THE SOUTHERN COURIER

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More Than One Way Out

Case Stalled In Tuskegee

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

TUSKEGEE, Ala. -- "To tell you the truth, I don't know what to think," said Ocie Devance Jr. as he left the Macon County courthouse last Monday morning.

Devance, a young Negro man, had come to court to testify against two white law enforcement officers--Notasulga Police Chief Bobby Singleton and State Trooper James H. Bass.

According to warrants sworn out by Devance, Singleton threatened him with a gun while Bass beat and kicked him on the night of March 16.

The cases against both officers were scheduled for trial Monday in Macon County Inferior Court. But Judge Richard H. Powell suddenly announced that he was sending the charges to the grand jury instead.

When the grand jury meets on April 15, Powell said, there will be "further investigation" of the incident. The 18 jurors will then decide whether the cases should be tried in Circuit Court.

Powell also disclosed that another charge against Singleton has been dropped by the white man who filed it.

The judge said Robert H. Bedford of Carrville has decided not to prosecute Singleton and a Notasulga patrolman, Joe W. Barnes, for assault and battery.

After Judge Powell said he was referring the Devance charges to the grand jury, a puzzled murmur ran through the half-filled courtroom. And Macon County Attorney William C. Hare demanded, "Can the court do that?"

"Yes sir, I've researched the law," Powell replied.

But Hare said later, "I'm against it. They (the cases) should be tried. We're ready to try 'em. There's no such law that I know of."

The judge's decision didn't displease everyone. Half a dozen state troopers --who accompanied Singleton and Bass to court--smiled as they heard the announcement.

Asked if Bass will remain on duty, Major John Cloud, chief of the Alabama highway patrol, said, "Certainly. Every day."

And Notasulga Mayor Ray Langford said Singleton "damn sure is" still in charge of the city's law enforcement operations. "They put it (the trial) off 'cause he's not guilty," the mayor commented.

Macon County Sheriff Lucius D. Amerson said he doesn't oppose Judge Powell's action: "My only job is to apprehend 'em--I don't try to convict 'em. In law enforcement, every official has to do his part."

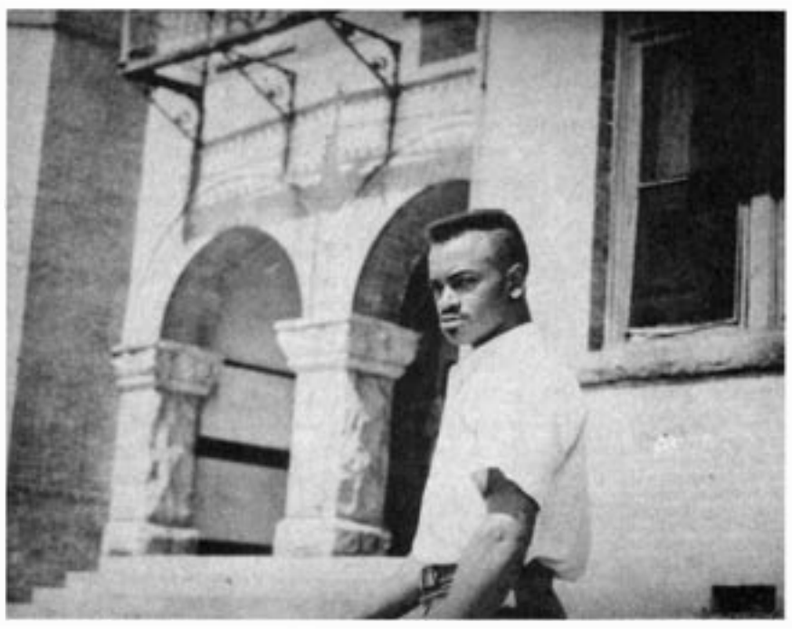
But the sheriff also said he wasn't notified in advance about Powell's decision--or about the dropping of the other charges, against Singleton and Barnes.

"Inasmuch as I am the chief law enforcement officer, I should have been told," said Amerson, Alabama's only Negro sheriff.

And, he added, there is no guarantee that justice will be done in any court. "There are so many ways," he said. "The way they work around with that jury box--it's a planned thing.

"That's why people are unhappy. That's why people are dissatisfied, and looking to change a few public officials. And I highly recommend it. There are gonna be some changes--you wait and see."

But--although several black candidates are running for public office in Macon County this year--the county's Negro majority won't have a chance to replace Powell. The judge is unopposed in his bid for re-election.



OCIE DEVANCE JR. AT MACON COURTHOUSE

FOLKS CONGRATULATE COLEMAN (HALL IN FOREGROUND)

'Not Guilty' In Greene

BY BOB LABAREE

EUTAW, Ala.--In 1962, Johnny Coleman, a Negro, was convicted of murdering J. D. "Screwdriver" Johnson, a white man, and was sentenced to death by an all-white jury.

In the six years since then, he has waited in jail while lawyers appealed his case to higher courts--twice to the Alabama Supreme Court and twice to the U. S. Supreme Court.

Finally, in October of last year, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that Coleman's trial had to be held over again, because Negroes had been "systematically excluded" from the jury that convicted him.

So last Monday, Coleman went on trial for the second time before a tense audience of Negroes in the Greene County courthouse.

In some ways the trial was the same as the 1962 trial. The same judge, Circuit Judge Emmett Hildreth, held court in the same courtroom, and District Attorney T. H. Boggs and County Solicitor Ralph Banks questioned most of the same witnesses.

One difference, though, was the jury, which this time--to everyone's surprise--was all-Negro.

Peter Hall, one of Coleman's lawyers, said there should be nothing extraordinary about an all-black jury. "In a county where a quarter or a half or more of the population is Negro--as it is here in Greene County--an all-Negro jury is no more unlikely than an all-white one," he said.

A bigger difference was the jury's verdict. After about two hours of deliberation Wednesday afternoon, the jurors ruled that Coleman was not guilty.

As the courtroom erupted with cries of joy, District Attorney Boggs announced that other charges still pending against Coleman will be dropped.

The prosecution had rested its case on Tuesday afternoon, after about eight hours of testimony from 24 witnesses.

The night before Johnson's death, the state charged, Coleman had broken into a dry goods store in Eutaw, and had stolen a shotgun, shells, and some clothing.

A button found near a broken window in the store was identified by State Toxicologist Nelson E. Grubbs as coming from a shirt that the prosecution said was Coleman's.

The next night, the state claimed, Coleman killed Johnson with the stolen shotgun, took the victim's money-pouch, and escaped without being seen.

Grubbs testified that particles on some shells found near the scene of the shooting matched with some of the particles he discovered in the pocket of the shirt identified as Coleman's.

But defense attorneys Hall and Orzell Billingsley Jr.--who have worked on the case since 1962--said the state's evidence was circumstantial.

In the hour-long defense, several of Coleman's six witnesses said they saw him getting into a truck and leaving Eutaw two days before Johnson was killed.

And Coleman himself told the jury that he had arrived in Cleveland, Ohio, just hours after the killing occurred. "I had no knowledge of him (Johnson) being dead at all," he testified.

The trial was important for other people besides Coleman. The Rev. Thomas Gilmore said only a few Negroes had showed up for the trial six years ago, because "then, they were scared."

But, at a mass meeting after this week's trial, the Rev. William McKinley Branch pointed out that Negroes had filled the courtroom. "This is just a beginning--to show what can happen when black folks stick together," he said.

Coleman, with tears still in his eyes, agreed. "A change is going to come about," he said. "And I'm a symbol of it."

Rap Loses 40 Pounds

BY JOANNE GAVIN

EDWARDS, Miss.--SNCC Chairman H. Rap Brown has lost 40 pounds from fasting and looks like he's 50 years old, his lawyer told a Steering Committee Against Repression (SCAR) meeting last Sunday at Mt. Beulah.

"This man personifies in one body the spectacle of all government being arrayed against one man," said the lawyer, William Kunstler. Brown is in jail on a number of federal charges.

Lawrence Guyot, chairman of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, said the federal government's attitude towards the civil rights movement has changed from support to suspicion.

