



JIMMIE SMITH'S FUNERAL

Body Found in River-- Racial Killing or Not?

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN

MONTGOMERY--The body of Jimmie L. Smith Jr., a 22-year-old Negro from Montgomery, was found last Sunday in a ravine near the Alabama River in north Montgomery County.

According to the story told by a friend who was with Smith the night he disappeared, Smith was beaten by a group of white men after he tried to buy some beer in Joe's Place, a white-owned tavern near the river. But Captain H. W. Mitchell of the Montgomery County sheriff's office said investigators "haven't found anything to substantiate" the story told by Smith's companion, Roosevelt McDaniel of Montgomery. "There are some things we're checking on," said Mitchell.

Smith's mother, Mrs. Ruby Smith, said she last saw her son alive about 5 p.m. Aug. 20, as he and McDaniel were leaving to give Mrs. Alice Lucas a ride to her home in Millbrook (Elmore County).

Around 4 a.m. the next morning, said Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Lucas called on the telephone and asked, "Is Jimmie made it home?" Mrs. Smith said he hadn't. About five minutes after the phone call, she said, McDaniel appeared at the door of her home with blood on his shirt, and told her that her son had been in a scuffle.

(Mrs. Lucas said she had no particular reason to believe Smith would not make it home. "I just called, really," she said.)

(Mrs. Smith said Mrs. Lucas had never called about her son before, although "he carried her home all that week.")

According to Mrs. Smith, McDaniel said he and Smith decided to stop for a beer after taking Mrs. Lucas home. First, she said McDaniel told her, they went to a Negro cafe on the Elmore County side of the river, but the place was out of beer.

Then, McDaniel told the mother, the twomen went to Joe's Place, just south of the river on Highway 143. "My son asked a white man outside could he get beer," she said. "The man said yes."

Mrs. Smith said McDaniel remained outside while Smith entered the cafe. Soon afterward, Smith left Joe's Place, and "all the white folks come hoodlin' out after him," she said. Mrs. Smith said McDaniel told her that when he went to see what was happening, he was hit by a car and knocked unconscious. When he woke up, he told her, everyone was gone.

McDaniel "told me a lot of different things," said Mrs. Smith, McDaniel was not at Smith's funeral last Tuesday, and could not be reached for comment.

(J. M. Welch Jr., who worked in Joe's Place the night of Aug. 20, said Smith did not come there: "If he did, I didn't see him." Welch also said he didn't see any fighting. A waitress in the cafe said Negroes were never allowed inside. "We've had them come to the door and ask to come in," she said. "We told them no.")

On Aug. 24, Eddie Lee Daniels, a barber from Troy, thought he saw two white men throwing a body into Patsaliga Creek in Pike County. "It looked as though one was holding the feet, and the other holding the head," he said later. But a diver found nothing in the creek.

When the body was found last Sunday, said Mrs. Smith, members of the family went to identify it. "Before they even saw it, they knew it was him," she said. "He had three other brothers' pictures in his wallet."

At mid-week, no one had been arrested in connection with the death. During the time her son was missing, Mrs. Smith went to the FBI for help. "The FBI told us that if he's in the river, he would be got," she said. "And he was got."



SMITH

'It Was Real Fine'

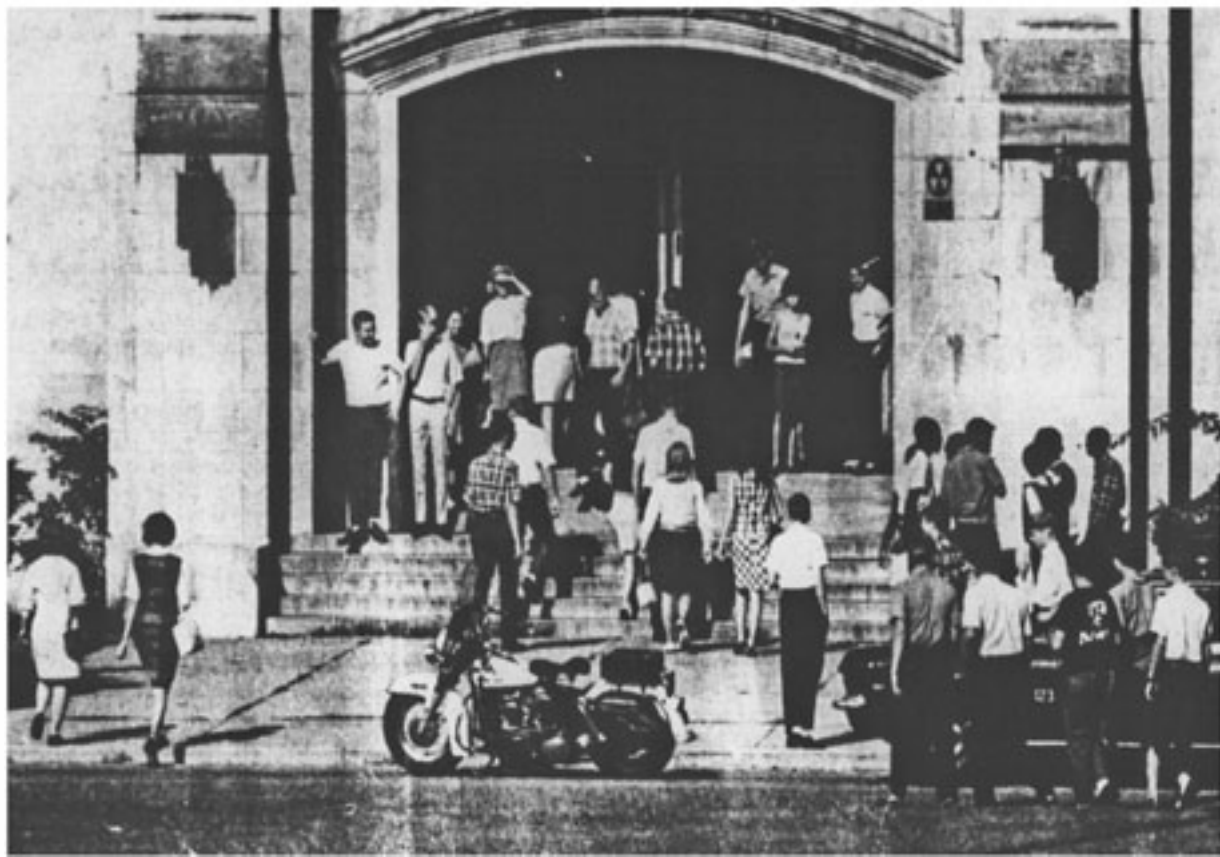
Barbour Schools Desegregate

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

CLAYTON -- Barbour County, home of governors, was the scene of peaceful school desegregation this week.

