

BUFFALO SOLDIERS ALIVE AGAIN

By Nichole Davis
Sentinel-Voice

Vacationers can ride the plains formerly guarded by the famed Buffalo Soldiers, the name given to four regiments of regular black Army soldiers in the late 1800s.

The Buffalo Soldiers served under harsh conditions and fought fierce opponents bravely with little recognition in history books.

HistoryAmerica Tours is hoping to change that. The Texas-based will offer its second tour of Buffalo Soldiers territory. The four day/three day night tour kicks off June 6 in Denver, Colo.

The soldiers, many of whom were former slaves, earned many honors but painfully little recognition in the history books.

"The Buffalo Soldiers were very important after the Civil War. It was attractive to blacks that had been slaves in the sense they had three meals a day and a uniform to wear and the dignity that went with being in the U.S. Army," said Pete Brown, vice president of Marketing for HistoryAmerica Tours.

Vacationers will tour several historic spots. Fort Robinson, Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and the Fort Russell where 9th and 10th regiments of the Buffalo Soldiers served as the Indian Wars tapered off are the most noteworthy.

The guide is Frank Schubert, a Ph. D. in black history, who currently works as a historian for the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon.

Schubert has written two books about the soldiers: *Buffalo Soldiers Braves and the Brass: The Story of Fort Robinson* and

On the Trail of the Buffalo Soldiers.

Schubert, who is caucasian, won a four-year academic scholarship to Howard University in the late-1960s. Though he wasn't a history major, that was where he first learned of the Buffalo Soldiers while working at the school library.

"My interest stems from my work with Dorothy Porter-Wesley. She was a brilliant librarian and historian," Schubert said.

As a graduate student, Schubert studied under Bill Leckie, a Scott, who wrote the pathbreaking book, *The Buffalo Soldiers.*

Schubert's passion is evident.

"This is American history, if

we put this stuff in a box that trivializes it," Schubert said. "We can't file it away as something odd and curious that only one race of people can be interested in."

Schubert said he got involved with HistoryAmerica Tours as a way to reach a different audience.

"I'm a writing historian; words are my medium," he said.

"This (the tour) is magic. When you get out to a fort where ten or 12 medal of honor soldiers worked, it's amazing. I've never had as much fun reading a paper or getting published as I have had on a tour," he said. "I had ball."

Schubert said the first tour, which lasted a week, was exhausting.

One of his most vivid memories was his visit to the grave of Lincoln Washington, a sergeant major in the 9th Cavalry.

In the cemeteries where these guys, who I have studied for so long know, are buried it was almost an overwhelming experience to connect with this them, he said.

He described the joy he felt when he read the tombstone of another soldier, which read "Not Just Black History, American History."

Schubert felt people should consider taking the tour for two reasons: "(1) The magical experience of connecting the place with the knowledge, and (2) I'm pretty good at what I do, and I love it."

Trailblazing Journalist Moves to Cleveland

Special to the Sentinel-Voice

Marcia Pledger, the first African-American journalist to work for the state's largest daily newspaper, has left the Las Vegas Review-Journal to work for the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Pledger, who resigned at the end of December, was back in town last week and was honored by the Las Vegas Association of Black Journalists during a social mixer at the Polo Towers penthouse lounge.

Besides her seven years of work as a police and business reporter, Pledger was also the founding president of the local journalist group that is affiliated with the National Association of Black Journalists. With the national group, she served as one of six regional vice-presidents.

Pledger, who is a member of



Marsha Pledger enjoys small token received from LVABJ

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., graduated from the University of Missouri, Columbia with a degree in journalism. She is married to local college instructor and bowling aficionado Derrick Pledger.

"She's tenacious," said Review-Journal Managing Editor Charles Zobel. "When she first started here covering the police, she had to prove herself to the cops, just like every other reporter does; especially so being a woman."

"But she did not let that or

any other obstacles get her down and over time Marcia earned their respect. She would find ways to get her job done," Zobel said.

"She'll do well in Cleveland. We're really going to miss her. Everyone in this newsroom wishes her well and she deserves it," he said.

Said Juana Hart, current LVABJ president and Channel 8 news anchor, "Not only are we going to miss our dear colleague but we are saying goodbye to a great friend."

The Nevada Association of Latin Americans (NALA)
Hispanic Museum / Museo Hispano

invites you to

"Portraits of the Future"
Bachelor / Bachelorette Auction

on Saturday, February 3, 1996

Cocktails / Silent Auction: 6:00 p.m.

Bachelor / Bachelorette Auction: 7:00 p.m.

Palace Station Hotel and Casino Ballroom

Donation: \$25.00 per person, \$240.00 per table of ten

After 5 Altire R.S.V.P. 382-6252



Buffalo Soldier prepares to hit the trail for its second tour scheduled for this summer.

Davey Deals

AUTOS • BIKES • BOATS

1717 FREMONT at BRUCE SHELDON WELCH

E-Z FINANCING & LOW PAYMENTS
HOME OF THE 300 DOWN

WE SELL 'EM FAST
CUZ WE SELL 'EM CHEAP 474-7777



Law Firm of Smith & Williams

COMBINED 27 YEARS
OF LEGAL EXPERIENCE

EMPHASIS ON PERSONAL INJURY CASES

- Automobile Accidents
- Motorcycle Accidents
- Slips & Falls
- Wrongful Death
- Dog Bites
- Pedestrian & Other Bodily Injuries
- Medical Malpractice



TIMOTHY C. WILLIAMS

Timothy Williams is a member of the Nevada & Illinois State Bar, practicing primarily in personal injury cases.

892-0000

1785 E. Sahara Ave. Ste. 337
Las Vegas, Nevada

Neither the State Bar of Nevada nor any agency of the State Bar has certified any lawyer identified here as a specialist or expert. Anyone considering a lawyer should independently investigate the lawyer's credentials and ability.

A
T
T
O
R
N
E
Y

A
T
L
A
W