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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Richardson Construction finishing renovation

By Nancy Watson
Sentinel-Voice

The first 40 apartments in Phase II of Marble Manor public housing complex's renovation are expected to be ready for tenants to move back in no later than April, Las Vegas Housing Authority (LVHA) officials said.

Richardson Construction which began work last September on the renovation project, located on Washington Avenue between Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and H Street, is expected to have all 155 apartments in Phase II completed by October.

Richardson won the contract for Phase II with a bid of \$4.7 million for the interior work and \$1.4 million for the exterior work.

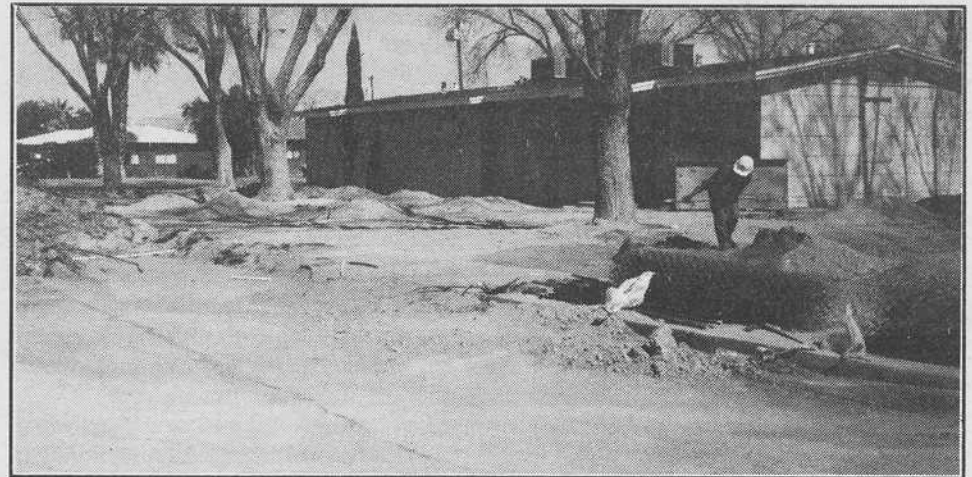
Tenants will be moving into the second group of 40 renovated apartments from mid-April through May and they will begin to occupy the last 75 apartments in June.

Tenants were relocated to other LVHA properties and, although they were given the option to move back to Marble Manor when the project was completed, only a few of them will be moving back, according to Betty Turner, deputy executive of operations for the LVHA.

That doesn't mean there is an availability of apartments. All of the 255 units have been spoken for or assigned and there is a list of prospective LVHA tenants waiting for apartments, Turner said.

All 255 of the Marble Manor apartments needed to be completely gutted and rebuilt. Hazardous materials, including lead paint and asbestos, was also removed prior to the construction work. The total cost of the renovations was close to \$10 million.

Phase I of the project (100 apartments) ran into several snags when Nucleus Construction Group which had won the bid was not able to



The housing complex's renovation is to be complete by October. Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

meet project deadlines. Nucleus Construction is owned by John Edmonds who won the contract with a \$2.2 million bid for the interior work on the apartments.

The time it took Edmonds to complete the task became the issue that caused the Housing Authority to terminate its contract with Nucleus Construction. However, Edmonds blamed the delays on the time it took hazardous materials contractors to complete their work.

He said the delays cost his company \$1

million because not only was Nucleus Construction prevented from working on the apartments, his company was unable to work elsewhere because the Housing Authority had used up all of Nucleus' bonding capacity.

Some 35 apartments in Phase I have still not been completed. Some need minor work such as door knobs and paint to make them ready for occupancy, but others require floors, walls or toilets. The Housing Authority is seeking a contractor to complete the 35 units.

Longtime radio DJ leaves for Reno job

By Lee Brown
Sentinel-Voice

Usually it's the bird that flies the coop. This time, unfortunately, it's the "Cat."

After nearly six years of bringing Las Vegas the soothing sounds of contemporary jazz at a variety of local radio stations, Bill "The Cat" Lee, has decided to accept a full-time radio position in Reno.

Though it was a tough decision to leave one of the fastest growing cities in America—a city where he and his programs had a huge listenership, Lee vowed that he could possibly return to the city of lights if the right opportunity presented itself. And he hopes it does.

It was jazz that put "The Cat" on the map in Las Vegas when roughly five years ago, as an air personality on KCEP radio (FM 88.1), he was given the opportunity to express himself as only he could do.

He started out playing jazz just three months into his job there, and though it was middays, and maybe just for an hour at a time, it became a hit. So much so that the jazz program "Night Traxx" was born giving Lee the airwaves from 8 p.m. to midnight four days a week.

Not only jazz, but radio overall, have been an important part of Lee's life as far back as he can remember.

