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POET'S CORNER

Freedom In Chains

By Keith A. Brantley (Izulu Poets)

The stirring of civil unrest
 left uncivil citizens
 until a genius among them said;
 "Let us call this bondage, freedom."
 He sat down and designed chains that fit
 and called them comfort.
 He proclaimed that each man
 has a choice of shackles
 and bid them to try on chains.
 "Let us call this bondage, freedom."
 Eloquently, he spoke.
 Intently, they listened.
 The price of freedom
 was and occasional whipping.
 So small a fee
 for this newfound freedom.

The uncivil became civil,
 shackled themselves to the land,
 pledged to die
 and named themselves ... AMERICANS.

SEND US YOUR POETRY CONTRIBUTIONS

LAS VEGAS SENTINEL-VOICE
 1201 EASTERN AVE. • LAS VEGAS, NV 89104

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

MARY FIELDS (PIONEER)

By Gwen Walker

Mary Fields was Born a slave on May 15, 1832. Being a free spirit, Mary decided that slavery was not for her and ran away to Toledo, Ohio. In Toledo she found work in a convent and formed a close relationship with Mother Amadues.



Because Mary was 6 feet, weighed 200 lbs, she served as a protector for the sisters. She never traveled without her 38 Smith & Wesson strapped under her apron. It was said that "Black Mary" couldn't miss a thing within 50 paces, and she could whip any two men in the territory.

The climate in winter was very cold in Ohio, so Mary dressed like a man, wearing a long dress and apron over her pants. Although Mary had served the mission for over ten years without receiving any pay, the Bishop sent her away because of her "wild ways". Mary was known not to take any riff from anyone, especially men. She was known to have had fights with two men: one she had to bash his face in with a stone for making a face and saying ugly things to her and the other man antagonized her so she fired a gun at him, only missing by a few inches.

After the Bishop sent her away, Mother Amadues helped her open a restaurant twice, but both times it failed because Mary was so free hearted with non-paying customers. Mother Amadues asked the government to give Mary a mail route, which she held for eight years, never missing a day and; later became known as "Stage Coach Mary."

Mary retired and opened a laundry business in her home. At that time she was well into her seventies. The Mayor gave her special permission to drink in the saloons with the men, and the owner of the Cascade Hotel gave strict orders that Mary was to receive "her meals free." Because Mary could not remember her Birthday, she celebrated twice a year. The town officials would close the school in her honor. When fire destroyed her home the townspeople rebuilt it at their expense. Mary died in 1914 and was mourned by the entire population of Cascade, Montana.

Mary had been a freight hauler, laundress, restaurant owner, and the second female ever to drive a United States mail coach.

Read about Mary Fields and many more pioneers at the West Las Vegas Library, or Native Son Bookstore.

You can help the West Las Vegas Library by stopping in and checking out 20 books at every visit. It takes numbers to get more money to buy the books you want to see in the library. September is National Library Card Month; children could win prizes by signing up and receiving a new library card.



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 WHERE: Desert Inn, Crystal Room
 BY: SOCIETY OF SINGERS FUNDRAISER
 (for Emergency Relief Fund)

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Bob Anderson Buddy Greco
 Vikki Carr Frankie Laine
 Four Freshmen Melba Moore
 Robert Goulet Rip Taylor

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 \$50; \$75; \$100 and VIP Booths Available
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