VOL. II, NO. 11







They came from all over the state to talk, to listen, and to plan.

Leaders in 15 Counties Meet to Plan Bloc Vote

Mayor Dear Leads

Voting in Anniston

ANNISTON--Mayor Claude Dear and

The two finished first and second in

Joe Rutledge will face each other in a

run-off for the mayor's office Tuesday,

the city Democratic primary Tuesday.

Voting was heavy, and the Negro vote

was a big influence, according to most

James Gardner and Herbert Morgan

will be in the run-off for finance com-

W. H. (Bill) Dickerson, the only Negro

He lost to Charlie Johnson and Fred

Earlier this week, the Anniston-Cal-

houn Voters League and the Calhoun

County Improvement Association had

endorsed Dear, Weatherly and Morgan

after interviews with each candidate to

determine which had better policies

race and T. K. Triplett ran fourth.

somehow gone around town that no one

with a police record of any kind could

In recent months, the Mobile County

Board of Registrars has apparently

turned down a number of applicants

with minor convictions on their record.

These people told their friends about

being rejected, and the rumor spread

One of the rejected men, John Guinn,

lives in Prichard. He says, "I went

down in January. They told me I could

not register because I'd been arrest-

A few years ago he was arrested and

paid a small fine on a gambling con-

in the race, lost his election for Demo-

cratic committeeman by about 30 votes.

March 22.

commissioner.

toward the Negro.

register and vote.

from there.

Takes Away Right to Vote

Mobile, Montgomery Absent

BY JOHN KLEIN

SELMA--A Southern Christian Leadership Conference effort to bring together a powerful bloc of Negro votes in Alabama began to bear fruit this week.

About 150 Negro leaders representing 19 Alabama counties and several cities crowded into the St. Paul's CME Church here last Saturday for a four-hour meeting ending with the election of officers for the new state organization.

This was not the first meeting SCLC had called to bring local Negro voter organizations together, but it was the most impressive.

Fifteen Black Belt counties were represented. They formed a band stretching across south Alabama from border to border--Autauga, Barbour, Bullock, Choctaw, Clarke, Crenshaw, Dallas, Greene, Hale, Henry, Marengo, Perry, Pike, Sumter, and Wilcox.

There were representatives from Anniston in Calhoun County and from heavily-populated Talladega County.

Birmingham and Bessemer in Jefferson County, where more than 50,000 Negroes are now registered to vote, were both represented.

In all, the Negro leaders assembled here last Saturday claim 120,000 to 130,000 registered Negro voters in the counties they represent. They will all be eligible to vote in the May 3 Democratic primary.

But Montgomery and Mobile, the two biggest pockets of Negro voting strength outside Birmingham, were not represented, although SCLC officials had gone in person to ask Negro leaders there to join the new organization.

And Birmingham attorney Orzell Billingsley Jr_{\bullet} , chairman of the state-wide Alabama Democratic Conference Inc.,

was conspicuous by his absence. "I talked to Patton (John Patton, head of NAACP voter registration), SCLC Hosea Williams of SCLC. "Patton's answer was, 'We've already got a statewide organization,"

But the Rev. Edward Gardner, executive vice president of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights. hinted that Billingsley didn't speak for

Birmingham. "We have a tremendous following there, and we are the ones who control a lot of minds in Birmingham," he said. "I like everything you're carrying on, and I'm going back to Birmingham and

argue for it," The president of the Bessemer Voters' League also endorsed the SCLC program, and told Williams, "Depend on Bessemer in part, because I can't

speak for the whole." The SCLC-sponsored organization hasn't officially taken a name yet, but SCLC staff refer to it as an "Alabama confederation of non-partisan organi-

Although the last two meetings have (CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE, Col. 4)

Law Says a

BY DAVID R. UNDERHILL

MOBILE -- At a meeting called here a

few weeks ago to discuss the progress

of the voter registration drive, a

man stood up and gave a strange reason

He said that he and other workers were

having a hard time finding people to take

to the court house because so many of

The leader of the drive asked what

kinds of convictions these people had on

their records. The worker answered

that the convictions were mainly for

things like drunkenness and disorderly

for the drive's difficulties.

the people had police records.

crime.

'If Elected I Promise'

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

really making history." said the Rev. G. H. Cossey, co-chairman of the newly-formed Barbour County Political Association. "There's been nothing like it in the last 100 years."

Then he looked a little wistfully around the dimly-lit auditorium of the

ple sitting in the chairs lined up facing the stage. They looked wet but expectant.

They didn't look like revolutionaries. that's what they were. They were attending the kick-off rally last week for Barbour County's Negro candidates. The candidates are the first Negroes in so many elections that nobody there was old enough to know how many.

man is running for two positions) while nine candidates took their seats on-

them.

missioner, while W.S. (Bill) Weatherly was nominated the new public safety promised a second thing.

(CCNTINUED ON PAGE FIVE, Col. 5)

In Barbour County,

EUFAULA -- "We're

Eufaula Baptist Academy.

Outside, rain beat against the windows. Inside, there were about 30 peo-

Nevertheless, Mr. Cossey told them,

Mr. Cossey read off the names of the 13 Negro candidates for 14 offices (one

"We'd like to know what you're going to do in office so we'll know whether we want you in there," Mr. Cossey told

"If I'm elected county sheriff," said Wesley McNear, a slender, soft-spoken young man, "I can promise you one thing for the benefit of everyone, white and Negro--law and order and justice

But like most politicians, even brandnew ones, once he got to promising, he wasn't satisfied with one thing. So he

"We'll have equal employment in the sheriff's office." McNear said. "It'll be half white and half Negro. We'll work together to make Barbour the best

Huntsville Poverty Vote Called Highest in Nation

HUNTSVILLE--The percentage of poor people who voted in the anti-poverty program election here is the largest in the nation, according to officials in Washington.

Jerry Hornsby, administrator of Madison County's Community Action Program, said 2,500 persons in poor neighborhoods voted last week for members of the bi-racial community action committee and the policy advisory group.

This represents 14.8 per cent of the estimated number of poor people--folks with less than \$3,000 a year income, according to the government--in the county as of the 1960 census.

The federal Office of Economic Opportunity said the response in Madison County was three times that in any other part of the country.

Less than three percent of the low-income people showed up to vote in Northern cities like Philadelphia and Western cities like Los Angeles.

The OEO was so impressed with Madison County's showing that it asked for

Four areas in downtown Huntsville and six in Madison County were called

"target districts" for poverty work. Six teams of election aides were employed at \$1.25 an hour for a total of \$1800. The teams went door to door advertising mass meetings in each dis- the state, John P. Kohn, said that paying trict to nominate candidates for the two 10-man anti-poverty boards.

ings in January and February to explain to pay it took the vote away from just as the election.

"Attendance at the meetings was much better in the rural areas--atotal judge federal panel disagreed. They of 440 people in the country and only 30 said last week that the poll tax Alabamiin the city," he said. "Ninety per cent ans have been paying since 1903 "clearwere Negro."

When voting day came March I, the whites ran better than the Negroes. All seven whites nominated were elected. The other 13 elected are Negro.

Once again, the response in the rural areas was higher than in the city: 20.6 per cent turnout in the country, 8.7 downtown.

To get up interest in the election, the community action program staff again took leaflets door to door and notified the newspapers and radio and television

"Fifty voting places were set up in stores and other places familiar to the people." Hornsby reported.

Hornsby is not sure how accurate his "record" vote percentage is, It is based on an estimate of 7,726 poor families in Madison County in 1960. Huntsville has grown a great deal since then, but it is hard to tell just how much the number of low-income people has changed.