Sixteen Negro students quietly entered shiny new George C. Wallace High School along with the several hundred white students for whom it was built.

Elsewhere in Governor Wallace's home county, things were equally peaceful, if not more so. Fourteen Negro students attended Clito High School,



MONTGOMERY--Last Friday, Governor George C. Wallace signed the anti-school-guidelines bill into law. Four days later, George Wallace Jr. attended his first day of classes at Bellingrath Junior High--where 16 Negroes integrated the formerly all-white classes.

The bill signed by the governor says local school boards cannot agree to comply with the 1965 federal school desegregation guidelines, now or in the future.

Opening Day 'Staggered'

Extent of School Integration Is Anybody's Guess in Tuskegee

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

TUSKEGEE--The high school where Alabama public school desegregation began three years ago took a giant step toward complete integration this week. But it was a little hard to tell just how big the giant step was.

For every yellow bus that rolled up to Tuskegee High School with a load of white children, there seemed to be another bus with a load of Negro children.

But Macon County school officials, parents, and students came up with several different guesses as to how many children entered the big red brick building Wednesday for the first full day of school.

William C. Campbell, Tuskegee High's new principal, said he thought the enrollment was two whites for every Negro, or about 250 white students to 125 Negroes scattered throughout all 12 grades.

One white parent who has worked for school desegregation said he expected 225 whites and 150 Negroes. Some Negro seniors said they thought there were at least as many Negro as white students, and maybe more.

The man most likely to know, Macon County Schools Superintendent Joe C. Wilson, wasn't talking at all this week. But last Friday, he spoke to a meeting of Negro children who had applied to Tuskegee High School, and their parents.

According to some parents who attended the closed meeting, Wilson said that there now were 203 Negro and 177 white applicants, under the county's court-ordered freedom-of-choice plan. (Last spring, the school board's figures were 256 Negro and 180 white applicants.) He pointed out that last year there were only 35 Negroes to 250 whites.

"In view of the ratio, he and the principal felt the opening day should be staggered so as not to seem over-run

80 Negroes at Hayneville School; Whites Switch to Private Academy

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN

HAYNEVILLE -- Hayneville School admitted between 80 and 100 Negro students last Monday--without incident and without many white classmates.

Under a federal court order, grade one and grades seven through 12 were desegregated in the Lowndes County school system. Besides the Negro children at Hayneville, more than a dozen Negroes attended the first day of classes in Fort Deposit.

Very few high-school-age children could be seen at Hayneville School. More than likely, they were in class at Lowndes Academy, the county's new,

all-white private school in Lowndesboro.

When it opened Aug. 29, Lowndes Academy had "most of the white children in high school, out of Hayneville School," said Ray Bass, head of the Lowndes County Private School Foundation.

In all 12 grades, said Bass, the new private school had an enrollment of about 225.

Things were quiet at all the county's schools when the public schools opened on Monday. Civil rights leader John Hulet brought two sons to Hayneville School, and Robert Strickland and his wife brought three of their children.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO, Col. 6)

(CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX, Col. 4)



MISS ANNIE SMITH

A few Negroes reportedly showed up for classes at Bakerhill High.

And in Eufaula--which has a separate school system of its own--the first few days of school were so pleasant for nearly 50 Negro transfer students that Negro parents and white school officials couldn't say enough nice things about the situation.

It was a big change from last year, when the Barbour County and Eufaula school systems were still firmly segregated. In fact, Barbour County was then so defiant of the desegregation guidelines that the U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare began steps to cut off federal funds to the school system.

But Barbour County Schools Superintendent Raymond E. Faught said this week that fear of losing federal money wasn't the factor that changed the school board's mind about desegregation.

"This isn't a new policy," Faught said. "The board has been working serious on this for two years straight. Last year we just hadn't signed anything."

But S. O. Corbett, a Negro who has been county schools supervisor for nearly ten years, agreed that there had been some change. "Time has brought it," he explained.

The Barbour County schools desegregated seven grades--one, seven, eight, nine, ten, 11, and 12--on a freedom-of-choice basis. Faught wouldn't say whether more grades will follow next (CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE, Col. 1)

A Crazy Night of Baseball



MONTGOMERY--Leroy (Bachel) Paige, the oldest pitcher in the world, came to town last Monday night with the Indianapolis Clowns, to play a baseball game against the New

York All-Stars. Seven innings and hundreds of laughs later, the Clowns had won, 10 to 1. But most of the 300 spectators didn't know the score-- they were too busy laughing at the

Clown who carried a plastic leg to the plate (above left) and the first baseman who played marbles with ping-pong balls when he got bored (above right). After striking out six bat-

ters in three innings, Paige watched the rest of the game from the dugout (far right).

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Editorial Opinion

Alabama's Whitest Building

As most people know, the state Capitol building in Montgomery is painted white. Except where the paint is beginning to crack and peel, every inch of the outside of the Capitol is white.

Inside the Capitol, the situation is much the same--it's practically all white. All the legislators are white, all the state troopers are white, and almost all the visitors are white. You'd hardly guess that the state Capitol belongs to all the people of Alabama.

Anyone has the right to visit the Capitol, and to watch the Legislature in session. But few Negro citizens take advantage of these



rights. Those who do, have often been the victims of rude treatment and abuse. Recently, when 40 children from an Upward Bound project visited the Capitol, a state trooper told one boy that the lavatories were "not for your kind." On another occasion, a trooper told a Negro girl watching the Legislature that she didn't "have any business here," and was "only trying to start trouble." Probably hundreds of Negro visitors have had to suffer similar embarrassments.

This sort of thing can be stopped. It would stop very soon if large numbers of Negro citizens began visiting the Capitol, especially when the Legislature meets again after the elections. If Negro people exercised their right to visit their Capitol, the troopers and other government employees would start getting used to it. And if enough Negroes came, the troopers simply wouldn't have time to harass all the Negro visitors.

But there is a more important reason for Negroes to visit the Capitol--they should be watching the Legislature. Right now, the state Senate and the state House are like two big private clubs. Legislators can look up at the visitors' gallery and see row after row of white faces. They need to be reminded that, in theory at least, they are representing Negro people, too. There could be no better reminder than a large number of Negro faces among the white.

A Free Press (Sometimes)

One of the foundations of a democratic society is a free press. Most people, if you asked them, would agree with this principle. Yet there seems to be an irresistible urge, in people who get any kind of power, to control the press and limit the news it can print. People in power are all in favor of a free press--until the press starts to criticize them or oppose them in any way.