And in Mississippi, he said, the Legislature is considering a law that would require independent candidates to get more than 50% of the votes to win a general election.

"You may have noticed that no one here is asking you if you are being oppressed," Guyot added. "If you are an American citizen, you are being oppressed."

Owen Brooks of the Delta Ministry explained that SCAR--a coalition of DM, MFDP, SNCC, SCLC, CORE, and the Southern Student Organizing Committee--is trying to go into communities and inform people of "hidden acts of oppression."

'They Look at Us Like Some Kind of Nothing'

BY BOB LABAREE

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.--From an employer's point of view, a "catch-out" is a place where you can always find a man to do a job. It's a street-corner where men without steady jobs hang around and wait for work to come to them.

Employers know that if they need somebody for a day, or even a few hours--to lift a crate, or dig a ditch, or trim a lawn--a catch-out is faster and easier than an employmentagency.

But men like Tommy Wrenn and Ben "Sunshine" Owens look at catch-outs from another point of view.

Wrenn and Owens--veteran civil rights workers now organizing for the SCLC Poor People's Campaign in Washington--say it's only black men who stand at these corners, and many of them have been standing there for years.

These men either can't get a regular job or think they can't, the SCLC workers say. Many of the men are old or disabled, and most of them are unskilled.

At a big "catch-out" corner on the south side last week, a crowd of men gathered as Wrenn and Owens passed out literature. The SCLC workers were there to get names and addresses of people who would go to Washington.

"What you doing?" asked one man, a bit suspiciously.

"We're going to the capital with Dr. (Martin Luther) King, to tell the President the way you're living," Owens answered. "We're going to take care of you--give you a place to sleep and something to eat while you're there."

"Don't cost you nothing?" the man asked.

"Not a dime," said Owens.

"They gonna bring you back?"

"That's right."

The man backed away, shaking his head. "You caught me off-balance," he said. "I got to go home and find who can I leave with my children."

OWENS AND WRENN (AT LEFT) SIGN UP CAMPAIGNERS

"Sign me up," said another man. "I can't get a job and can't get Social Security." A line began to form in front of Wrenn.

As people got to talking about their problems, it wasn't long before their anger began to show.

"Yeah, I'll go," shouted one man, gesturing wildly. "I'm gonna tell 'em what these son-of-a-bitches doing to us down here. People going by looking at us like we some kind of nothing. They pay us nothing, and they look at us like some kind of nothing. They pay us nothing, and they look at us like that. Police run us off these corners. They don't want us to get a job."

He paused a moment, breathing hard, and then spoke to Wrenn.

"You know something, mister? The average man in this town is ready to fight."

Wrenn looked up from what he was writing. "We know what you're talking about, brother," he said. "We're saying that these are the conditions that breed riots."

There were other catch-outs, too.

In a dirt alley in a different part of the south side, half a dozen men sat on crates around a fire as the two SCLC workers talked.

"Damn, I'm ready to go now," said one man.

"What do you make?" Wrenn asked him. "$3,000? $2,000? $1,000?"

"Shoot, no," the man replied. "This past year I made about--let's see--$695."

At the end of the morning's canvassing, Wrenn counted the number of men who had signed up. There were 63. And he looked at the figures he had collected.

"The highest salary was $2,200," Wrenn said. "And he had eight children."

All-White YMCA Group Hears Wallace

Just Like Grown-Up Legislators

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN

MONTGOMERY, Ala. --The 20th Alabama Youth Legislature met last weekend in the state Capitol. Like their grown-up counterparts, the young "legislators" were all white.

"It's a dyin' shame," said Alvin Holmes, president of the Young Democrat Club of Montgomery County, a mostly-Negro group. "We make contributions to the YMCA, and then we are denied to share in the benefits."

Two days before the youth legislature met, Holmes telephoned William Chandler, director of the program, and asked him to include Negroes in this year's activities.

According to Holmes, Chandler "said he was not against selecting Negroes, as long as he could find qualified Negroes." Later in the conversation, Holmes recalled, Chandler said that "maybe next year, we'll consider selecting some."

GEORGE C. WALLACE
Photo Handed Out to Youths

The next day, Holmes sent a letter to Chandler, again asking him to include Negro youths this year. Excluding Negroes, the letter said, means "denying them the right to participate in the growth of this great State and nation in which they love so dearly."

The letter said the local YMCA would have "qualified youth" available, if Chandler decided to invite them. But there were no Negroes at the sessions of the youth legislature.

Asked about Holmes' letter this week, Chandler said, "I don't have any response to it." The director said he thought he and Holmes had been "in complete understanding and agreement" after their telephone conversation.

"We have never turned down any youth who wanted to participate and who had properly and adequately prepared himself," Chandler said. The only qualification for participants, he said, is that they must belong to a club that is active in the Hi-Y program and is registered with the youth legislature board.

Holmes charged that Negro branches of the YMCA were not invited to send delegates to the legislature. But Chandler claimed that "some Negroes would have been eligible, had they prepared themselves. None applied, that I know of."

Last Friday, the boys and girls--many in couples, holding hands--trooped into the House chamber, where they heard a speech from Presidential candidate and former Governor George C. Wallace.

The youths gave Wallace a standing ovation, and one group unfurled a banner saying "Decatur Supports Wallace for President."

The former governor criticized the federal government's recent stand on schools--that freedom-of-choice plans can be used only if they bring about a substantial degree of integration. In other words, said Wallace, "if you choose like you oughta choose, you can choose."

Soon, he warned the audience, "you're gonna find yourself being sent across town to another school, whether you want to go or not."

Wallace said there are "more genuine good feelings" between the races in Alabama and the rest of the South than there are anywhere else in the country.

"My wife received more nigra votes than either of her two opponents (in November, 1966)," Wallace said, including "87 1/2% of the votes in the all-Negro wards of Selma, Ala."

"You know the reason folks in Selma voted for my wife?" he asked. "Because very few people in the Selma march were from Selma--they were all from Berkeley, California." At that, the boys and girls burst into loud ap-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO, Col. 4)

Come to Think of It

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

TUSKEGEE, Ala.--The Tuskegee City Council has agreed to seek city mail service for all city residents.

At last week's meeting, Councilman L. M. Gregg said he didn't learn until "a couple of weeks ago" that some Tuskegeeans are still on a rural mail route.

If Tuskegee Postmaster John Fletcher Segrest can't provide house-to-house mail delivery, the councilmen decided, they will make a formal request to the U. S. Post Office, and "send it on up as far as it has to go."

Mrs. Elaine Benn and Mrs. Mabel Williams--two ladies who have complained about receiving rural mail in the Rockefeller Hill section of town --were present at the meeting. They thanked the councilmen for paying attention to their needs.

And Mayor Charles M. Keever said he has a special interest in the matter. In the area where he lives, the mayor commented, "we don't get city mail either."

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Here Come the Judge

Thurgood Marshall gave a pretty good indication of the kind of Supreme Court justice he was going to be when he lied under oath last summer before a U. S. Senate committee.

Senator James O. Eastland, a member of the committee considering Marshall's nomination for the high court, was trying to make something of the fact that Marshall--as a federal appeals judge--had once cited a book written by Herbert Aptheker, a Communist.

Marshall replied that when he cited the book, he didn't know Aptheker was a Communist. Well, if not, he must have been the only appeals judge in the county who didn't, since a landmark case involving Aptheker was in the federal courts at the time.

Now that Marshall has become the Supreme Court's first Negro justice, he is still trying to please Senator Eastland. He has let the white folks decide 31 of the 44 cases that have come before the court this term--including almost all the civil rights cases.

Judges at all levels occasionally refuse to hear a case--because they are personally involved, or because it might seem that they have an interest in the outcome. But Supreme Court justices are never required to abstain, or to give reasons when they do so. It is a matter for each justice's individual conscience.

But Marshall has chosen to abstain in nearly every civil rights case, because he was once a civil rights lawyer (and in almost all cases involving the federal government, because he was once the U. S. solicitor general).

