



LACKEY (RIGHT) ADDRESSING ANOTHER AUDIENCE LAST SUMMER

Montgomery Chief Comes to AAC Meeting

'We Need Negro Police Officers'

BY SANDRA COLVIN
MONTGOMERY, Ala. -- Police Chief Drue Lackey-- who has often faced Negro demonstrators across a barricade -- came to an Alabama Action Committee meeting last Monday night to talk about the requirements and rewards of police work.

Lackey told a Negro audience in Bell St. Baptist Church that the city needs about 15 more police officers. He said there will be "no discrimination whatsoever" in selecting the new officers. "We need Negro police officers, and we want them," he said, "We have

three already." Applicants must have a high school diploma or a high school equivalency certificate, Lackey said. And, he said, they must be at least 5'8" tall and weigh at least 150 lbs.

"I have had a lot of Negro boys to tell me that the qualifications as far as education is concerned is a little strict," Lackey said. However, he added, "the personnel director won't allow us to lower them."

Lackey also discussed policemen's salaries. "I talked with some men about being police officers," he said, "but they said that they could make more money working in restaurants than as police officers." The chief said the starting salary is "about \$450 a month."

Albert Harris, chairman of AAC's board of directors, asked Lackey if Ne-

gro policemen would have the same duties and powers that white officers have. "They will have full authority to arrest anyone, as any other policeman does," Lackey replied.

The ending of Lackey's speech was much smoother than the beginning. The people in the audience had witnessed an awkward moment, when the chief greeted them with "Good evening," and then paused for a noticeable length of time before adding, "ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls."

When Lackey paused, someone in the back of the church said, "He's got to think about what we are, because he's used to saying, 'Hey, niggers,'"

"If there's any way the police force can be of service to you," the chief concluded, "just let us know."

Frank Tate, who was in the audience, said afterwards that he might fill out an

application for a police job, because "I'm getting tired of eating greens and neck-bones."

"Man, those are soul foods," a young man told Tate. "Never get tired of them."

At the same meeting, the members talked about the food stamp program scheduled to begin in Montgomery County.

"We are going to have to get on those people downtown again," said Harris, "because three months have passed since they promised us service from the food stamp program."

The Rev. Richard Boone -- who sparred with Lackey during last summer's demonstrations, and later led the drive to get food stamps--was present at the meeting, but did not speak. He said he wanted "the people" to talk.

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TEN CENTS

Ala. Gets 2nd 'Loyal' Party

BY BOB LABAREE
BIRMINGHAM, Ala. -- Now there are two parties claiming to represent "loyal Democrats" in Alabama.

A Huntsville group--headed by Alvis Howard Jr., a white insurance executive, and Dr. John Cashin, a Negro dentist--formed the National Democratic Party (NDP) last week.

Leaders of the new party say it will serve the same purpose as the Alabama Independent Democratic Party (AIDP), organized last month by a Birmingham group.

Both parties say they are "standing by" in case the official Alabama Democratic Party puts up a slate of presidential electors pledged to former Governor George C. Wallace.

If that happens, the new parties want to avoid the situation that occurred in 1964, when Alabamians had no chance to vote for Lyndon Johnson, the Democratic presidential nominee.

The NDP and the AIDP say they will put up their own slates of electors, pledged to the candidate chosen at the Democratic National Convention this summer, if the regular state party goes for Wallace.

Both new parties say they are answering the needs of a large number of Negroes and whites who would vote for a Democratic candidate like Johnson. But Birmingham lawyer David Vann, head of the AIDP, said he doubts the wisdom of forming a second group to oppose Wallace. "The effect of what (the NDP is) doing," he said, "is to lessen the chances of a Democratic victory."

"We were here first," Vann added. But Howard, president of the NDP, said his group had been thinking of forming a party as much as a year ago.

Aside from opposing Wallace, there are some differences in the purposes of the two new parties. Vann has said that the sole purpose of his party is to give people a chance to vote for the na-

tional Democratic candidate for President.

Howard, on the other hand, said, "We intend to run candidates from the local level up to the national."

And Cashin added that the NDP plans to send a "representative delegation" to the national convention, to challenge the delegation sent by the Alabama Democratic Party. "We feel sure that we'll be seated," said Cashin.

So far, the AIDP has not announced any plans to challenge the regular party at the convention.

(Last week in Chicago, Illinois--where the national convention will be held next August--the Democratic National Committee set out its policy on integration of convention delegations.

Under the policy, it is the committee's "understanding" that any state party sending a delegation to Chicago "undertakes to assure that voters in the state, regardless of race, color, creed, or national origin, will have the opportunity to participate fully in party affairs."

(This policy does not seem to require an integrated delegation.)

The division between the new Alabama parties may be deeper than just a disagreement on tactics. This week, Howard and Cashin both accused Vann of making an "under-cover" arrangement with the regular Democratic party.

"(The AIDP is) no more than just a preventative, to keep us from filing," Howard charged. "If it hadn't looked like we were going to file, they wouldn't have even bothered."

"These are men with a vested interest in the status quo," Cashin said of the AIDP founders. "They knew we were out to do something about the political situation in this state, and they meant to stop us."

Vann denied these charges, saying, "We invited them to join us."

"We feel that our strategy is going to get more votes than theirs," he said. "After all, that is the point."



PART OF INAUGURAL CROWD

Miss. Inaugural Tough on Clark

BY MERTIS RUBIN AND ESTELLE FINE

JACKSON, Miss.--Last Tuesday was a great day for Mississippi Governor John Bell Williams--and a bad one for State Representative Robert G. Clark. Williams was installed as governor on Tuesday, before an audience that included three governors, 23 congressmen, and representatives of 28 foreign countries.

In his inaugural address, the new governor spoke out against bombings and crimes of violence.

"I want it known here and now that lawless violence in any form will not be tolerated," said Williams. "Nor can the perpetrators of these crimes find comfort in this administration."

Meanwhile, Clark--the first Negro elected to the state Legislature in 74 years--was having his troubles. He was not on the inaugural platform outside the Capitol because, he said later, nobody told him how to get there. Clark also missed a post-inaugural

luncheon that was attended by many officials and legislators. "I didn't know anything about it," he explained.

To ride in the huge inaugural parade, Clark and Alfred Rhodes, an unsuccessful candidate for the Legislature, had to borrow a Cadillac from a Negro hotel owner.

Clark said he was told the state no longer provides cars for the parade. But Rhodes said many of the other legislators' cars were so new that the price tags were still on them.

Finally, Clark didn't go to the inaugural banquet Tuesday night, because he said he wasn't invited. A state official told Clark an invitation was sent to his home, but Clark said he never received it.

In his speech, Governor Williams said improvement of public education was the most important task facing his administration. He said he would ask the Legislature to approve a program that included "substantial increases" in teachers' salaries.

Mississippi's "reluctance" to take part in some federal programs, Williams said, "has resulted in their falling into the hands of incompetent, irresponsible, and wasteful elements." This was apparently a reference to CDGM (the Child Development Group of Mississippi) and other mostly-Negro anti-poverty groups.

The new governor said he will establish an office to study and supervise federal-state programs.

Bands from Mississippi Valley State College, Alcorn A & M, and Jackson State College--the state's Negro schools--took part in the parade, as did integrated bands from the University of Mississippi, the University of Southern Mississippi, Union High School, Hattiesburg High School, Central High of Jackson, and North Panola High School.

Six Negroes also walked behind the horses in the parade--carrying shovels and brooms.