For many years in many parts of the South, the white power structure that controlled the government also controlled the press. Civil rights harassments and killings were not reported; public officials could discriminate without fear of being exposed in the press; and vital information was kept from people who needed it desperately. The Southern Courier was created to challenge this official secrecy.

But lately, some people in the civil rights movement have adopted the white power structure's method of dealing with the press. More than one Negro political meeting last spring began with an attempt to exclude the press--apparently so that representatives chosen by the people could conduct their business in secret. In the past week, two people in the civil rights movement have used threats (non-violent threats, but threats all the same) to try to persuade this newspaper not to print certain stories.

When people in the civil rights movement try to step on the press, they forget that a large part of the movement has been a public relations campaign, conducted in the newspapers. No one would dispute the fact that the movement's greatest asset has been the courage of the thousands of people who have marched, worked, and even died for equality. But their efforts would have produced much less if newspapers had never told their story.

The Montgomery bus boycott was a magnificent achievement; but without newspapers, the name of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. might never have spread so far across the nation. It took tremendous courage for people to face fire hoses and police dogs in Birmingham in 1963; but without newspapers and television, that courage might never have led to the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

As a result of the civil rights movement, Negroes in the South are finally beginning to take part in politics and government. It is discouraging that some people now want to use the same corrupt press tactics that helped keep discriminatory and dishonest white politicians in power for so many years. If these tactics do not change, how can we believe that anything else will be different?

**Says Former Resident
South Africa
Won't Change**

BY MARY ELLEN GALE
TUSKEGEE--The killing of South African Prime Minister Hendrik F. Verwoerd won't change his country's system of complete separation of the races.

That is the opinion of Stanlake J. T. Samkange, a native of Rhodesia who lived under the South African system--called "apartheid"--for eight years. "There will be another Verwoerd," Samkange predicted. "I think it will be Vorster (Justice Minister Balthazar Vorster). He is tough. He is likely to take over."

"Some Afrikaners (white South Africans) have been criticizing Verwoerd for mellowing with age," Samkange said. "Vorster is not going to do that. He will be a new man trying to consolidate his power. Verwoerd was tougher than the man he followed, and Vorster will be even tougher than Verwoerd."

The white man who stabbed Verwoerd to death on the floor of the South African Parliament Tuesday was of mixed Greek and Portuguese parentage, Samkange said.

"Because of this, the Afrikaners may begin to discriminate against white foreigners in South Africa. Up to now the black man has been alone. Now the government may begin to widen the base of hatred it has created."

"It might have long-term effects--it might speed up the internal revolution that is the only ultimate solution for South Africa. But I'm not talking about one or two years. The revolution is still a long, long time away."

RIOT IN ATLANTA

ATLANTA, Ga.--Atlanta Mayor Ivan Allen Jr. Wednesday blamed "certain individuals in the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee" for the worst racial disturbance in the city's history.

More than 70 people were arrested Tuesday in a riot near Atlanta Stadium after Harold Louis Prather, 25, a Negro wanted for auto theft, was shot while fleeing from two Atlanta policemen. Bill Ware, Atlanta project director for SNCC, was charged with inciting a riot.

During the riot, Allen climbed on top of a police car to ask the crowd "to talk things over peacefully." Negroes began rocking the car back and forth, and Allen nearly fell off.

SNCC said Wednesday that the arrests were illegal, and that they showed "the inability and unwillingness of the Atlanta police to face the anger of Atlanta Negroes."

**Credit Union
In Meridian**

BY PATRICIA JAMES

MERIDIAN, Miss.--Meridian got its first federal credit union when the First Union Baptist Church received a charter from the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW).

The purpose of the credit union is to accumulate members' savings and to give them a source of credit for sensible and useful purposes. Loans will be available just to members of the First Union Baptist Church and their immediate families.

It costs 25¢ to join the credit union. But before you can become a full member of the union, you must buy a \$5 share in the organization. The temporary limit on the amount of money a member can borrow is \$50, set by the executive directors of the union. As the assets of the union increase, the limit on loans will increase to \$750.

Obie Clark, community action specialist for STAR, Inc., the adult educational program, organized the union. He said it "will provide short term, low-interest money for people without collateral from banks or other money-lending organizations."

The organizers of the Meridian Union Baptist Church Federal Credit Union hope to set up similar unions at many churches as possible in the Meridian area.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

My name is Jeanette Buxton, I am 19 years of age and attend Woodson High School, where I am a senior.

My hobbies are reading, writing, modern jazz, and participating in different activities and clubs.

In future life, I want to finish trade school and to work in beauty culture.

My message to teens is to lose no time. What I mean about lose no time is, try to have a high school education and college education. Always be employed in something useful, something that will build your future and help you climb the ladder of success.

The journey to success is a hard and long road, but those who are prepared can travel it. The ladder to success can go as high as you want to climb it, and when you get to the top, try to stay there.

Do your best in whatever you attempt, and the best will come to you. Prepare yourself and be ready, because the

**Different Opinions On
Bullock Desegregation**

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

UNION SPRINGS--The Bullock County schools took a desegregation test last week, by order of the federal court. But the marks they got depend on who's doing the grading.

Under the guidelines laid down by U.S. District Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. last spring, about 50 Negro students are attending Bullock County High School and five are at Union Springs Elementary School.

"We're proud of Bullock County," said Maury Smith, attorney for the county board of education. "We think it's an example for other counties to follow."

But some Negro leaders weren't so happy about Bullock's example. They said the county has been desegregating its schools under court order for three years and still has a long way to go.

They also criticized county school officials for failing to reply to questions from the Negro community.

"We met with the superintendent and some other officials last Saturday," said H. O. Williams, spokesman for the Negro leaders. "They were very high-handed. An assistant supervisor kept trying to adjourn the meeting whenever we asked questions they didn't want to answer."



H. O. WILLIAMS

"She said she had something else to do. Then she laughed and told a friend she was going to the hair-dresser. It seems like they're more interested in hair-dressing than the education of our children."

Williams said the county's new schools superintendent, Edward M. Lindbloom, was "very evasive. He wouldn't say anything except that he was going to follow the court order. He left

**Choctaw Schools Ordered
To Allow Transfers**

BY NELSON LICHTENSTEIN

MOBILE--Three days before school was to open in Choctaw County last month, the school board decided not to go through with plans for desegregation. On Aug. 26, letters were sent to the 142 Negro students who were planning to transfer to white schools. The letters reassigned them to their old schools.

But now a federal court here has ordered the school board to enroll the Negro students. "You can't take a step backward," Federal Judge Virgil Pittman told Choctaw County officials. "You have an inescapable duty." He ordered classes to be integrated by Sept. 23.

