

# SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAM

The Senior Nutrition Program and its Meals on Wheels Program offer hot, midday meals Monday through Friday, including holidays to any person 60 and over. The meals are served at 15 different sites throughout

the Las Vegas valley and are delivered to a senior's residence when the rules are met and the senior cannot go to a regular site. A donation of \$1.25 per meal is suggested for anyone over 60, although the program

serves any person over 60 regardless of income. Persons under 60 pay \$3 per meal. The sponsor of the program is Catholic Community Services. The program encourages socializing and aims at helping senior maintain an independent lifestyle. Special activities at the centers include birthday recognition, music, speakers from community agencies and health screening. For more information on the general program, call (702) 385-5284.

The locations and times for the hot meals are as follows:  
 BILINGUAL CENTER, 330 N. 13th St., 11:30, 385-0909;  
 CHRIST THE KING, 4925 S. Torrey Pines, Noon, 871-1904;  
 DOOLITTLE CENTER, 1901 N. "J" Street, 11:30, 229-6125;  
 DOWNTOWERS, 5000 Alta Dr., Noon, 229-0329; HOLLYWOOD DAY CARE, 380 N. Maryland Pkwy., 11:30, 382-0588; JAY-CEE PARK, 5808 W. Harmon, 11:30, 364-4931; KATHERINE CENTER, 580 E. St. Louis,

11:30, 732-2054; LAS VEGAS MANOR, 1700 N. Decatur, 11:00, 648-1015; LEVY GARDENS, 2525 W. Washington, 11:00, 648-7535; McCANTS, 800 N. Eastern, 11:00, 649-5429; PARADISE PARK, 4770 S. Harrison, 11:30, 455-7513;

SARTINI PLAZA, 900 Brush St., 11:15, 878-8581; SENIOR NUTRITION, 531 N. 30th St., 11:30, 385-5284; SUNRISE GARDENS, 3601 El Conlon Ave., 11:15, 873-3335; and WHITNEY CENTER, 5700 Missouri Ave., 11:30, 455-7576.

## FIREFIGHTERS

(Continued from Page 1)  
 forced out or terminated without due cause. "I looked around for the 6 black firefighters which I had gone to the academy with and only one was left," Scott recalled as he discussed what prompted the suit.

There were a variety of racial injustices which included racial slurs from white firefighters, racial jokes and pranks, and inconsistent work assignments, irrespective of seniority and rank, according to Scott. Noted within the suit were inflammatory posters placed on bulletin boards which depicted blacks in a stereotypical manner. "Posters such as running nigger targets would be hung in our lobby area," Scott recalled.

Fire department spokesman

Bob Leinbach referred all comment about the case to the Clark County District Attorneys office, which was unavailable for comment.

Scott, President of the Professional Black Firefighters of Clark County, tempered his jubilation at the victory with a degree of hesitation. He says that while considerable milestones have been accomplished by the department, there remains work to be done. "We still have to watch for discrimination and harassment," says Scott. Additionally, Scott showed a degree of regret in having to pursue the suit. "It is important for people to know that the majority of firefighters were good," says Scott. "We, unfortunately, suffered under misguided management."

## TRACK MEET

(Continued from Page 20)

Close to 250 participated in the first annual meet, which boasted nine divisions for ages 18 months through adult. The Oscar Cunningham Foundation helped raise money to provide scholarships for athletes unable to pay the minimal fee for the program, track shoes and equipment.

Oscar Cunningham, who spent 30 years in the athletic arena, including 9 years as a professional baseball player in the Negro Leagues during the 30's and 40's, had a firm belief that every child could succeed, and he always encouraged kids who otherwise might not have been noticed, recognized, or been given positive reinforcement.

The Oscar Cunningham Foundation is the brainchild of Oscar's daughter Patricia Cunningham, who is a radio talk show host and community activist in Las Vegas.

## AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

# "MA" RAINEY

By Gwen Walker

Mamie Smith may have been the first woman to record the Blues, but it was Gertrude "Ma" Rainey who popularized the genre for mass audiences. She was the biggest selling star for Paramount Records of the 1920's.



GWEN WALKER

Known as the "Queen of the Blues" "Ma" Rainey was born Gertrude Pridgett in Columbus, Georgia in 1886. Her parents were troupers in minstrel shows and she followed in their foot steps from the age of fourteen.

In 1904 she married Will "Pa" Rainey; they toured as the song and dance team of Ma and Pa Rainey, and later as Rainey and Rainey.

Assassinators of the Blues, they performed minstrel and novelty songs, dancing, humor and a little Blues singing. For a while up-and-coming star Bessie Smith was a member of the ensemble and learned about the Blues from the Queen Mother herself.

By 1917, "Ma," now called "Madame", had formed her own Georgia Jazz Band, and "Pa" was no longer her partner.

"Ma" Rainey's career with Paramount began in 1923 and ended in 1928 because the company refused to renew her contract saying her style of down home singing and the Blues had gone out of fashion.

"Ma" could never read music, but composed at least twenty-four of the songs she performed. Some of her more popular songs were "See See Rider", "Bo-weavil Blues", "Don't Fish in My Sea", "Weepin Woman Blues" and "Moonshine Blues."

"Ma" Rainey was the owner-manager of two theatres after retiring from performing. She went home to Georgia in 1935 and kept house for her brother.

It was no small irony that after such a long and successful career as a performer her death certificate lists her occupation as "Housekeeper." "Ma" Rainey died in 1939.

# 10

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