How Two Girls Saw School Integration

'Everyone Expected King At Her Graduation'

BIRMINGHAM -- Suzy is an average sort of girl. She lives in a small, neat house on Birmingham's north side. She graduated from Phillips High School last spring. She plans to be a nurse.

But there is something just a little bit different about Suzy. At least, she thinks she is a little different. She felt sorry for the Negroes who integrated Phillips in the last two years. She still feels guilty about the way she and her white class-

Suzy was afraid to be friendly. She is afraid to say anything friendly even now. She asked that her real name not be used in this article. But this is how it was

Someone told me there were nine Ne-Her name was Lillie Mae. Everyone expected Martin Luther King to come to her? You didn't have to tell her anyto her graduation, since she was the thing." first one. I think just her mother came.

I talked to her just once. She'd been absent a lot, and she asked me where could she get her graduation card-the little card that says where you graduated from. I'd picked mine up late myself. When she asked me, I looked around and there wasn't anybody in the room, so I told her where I had gotten mine.

When she came back, there was still no one there, so I asked her if she had gotten it. She said she had. I said, "It's a wonder they gave them to us this late." She said, "Yeah,"

That was the only time I ever talked groes at Phillips, but I never counted to her. The whole time, I kept looking them. I only knew the one in my class. at the door. If someone had seen me, they would have said, "Why'd you talk

> If she said everybody at Phillips was a big s.o.b., I'd understand why. She's going to go through life thinking she didn't have a single friend there. She's wrong, but she'll never know it.

I thought about writing her a note, but they'd know who did it. Every once in a while, I'd say something to sort of make here in 1957, the Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesthem wonder.

One time people on the newspaper were making up jokes. They'd take a them. book title and put somebody's name next to it like he wrote it. There was a boy from North Dakota, so they put his name with "Yankee Go Home." Someone (CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE, Col. 3) a mob of chain-swinging whites.

It might seem that the two girls here aren't talking about the same situation, because their views of some of the facts are so different. But these are two views of integration as seen by members of the same class, in the same school, during the same period of time. Only the girls are different -- one is Negro, the other white.



BIRMINGHAM -- When school opened worth took his two teen-aged sons over to Phillips High School to try to enroll

That was the first school integration attempt this city had seen in recent times, and it didn't get very far. Shuttlesworth was beaten to the ground by

It wasn't until six years later that the first Negroes actually enrolled in any previously all-white schools here. In 1964, the first three Negroes entered Phillips.

About 60 Negroes were in school with whites here last year. The board of education said last week that another 288 transfers to integrated schools had been approved for this fall.

'They Had to Stick With Friends--We Were New'

BY STEPHEN E. COTTON

BIRMINGHAM -- Miss Lillie Mae Jones is an average sort of girl. She lives in a rickety frame house on the north side of town. She is 19 years old, quiet, and shy. She graduated from high school last May. She plans to marry in December.

But the high school she graduated from was Phillips. That makes her just a little bit different. Until she and two other Negro girls enrolled there two years ago. Phillips was an all-white school.

The two other girls graduated a year ahead of her. Younger Negro students have since transferred to Phillips. Last week, Miss Jones told what it was like

York. There were three of us in the school. There might have been more. but that's all I remember. And even class. though things are more integrated up there, they would shy away from us,

I don't know why I decided to go to Phillips. A minister came around and first, I said I wanted to stick with my friends. But then I said, "What the heck? I'll still see them every day." So I decided to go ahead on.

I felt it wouldn't be anything new to In a way, I felt like I might get better courses there, and I think I did.

I didn't do too well--not well at all. Those kids joke and carry on, but they really get down to their lessons. Like

It wasn't any big deal for me. When at Hayes -- I went there before I went to I was in elementary school, I was in New Phillips -- if we had homework, I'd probably be able to do it in a study period. We might just have homework in one

> But we had homework every day in every class at Phillips. I worked at least an hour and a half every night -sometimes longer than that.

It seems to me they graded harder. asked whether I wanted to transfer. At too. The grade was just what you did on the tests. At Hayes if you spoke up in class, that helped your grade.

I flunked physics. I just couldn't get it. The teacher helped me with it, but then he told me I didn't need it anyway, me, and I'd understand the kids there. so I dropped it and took a home-making course.

The teachers were real nice. And most of the kids were nice and friendly. Whenever I thought I knew the answer, (CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE, Col. 1)

THE SOUTHE

WILL MOORER ON HIS LAND; ASCS STAKE AT FRONT LEFT

Negro Farmers Bury Their Cotton

In Sardis, W.B. Clarke said he has

plowed under about three acres of cotton

three or four times in the past ten

years. His brother, March Clarke Jr.,

had to plow under more than an acre this

mittee in Selma, Miss Shirley Mesher,

said she is investigating several of

these cases. She said she thought these

mistakes victimized too many Negro

FARMERS FILE SUIT

tenant farmers are suing the U.S. De-

partment of Agriculture to get it to stop

making crop susidy payments under the

present system. The farmers say the

payments are no longer doing what they

The payments are made to all farm-

ers who voluntarily cut down on the

number of acres of cotton they plant.

passed, the farmers' suit says, a ten-

ant farmer could get part of his pay-

ment at the time of planting, so he could

finance his crop. With this money, a

tenant farmer wouldn't have to buy sup-

plies on credit at the plantation store.

Department of Agriculture regulation,

his subsidy check over to the plantation

plantation as one of the places where

tenant farmers have had to turn their

checks over to the plantation owner.

OOPS

YORK--"Yes, I love the Negro,"

said the Rev. W. H. Spears, Grand

Dragon of the Alabama Ku Klux Klan,

at a rally here last Friday. Anaged

Klansman looked up at Spears from

underneath his drooping white hood.

The 40 or 50 men, women, and chil-

"But I love him in his place," the

dren stirred a little.

Grand Dragon added.

owner as security for the rent.

But now, the suit says, under a U.S.

tenant farmer can be forced to turn

The suit mentions the J.A. Minter

When the crop-subsidy law was

WASHINGTON--Six Dallas County

farmers too often.

were intended to do.

TYLER--Will Moorer has been harvesting since Aug. 24, and it looks like a bad year. He expects his crops of cotton and corn to be about half as big as they've been the past few years.

But things could have been a little bit better, he says, if a man from the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) hadn't told him to plow under more than an acre of his cot-

Moorer said there were two reasons for this year's poor harvest. First, he said, J.A. Minter--who rents Moorer his farm land--wouldn't rent it to him until April, so he had to plant his crops a month late. Second, he said, a drought in late June killed many of the young

But, he said, the reason he had to plow under an acre of his cotton isn't so

In mid-April, Moorer said, a man told him that ASCS had given him a cotton allotment of about 14 acres. "He measured it off," said Moorer, "and told me where to put the stick,"

About five or six weeks later, Moorer said, the man "came back and measured again," This time, he said, the man told him that he had planted too much and would have to plow up more than an

The man said he had made a mistake measuring the first time. "It weren't no mistake on my part," said Moorer. "I planted right down to where he said."