Last week, Marshall's abstention in a civil rights case made all the difference for Brooks Lee Anderson, a Tennessee Negro now serving a 49-year sentence for rape. Anderson--who has been in jail since 1949--was trying to get his conviction reversed, on the ground that no Negro had ever served on a jury in the county where he was tried.

Four Supreme Court justices agreed that Anderson should go free. Four apparently felt that he had not actually proved racial discrimination. But Marshall--who had once challenged the jury system in the same county--was nowhere to be seen. He didn't even sit on the bench when the case was argued. The tie vote meant that Anderson must serve out his sentence.

Justice Marshall ought to realize that he wouldn't be on the high court if he had not been a great and effective civil rights lawyer. No one expects him to forget everything his life has taught him. Rather, Marshall should bring his experience to bear on the cases the court decides.

The new justice's vote in the Anderson case might have freed an innocent man, and it might have established a valuable precedent for future cases. But to avoid the appearance of being in favor of civil rights, Marshall chose to close the prison doors on Anderson--and on the countless others who might have followed him to freedom.

Buford Hits Discrimination In Farm Extension Service

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

AUBURN, Ala. -- Why don't Negroes appear on the weekly television programs put on by the state agricultural extension service?

In a letter last week, the Rev. K. L. Buford, Alabama field director of the NAACP, suggested that the answer is racial discrimination.

For instance, he said, on a program three weeks ago, the white extension agent from Bullock County "appeared along with a lily-white group of 4-H members."

"The question rises, why was the Negro agent and Negro 4-H members excluded?" Buford wrote to Fred R. Robertson, state director of the Cooperative Extension Service.

Over six or eight months of viewing the TV programs regularly, Buford said, he has never seen a Negro: "The monitors, the panelists, and other participants, for some strange reason, have all been white."

But this week at his office in Auburn, Robertson said the reason isn't strange--or discriminatory.

"A lot of white people have never been on the TV programs," he said. "It's actually hard to get 'em. This is not taken as an opportunity--it's taken as a chore. If anyone has a wish to be on television, we arrange it."

REV. K. L. BUFORD

In his letter, Buford charged that TV isn't the only place where the extension service practices segregation.

"This office has received a report that . . . personnel in Barbour County are required to use separate restrooms," he wrote. "In Montgomery County, all Negro personnel work in a section separated from the whites by a wall--with only an opening a little larger than the average door connecting their office with that where white employees work.

"The most casual observer can detect that Negroes and whites are not together in this office by function."

And, Buford continued, segregation isn't the only problem. "Screams have risen to high heaven" in opposition to the Southwest Alabama Farmers Cooperative Association (SWAFCA), the letter said: "I ask you, does the extension service have any Negroes directing a similar program in the state of Alabama?"

Buford's letter also pointed out that SWAFCA faces an investigation to determine if its federal funds are being spent properly.

"What about the extension service?" he asked. "Could it be truthfully said that the extension service is not guilty of the same charge, not in terms of mishandling of funds but rather in terms of not using its personnel to the best advantage?"

The NAACP head wondered why most Negro agents work primarily with low-income people, and why few--if any--Negroes hold top jobs, such as the chairmanships of state or county extension service committees.

Robertson--the state extension service director--said he can't reply to all the charges. "It would be wrong for me, a public servant, to take issue with an organization such as the NAACP," he commented.

But he pointed out that the extension service--which is financed jointly by federal, state, and county governments--has been "under solid investigation (by federal officials) for the last three years to correct inequities."

"We've been trying to do everything we can do," he said. "This is so recent, we just couldn't do some things. We wouldn't have any program in some of the counties--and that wouldn't help anybody."

But, Robertson added, he thinks some of the charges are misdirected. "We've cooperated with SWAFCA 100%," he said. "We've held training meetings and so forth."

As for the report about segregated restrooms, he went on, "I'm having it checked into--but I just can't believe it. This was taken care of two years ago."

Robertson said the state extension service was "the first agency (in Alabama) to help poor people--and Negroes particularly.

"We've employed professional Negroes for years," he said. "They receive salaries equal to whites, and sit in on decisions."

But Robertson admitted that he doesn't know everything that goes on in extension service offices and programs around the state. "A lot is done locally," he explained. "This is a little like a sales organization--the fellow at the top doesn't know who all the salesmen are."

Nevertheless, Robertson said, past racial discrimination is steadily being corrected. The process "doesn't please everybody," he noted, "but we couldn't please everybody anyway. We're striving to improve our programs and serve all people equally."

'A First In Tuscaloosa'

BY ETHEL THOMAS

TUSCALOOSA, Ala.--For the first time in this century, Negro candidates are running for local office in Tuscaloosa County.

C. L. Mock will be running for place 1 on the Board of Revenue in the May 7 Democratic primary, and the Rev. Sylvester Croom will be running for place 2. Howard W. Eubanks will be on the ballot for justice of the peace in beat 16, place 2.

"This represents a first for Negroes in Tuscaloosa County," Mock said. "As such, this means a lot of hard work, hours of time, and hundreds of dollars in order that we might succeed in winning this campaign."

Croom said his platform is "Love for all, malice toward none." If elected, he said, "I pledge to be fair to everybody, with God being my helper." Eubanks--owner of Eubanks' Cleaners and the 15th Street Fruit Stand--said he has "contributed to the civic programs of Tuscaloosa for the past 23 years."

In nearby Hale County, the only Negro running in the primary will be Mrs. Mildred Black of Greensboro, a candidate for the Board of Education.

Mrs. Black--the wife of Lewis Black of the Alabama Council on Human Relations--said she understands "the ridiculous problems that teachers face," because she has taught in the public schools for ten years. She said she wants to make school integration a reality, and give teachers the right "to teach what they want to teach."

YMCA

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

plause.

Wallace got another big hand when he talked about protesters who lie in the street to block traffic. "When I'm President," he said, "and some of 'em lie down in front of my automobile, that's going to be the last one they'll ever lie down in front of."

Where does the national YMCA stand on the question of race?

In New York, YMCA Executive Secretary Jim Bunting said the national organization's policy is "certainly clear as to our belief in racial non-discrimination."

But Bunting said he didn't want to comment specifically on a situation involving "independent local associations."

Beating Charge

BY PRESLEY FRANKLIN

MARKS, Miss.--Mrs. Sarah Anderson charged this week that two Negro deputies entered her house illegally last Friday night, and beat her and her husband.

Mrs. Anderson said the deputies--L. C. and "Bo" Pryor--entered her home without a search warrant. "They beat up my husband in front of my three children," she claimed.

After L. C. Pryor hit her in the stomach, she said, she was dragged to the police car by a white officer. She displayed a scar on her left arm, from the wrist to the elbow.

Mrs. Anderson was tried last Saturday on a charge of resisting arrest. After the deputies testified that she fought with them, Mrs. Anderson was convicted and fined $200. She said she was not allowed to present witnesses who would have disputed the deputies' testimony.

This week, Mrs. Anderson has been free on $50 bond. She and her husband have until Saturday to raise the $200 fine. If they do not, Mrs. Anderson--who has three children--will go to jail.

Abbeville, Ala.

Otis Jones has been appointed shop steward on the Elrod Point job in Georgia, under union Local 348. (From James J. Vaughan)

Baton Rouge, La.

The Louisiana Voter Education Project was officially formed March 14 in Baton Rouge. It is the fourth such statewide organization formed with the help

WILLIAM H. SAMUEL JR.

of the Voter Education Project of the Southern Regional Council. In these state-wide VEP's, civil rights and community groups work together on voter-registration, citizenship education, and leadership training. William H. Samuel Jr., president of the Iberville Industrial Voters League, is the Louisiana VEP director. The project's office will be in Plaquemine.

Clarksdale, Miss.

The local, state, and national NAACP have complained about the hiring practices of the Southern Bell Telephone Company in Coahoma County. The Clarksdale NAACP said that over the past six months, it has referred at least 40 job applicants to Southern Bell, but none has been hired.

Montgomery, Ala.

