

THE SOUTHERN COURIER

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TEN CENTS

'I Walk 20 Miles a Day,' Says Birmingham Striker

BY ROBIN REISIG

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.--"I'd say I walk 18 to 20 miles a day," said Jim Palmer. "I'm very tired, very tired."

Palmer is the job steward for the eight Negroes on strike against the Goodyear tire store on S. 21st St. He and the other men have been walking those miles since May 2, when they went on strike. All of the store's Negro employees--and none of the whites--joined the protest. (The union at the store is all-Negro.)

At first, the men--who have worked at the store from six to 22 years--were demanding shorter hours, better working conditions, and higher wages.

"The truckers would work the whole day and half of the night, and come back the next day. If they'd say they didn't want to, (the employer would) say he'd fire them," Palmer charged.

Occasionally, on a big job requiring two men, "he'd try to put it on one man," said Palmer.

Besides protesting these practices, the men were asking for a 40- or 44-hour week, and a raise from \$1.58 and \$1.68 to \$2 an hour.

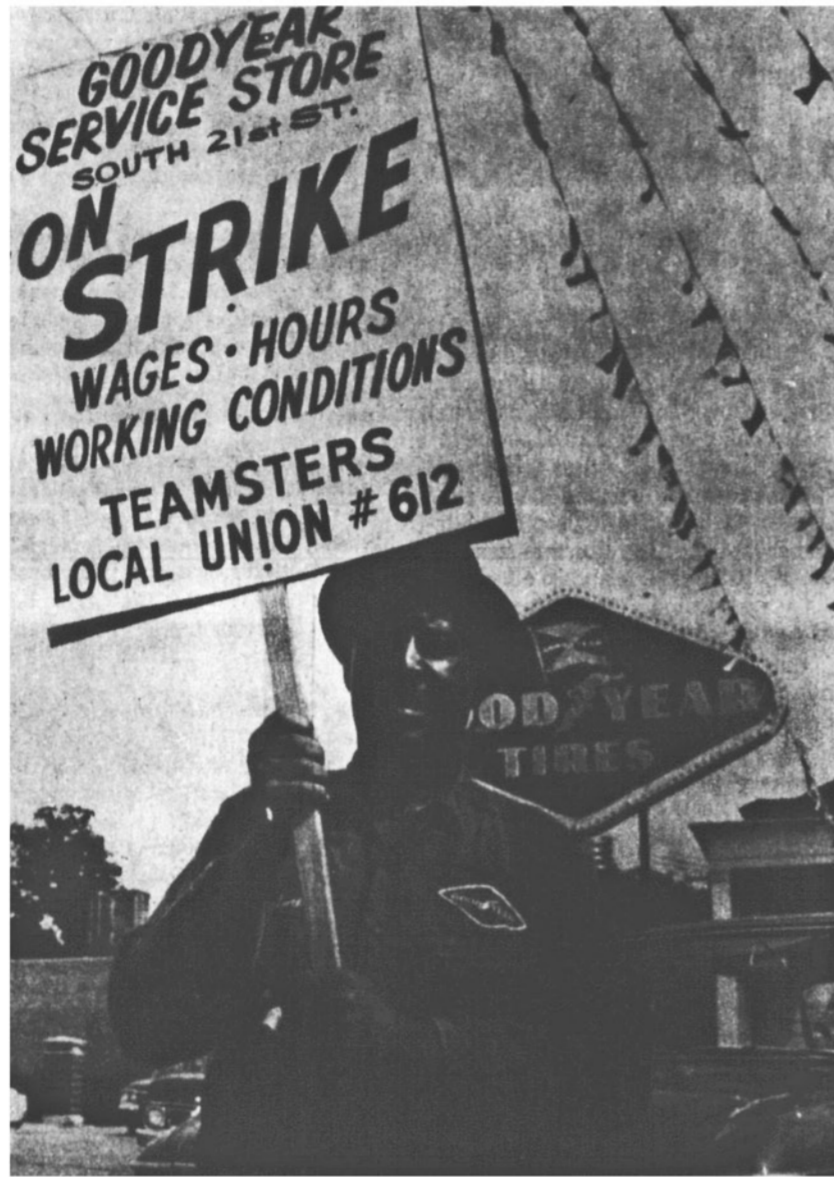
Then the store said that two of the strikers--who had worked at Goodyear seven and ten years--had been replaced by white men. Now, the strikers would settle for a few more pennies--if all eight men are allowed to come back.