Sam O'Hara, head of the Dallas County ASCS, said that if the measuring man makes a mistake, the farmer doesn't have to plow up the extra cotton. "If he has planted exactly within the stakes," O'Hara said, "then we stand by it,"

But all over the Black Belt, Negro farmers have been plowing under some of their cotton for several years. This year is the second time for Will Homer. In 1964, he said, he had to plow under a quarter of an acre.

In Pleasant Hill, William Towns and other farmers in his community each had to bury 2 1/2 acres of their cotton.

Everybody's Talking About Schools

Greene County High Desegregates

BY JOHN SHORT

EUTAW -- "How fast does light travel?" asked a Greene County High School teacher. It was Percy Johnson's turn to answer. "One hundred eighty-six thousand miles per second," he said, and got it right.

It was just a normal school day -- except that Percy Johnson was a Negro student in a formerly all-white school. He and seven other Negrostudents attended the first day of classes last week at the high school, as classroom desegregation came to Greene County.

Last year, attempts to integrate the high school were blocked. Marchers left after they were met on one side by members of the Ku Klux Klan, and on the other by Sheriff Bill Lee and the police. The only Negro admitted was given her own private classroom until she dropped out.

This year it was the county Board of or anything like that." A member of the Farmer's Aid Com-Education that decided to desegregate

the schools. In the spring, the board sent out a notice announcing the desegregation of the first grade and grades seven through 12. "Any student who will be entering one of these grades next year may choose to attend any school in the Greene County Public School System, regardless of the school's former racial designation," the notice said.

So on Monday, 80 Negroes showed up to register at Greene County High. Principal J. J. Schwerdt said the school had only enough room for two Negro students in each of six classes. Admission, he told the students, would be decided by how good their last year's grades were and how near they lived to the school. On Tuesday, eight Negro students who

had been accepted went to classes. Some others had been accepted, too, but they didn't make it to their first day. For the eight, the half day of school was spent filling out forms, planning

schedules, and getting textbooks. How did it feel? "We were just like one of them," said Percy Johnson, who is in the ninth grade with his twin brother Jesse. "They didn't call us names

(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO, Col. 3)



PERCY AND JESSE JOHNSON

Willing to Go Down Swinging'



BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN MONTGOMERY -- The anti - school - guidelines bill inched slowly but surely toward passage this week in the state Legislature. The Senate approved a newer and tougher version of Governor George C. Wallace's bill Wednesday, with the slightly surprising total of seven senators voting "No."

The Senate's version of the bill-which the House was expected to adopt --would make it impossible for local school boards to sign guideline compli-

ance agreements, now or in the future. The House passed a bill last week that

Tuscaloosa City, County Boards Stand To Lose \$900,000 in Aid

BY JOHN SHORT

TUSCALOOSA -- The Tuscaloosa city and county school boards were looking forward to the start of school this fall. They had more than \$900,000 of federal money to spend -- and they had the projects to spend it on. But last week they decided to wait and see how Governor George C. Wallace's anti-guidelines bill turns out.

The county board of education postponed the opening of its schools a week

-until Tuesday. Superintendent W.W. Eliot said the board wanted to see if Wallace's bill will make it illegal to comply with the federal government's desegregation guidelines.

"We are in compliance with the federal regulations," said Eliot, "and we hope our funds are not withheld." The U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare could take away more than \$500,000 from the county schools if the (CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO, Col. 4)

would have thrown out all current compliance agreements, but allowed school boards to "re-comply" if they wanted

Senator Bill McCain of Tuscaloosa County -- which could lose up to \$900,-000 under the Wallace bill--spoke out Tuesday against this feature of the bill. Under the Senate bill, said McCain, school boards can't comply with the 1966 desegregation guidelines even if they want to:

"You're not giving them but one thing to do--turn over their negotiating rights (with the federal government) to the governor's commission. . . . I don't think it's a good bill,"

But Senator Bob Wilson of Walker County said he was "willing to go down swinging" in the fight against the guidelines. The purpose of the desegregation guidelines, said Wilson, is "making people kneel down, making 'em crawl, making 'em submit to the wishes of the federal bureaucracy. . . .

"No system has ever been socialized or communized without sacrificing efficiency and excellency,"

The substitute bill was written by Senator Larry Dumas of Jefferson County, and strongly supported by Bob Gilchrist of Morgan County. Both senators -- particularly Gilchrist -- have opposed Wallace in the past, but Gilchrist explained:

"I've probably had more fights with Governor Wallace than any of the others. . . . When I think he's wrong, I'll oppose him. When I think he's right, I'll support him."

When the bill was finally passed, those voting against it included McCain. Neil Metcalf of Geneva County, L.D. (CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO, Col. 4)

Teachers Rehired, Marches End In Helicon School Agreement

BY ELLEN LAKE HELICON--Mrs. Versie G. Merriweather arrived at the Crenshaw County Courthouse one morning last week, expecting a fight. She had come to a hearing to explain why she should be given back her teaching job at the Helicon School.

The hearing never took place. But before the morning of Aug. 25 was over. Mrs. Merriweather had been rehired. So had four of the other five teachers

fired last spring after a six-month boycott by Helicon students. And B. Y. Farris, Helicon's unpopular principal, had been replaced by Murray Foster, a teacher at the school.

In addition, Crenshaw County Negro leaders were told that at least some of the 134 students who had applied to transfer to the white Highland Home School would be accepted. In return, they promised not to resume the dem-(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO, Col. 5)

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Editorial Opinion

How's That Again?

September 3-4, 1966

Last week, a federal anti-poverty official in Atlanta, Ga., seemed to say that funds were withheld from 21 all-Negro Head Start programs because of discrimination against white people.

The official was Robert W. Saunders, regional civil rights coordinator for the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO). An Atlanta newspaper quoted him as saying the 21 proposed summer Head Start programs had refused to recruit white students and teachers. Civil rights, he is supposed to have said, "is for the white man as well as the Negro." Much was made of the fact that Saunders--who was responsible for withholding the money--is a Negro and former NAAC P of-

This story, naturally, was picked up by other newspapers all over the South. A Montgomery paper ran you \$10 and costs." the story under the headline, "Head Start Funds Denied for Reverse Discrimination."

