

Judges in Miss., Ala. Asked To Throw Out Choice Plans

BY PERRY WALKER

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss.--U. S. District Judge William C. Keady last Saturday refused to order the Marshall County and Holly Springs school boards to adopt a more efficient means of school integration.

After a two-day trial, the judge ruled on a suit filed a month ago by attorneys John L. Maxey (of Marshall County Legal Services) and Lewis R. Lucas (of an integrated Memphis, Tenn., law firm) on behalf of several Negro children and their parents.

The suit had asked the court to do away with freedom-of-choice forms, to integrate faculties and student bodies of the city and county schools, to integrate school transportation facilities, and to abolish overlapping bus routes.

To do all this, the suit said, the school boards should adopt a system of pairing or zoning the schools, in place of the present freedom-of-choice plan. Under a pairing or zoning plan, all students in the same grade or the same attendance area would be required to attend the same school, regardless of race.

The defendants--the two school boards, county Superintendent Stanley Mullikin, and city Superintendent Joe F. Williams--argued that pairing or zoning the schools would result in such a high ratio of Negro-to-white students that it would bring about "destruction of the educational system."

School board lawyers also contended that freedom of choice is working in



FRANK M. JOHNSON JR.

Marshall County--although only 21 Negroes elected to attend white city schools last year (with 860 whites), and only 22 Negroes chose to attend the white county schools (with 1,193 whites). No whites at all chose to attend the Negro schools, which have a total enrollment of 1,897 in the city and 3,606 in the county.

In denying the Negro plaintiffs' request, Judge Keady said pairing or zoning would cause "educational injury to the system," because all the white students would leave the school systems.

"The known toleration points will be vastly exceeded," he said, "Immediate pairing, immediate zoning would result in all-Negro student bodies."

Keady decreed that the present freedom-of-choice plan used by the school boards is "legal, constitutional, and there is no cause for injunctive relief." Continued use of freedom of choice, he said, "will result in a striking rate of desegregation."

Judge Keady did find the school boards guilty of "unconstitutional discrimination" in their assignment of faculties. He ordered the faculties desegregated by the 1968-69 school year, according to Negro-white teacher ratios which he specified for each school.

Maxey said he will appeal Keady's decision to the U. S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, La. He said he will request an immediate hearing, so the new plan--if ordered--can be put into effect by the time school opens.

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

MONTGOMERY, Ala. -- "I'd like to see what you're willing to do to make freedom of choice work in Barbour County," U. S. District Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. told county school officials at the close of a federal-court hearing last Tuesday.

"Your testimony shows freedom of choice won't work without substantial faculty desegregation," Johnson said. "I will give you 30 days to make it work."

If the school board does not succeed, Johnson warned, then--under the latest U. S. Supreme Court desegregation ruling--Barbour County will have to "try something else" in place of freedom of choice.

At that point, Clayton Mayor A. B. Robertson--one of about 30 white people seated in the courtroom--jumped to his feet and asked permission to speak.

When the startled judge granted it, Robertson asked, "Assuming the board does all it can do, and the people refuse to go along with it, is the board to be punished?"

"I'm not here for the purpose of punishing anybody," Johnson replied. "That is the furthest thing from my mind." But, he said, the board has the legal duty to integrate the schools.

During nearly three hours of testimony, Barbour County school officials repeatedly insisted that freedom of choice has "completely eliminated" racial discrimination--although only 50 Negro and no white students last year attended schools formerly designated for the opposite race.

"This is something new," Superintendent Raymond E. Faught explained. "It has never been done before in the United States." As faculties are desegregated, he predicted, the school system will "just automatically integrate itself."

But civil rights attorney Fred D. Gray argued that freedom of choice has failed, and said Barbour County "should use some other method to bring about a unitary school system."

If students were assigned so that individual schools accurately reflect the rural system's 2-to-1 Negro majority, replied Faught, "it would completely destroy the Barbour County public schools."

"White children are not going to a predominantly colored school," Faught said. "Those white people are going to send their children to private schools. . . (although) you might have a straggler or two."

"Did you know there are some places in this state" where white children attend mostly-Negro schools? asked Gray. "When Faught said he didn't, Gray shot back, 'There are some.'"

Under questioning by school board attorney Maury Smith, Alto Jackson said he has been "subject to certain criticism. . . ridicule. . . harassment. . . threats. . . (and) intimidation" because of his job as board chairman.

"Wouldn't it subject a Negro person--who has to depend on white support--to even greater harassment and ridicule if he has to select a formerly-white school (for his child)?" asked Gray. "Is it fair to shift that burden from the board to Negro parents?"

But Judge Johnson said the last question was "argument," and Jackson didn't have to reply.

S. O. Corbitt--a Negro who has been a Barbour County schools supervisor for the last nine years--said there are no "subtle economic pressures" preventing a truly free choice of schools.

And black people in Barbour County don't want compulsory school integration any more than white people do, Corbitt testified. "As long as we have a limited democracy," he said, "we don't want to be told where we have to go."

The supervisor agreed that Negro students would probably attend forcibly integrated schools. But since the whites wouldn't, he said, "it would be segregation in reverse."

Corbitt also claimed that many all-Negro schools in Barbour County are superior to their mostly-white counterparts. "Did I understand you to say that a Negro child in Barbour County receives a better education than a white child?" Gray asked incredulously.

"It's a possibility," Corbitt insisted. He later admitted that Negro children consistently score lower than whites on standard tests. But the reason for that, he said, is that Negroes "don't attend school."



CLARENCE B. DAVIS QUESTIONS PLANNING COMMISSION

New Zoning Law Has Rough Going

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

TUSKEGEE, Ala.--"Zoning is a wonderful thing," a white man said to the Negro sitting next to him. "If you live in a residential district and someone wants to put a gasoline station on the corner, he has to go to a hell of a lot of trouble. . . . He has to get your permission."

Those were almost the only favorable words anyone spoke about Tuskegee's proposed new zoning ordinance at last Monday night's meeting of the City Planning Commission.

More than 100 people showed up to criticize the ordinance, and to present petitions and requests for changing it.

Several citizens demanded to know why the planners had not talked with community residents before drawing the zone lines. And people began shouting angrily at John A. Price, chairman of the planning commission, when he said that--despite the dozens of complaints--the group's recommendations would not be revised.

"What then is the purpose of this meeting tonight?" called out one lady.

Price explained that the Tuskegee City Council had refused to consider the proposed ordinance without further "citizen participation." The meeting, he said, was for "educational" purposes.

"That's not a satisfactory answer," the lady snapped back. And a man stood up to ask, "Do you feel, in light of the protests you've heard tonight, that your original recommendation truly represents the best interests of the people facing you?"

"It would help if we knew WHY things have been done," said William A. Hunter, dean of Tuskegee Institute's School of Education. "Could we ask for a rationale. . . .?"

"There's nine men on the planning commission, (but) not one is a planner," Price replied. And therefore, he said, they can't explain the recommendations.

Eugene C. Brock, a planning consultant who worked on the ordinance, said zoning is meant to "control land uses--it keeps a stockyard from being built across from residential homes, or houses in an industrial section."

But nobody seemed satisfied with the explanation. Several people complained that their homes are in areas zoned R-2 (single-family and duplex houses), although everyone in the neighborhood

would prefer R-1 (single-family only). R-2 zoning will downgrade Magnolia Hill, said Clarence B. Davis: "There's not a single (duplex) there now--it's all private homes."

And Super Pace of Greenwood Heights said that R-2 zoning will hurt his neighborhood in another way. "We're in the process of improving our community," he said. "We're trying to get rid of slum conditions"--not encourage them.

In Rockefeller Hill, complained Mrs. Elaine Benn, "all the businesses have been cut off," although the community wants to attract new small businesses.

The arguments finally quieted down when City Councilman John Sides--who is also a planning commissioner--promised that the council will not take final action on the zoning ordinance until all the petitions and complaints have been carefully considered.

In addition, he said, planning commissioners and councilmen will try to meet with neighborhood groups to discuss the problems.

Sides said the city needs a zoning ordinance to qualify for federal urban-renewal and housing grants--like the Model Cities program. "We've grown from a small town to a larger town," he said. "This (ordinance) is only a beginning, and you can always change."

Bond Issue Passes After Firm Pledges Fair Hiring

BY HUMPHREY MORRIS

HATTIESBURG, Miss.--"We'd be in there to try to run a plant, and not to discriminate against anybody, colored or otherwise," said Warren A. Hood, principal owner of the Wiggins Lumber Company.