And Huntsville made some mistakes in its election, too.

Hornsby thinks the staff should have required proof of age and of residence. "The election aides attended all of the ballot boxes at some time, but they could not look at all of them all of the time," he reported.

Only one known case of ballot stuffing was discovered.

Huntsville has a full schedule of antipoverty programs under way and several more on the way.

Proposed are a home-management service, a day-care center, a family service center, a child care clinic, and "Project Discovery."

This week, Hornsby sent off a report to Washington telling how it was How Judges

BY TERRY COWLES

MONTGOMERY -- Special counsel for it was a "manifestation of good citizenship."Alabama Assistant Attorney Gen-Hornsby attended each of the meet- eral Gordon Madison said that failure many whites as Negroes.

But two judges serving on a three-



FRANK M. JOHNSON JR.

In This Week's Southern Courier

BIG JIM IS ON THE MOVE AGAIN. Page Six.

"SHOWBOAT" REMEMBERS THE OLD BASEBALL DAYS. Page Four. TWENTY POUNDS OF FISH AND 24 CHICKENS, Page Six,

TOUGHER RULES ON SCHOOL DE-

SEGREGATION. Page Two. TUSKEGEE POSTPONES A FAIR

EMPLOYMENT LAW, Page Two. CHILDREN FIND A PLAYGROUND ON A NEW HIGHWAY. Page Three.

ly violates the Fifteenth Amendment" of the Constitution of the United States. The third judge on the panel, Judge

Walter P. Gewin, said he "respectfully" could not go along with his two colleagues, Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. and Judge Richard T. Rives.

Congress started the threat to the poll tax with the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which instructed the U.S. Attorney General to bring suits against states that levied a tax on voting.

Texas felt the effects first. On Feb. 9, a three-judge federal panel in that state ruled its poll tax unconstitutional. That set a precedent for the Alabama federal judges when they heard the case.

But the state of Alabama was not going to give up easily. It went into court with a battery of lawyers ready to knock as many holes as possible in the Justice Department's case.

The Justice Department lawyers argued that the poll tax was created to keep the vote away from the Negro. And the men who put the poll tax into action a half century ago left some statements on the record that made the Justice Department's case strong.

On May 21, 1901, a State Constitutional Convention met to make some changes in Alabama's constitution. The subject most discussed was the "voting issue."

"We v voted in the state and controlled it to vote again," they said, "We want that old condition restored."

Members of that convention went on to say, "it is our purpose, it is our intention, and here is our registered vow to disfranchise every Negro in the state and not a single white man."

Their "purpose" and "intention" took the form of a tax on voting. The \$1.50 poll tax affected Negro voters more than whites. The convention made provisions that whites could use to avoid paying the tax.

One provisions was the "grandfather clause," The clause said that Civil War veterans and their descendants were exempt from any other voting requirements. Few whites were unable to take advantage of that clause. But almost no Negroes were exempted from paying poll tax under it.

Those lawmakers of 50 years ago left little doubt as to why they created the poll tax, but -- contended attorneys representing the state of Alabama -- that was 50 years ago.

They pointed out that money collected by the tax went into the state's educational fund. They also indicated that people who didn't have the energy to pay were not really interested in public af-

They claimed racial discrimination is no longer involved in collecting poll

Attorney Kohn said, in addition, that calling the \$1.50 tax a financial burden in these days and times was "ridiculous,"

Judge Gewin agreed with attorneys. He said that the U.S. Su-

preme Court is now studying a similar case involving Virginia's poll tax law. "The principle of judicial restraint dictates that we await the action of the

Supreme Court," he said. Judge Johnson and Rives overruled him, however. Judge Rives indicated in his opinion that racial discrimination is still an issue. Judge Johnson said that, racial discrimination aside, "poll tax is

invalid in its very conception," The state of Texas is appealing the decision of the federal judges there. Alabama state officials have made no comment on whether they plan to appeal or not, but one of the defendants in the case, Montgomery County Probate Judge Perry Hooper, said that he felt sure it would be appealed.

Judge Hooper called the decision "unfortunate,"

In Samuel Younge Death

Doar Denies Federal Violation

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

TUSKEGEE -- The FBI has found no Charles Keyes, publisher of the segevidence that the federally guaranteed gregationist newsletter "The Keyes civil rights of Samuel L. Younge Jr. Report," ran third in the mayor's were violated the night he was mur-**Major Crime**

According to U.S. Assistant Attorney General John Doar, "an extensive investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation has failed to produce evidence of a violation of a federal criminal statute."

The student civil rights worker was shot to death Jan. 3 near a down town service station. In a letter made public this week, Doar said the FBI began investigating "as soon as the Department of Justice learned of Mr. Younge's death."

"In this case," the assistant attorney general wrote, "possible federal crimes would have been the willful deprivation of federal rights under color of law or the deprivation of such rights pursuant to a conspiracy."

Doar pointed out that "local authorities in Tuskegee immediately arrested a suspect who has since been charged in state court with murder." The man,

to Miss Gwendolyn M. Patton, president

week after Younge's death.

"It is no wonder that we have many people who are disillusioned with the government of the United States.... What have we done about Alabama? Are we going to continue to let violence and tyranny control this state?" Miss Patton asked.

"How many more acts of violence will have to occur before Congress enacts laws giving federal protection of civil rights workers?"

"We are an angry group of students



JOHN DOAR

of the Tuskegee Institute Council, in re- and it will be hard to anticipate the reply to her letter to President Johnsona actions if the slayer is setfree or tried by the federal courts on charges of violating Younge's civil rights," Miss

> "The Department of Justice is continuing to follow developments bearing upon civil rights in Tuskegee," Doar replied. "Where we have found violations of federal law in Macon County (Tuskegee), we have acted to correct

> moved in court to eliminate racial discrimination in voting, schools, public accommodations, and jury selection in Macon County," Federal court orders against dis-

He pointed out that "the United States

crimination in selecting juries and registering voters "should help to insure the fair administration of justice by local authorities," Doar wrote. "In addition," he noted, "the Presi-

dent has requested the Department of Justice to prepare new legislation to deal with racial discrimination in the administration of justice, to strengthen the authority of the federal courts to try crimes of racial violence, and to increase the penalties for such crimes."

Wendell Wilkerson, a leader of the student Tuskegee Institute Advancement League with Younge, said he was "a little teed off and a little disappointed" by Doar's letter.

Miss Patton said she hasn't yet an-



swered it.

Then the leaders said that these conviction in Prichard, "You can follow my Marvin Segrest of Shorter, was later victions should be no obstacle to registrecord everywhere I've been, and you freed in \$20,000 bail to await action by ering, because state law says that only won't find nothin' else. the April grand jury. "They told me that after searching my convictions for major crimes take away a man's right to register and vote. Any record they'd let me know," Guinn said, According to students who said they felony is usually considered a major "I haven't heard anything from them, saw the killing, Segrest refused to allow and it's been almost two months now. Younge to use a public rest room, The worker replied that he wished "Why do they keep trying so hard to The assistant attorney general wrote everybody knew this. He said word had (CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE, Col. 1)

THE SOUTHERN COURIER

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Editorial Opinion



The One Question

In years past, the political oratory in these parts was a simple guide for a voter. Either a candidate was a segregationist or he wasn't, and when you cast your ballot you knew what you were getting.

Now that almost all candidates have recognized the increased Negro vote, you can expect the office seekers to play games with the English language.

