

## White Attacker Must Pay

# Negro Man Wins \$250 in Damages

BY BETTIE MANUEL

MERIDIAN, Miss. -- "This is probably the first time in Mississippi history that a Negro has won a case like this," said Denison Ray, chief counsel for the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights under Law.

A federal jury in Meridian had just ordered James Calvin Breckinridge, a white man, to pay \$250 in damages to Ray's Negro client, R. G. Grady of Memphis, Tenn.

Grady had sued Breckinridge and his father, Lavon Breckinridge, for \$25,000 for injuries he received from a beating July 2, 1966, near DeKalb.

Last Friday at the trial, James Calvin Breckinridge admitted beating Grady and other Negroes who were in Grady's car. But he disagreed with Grady about the reason for the beating and the extent of Grady's injuries.

James Calvin Breckinridge testified that he first saw Grady on the highway, when Grady forced Breckinridge's truck off the road. Later, he said, when he and his father were going to pick up a workman, Grady's Cadillac was parked in the road, blocking the way.

Both Breckinridges testified that Grady came over and tried to cut Lavon with a knife through the window of their pick-up truck. Both said James Calvin then jumped out of the truck, picked up a stick from the side of the road, and went to his father's aid.

James Calvin Breckinridge said that after he hit Grady two or three times, some of the other Negro men came over to help their friend. He said he fought them off with his stick.

But Grady and three of the passengers in his car told a completely different story.

They denied forcing the Breckinridge truck off the road. They said the beating occurred when the Breckinridge truck pulled up in front of them and two men jumped out. Each of the men had a gun and some weapon--either a black jack or an iron pipe--in his hands, they said.

According to Grady, James Calvin Breckinridge came up to the driver's side of the car and said, "Here are those damn civil rights workers." (The first Meredith march in Mississippi had just ended a few days before.)

Grady said James Calvin Breckinridge told him to get out of the car, and when Grady hesitated, Breckinridge said, "I don't want to have to kill you in your car."

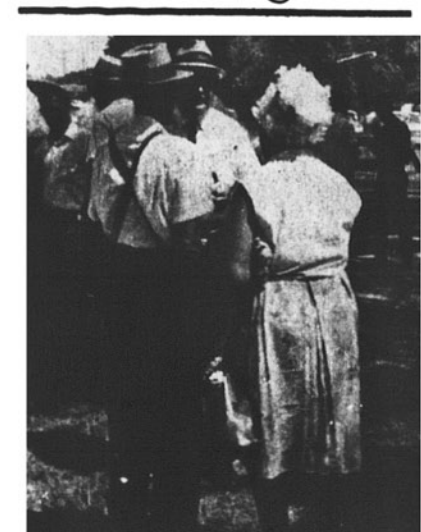
Then, Grady testified, James Calvin Breckinridge pulled him from the car, beat him to the ground, and knocked him unconscious.

Ted Coleman, Eugene Griffin, and

Rene Johnson of Preston--who were riding with Grady at the time--said that after Grady had been knocked out, they were told to get out of the car. Then, they testified, James Calvin Breckinridge beat them on the back of the head while Lavon Breckinridge held a pistol.

After hearing this testimony, the jury of ten whites and two Negroes deliberated for two hours on Saturday before awarding Grady \$250--the money he lost in missed work and medical bills.

## Something New



WAYNESBORO, Miss. -- Fifty-one candidates for state and local offices showed up last Saturday at the Wayne County Voters League's first political picnic.

"We've never done anything like this before," said one of the seven candidates for sheriff of Wayne County. But now, he said, 2,000 of Wayne County's 10,000 voters are Negro, and "that's worth going after."

An elderly Negro lady listened all afternoon to the candidates' promises, and said as she left, "Heard some mighty good talking. Now we gotta see what's gonna come of it."

## Legislators Hear Reed

MONTGOMERY, Ala. -- "Despite all advances made, we still have a double standard in education in Alabama," Joe L. Reed told state legislators last Wednesday.

Reed, executive secretary of the Alabama State Teachers Association, said he opposed building another state college in Montgomery, because "it is an effort to maintain segregation," and the school "is not needed here."

Montgomery already has one four-year state college--Alabama State. The proposed new college would probably be a branch of Auburn University. "We feel the only reason Montgomery is the chosen site is because Alabama State College is Negro," Reed charged.

# Farm Head Tours South; What's a Negro Cucumber?

## Prices Go Up

BY BETH WILCOX

SELMA, Ala. -- "What is a Negro cucumber?" SWAFCA members were asking last week.

After several of its trucks were stopped by state troopers and other officers, SWAFCA (the Southwest Alabama Farmers Cooperative Association) found that its cucumbers were being rejected upon reaching their destination.

With their markets no longer open to them, and many cucumbers spoiling on the ground, the co-op farmers, mostly Negro, could not figure out what was so wrong with their cucumbers.

"After some talks with the (U. S.) Justice Department, our market problem was settled, though," said one SWAFCA official.

"The man we were selling to simply said that our cucumbers were not graded correctly. We have an official of the U. S. Department of Agriculture here all the time now, to inspect and vouch for the quality of our cucumbers."

At the cucumber grading station in Selma, the work day was 24 hours at the height of the season. The co-op is still waiting to hear whether the federal government will over-ride Governor Lurleen B. Wallace's veto, and release a \$400,000 grant. But SWAFCA is operating at full speed during the wait.

Albert Turner of Marlon said cucumber farmers are already benefiting from SWAFCA. "They are making \$95 a ton where they used to make \$60 a ton," he said. "The reason for this is that we buy not only the number-ones (tiny cucumbers used for pickles), but we also buy the other two larger sizes."

The cucumber season now is almost over. "Next week," said Freeman Berry, SWAFCA board member from Dallas County, "we start okra."

"Then peas," said another farmer.



SWAFCA GRADING STATION

## Bomb Hits Leflore Home; Mobile Leader Is Injured

BY ARLAM CARR JR.

MOBILE, Ala. -- The home of John Leflore, long-time Negro civil rights leader, was shaken loose from its foundation by a dynamite bomb early last Wednesday morning.

There were no serious injuries, but Leflore did suffer a slight cut over his left eye. He said he and his wife were asleep when the bomb went off.

A wire fence around the bottom of the house probably kept the bomb from rolling underneath and doing greater damage. As it was, one side of the house was completely blown down, and you could see clear through the building.

The blast shattered windows in other homes in the mostly-Negro neighborhood where Leflore lives. Neighbors said it also loosened some of their wall shingles.

## Still No Audience With Governor

# SCLC, MIA March Again

BY PATRICIA M. GORENCE

MONTGOMERY, Ala. -- Their goals are still the same--to reach the state Capitol and present their list of grievances to Governor Lurleen B. Wallace. But after three weeks of marches, Montgomery Negroes are still a long way from reaching these goals.

Last Tuesday, for the fifth time, marchers were stopped by city police--this time, just across the street from the Capitol.

Police Major D. H. Lackey told the Rev. Richard Boone, SCLC field director, that the permit for the march did not allow the marchers to proceed to the Capitol steps.

Boone tried to move through the line of policemen, but was kept back by Lackey. After a brief shoving match, Boone ordered the marchers to sit down. "I want to know why we can't stand over there on the steps of our Capitol where Jefferson (Davis) stood and see our governor," he said.

Then, in a speech, Boone charged that Governor Wallace's illness--she faces further treatment for cancer--is an excuse to avoid seeing a Negro delegation.

"No one knows why we are here tonight," said Dan Houser of Prattville (at right), who led the march. "We might be here to pray for our governor, because we know that she is sick--sinsick." Houser is still recovering from injuries suffered in a beating June 12.

Later in the week, the Rev. Solomon S. Seay Sr., speaking for the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, criticized the marches.

"We are not in favor of any organization or individuals initiating movements or demonstrations and the like in Montgomery without consultation with the concerned leadership of this community," he said. By "concerned leadership," Seay apparently meant the Ministerial Alliance or a similar group.

"We recognize the right of citizens

A local newspaper has offered a \$500 reward for a solution to the bombing. The city of Mobile has also posted a reward, and District Attorney Carl Booth has requested Governor Lurleen B. Wallace to do the same.

Leflore, a retired postal employee, is a 25-year veteran of NAACP work. He is active in the Non-Partisan Voters League, and was the first Negro named to the Mobile Housing Board. He is also a member of the Alabama Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights.