In the next six months, Hood's company will set up a lumber-processing plant--Hood Lumber Industries, Inc.--near Hattiesburg.

The plant will open up 100 new jobs--60 in the mill, and 40 in the woods. Negro leaders have been trying to make sure that Negroes will get a fair percentage of these jobs--in responsible as well as unskilled positions.

Last Tuesday, Hattiesburg voters approved a \$750,000 bond issue that will enable the company to move in. The

vote was 5,516 in favor and 332 against, with 32.4% of the eligible voters turning out. The law requires a 60% vote in favor of the bond issue, and a 30% turn-out.

Hood had requested this bond issue under the BAWI (Balance Agriculture With Industry) plan. This plan exempts the mill from property taxes for ten years.

Before the vote, the Rev. J. C. Killingsworth and J. C. Fairley--chairman and vice-chairman of the Forrest County Action Committee--asked Paul Argo, manager of the Hattiesburg Chamber of Commerce, to arrange for at least 35% of the plant's jobs to be given to Negroes.

In a letter to Fairley, Argo replied (CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX, Col. 1)

groes during a march for equal employment. A circular put out by the Mobile Civil Rights Movement told the people: "1. Stop buying from stores where you can't get a job. "2. Stop buying in a city where you get put in jail for asking for your rights. "3. Stop buying in stores where white ladies ask you what you want before you get in the store. "4. Don't buy in any store that doesn't have at least one black manager."

The Rev. A. R. Ray, president of the movement, said that no attempt will be made to negotiate until the charges against the arrested marchers are dropped, and their bonds returned.

Since the campaign began, many white businessmen have started advertising on the local Negro radio stations, and sales are now on at every store in Prichard.

Some of the store-owners have even begun giving away free soft drinks. Others stand outside their stores, smiling and telling people to "come on in and look around."

Many arrests have been made in what the police say are cases of Negro militants telling people not to buy in Prichard. Getting arrested is becoming a common thing for Sherman Wilkerson, the 23-year-old president of a group called the Soul Brothers.

Wilkerson was arrested four times recently--once when he was charged

with disorderly conduct for standing on top of a car in front of a Negro social club. For this, he was fined \$125. He said he is appealing, because the car was "an open convertible."

Big Deal

MONTGOMERY, Ala. -- The Southern Courier celebrates its third anniversary this week. (The first issue was dated July 16, 1965.) A local civil rights leader probably summed up the reaction of all Alabamians and Mississippians when he said: "So what?"

Prichard Negroes Stage Strong Buying Campaign

BY JOHN SINGLETON

PRICHARD, Ala. -- For the past month, Negro leaders in Prichard have enforced a rigid selective-buying campaign on the city's business district.

The campaign spread from the picketing of the W. T. Grant department store to a boycott of the whole business district after the mass arrest of 100 Negroes during a march for equal employment.

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Free Meal For Whom?

BY STEVE VAN EVERA

JACKSON, Miss.--Free lunches have been served under the federal school-lunch program at the integrated Anguilla school in Sharkey County ever since September, 1965.

"However," said Bob Fitzpatrick of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, "no black child has ever gotten one." The committee is looking into the operation of the free-lunch programs.

Twenty-two Negro children from eight Sharkey County families attended the school the past year. Last week, they talked about their problems with the lunch program.

"I felt like askin' the school about it, but nobody would go with me, and the atmosphere there was so chilly that I didn't feel like goin' alone," said Mrs. Dorothy Buckley, who sends eight children to the school.

Several of her children also said the white students were given more food. "The lady who runs the lunchroom gives us one cookie, and gives the white kids three," said Miss Cora Buckley. "She'll pick through the chicken to give us the smallest pieces."

Many of the families simply didn't know about the free lunches. Mrs. Walter Collier said she had heard of the program, but "I just didn't know enough to go askin'."

Mrs. Cora Shade, who has a son at Anguilla, said she never even heard of the free-lunch program.

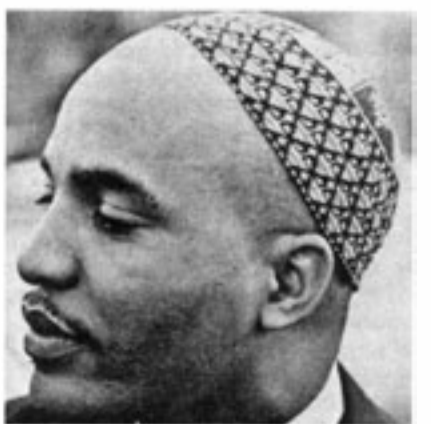
Fitzpatrick said the Federal School Lunch Act puts responsibility on the school to inform the students and parents about the free-lunch program.

The act says that "meals. . . shall be served without cost or at a reduced cost to all children as determined by the local school authorities to be unable to pay the full cost of the lunch."

Fitzpatrick said very few Negroes in Mississippi have been included in the free-lunch programs.

"I would feel pretty safe in saying that hardly any black kids are participating, except in Hinds and Washington counties and perhaps on the Gulf Coast," he said.

The lawyer said that if parents feel their children deserve free or reduced-price lunches, they should go to the school principal. If this doesn't get results, he said, the parents can go to the superintendent of schools.



REV. JAMES BEVEL

"But," he said, "we will if the American people want a change--and their opportunity for announcing that comes up in November."

SCLC--sponsor of the Poor People's Campaign--also seems to be looking towards November. The Rev. Andrew J. Young, executive vice-president of the organization, said SCLC will not make a decision on endorsing a presidential candidate until after its annual meeting next month in Memphis, Tenn.

Tries to 'Push' Congress

Capital Campaign Loses Steam

BY JOHN CREIGHTON

WASHINGTON, D. C.--The Poor People's Campaign is still demonstrating, and still pressuring congressmen on the issues of hunger, housing, and jobs. But the campaign's second phase has yet to take definite shape.

More campaigners are in jail, as the result of a July 4 attempt to eat watermelon on the Capitol Hill grounds, and of later attempts to demonstrate on the Capitol steps.

Four wagons of the campaign's mule train--bearing Southern campaigners, their children, and watermelons--were turned away from the Capitol July 4 by more than 100 police.

So the campaigners sat down and tried to eat the melons in the middle of the street, to dramatize the fact that the poor "can't afford to grill steaks on barbecues or mix martinis to celebrate holidays."

In a few minutes, 14 poor people and 12 small children had been trucked away. Fire engines then hosed the melons off the street--except for the two that the police took away with them.

The Washington end of the campaign's

second phase--under the leadership of the Rev. James Bevel--was supposed to produce daily mass arrests on Capitol Hill. But relatively few people have gone to jail as a result of the campaign's three demonstrations this week.

Meanwhile, a "push" on Congress this week has come largely from a two-day inter-faith lobbying drive organized by the National Council of Churches.

Approximately 100 out-of-town clergy and laymen (representing 19 states) visited their senators and representatives on behalf of the campaign last Tuesday and Wednesday.

But many Washington observers said that this effort--compared with the massive mobilization the churches have undertaken in previous years on behalf of similar causes--turned out to be rather weak, especially since the Congress is busy trying to close up shop before the national political conventions.

Representative James D. Corman of California, a member of the President's riot commission, told the church lobbyists that "we (in Congress) have not done anything very significant."

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Editorial Opinion

The Real Damage

Alabama Governor Albert P. Brewer told a Fourth of July audience last week that people who "march and protest" or "burn draft cards" are giving the world "a distorted picture of America."

The real injury to the United States' image is being done by the war itself--a war increasingly opposed by other nations. Even Australia--which has been one of the very few supporters of U. S. policy--has recently been the scene of bitter anti-war protests.

And still further damage has been inflicted, not by the protesters, but by the U. S. government in its zeal to prosecute them. Alabamians may greet with joy the conviction of baby doctor Benjamin Spock and others on a charge of "conspiracy" to encourage young men to violate the draft laws.

We think Governor Brewer did his state a disservice by using the nation's 192nd anniversary to trot out the same old cliches in praise of bloodthirsty patriotism. He might better have taken the opportunity to remind his listeners that the men who signed the Declaration of Independence were proud to call themselves "revolutionaries."

There are other revolutions going on in America today. They have to do with the right of black people--and poor people--to power and dignity, and with a growing revulsion against public violence--like war--and private violence as a means of settling differences.