"Radio became paramount in my life at an early age, as opposed to just jazz," he said.

"I used to mimic everything I heard on the radio, and later on, as I was growing up, my parents bought me a little reel-to-reel tape player, and I used to conduct little impromptu interviews and I put together little sports reports. I used to be in to that so much, my parents thought I was nuts. But at the same time, while they were saying I was nuts, they'd tell me, 'if you keep that passion about it, one day you will do it.'

And here I am."

He admits his interest in jazz goes back as far as grade school when he was first exposed to it, and it's been a part of his life ever since. "Every weekend, my father, when he was off-duty, would play it," said Lee of his father, a 30-year Army veteran. "Count Basie, Earl Grant, Nancy Wilson, Cannonball Adderley ... that type of stuff. It's stuck with me ever since."

With his father serving in the armed forces, Lee, though a native of Staunton, Vir. spent much of his childhood in West Germany, in addition to his own stint in England during his 10 years in the Air Force.

Incidentally, it was during that time in England that he acquired the nickname "The Cat" from a character in the "Bloom County" comic strip. "It had nothing to do with 'pimpism,'" he said of the title.

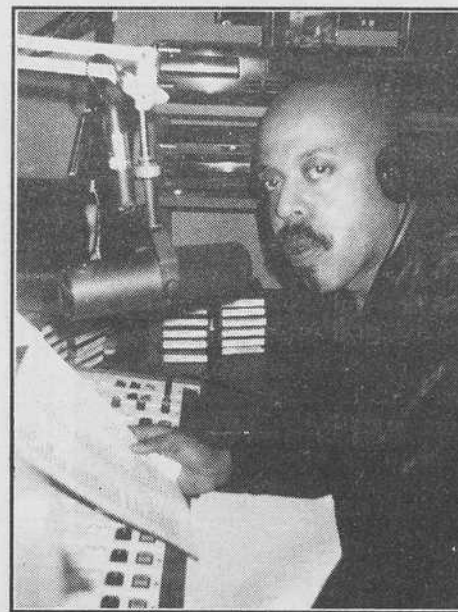
It was this time abroad, though, Lee says, that enlightened him on various types of music.

"I think my exposure to different things overseas and college life, and my parents exposing me to their tastes, is what put my mind into being diverse and having an ear for music. I think that's how it happened," Lee says of his musical tastes.

"I mean, just the passion for good contemporary jazz. Especially when you find yourself needing to chill out, relax, meditate—there's nothing that can compare.

"Some of the mainstream stuff is a little heavy for my taste, but I don't turn away from it. I really appreciate that too," he says of his own personal likings in jazz, and the type of music that could be heard when he took to the airwaves.

"I have incorporated some 'world music' to my groove, and definitely blues because it all fits—and some serious adult-contemporary



BILL "CAT" LEE

rhythm & blues—and it works fine," he said, adding that anything that he has done as far as jazz programming over the years, he has put together as if he were the listener.

"So, over the five years or so that I've been doing Night Traxx, I've apparently been doing something right."

"What I know for a fact is that I have my own unique flavor in what I'm presenting. That's the beauty of it," he said.

"Each individual programmer/producer/DJ has their own thing. If they're really passionate about it and feel it, then you'll definitely hear it. It's just a matter of taste."

Lee, who worked a total of about four years in radio at two different part-time "gigs" during the 70s in Virginia, in addition to writing a jazz column for a while in the Sentinel-Voice, says that though he is leaving the Las Vegas area and heading for a non-jazz formatted radio station up north, he is very appreciative for the opportunity given to him by KCEP.

"It has meant a lot. It's meant a great deal to me," he said of the opportunity.

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Entourage criticizes LV police

Members upset about pace of Shakur case

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Two members of Tupac Shakur's entourage told a Los Angeles newspaper they saw Shakur's attackers, but Las Vegas police have never showed them photographs of possible suspects.

The two, Malcolm Greenridge and Frank Alexander, were riding in a car following the BMW Shakur was in the night he was shot near Flamingo Road and Koval Lane.

However Las Vegas police are saying the statements the two made the night of the killing are completely different than the statements they have recently given to the Los Angeles Times.

Greenridge, a member of Shakur's former back-up quartet told the Times he saw four black men in a white Cadillac drive past his car just before Shakur was shot.

Alexander, a bodyguard and the driver of the car Greenridge was riding in, said he caught a glimpse of the shooter's face.

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Homicide Detective Lt. Wayne Petersen said both men told police the night of the shooting they did not see who was in the car. Greenridge told police there were two men in the Cadillac. He told the Times there were four, Petersen said.

The conflicting stories makes Petersen doubt the credibility of the two witnesses and said if they did actually see the suspects, the case would've been "more prosecutable."

Both Greenridge and Alexander said they would cooperate with investigators, but both said they don't trust Metro police. They also

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