He said this was the third incident at his home. Once, he said, someone threw a bomb that failed to go off. Another time, he added, a shot was fired through the house.

The home of Vernon Z. Crawford, a Negro lawyer who handles many civil rights cases, was destroyed by fire here last August.

or groups of citizens to protest acts of injustices, inequalities, and discriminatory treatments," he said. "However, we do not condone violence, brutality, or inhuman treatment in any form."

Commenting on the alliance's statement, Boone said, "It comes as no surprise to me that the ministers have come out against the black people of Alabama," because they "feed on the pride of the poor and the wretched. As Jesus had his Judas and Caesar his Brutus, so do we have ours."

At a state-wide meeting held in the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA) office last Saturday, representatives from several counties pledged their support to the MIA and SCLC "in their every effort to obtain justice."

## So Where's Anderson?

BY SANDRA COLVIN

MONTGOMERY, Ala. -- John Anderson of New York came on very strong last week.

"Black brothers," he told a meeting June 22, "the situation in Montgomery is very grave, because of the SCLC leadership. I'm not condemning non-violence, but I am attacking the tactics they used on the night (June 19) that the policemen beat the star-spangled banner on your heads..."

"We must learn when to be non-violent and when to protect ourselves, rather than follow some nigger leader and sing 'We Shall Overcome' and turn the other cheek."

Anderson, a follower of Malcolm X, made these statements on the front porch of a vacant house across from the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA) office.

"Dr. Martin Luther King (Jr.) has doubled - crossed every nigger preacher in the country," he said. Before the evening was over, An-

## Eutaw Stop

BY BETH WILCOX

SELMA, Ala. -- "Mr. Freeman, we want to talk to you," said signs carried by Negro farmers in Eutaw.

On his tour of Alabama last Wednesday, Orville Freeman, the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture, met many such people. They wanted to do one thing--talk with the secretary.

Although a talk with the people of Greene County was not on his schedule, Freeman did speak at the First Baptist Church in Eutaw.

Before the secretary arrived, the Rev. Thomas E. Gilmore said that Farmers Home Administration (FHA) programs are inadequate for poor people. "We couldn't build the home we wanted with FHA loans," Gilmore said. "They always suggest we build a shotgun home."

The secretary later explained that no loan money is now available to improve homes for farmers.

A lady asked, "Since I don't make any salary, how can I pay \$62 for (food) stamps?"

Freeman said the government is lowering the food stamp rates. (The minimum monthly purchase is going down to 50¢--instead of \$2--in some parts of Mississippi.) He also suggested that people be allowed to pay for the stamps over a longer period of time.

At the Rev. William M. Branch's store in Forkland, Alex Anderson of Boligee told William Seabron of the Department of Agriculture that Anderson had to pay \$62 for stamps, out of a monthly income of \$145.50. Seabron said he would be sure to look into it. "We're all treated like that down here," said an onlooker.

"Yes, yes, I know," said Seabron. "Some of these places are awful."

Freeman's motorcade drove through to Dallas County with no other unscheduled stops. There was no stop at the SWAFCA (Southwest Alabama Farmers Cooperative) office in Selma, though the buses did pass by.

But SWAFCA President Joe Johnson and Business Manager Calvin Orsborn boarded the press bus and explained the co-op to Freeman.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX, Col. 4)

## Sewing Co-Op Gets Results

BEFORE  
BY ROBIN REISIG

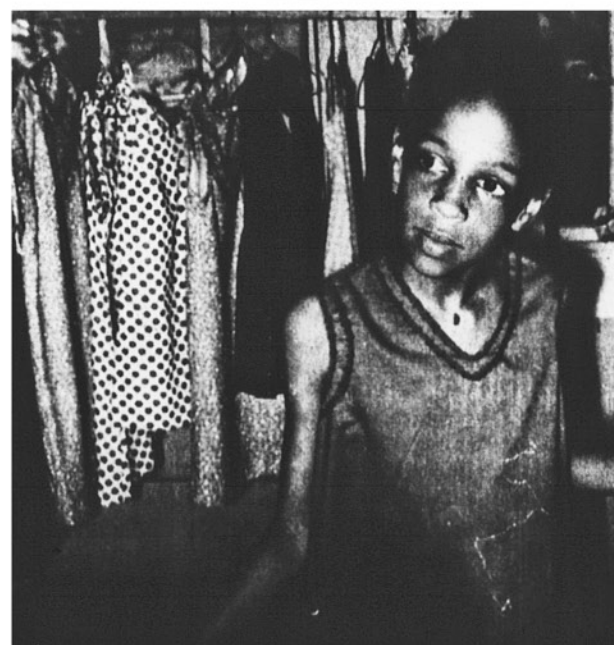
EUTAW, Ala. -- "This is just a ladies' project," said Mrs. Mary E. Sanders, "Ladies only." Just then, a man walked in, and picked a pretty blue dress from a rack of about 20 summer garments.

The Greene County Sewing Project was holding its first "open house" fashion show last Tuesday.

Since February, the 22 ladies in the project have been meeting in the Greene County Community Center three times a week to sew. They began by making pillow-cases, but soon expanded their operation to include children's shirts, pants, and dresses, and men's shirts.

"Some of them that didn't know how to sew is sewing now," said Mrs. Sanders, who is chairman of the project.

The project gives away some of the clothes to families in need. It supplied clothes for one Greene family whose home was destroyed by fire. In most cases, the project accepts small donations of 35¢ to \$2.



AFTER

None of the women is paid. Their material and their two sewing machines were donated by the Southern Rural Action Project.

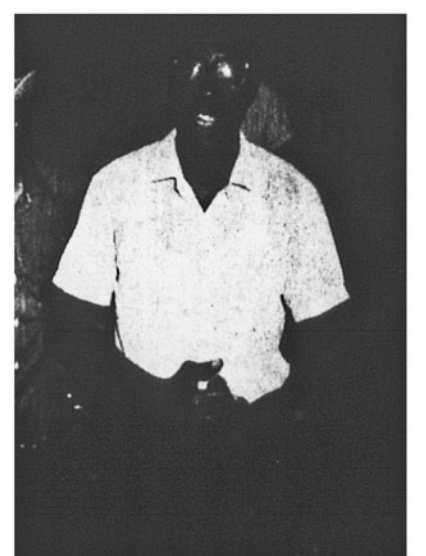
SRAP has also helped the other big project of the Greene County Development Committee, the cement-block factory at Dollar Hide. That's "the men's project."

"If we (the sewing project) had enough machines, we could run as an assembly line and have plenty of garments," said Mrs. Alice Smith.

"This is the way we have to prove ourselves capable of getting anything we want," added the Rev. Thomas E. Gilmore, who chose three shirts for his three sons from the display of pants and shirts on the table.

"We're showing everyone what we can do," Gilmore said. "We can make clothing. If we could get a grant from the government, we could do much more. The question is money. We've got the will..."

"Great women like these--in some instances they're not heard of, but they're great--are going to change things."



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Table with 2 columns: Location and Phone Number. Includes Birmingham, Greenville, Huntsville, Mobile, Montgomery, Selma, Tuscaloosa, Tuskegee, Eastern Mississippi, Greenville (Miss.), Meridian-Mendenhall, and Meridian (Miss.).

Vol. III, No. 27 July 1-2, 1967

Editorial Opinion

We Try Harder

In 1954, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that segregated schools are illegal and unconstitutional. Now, more than 13 years later, less than 3% of the Negro students in Alabama and Mississippi are going to school with white children--thanks largely to the hohum attitude of the U. S. Justice Department.

In 1964, three civil rights workers were brutally slain in Neshoba County, Miss. Now, more than three years later, the men charged with conspiracy in these killings are still free. Two of them, in fact, are running for public office. This, too, is largely due to the Justice Department's apparent lack of interest in bringing the case to trial.

But when the Justice Department is really interested in a case--well, that's a defendant of an entirely different color. Last April 28, heavyweight champ Muhammad Ali refused to be drafted into the U. S. Army. In less than TWO MONTHS, Ali was arrested, indicted, tried, convicted, and sentenced to five years in prison.

Ali's kangaroo trial--with an all-white jury, and a hanging judge who briskly ruled against the defendant on every issue--was a miracle of speed and efficiency, if not justice.