Governor Brewer would have served his state better if he had told Alabama that it is still not too late to acquire a decent respect for the opinions of mankind. And he would have deserved high praise if he had had the courage to point out that most of the "marchers and protesters" are honest people searching for a better way to live.

Awarded to Tenant Farmers

\$50,000 in Back Wages

BY MARION SYMINGTON

MATTSON, Miss.--Plantation owner Joseph Roy Flowers has been ordered to pay \$50,000 in back wages to his tenants.

U. S. District Judge William C. Keady ruled last month that Flowers had violated the minimum-wage, overtime, record-keeping and child-labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act. This is the first time farm workers have recovered back wages under the act.

Flowers' tenants said this week that they can hardly believe their good fortune.

"We sure will be better off if he do it," said one elderly lady, supporting a family of five. "I pray and hope for that day to come." But, she said, "it will be mighty hard for him to pay up. He have the money--I know he have it--but I don't reckon he'll pay."

The minimum-wage law for farm workers requires payment of at least \$1.15 an hour. Investigators from the U. S. Department of Labor found that Flowers was not paying even \$1 an hour to his workers.

"No, I don't think it's fair," said another tenant. "He say he was payin' \$1 an hour, but he ain't payin' it." "We don't know how he figure it," the tenant added. "He just give us what he wants."

Wages are handed out in little envelopes each week. On the outside are some numbers. The tenant explained that the first figure is what he earns, the second what Flowers takes out for Social Security, the third what Flowers takes out for rent, and the last is what the worker gets.

These amounts change from week to week, the tenant said: "You never know how much he's goin' to take out."

"Mr. Roy, he stingy," another tenant said. "One time I ask him for some money for food stamps, I wasn't working 'cause my daughter here, she was sick, and I had to tend to her. We had a bill from the hospital too."

"Mr. Roy, he told me he didn't have the money. He turn around and ask me how was I goin' to pay it back. I told him I'd do some choppin' if he had some to do. He said he ain't had no choppin'. So that was that."

The 83-year-old landlord, sitting

quietly in his mansion in Mattson, said he didn't want to talk about the case, but he produced a newspaper article in which he said, "I do not feel that I owe any additional money, either to the U. S. Department of Labor or to my employees, and I do not believe that the people who work with me and for me think I owe them any additional wages."

He said he paid the fine just to get out of court and end his dealings with the federal government. After finishing this year's crop, he said, he will rent out his land and quit farming, "rather than continue to try to do business with the federal government under its regulations."

Flowers owns 16,000 acres in Coahoma, Webster, Tallahatchie, and Quitman counties. The Labor Department said he makes \$1,000,000 a year, and that he received \$210,832 in acreage allotments alone in 1967.

The \$50,000 will be distributed among the 158 tenant families that live and work on the plantation.

Besides the wage violation, Flowers was accused of over-charging his tenants for coal, wood, and rent.

Russell Folks Talk About Election

'Wallace May Be President'

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

PHENIX CITY, Ala.--"Now I'm telling you who I'm for," said the Rev. Austin Sumbry, president of the Phenix City-Russell County Voters Association. "I'm for President Humphrey. You can go for whom you want to."

Although the presidential election is still four months away, Sumbry told last week's meeting of the all-Negro group, it's not too early to start thinking about the candidates.

"This is one of the worst elections in 96 years," Sumbry explained. "Don't know if we'll have a President. Don't let anyone fool you--Brother Wallace could be President before you know it."

"Ooooh, that's the truth," moaned a lady in the front row. Sumbry nodded and went on talking.

Besides Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey--a Democrat--and former Governor George C. Wallace--an inde-

New Stamp Vote Denied

BY PERRY WALKER

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss.--The Marshall County board of supervisors has turned down a challenge to the election in which a proposed food stamp program lost out by 492 votes.

George Strickler, a lawyer with North Mississippi Rural Legal Services, said this week that he received a letter from Wall Doxey, attorney for the supervisors, saying that the board has decided to take no further action on the election.

At a hearing July 1, Strickler had asked the board to throw out the results of the June 4 election, and to call a new election. Strickler said the election was illegal because voters did not have the required 30-day notice, and because the ballots were worded in a way that prejudged voters against the food program.

The June 4 election was held after the board of supervisors discontinued the stamp program, saying it cost too much.

Doxey said in the hearing that the board had complied with the law. "We believe the people of the county have spoken, and that's about it," he said. Supervisor J. C. "Chum" Totten added, "Another election would cost as much as it would to put the program through."

The United League for Progress (formerly the Marshall County Citizens for Progress) and the legal-services group are now working to get signatures on a petition that will bring the food stamp program to another vote.



REV. AUSTIN SUMBRY

pendent--there are some other hopefuls, Sumbry noted.

"We have Mr. McCarthy (Minnesota Senator Eugene J. McCarthy)--I believe he's running as a Democrat," said Sumbry. "Am I right?" The audience agreed.

As for Republican candidates, Sumbry mentioned former Vice-President Richard M. Nixon. But then he got stuck, and the audience helped by calling out the name of New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller.

Sumbry told the group there's a reason why he can't remember the other candidates very well--they didn't remember the Negro voters until they decided to run for President.

But Humphrey, he said, "has a record of 23 years of achievement. He fought down through the years for civil rights when (President) Johnson went against it. . . . You want to stand with a man who stood for you when you couldn't stand for yourself."

Since the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, Senator McCarthy's campaign workers have been quietly trying to suggest that he is the logical choice for Kennedy's supporters.

They say McCarthy is the only candidate left who has strongly opposed the war in Viet Nam, and who has insisted that the money spent there could be better used to end poverty at home. But Sumbry said Humphrey should inherit Kennedy's votes, because he too is "for the little people." By voting for Humphrey, Sumbry told his listeners, they will "support the cause for which (Kennedy) died."

Nobody interrupted Sumbry while he was talking. But when he finished, one man protested mildly. Instead of campaigning for presidential candidates now, he said, "let's hold our fire until after the (Democratic and Republican) conventions."

The same man also objected to Sumbry's plan to arrange meetings with the four men running for a vacant seat on

the Phenix City Commission in the local elections Aug. 13.

"I never have held with inviting folks down here to talk," the man said. "They talk one side and the other. They talk real sweet. They'll fool a lot of people. We got a lot of folk that are easy to sway."

"Judge by what a man has DONE--then you got the man!"

But nobody disagreed when Sumbry criticized a present commissioner, Lee Lott, who is up for re-election. "Several months ago we asked for Negroes to be appointed to (city) board vacancies," Sumbry said. "We've had several vacancies--and no Negroes appointed."

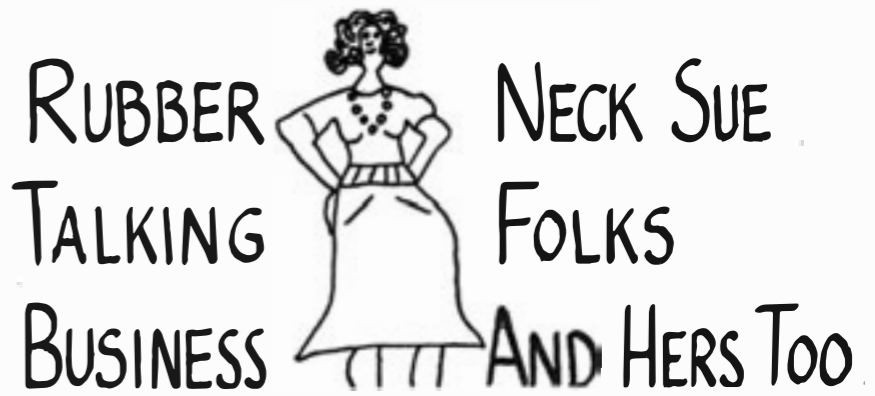
"There's a law against discrimination in hiring--but every time there's

a vacancy, they stick a white man in it. They work with you long enough to get the federal money (for various projects). When they get the money, the hell with you."

"The men in office have not done what they promised to do for the Negro--or for the city," Sumbry said. But he warned Lott's three opponents--Malone Simmons, Woodrow "Skeet" Wilson, and Frank Roberts--against trying to win Negro votes with "empty promises."

"We are tired of men coming here and telling us lies," Sumbry said.