GOVERNOR WILLIAMS MAKES SPEECH OUTSIDE CAPITOL

Eight Negroes on Jury In Big Opelika Trial

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

OPELIKA, Ala.--Jury desegregation came to Lee County quietly, almost a year ago. But this week, nearly everyone in Alabama heard about it.

Eight Negro men were chosen to serve with four white men on the jury trying Edward Albert Seibold, a young white man, for the murder of a nine-year-old white girl.

The case drew attention because it was only the first of three first-degree murder trials for Seibold, a 21-year-old former Auburn University student.

Seibold, a rejected suitor of Miss Cathie Sinclair, had been charged with killing two of her sisters--Mary Lynn, nine, and Sarah Elizabeth, 18--and Miss Mary Durant, eight, in a wild attack on the Sinclair home in Auburn last Sept. 6.

How did so many Negroes wind up on the first trial jury? District Attorney Tom Young--who is prosecuting the case for the state--said, "It was a fair and impartial strike. That's just the way it happened to come out."

Defense attorney Jacob Walker Jr.--who eliminated two prospective jurors

for every one struck by the prosecution--smiled and said, "It would be highly improper to comment on that while the case is in progress."

But some Negro leaders in Lee County had their own ideas. "They figure the Negroes won't convict him," said one man, who has served on several juries himself.

A lady said she believes Negro jurors have a reputation for being more lenient than white jurors in cases like this one, where the state is asking for the death penalty.

Negroes weren't always so welcome on Lee County trial juries. A little more than a year ago--in the same courtroom--District Attorney Young and defense lawyers selected an all-white jury to try the case of Marvin L. Segrest, a white man accused of second-degree murder in the killing of a Negro civil rights worker from Tuskegee.

That jury set Segrest free. The venire (list of prospective jurors) in the Segrest case included only a few Negroes. But courtroom observers said the Seibold venire was about equally divided between the races.

In fact, said the Negro leader who has served on several juries, the Segrest venire was the last one in Lee County which failed to include a substantial number of Negroes.

"In the last two sessions of court--spring and fall, 1967--many Negroes served on trial juries," he said. "There were some predominantly-Negro juries."

The leader said he likes to think that "it doesn't matter" what race the Seibold jurors are: "I believe they'll give a just decision--and it might be surprising."

But he agreed that the acceptance of Negroes as qualified to judge a white man "couldn't do any harm." "Whatever the reasons, they're on the juries--and that's what we want," he said.

Judge Rules On Prattville Disturbance

'Fault Is on Both Sides'

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN

MONTGOMERY, Ala.--U. S. District Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. this week sorted out the charges and counter-charges made in connection with the racial disturbance in Prattville last June.

The Prattville incident began when Stokely Carmichael of SNCC, addressing an Autauga County Improvement Association meeting June 11, shouted "Black power!" at a passing police car.

Shortly afterward, Carmichael was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. In the hours that followed, many shots were fired, and state troopers and National Guardsmen were called in.

The incident came to an end early on June 12, when Prattville civil rights leader Dan Houser was released from the city jail, severely beaten on the face, head, and body.

This week, Judge Johnson made his decision on a suit brought by Houser and Mrs. Sallie Hadnott (asking for better police protection), and on a counter-suit brought by the city (asking for limits on civil rights protest).

"The onset of the real tension (in Prattville)," the judge noted, "probably goes back to the early part of 1967, when Charles Rasberry, a Negro, was shot in the back by city officer Ken-



CARMICHAEL BEFORE ARREST
neth Hill while in the Autauga County Courthouse and while Rasberry was attempting to escape."

This and other grievances were still unsettled when Carmichael arrived on June 11, the judge said.

"Even though the use of the term 'black power' offends the sensibilities of many citizens, both white and Negro," Johnson said, "it cannot justify the action by and the conduct of several

members of the Prattville police force on June 11, 1967."

Nonetheless, Johnson said, he is also "convinced" that some Negro citizens later "armed themselves with shotguns, rocks, and other weapons for the purpose of harassing, and did harass, . . . the police officers and other citizens in cars."

"Thus, as this court has been required to find upon other similar occasions," Johnson said, "THE FAULT LIES ON BOTH SIDES."

So Johnson ordered Prattville Police Chief O. C. Thompson, officers Kenneth Hill and Norris Champlin, and others to give "proper and adequate" police protection to Negroes.

He also ordered the police not to punish Negroes without a trial, interfere with peaceful assemblies, arrest Negroes on false pretenses, or allow hostile white groups to threaten Negro citizens.

Houser, Mrs. Hadnott, SNCC, local civil rights groups, and others were ordered not to arrange meetings "to be addressed by those who advocate violence through the use of weapons, or other conduct designed to . . . disrupt the peace and order of the community."

Finally, the judge ordered civil rights groups not to use "violent means" in their protests and demonstrations.

Now--A Black Congressman?

BY MERTIS RUBIN

JACKSON, Miss.--About 60 black people from nine of the 13 counties in the Third Congressional District met here last Wednesday, to pick a candidate for John Bell Williams' old seat in the U. S. House of Representatives.

The Rev. R. L. T. Smith--a Hinds County political veteran who ran for Congress in 1963--was named to run in the Feb. 20 special election.

The Third District includes the Southwest Mississippi counties that are generally considered Charles Evers territory. But Evers said, "I don't want to run. I can do more for my people by staying here (in Mississippi)."

Lawrence Guyot, chairman of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, said he will go along with the Smith campaign.

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Bullock County Parents Say Schools Still Discriminate

BY MARY ELLEN GALE
UNION SPRINGS, Ala. --A group of Negro parents has accused Bullock County officials of continued racial discrimination in the operation of the public schools.



CARVER STUDENTS AT LUNCHTIME

Despite a series of federal-court desegregation orders since 1961, the parents said their children still do not have "an equal opportunity to get quality education."

Early last month, three Negro ladies presented county school officials with an eight-page petition, signed by a dozen community and civil rights leaders. The petition listed several "grievances, inequities, and recommendations."

So far, there has been no reply. But Schools Superintendent Edward M. Lindbloom said this week that the petition is "under study--each and every item is under serious consideration."

One item concerns the arrangements for Carver High School basketball practice and games. The school--on the edge of Union Springs--has no gymnasium.

Although mostly-white Bullock County High School in downtown Union Springs has a gym, all-Negro Carver plays basketball 15 miles away--in the gym at all-Negro Merritt High School in Midway.

"It's dangerous for the kids to be making that 30-mile round trip all the time," said Mrs. Lillie Mae Banks--one of the ladies who delivered the petition to Lindbloom. "And people don't have the money to get the kids to Midway and then pay to get into the game."

The petition requests school officials to move the Carver basketball games to Bullock County High School--or to the National Guard Armory, a few hundred yards down the road from Carver. "They could change tomorrow if they wanted to," said Mrs. Banks.

At Carver High this week, several students also said they would prefer to play basketball nearer home.

Superintendent Lindbloom refused to explain why Carver uses the gym in Midway. But he said, "this afternoon we're going to open bids for a brand-new gymnasium at Carver."

The superintendent denied the parents' charge that white schools are receiving more money than Negro schools for educational supplies and for school improvements and maintenance.

"That statement is way off," he said. "I would be 95% (of the new equipment) is going to the Negro schools."

The parents also said that "principals and staff personnel" have harassed "teachers who show some interest in the development of the community."

Among the victims named in the petition are Thomas Anderson and Clinton Thornton, two civil rights leaders.