Nearly everybody in 1966 is in favor of peace and harmony. The others spend their time talking about an invasion from the federal government that must be stopped.

The best way to sort out the candidates is with one test question: Do you think the Confederate flag or the American flag should be flown above the Capitol dome?

The candidate's answer to that question pretty much tells you where he stands on the other issues in this election.

Attorney General Richmond Flowers has already given his answer. He would fly the American flag. When the candidates tour the state to meet the people, this is the question they should be asked by the

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

voters.

The Scholarship Information Centre called Financial Aid for Southern Negro marched at the front office to see Doc-Students.

We hope you may find some material in this booklet that could be printed by your paper and therefore gotten before even larger group of people. Here in North Carolina, the guide has been distributed already to all Negro high schools in the state.

As you can imagine, we are a very non-profit organization and function solely on periodic loans from the YMCA. Although we work on a shoestring, we would like to get information about this guide out to as many people as we can.

Not only have we prepared this booklet (and incidentally a much larger second edition is slated for May), but we have also started a clearing house of information about new scholarships we find and of different job opportunities we come across.

Tony Mason Scholarship Information Centre YMCA-YWCA, Chapel Hill, N.C. To the Editor:

On the 15th of February the patients of the University of North Carolina at Searcy Hospital marched for better YMCA-YWCA recently published a book food and better clothing. They also tor Rowe about getting better treatment from the white employees.

> They say the white employees cursed them out and throw their food to them when they go to the canteen. After the march, some of the police came to the front office of Doctor Rowe and handcuffed some of the patients, trying to make them tell who wrote their petition for them. But none of them would tell. They said they would die and go to hell before they would tell.

(Name withheld) Searcy Hospital Mobile, Ala.

Win a Prize

For the best letter from a student about why young people should go to college, THE SOUTHERN COURIER will give away a free copy of "Complete Planning for College," the \$3,20 book.

Suit Seeks Bullock Election

MONTGOMERY--Negro electors in Bullock County this week asked the federal court to take two years away from the county commissioners and give them back to the voters.

The years the Negroes were talking about were tacked on to the terms of all four county commissioners by the Alabama legislature last August, two weeks after President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act.

The new state law extended the terms to six years. Two commissioners' jobs would have been open to election this year.

"The sole purpose of said act... is to insure and protect the political dominance of the minority white community of Bullock County, Alabama, over the majority Negro community there," the Negroes charged in a suit filed with U.S. District Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr.

"This law was passed with the purpose...and has the effect of limiting, delaying, obstructing, and thwarting the policy, practice, purpose and results of the Civil Rights Act of 1965."

As a result of that act, the suit said, Bullock County now has 3,300 Negro voters to 2,400 white voters.

The Negroes asked the court to throw out the law in time for one of them -- Ben McGhee, a farmer -- to run for commissioner in the Democratic primary May 3. The suit specifically requested the

court to order McGhee's name placed on the ballot.

According to the suit, McGhee tried to file his qualifying papers and fee several days before the March 1 deadline. But county Democratic officials refused to accept him as a candidate.

The suit reminded the court that it had to issue several orders between March, 1961, and July, 1962, to force county registrars to register Negro

The commissioners now in office were elected while "the Negro vote of Bullock County continued to be of minimal importance because of the continuation of a pattern and practice of discrimination," the suit pointed out.

The Negroes asked the court to prevent all four county commissioners from holding office for six-year terms and to require the county probate judge and Democratic executive committee . chairman to accept McGhee as a candi-

The plaintiffs asked the court to "order a speedy hearing at the earliest practicable date" because "the Democratic Party primary is the only effective or meaningful election relating to the determination of county officials in Bullock County,"

Judge Johnson said a date would be set as soon as it is decided whether to appoint a three-judge panel to hear

U.S. Stiffens School Desegregation Rules

Orders Teacher Transfers

harassment,

overcrowding.

Education's new guidelines for school systems must double and in some cases desegregation next year are tougher and triple the percentage of Negroes in demore exact than 1965's.

The federal government said Monday it will insist that, in effect, each Negro school in a district have some white teachers and each white school have a Negro teacher.

Inferior schools must be closed and

Voters Meet Candidates In Tuskegee parent. No reason nee plying for a transfer.

TUSKEGEE -- It looked something like a game of musical chairs.

Eighteen people played it one night last week at the Mt. Olive Baptist Church.

They sat near the front, in a section of pews all by themselves. Every now and then, one of them would turn around and look at the 75 people seated behind them the way an actor peeks through the curtains before he goes on-stage.

Up at the front of the church, C.G. Gomillion, chairman of the Macon County Democratic Club, kept the game moving briskly along.

He would call out the names of five or six players, and they would getup from the pews and take seats in a short row of chairs facing the audience.

Then, one by one, they would stand up and speak.

They made it clear the game they were playing wasn't really musical chairs. It was political chairs.

The players--some Negro, some the Democratic primary May 3. Some of them were running against each other. Some had opponents who weren't

Since there weren't enough political chairs to go around, the candidates were competing for votes. They all had different ways of going about it.

"I'm not a speaker, I'm a plumber," said Willie L. Kirk Jr., a candidate for the county board of revenue, "I'm a construction man. I can get on a 'dozer and show a man what I want. I'm for new industry and higher wages. I'm for the common working man,"

"I'm a graduate of Howard University and I have masters degrees from Columbia and Chicago universities," said Mrs. Jessie P. Guzman, running for place No. 1 in the House of Representatives 31st district (Barbour, Bullock, and Macon counties). "I'm a profes of history and a former dean of women at Tuskegee Institute."

"There are 64,000 people in the 31st district," said Thomas Reed, who is running against Mrs. Guzman. "Hundreds of them go to bed hungry because they haven't reached an educational level where they can get jobs. People are looking for a new day-leaders they can trust,"

Nearly all candidates promised they would be honest, efficient, intelligent, courteous, and eager for advice from the voters. But every now and then somebody departed from the pattern.

Robert Howard, a candidate for tax assessor, started off by saying, "I don't have too many qualifications. I don't know too much about the job. But I've been in business for 20 years and I know the value of property and how to keep records,"

Howard, a white man, got the evening's biggest round of applause from

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Office of the students sent elsewhere. Next year segregated schools and they must make efforts to protect the students from

> Buses must be routed as much as possible to serve any student who transfers to any school. A student who is in the ninth grade next fall or is at least 15 years old may choose his own school, regardless of his parents' choice.

> There must be freedom of choice each year, for a period of at least 30 days. The school system must send an explanatory letter and transfer form to each parent. No reason need be given for ap-

Once submitted, a choice may not be changed, unless the student moves, needs special instruction, or has a spe-

cial hardship. No choice may be denied except for

These, anyway, are the rules set up by the Office of Education. The office said it is doubling its staff to keep an eye on Southern school districts and will withhold federal money from districts that do not satisfy the requirements.

The federal government made the same threat last year, but no funds have been cut off yet. In a few cases, federal money has been delayed because of failure to comply.

Alabama Governor George C. Wallace reportedly asked a group of educators to help him resist the regulations.

"We must obey the laws, just and unjust, but we should not have to obey edicts of bureaucratic officials which go beyond the law," the governor said.

State Superintendent of Education Austin R. Meadows was quoted as saying white, some men, some women--were Negro teachers already teach in white candidates for county or state offices in schools in north Alabama, where the Negro population is low.

Candidates Eye Klan in Eutaw

BY DAPHNA SIMPSON

EUTAW--On March 1, five Negroes qualified and announced their intentions for running for several offices in Greene County, On March 2, 250 copies of the "Fiery Cross," a Ku Klux Klan newspaper, were left on the steps of a Negro church.