Three years ago, Sumbry was the first Negro candidate for the city commission. He refused to make any specific promises, he lost, and there hasn't been a Negro candidate since.



Holt, Ala.

Miss Vivian Lewis of Holt has been chosen to represent the national YWCA at the World YWCA Conference this month in Finland, and at the YWCA's young adult conference next month in Canada. Miss Lewis has also received a two-year assignment as a junior professional for the national student YWCA staff. She will work in the South and



MISS VIVIAN LEWIS

Southwest, with headquarters in Atlanta, Ga. Then she plans to work for a doctor's degree in history at Emory University in Atlanta. At Howard University in Washington, D. C., Miss Lewis completed the work for a master's degree in YWCA work and religion. She was the first recipient of the Nannie Helen Burroughs Scholastic Scholarship, and was selected as Miss School of Religion in 1967.

Enterprise, Ala.

The members of the Young Women's Auxiliary and the Advance Workers celebrated their ninth anniversary last Sunday at the Friendship Baptist Church of Enterprise. Program participants were Mrs. Mavis Walker, Miss Linda Yvonne Diggs, Mrs. Gussie Evans, and Mrs. Annie M. Gibson. Mrs. Mary Folmer, Mrs. Lola Denson, Mrs. Temple D. Moore, and Mrs. Tommie Smith were in charge of finance. Miss Diggs is president of the YWA, and Mrs. Daisy Rogers is president of the Advance Workers. (From Mrs. Bessie L. Mullins)

Jacksonville, Fla.

The U. S. Justice Department last month filed a federal-court suit charging the Jacksonville Terminal Company --owner and operator of the Union Railroad Station -- with discriminating against Negroes in hiring and promotion. The suit said the company maintains a dual system of jobs and progression lines, and considers Negroes only for the lowest-paying positions. Furthermore, the government said, 11 unions representing the workers have made bargaining agreements that "tend to perpetuate the effects" of the company's discrimination. The suit asked the court to stop three of the unions--the Brotherhood of Railway and Steam-

ship Clerks, the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, and the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen of America--from maintaining locals that are racially segregated.

New York City

The Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and the Ford Foundation are giving 18 Negro youths a chance to explore the worlds of print and broadcast journalism this summer. Columbia has donated classroom space, and Ford has provided a \$2,500 grant to finance an intensive eight-week experience called "Newsroom: A Jump Into Journalism for Black Youth." The 18 youths--most of them between 16 and 21--will meet three mornings a week to learn about the history and techniques of journalism.

Demopolis, Ala.

Howard C. Frost of Demopolis is probably the youngest Southern Courier salesman anywhere. The four-year-old son of Mrs. Lena Frost sells \$15 worth of papers every week at the supermarket. His friend, seven-year-old Michael Davis, sells 110 papers a week in the housing project.



DAVIS (LEFT) AND FROST

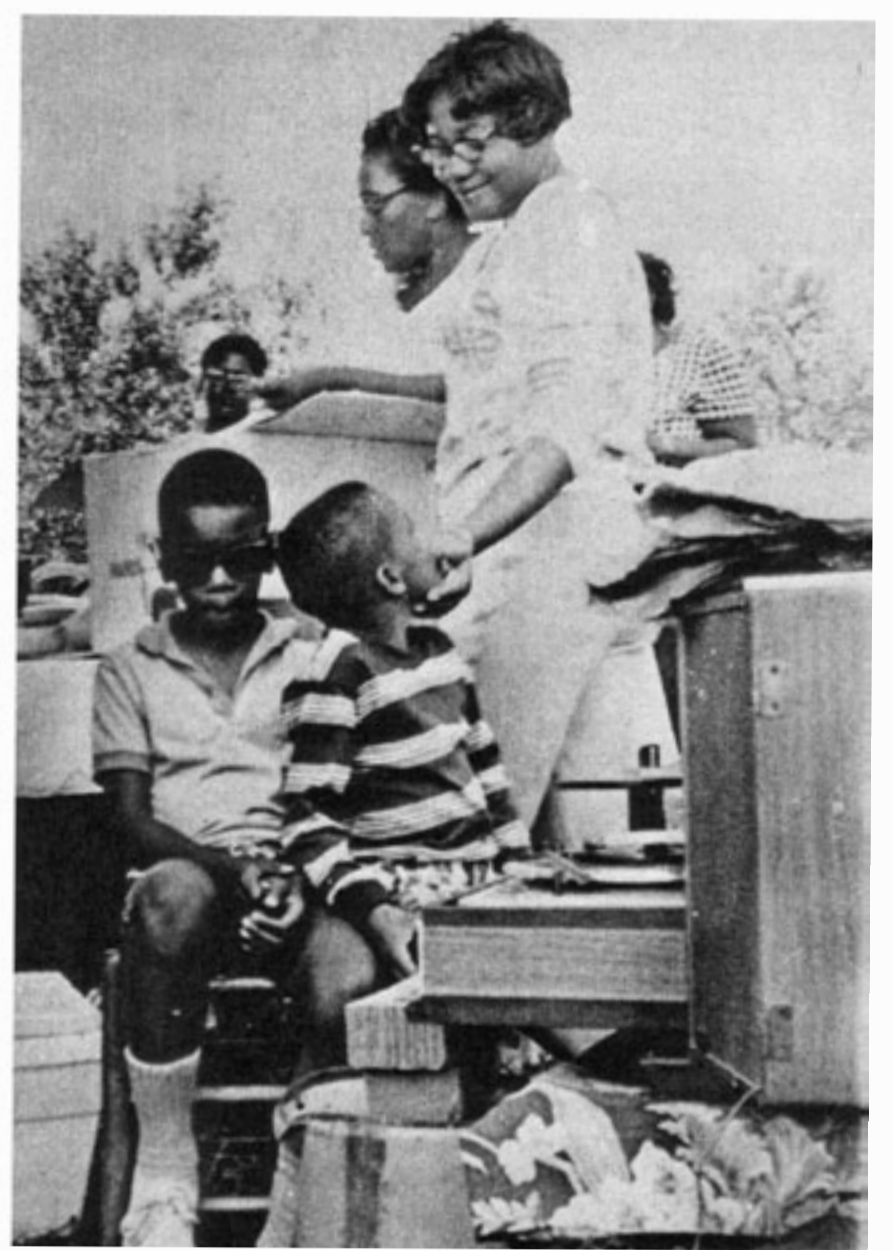
Dallas, Tex.

The U. S. Justice Department has filed its first suit charging a private employment agency with discriminating against Negroes. The suit was filed against the Metro Personnel System of Dallas, Tex., on July 3 in the federal court in Dallas. The suit said the employment service accepts and fills job orders indicating a racial preference, in violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Tuskegee, Ala.

Jess E. Burrow, assistant director of the Veterans Administration hospital in Tuskegee, presented certificates of appreciation to seven employees at a recent staff meeting. The employees, pictured below, are (first row) Mrs. Rutha Dark, Frank E. Kelly, Mrs. Erma T. Hopson, and (second row) Mrs. Juanita V. P. Jackson, Theodore W. Stafford, and Mrs. Gwendolyn S. Richardson. Not shown is George A. Edsell,





The Collins Family

'Fourth Day' on the Farm

AKRON, Ala.--Remember how "Fourth Day" used to be? You know--barbecue, soda pop, beer, music, and laughter. The day when your "big shot" kinfolks from "up the road" came down to visit.