Some people thought the story sounded fishy. If it is true that Saunders found 21 cases of Negroes discriminating against whites, and none of whites discriminating against Negroes, then either things have changed around here in a heck of a hurry, or Saunders doesn't see too well. It also seemed that Saunders was falling into the old OEO habit of finding "reverse discrimination' in Negro programs that simply couldn't beg, borrow, or kidnap white participants.

Of course, no one can be sure that Saunders said what the papers said he said. He has been extremely hard to reach since the story appeared. That's the way the game is played in high government circles. Whenever an official puts his foot in his mouth, he goes off to the mountains to have it removed while other officials try to explain what he really meant.

So an OEO statement from Washington, issued by Samuel F. Yette, special assistant for civil rights, said that "in no instance did Negroes oppose white participation in the program." This is at least as improbable as the first story. "The opposition," continued the statement, "came from school and other local officials who failed to meet civil rights criteria."

So which is it? Do only Negroes discriminate, or don't any Negroes discriminate? And did Saunders say what they said he said, or not? And if not, why doesn't he say that he didn't say what they said he said?

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I have several questions I have been wanting you to answer for quite some time now....

Southern Courier's "staff"?

tra two pages?

3. Are the over-sized advertisement

4. Why won't you keep a permanent sports article instead of an occasional

study it than watch television.

North are being replaced by people from Alabama -- this has always been the paper's goal. Besides, since the average salary for a staff member is about \$30 a week, many people have had to leave for better-paying jobs.

(2. The paper has eight pages whenever people buy enough advertising space to pay for the additional cost involved. Hopefully, this will happen more often in the future.

(3. The size of the ads is determined by the advertisers who pay for them. The photo page is intended partly as a showcase for Peppler's photography. Every week, the Courier staff works on more stories than there is room for in the paper.

(4. We'd like to.--THE EDITOR)

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

Man Convicted of Assault, Battery After Being Shot by State Trooper

BY WAYNE HURDER

SELMA--State trooper W. E. Stewart stood in the door of the courtroom with a cigarette in his mouth, looking as if nothing in the world was happening.

Inside the Dallas County courtroom, the man Stewart was accused of trying to kill -- Jeffrey Henderson -- was being tried for resisting arrest and assault and battery.

If Henderson were found guilty of the two charges, that would probably give Stewart a legal excuse to use in his own

The trooper, seemingly relaxed, listened as Judge Hugh Mallory announced

"Jeffrey Henderson, I find you guilty of assault and battery, and fine you \$500 and costs and sentence you to six months hard labor for Dallas County.

"For resisting arrest, I fine you \$100 and costs and sentence you to six months

A white man--who had just been fined \$5 for making an improper turn--listened as Judge Mallory told Henderson, "For making an improper turn, I fine

After the trial Aug. 25, Negroes began planning a march from Brown's Chapel to the county courthouse. It was scheduled for last Monday, but then was called off.

In court, Henderson said he was shot when he tried to ward off a blow from Stewart's flashlight.

GREENE COUNTY HIGH

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

It was much the same for Miss Patricia Ann Branch in the 11th grade. "I had a very nice home-room teacher."

Greene County apparently decided to accept desegregation before a court ordered it. A Birmingham federal judge was about to reach a decision on a desegregation suit filed by the Rev. William Branch of Forkland. The judge was waiting to see the outcome of a similar case in New Orleans, La.

Negro Cashiers In Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM -- Bruno's Food Stores, a local retail grocery chain, has hired two Negro cashiers at its store on Sixth Avenue South.

The women began work Saturday, two months after a meeting between the Rev. Edward Gardner of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights and James Baldone, personnel manager for

The meeting took place last June, after 17-year-old Larry Coleman was dismissed from a Bruno's store.

Gardner said he told Baldone that Bruno's stores were "way overdue" in hiring Negroes. The only reason the Christian Movement wasn't already picketing Bruno's, said Gardner, was that the leaders wanted to talk to the

personnel manager first. "I went to the Sixth Avenue store bebefore we met with Mr. Baldone." Gardner said, "and I watched the place for about 45 minutes. Just about all the customers were Negroes, and I saw one Negro man purchase \$45 worth of groceries. They had nine cash registers

going, and not a Negro on any of them," Now there are two Negroes on the cash registers, but Gardner said that two clerks would not be enough to satisfy the Christian Movement.

Baldone was out of town this week. and no one at Bruno's could say whether more Negroes would be hired. that he shot Henderson after Henderson he lifted up his arm to protect himswung at him and knocked him down. Henderson was shot July 23, after he and his girl-friend, Miss Dolores Smith, were stopped by the trooper on their way home from church.

the trooper's car, he said, he mumbled that he didn't see why he was getting a

Henderson testified that the trooper, hearing what he said, walked over and raised up his flashlight, as though he

"My throwing my hands up caught the lick," said Henderson, but the trooper "backed off and shot me."

Stewart testified that he told Hender-As Henderson was walking back to son to get into the patrol car, but Henderson didn't and said he wasn't going to. Then, the highway patrolman testi-

fied, Henderson suddenly started swinging. After Henderson knocked him down, Stewart said, he shot him.

When defense lawyer Bruce Boynton

The state trooper, however, testified were going to hit him. Henderson said asked Stewart if he had been taught to defend himself without using a gun, the trooper said yes. But, he added, he had been unable to stop Henderson by hitting him with a flashlight.

Boynton is appealing the decision. Boynton said he had been told that Stewart would also be tried Aug. 25, on the charge of assault with intent to kill. However, the judge sent the case to the grand jury without telling Boynton. It will now be the grand jury's duty to

decide whether there is enough evidence to put Stewart to trial.

Discussed at MFDP Convention

Black Power, Strike City

SUNFLOWER CITY, Miss, -- More than 125 people showed up in this small town last Sunday for the state-wide Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) Convention.

Among the things discussed in the Baptist Grove Church were "black power," CDGM, political education, Strike City, support for MFDP, reor-

Legislature



SEN. BOB GILCHRIST (LEFT)

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE) Bentley of Blount County, George Hawkins of Etowah County, Ed Horton of Limestone County, Roscoe Roberts of Madison County, and A.C. Shelton of

While the legislators were debating, federal court action was about to affect the school situation.

The Fifth Circuit U.S. Court of Apeals in New Orleans, La., ruled that Wilcox County must desegregate grades one to three and seven to nine by the time classes begin on Sept. 12.

And in Montgomery, the U.S. Justice Department asked a federal court to stop the state of Alabama from paying students' tuition at "racially segregated" private schools.

TUSCALOOSA

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE) bill doesn't let them comply.

To comply with the 1966 federal guidelines, the city and county schools had to have more than just token inte-

Last year, there were nine Negro students attending classes with whites in the county system; this year, there are supposed to be 99. In the city schools, the number of Negro students in integrated classes is to go from 67 last year to almost 300 this fall. The faculties of both systems are to be integrated.