"We want to go back together. We'll stay out till they make room for all of us," Palmer said.

The Negro workers have other complaints--although these were not reasons for the strike. No Negroes hold management or office positions, the strikers point out. Palmer has been at his job for 13 years, and has seen at least three white men promoted to "lead man" (supervisor) over him. "They wouldn't let me become a lead man because I was a Negro," he says now.

Palmer said the strikers have not gotten much help from their local union (Teamsters Local 612)--except for payments of \$25 a week.

"We've sent for the local, but they don't come," he said. "I don't think they're putting enough pressure on the



PICKETING IN BIRMINGHAM

company. We're getting it unfair on both sides."

Palmer said that when the union began at the store in 1957, it had 22 members there, including some whites. "We got good cooperation from the (local) union," Palmer recalls. "But since it ain't been anything but colored for the last two years, we ain't got no satisfaction out of it."

Three white Catholic priests--the

Rev. Eugene Farrell, the Rev. Robert DeGrandis, and the Rev. Joseph Doyle--joined the picket line for a time. But then Archbishop Thomas J. Toolen reminded them of a diocesan law that no priest or nun may take part in demonstrations or picket lines.

On July 1, Farrell wrote to Frank E. Fitzsimmons, who runs the national Teamsters Union, and asked for help.

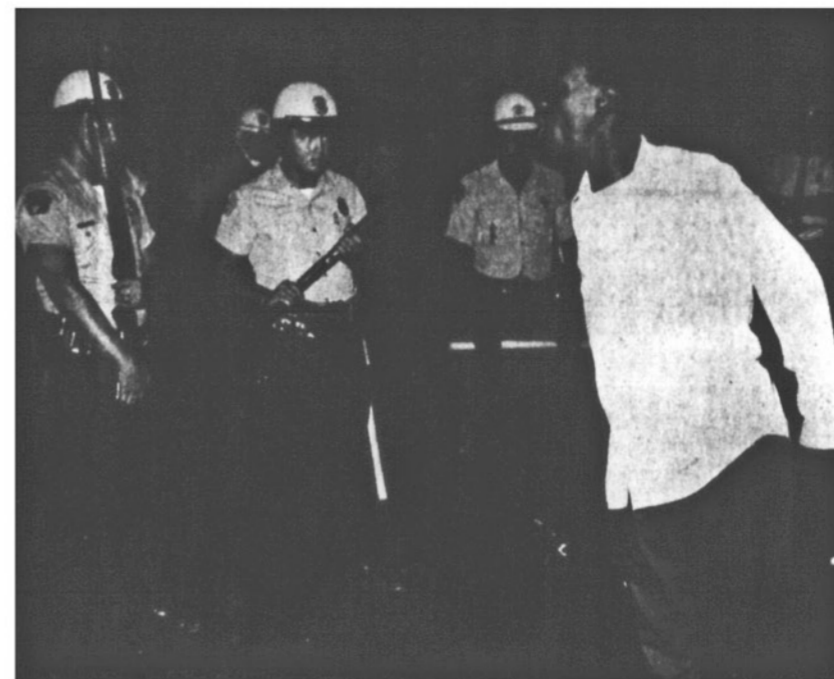
"They told us to mind our own business," said Doyle, after the Teamsters' reply arrived this week. "They said we're in the field of religion, they're in the field of labor, and never the twain shall meet."

John Pierce, secretary and treasurer of Local 612, said the strikers' race has nothing to do with what the local does or doesn't do for them.