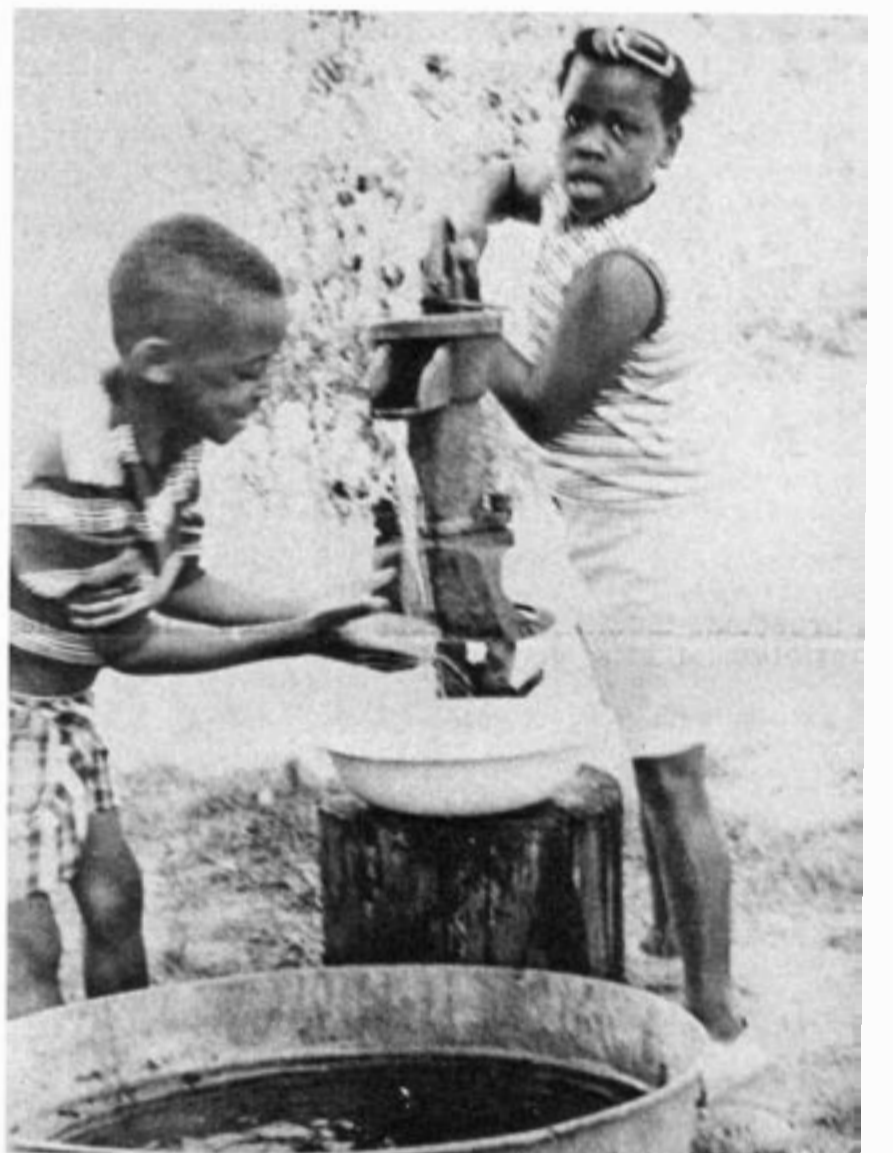
Now if you can recall, the meat was barbecued over an open pit, and stew was made in Grandma's old wash-pot. And there was home-made ice cream, the kind you ate until your head ached.

If you think days like this are gone, you're wrong. In Alabama and most of the South, "the

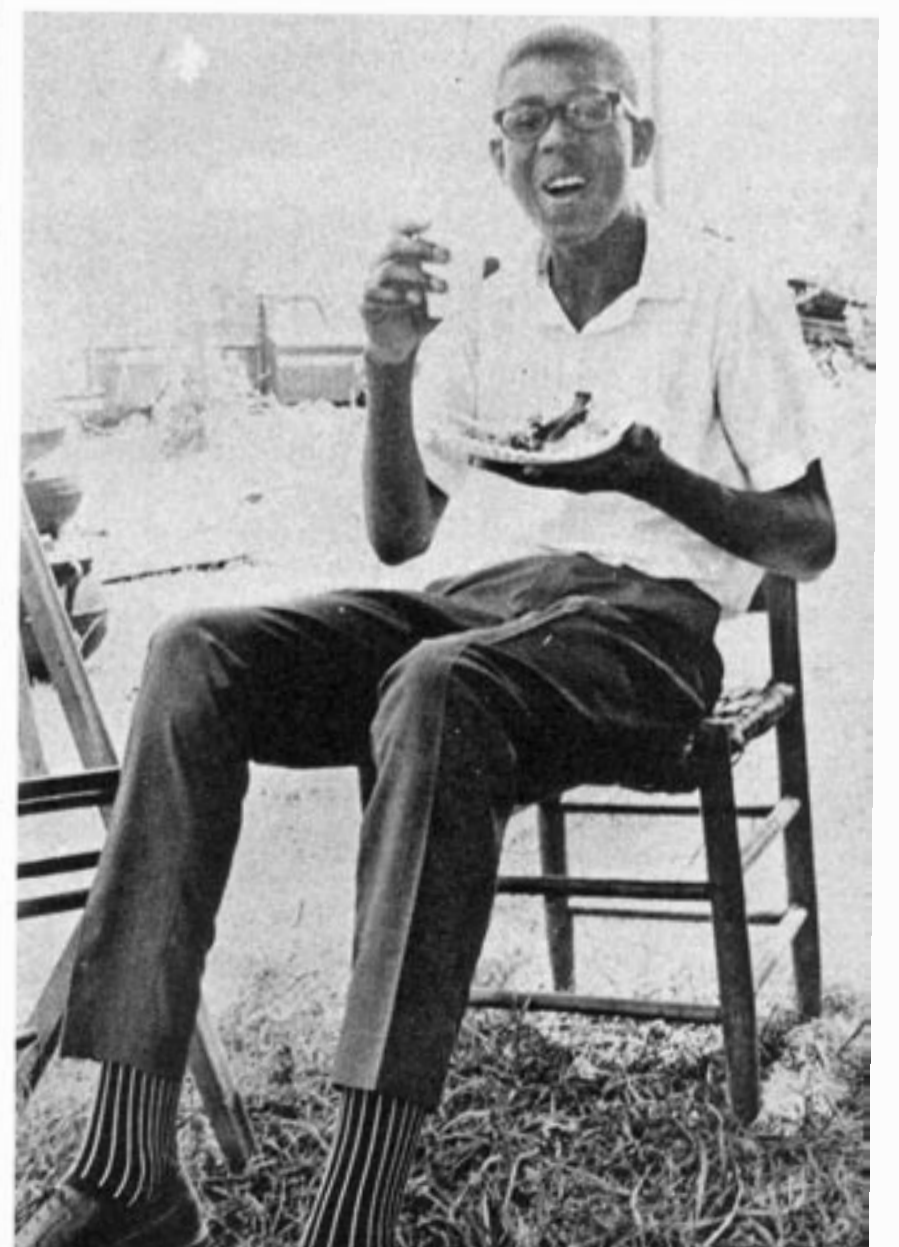
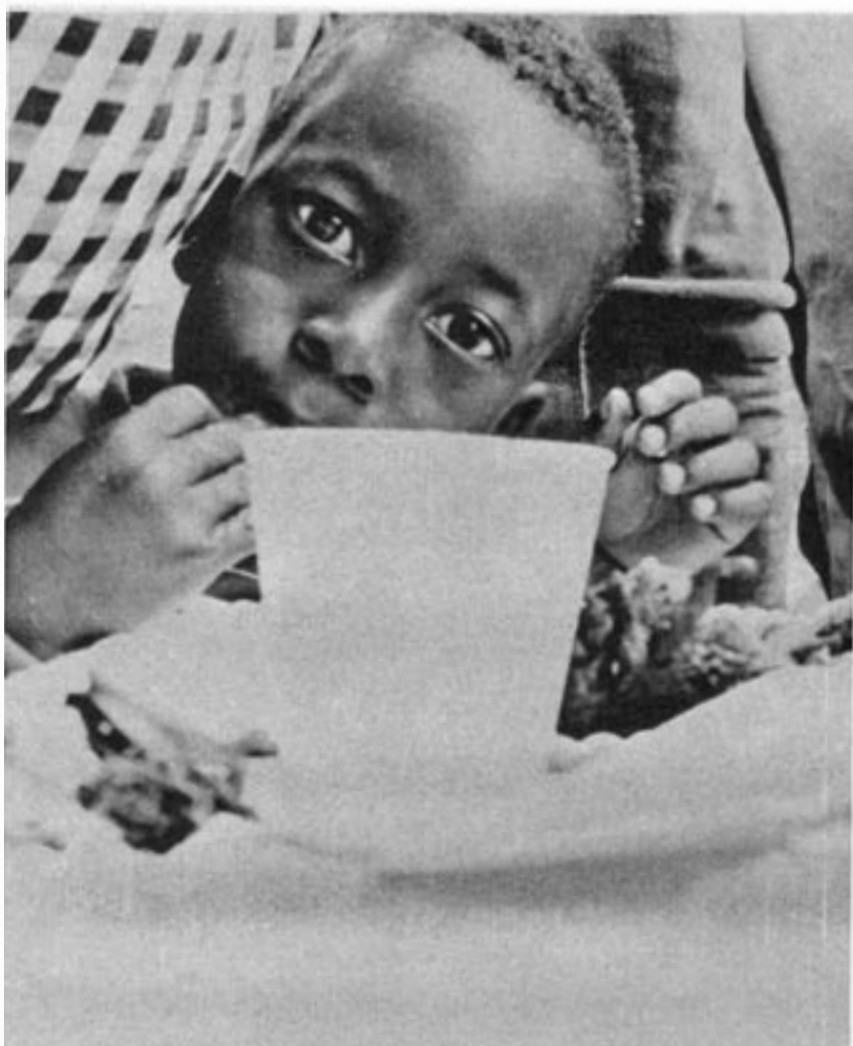
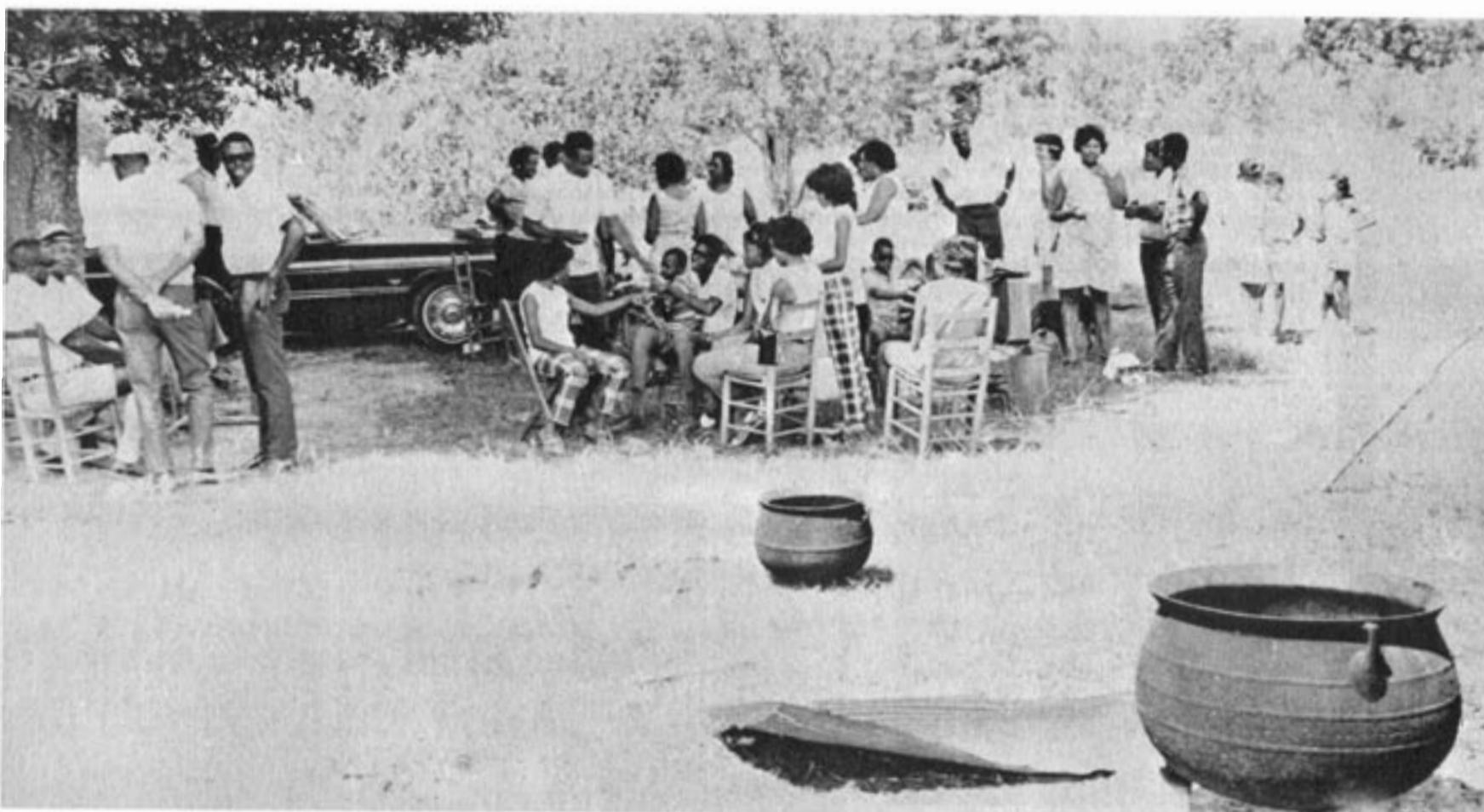
way it used to be" is re-enacted every Fourth of July.