It is probably futile to hope that the Justice Department, flushed with victory, will now turn to its unfinished business in the South. There is always something--be it draft resisters, draft-card burners, or flag burners--to distract the government and the nation from the problems that are truly serious and truly urgent.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor: "What was wrong with the story (about the ship from Africa that landed at Plateau)?"

First the Clotilde was not a Slave Ship: it was a Voyage of Defiance. This is the point that we want circulated, for there is no place in America with the historical value for the Negro as Plateau and Magazine hold.

The Negro--and white population--needs to know the difference in those who were slaves and those who were not.

May I further state that it's hard to get people... to think that all Negroes in the U.S.A. were not slaves. "Now since we have one bright spot, will you help us to shine it?"

Henry C. Williams
Mobile, Ala.

PHILADELPHIA, Miss.--"We're all registered in the north end of beat 3, but you can't get near those folks down in the central and south sections," said Joe Henry Greer. He was reporting to last Sunday's meeting of the Neshoba County Freedom Democratic Party (FDP).

"If you go down there before sunrise and you're talking about voting, by sun-up everyone knows it," Greer told about 50 people gathered at Mt. Zion Methodist Church in Longdale. "They say it's a mess and they ain't gonna fool with it. . . . And you know they have those marks in the road."

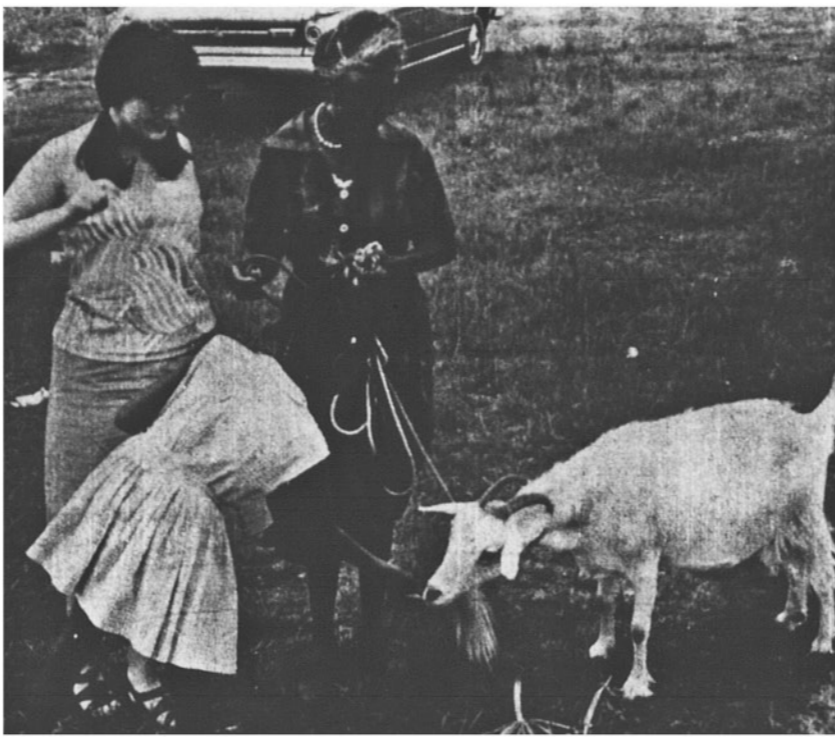
The marks he was talking about are a post charred like a burnt cross, and red spots that look like blood.

But chairman James Lyon wouldn't accept that report. "You can't let that stop you," Lyon said. "Those marks don't mean nothing. That ain't nothin' but where the Ku Klux got out to scare you."

Others at the meeting agreed with Lyon. "Those are our peoples. We've got to work out some strategy to go in and get those peoples (registered)," said Cornelius Steele.

"You've got to find the cause of their fear, and then you can look for the remedy," said the Rev. Clint Collier, a county FDP leader. "Are they sharecroppers?"

"Most of them," was the answer. "Well, there are two ways to skin a



A 'Summit Conference' Is Held in Gees Bend

BY ROBIN REISIG
GEES BEND, Ala.--This all-Negro community last weekend was host to a second "rural life workshop" for black and white Alabamians.

Last time, the visitors learned what life was like in rural Wilcox County. This time, they learned what the people are doing to make their lives better.

The meeting--sponsored by the Rev. Francis X. Walter and the Selma Inter-Religious Project, and the Rev. G. G. Pettway and the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church--was planned as a sort of "school for white folks," and as a chance for Alabamians to find out what's really going on in the war on poverty.

But there were so many leaders of anti-poverty programs at the meeting that one white participant called the

Protest, But Few Facts

MERIDIAN, Miss. -- Five local NAACP leaders met with Meridian Police Chief C. L. Gunn last week to complain about police brutality. But a member of the committee observed later, "We didn't get very far because we didn't have enough facts."

According to the Rev. R. S. Porter, president of the Meridian NAACP, the group asked Chief Gunn why Murray Hudson, a Meridian Negro, was injured in jail after being picked up on a traffic charge June 19.

"They were prepared for us," Porter said later. He said the police chief claimed his men used force on Hudson only after the young Negro attacked them in the police station. Gunn backed up his story by displaying a bloody policeman's shirt and photographs of two wounded officers.

Albert Jones, chairman of the NAACP's Legal Redress Committee, was in charge of investigating the Hudson incident. But, he said, he didn't say much during the conference, because he had never heard Hudson's side of the story.

Jones said he tried to talk with Hudson after putting up \$475 bond to get the young man out of jail. Hudson was so groggy and dizzy from his wounds then that Jones told him to come back later and give a report.

"But he never came back," Jones said this week. He said Hudson's mother hired a local white lawyer for her son: "That ties our hands. We can't do anything unless people give us the case."

NAACP officials say they have received several complaints of police violence, but they have been unable to follow through because the victims backed out.

"People will tell you stories, but when you try to get the details, no one is willing to give you the facts," said Dr. Hobert Kornegay, NAACP treasurer.

70 Law Students Work in South

TOUGALOO, Miss.--About 70 Northern law students will be working in the South this summer.

"We're concentrating on three fields--civil rights, civil liberties, and the war on poverty," said Norman Siegel, Southern co-ordinator of the Law Students Civil Rights Research Council.

Twenty-six of the 70 students will be working in Mississippi, said Siegel, and there will be four in Alabama--around Mobile and Montgomery.

"We have about 20 black students," he said.

Siegel said the aims of the project include: 1. Working with local Negro lawyers and with civil rights lawyers;

2. Providing technical help and other services for local Negro leaders; and 3. Trying to get Southern law students interested in civil rights cases, so that some of them might decide to become civil rights lawyers.

Also, said Siegel, when the volunteers leave, "they'll have a clearer understanding of the problems here, and will take an active part in civil rights at home."



Montgomery, Ala.

Meridian, Miss.

Miss Susie Bell Sanders and Freddie Lee Huffman of Montgomery were married last Sunday in Trinity Lutheran Church. The bride, a graduate of Sidney

The Lauderdale County Neighborhood Youth Corps is filling up both its summer and regular programs. The summer program will have 73 boys and 27 girls, while the regular division will have about 119 boys and 31 girls. In the youth corps, people between the ages of 16 and 21 can earn \$37.50 a week while learning useful skills. Anyone out of school for the summer is eligible for the summer program. The regular program is open to people who are unemployed and have been out of school six months.

Ozark, Ala.



MR. AND MRS. HUFFMAN Lanier High School, plans to attend Tuskegee Institute. Her husband recently returned from serving in Germany. They are fixing up an apartment in Montgomery. (From Amy Pepler)

Clayton, Ala.

The Jones Chapel AME Church held its Women's Day program last June 18, under the direction of Miss Annie M. Smith, acting superintendent. Mrs. Mae E. Pryor spoke on the past and present achievements of women in the midst of world tension. The occasion was by Mrs. Robbie S. Morris, and Mrs. Lillie Clayton introduced the speaker. A total of \$1,015.31 was raised. (From Annie B. Curry)

Montgomery, Ala.

The duplicating class of the Manpower Training Center held graduation exercises last Friday. The 12 graduates included Janie R. Armster (who sang a solo), Elbert Brackett, Larry Brown, James O. Hadnot (who gave the invocation), Jewell Headley, Ronald Moore, Sarah Odum, Hazel Patrick, Mary Lee Perry, Eva Rucker, Mamie Ware, and Sam Wright. The instructor was Jere McDonald.