The papers were placed on the steps of the First Baptist Church of Eutaw. This is the church where mass meetings and other civil rights meetings have been held.

The Rev. William Branch, who is an sent a letter to U.S. Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach in Washington, He asked that the Ku Klux Klan of Greene County be investigated to prevent a possible race war.

Mr. Branch said, "Negroes won't be frightened by them (the Klan) anymore. But we don't want any trouble. The Negroes in this county sense that the Klan is being reactivated in this area. We hope the federal government will come to our rescue before anything happens,"

Rev. Branch said that the Deacons of Defense had offered its services, but so far he has turned the offer down.

The Deacons of Defense is a Negro organization opposed to the KKK, It says its purpose is to defend when the law will not.

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

(CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE, Col. 4) Natchez Calls Off Boycott That Began Last August

NATCHEZ, Miss. -- Negroes have be- said. gun trading at stores here again after a boycott that began last August.

test had "100 per cent impact," "It was devastating for the merchants," it

The NAACP in Natchez said the pro-



The National Association for the Ad-

vancement of Colored People said Negroes are still boycotting stores that have not agreed to hire Negroes. Two stores owned by Mayor John J. Nosser are still being avoided by Negro

shoppers. The announcement that Negroes would begin trading with most downtown stores came after a meeting last week

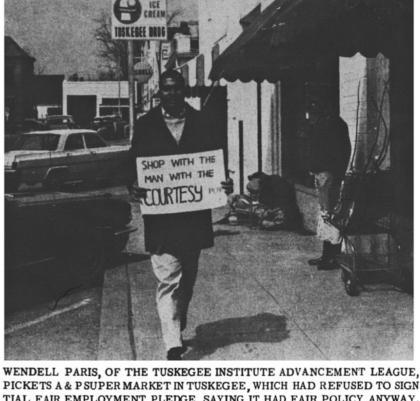
of NAACP leaders, city officials, and

merchants. The original boycott began to protest the attempted killing of George Metcalfe, president of the NAACP branch, Aug. 27. Car pools were organized to

take shoppers to nearby towns.

In early December the mayor announced that the city would agree to most of the demands by civil rights leaders -- hiring Negro policemen, desegregating the city's federally supported hospital, ceasing brutality and verbal abuse, opening public facilities to all, and hiring city employees without racial discrimination.

However, the boycott continued when some Negroes employed at Christmas time were laid off. The business leaders agreed in the meeting last week to rehire those workers.



PICKETS A & PSUPER MARKET IN TUSKEGEE, WHICH HAD REFUSED TO SIGN TIAL FAIR EMPLOYMENT PLEDGE, SAYING IT HAD FAIR POLICY ANYWAY.

Tuskegee Refers Law On Jobs to Committee

TUSKEGEE--The Tuskegee City Council this week dropped the hot potato of fair employment practices into the cold water of a bi-racial advisory group. The council referred a fair employment practices ordinance, proposed by the Ad Hoc Committee for Justice in Macon County, to the brand-new Tuskegee Advisory Committee.

Although the committee has been planned for months, Councilman Stanley H. Smith said, it was setup now because "the city of Tuskegee is going through very critical times."

Smith said the group's "broad purpose is to advise your city government on all matters which are relevant to the concern of the governing body of Tuskegee." "This ordinance is certainly one of the things we should try to bring to the attention of the advisory committee at its first meeting," he said. The Council then

voted to do so. Ben-Zion Wardy, a Tuskegee Institute professor representing the ad hoc com-

mittee, asked the council when to expect action on the ordinance. "This is a new committee. We're not expecting a report from them tomorrow," replied Councilman J. Allan Parker. "I'm sure they will act within a reasonable period of time."

The committee membership includes white segregationists and moderates. It also includes Negro moderates and conservatives from Tuskegee Institute, the Veterans Administration Hospital, and the residential community.

It does not include any member of thead hoc committee, presently Tuskegee's most militant adult civil rights organization, or of the Tuskegee Institute Ad-

vancement League (TIAL), a student group. "We need advice from more than one element of the community," Smith said in announcing the committee membership. "Even if they have conflicting interests, in the committee we hope they will think of the best interests of all the people of Tuskegee."

by the ad hoc committee and TIAL. In the last three weeks, the two groups have persuaded 53 of Tuskegee's 250 businesses to sign a fair employment practices pledge. The groups have also collected 18 refusals. Last Saturday, some 30 TIAL members picketed several stores that declined

The council acted against a backdrop of agitation for fair employment practices

to sign the pledge, including the A & P Super Market. This week, Robert Funderburk, manager of the local A & P, sent the statement to the regional A & P manager for his consideration.

Funderburk admitted that the pickets had hurt his business "a little." "It's all a mistake," he added. "Our employment policy says just what their statement active SCLC worker in Greene County, does. We go along with fair play 100 per cent."



SATURDAY, MARCH 12

SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES --"Love is a Many Splendored Thing." The story of a love that defied time and conventions. A young woman doctor falls in love with a correspondent estranged from his wife, 8:30 p.m. Channel 6 in Birmingham.

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

DANNY THOMAS SPECIAL -- Danny goes country and Western--an hour featuring Eddy Arnold, Kay Starr, Pat Buttram, and the Thirty Doddletown Pipers, a singing group. Completing the cast of entertainers is an assortment of barnyard animals, 8 p.m. Channel 12 in Montgomery, Channel 13 in Birmingham, and Channel 15 in Florence,

PERRY MASON -- A case dealing with a ruthless star maker who is slain in a recording studio, 8 p.m. Channel 4 in Dothan, Channel 19 in Huntsville, and Channel 20 in Montgomery.

MONDAY, MARCH 14

THE ANDY GRIFFITH SHOW--Andy and his girl friend Helen get into a hilarious situation when they promote a romance between the stodgy county clerk and the county nurse, 8p.m. Channel 4 in Dothan, Channel 13 in Birmingham, Channel 19 in Huntsville, and Channel 20 in Montgomery.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

THE VIRGINIAN -- "A Bald Faced Boy." All kind of trouble breaks loose when Randy's rowdy mountain relatives come to Medicine Bow to protect him from a member of a hill clan seeking vengeance, 6:30 p.m. Channel 12 in Montgomery, Channel 13 in Birmingham, and Channel 15 in Florence. Montgomery.

BEWITCHED -- "The Leprechaun," Samantha and Darrin are called on to help one of the little people retrieve his pot of gold, 8 p.m. Channel 3 in Pensacola, Fla.; Channel 6 in Birmingham, Channel 31 in Huntsville, and Channel 32 in Montgomery.

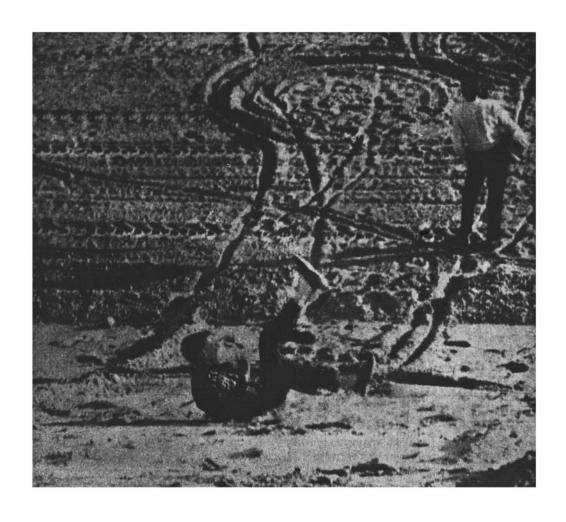
THE BARON--Following a tip on a big jewel theft, the Baron discovers "There's Someone Behind You," He recognizes the culprit and becomes a target for elimination, 9 p.m. Channel 3 in Pensacola, Fla.; Channel 6 in Birmingham, Channel 31 in Huntsville, and Channel 32 in Montgomery.