But Lindbloom said school officials have no objection to civil rights activity by teachers. "I don't think I could even tell you who's who in the thing--and I'm not interested," he said.

"I'm just interested in schools. They (faculty members) have to be good teachers, and that's all they have to

be."

The petition charges that Mrs. Tessie Oliver Nixon, a Negro co-ordinator, "functions only in the predominantly-Negro schools." But Lindbloom said she also works in the white schools.

The Negro parents also accused school officials of overcrowding schoolbuses, and designing bus routes "to perpetuate segregation." In some areas, the petition says, there are two buses--one for white students and one for Negro students.

Lindbloom said, however, that the school system is using bus routes approved by the federal court. "There is no overcrowding now," he added.

The petition says that many principals live outside Bullock County, refuse to cooperate with community projects, and--in some cases--have tried to "do away with the PTA." The parents asked school officials to fire one Negro principal--Theodore White of Carver.

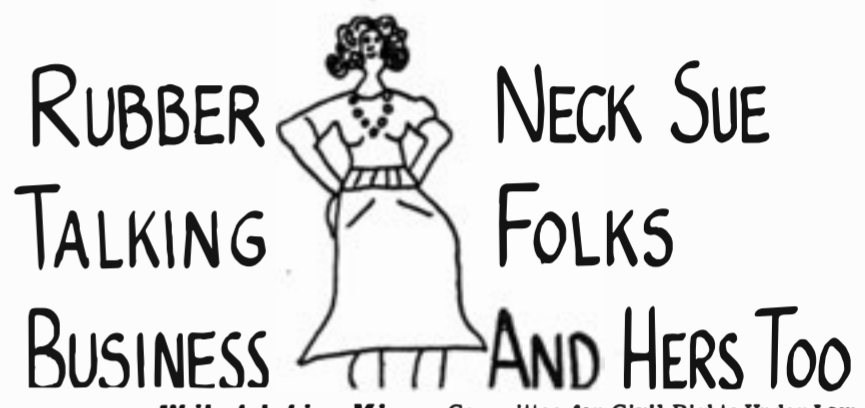
Educator Talks Of Miss. Needs

JACKSON, Miss. -- "We have two kinds of teachers in this state--those whose salary should be doubled, and those who should be fired."

That's what John Hartman, assistant secretary of the Mississippi Education Association (MEA), told the Jackson Council on Human Relations last Tuesday night. Hartman addressed the council on Mississippi's educational needs. Merely increasing teachers' salaries, he said, would not solve the other problems in education. An increase by itself, he said, would be "shut-up money."

Hartman said the MEA's studies of the state school system had found the same weaknesses that were mentioned in the Booz-Allen-Hamilton report, which was authorized by the state Legislature in 1966. For example, he said, it was found that 41,000 Mississippians over the age of 14 cannot read.

The MEA is an organization of 14,000 white educators. Since 1966, it has been discussing a merger with the Mississippi Teachers Association, which has 9,000 Negro members.



Philadelphia, Miss.

Frank Kirkland, a long-time worker in the civil rights movement, died Jan. 7 after a long illness. Mr. Kirkland, who was in his 70's, had been one of the first people to meet with civil rights workers in the summer of 1964. One of Neshoba County's first rights meetings was held in his house, at the request of Michael Schwerner. And it was in Mr. Kirkland's house that Schwerner--one of the three workers who were killed in 1964--ate his last dinner before disappearing. Mr. Kirkland was a World War I veteran, and a member of the NAACP for 20 years. Funeral services were held Jan. 10 in the new Mt. Zion Church. (Schwerner, Andrew Goodman, and James Chaney were on their way to investigate the burning of the old Mt. Zion Church when they were killed.) Mr. Kirkland is survived by his wife, six children, and many grandchildren.

Demopolis, Ala.

Henry Jones Jr. and his sister, Mrs. Daisy Gray Mitchell, both of Indianapolis, Indiana, spent the Christmas holidays with their mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jones Sr. of Demopolis. They all took a trip to Florida, Mobile, and Bessemer, visiting many friends and relatives. At Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, they saw the senior Joneses' daughter and son-in-law, Airman Third Class and Mrs. Willie Mack Jr. (From Mrs. Beatrice Jones)

Okolona, Miss.

Andrew Lee was found dead near his home Jan. 8. He was found by his son. The cause of his death is unknown. (From George P. Jenkins)

New York City

Miss Shirley Harrington of Jackson, Miss., has been elected youth representative to the NAACP's national board of directors. She was one of five new members whose election was announced at the NAACP's annual meeting here Jan. 8. Dr. Aaron Henry of Clarksdale, Miss., was re-elected to the board as a member at large.

Jackson, Miss.

Larry Ashenbrenner, formerly a public defender in Oregon, has arrived in Jackson to work with the Lawyers

election of school trustees by local people.

But Lindbloom said trustees are not necessary. "I think it's an antiquated system," he explained. "When you had little tiny rural schools, you needed someone to cut wood, carry in coal, or bring water. Now we have large modern schools, we don't need anyone to carry in coal."

The parents charged that school officials have failed to explain what school fees are for. The petition asks each principal to make "an itemized financial report" every three months.

Lindbloom said there is no secret about school fees: "I would certainly hope each PTA--or principal--would explain them."

Although he disagrees with some of the petition, Lindbloom added, he doesn't mean to discourage parents' from taking an interest in their schools: "We invite everyone to come to see us."

And Mrs. Banks said the Negro parents will keep on trying to improve the schools. "The petition expresses the desires of the people from all over the county," she said. "We feel there's a whole lot more that can be done."

Atlanta, Ga.

The officers of Delta of Georgia, the new Phi Beta Kappa chapter at Morehouse College, were installed Jan. 6 in ceremonies in Sale Hall. H. Bentley Glass, president of the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa and vice-president of the University of the State of New York at Stony Brook, presided at the ceremonies. Six "foundation" members of the chapter, including Morehouse President Hugh M. Gloster, were initiated, joining the 12 charter members.

Okolona, Miss.

Watson Jenkins' home was completely destroyed the morning of Jan. 3, when flames leaped from the kitchen. His mother heard a noise in the kitchen, and went to see what was wrong. When she got to the door, the kitchen was on fire. She then ran outside, calling for help. Her grandson (Jenkins' son) was asleep in the bedroom, and was awakened by the noise. He then jumped up and tried the door, but was unable to make it. So he found a window and broke it, and then crawled out. The fire department was called, but was unable to save the house. Everything was destroyed, but no one was injured. The cause of the fire is unknown. (From George P. Jenkins)

Bethesda, Maryland

For two years, Mrs. Patricia Middleton has been assisting physicians at the National Institutes of Health. Mrs. Middleton--a graduate of Morgan State College in Baltimore--helps to conduct and write about cancer research. Doctors at the country's top health research agency are trying to find out if hormones have anything to do with cancer of the breast, uterus, and prostate.



MRS. PATRICIA MIDDLETON (LEFT) IN LABORATORY

Poverty Workers Talk to Council

BY EMILY ISRAEL
TUSCALOOSA, Ala.--A community worker recently discovered a mother who didn't have enough money to send any of her 11 children to school.

The mother couldn't buy shoes for the children, and she couldn't afford heat or electricity. Her husband was in Hale Memorial Hospital with tuberculosis.

That, Mrs. Minnie Thomas told the January meeting of the Tuscaloosa Human Relations Council, is the kind of situation Operation Outreach is trying to deal with.