"Responsible citizenship is the membership fee we must pay to live in a democracy," Macon County Sheriff Lucius D. Amerson told about 60 people last Sunday at a meeting of the Young Democrat Club of Montgomery County. Amerson said it is important for each citizen to understand his rights under the Constitution: "This must be taught to our young people, and re-emphasized to our adults." A major problem of today, he said, is that some people don't care enough to exercise their right to vote. Although the Negro vote alone can elect black office-holders in many counties, Amerson said, "the political trend of the Negro candidates might very well be towards the increasing necessity for coalition of Negro and white voters who are willing to forget a man's color and elect him because of the qualities he possesses."

Frankfort, Kentucky

The state of Kentucky now has an open housing law. A housing bill passed by the state legislature became law without the signature of Governor Louie B. Nunn, who opposed it. The law prohibits discrimination in the sale or rental of housing, except in sales by home-owners who don't use a broker and in rentals in buildings of four units or less. Kentucky is the first Southern state to pass such a law.

Wetumpka, Ala.

"People fear black power, but it is not a problem. White power is the problem," said Miss Winifred Green of Atlanta, Ga. Miss Green--a representative of the American Friends Service Committee--also quoted from the campaign speeches of U. S. Senator Robert Kennedy during her talk to NAACP members and friends last month in the Elmore Rehobeth District Center. Another speaker, the Rev. K. L. Buford of the Alabama NAACP, also touched on the subject of politics. "Don't get overjoyed when people in the political structure meet you on the street and shake your hand," he said. "Watch their motives, and be very careful not to let the campaigning candidates fool you as a registered voter." The Rev. J. L. Jones of Wetumpka organized an advisory committee to the NAACP. The members are Mrs. M. F. Bracy of Wetumpka, J. W. James and Mrs. A. L. Skipper of Tallassee, Mrs. D. A. Bozeman of Dexter, and Mrs. J. K. Maxey of Millbrook. (From Debra Bracy)

West Point, Miss.

The Poitier Players of Mary Holmes College presented Arthur Miller's play "A View from the Bridge" early last month. Clarence M. Simmons, a professor, directed the play, with help from Charles Lee, a sophomore student. Mississippians in the cast were Henry Collins of Houston; Dianne Adams, Tupelo; Patricia Collins and Willie Smith, Starkville; Bennie Turner, West Point; McKinley Jefferson, Picayune; Ernie Robinson and Walter Mitchell, Columbus; Arthus Wright, Gulfport, and Laura Moore, Jackson. Other performers were William R. White, Lafayette, Ala.; Helen Purnell, Selma, Ala.; Marcus Sims, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Charles Lee, McDonough, Ga.; Mary Jackson, Elaine, Ark.; and Clarence Brown, Fernandina, Fla.

Suspicions 'Understandable,' Judge Rules

Bullock Election Upheld

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

MONTGOMERY, Ala. -- The 1966 elections were a difficult time for everyone in Bullock County, a federal judge said last week.

For the 70% Negro majority, the elections offered the first real chance to have an effective voice in local government.

For the 30% white minority, "the transition from dominant political control of their elected officials to the prospect of sharing or losing this control to the Negro population--with a great number of those registered being illiterate and untrained--was undoubtedly a searing emotional experience.

"The Negroes were haunted by slavery and historical discrimination, and the white population was haunted by 19th century Reconstruction politics," wrote U. S. District Judge Virgil Pittman.

For that reason, and because of "disagreements" at the polls, "it is easily understandable" that five unsuccessful Negro candidates became suspicious after the May 31, 1966, Democratic primary run-off, the judge said.

But, he ruled last week, their suspicions were not supported by the evidence they presented in federal court.

And so, the judge said, he will not order a new run-off election for state representative from Barbour, Bullock, and Macon counties.

Judge Pittman's decision leaves a white man, William V. Neville Jr., in possession of the office sought by civil rights attorney Fred D. Gray.

Gray--the first Negro to run for the state Legislature since Reconstruction--lost to Neville in both the primary and the run-off by less than 600 votes.

The judge also ruled against a new run-off for four local offices contested

H. O. WILLIAMS

by Negro candidates in Bullock County. The losers included H. O. Williams, the first black man to run for sheriff in the county's history.

The complicated law-suit has been winding its way through federal court for nearly two years. During that time, Judge Pittman said, the case dwindled from massive charges of fraud and racial discrimination to "a series of circumstances suspicious in nature."

Pittman conceded that, as recently as September 1961, only five Negroes were registered to vote in Bullock County. He also found that:

Registration lists in Barbour, Bullock, and Macon counties included the names of some white people who were not qualified to vote.

Bullock County officials handled their voters list in a casual manner, and made some technical violations of Alabama election laws.

Although white people living in other counties were permitted to keep their voting privileges in Bullock County for many years, some Negroes were purged as soon as they left the county.

On May 31, 1966, "there were several flareups and disagreements between (Negro) poll watchers and (white) election officials" in Bullock County. Negro poll-watchers were denied the use of restrooms at the National Guard Armory, the county's main polling place.

But, Pittman ruled, none of these matters was serious enough to void the election. In addition, he said, the Negro candidates were wrong in blaming most of the violations on racial discrimination.

For instance, he said, although absentee ballots may have been handled improperly, the service was "equally available" to members of both races.

And on several questions, the judge ruled against the Negroes altogether.

The charge that "stand-ins" registered for some seriously ill white people in Bullock County two weeks before the run-off "fails for lack of sufficient evidence," Pittman said.

Doctors testified that many of these people had not left their homes for years. But Pittman accepted "the explanation that these people would make the extreme effort to register," although they then voted by absentee ballot.

Despite testimony to the contrary from some witnesses, Pittman also ruled that no Negroes were prevented from voting, or pressured--or misled--into voting for white candidates.

As for the disputes between poll watchers and election officials in Bullock County, Pittman found "sufficient provocation to bring into play disciplinary efforts." He said the officials' actions were not "unduly harsh, illegal, or arbitrary."

"There was a real effort to conduct a fair election without racial discrimination on May 31," the judge wrote. "The fact disagreements arose only proves everyone involved was a human being with human frailties."

The judge did grant some of the Negro candidates' requests. He ordered the Bullock and Macon county boards of registrars to purge their voting lists and correct their methods of record-keeping. He also directed Bullock County officials to open restrooms, and follow the laws concerning poll watchers and illiterate voters in the future.

But Pittman also suggested that court orders are not the best way to insure fair elections.

"LEADERS SHOULD LEAD and make their influence felt among their respective groups as much as possible," he wrote:

"It may be from fear that white voted for white and Negro for Negro, but if we would make a reality of the American dream, we should vote for a man on his merit regardless of color, race, or creed."

Although "all is not perfect," Pittman remarked, "the progress made in these three counties within recent years can be viewed with high heart."

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

A DAY OF PROTEST AT TUSKEGEE

TUSKEGEE, Ala.--On Monday, March 25, Tuskegee Institute students stayed out of classes to demand a better education and more student power.

For several hours, the students blocked entrances to college buildings, while a faculty-student committee tried to work out an agreement with the administration. Late that night, Institute President Luther H. Foster agreed to many--but not all--of the demands.

Above, James H. M. Henderson (left), a biology professor and a member of the faculty-student committee, and Warren Hamilton (right), president of the Student Government Association, address several hundred protesters in front of the administration building.

Clockwise, beginning with the photo to the right: students vote on a motion to meet with President Foster; demonstrators bar the doorway to Huntington Hall, a classroom and faculty office building; students watch the evening news on TV outside the administration building; Senior Class President William Clark (center) confers with newsmen; demonstrators sit-in inside the administration building.

The young lady in the center was one of many speakers at an all-Institute meeting the previous Thursday. Student leaders organized the campus-wide class boycott when this and other sessions failed to bring the changes they wanted.

Photos by Charles Griner and Melvin I. Todd

It's Baseball Time in Florida!

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.--Out in Tampa Bay, a small boat had caught on fire. A Coast Guard plane swooped toward the bay at shoulder height, and a helicopter hovered over the burning boat.

"It's sinking! It's sinking!" cried a small boy in the stands at nearby Al Lang Field. "Hooray! Here comes the Coast Guard!" shrieked his companion.