If the anti-guidelines bill turns out

as most people expect, Tuscaloosa schools could lose a lot more than just fededal money. "We spent last year in planning, purchasing, and training," said City School Superintendent H. D. Nelson. "We have new reading centers, mathematics centers, new library equipment, and 44 new staff members. The fruits of our labor last year were about to be harvested,"

ganization of the freedom party, welfare, and voter registration.

Johnnie Matthews from Humphrey County asked for a definition of black power. Ray Robinson Jr., a civil rights worker from Washington, replied, "Negroes spend too much time trying to define black power. Black power means as much as white power does. Every black man should know what black power means. Black power does not mean for you to go and kill white folks."

Up in Chicago, Robinson said, black power means "Burn, baby, burn," If that's what it means in Chicago, that's black power, he said.

"Seems to me like it's a new thing to these folks," said W.G. Middleton from Panola County. "We talk about black power, but power is in the ballot. Get people together and discuss politics."

"In the examination of the civil rights movement there are slogans we can use. This is the one that frightens the hell out of the white folks," said the Rev. Clifton Whitley, a Negro candidate for the U.S. Senate.

Robinson, who has been traveling all go out and campaign for Whitley.

over the country to get money for the people in Strike City (near Greenville), said that since winter would be coming soon, he wanted to know what is going to be done to keep the people in the tents from freezing to death. He said there should be something organized to help these people.

Mrs. Annie Devine from Madison County said the people in Strike City and Tent City have their own organization. MFDP should try to deal with these folks' problems, said Mrs. Johnnie Mae Walker from Forrest County. A meeting was announced for this Saturday in Greenville, to determine what can be done to help the people in Strike City and Tent City.

Whitley was asked whether he himself thought he had a chance of winning the November election against Senator James O. Eastland and Congressman Prentiss Walker. "Eastland is not going to take any votes from me, with your help," Whitley said. "We have got to organize our people around people."

It was decided that the people would

Two Stories About Deal In Helicon School Dispute

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE) onstrations that accompanied last

year's boycott at Helicon School. This agreement emerged from -a small back room in the county courthouse. But there were differing versions about how the agreement was

"We were waiting in the courtroom. when Alton Turner (attorney for county Board of Education) called out Fred Gray (attorney for Mrs. Merriweather)," said James Kolb, chairman of the Crenshaw County Democratic

"Then Gray called out Mrs. Merriweather, Collins Harris, and me, and told us what Turner had proposed. He said that Mrs. Merriweather and other teachers would be rehired and some of the kids accepted at the all-white school, only if we agreed not to demonstrate around the schools."

But James H. Hollis Jr., a member of the board of education, had a different story. He said the board had already decided to rehire the teachers at a meeting held just before the hearing was scheduled.

"We are trying to have enough teachers so that if all the students come back to school, we'll have enough to teach them all," Hollis said. If not all the students return, he added, some of the rehired teachers will be fired again.

Hollis said that the only thing the Negro leaders got in exchange for their promise not to demonstrate was a list of the Negro students who had applied to go to Highland Home and the names of those who had been accepted. According to that list, received last Tuesday, nine of the 134 applicants will be allowed to transfer.

Nine cases of contempt of court stemming from the Helicon boycott and demonstrations were supposed to come to trial last Tuesday. But Mrs. Josephine Golden, register of the Crenshaw County Circuit Court, announced that the cases were being "indefinitely" delayed. She said a number of similar cases. scheduled for trial next week, will also be postponed indefinitely.



Montgomery

"I didn't have too much trouble," said Mrs. Josetta Maxine Brittain Matthews, "When I first entered the school, the only trouble was that when I entered the lunch room and sat down, some of the kids would get up and move." Mrs. Matthews was talking about her year at Auburn University. On Aug. 24, she became the first Negro to receive a degree from the 118-year-old school, when she was awarded a master's degree in education. Mrs. Matthews, a 23-year-old graduate of Indiana University, is the daughter of Joseph M. Brittain, a professor at Alabama State College in Montgomery.

SNCC workers Gloria Larry and Stuart House were married last Saturday at St. Andrews Episcopal Church. Afterwards, a reception was held at the Freedom House in Selma. The new Mrs. House is from Berkeley, California, and her husband is from Detroit, Michigan, They are planning to spend their honeymoon working to elect Negro candidates in Dallas County on Nov. 8.

Montgomery

Last Sunday, Day St. Baptist Church sponsored a"Back to School" program, designed to give helpful information to

students planning to attend a college or trade school. Some of the topics discussed by a panel of students were "Getting Adjusted to School," "Financial Aid," "The Proper Dress," and "Religion." The panelists included Jacob Qualls and Miss Carolyn Gibson, Hampton Institute; C.P. Everett, Tuskegee Institute; Miss Rosa Moore, University of Alabama; Dock Rone, an entering freshman at University of Alabama; the Rev. Thomas Jordan, a graduate of Morehouse College; and Isaac Green of Morehouse. The moderator was Miss Patricia Guy, a student at Huntingdon College.

Grown-ups and children packed the First Baptist Church for the closing exercise of summer TICEP (Tuskegee Institute Community Education Program). Tuskegee Dean P.B. Phillips, head of TICEP, spoke on how to organize a local community action program.

Meridian, Miss.

Mrs. Polly Heidelberg, who has been and still is going to school in the STAR adult-education program, had this to say when she came home from school one day: "I ain't what I used to be. I ain't what I want to be. And thank God I ain't what I'm goin' to be."

1. Why the almost total change in the 2. Why every once in a while the ex-

spaces and photo page to make up for not enough news articles?

I was delighted to see the WJLD "Top 14" and "Party Line," The "Editorial Opinion" is out of sight (I'm a teenager), but my favorite is (Jim) Peppler's brilliant photography. I'd rather

Robert Fikes Birmingham

> (In answer to Mr. Fikes' questions: (1. Many staff members from the

Gees Bend Farmer Namon Pettway:



NAMON PETTWAY

Land and No Money BY JOHN SHORT

GEES BEND -- Namon Pettway supports his wife Beth and 12 children by selling the timber he grows on 48 acres of his land down by the Alabama River. But the federal government is build-

ing a dam across the river at Millers

Ferry, 15 miles downstream from Gees

Bend. The dam will create a lake for

fishing and swimming by flooding the

land next to the river. And Namon Pettway's 48 acres will be covered by the rising water.

Pettway said he would be left without land -- and without money. "A man came around and offered me a small price for this land," he said, "I didn't take the first small price. But when someone came around the second time, I gave in. I figured the government would take it, anyway."

