

'Tension is So High Anything Can Happen'

Long-Time Negro Employee Tells What It's Like at U.S. Steel

BY DON GREGG

BIRMINGHAM -- The NAACP has filed suit here against U. S. Steel Corporation because of alleged discrimination against Negro employees.

Here is how one Negro worker described the situation at the U. S. Steel Supply Division in Ensley. He has worked at the Ensley plant in the same department for 23 years. The title of his position is "laborer."

"The Ensley works have got a dual line of seniority. White workers are in one line and Negroes in the other. They don't promote from the Negro line. 'I've been in my department more than 20 years, but I'm young compared to most of the Negroes. They've just about all got more seniority than me.' An NAACP official has charged that most Birmingham industries exclude Negroes from training programs.

"I'm not worried about missing any training," the laborer said. "If a man's been on a job 20 years, he ought to be something besides a laborer. If he hasn't learned anything in 20 years, he ought not be working here.

"I know every job in my department. I've done all the jobs before when they were short-handed, but every time they took me out and put a white man in,"



Roger Blough, president of U. S. Steel Corporation, has announced that 1,000 Negroes were up-graded in Birmingham.

"That's what he said, but I can't name three people that have gotten promotions. Those Pittsburgh people might not know the story, but you can up-grade a lot of people on paper without raising

their pay. Those federal commissioners (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission) can be fooled, too. We want them to bring the records out to where we are, then we can explain those records to the commissioners," said the Negro employee, who asked that his name not be published.

The United Steelworkers Union represents the workers at U. S. Steel. "We don't have any union representation. Our union is under pressure from the federal government to merge seniority lines by the end of June."

When the lines are merged, white workers say they will have less chance for rapid promotion.

"Tension is real high because of this. A lot of white workers who haven't got any seniority are afraid they'll get laid off. Tension is so high anything can happen," the laborer said.

The Ensley plant has desegregated water fountains, showers, and restroom facilities.

"White people won't use the restrooms now. They bring jars with them, or they use the grounds,

"They bring their own drinking water, too. They won't use the showers, any more. They say they'd rather bathe at home. Everybody is mad at everybody else because of it."

White House Conference

WASHINGTON -- How is the White House conference on civil rights going to help the folks back home?

This seemed to be the major concern to many of the 2,400 participants here from all over the nation for the two-day meeting.

Mrs. Minnie Gaston, from the National Council of Negro Women, Birmingham, summed up her impressions of the

Alabama People At White House Conference

WASHINGTON--Following is a list of residents of Alabama who were invited to attend the White House civil rights conference "To Fulfill These Rights" this week:

Robert Bamberg, state director of Farmers Home Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Montgomery; Daniel J. Beasley, NAACP, Tuskegee; Orzell Billingsley, attorney in Birmingham; Lewis Black, Hale County Citizens Improvement Association, Greensboro; and Winton M. Blount, president of Blount Brothers Corporation, Montgomery.

Mrs. A. T. Boynton, Selma; Mrs. Ann Braxton, Demopolis; the Rev. K. L. Buford, Tuskegee city councilman; Dr. John Cashin Jr., Alabama Democratic Conference, Inc., Huntsville; Mrs. Henry C. Collins, Alabama United Church Women, Montgomery; Miss Lillie Crawford, Birmingham; and Milton K. Cummings, president of Brown Engineering Company, Huntsville.

George Dixon, vice president, International Longshoremen's Association, Mobile; Dr. W. J. Dowdell, Bessemer; and O. F. Frazier, principal of Conecuh County Training School, Evergreen. J. E. Fuller, president, Tuskegee Federal Savings and Loan Association; A. G. Gaston, president, Booker T. Washington Insurance Company, Birmingham; Mrs. Minnie Gaston, National Council of Negro Women, Birmingham; and Charles G. Gomillion, chairman, Social Science Division, Tuskegee Institute.

Mrs. Essie Handy, Lafayette; David Hood, Jr., attorney, Bessemer; Emory Jackson, editor, Birmingham World; Daniel J. Kennan Jr., executive vice president, Bradford Industrial Company, Birmingham; Joseph M. Langan, Mayor of Mobile; George A. LeMaistre, president, City National Bank, Tuscaloosa; and Mrs. Millie Harper Lee, member, National Council on Art, from Monroeville.

Rufus Lewis, Montgomery ADCI; Herman Long, president, Talladega College; the Rev. Joseph Lowery, Birmingham; Earl W. Mallick, president, U. S. Steel, Fairfield; Dr. Minnie Miles, chairman, Alabama Commission on the Status of Women, Tuscaloosa; Mrs. Ossie Ware Mitchell, national president, Iota Phi Lambda, Birmingham; and Mrs. Carrie Moore, Wetumpka voter registration worker.

Bishop E. P. Murchison, president, National Council of Churches in Birmingham; Mrs. Fannie Neal, field director of COPE in Montgomery; Harold Nelson, University of Alabama professor.

conference. Her feelings were typical: "The conference is providing a broad look at the same problems. Real problems such as how to create jobs for Negroes and how to train Negroes to do these jobs are being discussed.

"But we have not been told how to get help to the poor people, the ones that really need it," she said.

Discussed in committee sessions were reforms in housing, education, economic welfare, and social justice. But the conference, as a body, had no power to put any of its suggestions into effect.

One solution for getting information to the people who need it was offered by a Durham, N. C., insurance executive. He suggested regional meetings to "get the message back to the people who do not have stimulation and urgency to come to this meeting."

It was also suggested that existing human rights groups start local meetings.

145 Miles from His Home

Military Burial for PFC Williams

BY ROBERT E. SMITH

WETUMPKA--PFC Jimmy L. Williams was buried in a military cemetery 145 miles from his home Monday. Before the young Viet Nam veteran

was laid to rest, the fight over where he would be buried stirred the Justice Department, the national press, the Pentagon, and the Negro communities of central Alabama.



THE BODY OF PFC WILLIAMS IS CARRIED TO GRAVE IN NATIONAL CEMETERY AS THE SOLDIER'S PARENTS

FOLLOW. FAMILY WAS TOLD THAT WETUMPKA CEMETERY IN BOY'S HOME TOWN HAD NO ROOM.