Troy, Ala.

Miss Frechette Ford of Chicago, Illinois, is visiting in Pike County. Two years ago, Miss Ford and other SCLC workers came here from different parts of the country, to work on voter registration. They helped organize the Pike County Voters League. Miss Ford said she came back to see if her work was in vain. When she arrived, she found Pike County working. (From Elaine Warren)



NEW MONKEY BARS

The troop, sponsored by Our Lady Queen of Mercy School, presented the playground set to the children last Tuesday.

Abbeville, Ala.

Mrs. Joyce Owens and her daughter were killed June 16 in a car wreck in Florida. They were funeralized last Sunday in the New Mt. Zion Baptist Church, the Rev. J. E. Blackman officiating. (From James J. Vaughan)



Letter From Arizona

Dear Folks,

Through talking with various students at the University of Arizona, I've found that civil rights is as far away from their minds as Alabama is from Arizona. And I think it's sad.

There are personal friends of mine who wouldn't dare discuss or affiliate with any civil rights organizations. They are so contented because they haven't yet experienced the problems that black people in the South experience every day, or at least six times a week.

The only such incident I've heard about happened when a girl friend of mine was looking for an apartment. She found one, but the woman who owned it said she didn't want Negroes, and she definitely didn't want Jews.

I have gotten into so many arguments trying to defend my beliefs in the movement and "black power," that people have labeled me as being weird, a nut, and everything else. I've been nicknamed "Stoke-Stoke" by the young Negro guys who detest Stokely Carmichael and his views.

These guys are out to change my views. But, as I've told them time and time again, there are certain convictions about religion and civil rights that they'll never change--and I mean it.

Some time ago, Carmichael delivered a speech in Jackson, Miss., which sounded somewhat like a promise of retaliation. He was quoted as saying, "We'll all worship in one church, or we'll all worship outside." A newspaper article said Carmichael "vowed to burn a white church every time a Negro church is burned by a Ku Klux Klansman."

Well, I took that article and passed it around to several people I know. I wanted to see what their reactions and comments would be.

The first person just right out and said, "I think he's crazy. That's all--mentally deranged."

Miss Mary Ann Redd (now Mrs. Thomas Malloy), a liberal-arts sophomore, said, "This issue expressed by Mr. Carmichael will only show how ignorant we are. If the white people want to show their ignorance, why must Negroes do the same? Evil for evil will only cause more evil. Something has to be done, but Carmichael's retaliation issue isn't it."

But an Arabic student, Fuad Noaman, thought differently. "Eye for an eye and tooth for tooth"--it seems to me that Mr. Carmichael has that verse in mind when he vows to retaliate for the racists' brutality," said Noaman. "That verse, if it indicates anything, indicates that man should preserve his dignity."

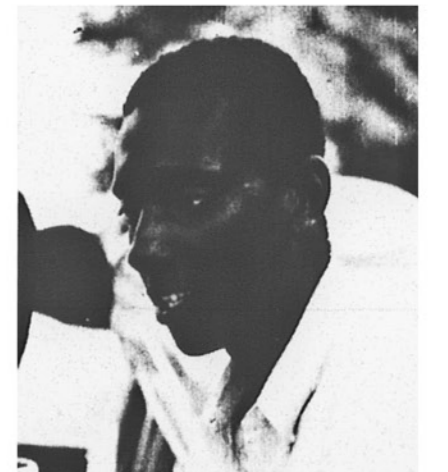
Said Miss Dolores T. Evans, Miss Tan America of 1966: "I feel that the tactics Mr. Carmichael is using are good in some aspects and bad in others. Good, because the white people of today--down in the South--seem to feel that the American Negro is a savage beast. So the white people burning a church and Negroes following the act, shows many people of both races who the savage is first."

"The tactics are bad because I feel that the American Negro has more doors open to him now than ever before. People like Mr. Carmichael should be out building more Negroes' morals than leading racial riots."

The comment I personally agree with was given by a junior in music education, Miss Kay Watson of Chicago, Illinois.

"Some people think Carmichael is wrong in his approach to the issue of civil rights," she said. "But his is only a way of bringing the problem to the eyes of the American people."

"An eye for an eye" is his motto, and



STOKELY CARMICHAEL

he is just reversing the deal so that the white people are now feeling the foot on their tails."

"Some of (Carmichael's) actions might seem a bit violent," Miss Watson said. "But the Negro has been passive too long, and hasn't gotten anywhere. So now is the time to act, be it violent or not."

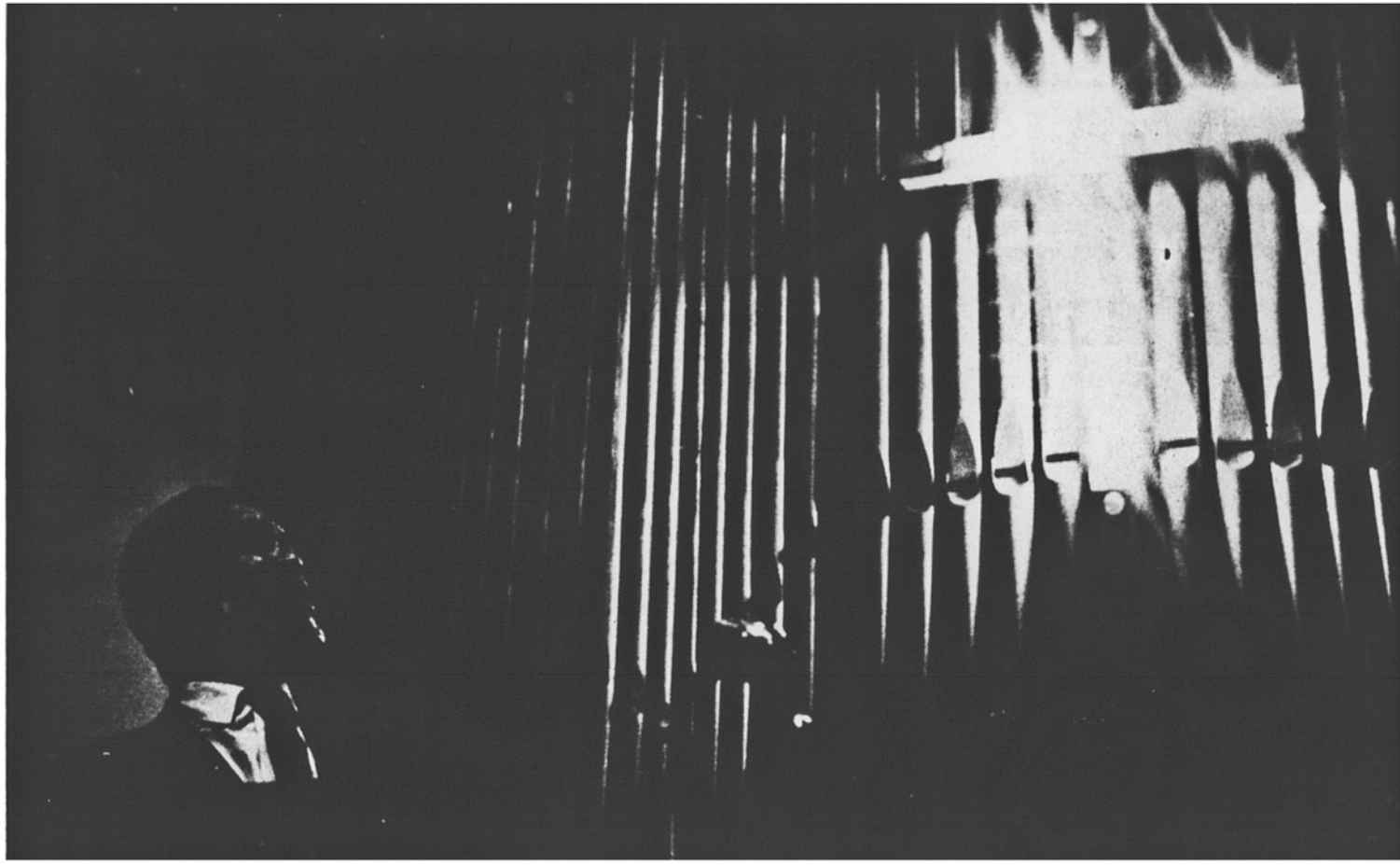
Obviously, there are those for and against the various civil rights leaders and their methods of obtaining human rights. But I'm not here in this university to make others believe what I believe, or tell them about "What's Going On in the Civil Rights Struggle and Why?" (I am glad to speak about the issue when asked, but that is not my purpose for being here.)