Miss Wilma Ruffin, 14, had been attending the previously all-white Choctaw County High in Butler since last February.

"I was really disappointed to get that letter," she said after the federal court hearing. Now that integration had been ordered, she said, "I'll be able to take the courses I want at Choctaw County High."

W. M. Wimberly, superintendent of schools in Choctaw County, testified that the school board had revoked its integration plan on Aug. 25, because of a "rising tide of hostility between the races." He said members of the school board had been threatened by the Ku Klux Klan.

Wimberly testified that integration would create over-crowding in the white schools--"an explosive situation."

**Selmont Annexation
Wins, Then Loses**

SELMA--The battle of Selmont is over, at least for now.

Residents of Selmont, just across the Alabama River from Selma, voted to become part of Selma in a special election Tuesday. But that wasn't the end of the story.

Selma's annexation of Selmont had become a hot political issue. A Negro group, the Concerned Citizens of Selmont, opposed it because Selma was leaving out 700 Negro residents in the Selmont area. Some white citizens, also calling themselves the Concerned Citizens of Selmont, opposed annexation because their children might have had to move from Dallas County schools into the city system.

On Wednesday, Selma Mayor Joe Smitherman said he would not go ahead with the annexation, because it had been approved by only six votes, 165 to 159.

Last month, however, he told a reporter that extra classrooms under construction at Choctaw County High School would make room for all the students who had applied for transfer. A teacher at all-Negro Choctaw County Training School in Lisman said after court that his school was already over-crowded, even without the 142 students who had asked to transfer.

The U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare said last month it would cut off about \$400,000 in federal funds, because the school board had not signed a form promising to follow HEW's schedule of desegregation.

A member of the school board said that the cut-off, plus Governor George C. Wallace's recently enacted anti-guidelines law, was "part of the reason we decided to re-segregate."



Evergreen

Mrs. Willie B. Welch, who teaches at Southside Elementary School, has just returned from an eight-week Math Institute at Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana. Mrs. Welch was one of 50 elementary school teachers chosen for the institute from all over the country by the National Science Foundation. How did she like it? "There was no segregation whatsoever," she said. "Everyone on the campus was so nice."

Red Level

Miss Helen Ruth Feagin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Feagin, was married to David Wren Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. David Wren of Birmingham, at the First Bethlehem Baptist Church on Aug. 27. Two hundred people attended the ceremony, including the bride's sister-in-law, Mrs. Mary Feagin, who came all the way from Connecticut for the occasion. The couple will live in Tuskegee, while the groom is getting his master's degree in biology at Tuskegee Institute.

Mobile

Miss Juanita Brinkley was last seen attending a James Brown concert at the municipal auditorium here. That was the night of Aug. 8. Since then, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Brinkley haven't heard a thing about their 14-year-old daughter. "She looks 21," said Brinkley, "and the girl has guts enough to take care of herself. But we haven't heard a thing from her friends or the police or anybody." Brinkley asked anyone with information about his daughter to call 432-2070 in Mobile.

Itta Bena, Miss.

Three graduates of C. W. Carver High School, Montgomery, Ala., arrived here last week to attend Mississippi Valley State College (MVSC). Alphonsa Franklin (Carver '62), Robert Flowers ('66) and Willie Sands ('66) all received four-year scholarships for football.

Evergreen

John Henry Jones, who has just retired from the Army after 20 years' service, has returned to live in Evergreen. With him are his wife, three children, and a grandchild.

after about three questions," Williams said.

Lindbloom said he left "a few minutes early" to go to another meeting. "I didn't think we had any problem," he said.

The superintendent referred most of the Negro leaders' criticisms to Smith, the school board attorney. But Lindbloom did reply to a few of them himself:

Williams said Lindbloom held separate teachers' meetings for Negro and white teachers, although the court order says the meetings must be integrated. Lindbloom said the separate meeting for Negro teachers "was just for civil defense instruction. The white teachers had already had that."

Williams said a Negro bus driver was told he couldn't get a raise in salary and a white bus driver was told he would soon get an extra \$15. Lindbloom said all bus drivers are and will be paid the same.

Williams said students at Carver High School have inadequate library facilities although they pay a library fee, and should be allowed to use the books in the Bullock County High School library. Smith said each school will have to use its own library.

Williams charged that teachers active in civil rights were given the worst teaching assignments. He said one teacher was told, "Take this or go further in the mud (teach at a small rural school)."

"I don't believe this is true," Smith replied. "If it is, the school board has no knowledge of it." He gave the same answer to charges that the county still runs separate school buses for Negro and white students, that Negro children are assigned segregated seats in the Bullock County High lunchroom, and that Negroes are being kept off the school's athletic teams.

"But we'll certainly look into it," Smith promised. "We're trying to follow the court order. We think we've done so effectively. We wouldn't want anything to jeopardize our position."

Williams said the Negro leaders don't want anything to jeopardize their children's education. "We're going to wait and see what develops," he said. "But we're not going to let it stay the way it is."



Dothan

The Rev. E. D. Jones gave the keynote address at the annual awards banquet of the Hawk-Houston Boys' Club. Prizes were given to Wallace Bishop, billiard champion; Michael Higgins, table tennis; John Wesley Edwards, most valuable Little League player; Johnny Wright, most valuable Pony League player; Danny Johnson, weight-lifting; and James Jerden, most valuable basketball player. Kenneth Higgins won the Boy of the Year Award.

Ozark

Billy Ray Crittenden, 17, a senior at D. A. Smith High School, returned home last week after a two-month vacation visiting relatives in Trenton, New Jersey, Newark, New Jersey, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**Opening Day At
Tuskegee High**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)
many segregationists. Macon Academy, the state's first white private school founded to combat desegregation, opened its doors two weeks ago to an estimated 400 students.

But Mrs. Carter said she didn't think the school officials were just playing games. "They were trying to do what was best," she said. "I got the distinct impression the superintendent was being fair . . . He told us he didn't want anyone to think he was trying to make us change our minds."

She pointed out that some parents and children had apparently changed their minds earlier. "I don't believe they have as many as 203 Negro students," she said. "There weren't that many at the meeting."

Campbell, the school principal, said numbers aren't the only measure of meaningful school desegregation. "We've got an integrated football team with some first-string Negro players," he said.

