

## AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

by Gwen Walker

### Ebenezer D. Bassett (Diplomat)

Ebenezer D. Bassett was born in 1833 in Connecticut. Mr. Bassett was the first Black diplomat to represent the United States abroad. Immediately after his inauguration in 1869, President Grant appointed him as minister-resident to Haiti, which he held from 1869 - 1877. At the time of



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aware that America was considering annexing many of the islands in the area. Bassett, whose duty it was to keep the American government informed of developments on the island, was still able to ease the strong anti-American feeling in Haiti.

When he completed his assignment in 1877, the Haitians expressed their confidence in his integrity by appointing Bassett as their consul-general to the United States for 10 years. Upon his retirement from this post, he returned to live as a private citizen in Haiti. He published his HANDBOOK OF HAITI in French, English and Spanish; this was a valuable contribution to the geographical knowledge of the island. The American Geographical Society and the Connecticut Historical Society named him a member of their organizations in recognition of his contributions.



Ebenezer D. Bassett

his appointment, he was principle of the Institute for Colored Youth, a Quaker school in Philadelphia. He was educated at Wesley Academy in Wilbraham, Massachusetts, and at the Connecticut State Normal School, and had studied at Yale University.

Mr. Bassett served the United States in Haiti during a period of tense relations with her neighbor Santo Domingo. At this time, the Haitian government was

## 'Alumni Association Gears Up For Cultural Festival'

The Westside School Alumni Association is now accepting applications for participants in their 2nd Annual Cultural Festival, planned for the Memorial Day Weekend, Saturday, May 26 at Lorenzi Park. Their 1988 Reunion Festival brought more than 1,500 persons together from all across the country.

Activities planned include artist exhibits, crafts, carnival games, gospel fest, vocal and instrumental groups, and dance groups, just to name a few. Individuals and organizations wishing to participate should

## JACOB

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into serious negotiations with black leadership to reach a consensus on a new system that treats all groups fairly.

As for black resolve to continue to press for freedom, that is obvious. As Mr. Mandela said in his first words as a free man:

"We have waited too long for our freedom, and we can wait no longer. Now is the time to intensify the struggle."

Mr. Mandela has proved himself a man of dignity and extraordinary ability whose presence provides South Africans of all races with leadership that can usher in a new era for that sad nation.

call 649-7070 and leave their name, address and telephone number.

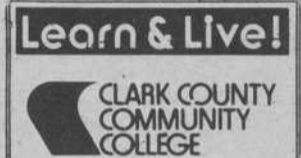
The Westside School Alumni Association is a non-profit corporation which provides tuition assistance to low income students entering college, trade, technical or business school.



SCHOLARSHIPS RECEIVED -- Itaska Warren, left, April Washington, Barbara Brown, recent scholarship winners, are shown with Virgie L. Fitzgerald, Treasurer of the Graceful Workers Community Club.

At present, he has been released from one prison into another, larger prison. For that is what his country is for

the black majority. With continued pressure from within and from without, today's prison can be transformed into tomorrow's garden.



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## From the Desk of the KCEP Community Affairs Director...

FM88 invites the public to join them in conjunction with Oasis magazine for an afternoon of jazz and poetry. This festive event starts at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 18 at the West Las Vegas Library. The function will feature local people displaying poetry at its finest, as well as good entertaining live jazz music.

They are gearing up once again to hit the court in another benefit basketball game. This time we will play "The Buppies", a team of professional Black men. This team consists of members ranging from political leaders to local business men and we're looking to have a wonderful time.

This Saturday on Youth Spectrum, we'll have a sur-

prise show starting at 10:30 a.m., followed by Straight Talk at 11:00 a.m. This week's guest will consist of members from AARP (a group of retired citizens). An Investment in Women...The Re-Entry Center. A Day of Change: Communications for Today's Women. Join Hostess Bobbie Troutman with "For Women Only." Her guest will be Faye Daniel, coordinator of the Re-Entry Center at Clark County Community College, starting at 11:30 a.m.

KCEP is owned and operated by E.O.B. of Clark County.

Again thanks.

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Community Affairs Director