He said it was not illegal for the store to replace the strikers: "It's unjust but it happens every day. The laws are not for the laboring man."

Goodyear store and district officials said they are "not at liberty to discuss" their policies.

"I feel lost in a way," said Palmer. "I really don't see no way out."



MONTGOMERY, Ala.--A march to the Governor's Mansion--to "pray for Lurleen"--ended in the arrest of eight demonstrators last Tuesday night.

The 65 marchers were stopped by city police for marching without a permit. Their request for a permit had been refused because the city parade law prohibits marches or gatherings in residential neighborhoods. The group marched for eight blocks through predominantly Negro neighborhoods, before being stopped by police at the edge of a white residential area.

The Rev. Richard Boone, SCLC field director, said earlier that the marchers were going to pray for Governor Lurleen B. Wallace, after her cancer operation.

A Negro Family Loses Its Land

BY ROBIN REISIG

EUTAW, Ala.--"My father owned the land since 35 years," said Lewis Walton. But last Tuesday, Circuit Judge Emmet Hildreth said the land the Waltons had been using--and paying taxes on--since the early 1930's was the property of an all-white hunting club.

Five families of Waltons, all Negro farmers, live on a total of 365 acres--including the 80 acres they lost on Tuesday. They raise corn, sweet potatoes, and peanuts. They never knew about the claim against their land until a year ago.

"They (the hunting club) started cutting the timber on our place, to sell for lumber, and we stopped them," said P. C. Walton, Lewis Walton's brother. The club--the Dollar Hide Conservation and Realty Corporation, which owns 5,718 acres of Greene County land--then brought suit against the Waltons.

In court, Lewis Walton's side of the story was not presented. Walton and his attorney, Orzell Billingsley Jr. of Birmingham, said they had never been notified of the trial date.

By chance, Billingsley said, he was in the courtroom on other cases. He sent a friend to get Walton when the land case came up. But, on Billingsley's advice, Walton didn't testify.

Billingsley said he was unprepared because he was not notified by the court. Outside of court, he said he didn't try to present the evidence for Walton's side, "because the proceedings were illegal and unconstitutional, and I refuse to



WALTON



BILLINGSLEY

participate in an illegal action, so I let them try it by themselves."

"The law provides--especially where counsel lives out of the county--that he must have notification," said Billingsley.

During the trial, two white men testified that the hunting clerk had bought the land from Mrs. Edna Deese in 1942. The men said they alone used it to hunt and fish.

Walton did tell his side of the story after the trial. According to him, the land was not Mrs. Deese's to sell. The original owner, J. S. Deese, had sold other land to the Walton family.

Then, said Walton, Deese "told my father, 'Jim, 80 acres of land lie between my land and yours.' So he told my daddy, 'Clean it up and make a farm out of that place, and in 10 years the court will make you a deed on it.'"

"There was no name in the records for that land until we paid taxes on it, Walton said. Later, he said, the Deese

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5, COL. 3)

Service And Cox Say 'No'

BY GAIL FALK

JACKSON, Miss.--A month ago, the local draft board told Morris Davis Jr. it wanted him to join the Army--but Davis refused.

Last week, Davis told the draft board he now wanted to join the Army--but the board refused.

When Davis--a young Jackson Negro--reported for induction last June 14, he said he would not take the traditional step forward that means joining the Army. He explained that he was protesting the fact that there are no Negroes on his Selective Service board.

A few weeks later, a federal grand jury indicted Davis for refusing to be inducted--a charge that could mean five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine.

Then last Friday, Davis told U. S. District Judge Harold Cox that he had changed his mind. "I'm sorry," he said in court. "I wish to serve my country."

Cox told Davis to go directly to his Selective Service board, and try to get the Army to take him.

But later, Davis and his two lawyers--Paul Brest of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, and R. Jess Brown--came back and said the Army wouldn't take Davis as long as he had the federal charge against him.

But the judge said he wouldn't dismiss the charge so Davis could get inducted: "This fellow deliberately got into this thing, and he's going to have to get himself out of it. . . I'm going to make it just as hard for him as I can."