"It's like an employment agency," she said, "except that instead of clients coming to us, we go out and find them."

In the four months of its existence, she said, Operation Outreach--an arm of the Tuscaloosa anti-poverty program--has contacted 1,460 families. These families have been referred to agencies that can solve their problems, said Mrs. Thomas.

The Human Relations Council's meeting, held at Stillman College, was devoted to discussion of two anti-poverty efforts--Operation Outreach and the Neighborhood Youth Corps. Both come under the Tuscaloosa Opportunity Program (TOP), the local community action agency.

Over a three-year period, some 464 high school drop-outs have earned money and received training in the Youth Corps, Larry Kincaide told the council.

"The program is constantly in the process of change," he said. "People are coming to us with more skills, and the needs of the community are not constant."

Kincaide said the number of boys and girls in "custodial" jobs has gone down.

Will Mrs. Johnson's Hearing Be Public?

New Round in Macon CAP Fight

BY MARY ELLEN GALE
TUSKEGEE, Ala. -- The battle between the Macon County Community Action Program board and the CAP's paid director, Mrs. Beulah C. Johnson, is scheduled to reach another climax next Thursday evening.

At that time, the CAP board plans to give Mrs. Johnson a hearing on the charges which led to the board's unanimous vote to dismiss her as director.

But spokesmen for opposing sides in the long-running controversy disagreed this week over whether the hearing--set for 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall courtroom--will be private or public.

Board chairman B. D. Mayberry said the hearing will be open only to "the board, Mrs. Johnson, attorneys for both sides, and people specifically invited."

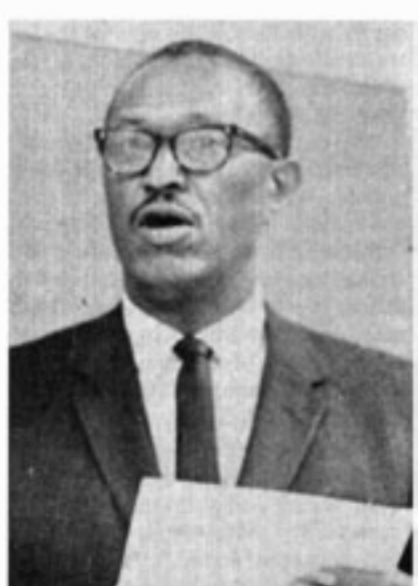
But Charles S. Conley of Montgomery, Mrs. Johnson's lawyer, said he thinks the proceedings should be public.

"This is not really a private hearing," Conley said. "I intend to have some witnesses there, and I will take the opportunity to cross-examine the people that are accusing her."

Conley said he would be glad to have an open hearing, because he expects to show that "some of the charges are really false--what evidence they (the board members) have is not impressive."

In addition, he said, other accusations are "so general we can't and won't respond."

The charges include "inability to communicate" with poor people, and "failure to recognize the board as the governing body" of Macon County CAP.



B. D. MAYBERRY

Board members and former CAP employees have accused Mrs. Johnson of failing to consult the board before hiring and firing people, changing employees' pay, and taking out-of-state trips at CAP expense.

After Conley and Mrs. Johnson did not appear at a special meeting last Dec. 27, the board agreed that she had forfeited her right to a hearing and voted to fire her as of Jan. 1.

But the Southeast regional branch of the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) over-ruled the decision, and told the board to give Mrs. Johnson a hearing. It was the third time in the last four months that OEO had blocked attempts to dismiss the director.

At a meeting Jan. 4, the CAP board set the new hearing date and hired Harry D. Raymon of Tuskegee as its attorney.

The board also decided that--as of last Monday--all CAP checks must be signed by board chairman Mayberry or vice-chairman Preston Hornsby, and by Mrs. Sallye P. Harris, the board's secretary.

For the last several months, checks have been signed by Mrs. Johnson and former board chairman C. G. Gomillion.

This week, Mrs. Johnson said she replaced the CAP bookkeeper as co-signer of the checks last summer, after OEO consultants said "it was poor practice to have the person keeping the books and signing the checks, too."

"Dr. Gomillion continued signing the checks because Dr. Mayberry refused to get bonded until just a few weeks ago," Mrs. Johnson noted. "Frankly, I'm glad he's taking it over."

But she also suggested that the board did not obey OEO rules in transferring the authority to approve CAP checks.

"In every other program I've heard about, the director signs the checks--since he is responsible for the operation of the office," Mrs. Johnson said. "There are certain procedures to be followed with federal money."

The board's action on Jan. 4 came after a disagreement late last month over salaries for Head Start teachers.

According to Mayberry, "the director took the liberty to pay the teachers for only a part of the month." Several teachers complained to him, Mayberry

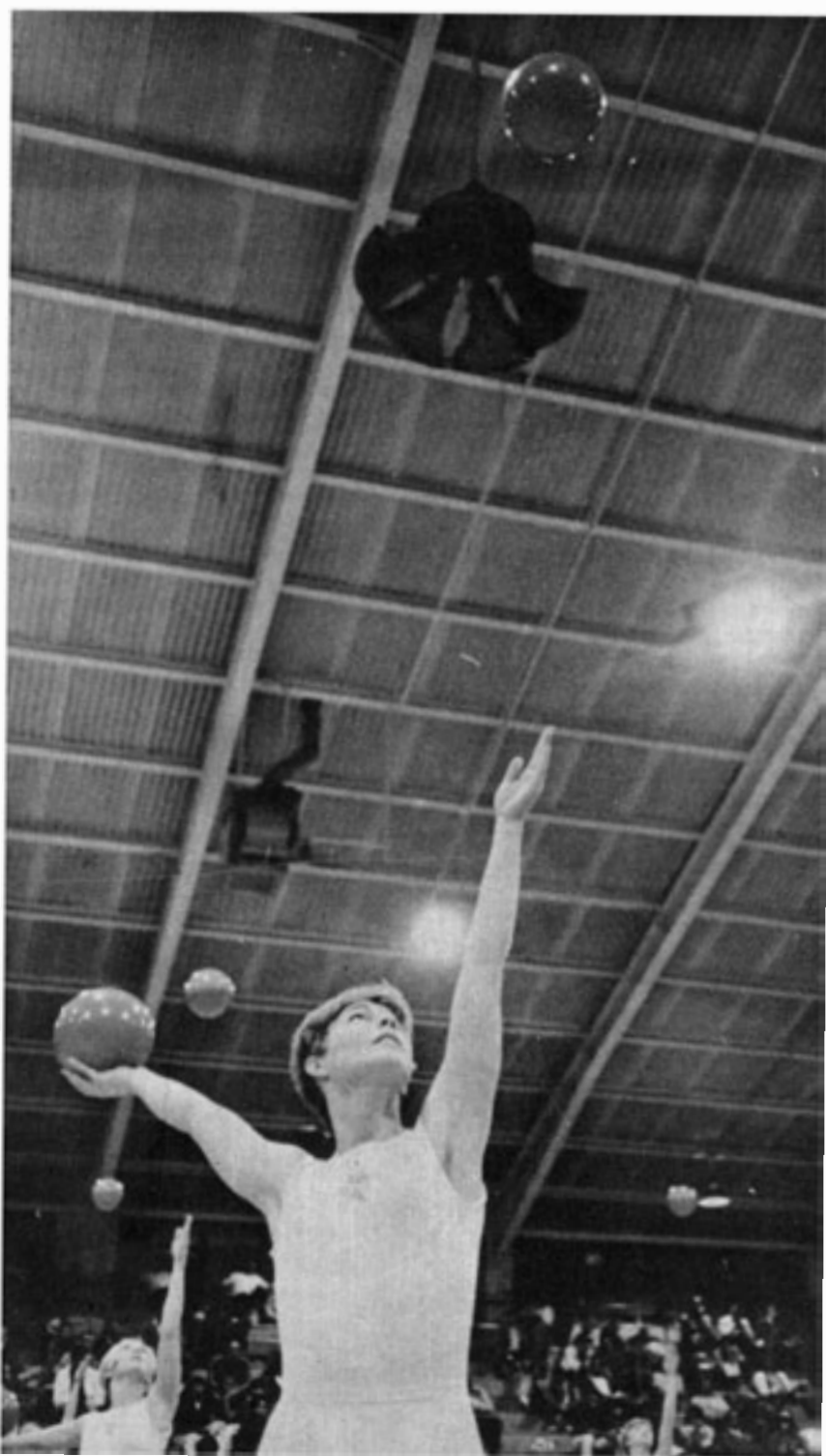
THE SOUTHERN COURIER welcomes letters from anyone on any subject. Letters must be signed, but your name will be withheld upon request.



