

The

NSC FOGHORN

TM



Volume 4, issue 9

September 8, 2005

Special points of interest:

America's Most Literate Cities 2004

A statistical study to determine the publics' propensity to read in 79 American Cities.

This ranking represents the total score tallied by each city for five different literary categories compared against the city's total population.

Categories:

Educational attainment; booksellers; newspaper circulation; library resources; and periodicals published.

	Rank	Population
1.	Minneapolis, MN	382,618
2.	Seattle, WA	563,374
3.	Pittsburg, PA	334,563
4.	Madison, WI	208,054
5.	Cincinnati, OH	331,285
6.	Washington, DC	572,059
7.	Denver, CO	554,636
8.	Boston, MA	589,141
9.	Portland, OR	529,121
10.	San Francisco, CA	776,733
47.	Las Vegas, NV	478,434

Data from the University of Wisconsin — Whitewater — VWP

Inside this issue:

<i>Please Don't Quote Me</i>	3
<i>Illegal Immigration Article</i>	4
<i>A.A.A.D.D.</i>	5
<i>At the August Meeting</i>	6
<i>Members</i>	6
<i>The Teacher</i>	7
<i>From the Editor</i>	7
<i>Next Meeting Information</i>	7
<i>Today in History</i>	8
<i>About NSC</i>	8

IT IS LABOR DAY 2005 AND COUNTING

By Ken Mahal, AIA, NSC President

I don't know about you but at age 62 when I officially retired (some 22 years ago) I have never once looked back and wished that I had kept earning a paycheck. Now that doesn't say I shouldn't have done so because you can always use extra cash. In our case we have 3 grandkids in college who can always use a new computer or something else expensive like even help with tuition. And the fourth grandson is in his second year of high school wishing he were 32 — so he can also always use a few bucks. In fact in his German International School the students have been supporting a group of students in Ethiopia; taking them from wood shacks to a couple of concrete block school buildings with running water and toilets. Now they want to raise money to help educate a few people as teachers where they qualify them to teach with even a few weeks of learning not years of it like we do in the US. Maybe we should do something like that in Las Vegas.

What has happened to this country where we once had a third of the labor force unionized and now are around 10% which should tell us something is wrong. Not that I think unions saved the country but at least they were strongest when we had a large industrial base in the business of manufacturing widgets not paper shufflers as seems to be the growing force in the 21st century. Nothing could have been better when after WWII sixty or seventy percent of the people worked in some kind of industrial job and now it seems the widget making is done in China — what a sad situation. Many people are just better suited to work in the widget making business. Now we think everyone should have a college degree except for those who don't learn the language, they seem to be able to get a journeyman's rating for a few bucks not years of vocational training as used to be the case. In our part of the country what is the demand for college educated men and women? Certainly it is not needed to clean bath rooms, park cars, trim the shrubbery etc.

We hear a lot of talk about out-sourcing of services in this country such as computer expertise that seems to get most of us upset because we can't understand their English.

So what's next? In India there is a push to keep their doctors home and to become the next center of medical treatment in the world. It seems to be their intent to create first class medical centers providing surgical procedures at one third the cost in their country and encourage us with others in the world to go there. They also seem to want to entice people to do rehab in fine first class resorts by the sea again at a third our costs. So why not give it a shot? This is how change takes place when some one else takes a little risk to provide a service of quality when they see others no longer being competitive. (Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1) How can we take our manufacturing base back is a tough call. It would take a lot of cooperation from various governments on down. This includes government as well as the companies, needing the trainees, to see a need and fill it. For years in the Twin Cities of Minnesota the companies in manufacturing provided the teaching skills for the vocational school as well as help with student schooling costs and on the job training after the young finished school. I remember my first on-the-job training at 25 cents an hour that I earned and loved it. That was pounding nails. They still need someone to do it only now it is with an electric power driven nailing machine. Oh how things change.

**THE REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMISSION WANTS TO EXPERIMENT WITH OUR MONEY;
“IN HENDERSON OF COURSE”.**

I see the head of RTC, Mr. Jacob Snow, wants to experiment with many types of transportation including a so called fixed guide-way system from Henderson to downtown which costs a lot and has plenty of headaches to go with it. One of these fancy trains in the Midwest gets the right of way over the auto traffic so can't you just see yourself waiting in line for this train to pass like the old fashioned freight train while at the same time you will be helping pay for it. To get to the fixed rail one will be required to somehow get from home to the train and the same at night. We call this "mass transit" which we quit using 60 years ago and replaced it with "individual transit" called the automobile. Recently many automobile companies are providing more choices called "commuter cars" that are small, inexpensive with good mileage at a reasonable cost. There is a system that could use these small commuter cars on platforms that you simply drive onto and would be transported by computer control to your nearest point to drive of.