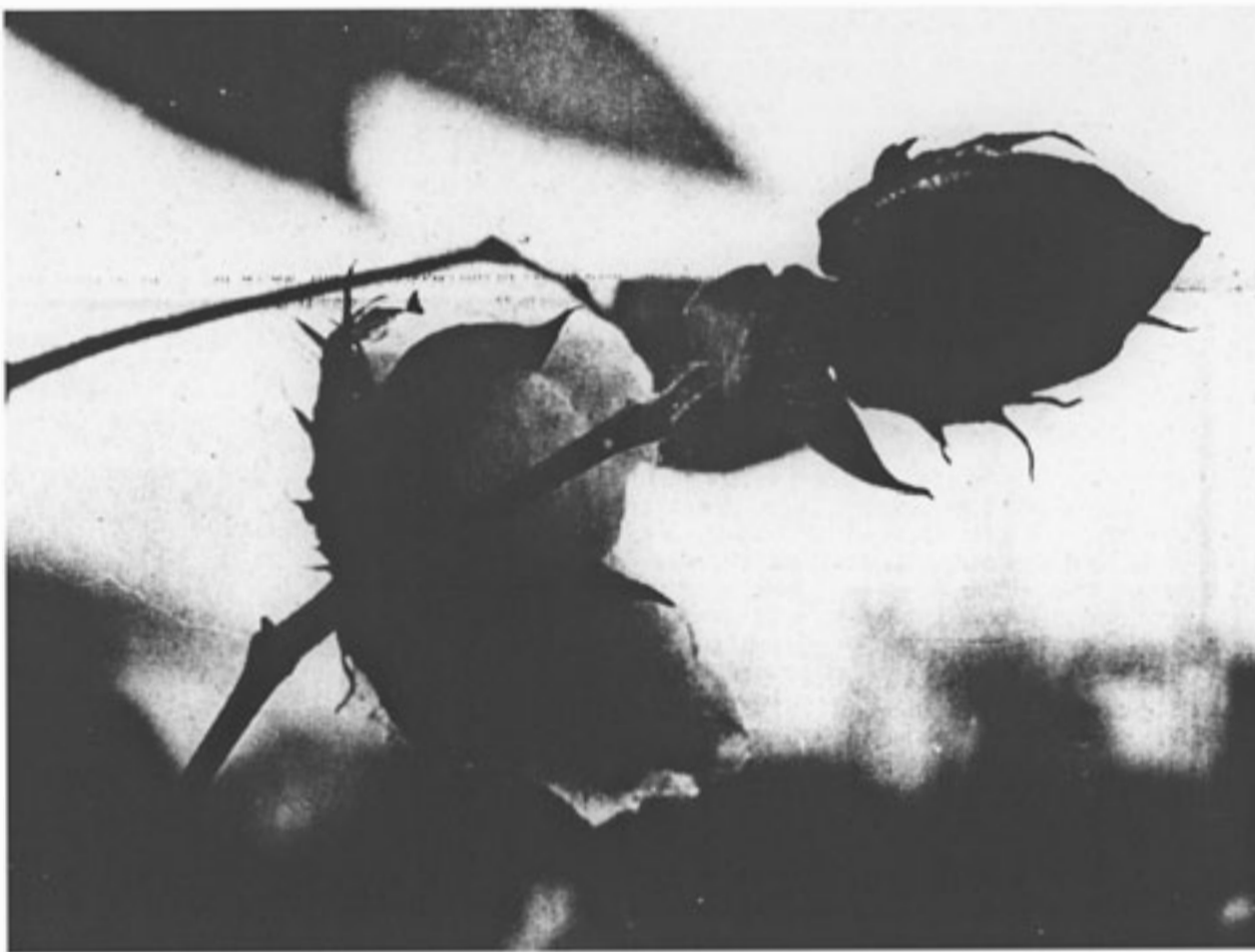
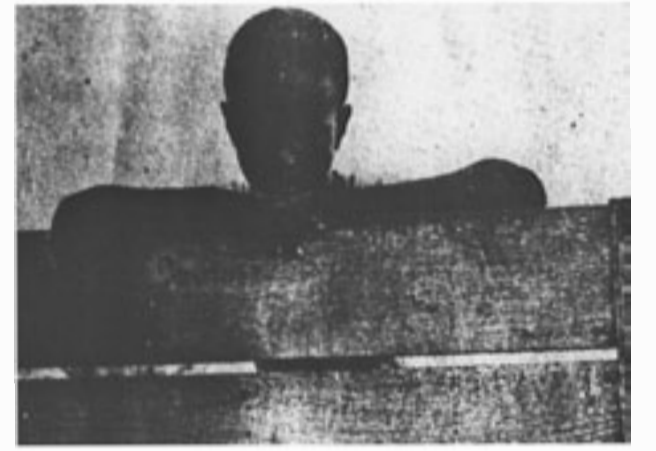
But no one seemed sure when or why more than 50--and perhaps more than 100--Negro students decided not to attend Tuskegee High after all.



COTTON FIELDS

Part One

Photographs by Jim Pepler





FORT RUCKER IN THE WIREGRASS

Last Stop on the Way to South Viet Nam

BY PETER CUMMINGS

FORT RUCKER -- The wail of an emergency siren suddenly breaks the silence of the small grassy field where 60 men in green combat uniforms are lounging in the shade. They scramble to their feet and run towards the

helicopters parked on the field. In less than five minutes, 20 UH-1's (Hueys) are in the air.

Helicopter number 1711 flies seventh in a formation of 14 troop-carriers. Co-pilot William J. Fry, age 20, concentrates on the controls while the pilot, Major Glen Morgan, explains what is happening.

"This 1st Battalion of the 72nd is under attack at Novel Six," Morgan says over the crackling radio headset that each man wears. "We don't know the size of the enemy force yet, but the gunships are up ahead of us. They should find out."

The "gun-ships," six helicopters armed with rockets and machine-guns, are miles ahead of Fry and Morgan. They sweep along 300 feet above the ground at speeds up to 120 miles per hour. Radio messages flash from ship to ship:

"Outlaw 6, this is Outlaw 27," "Negative fire received sir, but possible emplacements just west of our LZ."

"OK, slow it back, we're going in on a standard trail."

Below, a river appears between the trees--not the Mekong River of South Viet Nam, but the Pea River, flowing



STUDENT-PILOT WILLIAM J. FRY AND MAJOR GLEN MORGAN

through Coffee County, Alabama. No rice-paddies or black-pajamaed Viet Cong appear below--only a Negro woman who stands by her house and waves, and lazy cows which ignore the Hueys.

Major Morgan's "troop-ship" carries no troops and the "gun-ships" carry no guns, for this "emergency" is all a pre-planned training exercise for student pilots at Fort Rucker, Alabama.

Fort Rucker, the center of Army Aviation, sprawls over nearly 100 square miles of land in Coffee and Dale counties. The base is a giant school, and its graduates (helicopter pilots, aircraft mechanics, and pilots for small planes) are all bound for one destination: South Viet Nam.