But more than 2,500 other people at the field ignored the sea-going drama, because something more important was happening. The St. Louis Cardinals were playing the New York Mets at Lang Field, in one of baseball's most sacred rites --spring training. No true fan would be distracted from a spring-training game, even if the Titanic were going down behind the left-field fence.

As it turned out, the nautical emergency was merely part of a water-sports show. And when major-league baseball comes to Florida every spring, other sports--even burning up your boat in Tampa Bay--have to wait.

Sixteen major-league teams are training in Florida this year--the other four are in Arizona and California.

At each training camp, about 50 ball-players are trying to win the 25 spots open on the varsity roster. Those who miss out are sent to the club's huge minor-league camp for re-assignment--and some are cut loose entirely.

Buddy Bradford, a Negro native of Mobile, Ala., is one of the players trying to stay in the big time. Bradford--a short, stocky outfielder with six years of minor-league experience--is fighting for a job with the Chicago White Sox.

He gave himself a big boost one day when he came to the plate with two out in the last of the ninth and smashed a two-run double that gave the Sox a 5-4 win over Minnesota.

But the next day against the Pittsburgh Pirates, Bradford went 0-for-4, and his spring average sank from .304 to .259. After the game, he was despondent.

"I just didn't pick the ball up good today," he said in the locker room. A hit like the game-winning double "gets you up a little while," he said. "But you go bad the next day, and you're back down again. I try to take it all in stride."

But it's hard not to worry, Bradford said: "Every time at bat is a big factor, one of the big moments. Every day, every at bat, you're on the spot. . . . It seems like every day, you've got to do it, until you make it."

For a player like Mets pitcher Ron Taylor, however, spring training should be fun. Taylor--who starred for the Cardinals in the 1964 World Series--had his best year in 1967 with the Mets, chalking up a 2.34 earned-run average.

But, Taylor said, "I like to be unsure. You're never sure of anything in this game." The first squad cut was due soon, Taylor said, and he wasn't counting on anythng.

Is it really necessary to have five weeks' training in Florida before the long season begins? Taylor said the club management needs the chance to look at all the candidates, and the players need the time to get in shape.

"Some ball-players are slow starters," Taylor said. "They'd be in even worse shape if spring training were shorter."

Anyway, spring training is a tradition. In fact, it's a tradition made up of traditions.

One of baseball's oldest customs is the autograph. After the games, the players are always mobbed by a crowd of kids (45 years and under) who want them to sign a score-card, baseball, or anything else with an inch of clear space available.

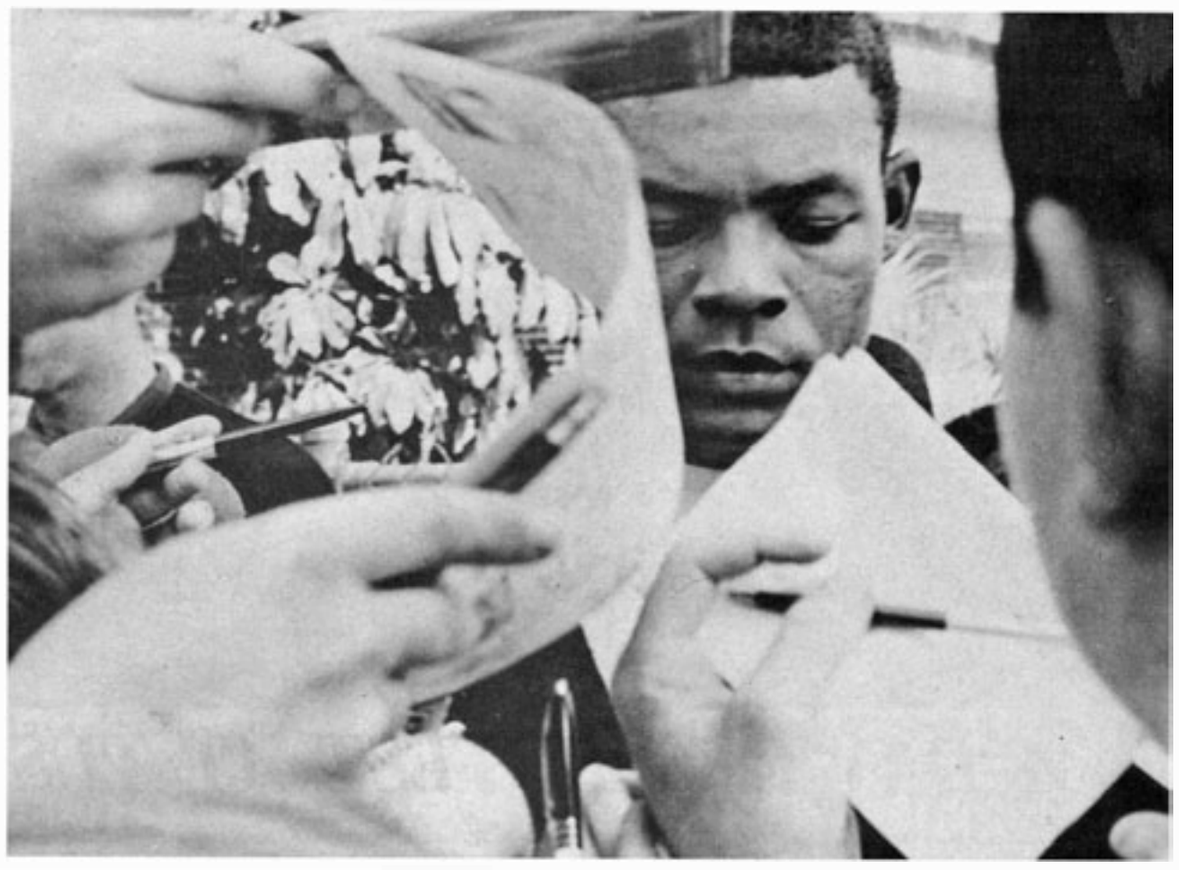
In the mob scene that followed one St. Louis-Boston game, Cardinal outfielder Bobby Tolan had to warn his fans, "If you don't stop sticking things in my face, I won't sign any."

"You don't even want me to finish, do you?" he asked one excited kid. "You grabbed it away before I was through."

As the Cardinals were fighting their way toward their cars, several people were absorbed in the day's big question--should a player who makes from $10,000 to $100,000 a year be required to sign autographs at all times?

"You sign 5,000 autographs, miss one, and you're a bad guy," complained St. Louis pitcher Bib Gibson on a radio show. "As soon as you get up in the morning and go down to breakfast, people are asking you for autographs."

But after the show, announcer Jack Buck told some by-



AUTOGRAPH HUNTERS MOB CARDINAL OUTFIELDER BOBBY TOLAN

standers he still isn't too keen about players who tell autograph-hunters to "get lost."

"Unless you know the guy--and even if you do--it's hard to excuse him," said Buck.

When ball-players talk to each other, tradition requires that nicknames and insults make up most of the conversation. Sometimes it sounds like a code, or a foreign language.

One day when the Pittsburgh Pirates were warming up for a game with the White Sox in Sarasota, the Pirate infielders started razzing shortstop Gene Alley, who was trying to work off the effects of a sore arm.

"Me and Joe got a plan, Oopie," yelled Maury Wills. (Translation: While Alley was out of the line-up, Wills had moved from third base to shortstop, and Jose "Joe" Pagan had come off the bench to play third. Also, "Oopie" is what the players call Alley.)

"Don't worry, Jake," added Chuck Hiller, a reserve infielder. (Translation: A player who fakes an injury to get out of work is said to be "jaking it.")

Alley--whose arm may determine whether or not the Pirates win the National League pennant--did not seem to be amused.

Sometimes--especially as the cut-down date approaches --the kidding gets a little rough.

The morning before Houston played the Cardinals, Doug Rader--trying to make the Astros as an infielder--wasn't hitting at all in batting practice. The catcher, teammate Hal King, was keeping up the usual chatter about how every pitch was a strike, the pitcher was looking good, and so on.

Suddenly, Rader, who is white, whirled on his Negro teammate and barked, "What are you tryin' to do--work me over in practice?" After that, King shut up, but Rader wasn't satisfied.