Davis then pleaded guilty, but told the judge his refusal was only a protest against the all-white draft board. "I have never expressed my opposition to the Viet Nam war," said Davis. "I'm not opposed to the Viet Nam war. I stated at the induction center that I was willing to serve my country."

Cox put off sentencing Davis, and told the young man to keep trying to get into the Army.

At the same time he set July 25 as the trial date for John Otis Sumrall of Quitman. Sumrall pleaded not guilty last Friday to a similar draft charge.

Fire in Miss.

LEXINGTON, Miss.--Fire broke out in the press room of the Lexington Advertiser early last Wednesday morning, and seriously damaged the office and printing equipment of the Holmes County weekly newspaper.

"I can't say that arson was or was not committed," said the Advertiser's editor, Mrs. Hazel Brannon Smith. But, she said, "it was a fire that couldn't have happened--and it did."

Mrs. Smith explained the fire started in a room with a concrete floor and brick walls, where there was "nothing to create a fire hazard, like oily rags." She said firemen found a window open, and a back door unboltd.

Mrs. Smith, a Pulitzer Prize winner, is widely known for her liberal views on race relations. In 1964, the office of another newspaper she runs--the Northside Reporter in Jackson--was bombed.

Last month, Mrs. Smith entered formal politics for the first time, when she qualified as a candidate for state senator from Holmes and Humphreys counties.

'Just Bragging'



MRS. EUGENE WITHERSPOON AND QUILTS

BY BETH WILCOX

ALBERTA, Ala.--"I'm just bragging about the time we had in Washington," said Mrs. Eugene Witherspoon. Five members of the Freedom Quilting Bee took a trip to Washington, D. C., last week, to exhibit and sell quilts at the American Folk Life Festival.

"The trip was so successful," said Mrs. Witherspoon. "We sold over 20 of the 25 quilts we took up there, and we got just piles of orders."

"People were so friendly," she added. "Children who came to the exhibit played with Louise (Mrs. Witherspoon's daughter). There was even a lady from Virginia who said she knew how to quilt--so she sat down and helped us."

"Then any time we wanted something to drink or eat, they had some Girl Scouts there from Baltimore (Maryland) to help us get anything we wanted."

The folk festival was held in the famous Smithsonian Institute. Besides Mrs. Witherspoon and her daughter, the ladies who took part were Mrs. Mattie Ross, Mrs. Betty Bendalaph, and Mrs. Joanna Pettway.

The Rev. Francis X. Walter, of the Selma Inter-religious Project, drove the quilting bee members to the capital. The ladies brought along some un-

finished quilts and some frames, so they could show people at the exhibit how a quilt is made. They answered a lot of questions about quilting.

"There were some people who asked us if we used two thimbles to quilt, others if we had to quilt the top and bottom separately," said Mrs. Witherspoon.

"Someone even asked me how I could sew in a straight line without a chalk mark. I just said that I have been doing it all my life this way, and I ought to know by now."

During the festival, there was entertainment in the evening. "The best thing," said Mrs. Witherspoon, "was a jazz marching band from New Orleans." There was a sample of almost every folk culture in the U.S.--a Scotch bagpipe band, a Chinese-American music group, Spanish dancers, and more.

"I wish the people down South could have seen it--the ones who say 'I'm too old to go North, or too old to learn new ways,'" said Mrs. Ross.

When she was young, she said, there were a lot of square dances and blues quartets, but they hardly exist any more.

The M. E. Miller family, from near Centerville, had a potter's wheel at the Washington exhibit. They showed people about the craft of pottery-making.

Learn While You Eat



ASH CREEK, Ala.--The 100 participants in the Lowndes County anti-poverty program got a "lesson in group organization" at a combined meeting and barbeque last Saturday.

The barbeque, besides being a good time, was designed as "education in budgeting and meal preparation," said program director D. Robert Smith.