Before William Fry graduates from Rucker, he must spend 16 weeks learning such subjects as night-flying, flying in formation, camouflage, and defensive measures against mortar attacks and machine-gun fire. But he gets only 200 hours of flying time and he is still nervous and careful at the controls.

Major Morgan, like most Fort Rucker instructors, has served in Viet Nam and has over 3,800 hours of flying time. He gives Fry advice. "The ground slopes off to the north-west here," he warns as the young pilot sets the "chopper" down on a field and new-mown grass swirls up around the Huey.

Two hundred ninety helicopter pilots are now being graduated from Rucker

Thomas C. J. Hubard, a student-pilot from Baltimore, left college after one year and joined the service: "So far, it's showed me a lot--I've matured a lot. For two summers running I was a beach bum and had my hair all bleached and everything. Now I guess that's childish."

Harold E. Hebert Jr., of Tucson, Arizona, feels he has changed too: "I used to do nothing all the time, but now I can't stand to do nothing." At Rucker the men have little chance to do nothing. On the weekends they may drive to nightclubs, swim at Panama City, go sport parachuting, and, as one man put it, "the married people go home and lock the door." But during the week, the students must be up between 5 and 6 a.m. to begin a rough schedule of classes and flight exercises.

The hard work and Army discipline can change the way men feel towards each other: "I don't think we really have time for prejudice here," says Hebert, who is white. "My first 12 years were spent in Florida... I think the Army definitely has changed my view-- I mean in the Army you just meet Negroes more."

Hubard agreed: "When I got in the Army I realized that I'd never known a Negro. Here, you've got to work together. When I go over to Viet Nam I may be assigned a Negro pilot. I'm not going to get out of the aircraft at 1,000 feet just because he's black."

The base also presents a new situation to Negroes. "When Negroes first get here," said one Negro soldier, who asked that his name be withheld, "they expect to find prejudice. But in two or three weeks they see what the atmosphere is like and they feel a lot better."

This soldier had only one complaint: "There's a real demand for Negro barbers here. In order for a Negro to get a decent haircut, he has to go to Ozark or Enterprise."

"Negroes and whites mix well on the base," according to another Negro soldier from the deep South. "The white guys I work with are from Georgia and I never met any guys nicer. But off-base you more or less have to cut loose from white friends."

Fort Rucker has changed the entire Wiregrass. The helicopters from the

fort can be seen every day over the highways and fields of the area. Every night, blinking aircraft lights criss-cross the stars over Ozark, Enterprise, and Daleville.

Whatever those helicopters mean to the people of Southeast Asia, to the people of Southeast Alabama they mean money.

During the next year, Fort Rucker will spend over \$110,000,000 in local purchases, military pay, contracts, and civil service payrolls. Nearly all this money will be spent and respend in the area, increasing local income by almost half a billion dollars.

Daleville, the little city that clings like a barnacle to the southern edge of the fort, has grown along with the base. In 1960 this little town held 693 people; now it has at least 6,000. According to Mayor Jimmy Day, "Just about everybody here is military, retired military, or has been in the military."

Daleville's one main street is crowded with service stations, car lots, and other businesses, such as "Jimmy Day's Laundry," which serve the post. An insurance company a few blocks from the Rucker gate advertises that it will insure all pilots, even those called up for service in Viet Nam.

On nearly every side street, houses, roads, or water lines are under construction. "We're really struggling to build us a city and fill up some of these cotton fields," says John Ard, superintendent of the city's water system.

Like any growing city, Daleville has problems. Chief among these, Mayor Day feels, is the lack of recreational facilities: "All these kids in these trailer parks have no place to go to play." Another problem is money. The city may start issuing a \$5 trailer license to raise revenue from people who come and go too quickly to pay taxes in Daleville.

Besides spending money, Fort Rucker provides jobs. It employs 6,636 civilians, mostly native Alabamians. But only 509, or less than eight per cent, of these employees are Negro although the area's population is one-fourth Negro. According to Fort Rucker's personnel office, many Negroes have failed to qualify for highly skilled jobs or pass the required civil service exams.

The base has changed local politics a little. Jimmy Clouse, of Dale County's Republican Party, said Fort Rucker "acts as a sort of a melting pot and makes it easier for us. To tell the truth, a lot of our Republicans here are Army personnel and retired officers."

By mid-September, 20-year-old William Fry will probably be in combat over the jungles of South Viet Nam. Instead of flying imaginary missions in Alabama, his helicopter will carry real troops and real machine-guns. Below he will see rice paddies rather than cotton fields, and instead of landing on government plots leased by the U.S. government, he will land on any spot of ground he can find.

With a little skill and a lot of luck, William Fry will return safely to the U.S. in September of 1967. While he flies over Viet Nam, other men will be training at Fort Rucker to take his place. Like Fry, they will fly to rescue "Novel Six" near the Pea River, and carry their clothes to Jimmy Day's Laundry. Because of a war in Southeast Asia, the face of Southeast Alabama is being changed.



THOMAS C. J. HUBARD



THERE AREN'T MANY NEGROES AT FORT RUCKER

First Day SCLC Worker Convicted In Unusual Libel Trial In Barbour

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)
 year or whether teaching staffs and sports programs will be desegregated. He also refused to comment on Governor Wallace's new state law against complying with federal desegregation guidelines.

"Everything's peaceable here," he said. "We're making progress. The people in Barbour County will solve their problems if other people leave us alone."

Negro parents in Clayton said they were pretty well satisfied with the way things were working out. "It was real fine the first day," said Mrs. Amos Floyd, whose son, Michael, is an eighth-grader at Wallace High.

"But it'll take a few weeks to tell for sure," her husband added.

Over in Eufaula, Negro parents praised the city schools superintendent, O. B. Carter, for smoothing the way for desegregation of Western Heights Elementary School and Eufaula High School.

"Everyone was prepared for it," said Mrs. Rosie Jordan, who sent five children to Western Heights and two to Eufaula High. "Two weeks ago they had a meeting for Negro parents and children. They answered our questions and showed us around the school--they were real nice."

Superintendent Carter wouldn't take all the credit for the orderly desegregation. "We have high-type people in this county," he said. "When we tell our children to behave like ladies and gentlemen, they do. We don't do things like they do in Cicero, Chicago."

He said Negro students will be welcome in all school activities, including sports. "We're obeying HEW," he said, "We're carrying it out to the letter of the law."

The children seemed to feel that Eufaula was even carrying out the spirit of the law. "I made a heap of friends," claimed Billy Ray Moreland, a Negro eighth-grader.

"All my children came back bragging how they made friends and how nice the teachers and students were," Mrs. Jordan said.

