

Happy 78th Birthday to Councilman Gilbert Lindsay

By LEE IVORY

President, Gil Lindsay Fan Club

If you dressed Councilman Gilbert William Lindsay in tattered rags and allowed him to walk among his constituents in the "Great Ninth District," his hearty laugh and his infectious smile would still tell you that in Los Angeles, California—anywhere in the confines of the City of the Angels—he is definitely the boss.

Yesterday, Councilman Lindsay celebrated the 78th

anniversary of his birth and he reflected on his rise from a cotton plantation in Mississippi, where he was born on Thursday, November 29, 1900, to the present time, when he has become known as "Walking Roots."

Mississippi was totally uncivilized when Gilbert Lindsay came into the world and, with his completely frank outlook on life, it is no wonder that he was not run out of town on a rail.

"My only regret through all

these years would be that I did not get a really good education fast enough," said the Councilman, who is only one of two Gold Medallion 33° Masons west of the Mississippi and was cited as "Mason of the Year" in 1964.

"Aside from health, education is the greatest thing a person can have—especially minorities," he said, in an exclusive interview. "Black people should attempt to get a good education early because it develops the capacity to

think. You can make a million dollars if you can think."

Gilbert Lindsay left the farm in his early teens and headed for Pittsburgh, where he continued his education. He later came west to Arizona and served with the 10th Cavalry and the 25th Infantry of the U.S. Army.

While a GI, Gilbert Lindsay furthered his education during off-duty hours and was an honor student in the University of Arizona School of Business Administration program. After his service career, he came to Los Angeles, took civil service examinations and was hired by the Department of Water and Power.

"I was a scrub-boy in the sub-basement when I started out," Councilman Lindsay recalled. "I worked out of the bowels of the earth and I used every available hour pursuing courses in governmental administration and political science in the Civic Center of the University of Southern California, and I took studies in business administration at the University of California at Los Angeles."

Gilbert William Lindsay continued taking promotional civil service examinations and he climbed rapidly through the clerical salary ranges to become highly-respected by management for his initiative, his ability, and his integrity.

The turning point in his life came in 1952 when he served as associate manager in the campaign to elect Kenneth Hahn Supervisor of the Second District in L.A. County. Hahn appointed him deputy and Gilbert Lindsay served in that capacity for 10 years.

In January, 1963, Gilbert Lindsay was appointed to fill a vacancy in the Los Angeles City Council for the Ninth District and became the first black to serve in that office. He was overwhelmingly elected in the 1963 general election and he resoundingly beat three other candidates in the primary election of April, 1965, where he stood for his first full four-year term.

"I guess I would have to say that the high point of my career thus far was my election to the Los Angeles City Council, being the first black to serve on that body; because it has given me the opportunity and the power to help my

nually erect a Christmas tree in the "Great Ninth District" and distribute toys and food baskets to needy families. They also sponsor the much-loved South Central Los Angeles Easter Parade. And through the many community-oriented activities of the WSMBC, the Lindsays provide four-year scholarships to de-

serving high school students. Quite naturally, Councilman and Mrs. Lindsay reside in the heart of the "Great Ninth District" and they worship at the People's Independent Church of Christ where—true to form—the Councilman serves as a member of the board of trustees.

On Monday, Dec. 4, at 2

p.m., Councilman Gilbert William Lindsay will make yet another dedication in the district that already boasts the multi-million dollar Gilbert W. Lindsay Community and Central City Mental Health centers.

"Completion of this beautiful new swimming pool at Ross Snyder Recreation Cen-

ter has long been a dream of mine," the Councilman said. "I'm pleased that the community will now have a fine new recreational facility which I know will be heavily utilized."

The Gilbert William Lindsay fan club continues to grow. The line forms on the left.

Los Angeles Sentinel



REPRESENTATIVE—When residents of the "Great Ninth District" are concerned about the plight of their fellow man, Councilman Gilbert W. Lindsay has always represented the interests of his constituents. Here, in a 1975 photo, Councilman Lindsay takes time from his busy schedule to joke with the Los Angeles child featured on the annual Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy telethon. The Councilman and his wife, Theresa, are well-known for their contributions to the welfare of citizens in the Los Angeles basin.



GREGORY SUPPORTER—When comedian/social activist Dick Gregory decided to make a cross-country run to protest hunger in America, he chose to start his trek in Councilman Gilbert W. Lindsay's "Great Ninth District." Here, Lindsay

smiles as Gregory tells Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley one of his jokes before jogging around City Hall—which, of course, is part of Lindsay's domain. Councilman Lindsay still maintains a full and active daily schedule.



COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP—Councilman Gilbert W. Lindsay points to area of community where Slauson/Normandie clean-

known to pick up a broom himself when residents could not grasp his penchant for cleanliness. At right is Los Angeles



SUFFER THE CHILDREN—Although it is rare when Councilman Gilbert W. Lindsay's door is closed to anyone, he has a standing policy that allows children to always have access to his limited time. Whenever he is checking out his district, this scene is repeated over and over again. The 78-year-old legislator believes, as does maestro Barry White, that "people of tomorrow are the children of today."



CITY RESOLUTION — Los Angeles City Councilmembers Pat Russell (Sixth District) and Gilbert Lindsay ("Great Ninth District") present a resolution honoring Rosemary Holloman, outgoing member of the Los Angeles City Board of Library Commissioners. Holloman served on the Commission since 1973, the past three years as vice-president, and is resigning because of a change in residence outside of the City. Mayor Bradley joined the Council in recognizing her recently.

people, the poor people, and humanity," he said. "That's the outstanding thing."

In connection with his City work, Councilman Lindsay is chairman of the Council's Recreation, Library and Cultural Arts committee, past chairman and a member of the Police, Fire and Public Safety committee. He serves with the Special Committee on Equal Opportunities, the Los Angeles Parking Authority, the Rules committee, and the Sister Cities committee.

Councilman Lindsay is a member of the Industry and Transportation committee, the Los Angeles Coliseum Commission, and the Los Angeles Civic Center Authority. He is a past member of the Advisory Board of the California Water Resources Assn. and the Colorado River Assn.

Councilman Gilbert Lindsay served on the board of directors of the NAACP from 1953 to 1958 and is a former vice president of that body. He is a member of the Democratic County Central Committee and Democratic State Committee. He is a Past Grand Exalted Ruler of the Elks and a Past Potentate of Egyptian Temple No. 5 of the Shriners.

He is a member of the American Legion, the Urban League, the Southern California Minority Capital Corporation, an honorary member of Rotary Club International, and a director of the black-owned Bank of Finance.

Councilman Gilbert William Lindsay was chosen Los Angeles County "Citizen of the Year" in 1956, "Boss of the Year" by women City employees in 1965, and later that year was selected "Elk of the Year" at their national convention.

And, though he is proud of his public service career, even closer to his heart are the projects he works on each year with his wife, Theresa, who is president of the Women's Sunday Morning Breakfast Club.

Together, the Lindsays an-



THERESA LINDSAY
... his better half

no way that a filthy community can live up to its promise of good living for all," said the Councilman, who has been

also a Los Angeles City Parks and Recreation commissioner. Lindsay and Pye will dedicate a swimming pool on Monday.

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