*When Danish Gymnasts
Performed At
Alabama State College*

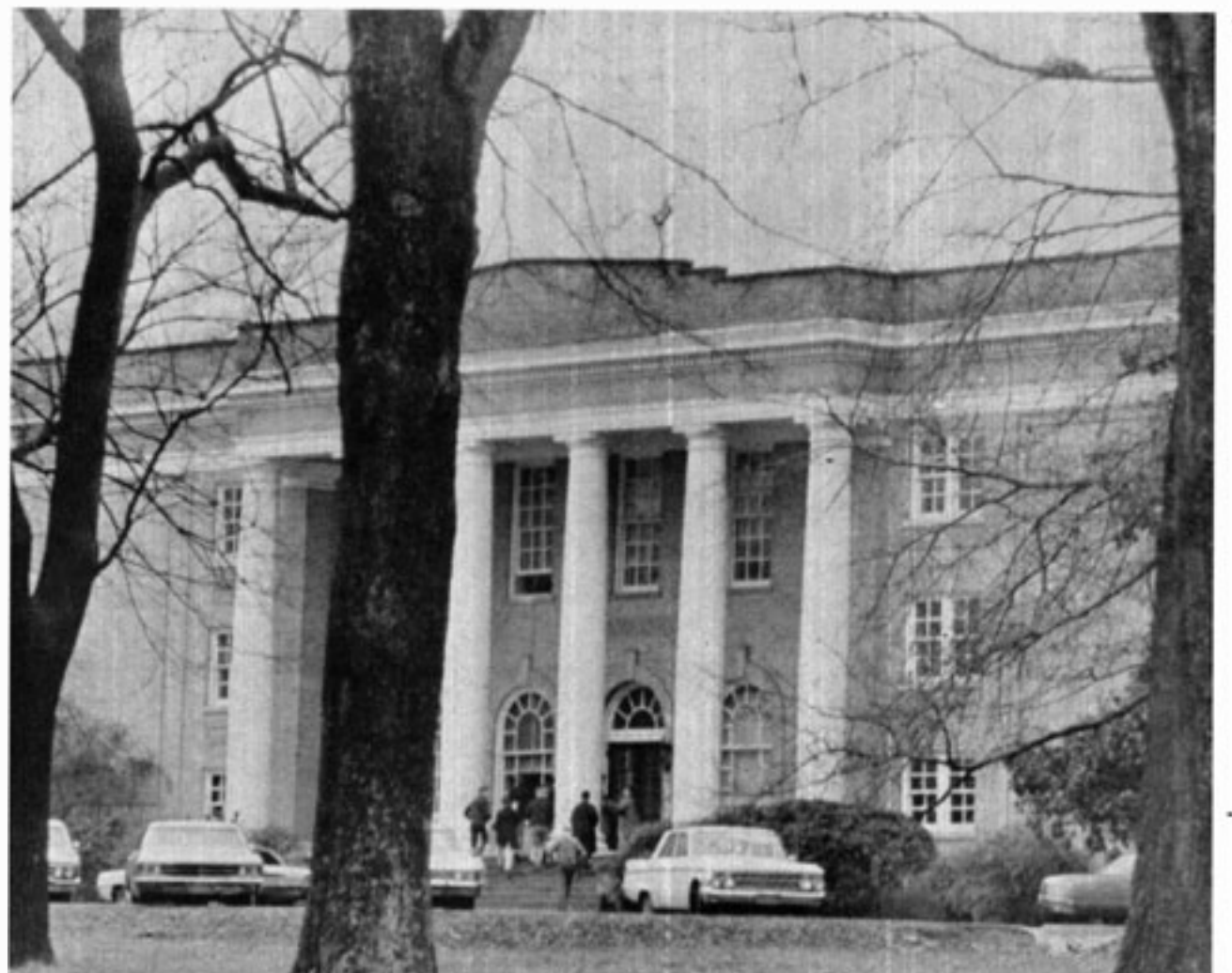


Photos by Jim Pepler





CHILDREN AND TEACHER AT THE SCHOOL FOR NEGRO DEAF



A MAIN BUILDING AT THE SCHOOL FOR WHITE DEAF CHILDREN

Where the Races Are Miles Apart

Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind

BY ALAN BOLES

TALLADEGA, Ala.--At the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind, the races are literally miles apart.

People are proud of the Institute. It has a national reputation. "I've been all over the nation, and I've never seen as good a school for the deaf as this one," said Jim Turner, a dormitory supervisor.

But some people say that the Institute's policy of racial segregation has prevented it from achieving as much as it might have.

Last fall, a federal judge agreed with the Institute's critics. U. S. District Judge H. H. Grooms ordered the state-financed school to begin steps toward complete desegregation of all its facilities.

The school offers academic and vocational education up through high school. Last year, the Institute enrolled about 800 kids aged six to 19. Not all the students are completely deaf or blind. Some have sight or hearing defects which prevent them from benefiting from regular school instruction. They are declared "legally blind" or "legally deaf" when they are admitted to the school.

The students are housed and taught at four separate schools--one for the Negro deaf, one for the white deaf, one for the Negro blind, and one for the white blind.

The schools for the Negro deaf and blind are separated by several miles. The schools for the white deaf and blind are within half a mile of each other, fairly close to the center of town.

Opinions vary about how far apart the four schools are in quality. A report issued by the Medical Committee for Human Rights last year charges that "the facilities for Negroes are very grossly inferior, inadequate, overcrowded, and are largely staffed by unqualified white personnel."

The report added: "Facilities and staff for whites are excellent, and are

probably among the best available to deaf and blind children anywhere in the United States."

A Negro high school teacher--who helped decorate a dormitory at the Negro deaf school a few years ago--said, "It was not liveable." Miss Barbara Beck, a former dormitory supervisor at the Negro deaf school, said, "There are quite a few bad things about it."

According to a teacher, the Institute's staff was badly shaken by the Medical Committee report, and has been working hard to give evidence that the schools are equal.

"Last year was the worst one since I've been here," said a Negro staff member. "The tension was really high. I don't think this school will last a year unsegregated."

After the Medical Committee report, a group of students at the Negro deaf school boycotted classes for several weeks. Negro parents began discussing some of their complaints with school administrators.