It wasn't quite that friendly in Clayton. Miss Annie Smith, a senior, said the bus driver and white students tried to make the Negroes sit in the back of the bus. "But," she added, "the principal and the teachers were real nice."

GREENSBORO--SCLC worker John Reynolds, a leader in Greensboro's 12-week-old boycott of white-owned stores, was fined \$250 last Tuesday after being convicted of the unusual charge of criminal libel.

The trial, before Judge Harold Knight in County Court, was unusual, too. The victim of the alleged libel, store owner "Doc" Adams, testified that the Ku Klux Klan was "terrible" and "evil," Reynolds' lawyer, Don Jelinek of the Lawyers Constitutional Defense Committee, contended that not all Klansmen are bad--"some just handout leaflets."

Reynolds was arrested July 28 at Adams Market, while carrying a sign that said, "Why Support the KKK?" Adams testified that the picketing in front of his store went on for nine days, that his business was interfered with, and that people came in to ask him if he

were a Klansman.

For a statement to be criminally libelous, it must damage someone's reputation and tend to cause a disturbance of the peace. So Adams testified that the KKK sign hurt his reputation, while Jelinek argued that this wasn't necessarily so.

Reynolds said he would appeal. During the trial, about 15 Negroes integrated the seating arrangements in the courtroom. Reynolds said it was the first time "people sat where they wanted to."

Macon Library

TUSKEGEE -- Macon County's first public library, and a \$476,000 educational materials center, opened up last weekend in the Board of Education building.



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Cramton Bowl--Montgomery

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 Students .50



In Atlanta, Negroes and whites are fighting mad at unfair employment... instead of each other.

Across the country, many cities and towns are facing, some for the first time, the necessity of solving their complex racial problems. And the results are encouraging.

In Atlanta, both white and Negro members of the Council on Human Relations met with the business community to break down discrimination practices in employment. In a short time, more than 60 Negroes were working in non-traditional jobs in Atlanta's bread industry. Some 750 new jobs were opened in soft drink companies, shoe outlets and department stores. Most companies consider it good business. It can work for you, too. Formal talk among members of all races in your community, thru a Human Relations Commission, can start solving the problems of education, delinquency and equal jobs.

To be most effective, a Commission should have official status, power to act, an adequate budget, skilled staff, and membership widely representative of the community.

If you want to know how to set up a Commission, or how an existing one can be more effective, write for the Community Relations Service booklet, "How To Turn Talk Into Action." Address: ACTION, Washington, D.C. 20537.

Face the problem, face to face. Talk, plan, act.

'Weren't Nothing to It'

BY NELSON LICHTENSTEIN
 PRICHARD--Jay Mendenhall walked into a Prichard drug store last week, looking for an old girl-friend. She wasn't there, so he settled for a banana split. Halfway through the chocolate, he got hit over the head with a club. "This white man came into the store and stood behind me," said Mendenhall. "Then he shouted, 'Get up, nigger, and run.'"

"I stood, turned around and told him I wasn't going to run anywhere. Then he hit me twice, on the forehead and jaw with that billy-club he was carrying."

His assailant then jumped into a waiting car, and fled. Mendenhall, a 20-year-old Negro on vacation from his job in Brooklyn, called the police.

In a nearby police station, he said,

one policeman asked him, "Where are you from anyway?"

"Brooklyn," Mendenhall said he answered.

"Uh-huh, that's the reason you got the s--t knocked out of you," he said he was told. "Why don't you go back to Brooklyn?"

Mendenhall said he gave the police the license number of the car driven

by the attacker. He said the police told him it was a stolen car and could not be traced.

The manager of the Albright & Wood drug store on Wilson Ave. refused to comment on the incident. But an employee said, "If they'd stay the hell out of here, there wouldn't be any trouble."

"I was there and there 'weren't' nothing to it," said one Prichard policeman.

WANT ADS

FANTASTIC BARGAINS--For sale: 8mm movie camera, \$49.95; 100% human hair wigs, any color, \$49.95; watch with jet plane watch hand, \$29.95; beautiful ladies' watches, \$29.95; camera, \$14.95; ladies' pressing oil with Bergamot, \$1.50; sage & sulphur hair & scalp conditioner, \$1.75. Write: United World Traders, P.O. Box 872, Mobile, Ala. If you are in business, you can get these things wholesale.

SKY DIVERS--Four sport parachutes for sale, never been used, perfect condition. Various colors. Call 595-2343 in Birmingham, afternoons and evenings.

TWIN COVERLETS WANTED --Wanted, two hand-made quilted coverlets for a pair of twin beds, suitable for a girl's room. Write to Mrs. M. B. Olatunji, P.O. Box 358, Millerton, N.Y.

WE NEED tables, chairs, and books for the new Community Center on Ardmore Highway in Indian Creek. Help the Community Center by giving items which you don't need. Call Arthur Jacobs Jr., 752-4989, in Huntsville.

CLOTHES WANTED--The La Ritz Social & Savings Club is sponsoring a charity drive for the Boys Town. The club is soliciting clothing and linen. If you want to contribute to the drive, call Mrs. Nellie Hardy, at 263-0948 in Montgomery, or drop off your donation at her house, 628 Colony St.

WORK FOR FREEDOM--Interested in peace action, academic freedom, civil rights, or poverty? Students for a Democratic Society is forming chapters in Birmingham and elsewhere. Write to P. R. Bailey, Miles College, Birmingham.

\$500--One family sold \$500 worth this month. You could, too! No age limit. Call 263-2479 in Montgomery after 6 p.m. Sell near home, among friends. Easily shown, easily sold. A necessity.

ALL FARMERS--If you have been told by ASCS to plow up part of your allotment because it was measured wrong, come by 31 1/2 Franklin Str., Selma, or call Shirley Mesher at 872-3427 in Selma before they plow it up. If you paid to get land measured by ASCS surveyors and never had it measured, you should also come by or call.

WORK IN NEW YORK--Do you wish self-employment? Suitable couple, with or without family, wanted to re-locate in New York State, and take care of retarded children who are wards of the state. 13-room house available for rent. For more information, write to Mrs. M. B. Olatunji, P.O. Box 358, Millerton, N. Y.

GOOD JOB--Wanted: Agent and managers to earn up to \$500 per month in their spare time, with Merlite Life-Time guaranteed light bulbs. If interested, contact T. L. Crenshaw, 923 Adeline St., Montgomery.