With Ivan Murrell, a Negro outfielder, at bat, Rader asked the silent King, "Was that a strike?"

"Yeah--go to hell," the catcher muttered.

"Well, why don't you tell HIM (Murrell) about it?" Rader demanded.

"We're putting our hearts in it today," mused Jackie Brandt, a veteran outfielder trying to catch on with the lowly Astros.

Of all baseball traditions, none is more unchanging than the sportswriters' springtime chat with the manager. Before the St. Louis-Houston game, a crowd of writers cornered Grady Hatton, and the Astro boss obliged with some weather-beaten observations:

"Barrin' injuries and stuff like that, we have a chance to have a real fine (pitching) staff."

"This could be some kind of rough league this year."

"If (Willie) Mays has just a half-decent year, San Francisco's going to be rough."

"The Cardinals are double tough." (What if the Cardinal pitchers--other than old reliable Bob Gibson--don't have good years? a writer asked. "Then they're going to be in trouble," said Hatton gravely.)

Will the acquisition of outfielder Lou Johnson help the Chicago Cubs? "He's certainly not going to hurt 'em," Hatton advised.

After all this, the Cards and the Astros went out and played the kind of game that makes you wonder if anybody is really serious about spring training.

In the first inning, Lou Brock of St. Louis--one of the game's finest base-runners--got himself picked off first base.

Then Wade Blasingame--the pitcher, of all people--put the Astros into a 4-0 lead with a three-run homer.

In the fifth, with Houston ahead 6 to 4, Brock wandered back under Norm Miller's fly ball, and then let it bounce off his glove for a run-scoring double. An error by third-baseman Ed Spiezio let another run in, and before the inning was over, the Astros had a 12-4 advantage.

Nelson Briles--one of the pitchers the Cards are counting ing on--stayed on the mound for five full innings of bobbles and boo-boos. When he headed for the showers, his slate showed 12 runs given up, on 11 hits and three Cardinal errors.

With a 12-8 lead in the ninth, Houston added a run on a squeeze bunt by Julio Gotay. Not only did Miller score (he had tripled), but Gotay was safe too, because nobody covered first base.

(Squeeze bunts are usually seen when the score is tied in the ninth inning of the final game of the World Series, or on occasions of equal importance.)

The final score was Houston 15, St. Louis 10. Some 1,700 bemused fans had seen 30 base hits, six errors, and a year's worth of wacky plays.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX, Col. 1)

HOUSTON SLUGGER JIM WYNN (LEFT FOREGROUND), JULIO GOTAY, AND HAL KING (RIGHT)

If Mays Has a Good Season...

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.--A look at six of the National League clubs training in and around St. Petersburg gives you a pretty good idea how the N. L. pennant race will shape up.

Of the teams on view March 16-24 in this area, the St. Louis Cardinals look by far the best. They should finish second.

The Houston Astros should finish fourth, the Pittsburgh Pirates fifth, the Los Angeles Dodgers eighth, the Philadelphia Phillies ninth, and the New York Mets tenth.

The other teams will fill in the gaps. From the bottom up, that would put the Atlanta Braves in seventh place, the Chicago Cubs in sixth, and the Cincinnati Reds in third. Who will win the pennant? The San Francisco Giants.

Reasons:

The METS don't seem much different from the lovable losers of past years. Pitcher Tom Seaver (16-13 in 1967) looks as good as ever, and rookie second-baseman Bob Heise could be a real surprise, but they need more help than they are likely to get.

The PHILLIES traded away their best pitcher, Jim Bunning, for reasons best known to themselves. Rookie shortstop Don Money is a future star, though maybe not this year.

A strong-armed pitching staff and some speedy outfielders won't make contenders out of the DODGERS. Shortstop Zoilo Versalles--who hit .200 at Minnesota last year--isn't likely to start busting fences just because of a change of scenery.

For years, the BRAVES have had the talent, but not the will. Now the talent is disappearing, too, although pitchers Pat Jarvis and Phil Niekro, third-baseman Clete Boyer, second-baseman Felix Millan, and the great Hank Aaron are still functioning.

The CUBS surprised everybody by finishing third last year, when everything went right. Third-baseman Ron Santo is a perennial super-star, but a few things are likely to go wrong this year with the rest of the cast.

Bunning, who came from Philadelphia, makes the PIRATES a pennant threat, especially if shortstop Gene Alley's throwing arm is all right.

Though the ASTROS have never finished higher than eighth, this could be the year. Houston has a fine pitching staff (headed by Don "No Hit" Wilson), a proven slugger in Jim Wynn (37 homers last year), a lot of good young talent, and a winning attitude.

The REDS are loaded with sluggers like Pete Rose (.301 in 1967), Vada Pinson (.288), Tony Perez (102 RBI's), and Lee May (who has been going wild in training). But the pitching depends too much on one-year wonders like Gary Nolan (14-8 as a rookie) and Mel Queen (14-8 after being converted from a outfielder).

The CARDINALS also can hit. At one point this spring, they listed the following averages: Floyd Wicker .625, Dave Ricketts .400, Bobby Tolan .395, Orlando Cepeda .394, John Edwards .367, Curt Flood .361, Roger Maris .353, Lou Brock .351, Julian Javier and Dal Maxvill .333, and Mike Shannon .308. Bob Gibson is the best pitcher in baseball, but no other Card starter has ever put two good years together.

Several times in the past few years, the GIANTS have managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. But with pitchers like Juan Marichal (14-10 last year), Mike McCormick (22-10), Gaylord Perry (2.61 ERA), and Ray Sadecki (12-6), and with a boatload of powerful hitters in the .275-.300 range, how can they miss? They won't--if Willie Mays has one more good year left.

RADIO ANNOUNCER JACK BUCK (LEFT) INTERVIEWS ST. LOUIS PITCHER BOB GIBSON (CENTER)

LOU BROCK OF THE CARDINALS AT BATTING PRACTICE

Hardaway Man Needs Benefits, But...

The Army Can't Remember

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

HARDAWAY, Ala. -- Joe Wheeler Menifee didn't harvest cotton in the fall of 1917. Instead, he went to war.

Menifee was in the last group of draftees from Tuskegee during World War I. As a private, he worked in U. S. Army kitchens at Camp Dodge, Iowa, and Fort Meade, Maryland. And sometime early in 1919, he came home.

That, at least, is the way Menifee remembers the Army. But the Army doesn't remember him.

According to workers for the Veterans Administration in Tuskegee and Montgomery, a three-year search has failed to turn up any proof that Menifee ever served in the armed forces.

As a result, Menifee--who is now 74, partially deaf in both ears, and too feeble to work--can't get veterans benefits, or gain admission to the big VA hospital in Tuskegee.

Menifee spends his days sitting around his small frame home in upper Hardaway, in rural Macon County. When the weather is warm, like it was this week, he naps on the porch.

His wife, Mrs. Eugenia Menifee, raises corn on the family's small farm. With the money she earns from her crop--and with Social Security and welfare checks--she keeps her household together, and provides a home for her 14-year-old grandson.

But the income isn't enough to buy her husband a hearing aid, or pay for the medical treatment she thinks he needs.

So, for more than three years, Mrs. Menifee has been traveling to Tuskegee and Montgomery, telephoning offices as far away as Atlanta, Ga., and writing letters to state, VA, and Army officials.

The draft board in Tuskegee, the Alabama Department of Archives in Montgomery, and the regional VA office in Montgomery have all told her they can find no evidence that her husband was a soldier.

And last week, the Military Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri, wrote her a letter saying the same thing.

Menifee's fingerprints "were compared with those of former Army personnel filed in the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and no corresponding prints were located," the letter said.

When Menifee registered for the draft, the letter added, he listed his birth date as Aug. 15, 1873--which would make him too old for duty during World War I.

But Mrs. Menifee and her husband say

JOE WHEELER MENIFEE

he was born on Aug. 12, 1894. And if there is no record of his military service, Mrs. Menifee charged angrily this week, that's because the Army has lost it.

"They just won't admit he's a veteran," she said. "Because he's old, didn't have no education, can't read and write, can't count one-two-three, they do him like that. He been held off from a whole lot he's supposed to have."