Macon Sheriff Nominee Takes Victory in Stride

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

TUSKEGEE--Lucius D. Amerson was the calmest man in the room. Nearly everybody else looked tired, excited, happy, and a little surprised. Their ties were crooked and their grins flickered on and off like electric signs.

Amerson was just about the only man with his tie and his facial expression firmly under control.

"Smile, sheriff," called out a friend in the crowd of campaign workers. The dozen people nearest Amerson looked around to see whether he was going to smile. But Amerson frowned instead, and went on checking the voting figures on his tally sheet with the figures on the SCLC tally sheet in campaign headquarters.

He didn't really need to check the numbers. For the last half hour, he and everyone else in the room had known he was the winner.



LUCIUS D. AMERSON, WINNING SHERIFF NOMINEE IN MACON

Kirksey Is Only Negro To Win Outside Macon

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN

Voters in Tuesday's run-off election thought the ballots went down much more easily this time. But for most Negro candidates, and most white politicians with Negro support, the results were just as hard to swallow.

Besides the three Macon County nominees, only one Negro candidate won a Democratic nomination--the Rev. Peter Kirksey, for the Greene County School Board. So Greene County, which has had no school integration so far, may have a Negro member on the school board.

Twenty-two other Negro candidates lost, often by big margins. Negro sheriff candidates in three counties with Negro voting majorities--Patt J. Davis in Perry, the Rev. Henry McCaskill in Hale, and H. O. Williams in Bullock--were beaten by white opponents.

Many people who voted on May 3 stayed away on Tuesday, so it didn't take so long to cast a ballot. The shorter ballot this time also made voting easier.

And, said Albert Turner, defeated candidate for the state House of Representatives, "People had practiced with the ballot, and they knew what they were doing."

"Voting was much better this time," said George Walker of Birmingham. "I couldn't turn some of the levers before. I didn't have any trouble this time."

Eight Negroes were trying to crack the all-white Alabama Legislature, but all of them lost. Increased registration of white voters helped defeat two who had come close to nomination on May 3--Fred D. Gray in the 31st District (Macon, Bullock, and Barbour coun-

ties) and Turner in the 27th District (Perry, Marengo, and Sumter counties).

Gray carried his home county, Macon, over Bill Neville Jr. of Eufaula. He lost Bullock, despite its Negro majority, 2,298 to 2,400.

In Barbour, Governor George C. Wallace's home county, Neville was far ahead of Gray, 5,628 to 2,802. Large numbers of white people had registered in Barbour since May 3, and the white turn-out in Bullock apparently was greater this time.

Neville said one reason he won was that "Gray was playing the race issue pretty hard." He said this brought out more white voters.

How would he represent a district in which two counties have Negro majorities? "I'm a greenhorn at this," he said. "I'm not sure how other legislators have represented opposing interests, but I know they have. I'll have to play it by ear."

Turner lost all three counties in his



THE REV. PETER KIRKSEY

(Continued on page two, Col. 3)

He was the first Negro ever to gain the Democratic Party nomination for sheriff of an Alabama county.

Down at the Macon County Courthouse, they knew it, too. The people counting the votes in the probate judge's office stared glumly at each other over paper cups half-full of cold coffee.

The scrawled tally sheets on the table in front of them showed that Amerson had beaten incumbent Sheriff Harvey Sadler by 384 votes, 3,497 to 3,113. And that wasn't all.

L. A. Locklair, Negro candidate for tax collector, had trounced his white opponent, Arthur L. Cooper, by 1,600 votes. Harold W. Webb, Negro candidate for the board of revenue, District 1, had edged by incumbent John E. Henderson Jr., a white man, with 350 votes to spare.

Fred D. Gray, the Negro attorney who almost but not quite won Place 2 in the 31st state House of Representatives district (Macon, Bullock, and Barbour counties), had 4,359 votes in Macon to 2,030 for Bill Neville Jr.

"The results are all bad," a lady voting official told a late arrival in the crowd outside the probate judge's office.

"It looks like an all-nigger slate," explained one of the men leaning against the wall.

The most graceful loser in town was the man Amerson had defeated.

"There's nothing to say," Sheriff Sadler, a Wallace appointee, told the first reporters who demanded that he allow Alabama and the nation to share his loss. But then he reconsidered.

"The people voted and that's their choice," he said. "There's no hard feelings between him and me. I wish him luck."

Back in the SCLC campaign headquarters (in Gray's Tuskegee law office), Amerson fielded questions from the press. He treated them coolly, as if he knew some reporters would try to picture him as a postal employee who blundered his way into history.

"Yes, I was a paratrooper in the Army," he said. "Yes, I think the experience will help me as sheriff. It gives you courage."

The reporters pounced on that. Did he think he would need courage? Would there be trouble? For the only time that evening, Amerson lost a little of his bland dignity.

"Why should there be trouble?" he said impatiently. "I won it fair and square. The people must want me. They voted for me."

But Macon County's two-to-one Negro voting majority didn't deliver a bloc vote for Amerson. About 1,000 Negroes voted for Sadler.

Some Negro leaders were among

(CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE, Col. 1)

SCLC Moves Out of Ala.

BY TERRY COWLES

MONTGOMERY -- Hosea Williams surrounded himself last Wednesday with the entire Alabama Southern Christian Leadership Conference staff. Then he told them they would be moving out of the state by next Tuesday.

Out of more than 70 SCLC staff members in Alabama, 50 are to be moved to the Black Belt in southwest Georgia.

Three field workers are being moved to Chicago. What Williams called "a strong skeleton staff" of less than 20 workers will stay on in Alabama.

Williams said a temporary staff of Mark Harrington, Lula Williams, and Bruce Huffman would be in Montgomery.

He gave the names of some of the staff members who are going to Georgia, including Ben Clarke, Willie Taft, Leon Hall, Ethel Brooks, Wardell Hamilton, Robert Sims, Terry Johnson, Johnny Treadwell, Richard Smiley, Barry Wallace, Jerry Love, Roosevelt Barnett, Rebecca Jenkins, and the Freedom Singers.

The Rev. Thomas Gilmore, unsuccessful candidate for sheriff in Greene County, was sent to Chicago.