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DISTRICT MEETINGS



October

- Oct. 1--District II, 9 a.m., West Highland High School, Fayette, Ala.
- Oct. 8--District I, Lakeside High School, Decatur
- Oct. 15--District VII, time and place to be announced
- Oct. 22--District IX, time and place to be announced

November

- Nov. 12--District VII, Smith High School, Ozark
- Nov. 19--District III, time and place to be announced

December

- Dec. 3--District III, time and place to be announced

January, 1967

- Jan. 14--District IX, time and place to be announced
- Jan. 21--District VIII, time and place to be announced
- Jan. 25--District VII, 6:30 p.m., place to be announced

April, 1967

- April 5--District VII, 7:30 p.m., place to be announced
- April 15--District III, time and place to be announced

Alabama State Teachers Association

Pro Team for B'ham? 'People Overcame Too Much,' Says Lawyer

Surplus Food For Bullock?

BY DON GREGG
BIRMINGHAM -- The Magic City's dream of becoming the "Football Capital of the South" turned into a nightmare last weekend. Saturday night's game drew a small crowd, and a visiting player complained to the NAACP after an incident at a downtown shoe-shine parlor.

Birmingham has long been trying to get a professional football team of its own. Last Saturday's exhibition game between the Cleveland Browns and the Pittsburgh Steelers gave the city's football fans a chance to show that they

could support a team. But the favored Browns clipped the Steelers, 13 to 10, before a crowd of only 23,590--hardly enough people to fill one-third of recently-expanded Legion Field.

When the two National Football League teams arrived in Birmingham, the city streets sported "Welcome NFL" banners. But Saturday morning, Erich Barnes, a defensive back with the Browns, filed a complaint with the local NAACP branch because he hadn't been able to get his shoes shined.

After the Browns checked into the Parliament House last Friday afternoon, Barnes said, he and three other ball-players headed downtown to see the city.

Barnes said he and his companions walked into the Bon Ton Hatters and Shoe Repairing, on the corner of Second Ave. and 20th St. North, and asked for a shoe-shine.

"The man there told us he didn't serve colored people, and that we had to leave," Barnes said. "They have posters saying 'Welcome National Football League' plastered all over the city. One poster is almost in the guy's door, but we couldn't get service."

The other players involved were ace receiver Paul Warfield, defensive tackle Walter Johnson, and split end Walter Roberts.

"We're leaving tomorrow," Barnes said, "so I'm not interested in making a stir for my own benefit. I'm just concerned about the next guy that comes along and wants a shine."

James Callis, 69, a familiar face to many Birmingham businessmen and manager of the Bon Ton, said he has been serving Negroes since 1963.

Callis said it was a shoe-shine boy who refused to serve Barnes. "One of the new boys I hired Friday didn't know any better. After I found out what happened, I let the boy go."

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

In Fort Deposit--where Jonathan Daniels was arrested last year before being gunned down in Hayneville--there were different guesses about how many Negro children were going to the white school. A white city policeman said there were "about 14," and a Negro policeman said there were "about 35." There was no sign that large numbers of white children stayed away from the school.

Meanwhile, at the private school--just down the road from Strickland's white frame house in Lowndesboro--white children played near the many buses that had carried the children from as far away as Braggs (near Greenville), and even from outside the county.

The private school, said Bass, would "try to give the children the education they deserve. We will try to create an atmosphere for education."

Last week, the U. S. Justice Department asked a federal court in Montgomery to stop the state from paying \$185



HAYNEVILLE SCHOOL



LOWNDES ACADEMY

per year toward the tuition of children attending private schools. A hearing on the request will be held Sept. 30.

Was Bass worried about the outcome? "It doesn't concern us at all," he said. "The school is not based on obtaining grants from the federal, state, city, or county government." He said the academy had received no money so far under the Alabama tuition-grant law.

Maury Smith, attorney for the Lowndes County school board, said he understood there were nine white children in grades seven through 12 in Hayneville School.

"We plan to continue," said Smith, "but we can't compel students to attend the public schools. . . . The whole effect of the program has been destroyed in Hayneville, so we haven't accomplished anything."

Smith said desegregation failed in part because of Lowndes County civil rights leaders: "The people in Lowndes County were so determined to overcome that they overcame too much. They have now converted an all-white school into an all-Negro school."

BY MARY ELLEN GALE
UNION SPRINGS -- Twenty Negro

leaders gave the Bullock County commissioners some food for thought at their last meeting two weeks ago.

The Negroes asked the commissioners to bring some of the federal government's surplus food into the county.

The commissioners chewed the idea over for a while and came up with a one-word answer: maybe.

"At first they wouldn't let us into their meeting," said a Negro leader who didn't want his name used. "We finally got in and gave them our request."

"They said they'd never heard of anyone wanting the food before. Then they remembered they'd told Aaron Sellers (former head of the NAACP in Union Springs) to get the information on it. But he hadn't come back, so they hadn't done anything."

The U. S. Department of Agriculture would give the food away free to needy families in Bullock County. But the local government must pay for distributing the food.

The Negro leader said three of the four county commissioners seemed to think surplus food might be a good idea. But one of them--Carl Green--and Probate Judge Fred D. Main weren't so sure, he said.

"Main kept hammering away at the cost," the leader said. "Green said he wanted the names of all the people eligible before he could make a decision. We told him there was a desperate need for the food. He said he didn't know anyone who needed it."

"He said he paid all his employees \$1.25 an hour, so he knew they weren't hungry. But later we found out his cook only gets \$12.50 a week."

The spokesman said the commissioners agreed to talk with the Negro leaders again. "They told us to get them the information. We told them that was their responsibility--that was what they were elected for."

But Commissioner George Blue said this week that the commissioners haven't reached any decision, because "we haven't got facts and figures on it yet."

Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights

The weekly meeting will be held on Monday, Sept. 12, at Hopewell Baptist Church, 2315 26th Ave. North, the Rev. Jessie Brown, pastor.

THE SOUTHERN COURIER welcomes letters from anyone on any subject. Letters must be signed, but your name will be withheld upon request.

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Temptations (Gordy) | 9. REACH OUT 'LL BE THERE--
Four Tops (Motown) |
| 3. WORKIN' IN THE COALMINES--
Lee Dorsey (Amy) | 10. NOTHING IN THE WORLD CAN
HURT ME--Buddy Ace (Duke) |
| 4. B-A-B-Y--
Carla Thomas (Stax) | 11. WITHOUT A LOVE--
Jackie Day (Modern) |
| 5. LAND OF 1000 DANCES--
Wilson Pickett (Atlantic) | 12. I GOT TO LOVE SOMEBODY'S
BABY--Johnny Taylor (Stax) |
| 6. POVERTY--
Bobby Bland (Duke) | 13. OPEN THE DOOR TO YOUR
HEART--D. Banks (Revilot) |
| 7. I WORSHIP THE GROUND--
Jimmy Hughes (Fame) | 14. CAN'T SATISFY--
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