

**SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL-VOICE**

# MEMORIES OF COLOR

(Part 2 of a 2 part series)  
By Jackie Y. Brantley

Mrs. Lubertha Johnson mentored like no other. She was brave, tough and kind. She selected me, along with 14 other girls to receive modeling classes, and hired Bernardine Anderson who did not receive any pay because she wanted to donate her time to us. Bernardine was a model with the Ebony Fashion Fair from New York.

She was a tall, beautiful black woman who was as proud as she was beautiful. Later, she would tell me that she knew Malcolm X who preached every day on a corner in New York where she went to school.

Bernardine would go on to

do the make-up artistry for the film industry, and would be hired by greats like Eddie Murphy, Larry Fishburne, Alex Haley and others. She resides in Henderson and Los Angeles.

What amazed me most about growing up here in Las Vegas, was the glitz and glamour. Just one block from where I grew up was the Elks Lodge, which is now the Muslim facility on "D" and Jackson. I actually rubbed elbows with hundreds of others who saw entertainers such as James Brown, Ike and Tina Turner, Sam Cooke, Bobby Bland and others. I could see James Brown up close. He could do the splits without getting his tight pants dirty! What a show.

The radio station was limited though — we heard mostly country western music. The late fifties and early sixties, however, brought Mr. Bob Bailey to the radio. His program began with a tune by Bill Dogett called "Honky Tonk." He also had a television program where he spotlighted others, and himself. He has a terrific voice. Also, I can remember a young woman by the name of Carolyn Branch, who hosted a television program in the late 50's. She became an employee of the county as well. Her verbal skills were excellent.

The religious community was strong. Bishop Cox was a great speaker. Many times, he would have hundreds in his congregation. Reverend Coleman was also remarkable. He led a large number of folks. His wife had a beautiful voice and played the piano and organ. I have very fond memories of her. Zion Methodist Church and its members formed a strong foundation for my formative years. I fondly remember my sister, Audrey, in the children's speech choir. You could actually hear her voice over almost thirty

others. The speech choir was led by a dedicated worker, Lucille, who is still there today. She would pile these kids into her car every week for practice. She is truly an unsung hero.

The community youth choir was made up of young people from all churches and was housed at Second Baptist Church. This choir reminds me of the Sounds of Blackness, who are very popular today. They sang as they marched in the church and would bring audiences to their feet every performance. The proud young men and women who made up this choir have my utmost respect. They gave up much personal time to make each performance perfect.

My family in Las Vegas were fortunate to have a dog named "Butch." This Boxer, Bull, accompanied the police officers on a nightly beat. He went fishing with my grandfather, Henry Moody, and protected the babies who were venturing off into the streets. He would nudge them

back to safety. Butch visited the homes of my aunt, Mama Carrie, Aunt Jerry Porter, uncle Herman Moody and his wife Aunt Mack, and her home headed by Susie M. Parker. Butch knew us all, and he was loved by us all.

The great parades put on by the Elks was something to see. I remember most fondly the Long Beach Marching band. They had a drum section that was second to none. We took part in the parades, rodeos and carnivals.

I vividly remember the show-stopper of all time. We called him "Ten Shaw." This tall, ebony man would walk down the street in a tuxedo (long tails), jacket and would wait until he was going to pass a group of youngsters who would stare at him. Then he would step around a rock, can, or piece of paper on the street, as if to say "this has no business here." We would clap for him, he would never say anything, but, if we clapped for an encore, he would perform, again, the ritual with a different step.

UNLV was called Southern Nevada, and my mother was one of its first black students. We dropped her off at Las Vegas High School where it was housed in the late fifties. She went on to graduate in 1968 from UNLV and taught here in the Clark County School District for more than twenty years. We were very proud of her.

Some of you may remember the long 1.9 mile walk to J.D. Smith Jr. High and Rancho High School. We were short, just inches of getting the bus. I wore out shoes quickly, especially at the "hill" of Owens, where the rail road tracks intersected the street. You just had to have stamina.

All of these thoughts I am sharing with you may trigger thoughts you may have about role models and mentors. These are just my *Memories of Color*.

Jackie Y. Brantley is President of Global Marketing Enterprises, Inc. She is compiling an autobiographical sketch of her life growing up in Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Sentinel Voice Celebrates 16 Years By Recognizing 16 Top Blacks In Las Vegas

By Victor S. Ingram

Sixteen of the most outstanding and influential local African-Americans will be featured as part of the sixteen year anniversary celebration of the Las Vegas-Sentinel Voice newspaper. The sixteen individuals will be recognized for their community service and professional accomplishments towards furthering the cause of local blacks in their tireless efforts for excellence. As Nevada's only African American owned-and-operated newspaper, the Sentinel Voice has been the only source of independent news for the African American community-pioneering fair and impartial news about blacks within the community.

Formed 16 years ago by the now-deceased husband and wife team of Ed and Betty Brown, the Sentinel-Voice newspaper has provided a positive media perspective where none existed. Son of Ed and Betty, Lee Brown, continues the tradition as

publisher by providing quality, insightful news to the Las Vegas community. Brown says the "Sentinel 16" will be an elite group of black community figures, business executives, and educators who best represent what the newspaper seeks to deliver to the public. "The Sentinel 16 will be the first group of its kind, giving recognition to a select group of local heroes," says Brown.

Nominees for recognition must be received by Friday, March 31, 1995. Nominations must include a resume, biography, black and white photo and 1 page statement responding to: "What commitment do successful blacks have towards furthering the success of less fortunate blacks".

Entries can be mailed to: The Sentinel 16, 4300 Lamont #270, Las Vegas, Nevada 89115 or information can be faxed to 644-1555. All entries must include a phone number for further contact by the selection committee.

### CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

(Continued from Page 5)

They remember when people of color businesses were red-lined by banks and lending institutions and it was impossible for them to raise the dollars for the large bonds often required of

contractors. They remember when prior work requirements and other so-called qualifications were used to keep them out.

This country needs strong businesses owned by people of

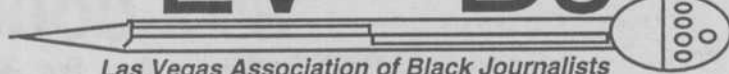
color. This country needs government to take the lead in supporting these businesses and we need private industry to make a real effort to use them as well. Maybe one day racial/ethnic and women-owned businesses won't need that special help, but that day certainly hasn't yet arrived.

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