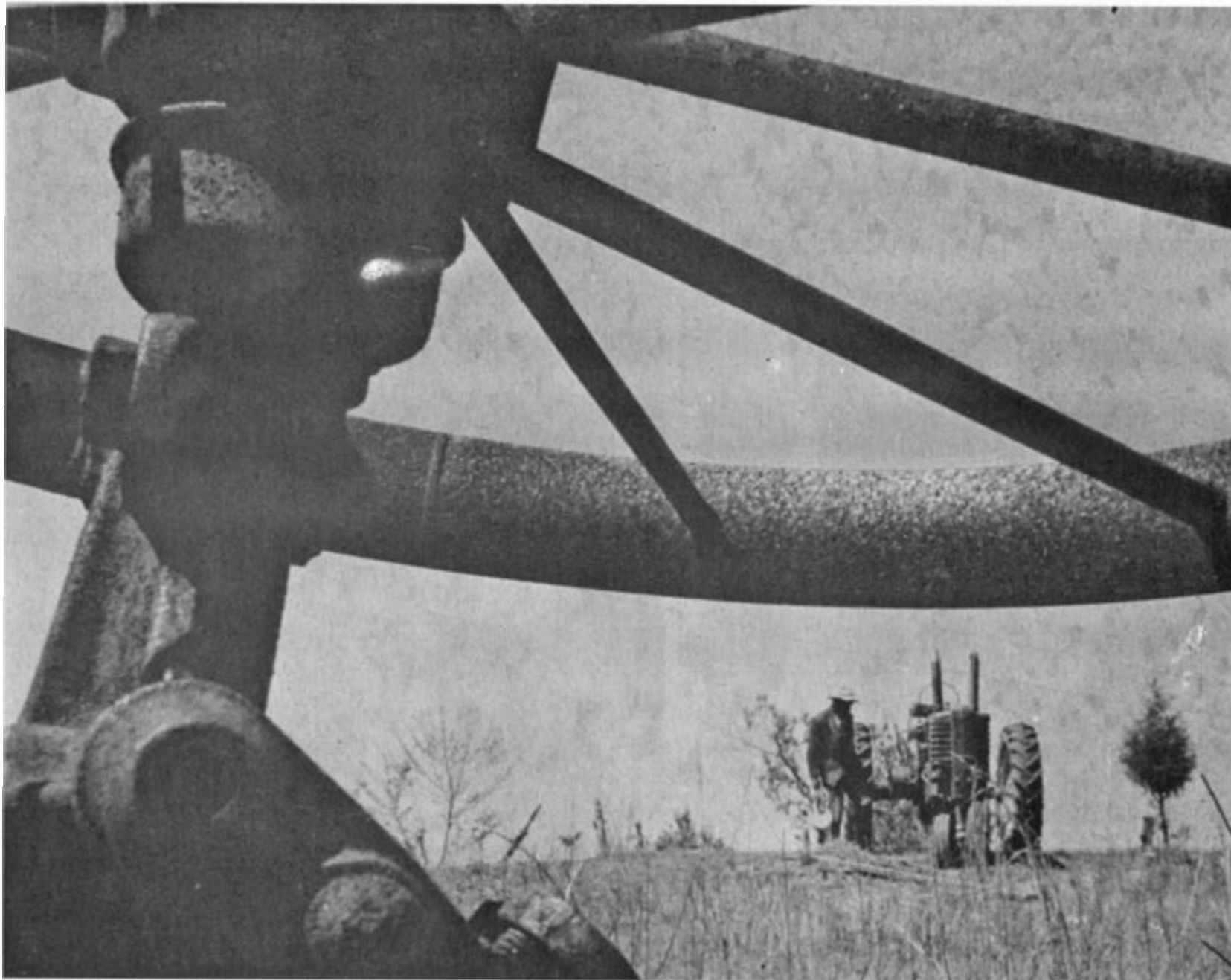
Down in Akron, "Papa" Coot Collins, his children, grandchildren, and great-grands celebrate July 4 "the way it used to be." During the day, the family sits around telling jokes, singing, dancing, and of course, eating.