"We suffered, we died, we walked," Williams said of Alabama. "We just

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Editorial Opinion

Just the Facts, Please

An example of the newspaper reporting this state can do without is in last week's edition of The Democrat-Reporter of Marengo County.

In a front page "news story" The Democrat-Reporter asks: Is the end of the 200 year history of America's secret ballot at hand?

In the rest of the paper women are referred to as "Mrs." or "Miss," but in another front-page story The Democrat-Reporter refers to one of the candidates for county tax assessor as "Ann Braxton."

Further, it describes the House of Representatives race between Ira Pruitt and Albert Turner. "Pruitt is an experienced legislator," says the paper, "while his opponent is involved in the civil revolutionary movement."

And Now the Elephant

The Republican Party in the South, such as it is, has thus far managed to tell the rest of the world that it is a respectable bunch of conservatives who, unlike most Southern white Democrats, are not embarrassed by the policies of its national organization.

The Republican Party has done this without being exposed for what it is, an exclusive all-white club that has no interest in Negro rights.

The Republicans have held several county conventions in the past month, and nobody knows of any Negroes who have demanded to be admitted.

Negroes probably won't be able to have a voice in the Alabama Republican Party but they can embarrass it by crowding into its open state convention in Garrett Coliseum in Montgomery July 29-30.

The people to write to are Governor George Romney of Michigan, who will need Negro votes to run for President in 1968; Mayor John Lindsay of New York City, who needed Negro votes to get elected last year; Attorney General Edward Brooke of Massachusetts, a Negro who is running for U.S. Senate and who should be reminded what sort of party he is in; U.S. Senator Jacob Javits, a "liberal" Republican from New York; and Republican National Chairman Ray Bliss of Washington, D. C.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor: In your May 14-15 issue you said in an article about the Mobile County primary election: "Some of them (sample ballots) recommended Flowers for governor, some Elliott, because the state labor council had endorsed him."

M. O. Beale
Mobile, Ala.

To the Editor: In an article in last week's paper concerning the buying of Negro votes in Mobile County, one of the officials of the Mobile County Movement stated that his organization had received funds from candidates.

As president of this organization, I don't know anything about any such contributions being made to the Mobile County Movement. Since this official is affiliated with another organization apparently he had reference to that organization and not to the Mobile County Movement. But if any candidate had made any contributions to the Mobile County Movement, I most certainly would like for those candidates to contact me about such contribution, because no contribution has been reported to this organization.

Jeffery L. Davis, President
Mobile County Movement
Mobile, Ala.

To the Editor: In observing and reading your May 23-29 edition I found a whole page of "Ike and Tina" Revue performance at the Elk Club, which was probably all right. After observing farther I came to the politics page, which was last. I feel it should've been before your social section.

Being a school teacher, I feel there is being too much emphasis placed on socializing for our teenagers.

This being graduation time it would be more appreciative to your readers and subscribers to read and see pictures of the different graduating classes through out Alabama. You had one write-up but no pictures of Lowndes County.

I have two other papers in my home. Each page has a cap and gown on it. Let us encourage our boys and girls. Please organize and raise your paper to a high level.

Mrs. Joe Jean Sherman
Montgomery, Ala.

To the Editor: Your editorial entitled "Funny Thing" was excellent. However, on your map you omitted Monroe County. Monroe is part of the area served by the Little River Community Action Corporation. Its program development grant has just been approved.

Edward C. Williamson
Director
Alabama Technical Assistance Corporation
Montgomery, Ala.

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

Courier Lady Reporter Fails in Her Attempt To Find Federal Observer of Her Very Own

BY TERRY COWLES

This week my editor gave me an assignment--observe federal voting observers in Marengo County during the run-off election--and I came back with a story. The story is about how I didn't get a story at all.

My first thought on observing a federal observer effectively was to get a federal observer of my very own. So, I called up the Justice Department in Selma and asked for one.

"Sorry, but I don't think . . ." was the reply to my request.

I got up with the chickens on election morning and started the drive to Demopolis, Marengo County's largest town. I was still determined to find myself a federal observer. After all, the observer didn't necessarily have to know he was being observed.

The first step was to find a polling place. I noticed a school on the way into town that definitely had all the earmarks of being a polling place.

It was a polling place, and there was a short line of waiting voters. Every now and then a man would come out of the building and herd a few voters in. Slowly, they would trickle back out of the building. It was then that I asked the obvious question--I certainly could not observe an observer when he was inside and I was outside. . . .

"Could I please come in for a little while. I'm a newspaper reporter with The Southern. . . ."

"Sorry, but. . . ." My spirits were getting a little dampened. I called the Justice Department

again.

"There just isn't anyone you can follow around," I was told. But at this point they put me on to the federal voting examiners.

I made my way to the basement of the U. S. Post Office in Demopolis where federal voting examiners were receiving complaints from voters. There was a group of men sitting around.

I introduced myself and asked if I could "please" sit around and not bother anyone and see what kind of complaints came into the office.

The small, timid man in charge looked at me doubtfully.

"I don't think I have the authority. . ." he said, and he put through a telephone call to the headman in Atlanta.

After a brief conversation, he turned to me and began, "I regret to inform you. . . ."

"Bye y'all," I said on my way out the door.

Dejected, I walked over to City Hall in the town square. I found a bench where a large Negro woman was sitting. She was mumbling to herself.

"Voted yet?" I asked her.

"I come out of that door fussin'," she said pointing to the polling place. "I voted here sure enough last time and now they say I have to go to the Methodist church. I got rheumatism, high blood, and an ulcerated stomach, and I sure ain't walkin' . . ."

I became concerned about her, and so I offered to take her there in my car. When we found her voting box at the church she went in and voted. After it was all over, she got back in the car.

"They say there's another big one coming up in November," she said with a sigh, "and I have rheumatism, high blood, and an ulcerated stomach."

SUNFLOWER, Miss.--The voters in Mississippi go to the polls Tuesday to select Democratic candidates for Congress, but for the people of Sunflower this election is just a warm-up.

The federal Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals has agreed with claims by Sunflower City Negroes who said they were left out of last year's municipal election. And so, the court has ordered a brand-new election, although a lower court has yet to set the date for it.