Pettway said he sold his land to the government for about \$65 an acre--less than he had paid for it many years ago. After he got the money, he said, he had to give it right back again. It was just enough to pay his debt to the government, which had sold him the land in the Pettway said he bought the land about

14 years ago, when Gees Bend was part of a federal project. He was given 40 years to pay, and has been paying more than \$100 every year since then. How will Pettway support his big fam-

lly when the water rises? "I don't know," he said, "I wish I did know, "I might have to move. The white man advised me to move, because I won't have any land,"

Pettway has another problem, too. For the last few years he's had a disease that he can't name, but only describe. He said that every couple of weeks, he has an attack of pains in his stomach and the back of his head. Then he passes out for 24 hours or longer.

Because of his illness, he can't work his 48 acres of timber or the field of green vegetables he grows next to his house. His boys (ages 17, 16, 14, and 12) work the land, Hospitals in Birmingham and Mont-

gomery have told Pettway that he can't

be cured. And his doctor bills from his

visits there are more than he can afford

to pay--especially now. The government promises that the dam -- now halfway across the river-will bring business and industry into the area. "But the fact of this business is that this is a farming area," said

Gees Bend store owner Roman Pettway.

The people of Gees Bend, an all-Negro community, didn't get any reaction when they tried to stop the dam. Said Daniel Nicholson, a farmer who will lose more than half his land: "You try to take some white man's place, and you'll have trouble. But in here, you

won't have no trouble."





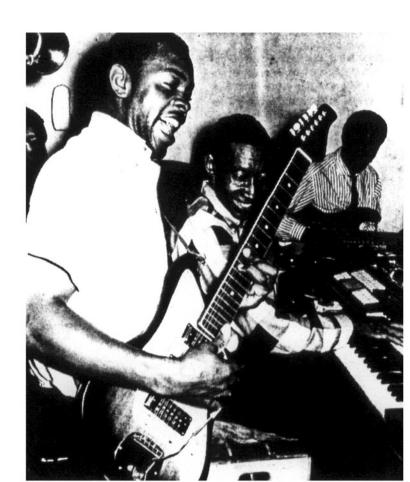






It Could Be Dick's Place, Harry's Place, Or Frank's Place, but It's...

TOM'S PLACE

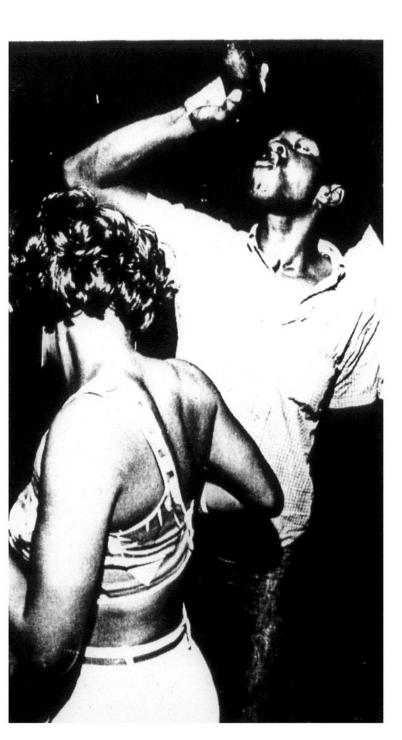






Photographs by Jim Peppler





'Something to Be Really Proud Of'

FREEDOM QUILTING BEE

BY WAYNE HURDER

ALBERTA -- Negroes in Dallas and Wilcox counties have found a way to end their dependence on the local white man's money.

Negro women used to spend hours making quilts which they sold to white people for \$5 or traded to them for rags. Now about 150 women are selling their quilts up North for \$25 or \$30 apiece.

What's doing it for them? The Freedom Quilting Bee, a co-operative started last February by the Rev. Francis X. Walter, an Episcopal minister.

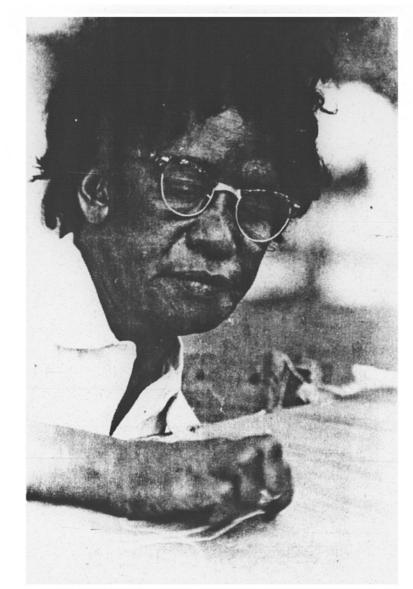
Father Walter said he started the quilting bee because he thought the Negro women who made the quilts were being cheated: "I got interested in it because it made me mad that the people were being cheated of knowing that they were doing something bold, that this quilting was something to be really proud of."

It all began last January when Father Walter and a friend were in Possum Bend, doing some work for the U.S. Justice Department. They saw some quilts hanging on a line--and an old woman quilting on her front porch. They tried to talk to her, but when the two white men came up to her house, she ran back into the woods.

Father Walter--who now works with the Selma Interreligious Project-came back later with an SCLC worker and talked to the lady about her quilts. When she told him how little she got for making the quilts, Father Walter decided to do something about it.

In February he got \$300 from the Jonathan Daniels Memorial Fund, and bought 30 quilts for \$10 each--about twice what the people usually got,

With the help of three friends from Birmingham, he held an auction in New York City and sold all the quilts. One of them brought \$70, and the others sold



SEWING IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF QUILTING

for \$30 to \$40. Another auction was held later in New York, Altogether at the two auctions, 125 quilts were sold for

This was the beginning of the Freedom Quilting Bee. Anybody could become a member, simply by making a quilt and selling it to the co-op. The coop, in turn, would sell the quilt in the

The quilting bee got a big boost back



WOMEN PONDER DECISION AT CO-OP MEETING

in June when Miss Lois Deslonde came up from New Orleans, La., to be technical assistant for the co-op. She was supported by a \$300 grant from the Southern Regional Council in Atlanta,

Her main job this summer, as she explained it, "was to get them conscious of good workmanship," She spent the summer holding workshops in 12 different communities, to tell the people how to make better quilts. She also worked at getting the people to run the co-op themselves.

The co-op is run by a 12-man board of directors. A committee of members decides what quilts to buy, and how much to pay for each.

When the co-op first started, each person usually received \$10 for a quilt. However, since some quilts could be sold for more than that, it was decided to pay some people \$13.

A little later, the members of the coop began giving a bonus to each person whose quilt sold for more than \$20. However, last Friday the members decided that it wasn't fair to give bonuses --since the quilts that were sold at auctions usually brought more that those sold in stores, even though than might not be any better. So the co-op is going to start grading each quilt according to how well it is made, and the grade will determine the price.



