

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Every American city, town, and village is composed of more than one group of races. The city of Tucson, with a population of 32,506 in 1930, of which 1,003 are Negroes, is no exception to the rule. The present thesis is a study of the Negro of Tucson, Arizona, attempting to show his economic condition.

#### **PART 1. THE SCOPE OF THE THESIS**

The thesis is divided into three main divisions. These are: (1) a historical treatment of twenty early pioneer Negroes of Tucson from 1850-1900; (2) a survey of the present economic condition of the Negro of Tucson; and (3) the summary and conclusions.

Beginning with Estevan, the first Negro to enter Arizona, there follows a brief account of Negro pioneers.

The second division is considered under seven sub topics, namely: (1) Negro population of Tucson; (2) Negro employment; (3) the Negro housing problem; (4) Negro investments and savings; (5) the school cost of Negro children from the elementary through the junior high school; (6) the comparison of Negro population of Tucson with Negro population of nine other cities; and (7) Negro business, political and religious organizations.

#### **PART II. SOURCES OF MATERIAL**

The data for the present study were obtained from the following sources: (1) the local newspapers; (2) the United States Census Reports, and other governmental documents; (3) personal letters written by Arizona pioneers; (4) text books and periodicals; (5) records of the county court house, including data from the Recorder's Office, the Board of Health, the County Supervisor's Office, and Municipal Reports of 1930-32, for the city of Tucson; (6) the Records of the Public School Administration, and the Reports of 1930-32 of the

Superintendent of Public Schools of Tucson; (7) the records of the Title and Guaranty Company of Tucson; (8) a personal survey of five different types of establishments in Tucson; (9) a personal interview with about one hundred old settlers of Tucson; and (10) 317 questionnaires.

### **PART III. METHODS AND PROCEDURE**

The newspapers from 1873 to 1931 were searched to find incidents concerning Negroes. After 1900, however, only major incidents concerning Negroes were considered. The census reports of the United States from, 1880 to 1930 were studied. Since the population of Tucson was not recorded until 1900, the population of Pima County, which was recorded since 1880, was used in attempting to get an estimate of the Negro population of Tucson before 1900.

Text books were only resorted to in connection with the Negro, Estevan, who came near Tucson in the sixteenth century.

At the Court House, the records of Negro taxpayers were looked up in order to find accurately the number of Negro taxpayers. The records of the Board of Health gave the number of births and deaths of Negroes in Tucson. From the Board of Supervisors an account of all Negroes who had ever been employed by the county was obtained. In order to find out the pro rata distribution of the Negro tax dollar, the Municipal reports of 1931 and 1932 were used.

The Reports of the Superintendent of Public Schools and the Records of the Public School Administration were used to get information about the cost and school attendance of Negro children from the elementary through the junior high school. Information concerning Negro communities, restricted and unrestricted districts, was obtained from the Title and Guaranty Company of Tucson.

The personal survey of five different types of establishments was made in order to get an estimate of the annual amount of money spent by Negroes in Tucson. Only establishments

were interviewed which had been operating and receiving Negro trade for at least five years. An average year out of the five years was reckoned as an average year of trade. The trade of this average year was used as a basis to form a conclusion as to how much money Negroes spend annually.

To get a picture of the home conditions, employment, and general living conditions of the Negro, three hundred and seventeen questionnaires were used. The data from these questionnaires were tabulated and put in the form of tables. Another set of questionnaires was applied to operators of Negro business organizations. A copy of both types of these questionnaires are included at the end of this chapter.

The growth of the Negro population from 1900 to 1930; the school attendance of Negro children since 1918; the cost of Negro school children yearly, since 1918; and the distribution of the Negro tax dollar are graphically illustrated by means of four graphs.

To obtain a historical background of the Negro of Tucson from 1850-1900, an interview of about one hundred old settlers of Tucson was made. From these interviews resulted sketches of the lives and economic activities of twenty Negroes who lived in Tucson during this period.

#### **PART IV. LIMITATIONS**

The major limitations of these data are these: the list of taxpayers do not include all the Negroes who own property. Neither is there any indication of the period Negroes have been paying taxes. This information was obtainable, but it would have required most of the entire office force of the Recorder's Office, which was impossible.

An attempt was made to find out how many Negroes were buying homes, the amount of money paid for them and the terms of the contracts. Many of the contracts were not recorded and the buyers of homes would not disclose the information. There are also Negroes who have married into other races. Some of these Negroes own property, but it was impossible to distinguish that part which belonged to the Negro from that part which belonged

to the party of the other race. Also there are people in Tucson of Negro descent, but who identify themselves with the white race. These people are excluded from the discussion of the thesis.