The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, a mostly Negro party that has been registering voters and running acceptable Negro and white candi-

ELECTION RESULTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

didates, even his home county of Perry. Ira D. Pruitt led Turner there, 3,465 to 3,018. Turner said some 250 white people and just 40 Negroes had registered on the one registration day since May 3 in Perry.

It was a "strange thing," he said, that some of the new white voters had ad-



BILL NEVILLE JR., Winner in 31st District

Sermon of the Week

Tuskegee Institute Grads Urged To Help Poor

TUSKEGEE -- The Negro middle class doesn't care enough about poor people, Tuskegee Institute's baccalaureate speaker told some middle-class Negroes Sunday.

But poverty is the "common enemy" of everyone, said the Rev. M. Moran Weston, of St. Philip's Episcopal Church in New York.

Middle-class Americans "must reject the dominant appeals of American culture to selfishness and personal advancement," Weston said. They must "become more increasingly aware of and related to the poor and needy."

Weston told the 300 graduates that their degrees should be something more than keys to unlock the doors of money and success.

"The very science, technology, and managerial skills that made affluence possible also provide the means for the

conquest of poverty," he said. He urged each graduate to make "that priceless gift of himself in quiet and un-spectacular ways that make the crucial difference between retreat and advance, complacency and involvement."

That, he said, means the graduates should all find a way to join the "war on poverty" begun by the federal government.

But, Weston said, even President Johnson's "earnest appeals and diligent efforts" have not made the war on poverty a true war.

National, state, and local governments have contributed too little money and too much bickering to anti-poverty programs, the minister said.

He warned that the United States might not survive as a free nation if it fails to wipe out poverty at home in the next ten years.



After shuttling around for another hour or so and still not being able to observe a single federal observer--I started homeward. It was almost 3:30 p.m.

I didn't get two miles out of town before I heard the sirens. I pulled off the road and started taking out my driver's license.

"Was I speeding?" I asked.

"Doing 75 back there by the gas station," said the town constable, who had stopped me.

He ended up with my driver's license and my press card. "You got one of them newspapers with you?" he asked.

With a shudder I reached into the back seat of the car. I came up with a beaten, muddied Southern Courier.

"Mind if I keep this?" he asked. "No, not at all."

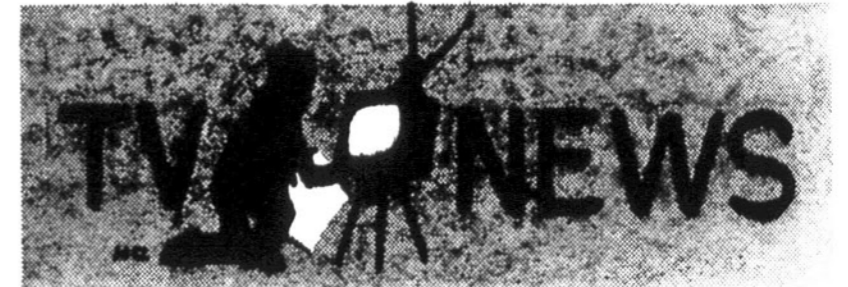
"Now, let's level with each other--what's a nice, pretty girl like you doing working for a paper like this," he said, holding up the paper. He had a troubled look on his face.

"Great experience," I said enthusiastically. "Done any hauling voters to the polls?"

"One," I gulped. "I saw you with one in your car. . . I can't figure out you kids today."

There was more discussion about kids today, about Governor Wallace, and about my relatives; and then: "Well, I'm going to disappoint you, young lady. I'm not going to give you a ticket. Actually you weren't really speeding. I just wanted to find out about you. I'm a fair man," he finished.

We agreed that the next time he came to Montgomery I'd buy him a cup of coffee, and I will. On the drive back to Montgomery, I contemplated what kind of story I should do. Finally, I decided that the only story I had to tell was how I just didn't get a story at all--and how I never did find myself a federal observer of my own.



BY MARY MOULTRIE

TV magazines are famous for their tid-bits of information about the stars in their natural habitat, the shows you see on TV, and the humorous things said or done.

One show that receives a lot of publicity on the humorous side is the Art Linkletter Houseparty, on daytime TV. Linkletter is well known for his interviews with the youngsters, and sometimes he is literally rocked back on his heels by some of the answers given by these little tykes.

On a recent Houseparty show, Linkletter asked his young guests these questions: "What are eggplants?" "What's a prune?" "What do plants live on?"

The following gems of misinformation were the answers given by the kids: "Eggplants are where baby chicks think they come from." "A prune is a plum that didn't take care of itself." "Plants live on the carbon dioxide we breathe out. If you want to kill weeds, don't breathe in their direction."

These are only a few of the many odd bits of information or misinformation



you'll hear on the Art Linkletter Houseparty show. Sounds amusing? Just watch and you'll be in for lots of fun and laughs.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

GUNSMOKE -- A 12-year-old boy, whose father has been murdered on the trail, is saved from hunger and exposure by Doc Adams, who cures his physical ills but not his desire for revenge. 9 p.m. Channel 4 in Dothan, Channel 13 in Birmingham, Channel 19 in Huntsville, and Channel 20 in Montgomery.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

CHARLIE BROWN'S ALL-STARS -- Animated cartoon special featuring Charlie Brown pitching the "Peanuts" gang to their 999th loss in the game of baseball. 7:30 p.m. Channel 4 in Dothan, Channel 19 in Huntsville, and Channel 20 in Montgomery.

BOB HOPE PRESENTS--An alcoholic first mate and a young widow are shipwrecked on a deserted island following the first atomic tests. 8 p.m. Channel 10 in Mobile, Channel 12 in Montgomery, Channel 13 in Birmingham, and Channel 15 in Florence.