THE HOMELESS NEED A SHELTER AND A SHELTER AND A SHELTER.

Why is government thinking of spending money on shelters for the homeless when all they need is a few tents set up from time to time in the areas where it is needed? Keep it cheap and mobile. As soon as the shelters are brick and mortar it takes government people on pay roll for oversight and we don't need any more of that. In fact why provide much of anything for the homeless who are not asking for anything anyway?

THE DAY WORKERS NEED CENTERS TO BE PICKED UP AT.

Again some silliness that ought to be stopped before it starts. Why give them this convenience which will start in one place then be needed in two places, three places and so on. Again a way to spend money so let's stop it before it starts. The more we encourage these things the more people will come across the borders and know exactly where to head to look for a job. I find this very dangerous to begin with. Where do you think the new outbreaks in tuberculosis and the likes are coming from? What we should have been doing is starting some kind of college kid's "day work program" sponsored by the colleges, universities or even Home Depot, Lowe's and the likes. In fact one of my grandsons studying Architecture started his own college young men's landscape business and is always busy each summer moving dirt, laying rock, setting block walls and planting landscape material. Wouldn't all of you rather hire such young people rather than who knows who these people are standing on the street corners? **We have plenty of American youth who need day work. Think America First.**

WARREN BUFFET FAMOUSLY SAID, “IN THE BUSINESS WORLD THE REAR VIEW MIRROR IS ALWAYS CLEARER THAN THE WINDSHIELD.”

At 84 I think some of my window glass is foggy most of the time.

“Please Don’t Quote Me”

The Purist

I give you now Professor Twist,
 A conscientious scientist,
 Trustees exclaimed, "He never bungles!"
 And sent him off to distant jungles.
 Camped on a tropic riverside,
 One day he missed his loving bride.
 She had, the guide informed him later,
 Been eaten by an alligator.
 Professor Twist could not but smile.
 "You mean," he said, "a crocodile."



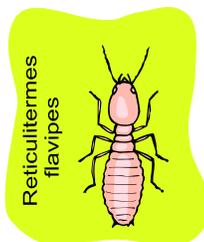
Ogden Nash

1902-1971



Everybody Tells Me Everything

I find it very difficult to enthuse
 Over the current news.
 Just when you think that at least the outlook is so black that it
 can grow no blacker, it worsens,
 And that is why I do not like the news, because there has never
 been an era when so many things were going so right for so
 many of the wrong persons.



The Termite

Some primal termite knocked on wood
 And tasted it, and found it good!
 And that is why your Cousin May
 Fell through the parlor floor today.



Marriage

Marriage is the alliance of two people, one of
 whom never remembers birthdays and the
 other who never forgets.



PO Box #19333*Las Vegas, NV 89132-0333*Tel (702) 388-1118 * www.SecuredBordersUSA.com * staff@SecuredBordersUSA.com

HELP STOP THE "ILLEGAL ALIEN IMMIGRATION INVASION" 'TAKE ACTION NOW'

SIGN & NOTARIZE OUR NATIONWIDE PETITION

Town Hall Meeting second Tuesday of each Month at 7:00 P.M. at: Elk's Lodge #1468, 4100 W. Charleston Blvd, Las Vegas, NV

Action needed to stem illegal-immigration tide

By Brian Gratton

Aug. 28, 2005 12:00 AM

States of emergency declared in Arizona and New Mexico signal that politicians finally perceive the tsunami of public opinion against illegal immigration. The failure of politicians to recognize legitimate complaints by citizens has fostered the careers of cranks and racists among those who favor restriction. Unfortunately, Governors Janet Napolitano and Bill Richardson are likely to make the problem worse.

They support amnesty and guest-worker programs, joining almost all Arizona's congressional delegation, President Bush, both major parties and papers ranging from *The Arizona Republic* to the *New York Times*.

Supporters of such policies always proclaim it will solve the problem of undocumented immigration. This is the first deception. Guest-worker and amnesty programs *increase* illegal immigration and have always done so. They camouflage reality, magically converting illegal immigrants into legal ones. They provide the stability of residence that allows the newly authorized to sponsor the immigration of relatives and friends; and they tell potential emigrants that amnesty is likely to be granted in the future.

The second deception is the claim that undocumented immigrants provide indispensable services for the country. Because such immigrants are generally unskilled, poorly educated and unable to speak English, the opposite is true. We condemn high school dropout rates, pointing to the severe costs they impose upon the individual and society.