And finally, last summer, three Negro girls filed the federal-court suit which led to the order to desegregate the schools.

While the suit was making its way through the court last fall, some school

administrators spoke about their problems.

"If you folks would leave us alone, we will take care of it and work it out," said Roy Patton, assistant to the president. "But if you folks start making a lot of publicity, we're going to have trouble."

Patton said, "We take the child and do the best we can for him, regardless of race, creed, or color. I think we're doing a good job, and all reports on this institution indicate that we are."

"We are improving all we can, upgrading equipment, upping salaries, improving programs. We're not concerned with the racial issue. In most of our areas, you don't know whether you're with one race or another."

E. H. Gentry, the president of the Institute, said, "We're working toward integration as best we can, but it takes time. We've been moving toward desegregation in the past, and we're going to do more."

Last week, Gentry said lawyers for the school have forbidden him to discuss a proposed desegregation plan, now under study by the federal court.

But, Gentry continued, "We do have a plan. We think it will work. There is nothing in it to mitigate against opportunity for one child or another."

He said desegregation can only be carried out properly if all four schools get new facilities. "I could show you some areas in the white schools worse than in the Negro schools," he said, "You would wonder why the whites don't rebel."

In recent years, Gentry said, the Institute constructed more new buildings at the white schools because they were older, and "we had to get these kids out of the firetraps."

But now the Institute is concentrating on the needs of the other schools, he said, and a new dormitory at the school for Negro deaf children will be air-conditioned throughout.

"Of course the facilities are not equal yet, but they will be," he promised.

Meanwhile, steps are being taken to improve facilities for Negroes. Two dormitories at the deaf school are being remodeled and expanded.

Formerly, the dorms were drab and overcrowded. In the dormitory for small boys, 50 old metal cots were lined up in two large rooms. Since there weren't enough beds, two boys had to share one cot. There was almost no ventilation.

In contrast, the modern, air-conditioned dormitories at both schools for white children contain a large, comfortable lounge and small rooms opening off a central hallway. Each room has three beds and a connected bathroom.

An attractive "beginners cottage" is being built at the school for white deaf children. There is also a new gymnasium, housing a basketball court, swimming pool, bowling alley, and other facilities.

The Negro schools are smaller than the white schools. Only about half as many Negro students as white students



attend the Institute.

The white schools look more impressive partly because they are larger. In addition, the central administration building, the Institute's hospital, and the Helen Keller Cottage are all located on the campus of the school for white deaf children.

The Helen Keller Cottage is one of three facilities in the United States operated for children who are deaf and blind. It had 26 students last year.

Two of the students were Negro girls. But they did not live at the cottage with the white students. Instead, they lived at the school for Negro deaf, and only attended classes at the cottage.

"They have a point when they say they are integrating," said B. N. Marbury, a former staff member of the school for Negro deaf. "But in reality that's not integration. The children should be housed where they go to school."

No building program is being undertaken at the school for Negro blind, which is much smaller than the other three schools--and has the same type of dormitories as the school for Negro deaf.

But Joe Ledbetter, who has taught pre-vocational training at the school for Negro blind for 31 years, said, "We're proud of our school. We think it's as good as any."

Ledbetter claimed that the home economics department at the school is superior to the one at the school for the white blind. He also said the school for Negro deaf is "more modern and better built" than the school for white deaf.

"We've got a sounder all-around program than they do, and we get better results," said Harleen Stamps, a Negro who is dean of students at the Negro deaf school. "They (the administration) don't understand how we do it."

"We've got a younger, more vigorous staff. Mr. (Ernest) Strong (the principal) is going to get his hands on all the money he can, and use it. This school is really going places."

According to the dean, the school recently acquired new sound equipment and books--making it equal or ahead of the school for whites.

Stamps, who is also in charge of physical education at the school, said, "Gentry knows we've got a better P.E. program than anywhere else. I get all the equipment I need. We've got as good facilities as Talladega College, maybe better."

Last year Stamps' basketball team, the Dragons, won the Northeast Alabama Interscholastic Athletic Association's Class 1-A championship, plus the Southern States Schools for the Negro Deaf Tournament championship. One player was named on the All-American prep school basketball squad, and Stamps was named Deaf Prep Schools Coach of the Year.

Only a few Negroes are on the Institute's staff as teachers, and all of them work at the school for Negro deaf. Local people say that Negroes are discriminated against in hiring and in pay.

Stamps said he has been trying to persuade Negroes in Talladega to apply for jobs at the Institute, "but they just won't do it. They're afraid of teaching at a deaf school or blind school. They think there is something strange about it."

According to Gentry, "They (Negroes) have just shied away from this field of special education. We have trouble getting Negro teachers and we're delighted when we can get them. We were thrilled when we hired two new, qualified Negro teachers last fall."

Yet most of the white teachers were not specially qualified when they were hired. Only about 50% hold college degrees. Nearly all staff members took specialized courses after they were hired.

Patton, the president's assistant, admitted that the Institute has trouble attracting people with the necessary training, because the pay is low.

Negroes have also complained that the school's vocational-education pro-

gram is run primarily for the benefit of white students. Almost half of the vocational students at the Negro deaf school are assigned to the laundry, which does all the clothes for the Institute.

"If there is anything to be learned in the laundry, it shouldn't take four years to learn it," remarked Marbury, the former staff member.

The school for white deaf children contains a large printshop, auto mechanics shop, barber shop, and other vocational equipment. The Negro schools do not have comparable shops.

Yet in the vocational programs for the adult deaf and blind, there is no apparent discrimination or segregation.

The newly-formed Department of Adult Services for the Deaf and Blind teaches adults how to manufacture neckties, brooms, mops, dish towels, aprons, sheets, pillowcases, canned furniture, clothes, and many other items. It also gives courses in furniture repair and refinishing, and piano tuning.

The Department of Adult Services--the largest facility of its type in the nation--does over \$1,000,000 worth of business a year.

In all the activities, Negroes and whites work side by side. They are paid the same.

Ralph Bishop, supervisor of training at the Rehabilitation Center for the Adult Blind, said the department integrated the dormitories for its trainees several years ago. But, he said, the school had to offer Negroes a premium to persuade them to move in with the whites--otherwise they would not have gone.