FRIDAY, JUNE 10

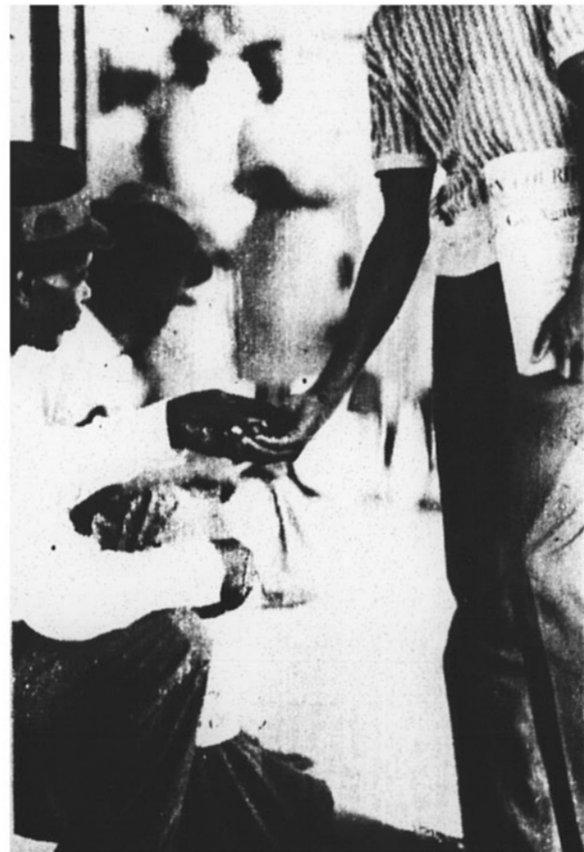
TAMMY--"Grandpa's Secret Love"--Two of Grandpa's friends think he has found a way to cure his loneliness--a pretty girl. 7 p.m. Channel 6 in Birmingham, Channel 8 in Selma, Channel 31 in Huntsville, and Channel 32 in Montgomery.

THE ADDAMS FAMILY--"Gomez, the Reluctant Lover"--Pugsley sends one of his dad's old love letters to a teacher who visits Gomez. 7:30 p.m. Channel 6 in Birmingham, Channel 8 in Selma, Channel 31 in Huntsville, and Channel 32 in Montgomery.



Selma Saturday Morning

Photographs by Jim Pepler



Public Education in Tuskegee

The Quiet Battle on South Main Street

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

TUSKEGEE--South Main Street curves away from downtown Tuskegee between rows of graceful old trees. It looks like Main Street in a thousand American towns. It doesn't look like a battle front.

But South Main Street in Tuskegee draws a line between two conflicting ways of life. On one side stand the red brick buildings of Tuskegee High School. Three years ago, Tuskegee High became Alabama's first desegregated public school.

On the other side of South Main Street stands the white frame structure of Macon Academy. Three years ago, Macon Academy became Alabama's first white private school founded to confound desegregation of the public schools.

The first year the spirit of Macon Academy prevailed. After a few days, the 12 Negro students who desegregated the public school were attending classes by themselves. After one semester, the school closed.

Across the street, Macon Academy grew bigger. But Tuskegee High School reopened in the fall of 1964 with about 20 Negro students and about 200 whites. In 1965-66, the school year that just ended, the public school enrolled 33 Negroes in seven grades and 250 whites in 12 grades.

Macon Academy last fall stopped publicizing the size of its enrollment. But public school officials guess that the white frame building (and another building a few blocks away which houses the elementary school) enrolled more than 320 white students.

The quiet battle of South Main Street appeared to be a draw. Both schools were winning students--but both were losing students they wanted to attract.

Possibly, things could have continued the way they were. A small increase in the number of Negro students at Tuskegee High next year might have meant another year of uneasy coexistence without any real change in the situation.

But the federal courts, which have had the Macon County school system in their care since 1963, ruled otherwise. In a plan that basically follows the U. S. Office of Education guidelines, the courts opened all grades to "freedom of choice."

In several school systems across the South, "freedom of choice" means "token desegregation." But Macon County is different. Tuskegee Institute is home for a lot of families who will not settle for less than whatever they feel are their rights.

In April, 256 Negro children selected Tuskegee High School as their first choice school for the 1966-67 school year. Only 180 white children said they wanted to attend Tuskegee High.

Under the freedom of choice plan, first choice goes to the students who live closest to a school. Once the school is filled with those who live near it, students from farther away must make another choice.

Space is no problem at Tuskegee High. With only 280 students, its classrooms have been half-empty. But some white parents who sent their children to the bi-racial school this year say that enough room is too much room--if it means that Negro children will outnumber whites.

"We've lost eight white students already because their families moved away," said Joe C. Wilson, superintendent of the Macon County schools. "Others have said they won't send their children under these conditions."

"Only about seven or eight white families have

really chosen to support the public school," said a white parent who didn't want his name used. "The others are the real poverty-stricken people. They can't afford to pay Macon Academy's monthly tuition."

"I'd rather go to school with intelligent Negroes than with white trash," said Jimmy Cohn, who will be a senior next year and was student council president in 1964-65. "But most white people would go to segregated schools if they could. These poor people who are so pro George Wallace--in their hearts, they're really against Negroes."

Would he continue at Tuskegee High if there were more Negroes than whites? Cohn thought it over. "But there won't be," he said. "I reckon it'll be a 100 or so Negroes, and close to 200 whites."

Cohn isn't the only person in Tuskegee who wants to believe that the Negro students will change their minds. A week after all the transfer applications had been turned in, John L. Meacham, Tuskegee High's principal, said he expected 100 Negroes and 250 whites next year.

Since then, Meacham has resigned. Next fall he

debate on school desegregation. (The pro-segregationists won: "They argued better," Meacham explains.)

But Jackson, the only teacher who solidly backed Meacham's frank approach to race relations, is returning to Georgia with the principal.

The school board may be able to find another principal who will encourage casual friendliness between the races. But Wilson admits it will be difficult. He looks not to the school board, not to the principal, not to the teachers, and not to the white community for a solution to the problem of keeping Tuskegee High School open and desegregated.

"I think that the time has come when the Negro people have to demonstrate their desire to have an integrated school," he said.

"We will have an integrated school or another segregated school come September. If the Negroes show maturity and responsible leadership, we will have a good school year. If immaturity and emotion prevail, if the Negroes come in the numbers that have requested to come, we will have segregation again."

Wilson agreed that the Negro students have a moral and legal right to attend Tuskegee High School. "But we need a little more time for people to get more adjusted," he said.

"We suggested to the courts that we enroll 105 Negroes along with the 180 whites. That would have meant a greater percentage than any other school in Alabama. It would be fair. There's not that much difference in the instructional programs here and at other schools in the county."