QUILTS ON DISPLAY AT FREEDOM QUILTING BEE FESTIVAL

Soon there will probably be two committees to figure out how much to pay for the quilts -- one on the east side of the Alabama River, the other on the west

The first thing a committee looks for in judging the quality of the quilts is the sewing. The stitches must be fairly close together, and even. The corners of the pieces have to be sewn down, and there shouldn't be any stitching on the outside.

A quilt is really just two layers of cloth, with cotton or other filling in between. The first step in making a quilt is to pick out a design. The design is occasionally taken from a book, or it might be a design that has been handed down from mother to daughter. Sometimes people will take a portion of an old design and use it as the design for a whole new quilt.

The next thing to do is to get scraps of cloth and sew them together to make the top layer of the quilt.

To make the bottom of the quilt, old feed sacks are sewn together. The bottom layer is spread out, and cotton filling is laid on it evenly. It's important that the cotton be even, or the quilt will be lumpy. The cotton used for the filling usually comes from the maker's own field.

The final step is to put the bottom of the quilt on a frame. It is drawn tight, and the top is laid over it. Then the top and bottom are sewn together.

Usually four or five people will get together to visit and work on a guilt. It normally takes one person a week to make a quilt, working two or three hours a day.

There are many co-ops across the country that try to sell quilts and other handicrafts. But the Freedom Quilting Bee's quilts are different.

Alabamians have a "more carefree interpretation of designs," said Miss Desionde. Since a lot of the people don't read anything about quilts, she said,

they feel free to design them any way al and bold designs with a limited they like.

Father Walter said the people in the quilting bee are very creative, because they have been able to make such unusu-

amount of material.

A museum in New York thought enough of the designs to buy a couple for (CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX, Col. 5)



Mrs. Bessie Munden Builds a Playground

BY WAYNE HURDER

CAMDEN -- The children played in the streets between passing cars," said Mrs. Bessie Munden. "They had no place to swim except for a mudhole. It had tin cans around it and mosquitoes breeding in it. That was a hazard, and I knew something had to be done about

working to get a playground for Negroes in Wilcox County.

The result of her efforts is the Bessie Munden Playground, just outside Camden. There kids can swim in a pool while a lifeguard looks on; they can swing, seesaw, or play football, baseball, or basketball. Events like the recent Freedom Quilting Bee festival are held at the playground.

It was 11 years ago that Mrs. Munden convinced the 180 Negro teachers in the county to put up \$20 each for land. With that money, they bought 20 acres for the playground.

That first year, they received \$1,200

from the Wilcox County commissioners. Since then they have received \$1,000 every year except this year from the United Fund. (This year there was no United Fund drive in the area. However, to make up for the lost income, the county commissioners gave \$900 for the playground.) By 1959, there was enough money to build a pool and hire a life guard. A

ed, along with a large covered area for kids to play under in case of rain. The playground is owned by the Wilcox County Teachers Association, an organization of Negro school teachers.

cement roller-skating area was install-

Every year, the members make a contribution to the playground.

A board of directors--made up of school principals and local citizens-run the playground. Mrs. Munden is





MRS. BESSIE MULTI

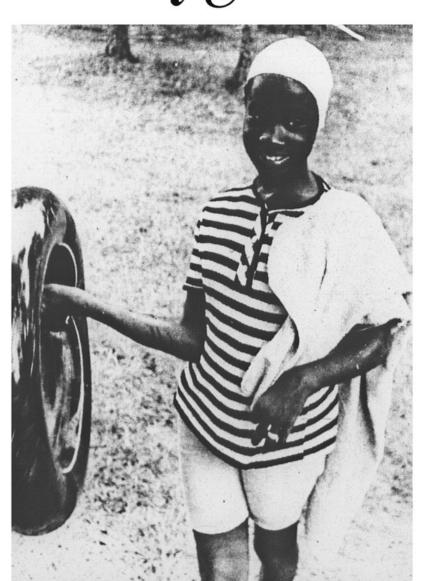
chairman of the board of directors. In all, the teachers have invested \$25,000 in the 20 acres, and they have no debts. For their next project, they are planning to put up a club-house and light the ball fields.

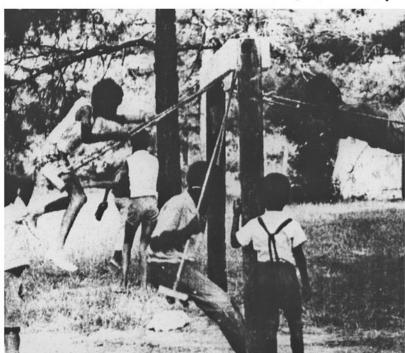
Albert Gordon, who said he lost his teaching position because of civil rights activity, is the director of the playground. He keeps it open every day of the week except Friday.

Kids from all over the county come to the playground. The Negro teachers have even been allowed to use the county's buses to haul school-children to the park on special play days.

A former county school superintendent, W.J. Jones, has helped the playground a lot, said Mrs. Munden. He has given the teachers money, attended their meetings, allowed them to use the buses, and donated baseball equipment to the park, she said.

Mrs. Munden is now a teacher-counelor at Camden Academy, For 28 ears before that, she was a supervisor instruction at county schools.





'MOST OF THEM WERE PRETTY NICE KIDS'

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE) I'd raise my hand. If the teacher called on me, they were always quiet and let me talk.

The first few days at Phillips, it was kind of terrible -- calling you nigger and n't done anything. It kind of makes you Get that nigger!" feel bad.

the hall without hearing "Nigger!" They'd jump back, say "Here come the there. nigger. Get out the way." Of course, we'd just laugh.

The boys were mostly the troublemakers. Like maybe in the trig class. there were a lot of boys there, they'd be

In one class, this boy was giving a report on part of Africa. He had this picture of an African with horns sticking out of his head. He said something like, "This is another of our nigger friends."

I just sat there. I have my feelings easily hurt, and it kind of makes you feel down inside. It kind of makes you want to cry, but then you don't want to

I laughed it off. I don't know if they really meant anything or not. It was just some of the boys who liked to be mischievous--you know, the ones who wanted to be show-offs. I've met the very same ones afterwards, and they were shy, and like saying "I'm sorry" on their faces.

They would call you things, but they would never come out and hit you--except for once. It was 3 o'clock, and school had turned out. We were going down the stairs, and I heard one say, "Kick that nigger down the stairs!"

Don't Miss The Indianapolis **CLOWNS**

See world-famous pitcher Leroy Satchel Paige, the "hurling phenomenon"! Monday, Sept. 5, at 7:30 p.m., Patterson Field, Montgomery.



The game is being sponsored to benefit the local Negro Citizens Welfare Committee, to purchase lunches for children coming from homes in low-income brackets.