When evening comes, everybody goes down to the Black Warrior River--the old folks to talk about old times, and the children to swim and dance.



Photos by Melvin I. Todd





Farmer Sends 12 Kids to College 'Saw What Was Needed'

GATEWOOD, Miss. -- Sam Percy Gipson was born to share-cropper parents on an 800-acre plantation called Old Twenty-four. When he was six months old, he moved with his family into a log cabin in the Gatewood community near Holly Springs.

From the age of five until he was 19, Gipson regularly attended all sessions of Gatewood's one-room Henry Elementary School.

In 1923, when Gipson was 19, he married Miss Versie Ree Jones. They moved into a small white frame house located only a quarter-mile from the cabin of his boyhood. Here the first ten of their 15 children were born--Grace Lenora, Naomi Ruth, Knowledge, Quentell, Sam Percy Jr., Frances Ola, Alva, Gloria Jean, Cliff Jefferson, and Shelby Gene.

In 1938, while Gipson was working as a laborer on the construction of Mississippi Highway 78 to Memphis, Tenn., he bought 100 acres of land and a rambling, two-story, verandahed house built by a former plantation overseer. In this house--located too

within a half-mile of his boyhood home--the last five Gipson children were born. They are Lou Ree, Elisha, twins Revelyn and Evelyn, and Clinton.

"There was only one thing I stressed on them," says Gipson of his children, "and that was to try and get trained up for a better job than what I could give them. That was the big thing I cautioned them about."

All but three of the 15 Gipson children have been college-educated. Three of them--Grace Lenora, Frances Ola, and Naomi Ruth--are now teachers in Shelby County, Tenn. Knowledge, a former teacher, is associate director of the Head Start program in Marshall and Lafayette counties.

Quentell is a teacher in Oxford, and co-ordinator of Marshall County's basic adult education program. Last summer he ran for the office of county superintendent of education, and lost by a very small margin.

Lou Ree just completed her degree at LeMoyné College in Memphis, where her

younger sister Evelyn is a sophomore. Clinton, the youngest, will graduate next year from St. Mary's High School in Holly Springs.

"Not going to college," says Revelyn, "that's like a mortal sin in our house."

Knowledge recalls the day when, after his discharge from the Army, he decided to go work in Chicago, Illinois, instead of returning to school. "That was the only time I saw Poppa cry," says Knowledge, "when I told him I wasn't going back to school. We were out in the field working and he just sat down, there at the end of the row, and wept."

Gipson is now 64 years old, but he works from dawn to dusk on his farm near Gatewood. There is always something to be done--plowing, repairing his tractor, feeding the hogs. He gets help from the children who are still at home.

He doesn't boast about his accomplishment in educating his children. "We sort of seen what needed to be done," he says, "and we did all we could to make it happen."



SAM PERCY GIPSON



Text and Photos
By Perry Walker



Convention Votes Against Changes

All Is Right With the NAACP

BY "E. C. K."
In the FIS Newsletter

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey--For five days last month, the NAACP held its 59th annual national convention here in the most segregated city in New Jersey.

At the opening of the second day's session, Edgar Harris, president of the Atlantic City NAACP branch, made an impassioned plea to the brothers and sisters attending the convention to patronize the establishments in the soul part of town.

Some did, but Harris was later scolded for what some members of the NAACP's national board of directors thought to be an inappropriate announcement.

At the very first full session, an emergency resolution calling for the establishment of four temporary committees--including one to deal with "the re-vitalization of the NAACP"--was voted down.

Delegations from the North and West split their votes on this resolution, but in general, they favored its adoption.

But the Southerners were almost unanimously opposed--154 to 12--and so the resolution lost.

To many people, this was the critical vote of the whole convention. They said it showed that the national board had successfully brain-washed (or money-washed) enough people into believing that all is right with the NAACP.

(The NAACP's annual report, issued on the eve of the convention, emphasized "the sheer volume and the wide diversity of programs and activities" conducted by the group's 1,775 branches in 1967.

(All this activity, the report said, demonstrates "the vitality of, and continued need for, a responsibly militant civil rights movement.")

(Though national membership dropped from 441,169 in 1966 to 427,434 in 1967, the report noted, the NAACP's income rose from \$2,228,127 to \$2,632,559.)

At the convention, two emergency resolutions calling for active support of the Poor People's Campaign and its recently-jailed leaders in Washington



JULIAN BOND

were submitted, referred to the resolutions committee, reported out in much milder terms, and then tabled (put off indefinitely).

One motion to table was made by Aaron Henry of Mississippi. Thus the NAACP--especially its Southern members--went on record as deciding to ignore the plight of the poor people in Resurrection City.

(The official account of the convention did not mention the tabled resolutions. (It said, however, that the convention

did pass an emergency resolution urging the federal government "to take prompt action to aid the poor," by such steps as "using abandoned military installations to house needy families," and "realistic revision" of existing welfare and food programs.)

The speaker who received the most tumultuous welcome and enthusiastic approval was Julian Bond, the 28-year-old black member of the Georgia House of Representatives who twice was denied his seat in the Legislature because of his anti-war views. His mention of the Viet Nam conflict was one of the few made during the convention.

Bond's speech ended, "Watts and Newark were like fire-crackers to a hydrogen bomb, if the dream is deferred much longer." He quoted a Langston Hughes poem that says, "Negroes/sweet and gentle, / soft and kind, / Pity the day/ they change their mind."

Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights

The weekly meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. Monday, July 15, in the Jackson Street Baptist Church, 230 S. 63rd St., the Rev. J. C. Parker, pastor, The Rev. F. L. Shuttlesworth will be the speaker.



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.

CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS -- "Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it." This passage from Matthew is part of the Lesson-Sermon to be read in all Christian Science churches Sunday, July 14. The title of the Lesson is "Sacrament."

BABA'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 265-9992. Meet Baha'u'llah.

WELFARE RECIPIENTS--Welfare recipients and other poor people seeking to defend themselves against injustices in the welfare system--and to change that system--have organized into the National Welfare Rights Organization (NWRO). NWRO's 171 groups in 31 states have more than 6,000 members, who directly represent the 25,000 welfare recipients in their households. Together they fight for adequate income, dignity, justice, and democracy. There are presently welfare rights groups in the South in Mississippi, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. Anyone wishing to join a group or help form one in his community should write to National Welfare Rights Organization, 1762 Corcoran St. N. W., Washington, D. C. 20009.

MACON COUNTY YOUTHS--Registrations are being taken for the Veterans Administration Volunteer Program at the Tuskegee, Ala., V. A. hospital. Through August, high school students (15 to 19) will have the opportunity to explore medical careers while serving as volunteers. For further information, contact Lorenious McDonald, director of voluntary service, at 727-0550, ext. 418, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

TRAINING JOBS FOR VETERANS--Government agencies can now hire Viet Nam-era veterans for jobs under special, non-competitive "transitional appointments." These jobs--paying from \$3,776 to \$5,565 a year--are for veterans with less than one year of training beyond high school, who have the required qualifications for the jobs. The veteran must also agree to take at least the equivalent of one school year of education or training under the G. I. Bill. Veterans must have had at least 181 consecutive days of active duty--some part of it after Aug. 4, 1964--to be eligible for these jobs. Veterans remain eligible until one year after their discharge or Feb. 9, 1969, whichever is later. Interested applicants may contact any government agency they prefer, or any office of the Veterans Administration or the Civil Service Commission, or the Veterans Assistance Center in Atlanta, Ga., or New Orleans, La.

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.

SWAFCA JOBS--The following positions are open at the Southwest Alabama Farmers Co-operative Association, P. O. Box 955, 1315B Jeff Davis Ave., Selma, Ala. 36701: economic development specialist, co-op education specialist, procurement and equipment manager, assistant marketing specialist, assistant co-op manager, secretaries, clerk-typists, administrative assistants, field-station supply foreman, field-station clerks, mechanics, truck-drivers, yard crews, and assistant project director.