And, as I have told some students, I am not here to make white friends, or to impress other people. I'm here to learn a little about writing and other subjects, so I can get out and tell the world what's happening all around. I'll be able to write it, and write it intelligently.

As Dick Gregory said when he spoke to our student body and faculty, "You shouldn't be here in order to learn how to make a living, but how to get along with people." He meant with ALL people, and especially with the racial problems that will exist in the years to come.

Well, the semester's over, and as my uncle said, "One down and seven to go,"

Diablo



**'OUR DAYS  
ON THE  
EARTH  
ARE AS  
A  
SHADOW ...'**

*--I Chronicles XXIX, 15*

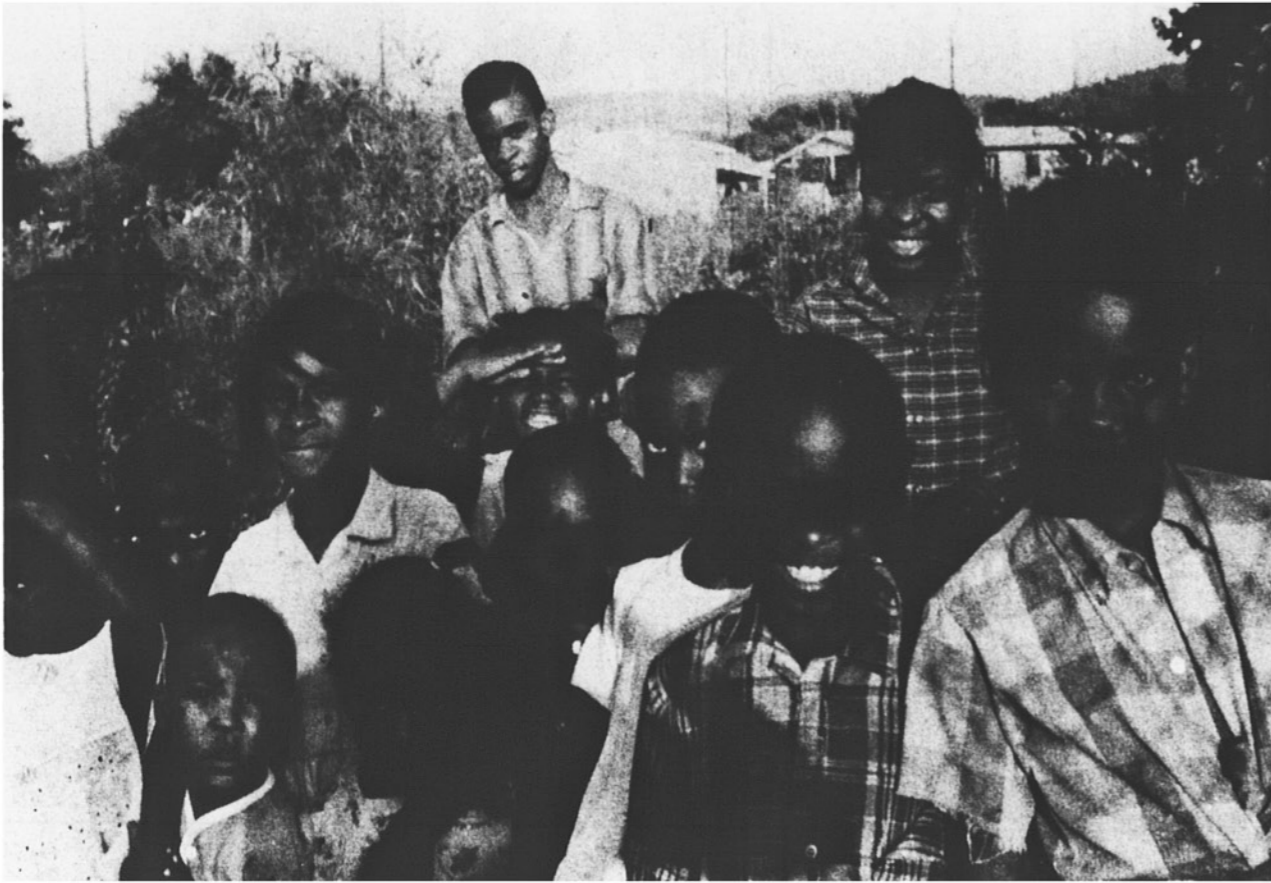


*Photos by Jim Pepler*



# 'I Heard a Shot, Felt a Hole in My Side'

## SERIES OF STRANGE SHOOTINGS FRIGHTENS PEOPLE IN ROOSEVELT



NEIGHBORHOOD CHILDREN STILL PLAY NEAR THE CREEK



TYRONE ABBOTT ACROSS FROM SOURCE OF SHOTS

BY ROBIN REISIG

ROOSEVELT, Ala. -- Just a shallow, muddy creek divides Roosevelt, a pretty Birmingham suburb with large brick houses and spacious lawns, from Broadmoor, another pleasant suburb. But children don't cross Valley Creek to play.

One reason is that Negroes live in Roosevelt, and whites live in most of Broadmoor. Another reason is that, for more than a year now, bullets have been crossing the creek from the white section to the Negro section.

The bullets have landed in a grassy area where children play. Two Negro

teen-agers have been seriously hurt in the past two months.

Miss Elaine Abbott, 17, spent several days in the hospital last month after she was struck in the side by a .22-caliber rifle bullet. She said she was alone in her back yard, standing by a chicken pen, when it happened: "I was watching the chickens, heard a shot, felt a hole in my side..."

Two months ago Timothy Golden, 16, was shot in the leg as he was standing about ten yards from where Miss Abbott was shot, on the creek bank below her back yard. He was on crutches for the next few weeks.

Neither Miss Abbott nor Golden saw anyone shooting. But they think the bullets came from behind a thick growth of bushes on the other side of the creek.

Last summer, Ralph Pippen Jr., 12, was shot in the back with a "pellet gun"

while he was in the yard next door to the Abbott home. But he said he knows who fired at him.

Pippen said he was looking for a ball that had fallen in some weeds by the creek, when he saw two white boys "about my age."

"We were laughing and talking," Pippen said. "Then I found the ball and told the boys I had got it, and one of the boys shot me in the back." The wound was not serious.

Also last summer, Frank White, who lives two doors from the Abbotts, chased away some teen-age white boys who had been throwing rocks and metal across the creek at his small daughters. At least one of the boys was carrying a .22-caliber rifle, White said.

There have been several other incidents, and the Negro families who live along the creek say they are puzzled and

alarmed by the continued shootings. They say there are no animals to hunt, and no good reason for anyone to be firing a gun in the area.

Golden, the youth who was shot in the leg, charged that white people are shooting across the creek "just because we're Negroes."

"The weeds are so thick. They'll get back over there and hide, and you can't see them but they'll see you," said Pippen's mother, Mrs. Ralph Pippen Sr.

Tyrone Abbott, 18, Miss Abbott's brother, was with Golden when he was shot. Abbott said, "They had to be aiming. The first shot went right by his (Golden's) head. The second hit his knee."

"We have reported this five or six times (before Miss Abbott was shot)," said her father, Augustus Abbott. "We have buckshot over here all the time. All the neighbors have birdshot hitting the tops of houses, cars, windows, but the police never did anything about it. They say 'We'll see'--that's all."

A neighbor added, "If you had good policemen, they'd let people know. If somebody's over there and didn't know, really didn't know (that Negro children were being hit by the bullets), they still wouldn't know."

The Negroes and whites who live along Valley Creek have never met or talked to each other about the shootings. Some white people in Broadmoor say they never heard of the incidents.

But a ten-year-old blond girl said, "The children here were talking about

it (after Miss Abbott was shot). I think they were shooting at some kind of target. I don't guess they realized, I don't believe they shoot now since it happened."

An officer in the Jefferson County sheriff's office said "the evidence all indicates it was an accidental shooting by parties unknown."