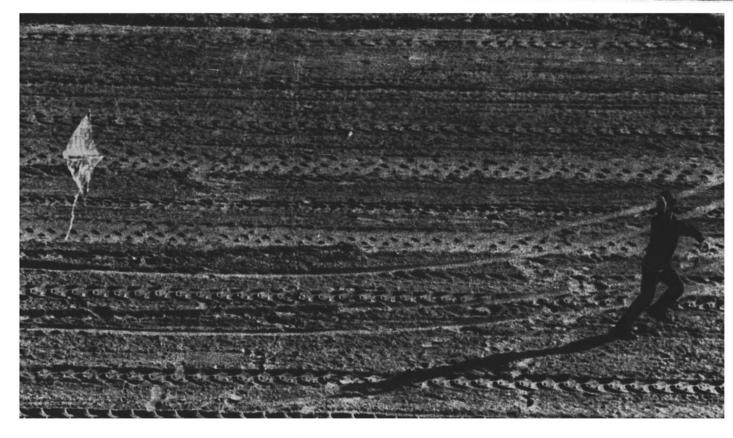
FRIDAY, MARCH 18

THE ADDAMS FAMILY -- All kind of laughter and pranks will be going on in the home of these misfits, 7:30 p.m. Channel 3 in Pensacola, Fla.; Channel 6 in Birmingham, Channel 31 in Huntsville, and Channel 32 in Montgomery.



DICK AND TOM SMOTHERS THE SMOTHERS BROTHERS--Tom gets assistance from a beautiful angel inspector named Dolores when he tries to help an unhappy commercial artist, 8:30 p.m. Channel 4 in Dothan, Channel 19 in Huntsville, and Channel 20 in





fantasy on 'freeway-to-be'

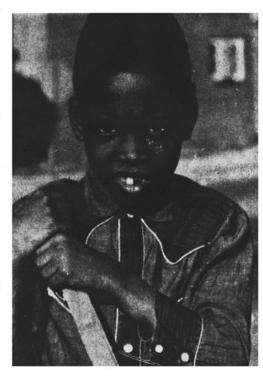
KIDS IN CONSTRUCTION LAND

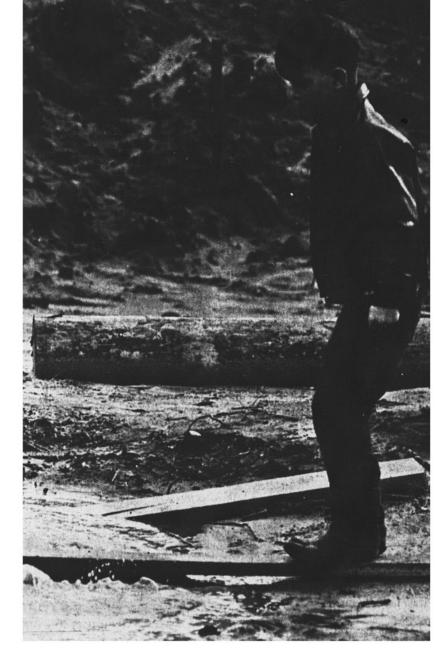
city children convert highway construction site into versatile playground after workmen leave



PHOTOGRAPHS BY

JAMES H. PEPPLER











BASE BALL - Domingo 2 de Mayo, 1937
MARANA Y TARDE ENRIQUILLO PARK DOS GRANDES ENCUENTROS ENTRE EL "Ciudad Trujillo" y las "Aguilas Cibaeñas" en los 16 y 17 juegos del Campeonato "Reelección Pte. Trujillo"-INTEREBANTE DEBUT DE LAS ESTRELLAS AMERICANAS DE COLOR, SATCHEL PANGE, WILLIAMS PERKING Y HERMAN ANDREWS POR EL "CIUDAD TRUJILLO" Y DE LOS FUERTES "SLUGGER" CLYDE SPEARMAN, CLABENCE PALM Y DAVID THOMAS FOR LAS "AGUILAS N O deje Ud. de ver los senspelonales players cubanos Lázaro Sa-lazar. Rilvio Garcia. Cueo Correa. Miruel Solis. José Varras y Ro-THOMAS AND PAIGE WERE STARS DOWN SOUTH... They Had What It Took to Win Championship

The Showboat in Action! Recover never has seen a fielding first baseman like Showboat Thomas of the Negro All Stars Recovered thrills the fans with fancy footwork, graceful stops of the most difficult throws constronal catches of hit balls. He will be in action Saturday night at 8:30 against Ma Alexander Empires of Springfield, Ill. He is shown above making a hard play to retire NEGRO STARS BEAT M'VITTIES 12-1 FOR FIFTH STRAIGHT WIN eom landed behind the eight ball in THE POST Merchants Park Sturdey night - The Nagra All .

SHOWBOAT (AT LEFT) SHOWS HIS STYLE

IN 1945, THOMAS TRIED OUT FOR THE DODGERS

'None of the Sports Will Ever Top Baseball'

Showboat Played the Game With Style

...AND UP NORTH

MOBILE -- He was baptized David Thomas but hardly anyone knows that now. Most people know him as Showboat Thomas.

Thirty-six years ago in Baltimore, a sports writer for the Baltimore Daily News gave him the name after watching Thomas in action at first base for the Baltimore Black Sox of the Negro National League.

The name stuck with him for the rest of his baseball career, which took him all

over this country and others, into parks like Yankee Stadium, and up against men like Babe Ruth, Dizzy Dean, Jackie Robinson, and Bob Feller.

By the time he retired in 1949, he had made such a name for himself in baseball that his baseball name had replaced his real name.

If you go into the office of the A.F. Owens housing project here, where Thomas works now as an inspector, and ask for David Thomas, the office staff answer you with a blank stare.

But if you simply ask for Showboat, the all know instantly whom you mean.

Many other people in Mobile know the name also. Thomas grew up in the Maysville section of town, played ball all over this area as a youngster, and returned often for visits during his 23 years of professional baseball.

He lived 15 years in New York after retiring from baseball but didn't like some things about the city, "In New York you got the hustle and bustle all the time and everybody beatin' each other's brains out tryin' to get some-

He and his wife visited Mobile so often that he finally built a house and moved back, to the same neighborhood where he had grown up.

Years ago, when he started playing ball in parks and vacant lots in Maysville, people quickly saw that it wouldn't take him long to learn, especially at first base.

He covered the right side of the infield with such skill, speed, and grace, and batted so well, too, that he began playing with the grown-ups while he was

Another kid from a near-by area called Down the Bay started playing with the grown-ups about the same time. He was a tall, speed-balling pitcher named Satchel Paige.