The trainees put on a fashion show and a spelling bee, and they displayed things they had made--from pictures to screen

doors. Many people gave short talks on what they had learned in the program. "This program is the best thing that ever came to Lowndes County," one speaker told the group.

The program--sponsored by the Lowndes County Christian Movement for Human Rights, and financed by the federal Office of Economic Opportunity--offers classes for adults in reading, writing, sewing, health, masonry, electrical work, and farm management.

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Editorial Opinion

OEO's Finest Hour

The federal Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) took a courageous stand when it decided to fund the Southwest Alabama Farmers Cooperative Association (SWAFCA).

It is almost time for OEO's annual battle with the U. S. Congress. Once again, conservative congressmen will try to cut OEO's budget, or even to do away with the anti-poverty agency. So this is no time for OEO to be making enemies.

But when a decision had to be made on SWAFCA, OEO did not back down. Apparently, OEO realized that the frantic objections of Black Belt officials were based, not on a fear of "black power," but on a fear of freeing the slaves.

In its message telling the governor why her veto could not stand, OEO came right out and said the state's objections to SWAFCA were groundless. And it warned against future "physical or economic harassment" by SWAFCA's opponents.

OEO did not have much to gain, politically, by making this decision. Northern liberals never went to bat for SWAFCA the way they did earlier for the Child Development Group of Mississippi (CDGM). Nor has OEO won much political support with Migrant Division projects like those in Lowndes County, Ala., Wilcox County, Ala., and Grenada, Miss.

So OEO may be punished for finally coming of age. People who want OEO to survive should write to congressmen--their own and others--and tell them so.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

I have written an article on a subject that I think you and others might enjoy.

First I must say that I enjoyed Bettie Manuel's article in the June 17-18 Courier--"Mississippi's View of Boston Violence." I also enjoyed "The Gospel Truth," by Ralph Featherstone. In the photographs by Jim Pepler, I saw one that looked like my sister who is in Holiness.

To get down to my article, it is in Title: "Should the Negro Celebrate the Declaration of Independence (Independence Day)?"

I was sitting reading the Declaration of Independence. I noticed a couple of sentences which made me think, is this the truth or is the Declaration of Independence giving false statements? These lines are:

"We think these truths to be self-evident: That all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights governments are instituted among men, deriving their powers from the consent of the governed."

I analyzed this. The following is my analysis.

Everyone knows, by self-evidence, that everyone is created the same, and God gave them rights that no one could transfer to another. And among the rights He gave was life, freedom, and the act of finding happiness. And to protect these rights are governments established among us, and they get their powers from the people they govern. Have the Negroes got the rights written there, entirely?

Definitions of Special Words and a Phrase:

Negro, n. An African black.
Caucasian, adj. Of or pertaining to the Caucasus.

Declaration of Independence. A document enacted July 2-4, 1776, by the unanimous vote of 12 American colonies, in which they declared themselves independent of Great Britain.

The Declaration of Independence, stating life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all, was signed in 1776. The Emancipation Proclamation was signed in 1863. Why weren't the Negroes free then?

Thanks to Mr. Lincoln and his Presidential cabinet, we have what freedom we have today. If Mr. Lincoln saw what was happening today, he'd die of shame.

Some of my ancestors about nine generations back might have been born in Africa. Then their nationality is African. I am five generations down from the time of Slavery. I was born in the United States in 1952.

I consider myself an American, a proud one too--proud of my color, not black but brown. I've lived 14 years, and never saw a live black person, nor

a white one. I bet you haven't either, just think.

Was the Declaration of Independence written with us in mind, too?

Reseda Angelyn Shelton
Alexander City, Ala.

To the Editor:

In respect to the recent Mobile violence, I write this letter to say racial killing, bombing, and destruction is not the peaceful solution.

Even the pimps, prostitutes, and so-called hoodlums say Mobile is wildly on a collision course and showdown that could culminate with some of the most fierce racial fighting America has yet to experience, because of hardship among the masses, black and white.