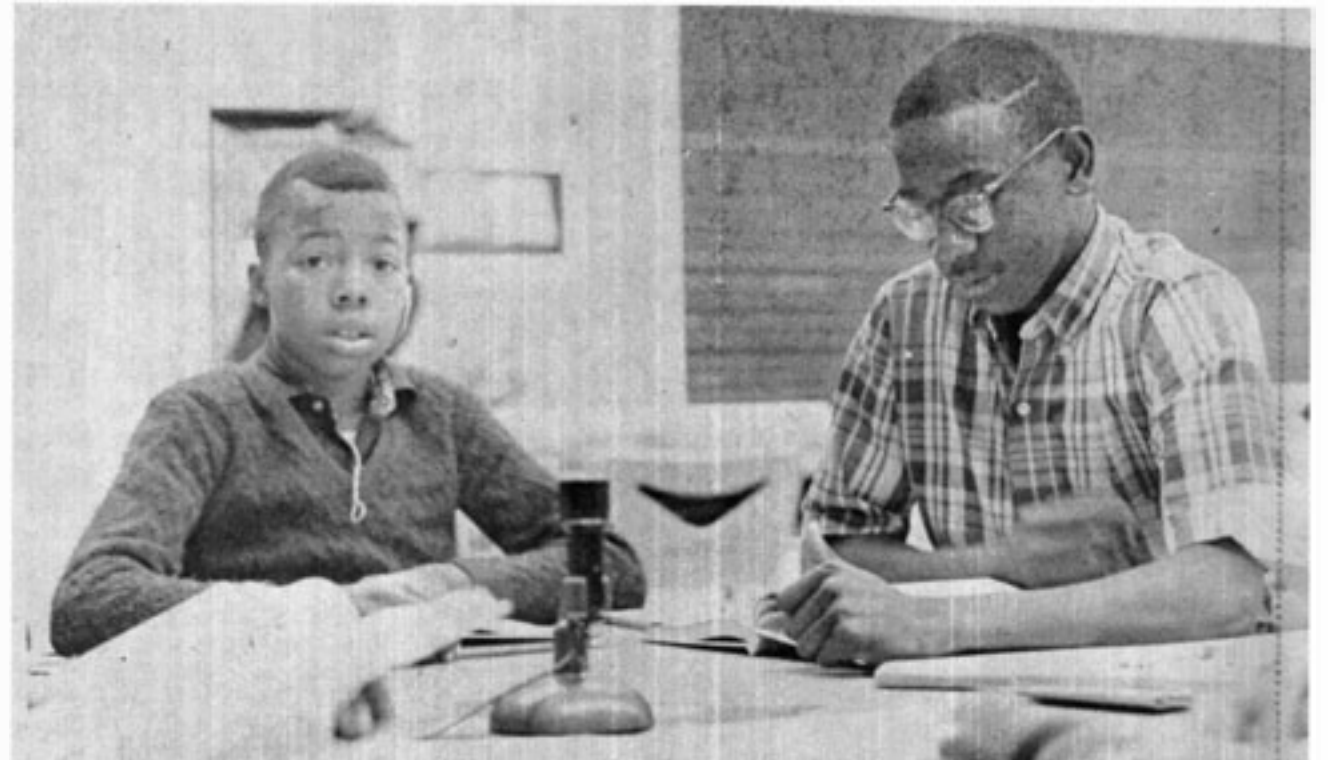
In March, the Department of Adult Services will open a new technical trade school for the deaf and blind. The first school of its kind in the country, it will offer training in sophisticated skills like computer programming. Bishop said it will be completely integrated.

The Department of Adult Services uses facilities formerly owned by the Institute. The report of the Medical Committee for Human Rights suggests that the department was separated from the Institute so that the new trade school could receive federal funds, while the Institute continued to avoid integration.

"It seems probable that the division of the Institute into two 'independent' (CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE, Col. 1)



THE SCHOOL FOR NEGRO DEAF CHILDREN



DEAF STUDENTS USE NEW SOUND EQUIPMENT

People Lose Homes in Issaquena County

'Only Place Left Is the Jail'

BY ESTELLE FINE

MAYERSVILLE, Miss.--Mrs. Clarice Evans was just getting ready to go to her basic education course one afternoon last fall, when her landlord, A. E. Scott, came by.

The reason for Scott's visit, Mrs. Evans recalled this week, was to tell her and her four children to get off his plantation by the next morning.

Scott was running for supervisor of Issaquena County at the time, and Mrs. Evans was campaign manager for Roosevelt Sias, the Negro who opposed Scott in the Democratic primary.

The landlord said this week that he told the Evans family to leave because "I needed the house for a tractor driver." But now, five months later, the shack is still empty.

"Scott didn't know about my work before I moved in," said Mrs. Evans. "I took people down to welfare for fair hearings. I went to meetings at night, and word got around."

Mrs. Evans is now living in a new house on land owned by a Negro, Tobe Hite Jr. Hite himself had lost a farm job in 1964, when he ran for the ASCS (Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service) committee.

Other people have also reported trouble with their landlords. Mrs. Annie Laura Reed, for instance, had lived on a plantation since 1954 with her husband and nine children. But two weeks after her husband died last October, she got a notice telling her to leave by Jan. 1.

Mrs. Reed said Hal Heigle, owner of the land, told her he needed her house because "I'll be getting a little help," she said she didn't know what he meant by that.

In 1966, when Mrs. Reed stopped chopping on the farm, she said, she worked on voter registration. And last March, she began working for Head Start.

It was about that time that Heigle took over the land. But Mrs. Reed's husband was very sick, and the family was allowed to stay on, rent-free, until he died.

"Her husband killed himself working on that plantation," charged Mrs. Anita Blackwell, a community leader. "It'd look bad, kicking him off when he was sick."

Mrs. Reed said her house was in such bad shape that the family had to put pans on the bed to catch the water when it rained. But, she said, the landlord refused to fix the house.

"They want to run us out," she claimed. "This land by rights belongs to us--we've been here all our lives. They (the Heigles) came from Missouri three years ago."

"I don't know why they (the Reeds) were given notice," said L. M. Heigle, who owned the land before his brother took it over. "But they let the hogs run all over the place, and they have a lot of children."

Last Dec. 19, said Mrs. Reed, Hal

Heigle came by the house and told her 15-year-old daughter that the family could stay, and could "move when you get ready."

But, Mrs. Reed said, she is looking for a new home anyway: "I don't want to live on his land and never know when he'll change his mind."

"They're trying to get people off the land," said local leader Jeremiah Blackwell. "We need houses, land, and jobs. The only place left to stay for lots of people is the jailhouse."

"With \$100,000, we could do something in Issaquena County--like build our own factories."

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Announcements



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED--The Montgomery Head Start needs all the volunteer help it can get to work in the classrooms. Men, women, and teen-agers (minimum age 16) can all be of use. Volunteers will assist as teacher's aides and cook's helpers, and will take children on field trips in the area. A volunteer can choose his or her own hours between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. on a convenient day Monday through Friday. Transportation and lunch will be furnished. If you are available, apply to the Rev. E. W. McKinney, volunteer director at 419 Madison, call 263-3474, or go to the nearest Head Start center.

FEDERAL JOBS--The Interagency Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners for South Alabama and Northwest Florida is holding examinations for deputy U. S. marshals. The list of successful applicants will be used to fill future vacancies at Mobile and Montgomery, Ala., and Pensacola, Fla. Starting salary is \$5,867 per year. Interested applicants may obtain necessary application forms and copies of the examination announcements at any board of U. S. civil service examiners, and at most main post offices. Additional information may be obtained by contacting any post office, or the Federal Job Information Center, Room 105, 107 St. Francis St., Mobile, Ala. 36602.

BAHA'IS--The Baha'is of Montgomery invite you to their weekly fireside at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 20, at 3222 Santee Dr. in Montgomery. For transportation, call 265-4394. Meet Baha'u'llah.

MIDWAY NAACP -- The Midway, Ala., NAACP Branch No. 1 will hold its 1968 membership drive at 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28, in the Antioch Baptist Church, Annie Andrews, reporter; Wilbon Thomas, president.

FEDERAL JOBS -- The Interagency Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners for South Alabama and Northwest Florida is holding examinations for general machinist, general machine operator, supply processing deliveryman, tool crib attendant, material processor, warehouseman, aircraft electrician, aircraft mechanic, aircraft engine worker, aircraft oxygen equipment worker, aircraft sheet metal worker, airframe worker, and aircraft instrument and control systems mechanic. These examinations provide applicants with career employment opportunities in the federal service in the 28 counties of South Alabama and the 10 counties of Northwest Florida. Starting salaries range from \$1.85 to \$3.41 per hour. Interested applicants must file Standard Form 57, CSC Form 5001-ABC, and Standard Form 15 (documentary proof required if the applicant is claiming ten-point veteran preference). The forms are available at any board of U. S. civil service examiners, and at most main post offices. Additional information may be obtained by contacting any post office, or the Federal Job Information Center, Room 105, 107 St. Francis St., Mobile, Ala. 36602.

