

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT**Good food, service the keys to Uncle Ben's success**

By Lee Brown
Sentinel-Voice

Across the country, the corner barbeque joint has been a vital fixture in the black community, and in Las Vegas it's no different. Though many have come and gone, one establishment has been a staple for residents of the Las Vegas Valley, and West Las Vegas in particular.

Ask anyone in the community where to find some real down home barbeque, and one of the first, if not the first thing, out of their mouth will be Uncle Ben's.

Nestled in a small building at 616 N. "H" Street (at the corner of Bonanza Road), Uncle Ben's Bar-B-Que has long been the favorite of many when it comes to good home cooking.

When owners James and Atlene McLemore opened the first of the eatery's three locations



Atlene McLemore said her restaurant's huge portions keep customers coming back.

Photos by Savoy/LVS-Voice

in 1975, they had no idea the type of success that was in store for them.

Incidentally, the restaurant is named, for an uncle of Atlene's who for years owned a very successful restaurant called Uncle Ben's in Phoenix. Locally, the idea came from her husband selling barbeque meals for his church. Everyone enjoyed the food so much, they encouraged him to open his own restaurant. With a \$1,000 loan, he did and the rest is history.

"My husband really was an entrepreneur because he started with nothing and really made it grow. We went into it not really knowing what we wanted to do or how long we were going to stay in it, but he did it," said Atlene.

After opening their first restaurant on Jackson Avenue in the heart of the black community, they moved to Las Vegas Boulevard (near Pecos) in 1983, a location that didn't

thrill Atlene.

Not too long after that, they opened a second and the current location on "H" Street. Though she preferred to work in the black community, she ran the Las Vegas Boulevard location, while her husband watched the "H" Street location.

Finally, in 1993, they closed down the Las Vegas Boulevard restaurant to focus their attention solely on the "H" Street eatery, where they have been very successful.

"I just like it in the West Las Vegas area. It's our roots," she said. "We've made our living with the support of the people in the area and my husband never wanted to go anywhere else. He loved his business. He loved Uncle Ben's," she said.

But since the August death of her husband, who was originally from Mississippi, Atlene, an Arkansas native, has prayed she could continue the (See Uncle Ben's, Page 4)



The business is located at 616 North H St.



Students greet NLV police officer Tally Washington during Monday's expo at Cashman Field.

Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

Futures Expo attracts thousands of students

By Jocelyn Scott
Sentinel-Voice

With approximately 7,500 students and parents in attendance from all over the Las Vegas Valley, the Fourth Annual Futures Expo proved to be a great success.

The Expo convened Monday and adjourned Tuesday at the Cashman Field Complex. New features included a job interviewing and resume writing seminar and middle school choir and band performances.

In addition to the live entertainment, \$100 saving bonds were awarded to the winners of the Futures Expo essay contest. Fourteen savings bonds were issued to seven middle school winners and seven high school winners. The Expo, which is geared toward all students whether they plan to go to college or enter the work force directly from high school, represented nearly 125 local

businesses, close to double the number that participated during the event's inaugural year.

"Our goal is to provide an opportunity for parents and students grades 5-12, to visit and ask questions," said Joyce Woodhouse, organizer of the event. Her goal was brought to life as thousands of Las Vegas residents roamed from booth to booth inquiring information from representatives. Western High School sophomore, Racheal Lopez concluded, "This is a cool way to get people to think about life after high school especially since college is not for everyone."

The representatives from a wide variety of Las Vegas businesses and organizations were dedicated to answering questions, relaying information and even supplying handouts and fliers concerning jobs and requirements. Some of the businesses included: News 13, Sunrise Medical Hospital, Fox 5,

Nevada Partners, Class Publications, Edward M. Bernstein & Associates, John Robert Powers, Nevada Career Institute, North Las Vegas Fire (See Expo, Page 8)

Festival to benefit museum

By Lee Brown
Sentinel-Voice

Two full days of fun, food, entertainment and activities are on tap for the Fourth Annual African-American Cultural Arts Festival scheduled for this Saturday and Sunday at the Vons Shopping Center, located at 1061 W. Owens Ave.

The event will be held both days from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

Sponsored by Vons, Jimmy's Westside Market, the City of Las Vegas, Bank of America, Roadway Express and Nika's Afrocentric Gifts, the festival will include a variety of vendor booths

with clothing, art, books, jewelry, children's games and dolls as well as a carnival for area youth.

Proceeds will benefit the building fund for the long-awaited Walker African-American Museum & Research Center. The center is the dream of Gwen Walker, owner of Nika's Afrocentric Gifts, and her mother Juanita.

A non-profit organization, the Walker African-American Museum & Research Center Foundation, needs to raise nearly \$1 million for the construction of its own facility.

The first weekend in February (See Museum, Page 9)

NOW OPEN

North West Communications

CELLULAR • PAGING**♥ SWEET HEART SPECIAL ♥**

Sunday Cellular Service — FREE*
Cell Phone — PRE-PAID*
Paging as Low as \$6.95*

Nation Wide and 800#'s available

Now offering Pre-Paid Phone Cards SAVE, SAVE!!!

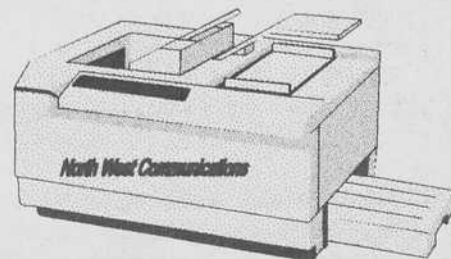
OFFERING: • BUSINESS CARD DESIGN
• FAXING & COPYING • TYPESETTING

3925 N. Martin L. King, Suite 111
(Hidden Canyon Cntr.)

631-7131

— Gift Certificates Available —

*Some restrictions apply. Special Runs from Jan. 21 thru Feb. 28, 1997







Tanya Sanders-Patterson
Mortgage Loan Consultant
Born & raised in Las Vegas

(702) 456-7655
24-hr pager 389-6660

4160 South Pecos Road, Suite 18
Las Vegas, Nevada 89121

**Good Credit / Bad Credit
HOME LOANS NOW!!!
Tanya can get the job done!**