The historical truth is, the so-called racial peace and harmony preached for Mobile is a conditioned "boss man" over "servant" community structure and relationship. There is no such thing as an organized program--like home or church visitation, association, and assimilation--involving all races around Mobile.

Among the Caucasians--white people--Mobile has aggressive, educated, and youthful leaders supervising institutions for control and growth of our conditions.

Among the Negro masses, Mobile has the old guard, 60- and 70-year-old men, trying to control and supervise the unsanitary community conditions today 1967. These old-line leaders accomplished great works back in 1925, 1935, to 1955.

The historical bare-face truth is: Mobile has failed to train up and involve the youthful, responsible, and aggressively-educated Negro male for leadership participation into Mobile's decision-making governmental affairs. Because of this tragedy, all fighting hell could break loose, for it will be the day when God sees fit to remove a few more of the 60- and 70-year-old Negro leaders from the Mobile scene.

The youthful-white-controlled city will not have the old-guard Negro community contact to communicate with and give orders to. There will be only an aggressive hostile vacuum, filled with isolation, hatred, frustration, distrust, and most of all, poverty.

Some say Mobile is wildly on a collision course and showdown that could culminate with some of the most fierce racial fighting America has yet to witness. The crucial time has arrived for Mobile. Where does she go from here?

Jerry H. Pogue
Mobile, Ala.

To the Editor:

Our young people of today are getting



REV. DANIEL HARRELL (LEFT) AND REV. FRANK SMITH

People in Wilcox Learn How to Build Homes

BY BETH WILCOX

LOWER PEACHTREE, Ala.--"I'm so glad we're getting a new house," said Miss Minnie Pearl Murray. "Our new house is going to be under a pecan tree."

The Murray family and many others will soon be building their own new homes, under the Wilcox County Self-Help Housing Project. The project recently received a \$38,640 grant from the federal government.

The grant pays the cost of training the people in home-building and maintenance. The federal Farmers Home Administration (FHA) is making loans to the families for the purchase of building materials.

"We have 11 families already approved (for loans) by the state and county FHA," said the Rev. Daniel Harrell of Camden, director of the project. "The cooperation of FHA has been very good."

In fact, said Harrell, loans will probably be approved for more than the 20 families originally included in the pro-

gram. "We have seven more people already approved by the county in Alberta, and four approved in Annemarie," he said. "We think that more like 40 people will receive homes by the time this ends."

The project is intended to help poor people. In fact, single people with incomes above \$1,500 (for non-farmers) or \$1,050 (for farmers) do not qualify for the program. (The limits are higher for larger families.)

But, said Harrell, the incomes of most of the families involved are far below the minimum set by the program.

The FHA makes loans only to people who have "reasonable ability" to repay them, he said. Still, he pointed out, the payments on a two-bedroom home are only about \$29 a month.

"A total loan of \$4,600 will buy a two bedroom house which would be costing the buyer \$6,000 if a contractor built it," said Harrell. Participants in the project save money by doing the work themselves--using the technical instruction provided by the federal grant.

The families now are divided into two groups, the Johnson Association of Lower Peachtree and the Yellow Bluff Association. Each association meets once a week.

"At the meetings, we learn how to plan our homes, how we are going to build the houses, and what kind of land to build the houses on," said Mrs. Willie Mae Johnson of Yellow Bluff. For instance, she said, the families learned that "we are not supposed to build our houses where water might settle."

Buying any kind of land has been a problem for many people, because there isn't much real estate for sale. "I had to pay \$500 for my one acre of land," said Mrs. Johnson. "That man sure didn't want to sell!"

The actual building was scheduled to begin in September. But, said Harrell, it will probably start sooner, because of the quick approval of loans.

Your Welfare Rights

When You Can't Work

BY LAURA ENGLE

Frequently, a parent will go to the welfare office and ask for aid because he (or she) is too sick to work.

The welfare worker may allow the parent to make an application for Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled (APTD)--or the worker may tell the parent he isn't sick enough to apply. (The welfare worker has no right to refuse to take an application, but many people don't know this and get talked out of applying.)