Tickets now on sale at: Dean's Drug Store

Soul City Record Shop

This boy kicked me. I turned and hit him with my umbrella.

I could tell he really didn't want to fight. He could really have hurt me, if he wanted to. I don't believe he would have done anything, if there hadn't been saying nasty things to you and you have- a crowd there yelling, "Get that nigger! a Communist, I guess I am."

Of course, there were some who were It used to be you couldn't step out in friendly right from the beginning-would throw a smile the first day I was

I had two friends in my class. These two would talk to menomatter where-lunch room, class room. They may have been called nigger lovers by some of the others. I guess they just didn't ing reports on different countries and saying nigger, or gorilla, or Godzilla. care. One had a high average, and she was friendly with everyone. The other was the same.

After a while, some of the very ones who were calling menigger would smile ages. and pass words with me in the lunch room. They probably saw their friends doing it. They just followed the crowd.

The majority of them were like that, Maybe I'd be walking down the hall and girl would smile or say hello, but if she was with her friends, and they'd say nigger, well, she just wouldn't say any-

They had to stick with their friends. We were something new to them. They knew they wouldn't come in touch with us as much as with their other friends. They were just sticking with the crowd. I'd do the same.

I think most of them were pretty nice kids. When I graduated, there was actually a girl who told me, "Congratulations." It felt pretty good behind that year of nigger, nigger, nigger.

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VERSES BY RETURN MAIL

Suzy's Story--'We're All Bums'

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE) came up with "Return of the Native."

They wanted to put her name by it. I don't know what I said, but somebody asked me if I was a Communist. I said, "If believing in freedom is to be

> Saying things like that would make them know that if she got a nice note, I

They finally did use "Return of the Native." I think they put one of the other Negroes' names by it. They used her name for something else.

People laughed at her a lot. There was one class where everybody was givcontinents. One boy was talking about Africa. He had it all planned. He showed these pictures and started talking about how all the people there were sav-

She was right in front of him. She didn't do anything. Everybody else was laughing and laughing. I didn't laugh, but I didn't say anything, either.

She came to school sometimes wearing heels. No one wore heels to school. Anyone who did that was really out of it. People kept saying Martin Luther King must have bought them for her.

One time she got into a fight with a boy on the staircase. She whapped him over the head with her umbrella, and he hit her in the nose. A teacher came out and tried to stop it. The teacher had a bad heart, and he had a heart attack. I heard they had to call an ambulance.

I knew it was a boy named Ronnie who hit her, and I knew a boy named Ronnie. I liked him. I thought he was a nice boy. One of my friends told me he was the boy who had done that.

I was shocked. I thought, "He's always been a gentleman around me. How could he do that to her?" I don't think he could tell I'd changed my feelings about him, but I didn't go out of my way to be friendly with him after that.

Anyway, it was funny when she came to school the next day and her nose was all swollen up. We laughed for hours

I know it was cruel and raunchy. But it was funny, and I laughed.

You probably think everyone there was just awful. They didn't think they were. They thought they were doing the right thing. Their parents had drummed it into them, and their parents' parents had drummed it into them.

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and they were trying to get her out. They'd throw spitballs at her anytime the teacher turned her back. They showed how they felt. I'm just as rotten and crummy as they are. I just sat back and didn't do anything.

We're all bums. We're good kids, but we're bums. Anybody that would hate somebody and be vicious to somebody just because of her color is a bum.

Maybe if I had talked to her, it would have started something. Someone else might have talked to her, then someone else might have. It might have been a whole new day for Phillips. But I didn't want to be the one to start any-

They thought she didn't belong there, thing, even if it was something good. I just didn't want to start something.

> Anything could have happened. Somebody might have burned a cross on my lawn, or thrown a dead cat on my window. Maybe somebody would call me a name, and I thought that would have been terrible. There would have been little whispers: "Oh, just wait till I tell you what happened this morn-

> Once I thought that after graduation I'd hug her and hug her and say, "You made it! You made it!" But I was so happy to graduate myself, I just threw my cap in the air and took off.

WANT ADS

SKY DIVERS--Four sport parachutes for sale, never been used, perfect condition. Various colors. Call 595-2343 in Birmingham, afternoons and even-

ALL FARMERS--If you have been told by ASCS to plow up part of your allotment because it was measured wrong, come by 31 1/2 Franklin Str., Selma, or call Shirley Mesher at 872-3427 in Selma before they plow it up. If you paid to get land measured by ASCS surveyors and never had it measured, you should also come by or call.

WORK IN NEW YORK--Do you wish self-employment? Suitable couple, with or without family, wanted to re-locate in New York State, and take care of retarded children who are wards of the state. 13-room house available for rent. For more information, write to Mrs. M.B. Olatunji, P.O. Box 358, Millerton, N.Y.

GOOD JOB -- Wanted: Agent and managers to earn up to \$500 per month in their spare time, with Merlite Life-Time guaranteed light bulbs. If interested, contact T. L. Crenshaw, 923 Adeline St., Montgomery.

WE NEED tables, chairs, and books for the new Community Center on Ardmore Highway in Indian Creek. Help Jacobs Jr., 752-4989, in Huntsville, necessity.

WORK FOR FREEDOM -- Interested in peace action, academic freedom, civil rights, or poverty? Students for a Democratic Society is forming chapters in Birmingham and elsewhere. Write to P.R. Bailey, Miles College, Birm-

CLOTHES WANTED--The La Ritz Social & Savings Club is sponsoring a charity drive for the Boys Town. The club is soliciting clothing and linen. If you want to contribute to the drive, call Mrs. Nellie Hardy, at 263-0948 in Montgomery, or drop off your donation at her house, 628 Colony St.

TWIN COVERLETS WANTED --Wanted, two hand-made quilted coverlets for a pair of twinbeds, suitable for a girl's room. Write to Mrs. M. B. Olatunji, P.O. Box 358, Millerton, N.Y.

FANTASTIC BARGAINS -- For sale: 8mm movie camera, \$49,95; 100% human hair wigs, any color, \$49,95; watch with jet plane watch hand, \$29.95; beautiful ladies' watches, \$29.95; camera, \$14.95; ladies' pressing oil with Bergamot, \$1.50; sage & sulphur hair & scalp conditioner, \$1.75. Write: United World Traders, P.O. Box 872, Mobile, Ala. If you are in business, you can get these things wholesale.

\$500--One family sold \$500 worth this month. You could, too! No age limit. Call 263-2479 in Montgomery the Community Center by giving items after 6 p.m. Sell near home, among which you don't need, Call Arthur friends, Easily shown, easily sold, A.

