative of District C.

She originally joined the board in April of 1985 by appointment in a field of several candidates vying as replacements for Virginia Brewster who resigned after being reelected. Atkinson-Gates has since won reelection. And now she tosses her hat into the ring once more.

"I've chosen as my campaign slogan, 'Let's Send a Message!' It fits with what I'm all about because by voting for me my constituents will send a clear and ever-present message that they support me and what I've stood for all along—quality education for everyone regardless of status, social standing, or other extenuating factors," said Atkinson-Gates.

During the time she served on the board, Atkinson-Gates has amassed a distinguished list of credentials. Not long after becoming a school board member she founded the Parent Advisory Committee on Education (PACE). PACE soon gained stature as a parent group which advocates for students and their best educational interest.

Among other major accomplishments early on during her first term on the school board, Atkinson-

Gates sponsored the first-ever Town Hall Meeting at Nucleus Plaza, bringing the school district administration directly to the citizens.

"My intent was to make it possible for district staff to be in an area where parents and students would feel comfortable in expressing their interests in familiar surroundings." And, Atkinson-Gates stressed, "The experiment worked extremely well!"

Another of her endeavors was a College Fair at Doolittle Recreation Center. Assisted by PACE, she arranged for college information to be provided by educators who also dispensed advice to students regarding college application and scholarships.

Not content with resting on her laurels, Atkinson-Gates went on to establish four classes on Parenting Skills and Techniques at Clark County Juvenile Court Services.

Perhaps the most recognizable accomplishment of her early years on the board was the Summer Kindergarten Program. Although not established on a permanent basis, the summer program proved so successful that it is still under consideration for extended funding.

When Just Say No To Drug chapters were starting to organize in Clark County, Atkinson-Gates arranged to have a reknowned anti-drug expert speak at a community meeting at Las Vegas High School Auditorium. And, since the establishment of Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) programs in several Clark County Schools, she has been fully supportive.

Known as a progressive individual with a vision, Yvonne Atkinson-Gates grew up in Las Vegas. She attended elementary, junior high and high school here. She graduated from Clark high School, earned an undergraduate degree from UNLV and holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration, also from UNLV.



Yvonne Atkinson-Gates

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SPENCER BROWN NAMED FEBRUARY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AT THE IMPERIAL PALACE

Spencer Brown does more than serve a great cocktail. The 28-year-old bartender at the Mai Tai Bar in the Imperial Palace Hotel & Casino entertains his customers



Spencer Brown

with his wit and humor and, at the same time, keeps a watchful eye out for those who may have had too much to drink.

Brown's concern for his customers and his dedication to his job have earned him February 'Employee of the

Month' at the Imperial Palace.

"I never really thought I deserved to be Employee of the Month but I thought maybe, someday, my time would come," Brown said. "It means a lot to me. It tells me that I'm doing my job and doing it the best I can. It feels good."

Brown has been with the Imperial Palace since June of 1984 when he moved from Reno to Las Vegas. He began as a bar trainee but moved into a full-time position in less than three weeks. He has been serving the exotic Mai Tai Bar drinks since. In fact, he has created his own drink — "Spencer For Hire." While he is reluctant to give away his secret, Brown revealed that it is a mix of three drinks.

"It was more of trial by error before I came up with the drink," Brown said. "Steady customers come in here and ask for it now."

Brown is originally from

Enfield, N.C., which is 60 miles from Raleigh. As a senior in high school, he was named to the "Who's Who" of American outstanding students. He went on to attend the University of North Carolina where, at 6-5, 210 pounds, he was a member of the Tar Heels' junior varsity basketball team.

Brown would later leave North Carolina for Reno where he worked as a bartender and a showroom waiter. He chose bartending.

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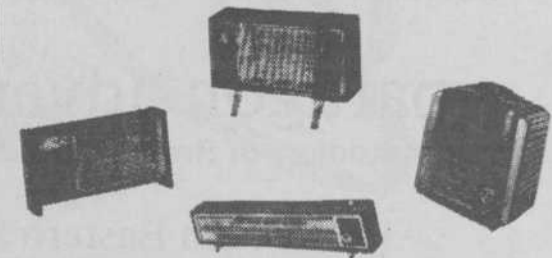
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