If people are allowed to make the application, and then are rejected for not being disabled enough, they think there is nothing more they can do.

This is not true. The welfare worker should tell the parent he can receive help for his children, even if he is not "permanently and totally disabled."

When a parent is sick and unable to work--even though the condition may be temporary, or not total--the children are considered to be deprived of this parent's care and support. They are then eligible for another kind of aid--Aid to Dependent Children (ADC).

There are many ways a parent can go about getting ADC based on "incapacity." If the parent is found to be permanently and totally disabled, he can qualify for APTD. And he can make a separate application for ADC, at the same time he applies for APTD. (The welfare worker should automatically take the ADC application. But if she doesn't, the parent should ask for it.)

A father may be considered "incapacitated," though not totally disabled, if he is unable to work at his usual job--or a similar one--without severe pain or danger.

For instance, say a man who has always worked on a construction job is now having fainting spells. He would be in danger if he tried to continue his



Dothan, Ala.

The Les Charmant Filles Social Club held its fifth annual Flower Pageant last month at the Masonic Temple. There were several beautiful and charming queens, each carrying an arm bouquet of mums, the club flower. Some of the queens were Miss Bobby Salter, Miss Linda McSwain, Miss Jacquelyn Jackson, Miss Helen Booth, and Miss Jewel Turner. The club members were all dressed in white or black, and the stage--decorated with many flowers--gave a real feeling of springtime. (From Mrs. Mary Alice Crews)

White Hall, Ala.

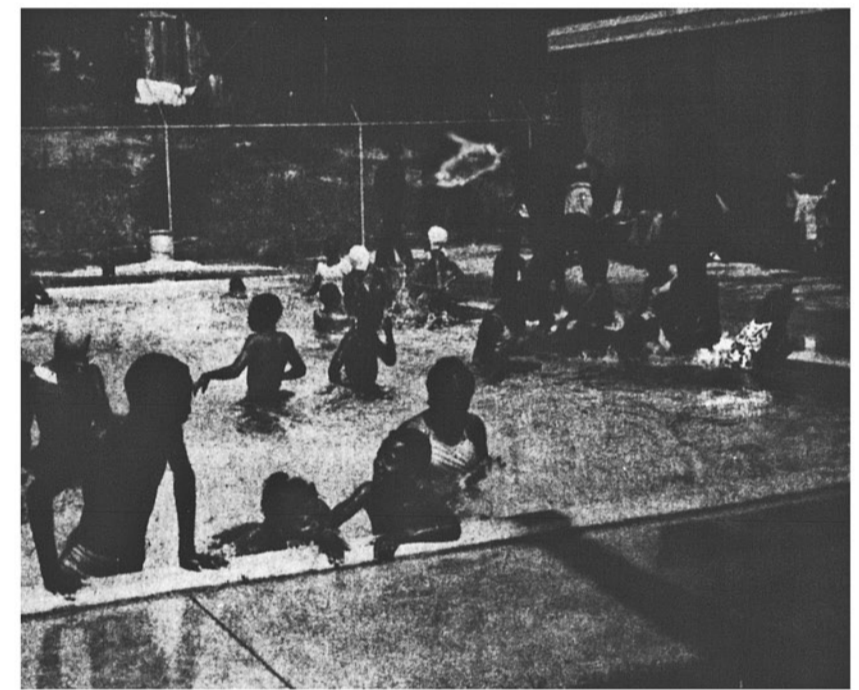
John Hulet, head of the Lowndes County Freedom Party, went to Cincinnati, Ohio, last weekend, to speak to the Organization for Afro-American Unity. The group was holding a conference on the subject of "black power,"

Abbeville, Ala.

Mrs. Pearlina Danzey is entertaining visitors from Newark, New Jersey. They include her son, Lloyd Edward; his wife, Annette; their son, Junie; Mrs. Danzey's sister, Margaret; her brother, Danny; his wife, Cora; and their children. (From James J. Vaughan)

Huntsville, Ala.