Mrs. Menifee admitted that her husband doesn't have his Army discharge papers. But that, she said, is because his house burned down several years ago--with the papers inside.

"We got plenty of friends to swear that he did go," she said. "That should be enough."

She charged that state and federal officials aren't really trying to help her.

At the Macon County office of the Alabama State Department of Veterans Affairs, she said, "the man say he don't want any more to do with us."

But workers there insisted that Mrs. Menifee is mistaken. "We've done everything we possibly can do," said a spokesman. "If she wants to come back, we'll keep trying."

Staff members at the regional VA office in Montgomery and the VA hospital in Tuskegee said they, too, are willing to continue the search for Menifee's Army records. But they also said that if no papers are found, he can't get veterans benefits.

Meanwhile, suggested Wendell W. Powell of the VA hospital staff in Tuskegee, Menifee should apply for Medicare.

But Mrs. Menifee said she doesn't have much faith in government programs any more. "They didn't feel like settin' him in welfare," she noted, "and he had trouble getting on Social Security. The Army said he's tooold--but the Social Security said he wasn't old enough to get that benefit."

Although her husband now receives Social Security checks, Mrs. Menifee said, "he needs to go into the hospital. His health is not good. He should get what he's entitled to--like everybody else."

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Negroes Lose in Selma

SELMA, Ala.--All three Negro candidates for the City Council lost to white opponents last Tuesday in the Democratic primary run-off.

Edwin Moss, the Rev. L. R. Harrison, and Marius "Ace" Anderson trailed three present council members--Herman Blagg Sr., Maxie M. Ellis, and Luther D. Pepper--by 5-to-3 margins.

Meanwhile, in Brewton, Negro candidate Willie Harvey lost the Democratic city council nomination to a white man, W. David Lang.

In a contest between two white candidates, E. H. "Hamp" Graves was re-elected mayor of Eufaula. He defeated Marvin E. Edwards, who had been endorsed by the all-Negro Eufaula Voters League.

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.

PEACE PROGRAM -- The 1968 Peacemaker Orientation Program in Non-violence will be held from Aug. 17 to Sept. 1 at Heathcote, the School of Living Center, in Freeland, Maryland. Discussions will center around the problems arising in trying to lead a daily life of non-violent witness in a world of increasing force and violence. Tax refusal, draft resistance, and other forms of non-complicity with war-making will be explained and explored, as well as problems arising in the areas of education, family living, urban and rural communities. Applications or requests for further information should be sent to Wally Nelson, 3810 Hamilton St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19104, or George A. Lear Jr., 520 E. Buffalo St., Ithaca, N. Y. 14850.

REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN -- The Alabama NAACP will kick off a statewide voter registration campaign at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, April 7, with a mass meeting at the Clinton Chapel AME Zion Church, 1128 Thurman St., Montgomery, Ala. The campaign is co-sponsored by the East and West Montgomery branches of the NAACP.

REGISTERED NURSES--Lee County Head Start needs a registered nurse for part-time employment, beginning in early April. For more information, write P. O. Drawer 1632, Auburn, Ala. 36830, or call 887-6536.

POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN--Hosea Williams and Albert Turner want to discuss the Poor People's Campaign (Washington, D. C.) with YOU. Come to a meeting at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 6, in the St. Paul CME Church on Tremont St. in Selma, Ala.

TUSKEGEE SUBSCRIBERS -- You have TWO local post offices: Tuskegee 36083 and Tuskegee Institute 36088. Your Southern Courier will arrive on time if it is sent to the correct one. Please check your mailing label, and let us know if it should be changed.

CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS--"Unreality" is the subject of the Lesson-Sermon to be read in all Christian Science churches this Sunday, April 7. The Responsive Reading includes these verses from Proverbs: "Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man."

FOR A BETTER ALABAMA--The Alabama Council on Human Relations has active chapters in Birmingham, Mobile, Montgomery, Huntsville, Florence-Tuscumbia-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.

PHOTOGRAPHERS--The Southern Courier is now accepting applications for the position of staff photographer. Candidates should be willing and able to travel. They should have a driver's license, imagination, and ambition. Experience will be considered, but it is not a necessity. Salary: $30 a week plus expenses. Write to Jim Peppler, The Southern Courier, 1012 Frank Leu Bldg., Montgomery, Ala. 36104.

FEDERAL JOBS--The Interagency Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners for South Alabama and Northwest Florida is holding examinations for general, structural, and airfield fire-fighters. Starting salaries range from $86 to $107 a week. This examination provides applicants with career employment opportunities in the federal service in the 28 counties of South Alabama and the ten counties of Northwest Florida. Send applications to the Interagency Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners for South Alabama and Northwest Florida, 107 St. Francis Street, Mobile, Ala. 36602. The forms are available at any board of U. S. civil service examiners, and at most main post offices. Applicants must indicate Fire Fighter as the title of the examination, and AA-8-18 as the announcement number. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Federal Job Information Center, Room 105, 107 St. Francis Street, Mobile, Ala. 36602, or any U.S. post office.

BAHA'IS--The Baha'is of Montgomery invite you to their weekly fireside at 8 p.m. this Saturday, at the Community House, 409 S. Union St., Montgomery, Ala. For transportation, call 265-4394. Meet Baha'u'llah.

JOB HEARINGS--The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will hold hearings from Saturday, April 27, to Wednesday, May 1, at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Ala. The purpose will be to collect information on job security and economic opportunities in 16 Alabama counties--Autauga, Barbour, Bullock, Butler, Choctaw, Clarke, Dallas, Greene, Hale, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Monroe, Perry, Sumter, and Wilcox. The commission is interested in hearing testimony from federal, state, and local officials, and from citizens of these counties.

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I do not give advice outside my office--those claiming to be Bishop Gaylor, going from house to house, are impostors, and I personally offer a REWARD OF $100 for the arrest and conviction of any person representing themselves to be Bishop Gaylor. Bring this card for special reading!

HOURS: DAILY 10 AM to 5 PM

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NO LETTERS ANSWERED--CALL IN PERSON

16 SOUTH PERRY ST. MONTGOMERY, ALA.

Something New in Montgomery

'Bivens Made the Tackle'

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN

MONTGOMERY, Ala.--"Bivens and Thackston made the tackle," said the Cramton Bowl announcer last Friday, during the second quarter of Jefferson Davis High School's intra-squad football game.

It was just a routine play--and then again, it wasn't. Jeff Davis is Montgomery's new high school, which opened its spring football practice under a tough federal-court desegregation order. And Charles Bivens, a defensive back for the Jeff Davis "White" team, is one of two Negro players on the 98-man squad.

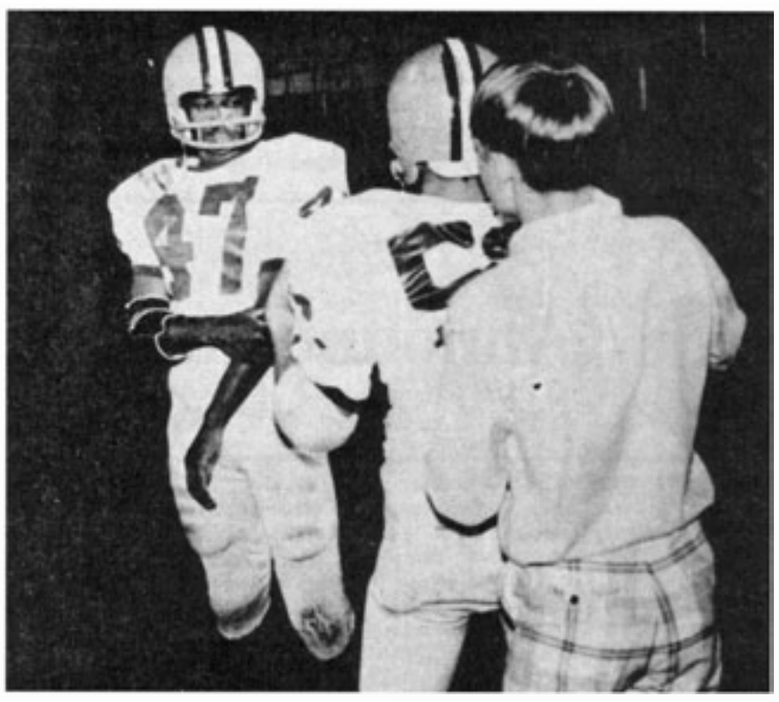
Although many other high schools in the state have fielded integrated athletic teams, Montgomery has been slow in this regard. Last Friday, Bivens and Wilbur Hamilton--a split end in the "Green" lineup--probably came as close as any Negro athlete ever has to participating in a varsity sport.