FOR A BETTER ALABAMA--The Alabama Council on Human Relations has active chapters in Birmingham, Mobile, Montgomery, Huntsville, Florence-Tusculumbia-Sheffield, Auburn-Opelika-Tuskegee, Talladega, and Tuscaloosa. It has a staff that works throughout the state. The Alabama Council is integrated at all levels: its staff officers, staff, and local chapters all have people of both races working side by side. The Alabama Council wishes to establish local chapters in every county in the state. If you wish to join the Council's crusade for equal opportunity and human brotherhood, write The Alabama Council, P. O. Box 1310, Auburn, Ala. 36830.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED -- Student volunteers are wanted to help Welfare/Rights groups get started, and to work for welfare rights. Write to Poverty/Rights Action Center, 1762 Corcoran St. NW, Washington, D. C. 20009, for more information. Some financial help may be available.

CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS--"For in him we live, and move, and have our being." This verse from Acts is part of the Responsive Reading of this week's Lesson Sermon on "Life," to be read in all Christian Science churches this Sunday, Jan. 21.

ART SHOW--Interesting works of art--from sculpture to photography--are on display at Kilby Hall, Alabama State College, Montgomery, Ala., through Jan. 31. Open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

TSU DEFENSE FUND--On March 4, five black students from Texas Southern University will face trial and the death penalty on a charge of murdering a white policeman. The accused are Douglas Wallace, whose defense is that he was already in jail when the policeman was shot; Floyd Nichols and Charles Freeman, whose defense is that they were on the other side of the city; and Trazevell Franklin and John Parker, whose defense is that they were in bed. Funds are urgently needed to make possible the freedom of the TSU Five. Donations and statements of support may be sent to TSU Five Defense Fund, Box 21085, Houston, Tex. 77026.

Deaf & Blind

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE FOUR)

institutions is a subterfuge intended to circumvent the federal law that requires racial integration in facilities aided by federal funds," the report said.

Patton gave a different explanation. "Vocational rehabilitation for adults is being put under a different administration because it has grown too large for us to handle," he said. "The Institute and vocational rehabilitation are different programs altogether, and they are funded differently."

Patton also said that the federal government has not supplied the bulk of the funds for the new school. Most of them come from the state and other sources, he said. "We get money wherever we can."

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In Laurel Tourney

Freeze Hits \$25 on 'SOB' Charge St. Jude

BY CHARLIE LEE THOMAS
ALEXANDER CITY, Ala.--It's becoming almost routine for the Laurel High Hornets to win their own basketball tourney. They did it again last weekend.

But the high point of the tourney was not Laurel's 81-49 victory over the fighting Rattlers of J. D. Thompson High (Cottage Grove) in the final game. Instead, it was the incredible freeze displayed by the Calhoun County Training School Tigers (Oxford) in their game against the St. Jude Pirates of Montgomery.

The game--the consolation match in the prestige-filled Laurel tourney--was watched by almost 1,000 people, and Calhoun's freeze was booed by almost 1,000.

St. Jude was leading, 80 to 57, with five minutes left when it started. Calhoun's guards began playing catch, but they forgot about the six-second rule (against holding the ball in the backcourt). The ball was given to the Pirates, who promptly scored again to make it 82 to 57.

The Tigers may have still been in shock, from the 99-50 beating Laurel had given them in the semi-finals. The Hornets also drubbed Clay County Training School (Lineville), 104 to 47, in the first round.

In other tourney action, St. Jude stopped East Highland of Sylacauga, J. D. Thompson took Council High of Dadeville, and Edward Bell High School (Camp Hill) fell to Calhoun County. Thompson made the finals by edging St. Jude, 56 to 54.

If you want people to read about your basketball team, send a report to THE SOUTHERN COURIER. The best kind of report is a story about a game, combined with information about your team's lineup and prospects. Remember to include full names and details. When reporting on a game, include facts about both teams.

BY ESTELLE FINE
COLUMBIA, Miss.--"When he called me a God-damn white son of a bitch, I got up and punched him," said L. L. Autry, principal of formerly all-white Improve High School.

Autry was testifying last week in the trial of Willie Daniel, a Negro farmer charged with obscenity.

Daniel, father of three children attending Improve High, testified that he had gone to the school to find out "why my son Howard was expelled the day before, and had to leave the campus and walk the eight miles home."

"I would have been glad to explain, if Willie had given me a chance," Autry said at the trial. But he said Daniel told him, "I didn't come up here to listen, I came up here to talk."

"Willie got louder and louder," he continued, "and I pushed him away from the desk." After Daniel used profanity, Autry testified, he hit the farmer on the right side of the head.

The defendant denied the charge. He said he hadn't even raised his voice in the principal's office, and had "never cussed in my life."

Two white teachers supported the principal's account--although one said Autry hit Daniel on the left side of the head, and the other said, "I didn't see Autry hit him."

Both teachers said they didn't get angry when the incident occurred. "I was just disgusted and ashamed," said one of them, Edmund Lott.

Daniel's attorney, Robert Fitzpatrick of the Lawyers Committee for Civil

Rights Under Law, argued that "the circumstances are very strange."

But Justice of the Peace M. R. Broom convicted Daniel, and fined him \$25 (the maximum is \$100). "Willie," said the JP, "I've never heard you use that kind of language, but you heard the evidence against you."

The case is being appealed. But what started the incident in the first place?

Howard Daniel said he was sent home after witnessing a fight between a white student and a Negro student.

"I was just standing with the others," he recalled. "We were all laughing at the fight. The coach grabbed me by the arm, and I pulled away because he was hurting me."

In the principal's office, he said, he was threatened with a whipping, and when he asked why, he was "expelled" for a week. The boys who were fighting

were not expelled, he said.

Autry said this week that he had intended to paddle the youth and send him back to class, but "Howard said he wasn't going to take a whipping." So, Autry said, he suspended young Daniel for a week.

The principal added that the other two boys were paddled--a common practice --and then sent back to their classes.

Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights

The weekly meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22, in St. Luke AME Zion Church, 3937 12th Ave. N. and Cahaba St. (East Birmingham), the Rev. J. W. Hayes, pastor.



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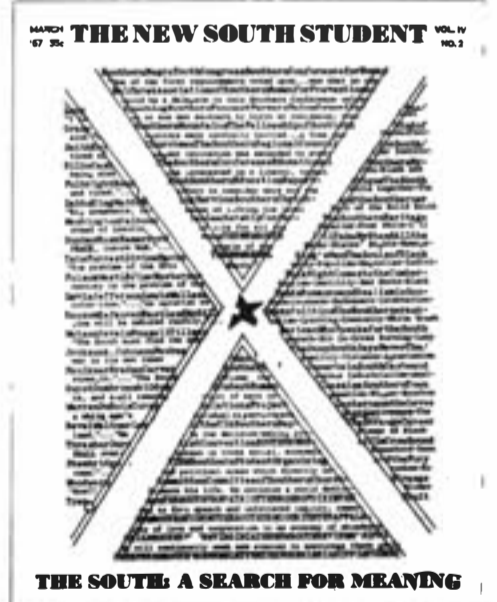
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