

Muslim 'pioneers' recall Islam's early days in Chicago



Brother Marcellus Jordan
A follower since 1933



Brother John Hasen
A follower since 1934



Brother Willie X
A follower since 1936



Brother Sam X
First heard the Teachings in 1938 (Photos by Nathaniel 10X)



Brother Karriem Allah
A follower since 1933

By Nathaniel 10X

These are some of the men who held the Temple doors open in the beginning. These are the pioneers who struggled in the early, lean years, when Islam was in the alley. When there were no beautiful Muslim Temples in the Hells of North America, when there were no successful businesses not even a newspaper — merely the word, and these Black men persevered, and the word was spread far and wide.

These are strong fearless men, bold men who are led by

the most fearless man that ever lived, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, All praise is due to Allah for Him.

Here are some of their impressions of the early, glorious years of Islam in North America. "It was not a hard job getting people in (to Saviour's Day), during that time, because times were hard," said Brother Karriem Allah.

"There was no work — they were out of doors, they were hungry, they were barefoot, and when the Messenger lifted up his voice they heard him, they listened to him and many

accepted Islam back in those days." Brother Karriem adds.

"Our first Saviour's Day was held at our first Temple, located at 3335 S. State St. We had a capacity crowd. I have been a follower of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad for 40 years, these have been 40 glorious years."

When Brother Sam X (Second from right) first heard the Teachings back in 1938, he remembers that evil was not as widespread as it is today, but the dreadful days are here now, Brother Sam points out... "These days are here now,

brother, if they are not here now, they don't have far to go."

"I've been around 40 years," states Brother Marcellus Jordan. "I've seen many Saviour's Days come and many go, and there would always come a great gathering, we'd have a nice crowd, always a beautiful day. I'll tell you something, I've never seen before (large crowds at EVERY Saviour's Day, it would have to be the work of God because whatever Allah Wills, it Will be done. So we'd always have a peaceful

day, no disturbances..."

There are many other older Believers like the men above, Black men and women from every Temple in the country, who dared to be "different" at a time when it was not fashionable to be Black or talk Black.

So wherever you are today brothers and sisters, we thank you, we salute you. But most of all we thank Allah Who Came in the Person of Master Fard Muhammad for giving to us all a Divine Leader and Teacher The Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad.