

DESPITE MANY OBSTACLES FULL-SERVICE PHARMACY OPENS IN WEST LAS VEGAS

By Muhammad Abdullah

On June 14, 1993 Drs. Thomas & Franklin Gbenedio - two highly skilled State Certified Pharmacists-opened ULTRACARE Professional Pharmacy on 1212 W. Owens.

"We are happy and pleased to announce that the residents of West Las Vegas and North Las Vegas no longer have to travel six or more miles outside from where they live just to have a prescription filled," Dr. Thomas Gbenedio told the Sentinel-Voice.

According to Dr. Thomas Gbenedio who is a native of Nigeria - he and his brother Dr. Franklin Gbenedio have encountered many obstacles in the heart of Las Vegas' predominantly African-American community, some, similar to those encountered by Podiatrist, Dr. Jon Hill, as respected in the June 24 issue of the Sentinel-Voice.

Dr. Thomas said that many of the residents have not yet become accustomed to having a full-service pharmacy in the area.

He added that one of the main obstacles facing the phar-

macy was acceptance as a prescription outlet for the Culinary Union, Silver State, Clark County School District and Nevada Test site workers whose providers and/or physicians have not honored the Pharmacy's request to be added to their pharmacy list.

"We know that nearly fifty-percent of the workers live in or reside near the West Las Vegas area and we believe we deserve our fair share of the clientele," said Thomas Gbenedio.

Gbenedio cited a letter in response to a Request Application by ULTRACARE to be added to their Preferred Provider organization list. The response from Southwestern Mutual Inc., located at 400 S. Maryland Parkway was; "The current client membership does not warrant the addition of physicians in your specialty."

"What kind of response is that? Surely they should know from my letter that I am not a medical doctor but we are licensed pharmacist. I have been a pharmacist for over ten years, and it appears to me that they didn't fully understand my re-



Dr. Thomas Gbenedio says his pharmacy has encountered many obstacles since opening in the heart of Las Vegas' predominately African American community.

Photo by Paula Irons

quest, and if not, they should have called to verify," he said.

"Our pharmacy is unique in the way that we have it set up and once the community recognizes that we can do anything that any other pharmacy can do, then I believe they will come regularly," he added.

For more information on services that are provided or a personal consultation, call Dr. Thomas Gbenedio, Pharmacy Practitioner, at (702) 647-1925.

CAL PAC '93 CONVENTION TO BE HELD AT HARRAH'S IN LAS VEGAS

(Los Angeles, CA...) Clem Daniels, state president of CAL PAC, has set the date for the organization's annual event.

From August 22-26, 1993, the California Package Store and Tavern Owners' Association 17th Annual Convention and Trade Show, will be held at the spectacularly redesigned Harrah's Hotel Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. Besides the many informative workshops and seminars scheduled for convention attendees, CAL PAC has more than a few surprises in store.

The beautiful Legacy Golf Club at Green Valley is the setting for this year's always exciting golf tournament. An excellent course for pros and those who wish they were, the holes are very challenging and the grounds are exquisitely landscaped. Tee time is at 8:00 a.m. sharp and the price, including all greens' fees, is a definite bargain at \$75.00. After the tournament, the winners and the good sports they played against will be congratulated during the awards ceremony. Everyone's invited to join the fun.

CAL PAC's convention

theme, "A Commitment to Collective Involvement—The Road to Economic Prosperity," underscores the aggressive posture CAL PAC is planning as the association moves toward the 21st century.

State President Daniels stated, "Times have changed and economic conditions in this country are incredibly tough. No industry has gone unaffected, including consumable spirits. CAL PAC realizes that as pressure from groups opposed to our industry increases, we have to show them that their destructive actions not only drive law-abiding trades people out of business, but the children in the communities we serve suffer as well."

For more than 20 years, CAL PAC has provided college scholarships in excess of \$350,000 to deserving minority students, many of whom would not get the financial assistance they need without CAL PAC's help.

Commenting on the many challenges facing the African American retailer today, Mr. Daniels stated, "In addition to an ever worsening economy and widespread unemployment, re-

tailors must also deal with their resulting problems; crime, drug abuse, hopelessness and despair. We know the good times of the past are over. We must now 'roll up our sleeves' and get down to business. We have to work harder than ever to keep our businesses and livelihoods strong and remain a positive and effective voice in our neighborhoods."

Not only does CAL PAC have programs to help members manage their own establishments more efficiently, they are dedicated to creating business ownership opportunities for minorities traditionally excluded from entrepreneurial ventures.

Daniels stated, "The years ahead may be turbulent. It will be impossible for anyone in business to expect to remain successful if they refuse to work together and make the future of this country safer, stronger and secure. CAL PAC is committed to being vital, vocal and vigilant for a long time to come."

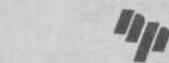
For convention registration and trade show information, please contact Modena Presents Public Relations at (702) 734-6095.

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Las Vegas

Lucky Stores

2747 Maryland Pkwy.
1300 E. Flamingo Rd.
Payless Drug Stores
8530 W. Lake Mead Blvd.
3651 S. Maryland Pkwy.
1501 N. Decatur Blvd.
3830 W. Sahara Ave.
3330 E. Flamingo Rd.
4530 E. Charleston Blvd.
3130 N. Rainbow Blvd.
911 S. Rainbow Blvd.

4911 W. Craig Rd.
4230 S. Rainbow Blvd.

Albertson's

4790 E. Flamingo Rd.
1570 N. Eastern Ave.
840 N. Decatur Blvd.
3160 N. Rainbow Blvd.
9200 W. Sahara Ave.
8570 W. Lake Mead Blvd.
4821 W. Craig Rd.
3884 W. Sahara Ave.
120 S. Rainbow Blvd.
1255 S. Lamb Blvd.

1955 N. Nellis Blvd.
6150 W. Flamingo Rd.

Stewart Market

2475 E. Tropicana Ave.
2021 E. Stewart Ave.
Henderson
Albertson's
150 N. Boulder Hwy.
2271 N. Green Valley Pkwy.
Payless Drug Stores
2255 N. Green Valley Pkwy.
716 S. Boulder Hwy.