Why should we encourage the entry of people with little education and no ability to speak English? Economists concur that unskilled immigrants constitute a net cost to American citizens, using more in public services (education, health and public safety) than they pay in taxes. Only two groups profit: the immigrants themselves and their employers, who pay a wage so low that other costs (education, health and public safety) are passed on to taxpayers.

Still greater penalties are paid by the many unskilled Americans who compete in these labor markets. Some scholars conclude that heavy costs will extend into the second generation. High dropout rates among the children of unskilled immigrants and their slow rate of upward occupational mobility may lead to a long-term drain on public services.

There are three ways to stop illegal immigration:

- First, tougher borders raise the costs of crossing and reduce the pool that can pay the price. But effective border control is both expensive and menacing, a military response to decent people seeking a better life.
- The second solution is that Latin American countries achieve the economic development and social stability sufficient to offer a better life at home. Positive signs exist, such as a falling birth rate in Mexico, but migration is now global. For generations to come, vast regions of the underdeveloped world, many much poorer than Mexico, will look to the United States.
- The third and best solution is to sanction rigorously those who hire illegal immigrants. Employers who use illegal immigrants fought against sanctions successfully until 1986. The immigration act of that year, which gave amnesty to 2.7 million people, was the first to promise penalties for those who "knowingly" hired unauthorized workers.

Beware all such promises: The 1986 sanctions are not enforced, as immigration authorities openly admit. Sanctions must be stiff, unambiguous and enforced.

Citizens who seek to end undocumented immigration have good reason: These immigrants are costly. They also have good reason to oppose amnesty and guest-worker programs: These will exacerbate the problem they are supposed to solve.

Citizens have less reason to look to the border than to employers for a solution. Just as employers were taught that child labor was illegal, they can be taught that hiring unauthorized workers is illegal. When they learn this lesson, the lure that induces deadly crossings and dramatic states of emergency will be gone.

Brian Gratton is a professor of history at Arizona State University. He can be reached at Brian.gratton@asu.edu via e-mail.

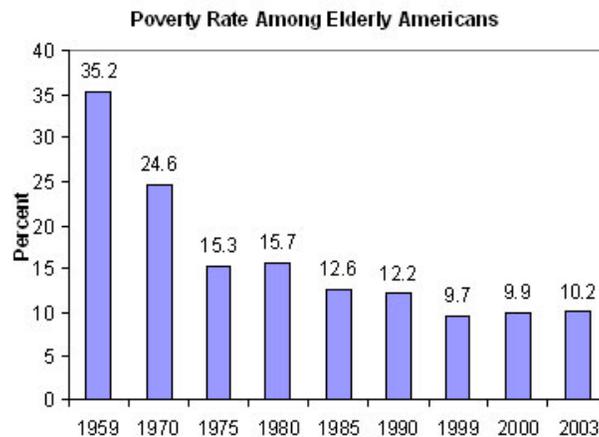
Permission to reprint this article was obtained from Brian Gratton, Professor of History, ASU

Social Security at 70

Alex Baker, The Century Foundation, 8/15/2005

Sunday, August 14th, marked the 70th anniversary of President Roosevelt's signing of the Social Security Act in 1935. The anniversary has been the source of some controversy—the absence of much official commemoration has led many to wonder whether this is another sign that political pressure is being brought to bear on the Social Security Administration (SSA) as part of the battle over privatization. Earlier this year, a report from the minority staff of the House Committee on Government Reform examined thousands of pages of communications from the SSA and found **numerous instances** where language had been revised to cast doubt on the program's future. But official celebration or not, the anniversary offers a good opportunity to take stock of Social Security's achievements over nearly three-quarters of a century.

It is important to remember that, in the not so distant past, being old in America very often meant simply being unable to financially support one's self. For most of our history, elderly Americans no longer able to work were forced to rely on the charity of relatives or face serious poverty. As recently as the 1960s, elderly Americans experienced twice the poverty rate of all other Americans. Yet, over the past 40 years, as Social Security's coverage and benefits matured, the program (along with Medicare) presided over a historic reduction in elderly poverty. In 2003, the poverty rate among the elderly stood at 10.2 percent compared to 35 percent of the elderly in 1959. And contrary to claims that Social Security is "outdated," the program's effect on elderly poverty is still critical today. Nearly **half** of today's elderly population would have incomes below the poverty line without Social Security's contribution.



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, **Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2003**, Current Population Reports, August 2004, Table B-2, p. 46.

