



Shouldering the trophies awarded to their playgrounds for sports proficiency are, from left: Faith Moxley of Meredith, Cathy Jenkins of West Lions, Cheryl Squires of East Lions, and Jim Campbell of Hillcrest. The presentations were made at the annual PUC playground awards night.

Book Sales To Negroes Soar

San Francisco—It was early afternoon and Jim Gray sat at an old desk in the rear of a little bookshop and watched as customers drifted in off the noisy street.

"You know, times are

changing," he said. "Three years ago nobody around here would even steal a book. Now look, they buy books."

Outside the sign above the front of the shop advertised The More Bookstore. But up and down the block people on the street called it "The Black Bookstore."

The shop that Gray operates is typical of the bookstores that have been opening lately in black communities across the country. Store owners say this growth is being spurred chiefly by a surge of interest among Negroes in black literature, which offers them insights into black thought and heritage that they cannot get from other books.

These shops sit in the shadows of the neon lights of liquor stores, bars and barbecue joints and mostly, only the blacks who live in the neighborhoods know that they are there.

The shops are black-owned,

ed, black operated and all but a few of the customers are black. And they deal primarily in books that are about blacks written by blacks and of particular interest to the blacks.

The book rush in the black community is something that began to build nearly three years ago. As it grew, these small stores began to spring up and now there is at least one bookshop in every black slum of any size across the country.

Once these were tiny storefront shops that opened only a few hours every night. Some of them started with as few as 100 books. But now some are bulging with up to 10,000 titles.

In Detroit, in December of 1963, Edward Vaughn opened a little shop on Dexter Avenue on the city's predominantly black West Side. That store now carries over 7,000 titles and just a few months ago Vaughn opened a second shop.

On 14th Street in Washington, a group of young blacks, many of them former student activists in the civil rights movement, opened The Drum and Spear Bookstore with fewer than 100 titles. They now have a successful operation and stock thousands of books.

The black sections of Philadelphia, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and Boston also have a number of the so-called black bookstores.

Many of the shops are operated by young blacks like Jim Gray, a restless 25 year old out of San Francisco State College with more than the passing anger.

He operates the shop along with an older brother, Robert.

The More Bookstore run by the Grays was opened when Negroes across the country were becoming caught up in an awareness of their color and a search for identity.

At one point, in a little more than a year's time, the little bookshop sold "about 10,000" copies of Jerome Bennett Jr.'s book on black history, "Be-

fore the Mayflower."

"And that," as Gray says, "is a lot of books."

In addition to carrying books, most of the shops also carry a wide selection of posters, most of them of the heads of figures who gained popularity in the civil rights movement.

Some shops also carry various other items of particular interest to blacks, such as African clothing, wood carvings and historical and "movement" recordings.

The best sellers are the same in most sections of the country.

Enjoy The Western Fair

Segregation Ends At Colored Home

Although its name remains the same, the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children is no longer segregated.

In a letter to long-time supporters of the Colored Children's Home, Dr. M. Cumming, honorary life president and A. D. Grayston, secretary-treasurer disclosed today that while the home was originally incorporated to take care of needy colored children, in recent years the situation had changed, and the home now cares for equally needy white children for whom there is no other place.

Notes the officials: "While the majority of the children are colored, in effect, the home is now integrated."

The letter suggests that "perhaps many of our original regular contributors have ceased sending in donations in the belief that the home should no longer be maintained only for colored youngsters — a thought with which we entirely agree in this enlightened age."

The officials also indicated that the home's original name "The Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children" will be retained because it is distinct and the only one of its kind in Canada — and has been so for nearly fifty years after incorporation by a group of white citizens having concern for neglected, needy and unfortunate colored children."

The home is seeking additional financial support from interested persons because of the increasing accent being placed on improved educational opportunities and the higher costs thus involved in assuring that children from the home will have an opportunity for a university degree or trade training so they can better gain confidence to face the adult world.

Persons wishing to support the home may do so through P.O. Box 281, in Halifax.

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