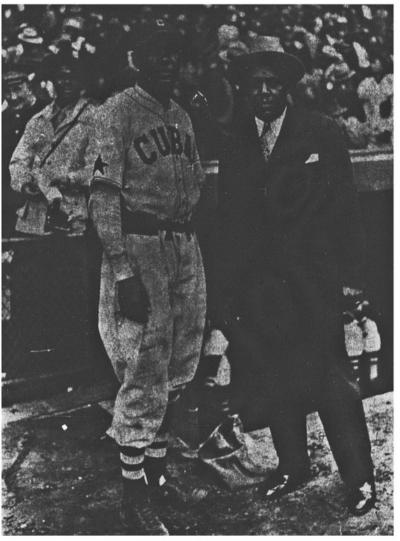
Thomas remembers, with a smile, the fun he and Paige had as they grew up playing ball together.

In 1926 they both left Mobile to play professional ball, Thomas in Montgomery and "Satch" in Chattanooga, Tenn. From 1927 to 1929, they were back together on the Birmingham Black Barons. The next year, Thomas went to the Baltimore Black Sox, where he got the name Showboat in the first game

"The sports writer for the Baltimore Daily News said I played different from anybody else. He called me Showboat."

A writer might give that name to a player who did more showing than playing. This isn't why Thomas got it. He played first base with a showy style, but that was just his way of getting the job

He made plays that most first basemen only dream about, "When I fielded a ground ball," he remembers, "I never had to straighten up to throw. I could throw from the wrist," This, plus his speed, helped him perfect one nearly impossible play.



CUBANS PLAYED IN YANKEE STADIUM

With a runner on second in a tight game, the batter will often try a bunt down the third base line. If it's a wellplaced bunt, the third baseman has to field it. That leaves no one covering third, and the runner on second can easily advance. But not when Showboat was playing first.

"I've thrown runners out plenty of times," Thomas says. He would race across to field that bunt down the third base line and flip it to the third baseman covering the bag.

When a first baseman can make plays like that, no one would care if he looked like a scarecrow while doing it. Showboat made those impossible plays with

After Thomas retired, a New York sports writer wrote that "he reminded you more of a ballet dancer in operation than any other athlete I've ever seen. . . . And, don't let anybody fool you either, that Showboat could belt that

The writer saw Thomas when he was with the New York Cubans from 1935 to 1949. They got their name from the Cuban who started it, but most of the players were Negro.

The Cubans' home park in Harlem was the first in New York City to have lights for night baseball. But it wasn't big enough to seat everyone who wanted to see the Cubans play the other Negro National League teams.

"We played in the Polo Grounds when the Giants were away and in Yankee Stadium when the Yankees were away," sometimes before crowds as big as

Paige and Thomas started a tradition which Mobile County is still living up to. Somehow, the county seems to turn out more first-class baseball players from its 300,000 people than any other area of similar size anywhere in the world.

When Thomas was playing, sports writers and players across the country agreed that he was one of the best first baseman in the game. And Thomas says that Paige was "the greatest pitcher I ever saw, and I've seen them all."

He was so good that he would have been even better, if he hadn't been so good. "If Satch had been just a little wild, nobody could ever have hit him, because nobody would ever have stayed at the plate. He threw like a cannon."

Thomas's opinion of Paige isn't just one hometown boy's praise of another. Few fans of the game will argue with the claim that Paige's name would now stand at or near the top of the list for every major league pitching record, if segregation hadn't kept him out of the majors during his best years.

Long before segregation ended in baseball in the late 1940's, Paige and Thomas both showed that they could have been playing in the majors, if play-

ers had been chosen only for their abil- Aaron and Frank Bolling of the Atlanta they both were on Negroall-star teams that played major league all-star teams The tours were no vacation for the white major leaguers.

Thomas was one of the first two Negroes ever to try out with a major league team. That was with the Dodgers, in 1945, one year before they signed Jackie Robinson.

But when segregation finally ended, Thomas was 40 and couldn't quite make it into the majors. He would have been starting at an age when most ballplayers are retiring.

Paige, however, was such a great pitcher that his age didn't matter much. Although he was well over 40 when they finally let him into the majors, the old man's pitching must have madebatters hope for a return to segregation.

Last year. Paige was a relief pitcher for the American League's Kansas City Athletics, at the age of 61, Lots of fans thought he'd been hired just for publicity and for his famous sense of humor. The batters didn't always think so.

While Thomas was making Mobile known in Negro baseball and Paige was doing it in all baseball, a white ballplayer with ties in the Port City was doing the same thing in the majors. He was Eddie "the Brat" Stanky, star second baseman for the Braves, Giants, and

No one knew why he was a star, they just knew that he was one. Branch Rickey, baseball's elder statesman, came the closest to explaining Stanky: "He can't hit, He can't run, He can't throw. All he can do is beat you,"

Stanky quit playing years ago but didn't quit baseball. This season he will continue Mobile's baseball tradition as the new manager of the Chicago White

Younger Mobilians now keeping the tradition alive on the field include Hank

ity. At the end of the regular seasons, Braves, Billy Williams of the Chicago Cubs, Tommy Agee of the Chicago White Sox, Cleon Jones of the New York Mets, on barnstorming tours of the country. and Willie McCovey of the San Francisco Giants.

> Thomas is delighted that so many Mobilians are doing so well. But he's pleased to see anybody playing baseball. no matter how well or badly, "It's a good, clean game," he says, "Kids can learn a lot from it,"

And a few, like Thomas, Paige, and the present stars from Mobile County, can go on to make a name and a living in the game, and have a good time doing it.

Some of Thomas's best times came

after the close of the regular season when he played in the all-star games. Several times, he played against Babe Ruth. "Oh man, he was terrific. I'm telling you," Thomas says. "And he was a happy, jolly fellow, too." The all-star circuit also gave Thom-

as his biggest day in baseball. It came in 1931 against a white team led by a pitcher who had starredforthe Philadelphia Athletics as they won the World Series. Thomas singled off that pitcher in the ninth inning to drive in the win-During the winters, Thomas often

played in the Caribbean, Venezuelan, and Mexican leagues. His scrap books are full of posters and newspaper articles announcing in Spanish that he and Satchel Paige and other American stars were coming to town.

Luckily, they always had a good team. "The fans, they're crazy down there. They're the craziest people I ever heard of. I wouldn't want to play on a losing team down there."

Showboat played four more seasons in the Negro league after his tryout with the Dodgers. Then he retired to a New York apartment located between Yankee Stadium and the Polo Grounds and went to games in both of them often.



SHOWBOAT THOMAS

There weren't any more Negro league games to watch, because "when Negro ballplayers began to go into white leagues, that killed our league."

Thomas didn't really object, He says with pride now that "baseball has gone a long ways to help desegregate this country. Now you don't even know if it's a Negro ballplayer or white, unless you

Showboat thinks baseball will keep on helping, and he thinks it will keep on being the country's favorite game. There is something about it which makes people watch it, no matter who is playing it or how well. He says there's a children's baseball diamond next to Yankee Stadium, and he's seen "people on their way to Yankee Stadium stop and watch those kids play for a couple innings."

And there's something about the game which makes kids want to play. "None of the sports will ever top baseball. In the next few weeks, wherever you look, you'll see kids with balls and bats,"



A NEGRO PLAYER FROM BASEBALL'S EARLY DAYS, WITH THOMAS AND PAIGE

Birmingham Rights Leaders Ask, SCLC Federation Ok'ed What to Do With All This Unity?

Birmingham, No meetings, No shootings. Pickets quietly walk around Liberty Super Market, where five Negroes were shot more than two weeks ago while protesting alleged unfair hiring practices there.

A temporary court order limiting the number of pickets hasn't helped Liberty. It is still losing money, more than \$100,000 a week, according to recent testimony in court.

"When people don't want to buy, there

Only a Felony **Prohibits Vote**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE) hold us back?"