Some of Tuskegee High's Negro students agreed with him. Several who attended Tuskegee Institute High, the city's Negro high school, last year said there was no difference--or that Tuskegee Institute High was harder.

But no Negro student said he was sorry he switched schools. None of them planned to discourage friends from joining them next year.

That leaves a lot of unanswered questions about the future of public education in Macon County. One of them--a question that Wilson didn't discuss--was raised several months ago by Paul L. Puryear, a Tuskegee Institute professor.

Twelve years have gone by since the U. S. Supreme Court told the South that separate schools are not equal, Puryear pointed out. Some people, he said, will never accept social change until after it has occurred. Where predictions and promises are useless, only the reality of change convinces.

"Suppose the public school system is all-Negro for a few years?" Puryear asked. He replied to his own question. "It won't stay that way. In the long run, there isn't enough private money to support a school system in direct competition with a publicly-funded school system."

But the long run is a long time away. In the short run, Macon County's school children and their parents face two alternatives.

The whites can abandon Tuskegee High (and later other schools), enforcing segregation by fact instead of by law. Or, desegregation can continue at whatever pace the white community allows, pushing the real decision--on full integration of the schools--a few more years into the future.

Either way the choice goes now, Macon Academy will probably grow bigger. When token desegregation begins throughout southeast Alabama next fall, more white families will scrape up the cash or credit to send their youngsters to the private school. If Mrs. George C. Wallace wins the governorship, her husband probably will see to it that Macon Academy has enough money to function.

The quiet battle of South Main Street is really only beginning.



TUSKEGEE HIGH IS RED BRICK OUTSIDE, DESEGREGATED INSIDE



MACON ACADEMY IS ALL WHITE, INSIDE AND OUT



"SOME PEOPLE YOU DON'T LIKE, SOME YOU DO"

Students at Tuskegee High Say, 'Things Worked Out This Year'

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

TUSKEGEE--"It's dull," said William P. Smith, glancing critically around the big lunchroom at Tuskegee High School. He picked up a pencil and tapped it lightly on the tabletop.

"This school is really no different from any other," he said. "The education is the same. The white students are becoming more and more friendly."

"But it's dull. There are less activities. You have to be ready to give up some of your social contacts." He paused and thought over what he had said.

"I'm glad I came," he added. "My parents didn't force me. It was totally my idea."

Smith will be a senior at Tuskegee High School next year. During his junior year, he was one of 33 Negro students who attended classes with about 250 white students.

Although it was the second year of desegregated classes at Tuskegee High, Smith said it was the first year that whites and Negroes were able to relax enough to get along. "Not much of anything worked out last year," he said.

This year, prodded by John L. Meacham, the school's outspoken and open-minded principal, white and Negro students cautiously began to do things together. Basketball and baseball teams were desegregated.

"It was fun," said Smith, a basketball player. (Three weeks ago, however, someone who didn't think it was fun burned down the grandstand where people sat to watch the desegregated baseball team play.)

Although there were no dances and very few parties, the students did hold

junior-senior banquet in honor of the 11 graduating seniors.

"It was real nice," Smith said, "but I was disappointed in the seating arrangement. Most of the white people were at one table and the Negroes at another."

None of the Negro students wanted to discuss the difficulties they faced in dealing with openly hostile white students.

"You find some people you don't like, some you do--just like anybody else," insisted Miss Angie Ricks, a ninth grader. Smith, who ran for student council vice president at the end of the year, similarly stressed the positive in his campaign speech to the student body.

"You are a select group," he told the students. "You have shown you are governed by reason, not by emotion. What matters to you is what a man thinks."

But if that was true about many of the students, it wasn't true about all of them. Four white girls around a lunchroom table one day spoke their minds about school desegregation.

"I hate it," said Miss Johnnie Kelly, an eighth-grader. "The colored people have enough already--fancy cars and houses--why do they need our stuff?"

Miss Margie Chadwick, a graduating senior, returned from private, all-white Macon Academy to spend her last year at Tuskegee High School. "This is where I went all my life--until these little things came over here. Now we can't have a prom--or a private party for graduation."

But one of the girls disagreed. "You shouldn't dislike Negroes," she told the others. "That's not right. Their skin's another color, but they're not dif-

ferent. Some are bad, some are good."

The other girls jeered or ignored her. But the dissenter--who asked that her name not be used because "my parents told me to stay out of trouble"--stood her ground until the bell rang to end the lunch period.

Dean Hornsby went to Macon Academy last year. This year he came to Tuskegee High. He had the title role--Huckleberry Finn--in the junior class play, was elected student council vice president, and at the end of the year ran unopposed for student council president.

"There's more freedom and more sports here," Hornsby said in explanation of his return from Macon Academy. Asked about school desegregation, he shrugged.

"I don't like it too much," he said, "but it's the way it is. If you've got to, you've got to."

Next year's student council vice president will be Steve Segrest, who defeated Smith in a run-off. He also took a part in the junior class play, which the class wrote themselves, using excerpts from the book "Huckleberry Finn."

"I think it was one of the best plays we could have given," said Segrest. "It pertains to right now. People would get something about race relations if they read the book."

Segrest, a Tuskegee lawyer's son, said he wanted to attend Tuskegee High School. "I could have gone to Union Springs where I could play football," he said. Because Tuskegee had no football team this year, he settled for basketball. Why?

"Well," he said, "I decided I had an obligation to this school."



STUDENT WILLIAM P. SMITH: HE'S STAYING



PRINCIPAL JOHN L. MEACHAM: HE'S LEAVING



SEGREGATION DIES HARD: IN THIS CLASS NEGROES SIT ON THE LEFT, WHITES ON THE RIGHT

Two Election Views In Perry County Town

NEGROES, WHITES CHAT

BY DAPHNA SIMPSON

MARION -- Tuesday was another election day--similar to May 3, but in some ways more important.

It was a day of final decision for Alabamians in the Democratic primary, and in Black Belt counties the issue seemed to be "Whom shall we elect, Negro or white?"