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Carver vs. St. Jude

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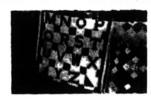
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DISTRICT MEETINGS



October

Oct. 1--District II, 9 a.m., West Highland High School, Fayette, Ala.

Oct. 8--District I, Lakeside High School, Decatur Oct. 15--District VII, time and place to be announced

Oct. 22--District IX, time and place to be announced

· November

Nov. 12--District VII, Smith High School, Ozark Nov. 19--District III, time and place to be announced

December

Dec. 3--District III, time and placed to be announced

January, 1967

Jan. 14--District IX, time and place to be announced Jan. 21--District VIII, time and place to be announced Jan. 25--District VII, 6:30 p.m., place to be announced

April, 1967

April 5--District VII, 7:30 p.m., place to be announced April 15--District III, time and place to be announced

Alabama State Teachers Association

THINK AND GRIN

BY ARLAM CARR JR.

I am, here's a blotter."

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Saul: "It is good." Paul: "It makes my mouth water," Saul: "To show you what a good guy

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Baby Ear of Corn: "Mama, where did I come from?" Mama Ear of Corn: "Hush, darling, of the week.

Hughie: "Hey! Why are you wearing my raincoat?"

the stalk brought you."

Louie: "You wouldn't want your best suit to get wet, would you?"

Con: "My brother is connected with

the police department," Dick: "Police department? How?" Con: "By a pair of handcuffs,"

Freshman: "But I don't think I deserve a zero on this paper." Professor: "Neither do I, but it's the lowest mark I can give you."

MALDEN BROTHERS BARBER SHOP

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Nelson and Spurgeon Malden

Two Saturdays ago, a Negro girl got slammed by a door, and a white man was punched in the teeth. Last Saturday, MOBILE -- Students at all-Negro Wilsaid Andrew Leslie, president of the liamson High School are scheduled to Thomasville Movement for Dynamic get a new wing on their school this year. Action, Eddie Lee Jones "got his nose Parents in the Williamson PTA say the busted."

bought Cokes at the front window of the For years, Williamson students have Dairy Queen on Highway 43. Then, said been using a wooden annex, built during Jones, one of four white men nearby said, "You niggers won't come up front World War II. Each year, it has fallen apart a little more. Now its roof leaks, At that, said Jones, he and his friends the toilets are broken, and there are went back toward the front window, and

holes in the walls. "It's an unsanitary fire trap," said Jones said he was hit with the closed Earnest L. Freeman Jr., vice-presiknives, and "I went out," When he came dent of the Williamson PTA. The Mobile Fire Department condemned the building last year.

The school board has planned for eight years to tear down the annex, and replace it with a new wing for the high

school.

WJLD Radio Top 14 Hits

1. B-A-B-Y--

and battery.

- Carla Thomas (Stax) 2. YOU CAN'T HURRY LOVE--
- Supremes (Motown) 3. BEAUTY IS ONLY SKIN DEEP--

THOMASVILLE -- Saturday in Thom-

asville continues to be the roughest time

Jones said he and two other Negroes

some of the white men pulled out knives.

to, his nose was smashed and bloody.

ing three of the white men with assault

Jones said he signed a warrant charg-

This was "the first incident" at the

Dairy Queen, said Leslie. "We've been

going there a good while to get service."

to get served any more."

- Temptations (Gordy) WITHOUT A LOVE--
- Jackie Lee (Modern)
- LAND OF 1000 DANCES--Wilson Pickett (Atlantic)
- WORKIN' IN THE COALMINES-- 13. CAN'T SATISFY--Lee Dorsey (Amy)
- POVERTY--Bobby Bland (Duke)
- 8. HOW SWEET IT IS--Jr. Walker (Soul)
- 9. I GOT TO LOVE SOMEBODY'S BABY--Johnny Taylor (Stax)
- 10. I BELIEVE I'M GONNA MAKE IT--Joe Tex (Dial)
- 11. NOTHING IN THE WORLD CAN HURT ME--Buddy Ace (Duke)
- 12. OPEN THE DOOR TO YOUR HEART--D. Banks (Revilot)
- Impressions (ABC)
- 14. WARM AND TENDER LOVE --Percy Sledge (Atlantic)

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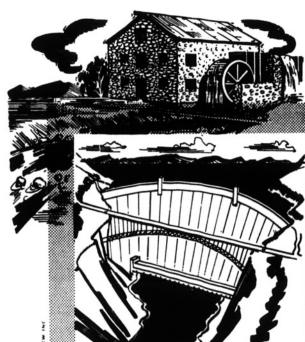
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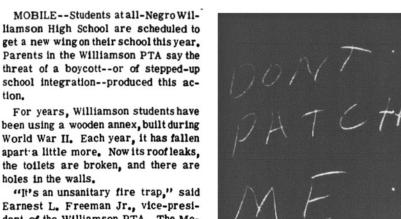
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Busted Nose Old School Annex to Come Down After PTA Complaint in Mobile



of Mobile County schools, said the old wooden annex "is embarassing," But, he said, the annex had not been replaced because there had been other, more

Cranford H. Burns, superintendent pressing needs in the school system. Last June, the school board promised to start work on the new wing during the summer. "But in August," said Mrs. Carrie Thomas, head of the Wil-

liamson PTA, "they were just patching

it up again. When we saw those patches, we knew we were not going to let our kids go into that school again."

A committee from the PTA told the school board last week that if the annex wasn't torn down, they would either boycott the school or transfer their children to "some of the high schools in their immediate area where these conditions do not exist,"

Many of the 1,200 students at Williamson High are now bussed down Dauphin Island Parkway past two new white high schools, B. C. Rain and Maryvale.

But, said one Williamson parent, "our threats paid off,"

The wooden annex is being torn down almost immediately. And the school board has promised to start the new wing in December or January. Meanwhile, Williamson students will use ten modern portable classrooms.

"We've got to stop asking and start demanding our educational rights from the school board," said a PTA member. "That's the only way we're going to get things done."

FREEDOM QUILTING BEE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE FOUR)

exhibit, and one of the biggest furniture stores in New York bought three to put in its show windows.

Besides making quilts, the co-op also sells pottery and baskets. The pottery is made by a white man in Chilton County. Four other men in the co-op make

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white oak baskets. There aren't many people in the area who can make baskers, because it is hard to get the wood. Few of the people have timber on their own land, so they have to ask white people for it.

Miss Deslonde had to leave last Sunday to go back to New Orleans. Now that she is gone, the co-op is looking for a person who knows something about handicrafts and business, to be the man-

Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights

The weekly meeting will be held on Monday, Sept. 5, in St. Paul AME Church, 300 Fourth Court N., the Rev. S. M. Davis, pastor. Guest speaker will be the Rev. Prince Jenkins.

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