Earl Wesley, another Prichard man with a minor conviction on his record, says he has also been turned down by the board of registrars.

He failed twice to get registered when the literacy test was still in use, but shortly after the Voting Rights Act of 1965 abolished the test last summer, Wesley went back. He says this is what happened:

"The man said, Wesley, what do you think about it? You think you made it?" 'Yes, sir.'

'Well, I don't think so. There's something on here I don't understand, this disorderly conduct.

'I can't see where that's a felony.' But he just told me to try again, to keep tryin' He didn't tell me no such thing as checking my record and then letting me know. I just don't see why they won't let me vote."

Mobile County Court House has no record of a felony conviction against either of these two men or against two other men who claim they have been reject-

ed for similar reasons. The board of registrars refused to

MONTGOMERY -- "They told me I

So a salesman from Georgia named

Vincent has run the Automated Insti-

could never operate a school for both

Frank M. Vincent Jr. said, "Pve got the

money and the time, and let's see,"

tute of Technology in Montgomery for

seven months, and he is still trying to

spread the word to Negro youths about

the opportunities in his field of comput-

If you drop into his office at the Insti-

tute, Vincent, a large and casual sort,

will show you a bulletin board full of job offers for computer programmers and

One of Vincent's favorites is a clip-

ping from the Wall Street Journal last

races here in Alabama,"

ers and business machines.

operators.

ing," said Vincent.

Computer School

Training Open to All

BIRMINGHAM -- All is quiet now in isn't anything anyone can do to make them," said one picket at the door. U. S. District Court Judge Clarence

W. Allgood last week ordered the Community Relations Service and the Equal Opportunity Commission to mediate the dispute over hiring practices.

But they haven't arrived yet, and local rights groups and Liberty seem to be nearing an agreement without them. "We feel that we are very close to a

settlement," said Demetrius C. Newton, a Negro attorney working for Liberty in the negotiations.

The Rev. Edward Gardner of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights expressed hope that the differences between the store and the Negroes would be resolved soon.

Newsman Convicted

LUVERNE--The photography editor of the Southern Courier was convicted of trespassing Monday by Law and Equity Judge H.H. Little of Crenshaw

James H. Peppler was sentenced to 30 days in jail and fined \$200. He appealed the decision to circuit court and was freed on \$500 bond.

County Solicitor W. R. King charged Peppler with trespassing at the Helicon Junior High School in the northern part of the county Feb. 7. Peppler hadbeen sent there to interview the principal, B. Y. Farris.

There was no demonstration at the school that day, but protests have been held before that time and since. Negroes say they want Farris removed.

Circuit court in Crenshaw County Feb. 2 ordered the demonstrations to cease, and the demonstrators attempted to have that order reviewed by federal

However, in Montgomery, federal court Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. refused to do so, saying the protests "reached the point of being nothing more than a hysterical mob.

largest users of computers in the coun-

try, and so Vincent's bulletin board has

several military and civil service job

Program ners are the people who tell

the business machines what to do. The

card-punch operators code new in-

formation for the machines to take in.

"It may be fear that they won't be

welcome, or expenses, that keep Ne-

groes away," he said. He added that

Negroes are welcome and that he will

help them finance the courses, which

run from 40 hours to nine months, night

"I plan to get the state board of edu-

cation to approve my courses. They

keep crying about new industry in the

offers in the area.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

been swarming with SCLC staff from Atlanta, the take pains to avoid giving the impression that SCLC will run the confederation.

4th Ave. North in a Negro neighborhood.

the thing this week," said Newton. The

a reement would probable be a planfor

Negro hiring.

drive.

ger of IMA.

ble to vote.

Act of 1965.

lina, and Virginia.

And after Liberty

"I wouldn't be surprised if we settled

"More Negroes are together than

there ever have been on anything else,"

Hosea Williams of SCLC once said.

ters Conference, which has been termed

by some ministers as the most conser-

vative Negro religious group in the city,

supports boycotts at Liberty. And the

conference is also supporting a freedom

Alliance, has done what no other group

in town has been able to do: It has uni-

fied the Negro community -- something

which SCLC couldn't do when it first

came to town for the voter registration

But the new-found solidarity would

never have been possible had not the in-

cident at Liberty occurred. It spurred

But the big question is, where will

It isn't sure, but it recognizes it has

"If we don't get something done with

what we have now, then nothing will

work," said the Rev. Joseph E. Ellwan-

If SCLC couldn't move the Negro

community from without, and if IMA

can't move it from within, then perhaps

only Someone from above can. And no

prophets have been heard on the streets

Court Approves

Vote Rights Act

WASHINGTON -- People who have

been qualified by federal examiners in

Southern states will definitely be eligi-

Monday to key parts of the Voting Rights

Chief Justice Earl Warren spoke for

all the justices in upholding the abolish-

ment of literacy tests, the main issue at

stake. The literacy test law applied to

six Southern states, Alabama, Missis-

sippi, Louisiana, Georgia, South Caro-

"We may finally look forward to the

day when truly the right of citizens of

the United States to vote shall not be

denied or abridged by the United States

or b, any state on account of race.

color, or previous condition of serv-

The Supreme Court gave its approval

of Birmingham recently.

a basis for making wide-spread pro-

the Negro community into action.

The Interdenominational Ministerial

rally to be held later this month.

Even the Birmingham Baptist Minis-

When the newly-elected chairman, tate senate candidate Lonnie L. Brown of Alberta, asked Williams when the next meeting should be held, Williams aid, "Don't look at me; you're the hairman."

"This is not an SCLC organization," Williams emphasized, "We invited every organization in the state that we knew about,"

"The Democratic clubs have their influence, the NAACP has its influence, the voters' leagues have their influence, that other state-wide group has its influence, SCLC has its influence," he said, "and we must bring them all together."

"Whatever has the respect of the Negro people in Choctaw County, that's the group that will speak for Choctaw Coun-

Before the next meeting March 26. SCLC plans a last big effort to bring more county groups and the important city organizations into the confedera-

As Williams explains it, the state confederation would bargain with white candidates, offering Negro support in exchange for promises of jobs and political favors. After the election, the confederation would distribute this pa-

tronage to loval county organizations. When Negroes were jailed recently after attempting to demonstrate at Helicon High School, "that patronage committee could have called the governor and said, 'Get down to Crenshaw County and do something now," Williams

Williams also says Negroes should organize similar bargaining groups in state legislative districts and U.S. Congressional districts.

"We've got to say, 'White folks, what you going to give us?' We've been selling our vote all along," said Williams. "Now we've got to sell it for freedom,"

TUSKEGEE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO)

the mostly Negro audience. It happened when he said: "This office has never been integrated. I will integrate it. I will hire a competent colored clerk," All the candidates who brought up the

subject of race relations said they opposed discrimination and believed in working together. "Only in unity can we accomplish

what we seek," said Harold J. Noble, a white man running for re-election to the board of revenue.

"If I am elected," said Lucius D. Amerson, the first Negro ever to run for Macon County sheriff, "anyone who breaks the law will be arrested regarditude," Chief Justice Warren said, less of race, creed, or color,"



WESLEY MCNEAR **Bullock Sheriff Candidate**



MRS. MARY MARSHALL **Bullock School Board Candidate**

In Eufaula, Voters Hear If Elected I Promise...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

county in the state." John Kelly Jr. spoke twice--once as a candidate for the county Board of Education and once as a candidate for an at-large seat on the county Democratic Executive Committee.