AMERSON WINS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

them. The Rev. K. L. Buford, a city councilman, spoke out for Sadler the day before the election. The Macon County Democratic Club, headed by C. G. Gomillion, withdrew its original endorsement of Amerson.

But the club didn't endorse Sadler either, and many precinct leaders told the voters in their areas to turn out for Amerson.

They did. The run-off attracted about 300 more voters than did the primary.

In nominating Amerson, the voters chose a 32-year-old native of Greene County who never had anything much to do with politics until he entered the race for sheriff.

Amerson spent eight years in the Army and later worked at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Tuskegee. He had been working at the post office in Montgomery for about two years before he quit his job to run for office.

"It was a hard battle," he admitted. Someone asked how he felt about the possibility of having to fight the battle over again in November against a Republican candidate.

"I won once," said Amerson. "I could win again." For the first time, he smiled a winner's smile.

Think and Grin

BY ARLAM CARR JR.

1. Can you make sense out of the following?
Stand take to world
I you throw the
2. Down on our farm we had a hen that laid an egg six inches long.
Can you beat that?
3. Can you make sense out of the following?
YY U R Y Y U B
I C U R Y Y 4 ME.
4. An old woman in a red cloak was crossing a field in which there was a goat. What strange transformation suddenly took place?
5. What is it that when once lost, you can never find again?
6. What is it that stays hot in a re-

The day itself was cool and sunny--the first day of "Blackberry Winter." People stood in groups around the courthouse, Negroes on one side and whites on the other. Across the street at the Rev. Liona Langford's church people gathered to await the election returns after the polls closed.

It was very different from the first primary election in the attitudes of the people. There was an air of patient waiting, and there was little of the excitement that marked May 3. Everyone was calm, except perhaps the nervous candidates.

Albert Turner, Negro candidate for a seat in the House of Representatives, had planned to sleep all day, but instead he rode around in a car, frowning. He was waiting like everybody else. Patt Davis, running for sheriff of Perry County, appeared after the courthouse clock chimed five, looking rested and in high spirits. He, too, was waiting.

In a small grocery store across the street from the courthouse, a white man and woman were talking about the voting.

"Well," the woman drawled, "that's the first time I ever voted with carpetbaggers breathing down my neck. It's just like Reconstruction days."

The man answered, "Yes, just a bunch of carpetbaggers. It won't do them no no good, though. Wait till they see the count."

The waiting was over about 10:30 Tuesday night. All the Negro candidates of Perry County had lost in the run-off.

Albert Turner gathered up his portfolio to leave the church as the waiting crowd began leaving.

"I don't know yet whether we'll file suit or not," he said, looking tired. "I guess we'll just have to wait to see."



MRS. JOHNNIE MAE WARREN
Leaving for Washington D.C.

WHITE HOUSE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

Dr. John Nixon, state NAACP president, Birmingham; W. C. Patton, Southern voter registration, NAACP, Birmingham; and Austill Pharr, president, First National Bank, Mobile.

Truman Pierce, Auburn University; Lucius Pitts, president of Miles College, Birmingham; and Paul Puryear, Tuskegee Institute professor.

The Rev. F. D. Reese, Dallas County Voters League, Selma; the Rev. T. Y. Rogers, Confederation of Alabama's Political Organizations, Tuscaloosa; Mrs. Aaron Sellers, Midway; Stanley Smith, Tuskegee city councilman; M. B. Spragins, chairman, Federal National Bank of Huntsville; and L. W. Stallworth Jr., president of Lincoln's Industrial Insurance, Birmingham.

Howard Strelvel, director, District 36, United Steel Workers of America, Birmingham; Right Rev. Monsignor J. Edwin Stuardi, superintendent of parochial schools, Mobile; William Thomas, Bessemer; Most Rev. Thomas J. Toole, Roman Catholic Bishop of Mobile - Birmingham; Albert Turner, SCLC, Marion; Robert Valder, acting director, Alabama Council on Human Relations, Huntsville; Mrs. Johnnie Mae Warren, Pike County Voters League, Troy; John A. Welch, Tuskegee Institute; and Lonzo West, Selma.

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Half of Districts Comply

SIGN SCHOOL GUIDELINE FORMS

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN

Almost every day during the month of May, another Alabama school district decided to comply with the federal guidelines for school desegregation.

On May 6, the deadline for filing signed compliance forms with the U.S. Office of Education in Washington, 29 school districts--25 percent of the total--had said they would follow the guidelines in 1966-67.

By last Tuesday, the number of districts complying had risen to 59--half of the state's 118 school systems--according to a spokesman for the Office of Education.

The spokesman pointed out that only

94 Alabama school boards are required to submit signed compliance forms. Most of the others are under court-ordered desegregation plans, he said.

Governor George C. Wallace, State School Superintendent Austin R. Meadows, and other state and congressional leaders have asked the local school districts not to comply with the new federal guidelines. Wallace has called a meeting of school board members and superintendents next Monday in the state Capitol, to discuss "the illegal guidelines on education."

Wallace and the others have also asked complying school districts to

change their minds and take back their compliance forms. The Office of Education spokesman said that so far, one school district had asked to withdraw its compliance.

The spokesman said his office had also received a letter from State Superintendent Meadows, asking to withdraw the compliance form submitted by another local school district. However, said the spokesman, when the Office of Education contacted the superintendent of that district, he said he did not want to withdraw.

Meadows was notified that he could not change the decision of a local superintendent, the spokesman said. In Alabama, each school district makes its own decision on signing compliance forms.

The most important requirements of the new guidelines are:

1. Facilities, as well as student bodies, must be desegregated.
2. Small and inadequate all-Negro schools must be shut down immediately.
3. Districts with freedom-of-choice plans must have a certain percentage of their Negro children in integrated schools. "Token" integration will no longer be approved.
4. School boards are responsible for protecting parents and students who take advantage of desegregation plans.

SCLC MOVES ITS STAFF

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

may have more trouble than we think in the Black Belt of Georgia. They are going to be scared after what happened in Alabama."

"Uncle Toms in Georgia are richer, more educated--and more entrenched," he added.

The largest single staff to be left behind in Alabama will be in Selma under the direction of field worker Stoney Cook. Williams, SCLC voter registration and political education aide, described Selma as the "most divided city in the country" and said that SCLC's job was to "reunite the community."