After Miss Abbott was shot, he said, police investigators picked up several guns, belonging to "both white and colored boys," to make tests comparing the bullets. "The bullet (that struck Miss Abbott) was recovered," the officer said, but "the toxicologist was unable to make a comparison because it

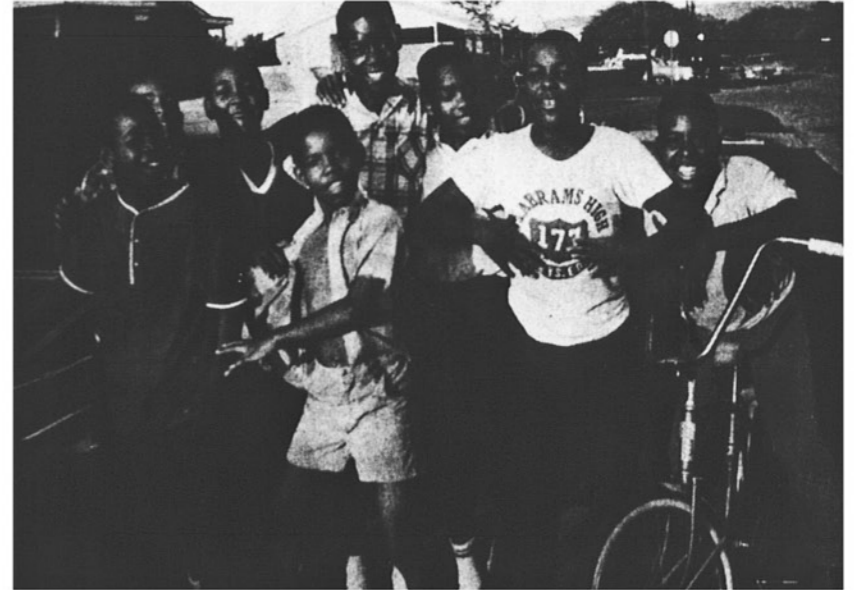
was a ricochet, which indicates an accidental shooting."

The officer said the opinion of the sheriff's office--"and, I think, the opinion of the people in the community--is that both (recent) shootings have been accidents. We are still patrolling the area to prevent further shootings."

After his cousin, Miss Abbott, was shot, Howard Pearson recalls, "I told the policeman (investigating the case) they should go and stop it before it gets too far, because if we went to shooting over in their neighborhood, they'd find out who was doing it. He blowed, and pushed his cap back, and said, 'I guess a person can just take so much.'"



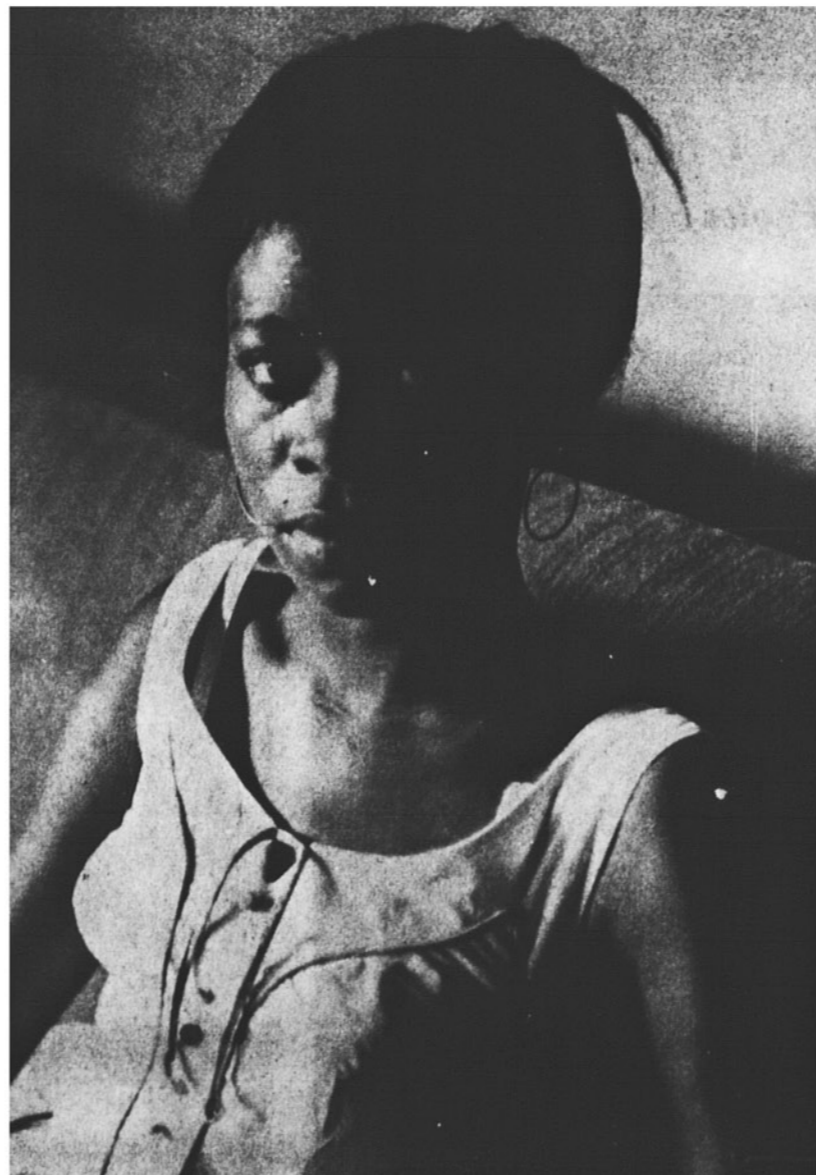
MISS ABBOTT WAS SHOT NEAR THIS CHICKEN COOP



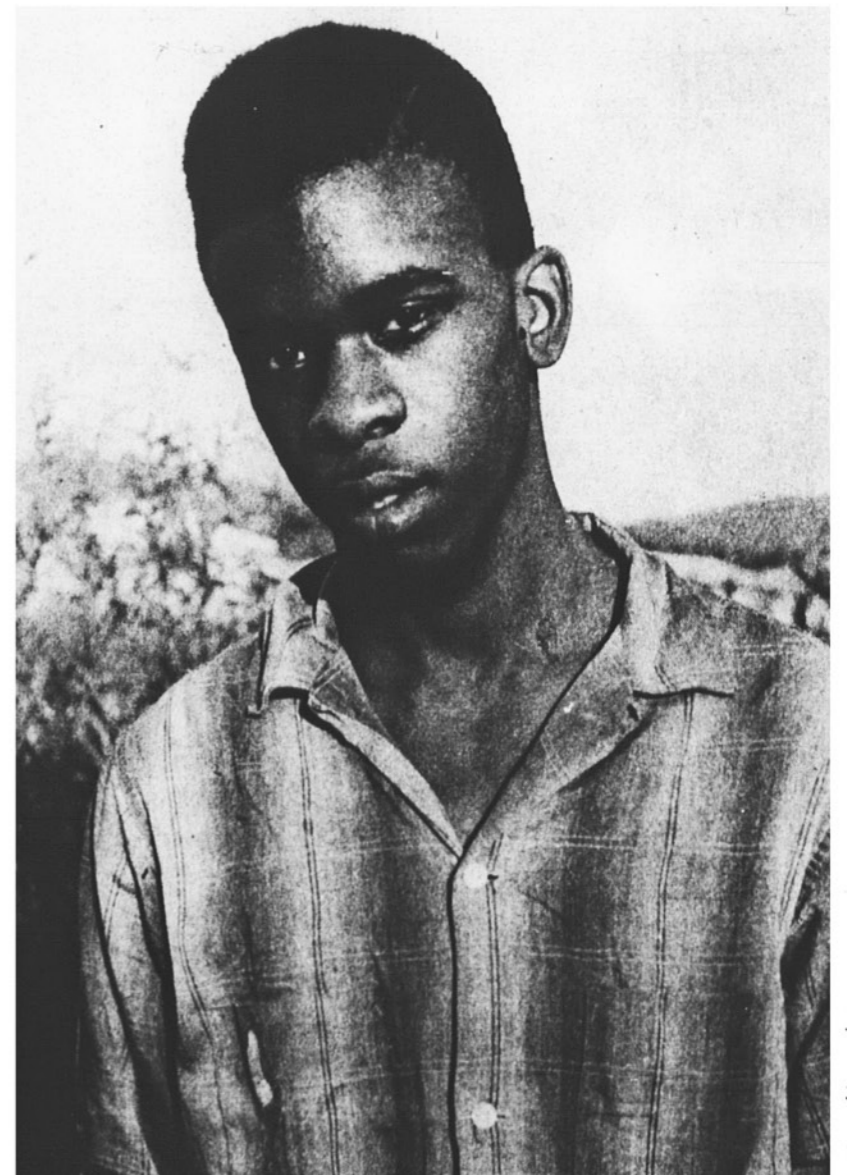
PIPPEN AND FRIENDS



RALPH PIPPEN JR.