Disability and survivors' insurance, added in 1956 and 1939 respectively, represent another important accomplishment. Today, 90 percent of American workers between 21 and 64 are insured against income loss should they become disabled. Due to survivors' insurance, virtually all children under the age of 18 are eligible for benefits in the case of the death of a parent. Prior to Social Security, these protections were either unavailable to most Americans or provided only through a patchwork system of local public assistance. Now, an average earner with a spouse and two children can expect benefits equal to a disability policy worth \$353,000, and protection for his or her survivors equivalent to a life insurance policy of \$403,000. Insurance of this nature would be nearly impossible to obtain on the private market: unlike private disability benefits or life insurance policies, Social Security's benefits are provided regardless of prior health conditions, aren't disrupted when you change jobs, and keep pace with inflation.

While noting the effects of Social Security on American life over the past 70 years, however, it is important also to consider why the program has been so successful. After all, if Social Security had not achieved broad popularity among the public and political staying power, the dramatic results we see now would hardly have been possible. ... History suggests that many of the changes now being debated, such as means-testing for benefits, not increasing benefits with living standards, and severing the link between wages and benefits, would have dire consequences for the program's survival. Considering how much the program has changed American society over the past 70 years, that's not a chance we can afford to take.

Alex Baker is a program assistant at The Century Foundation. www.socsec.org

At the August Meeting



Pictured above are NSC President Ken Mahal and August guest speaker **Heather Emmons** from the Desert Research Institute (DRI).

Heather gave an MS Power Point presentation explaining the work DRI is doing and has done throughout Nevada and the world. Our members gained much information concerning DRI. Heather answered many questions after the presentation.



Long term NSC member **Judy Ray** from U.S. Congressman Gibbons' office brought us up-to-date on the Congressman's activities.



N.B. You are given **90 days** after your membership expires to renew before your name is removed from the membership list. Your membership anniversary date is on the *Foghorn* mailing label. If the date is in red please renew, either by mail or at the next meeting.

Remember the dues are now \$8.00

Membership

New Members:

Paul Dornaero

Welcome To All New Members



Renewing Members:

John Boyle

Kathleen Buchanan

Marvin Fienberg

Victoria Harbison

Lee Wayne Hayes

Thank You For Your Continued Support

Please help increase our membership. Tell your friends about our meetings and bring them with you.

Meeting notice flyers are available for *posting* at every meeting.

Recruit new members.

HELP NSC GROW!!!



NEVADA SENIORS COALITION, INC.

4754 East Flamingo Road, Suite 416
Las Vegas, NV 89121-4709

Ken Mahal President

Phone: 702.737.1377

Fax: 702 .446.5534

e-mail: info@nevadaseniors.com

Vernon Perry Vice President

Directors:

Belle Chohanin Finance

Florence Petris Records

Knight Allen Legislation

Richard Thomas Communications

Vernon Perry Issues

Ken Mahal Liaison

Vernon Perry Membership

Charlotte Padron **Revelle Bacon**

Today In History September 8, 1892

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag first published.

The original Pledge of Allegiance was written in August 1892 by Francis Bellamy, a Baptist Minister. The Pledge expresses the ideas of his cousin, Edward Bellamy a Christian Socialist author of American socialist utopian novels.

The Pledge was published in the **September 8, 1892** issue of "The Youth Companion", the "Reader's Digest" of the time.

The original Pledge read as follows: 'I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. He considered putting the word 'equality' in the Pledge but he knew the state superintendents on the quadricentennial Columbus Day committee of the National Education Association (NEA), that, he chaired, were against equality for women and Negroes (Blacks today).

He protested all changes made to his Pledge during his lifetime, such as; 'the flag of the United States of America', but his protests were ignored.



The **Nevada Seniors Coalition, Inc (NSC)** is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization. No person is excluded on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin.

The organization's purpose is to promote the physical and social welfare of senior citizens, their children and grandchildren.

The organizations' goals and objectives are:

- Improvement of political and governmental institutions and processes on local, state and federal levels.
- Identify legislative trends at all levels and set NSC priorities.
- Support domestic policies responsive to the needs and will of the Nevada senior population.
- Work to involve more seniors in government. to assure government is open, responsive and accountable.
- Keep members and the general public informed on current issues affecting them. Encourage them to make their voices heard at all government levels.
- Work with other organizations in a common endeavor when their issues and programs coincide with those of NSC.

SecureHorizons®

from **PacifiCare®**

Caring is good. Doing something is better.™

Bonnie R. Alvarez
Sales Representative

1-702-269-2597, TDHI 1-800-387-1074

Secure Horizons Medicare Advantage Plans are offered by PacifiCare®, which contracts with the federal government.

040520E-PHS 5/04

SH-405-75725

NSC is on the World Wide Web at

www.nevadaseniors.com

Check it out !!