"I am soliciting the vote of all registered voters regardless of creed of color or national origin," said Kelly. "I'll see to it we have the best facilities in all schools. Our teachers will be adequately paid. Our children will get the educational things that in previous years have been neglected,"

Eight of Barbour County's Negro candidates are women. Six of the eight are running for precinct seats on the Democratic Executive Committee.

Although Barbour County has more white voters than Negro voters, some of the precincts have more Negro voters than white. The candidates for those seats sounded eager and confident.

"The time has come," said Mrs. Bernice Haslam, "We have been used to back seats, back doors, and back jobs. We've been silent too long. But now we're going to vote right and get

"We're not just going to move from the back of the bus to the front. We're going to drive."

Then she asked a question that officeseekers all over the United States nearly always ask, "Where is our tax money going?" she said, and added, "We'll find out,"

The Rev. Ned Williams Sr., another candidate for an at-large seat on the Democratic Executive Committee, reminded his audience that "thousands have died who would have rejoiced to see this day, when we have a chance to make the laws.

"I was told a few days ago: 'You're going to lose friends running for that office,' I said, 'If I'm elected, I'm going to make friends,""

Mr. Cossey said the Barbour County Political Association, formed to promote candidates for the election, could use some friends right now. He watched while nearly every mem-

and carefully counted out a dime or a dollar, or sometimes two dollars. "I was hoping we'd have a houseful of people," he said, looking regretfully out

ber of the audience walked up to a table

at the pouring rain. "We need money." But then he thought of a last word for the audience and the candidates.

"If you don't win," he said, "this isn't the last time. Quitters never win, and winners never quit."

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JAMES H. PEPPLER, PHOTO EDITOR THE SOUTHERN COURIER ROOM (22, FRANK LEU BUILDING 79 COMMITICE STREET MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104

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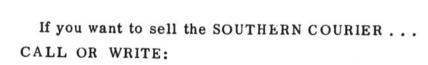
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\$1.00 an inch for non-profit groups Write THE SOUTHERN COURIER Room 522, Frank Leu Bldg. Montgomery, Alabama 36104

BIG JIM'S TRAIN IS ROLLING AGAIN

BY DAVID R. UNDERHILL

GROVE HILL-"Big Train" came back to southwest Alabama this week and stopped at all the rural county seats.

"Tell all your friends. The Big Train's runnin' again," shouted ex-Governor James Folsom to about 100 people who gathered in little groups around the Clarke County Court House Wednesday afternoon.

"Big Jim" didn't really give a speech. He chatted about the Bill of Rights: "That's what my campaign is based on, that's what my campaigns

NAACP Sumter Protest

YORK--No more picketing or boycotting is planned here for at least six months, county NAACP president Rev. Felix Nixon said this week.

That's how long Mr. Nixon said he would wait to see whether Sumter County merchants will make good on their promises to hire more Negroes.

chants haven't hired any more Negroes yet, but say they will when warm weather brings more business.

According to Mr. Nixon, the mer-

"We're going to give them PLENTY of time," said Mr. Nixon.

Sumter County's two civil rights groups--the NAACP chapter and the Sumter County Movement for Human Rights--had been marching, picketing and boycotting in York and Livingston because they said they hadn't seen any signs of action from the bi-racial Sumter County Human Relations Commit-

But when, after six weeks of demonstrations, the merchants' associations of York and Livingston said they were willing to hire more Negroes, the word came through the bi-racial committee.

While the demonstrations were going on, the bi-racial committee recommended the hiring of Negro policemen, and in a few weeks the York City Council hired one.

But York Mayor Warren Grant admitted to the NAACP chapter, "Without your spurring on, they possibly wouldn't have moved as fast as they did,"

Head Start

The deadline for communities to apply for funds for summer Head Start projects is March 31.

Specialists to advise applicants are at the anti-poverty offices in Birmingham and Montgomery.

have always been based on." And he said that if he's elected, he'll call "a constitution convention for all

the folks to bring this state up to date." Then he went around shaking hands and passing out bumper stickers, while his four-man guitar band sang out "some of the good old songs with lots

of history to them." Two elderly ladies came up to him, and one said, "We want to shake hands with you. Big Jim. It's been a long time, but we're so glad to see you back."

Big Jim -- 6 feet, eight inches tall -bent way over, shook their hands, and said he was mighty glad to be back. Folsom was governor from 1946 through Ends 1950 and 1954 through 1958.

Since his last race for the governor's office. Folsom has been an insurance agent and securities dealer in Cullman, in north Alabama.

"The old folks, they're gonna vote for him for sure," an old Negro man said. Folsom worked his way around to the microphone again and said the band would do "I'm Back on the Firing Line

Again," while some helpers passed the

ammunition boxes around. "It doesn't matter how much you put in. What matters is we get our ammu-

Folsom chatted some more about the-Bill of Rights, about building four-lane highways to every county seat, and about the old charges that he's in love with the bottle.

He said he used to drink a little but that he also had "an ailment that made me sometimes walk like I was drunk and talk like I was drunk,"

He got over the ailment and "I wouldn't touch a drink now for a million bucks, I'm the new old Big Jim, and I'm back on the firin' line. We'll come around again in April. Tell all your

Whitney Young on Rights, Peace

rights organizations ought to confuse their friends by getting off on another issue," said Whitney Young, national executive director of the Urban League.

Young was talking about the war in Viet Nam. On a visit to Tuskegee Institute this week, he told 250 students and faculty members that "an awful lot of people don't agree with the theory that 'you can't be for civil rights and be for

He suggested that civil rights groups may lose sight of their immediate goals

TUSKEGEE -- "I don't think civil by taking stands on questions when their opinions can't be translated into programs.

Someone pointed out that the Urban League urged the U.S. government to support economic efforts to topple the white supremacist government of Rho-

"Rhodesia -- that's clearly racial. Our government's policy on Rhodesia has a direct impact on Negro attitudes at home about the sincerity of this country in working for racial equality."

"That's different," Young said.



Mrs. Georgia Gilmore started to pre-

pare the noon dinner. She began with

24 chickens, 20 pounds of fish fil-

lets, 20 pounds of potatoes, more

than eight pounds of macaroni and

cheese, a dozen bunches of greens,

Mrs. Gilmore is a big woman and

she has a big family. But not that

She prepares from 100 to 125 meals

a day in her own home on Mont-

gomery's east side. Up to 90 meals

are take-out orders for the nearby laundries, doctors' offices, and Ala-

bama State College personnel.

But a dozen or more folks come

each noon to Georgia's dining room

for her choice of two hot meals.

They come from different occupations

and neighborhoods and so the talk is

always varied and lively--from civil

rights and the governor to baseball

Usually someone will switch on the

television set, and the dialogue of

a soap opera will be heard over

her eyes out in the kitchen because

died. Georgia won't admit that, how-

Back in her kitchen, Mrs. Gilmore

will tell you how she got into the food

She started cooking in her family

when she was eight years of age,

and when she was an adult she

worked for the cafeteria at a Mont-

At the time of the bus boycott

in 1955, the restaurant was closed, and

Mrs. Gilmore, with six children, was

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out of work.

the conversation.

and two gallons of beans.



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MRS. GEORGIA GILMORE

One of Georgia's regulars says that he once found Mrs. Gilmore crying She started carrying sandwiches to Martin Luther King Jr., the Rev. someone on the TV soap opera had ed that she prepare full dinners regularly. And so she did.

Mrs. Gilmore is proud that the Rev.

mass meetings and someone suggest- Ralph D. Abernathy, and other wellknown people have dropped by for a meal. Who taught her to cook? Mama, of course.

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