MISS ELAINE ABBOTT



TIMOTHY GOLDEN

# Lee County Negro Says Law Officers Beat Him

BY KERRY GRUSON  
 OPELIKA, Ala.--John Wesley Hodge, a Negro from Waverly, has charged that he was beaten by law officers after an incident on the highway last June 10. While driving on Highway 280, said Mrs. Mary Lizzie Hodge (the victim's wife), Hodge "made a little wobble into the other lane." Just then, she said, Dr. Howard S. Weldon approached in his car. The cars did not collide, she said, but Weldon, an Opelika resident, turned around and followed Hodge into town. "After I got into town," said Hodge, a 54-year-old dairy and farm worker, "I was waiting for a parking place when the laws came up to me and said, 'Boy, get out.'"

He said there were three or four people in law officers' uniforms, along with Weldon. One officer suggested that Hodge be charged with reckless driving, Hodge said, but Weldon kept talking about the incident on the highway. Then, Hodge recalled, he told Weldon, "Boss, you done turned me over to the law now." "That's when they started working on my head," the victim said, Hodge's 14-year-old daughter, Rosie Lee, was in his car while this was happening. Hodge said that when she cried out, "You can't do that to my daddy," officers grabbed her by the arm and dragged her out of the car. Hodge was charged with reckless driving and resisting arrest.

A spokesman for the Lee County sheriff's office said that Miss Hodge bit Sheriff Paul Ragsdale, but the Hodge family denies this.

According to Chief Deputy O. B. Broadwater, no one was at the scene of the arrest but Ragsdale and Weldon, Ragsdale could not be reached for comment, and Weldon refused to discuss the case.

Hodge said that when he was released from jail, he was taken to Weldon for treatment of eye injuries. He said the doctor "told me he had thought I was drunk and endangering people. But he realized now that I was not drunk, and was sorry that I was hurt."

In another reported incident, Charles Webb, a Negro visiting from Cleveland, Ohio, said he pulled off the road last Monday to let a truck pass--and was arrested by two deputies. He was fined \$19.50 for illegal parking, and another \$55 for "criminal provocation."

Why did this happen? A friend said, "He was from out of state, he looked prosperous, and he asked questions instead of licking their boots."

# People Sue Bibb Beach

BY ROBIN REISIG  
 BIRMINGHAM, Ala.--A white couple and two Negro children tried to go to Holiday Beach in Bibb County a while back. But, according to a lawsuit filed last week, the man at the entrance told them:

"We don't allow Negroes here." So the white man--Neil Friedman--and the two children--Miss Paulette Huges, 7, and Miss Annette Huges, 8--made two separate charges in their suit. The children claimed they were denied admission because of their race. And Friedman--in an unusual twist--said he was deprived of his civil rights because he was with people who should have had the right to enter.

The suit, based on the May 20 incident, was filed in federal court in Birmingham.

"There are many incidents in Alabama where mixed groups are denied access to things the white group would normally be admitted to, and maybe even the Negro group would if they were alone," said Harry Burg, attorney for Friedman and the children.

Friedman said he hoped the suit would open up the beach, "so everyone could enjoy it." The park--with its lake, beach, arcade, paddle-boats, and picnic grounds--"is supposed to be beautiful," he said.

But Ed Nelson, manager of Holiday Beach, said it would close, rather than admit Negroes. "This is an all-white establishment," he said. "As long as it's open, it will be all-white."

# Wetumpka Folks Complain; Restaurant Owners Reply

WETUMPKA, Ala.--Wetumpka people said last week that Negroes are having trouble getting served at local drive-in restaurants. But the owners of the restaurants strongly denied charges of discrimination.

Last Friday, said Mrs. Catherine Peak, a busload of 37 Tuskegee Institute students and Elmore County people stopped for lunch at the Big H Drive-In on Highway 231.

But Big H owner William Heard told the people "there were too many--he couldn't serve us," charged Mrs. Peak. "Then he shut the window in our faces."

"I didn't refuse to serve them," Heard explained this week. "They came right at my lunch hour . . . I just told 'em I'm not set up to handle that many."

Heard said his restaurant is open to Negroes, and that some Negroes were eating there when the bus drove up. "But I couldn't serve that many," he said. "It would've taken all evening."

Mrs. Peak also said Negroes don't get equal treatment at the Turner Dairy Queen on S. Main St. She said some-

body had been telling Negro customers, "You niggers get back--let me serve the white folks first."

But Arris G. Turner, owner of the drive-in, said, "We haven't had any trouble noticeable." He said he had always believed "there wasn't no color on money. We always try to treat everyone alike."

However, he said that in one recent incident, "a nigger boy ran in front of a white lady, and I told him to get on back. He busted in front of her."

"White or colored," Turner said, "ain't nobody gonna run in front of a lady with me."

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**WANT ADS**

**ARKANSAS--**The Arkansas Council on Human Relations has affiliate councils in Conway, Fayetteville, Pine Bluff, Fort Smith, and North Little Rock. We are interested in establishing local councils throughout the state. ACHR is integrated at all levels, working in education, voter education, employment, welfare, and housing. For information, write Arkansas Council on Human Relations, 1310 Wright, Little Rock, Ark. 72206.

**FEDERAL JOBS--**The Interagency Board of Civil Service Examiners is holding examinations for the positions of cook, commissary worker, and meat cutter. The jobs are located in South Alabama and Northwest Florida. Information and application forms can be obtained from Alex Culver, Examiner in Charge, 413-A Post Office Building, Montgomery, Ala. 36104.

**HELP DAN HOUSER--**Dan Houser needs money for medical expenses, after being beaten in Prattville. Contributions can be sent to him in care of WRMA, 135 Commerce St., Montgomery, Ala. 36104, or in care of The Southern Courier, 1012 Frank Leu Bldg., Montgomery, Ala. 36104. Checks should be made payable to Dan Houser.

**HELPI--**A New York civil rights lawyer is writing a book on the famous Dred Scott case--only it seems that Scott's real name was Sam. Does anyone know anything about the nickname "Dred"?--what it means, what it refers to? Call 872-1079 in Selma if you do.

**CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS--**"I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me." This verse from Exodus is the Golden Text of this week's Bible lesson on "God," to be read in all Christian Science churches this Sunday, July 2.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED--**The Montgomery Community Action Committee needs all the volunteer help it can get to work in Head Start class rooms. Men, women, and teen-agers (minimum age 16) can all be of use. Volunteers will assist as teacher's aides and cook's helpers, and will take children on field trips in the area. A volunteer can choose his or her own hours between 8 and 11:30 a.m. on a convenient day Monday through Friday. Transportation and lunch will be furnished. If you are available, apply to the Rev. E. W. McKinney (volunteer director) or Mrs. Zenobia Johnson at 429 S. Decatur St., phone 262-6622. Or you can offer your services to St. Jude's Center, 2048 W. Fairview Ave., or Resurrection Center, 2815 Forbes Dr. If it is more convenient, go directly to the neighborhood Head Start location nearest you.

**KENTUCKY EXCURSION--**A wonderful excursion trip, both religious and pleasure. See Louisville, the rolling Kentucky blue grass, and the birthplace of President Abraham Lincoln. Don't miss this great opportunity that comes only once in a lifetime. A round trip with two meals costs only \$24, and you have until July 21 to pay for your ticket. Tickets available at Low-Rate-Sav-On, at the corner of Jeff Davis and Holt St.; from the Rev. H. N. Petrie, pastor of the Union Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, in Madison Park; and from Mrs. Olivia Boyd and others.

**JUST OUT--**New issue of Spartacist. Contains "Black and Red--Class Struggle Road to Negro Freedom," and "Anti-War Sellout." Single issue 10¢, 12 issues \$1. Order from Spartacist League, P. O. Box 8121, Gentilly Station, New Orleans, La. 70122.