Bivens and Hamilton both saw a lot of action in the scrimmage, as the Whites beat the Greens, 51 to 47. Bivens was in on numerous defensive plays, and Hamilton scored a touchdown on a 22-yard pass from Green quarterback Al Barnes.

"They're two tough little football players," said Coach Billy Livings after the game. "They haven't played a lot of football--they don't get started in their program till the eighth grade--but they're tough little kids."

Nearly 200 boys--including about 20 Negroes--turned out for the first day of spring practice a month ago. Though just 98 players were listed for the Green-White game, Livings said no one had been cut from the squad: "Every boy not out for the team made his own decision."

"I'm as tough as nails on everybody," Livings said. "That's the only way I know how to coach. . . . I'm not going to look at any side issues, and I think I can pretty well speak for the other coaches around the state."



CHARLES BIVENS (47) WAITS FOR EMERGENCY REPAIRS

Red Sox Edge Cardinals In World Series Replay

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE FOUR)

But a week earlier, when the Cardinals played the Boston Red Sox, it was clear how baseball can become the number one concern of so many otherwise-reasonable people.

More than 7,000 fans crowded into Al Lang Field for the second spring rematch between the two 1967 World Series opponents.

They saw five innings of championship pitching, as Series foes Gibson and Jose Santiago each held his opponents to one run and four hits. Then in the sixth, a clutch two-out single by St. Louis catcher Tim McCarver gave the Redbirds a 2-1 lead.

When Red Sox outfielder Tony Conigliaro came to bat in the ninth inning, things looked bad for him and his team.

Conigliaro had not played the final two months of last season after being beaned, and he wore an extra protective flap on his helmet when he returned this spring. Even though he seemed as fearless as ever at the plate, he had managed just three hits in 19 previous trys.

But Conigliaro smashed a double off the wall in deepest center field, and the Red Sox caught fire. When Conigliaro was removed for a pinch-runner, the fans gave him a standing ovation, and every player in the dugout shook his hand.

Outfielder Reggie Smith followed with a run-scoring triple, tying the game. And when shortstop Rico Petrocelli followed with a fly to short right field, Smith dashed for home as if the world championship depended on it.

Bobby Tolan uncorked a powerful throw from right field, and Smith slid for the plate as McCarver went up for the ball. McCarver came down on top of Smith, but the Boston speedster was already across the plate.

Later, Tolan threw out Gene Oliver with another mighty heave, ending the inning. But the Red Sox had won, 3 to 2, and both teams had shown the stuff of which great ball clubs--and great sports events--are made.

Court Orders Merger Of Ala. Sports Groups

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN

MONTGOMERY, Ala.--"There are actually two systems of high school athletics in Alabama--one predominantly white and the other Negro," a three-judge federal court concluded this week.

And, said the court, "one of the most effective vehicles for the racial separation in Alabama athletics" is the existence of two high school athletic associations.

"There should be only one state-wide high school athletic association," the court said. "There is no adequate explanation other than race for the existence of two such associations."

So, the court said, the Alabama High School Athletic Association (white) and the Alabama Interscholastic Athletic Association (Negro) must join to form a single organization, with members, directors, and executives of both races.

Furthermore, the court ordered immediate desegregation of all athletic programs and contests "where more than two schools participate." This includes track, basketball, baseball, and football championships, and cheerleading and coaching clinics, the court said.

Circuit Judge Richard T. Rives and District Judges Frank M. Johnson Jr. and H. H. Grooms said they would not order schools of opposite races to schedule games against each other.

The judges said they "leave that matter to the school authorities, with the hope that no judicial action will ever be necessary in this area."

The court's order was based on its conclusion that the "dual athletic system operates to discriminate against Negroes." For one thing, the court said, the dual system has led to "inadequate athletic programs in the various Negro schools."

And, the judges added, the system "has resulted in a loss of recognition for athletes in the Negro schools . . . on both local and national levels."

The court also ruled that the Alabama associations are "state agents," with an "affirmative duty" to do away with the dual system.

"As a matter of fact," the court noted, "the offices of the white Alabama High School Athletic Association are in the State office building; the association pays no rent."

Ensley Protest

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.--Negroes complaining of job discrimination have been picketing four large stores in Ensley since March 28.

Several white store-owners argued this week that Negroes are already employed as clerks. But the picketers said too few Negroes have been hired. And, they said, many of those who have been hired are in part-time or menial positions.

The Rev. L. H. Whelchel, one of the leaders of the protest, said he was "pleased" last Monday, when a meeting between demonstrators and the Ensley Chamber of Commerce resulted in the formation of a bi-racial investigating committee.

Whelchel said the committee will survey the hiring practices of all the stores in the Ensley area. But in the meantime, he said, "we're keeping the pickets on."

Gleaners for Christ

are offering prayers for anyone who is sick, in trouble, heartbroken, or distressed.

Whatever your problems are, send them to The Gleaners for Christ, 411 S. Lowe St., Dowagiac, Mich. 49047.

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FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

In Alabama all our yesterdays are marred by hate, discrimination, injustice, and violence. Among the organizations working for a better tomorrow on the principle of human brotherhood is the Alabama Council on Human Relations. Membership in the Council is open to all who wish to work for a better tomorrow on this principle. For further information, write the Alabama Council, P.O.Box 1310, Auburn, Alabama.

Personally Yours

. . . answers questions about Junior Miss etiquette, grooming and interests.

Q. I'm not a nail nibbler — but my nails look like it. Every time I let them grow, they split and peel and look a mess! What's my problem?

A. Could be your diet! Eat lots of calcium-rich foods, such as milk and cheese. Gelatin also helps make strong nails. A weekly manicure is essential. If, in the growing process, one of your nails starts to break, reinforce it with a tiny piece of white Kleenex tissue placed over the broken spot. Then apply polish over the nail and tissue. No one will notice your nifty handiwork and the nail will be saved until it grows out.

Q. Two summer job possibilities have come up, one as a junior counselor at camp, the other here in the city. I'd like the counseling job best, but what do I say if the other is offered first?

A. Lucky you! Summer jobs are hard to come by. Write to the camp director as a follow-up to your conversation. It's unlikely you'll be offered the city job on the spot, but if you are, level with your prospective employer. Tell him the job sounds just wonderful — but you've been wanting to work for the camp since you were eight. Then tell him you'll be in touch with him in a couple of days. Summer is still many weeks away — and you'll have plenty of time to make the right decision!

Q. Believe it or not, I have 10 best friends, and we're all turning "sweet 16" this year! That means an important birthday — AND a present — almost every month of the year! But what about my budget?

A. The best gifts are those with more thought than money poured into them. For the writer in the crowd, take an empty tin can and cover it with Marvalon adhesive covering in a bright, feminine pattern. Voila — a penholder! Top off the gift, with a feather-topped ballpoint pen. Or, cover a wastebasket, box for rollers, hair spray can, and notebook for a roomful of accessories. The possibilities end only where your imagination does!

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Leave for New York or Boston the same day you arrive in Florence

'God Helps Those Who Help Themselves'

Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights

The weekly meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 8, in the Mt. Hebron Baptist Church, 503 Fifth St., Thomas, the Rev. T. L. Fisher, pastor. The Rev. F. N. Nixon will be the speaker.

Mrs. Lena Frost of Demopolis, Ala., sells 600-1,000 Southern Couriers every week in Marengo and south Greene counties.

If you want to sell The Southern Courier in your community, write to 1012 Frank Leu Bldg., Montgomery, Ala. 36104, or call 262-3572.

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