

BLACK HISTORY

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Over the years Las Vegas, long known as the "Jewel of the Las Vegas Desert," has drawn millions of visitors annually to partake of what has made it famous: its gaming, its fabulous sites, and its top-notch entertainment.

However, it not only the visitors that have been drawn to the city, the world's top performers have been as well. With this, Las Vegas has earned the reputation of being the "Entertainment Capital of the World."

Entertainers from all walks of life who have mastered their craft, know they've made it to the top once they get the chance to play in one of Vegas fabulous showrooms.

Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Liza Minelli and many others made a fortune during Las Vegas' early years, but for the nation's top African-American performers, finding success and respect on the fabulous Strip was much more difficult.

Strangely enough, they didn't face their difficulties on stage. Many found success playing before sold-out white audiences.

It was when the nightly shows ended that the reality of that time in American history set in, and segregation, again, reared its ugly head, even for the most popular and successful entertainers.

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ily for money. The problem in the Strip's early days (the early 1940's), however, was that these stellar performers, after playing before packed houses, were not allowed to stay at the establishments where they appeared. This included the likes of the Tremiers, who began to appear downtown near the end of the

war, and the Will Mastin Trio starring Sammy Davis Jr. in the 1944, who played the El Rancho Vegas, one of the Strip's first hotels.



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By 1947 Black entertainers were common on stages in Las Vegas, with Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, Lena Horne, and Louis Armstrong. By the end of the 40's, such stars as Billy Eckstine, Hazel Scott, the Mills Brothers, Nat King Cole, Pearl Bailey and the Ink Spots ap-

peared, although they had to stay on the Westside after performing, usually at a boarding house run by Mrs. A. Harrison on "F" Street.

The reason Black stars came (See Black History, Page 18)

MILLER APPOINTS WYETT STATE PAROLE AND PROBATION CHIEF

Governor Bob Miller recently named Richard Wyett, a member of the state Board of Parole Commissioners, as the new chief of the state Department of Parole and Probation.

Wyett, 50, has 20 years experience with criminal offenders as a field officer and as an administrator, nearly all of it in the Department of Parole and Probation.

"Richard Wyett's hands-on experience as a field officer and as an administrator in the Parole and Probation Department make him ideally suited to be the new chief of Parole and Probation," Miller said.

Before being appointed in August 1991 to

the state Board of Parole Commissioners, Wyett was the Department of Parole and Probation's unit supervisor for its Court Services Unit in Reno.

He was employed by the Department's Court Services Unit in Reno from 1974 to 1991, starting as a parole and probation officer. From 1972 to 1974 he was a Nevada Highway patrolman. Wyett was the first black Nevada Highway patrolman in northern Nevada and was also the first black parole and probation officer in northern Nevada.

He replaces John Slansky, who is now the warden of the new prison in Lovelock.

MONEY MANAGEMENT

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you do not have an office in your home, the location of your first business contact is considered your office. Transportation expenses incurred to get from your home to your first contact are not deductible. Similarly, the cost of traveling from your last business contact to your home is a non-deductible commuting expense.

If your only office is in your home, you can deduct the round-trip business-related local transportation expenses between your home office and your client's or customers place of business.

• Eligible Transportation Expenses

Rail or airline tickets, cab and bus fares, as well as automobile expenses are all considered qualified expenses. When driving your automobile, you may claim the standard mileage rate of 28 cents per mile or the actual expenses incurred, such as those for oil and gas, repairs, and car insurance. You may also depreciate your car, although strict rules apply.

• Lodging and Meal Costs

The cost of your hotel room and 80 percent of the cost of your meals are deductible so long as your trip requires you to be away from home overnight. On one-day business trips within the general area of your employment, you may not deduct the costs of lodging or meals, un-

less you are working with a client during that meal.

If you didn't keep accurate records of meal costs on your business trips, you can claim the standard federal mean and incidental expense (M&IE) rate. For travel within the continental United States, the daily meal allowance is generally \$26. In high-cost areas specified by the IRS, the meal allowance is \$34. Even when using these rates, you must document the time, place and business purpose of your trip.

• Combining Business With Pleasure

If you decide to combine a business trip with a vacation, carefully document how much of your trip is actually devoted to business activities. As long as your trip is taken primarily for business purposes, you can deduct the cost of traveling to and from the destination. The

costs for lodging and meals (subject to the 80 percent rule) are also deductible to the extent that they are related to business activities.

Different rules apply if you combine a business and personal trip that takes you outside the United States for more than seven days.

To satisfy IRS requirements, CPAs point out that you must maintain a diary or similar record listing the details of your business travel. You must also keep receipts for lodging expenses as well as for other expenses, such as meal and transportation costs that exceed \$25.

MONEY MANAGEMENT is a weekly column on personal finance prepared and distributed by Certified Public Accountants. Contact: Nevada Society of CPAs, 5270 Neil Road, Suite 102, Reno, NV 89502.

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