SCLC would stay on in Birmingham, Williams said. But he planned to have only two regular workers in Jefferson County because "it is a county where you can get the soldiers--the troops are already there."

Williams said the main job for workers left behind in Alabama would be to work on federal projects like rural housing, the cotton allotment program, and the anti-poverty program.

They would also be on hand to help people who suffered "economic reprisals" like evictions.

The aim of SCLC's move to Georgia is to get more Negroes registered to vote in the upcoming election there. He mentioned massive non-violent street demonstrations as a weapon SCLC might use.

Gilmore said that the main reasons that Negroes lost elections in Greene County were "mainly smartness and corrupt Southern politics."

The SCLC field worker praised the newly registered Negro voters in many Black Belt counties in Alabama.

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COMMENCEMENT AT TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE MONDAY

Special Commencement For Several Students

The big news in the state this past week wasn't really news at all: School is out.

Thousands of high school seniors were graduated last week and this week with baccalaureate and commencement services.

And several Negro students became the first of their race to be graduated from previously all-white schools in Alabama.

At Wetumpka High School, Miss Janice Grayson received her diploma as her parents looked on. Also in the audience last Friday night were an aunt from Cleveland; Miss Winifred Falls, who has worked on school desegregation for the American Friends Service in Atlanta; and a staff member from the U. S. Office of Education who received his ticket from the school principal.

A lady in Prattville whose daughter attends the desegregated Autauga County High School said that when she and her friends went to graduation ceremonies there, "they stared and they gave us real wild looks. But it was real nice."

Miss Flora Yelder and Miss Katie Mae Morris, both Negroes, received diplomas there Sunday night. Two other Negroes in the senior class have to make up work before they receive theirs.

Two Negro students were at the top of the 11-member graduating class at Tuskegee High School.

Seven Negro students were among the 504 graduates at Tuscaloosa High

School.

Miss Sandra Taylor, Miss Emma Jean Carter, and Miss Annie Joyce Riggins were graduated from the once-segregated Robert E. Lee High School in Montgomery. Miss Riggins' younger brother received his diploma from Lee last year.

In the small Black Belt town of Butler, Don Moss received his diploma at the previously all-white Choctaw County High School. His family and friends looked on as Willie M. Wimberley, superintendent of education, presented the diplomas.

Moss and all 11 other Negro students went to Wimberley last January seeking admission to the high school. They were told to return Feb. 28, when they were admitted.

After graduation, Moss looked at his certificate and explained why he transferred to the white school from the Negro Choctaw County Training School. "It sure looks better without that TRAINING on the diploma, when you want a job or want to get into college."

Richmond Flowers 'Unwinds,' Says He Will Run Again for Governor

BY ROBERT E. SMITH

MONTGOMERY--Richmond Flowers pushed around some papers on his desk and all of a sudden decided he needed a padlock on his office door. "About this size," the big, red-haired attorney general said as he showed with his hands the size of a catcher's mitt.

He was trying to find a hate letter he had received the other day and was complaining that someone always comes in to clean off his desk while he is away.

Flowers found the letter, in the rough scrawl of a Ku Klux Klansman from Selma, and displayed it with great delight. He read from it again and again, "The Klan has rode again," and laughed.

Flowers was finishing up some work in his office before taking a few days' vacation in Miami this week. From there, he said, he would go to West Virginia and Illinois to make speeches.

"I've just been unwinding," he said as he talked about the four weeks since the May 3 Democratic primary when he ran second, far behind Mrs. George C. Wallace, in the race for governor.

Had he learned anything in the campaign, in which he went for the Negro vote?

"It was interesting, very interesting," Flowers said. "Those slum walks shocked me. It jolted me to see our people living like that with the federal government spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on a poverty program."

"And I'll tell you something else, I started out running for governor as a man of law. But, you know, there are moral issues involved in the matter of integration.

"There is discrimination, and we've got to stop it."

His eyes stared straight ahead. "We have got to stop it."

He said he received about as many Negro votes as expected. Then his face brightened, and he added, "I got a lot more white votes than people expected. And that's encouraging."

Answers

ANSWERS TO RIDDLES ON PAGE FIVE

1. I understand you undertake to overthrow the underworld.
2. Yes, with an egg beater.
3. Too wise you are, too wise you be, I see you are too wise for me.
4. The goat turned to butter (butther) and the old woman became a scarlet runner.
5. Time.
6. Mustard.
7. A ditch.
8. A quartet.
9. Silence.
10. Growing older.



RICHMOND FLOWERS

VICTORY OVER
NEGROES + LIBERAL
NEGROES
THE
KLAN HAS
RODE AGAIN

RICHMOND FLOWERS' FAN LETTER FROM SELMA VOTER

"There is a white liberal vote in this state. That's what's going to do it when it's done--a coalition of white liberals and Negroes."

During the campaign, critics and even supporters asked why Flowers hadn't appointed any Negroes to the attorney general's staff if he believed so much in Negro rights.

"Couldn't do it," he said this week. "I would like to appoint a Negro attorney to this office, but no Negro attorney would take the job. There aren't enough Negro attorneys in private practice now. And besides, the jobs here are on the merit system."

That means, he said, that he cannot replace the employees in his office and that Negroes would never get through the merit system.

"That's what I would do when I was governor; I would open up that merit system to Negroes."

Flowers' plans for the future? "I'm going to run for governor. I got more votes than any other second-place finisher has ever gotten in a primary without a run-off. I see no point in ducking that, in throwing that away. A lot of people had a lot of hope."

Richmond Flowers went on to talk about what was bothering him. He said he didn't worry too much about people his age, but he did worry about "the young people in our schools who are being taught in this old system." And he grumbled for a while about a minister in his home town of Dothan who preached against legal liquor but "hasn't once preached on the brotherhood of man. Not once."

The attorney general then got back to his work, with a last reminder that he would be back in four years to run for governor. Then it was off to Florida for a little sunshine with his family.



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- Sandy Spring, Maryland
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- Chapel Hill, North Carolina
- Falls Church, Virginia
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- Yellow Springs, Ohio
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- Hiwasse, Arkansas
- Rock Run, Alabama
- Pansey, Alabama
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