BE CAREFUL--At home, in your car, and in all your vacation and weekend activities, it pays to be careful. Try safer living--for yourself, your family, and others who appreciate life, too. You are involved--directly involved, seriously involved--in the accident problem. Even if you and your family and your acquaintances, by rare odds, are free of the misery and hardship of accidents, you still have a personal stake in accident prevention. Every accident that happens is an accident that might happen to you or someone you love--unless YOU prevent it. The Montgomery Traffic Commission reminds you that authorities and organizations can describe the hazards, tabulate the statistics, name the causes, and outline the cures. But they cannot keep an accident from bringing suffering, grief, disability, hardship, and perhaps even tragedy into your life and your home--unless YOU are willing to accept your personal responsibility to drive and work and play and live with reasonable, consistent caution. Now is a good time to give thought--serious thought--to the worth of responsible, accident-free living.

HELPING THE POOR--The Neighborhood Organized Workers (NOW) are trying to help deprived people obtain needed income, jobs, and medical treatment. We assist citizens by writing up and filing job complaints and racial-discrimination complaints with the federal government. Equipment, office supplies, and volunteers are desperately needed to aid the poor. To get help, to volunteer, or to make contributions, contact NOW Inc., 1100 Davis Ave., Mobile, Ala. 36603, phone 432-3252.

REVIVAL--Homecoming revival will be held at St. Mary Baptist Church, Enterprise, Ala., Sunday, July 14, to Saturday, July 19. The Rev. John L. Gray is the pastor. The Rev. W. C. Autry will be the evangelist.

VETERANS--If you are retired from the armed forces because of a disability, and you have not filed a claim for compensation from the Veterans Administration, you may be losing money. You cannot receive military retirement benefits and disability compensation at the same time. But you CAN choose the benefit that will pay you the most. And severely disabled enlisted men will usually get more from V. A. disability compensation than they will from retirement pay.

Folks in Russell Wait 2 Hrs.--But No Sheriff

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

PHENIX CITY, Ala.--Fifty members of the Phenix City-Russell County Voters Association gathered at the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church onenightlast week to meet with Sheriff M. Lamar Murphy.

They waited nearly two hours. But Sheriff Murphy never showed up. "When a man is summoned to court, he goes to court," said the Rev. Austin Sumbry, president of the all-Negro voters group. "When a man is wanted and don't come, he should say why. The time is out for dodging issues."

There were murmurs of agreement from the people in the church, and then Arthur Sumbry--Rev. Sumbry's son and also a civic leader--stood up.

"We sent (the sheriff) a registered letter in plenty of time," Sumbry said. "If he couldn't come, he should have answered the letter . . . He got it and just ignored it."

And as proof of that, Sumbry said he sent another registered letter at the same time to Garner Lee Johnson, a big, burly Negro man who works in the sheriff's office.

"We got a man here, Mr. Johnson, he's supposed to be our deputy sheriff,"

Sumbry said. "Got any remarks, Mr. Johnson?"

"No remarks," said Johnson, But he waved his registered letter high in the air so that everyone could see he had received it.

Why did the voters group want to confront Sheriff Murphy? Sumbry said it was about Johnson's job.

Although he has been working in the sheriff's department for two years, Sumbry said, Johnson still hasn't been appointed to serve as an official deputy.

"Mr. Murphy told us when the office became available, he would hire one

(CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX, Col. 1)

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SRRP MEETING IN AUBURN

BY SANDRA COLVIN

AUBURN, Ala.--The problems that face the United States "did not start three or four years ago," Donald A.

Hattiesburg

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

that no such promise could be made. But he cited a company official's opinion that "at least 60% of the jobs in Hood Lumber Industries could be filled by Negroes if they wanted the jobs."

Argo went on to say that "the average wage for plant employees is approximately \$100 a week. This is due in some degree to the overtime which Hood offers his employees who may want it."

The letter, said Killingsworth and Fairley, did not completely re-assure them. But later, after receiving similar assurances from company officials, they decided to endorse the bond issue publicly. Dr. C. E. Smith, president of the Forrest County NAACP, also supported it.

Both white and Negro civic groups worked to get out the needed 30% of the voters. The Jaycees provided cars to carry voters to the polls, and the Forrest County Voters League distributed handbills in Negro neighborhoods.

But Negro leaders said they will wait and see what happens when the plant is built.

"Anybody can hire a Negro, tolerate him for a week or two weeks, and then fire him," said Smith. "The important thing is for us to periodically check, to continue to put on the pressure."

Russell Deputy

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE FIVE) (Negro)," Sumbry said. "That's what Mr. Johnson was down there for."

But when a white deputy resigned recently, Sumbry said, the sheriff replaced him with another white man. "Johnson has been washing walls and mopping floors," Sumbry charged.

At that point, someone spoke up in defense of the sheriff. "Any time a man promise something and he don't stick up with it, I'm willing to call his hand," said Thomas Lowe. "(But) Mr. Murphy's a friend of mine. Whatever he promised Mr. Sumbry..."

"Mr. Murphy didn't promise Mr. Sumbry," cut in Rev. Sumbry. "He promised the people all over Russell County."

"Anyone can make mistakes," Lowe insisted. "He COULD have forgotten about it." Or, he said, the sheriff might not have received the registered letter.

And Murphy said this week that Lowe is right. "I didn't get the invitation," the sheriff claimed.

But even if he had gone to the meeting, Murphy went on, he couldn't have agreed to make Johnson a deputy.

"I don't have space at this time," he explained. "There hasn't been a deputy to resign. Last one that come to work regular has been here three years."

The sheriff also denied that Johnson has been doing menial chores, and said the voters group shouldn't worry about the label on Johnson's job.

Murphy said the voters group may have misunderstood what he told it two years ago. "I said I'd hire a man qualified, regardless to color, and I would," he recalled.

The next time there's a vacancy, will he consider Johnson for the official job? "If he could pass the examination, yes," the sheriff replied.

But the voters association members don't want to wait that long. They named a three-man committee to meet with Sheriff Murphy, and told it to come back with results.

"We want the committee to go up there on business--not laughing and apologizing," a lady said firmly. "We expect to see the sheriff here soon."

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.

Talladega Negro Cops --What Do They Do?

BY FRANCES STUBBS

TALLADEGA, Ala.--A major grievance in the Talladega Negro community is that the city police force has no Negroes employed as full-time, full-fledged policemen.

In the past few years, according to people who have kept count, about 17 murders have been committed in Talladega. All the accused killers were Negroes, and so were all the victims. Never in the past few years has a Negro murdered a white man, or vice versa.

One citizen said this proves that "even Negroes disrespect Negro lives." He blamed the lack of respect for Negro lives on neglect by law-enforcement agencies.

Two Negroes--Walter Baker and Eddie McClellan--were employed by the city police department two years ago.

But neither Baker nor McClellan works full-time on the force--their work hours vary by the week. The reason given for this by both men and by Chief John Farriss is that the men are receiving retirement pay, and the amount of money they are allowed to

earn is limited.

Chief Farriss said he would hire the men full-time, if it were possible: "They are both good men."

He also said, "I would hire a Negro if a good one wanted the job. One came the other day and filled out an application, but he said he couldn't work for that salary."

What are Baker's and McClellan's duties on the force?

"They have the same duty and authority as any other policeman in this department," the chief replied.

The men said they were never told about any limits on their authority--such as not being allowed to arrest white people. "They never said 'Don't do this' or 'Don't do that,'" Baker said. "We just do whatever is to be done."

Baker said he likes his job but is too old for it. "I asked some young men about applying," he said, "but they don't seem interested. Some say the pay is not high enough and the work is too dangerous--Negroes don't mind killing, 'cause they feel they can get out of it."



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Prichard Campaign

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

Wilkerson was also arrested while walking through the shopping district with four other Negroes. One of his companions had a camera--which was taken away by policemen who said the men were intimidating potential customers.

The man with a camera was fined \$100, and at last report, his camera had not been returned. Prichard is reported to have a 60%

Negro population. But a recent survey by a group of Catholic priests found that white people hold 247 of the 277 jobs available in the business district. Leaders of the campaign to change this situation say their boycott is 85% to 90% effective.

The boycott also motivated Negro candidates to qualify for mayor and all five City Council seats in the Aug. 13 election. All the present office-holders are also running.

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Meetings every Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the auditorium of the Crestline Branch of the First National Bank of Birmingham.

(Pd. Pol. Adv. by Citizens for McCarthy)