**BIRMINGHAM SERVICES--**Worship with the New St. James Baptist Church, 600 N. Fourth Ave. Birmingham--the church with a program, the minister with a message. Sunday School 9:30 a.m., morning worship 10:45 a.m., Baptist Training Union 5:30 p.m. The Rev. L. Clyde Fisher, pastor.

**FOR A BETTER ALABAMA--**The Alabama Council on Human Relations has active chapters in Birmingham, Mobile, Montgomery, Huntsville, Florence-Tusculumbia-Sheffield, Auburn-Opelika-Tuskegee, Talladega, and Tuscaloosa. It has a staff that works throughout the state. The Alabama Council is integrated at all levels: its staff officers, staff, and local chapters all have people of both races working side by side. The Alabama Council wishes to establish local chapters in every county in the state. If you wish to join the Council's crusade for equal opportunity and human brotherhood, write The Alabama Council, P.O. Box 1310, Auburn, Alabama.

**BAHA'IS--**The Baha'is of Montgomery will have as the subject of this week's informal, public discussion, "Religion Is Progressive." These gatherings are held at 8 p.m. at the Chambliss home, 1925 Kenny St. in Montgomery, on Thursday; the Brook home, 33 Gaillard in Tuskegee, on Friday; the Featherstone home, 3222 Santee Dr. in Montgomery, on Saturday. No contributions, no obligations.

**NEWSPAPER JOB--**The York Gazette, one of the last of the really turned-on and tuned-in liberal daily newspapers in the country, is looking for a bright and hip young person who could be trained for a responsible job on the city desk. The candidate--male or female, black or white--should have had some reporting experience and, preferably, some experience in editing and headline writing. Salary: \$140 a week for a person with three years of news experience. After he is actually on the desk, the pay will increase. Candidates should write James Higgins, assistant editor, at The Gazette and Daily, 31 E. King St., York, Pa., and they should mention that they heard of the job through The Southern Courier.

**ROOMS NEEDED--**Rooms are needed for some of the 7,000 delegates expected for the district convention of Jehovah's Witnesses, to be held Thursday, June 29, through Sunday, July 2, in Montgomery. People who can offer rooms at nominal cost should call 262-8131.

**JOB OPENINGS--**The Southern Courier will soon be interviewing applicants for four positions on its business staff. Two people are needed to work on circulation and subscriptions, and two are needed to work on advertising. High pay, generous expense accounts. Applicants must be honest, responsible, and willing to work long hours, and they must be experienced or interested in business. A car is required. If interested, call 262-3572 in Montgomery to arrange an interview.

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## Whatever Happened To Free Food for Hale?

BY ROBIN REISIG  
GREENSBORO, Ala.--Why doesn't Hale County have a free food program? That was what John Reynolds of Greensboro asked Orville Freeman, U. S. Secretary of Agriculture, last Wednesday.

The same question has been puzzling some Hale County residents since last June, when Lewis Black of the Hale County Improvement Association came back from Washington saying Hale and Perry counties would almost certainly be approved for the program.

Before Black went to Washington, Hale County Probate Judge Harold Knight had refused to sign forms approving the program. The county was supposed to pay the cost of distributing the food.

But when Black returned, he said the federal Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) had agreed to pay for the distribution. According to Black, Neill Freeman of the U. S. Department of Agriculture had said this meant the county didn't have to approve the program.

But the surplus food never came to Hale County. During Freeman's tour, the secretary announced that Hale will get a food program on Aug. 5, and Perry will get one about Sept. 1. But the programs will be food stamps, not free food.

In Greensboro, Judge Knight said he and other county officials approved food stamps, instead of surplus food, "because we wanted to."

But what happened to the surplus food program that was almost certain?

"I just don't remember exactly what happened," said Black. "I've been to Washington so many times."

Freeman, national head of the surplus food program, said, "They never worked out an agreement with OEO." If the people had formed a community action agency, he said, they could have gotten the food.

An OEO official added that while the federal government has given money to cover distribution in eight Alabama counties, it does not pay these costs where there is no community action agency.

An agency was formed in Greensboro early this year, but it did not apply for surplus food. Said Black, a member of the agency: "So many things were going on, and we were busy."

### Freeman Tour

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

"It has been quoted in the local newspaper that for Secretary Freeman to come to Selma and not investigate SWAFCA is like President Johnson going to Viet Nam and not looking at the war," Orsborn said. "So we sure are going to let him see the war."

Freeman described himself as "very pro-cooperative" as a matter of principle, and later said, "I am not informed of the political protests against SWAFCA."

The secretary also said he saw no evidence that there is any discrimination against Negroes in Department of Agriculture programs.

"Every time a loan is refused--say because there is no repayment ability--they charge discrimination," Freeman said. "This is true not just for Negroes. It's true all over the country."

## TCA Celebrates 10th

TUSKEGEE, Ala.--"The need in the South is for voter-education programs, to teach the newly-registered Negro the link between the vote and bread-and-butter issues like better housing, jobs, and police relations," said Vernon E. Jordan Jr.

Jordan, director of the Southern Regional Council's Voter Education Project, spoke last Tuesday as the Tuskegee Civic Association (TCA) observed its tenth anniversary. He told the members that the TCA has become a symbol throughout the South. "You fought for your rights on every front," he said. "But you must not sit back and congratulate yourselves."

There are new hurdles now, Jordan said: "We must reach out into the slums, the rural and urban slums."

Jordan stressed that getting the vote was a beginning, not an end. "We must show whites that we do not want to take over, but that we will not be content with

99 1/2% equality," he said. "When the boys come back from Viet Nam, they will not be satisfied to be second-rate citizens."

After the meeting, Jordan remarked that the civil rights struggle had shifted from the "glamorous" sit-ins to the duller work of getting people to the polls. "Look," he said, "there are no young people here tonight. We must convince them that this work is just as vital."

### Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights

The weekly meeting will be at 7 p.m. Monday, July 3, in the St. James Baptist Church, 1100 Sixth Ave. N., the Rev. C. W. Sewell, pastor.

GRENADA, Miss.--James Meredith was marching again this week, trying to cover the miles he missed last year while recovering from gunshot wounds. Meredith set out last Saturday from Hernando, where he was gunned down a year ago in his first "march against fear." Alfred Dockery, a white man running for sheriff of DeSoto County, told Meredith, "If you are for God only and have no Communist commitment, you are a true Mississippian, and go right on ahead, boy."

At mid-week, Meredith's feet and back hurt, but he was still walking toward Jackson.

## Mississippi Memorial: A Drive, Not a March

BY BETTIE MANUEL

PHILADELPHIA, Miss.--The march in memory of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner turned out to be a drive through the outskirts of Philadelphia to the Mt. Zion Methodist Church in Longdale.

Chaney, Goodman, and Schwerner were on the way to investigate the burning of the Mt. Zion church when they were killed in 1964.

Last year, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. led a memorial march through the center of town. The demonstrators were attacked by white onlookers.

The Rev. J. C. Killingsworth of Enterprise had told people in Philadelphia that he would lead a memorial march this year. But in a meeting called to plan the march, a motion was passed to have a motorcade instead. The motion met with no opposition. Killingsworth was not at the meeting.

So last Saturday morning, the drivers were led through side streets by one police car, while another followed behind. It is questionable whether the white citizens of Philadelphia realized there was a memorial drive going on.

When the cars arrived at Longdale,

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32 people went inside the church. After the service started, about eight more people came in. Two of them were civil rights workers.

The people at the service listened to speeches on a variety of subjects, ranging from "black power" to the value of a good education. There were also two speeches on the draft.

A meeting was scheduled for the next day. Then the people were dismissed to have refreshments.

In Montgomery, Ala.

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Mrs. D. A. Williams, Voter Registration  
Mr. Jerry H. Pogue, Research & Complaints

This beautiful three-bedroom brick home belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Albert Turner and children, Marion, Ala.

This beautiful three-bedroom home belongs to Rev. and Mrs. J. T. Simmons and daughter, Marion, Ala.

I can build you a three-bedroom brick home on your lot. **NO MONEY DOWN--PAYMENTS START AT \$65.12--CENTRAL HEATING AND SEPTIC TANK INCLUDED**

Built on city or country lots. For information, write to: **James Basenburg, P.O. Box 547, Marion, Ala. 36756**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
C. Directions: \_\_\_\_\_