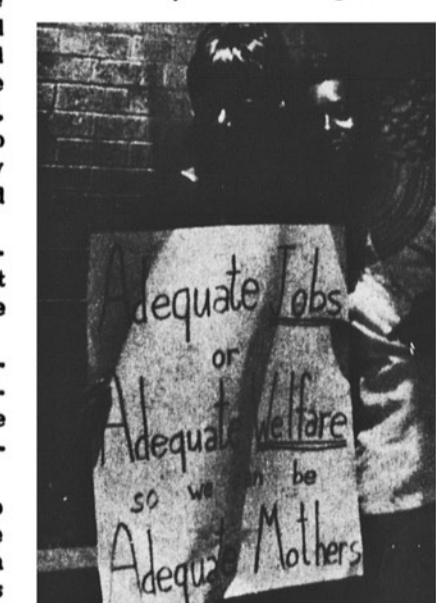
The Upward Bound kids from Alabama A & M College celebrated the Fourth of July with a dinner for their parents in the college cafeteria. The dinner was followed by a recreation period in the gymnasium. The 83 participants in Upward Bound--81 Negroes and two whites--live in dormitories on the A & M campus. They attend classes in communication skills, mathematics, science, and reading. For two hours



SWIMMING IN TROY

usual work, but he might still be able to make a little money mowing lawns two or three times a week.

Therefore, the man would not be totally disabled, and could not get APTD.



JACKSON WELFARE PROTEST

But he would still be unable to support his family because of his illness, and his children would be eligible for ADC.

Or, another man may have tuberculosis. The doctors feel that the disease can be cured, but have ordered him not to work for several months. Until his doctors allow him to return to work, this man is incapacitated--and his children are eligible for aid.

It is sometimes more difficult to prove incapacity in a mother. She must present evidence that she is unable to do her usual work--caring for the home, supervising the children, and so on. A woman with diabetes or extremely high blood pressure--who needs help doing her housework--is incapacitated.

As a general rule, the parent's condi-

on Saturday mornings, each student is given a chance to do special work in art, music, or drama. While in Upward Bound, high school students get room and board, plus \$10 per week. Students who have finished high school but are not yet in college get room and board, plus a salary of \$160 per month. They earn the salary by serving as assistants to the instructors.

Vaiden, Miss.

The Carroll County Improvement Association has just finished a four-week registration drive, and is now being organized in all five beats of Carroll County. The association wants to sense this into people: they have access to the ballot, and they have nothing to fear since the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Also, loans for things such as buildings and farm equipment are available, but the people have to learn how to go about getting them. The Improvement Association will have weekly beat meetings and monthly county meetings, to discuss out problems and what can be done about them. (From Glenn Duven and W. L. Lott)

Troy, Ala.

Independence Day proved to be a treat for the children of Troy. City officials allowed three hours of free swimming for everyone. About 150 children turned out. There was a fireworks display at the pool, while free watermelon was being cut. "This is an annual service for the people of Troy," said Hubert Maddox, supervisor of the Washington St. Pool. Mrs. J. M. Warren sponsored a barbecue, with the profits going to the Bethel Baptist Church. And in a Little League baseball game, James Frazier's Reds took a 10-9 victory over Jose Henderson's Blues.

tion must exist for a period of at least two or three weeks before the children will be considered for ADC.

In some cases, however, the determination can be made almost immediately. For instance, if a man loses a hand in an industrial accident, he is obviously going to be unable to work for some time. His family should begin to receive ADC benefits as soon as the welfare department is willing to act.

In order to receive ADC, the incapacitated parent may be required to accept vocational rehabilitation training. This is so the parent will be able to get another type of job in the future. For instance, a manual laborer who develops a heart condition might be able to learn a factory job. He can get ADC for his children--if he agrees to accept the training.

But suppose a farm worker loses both legs in an accident. While it is true that he could probably work in a factory, there are no factories in the town where he lives.

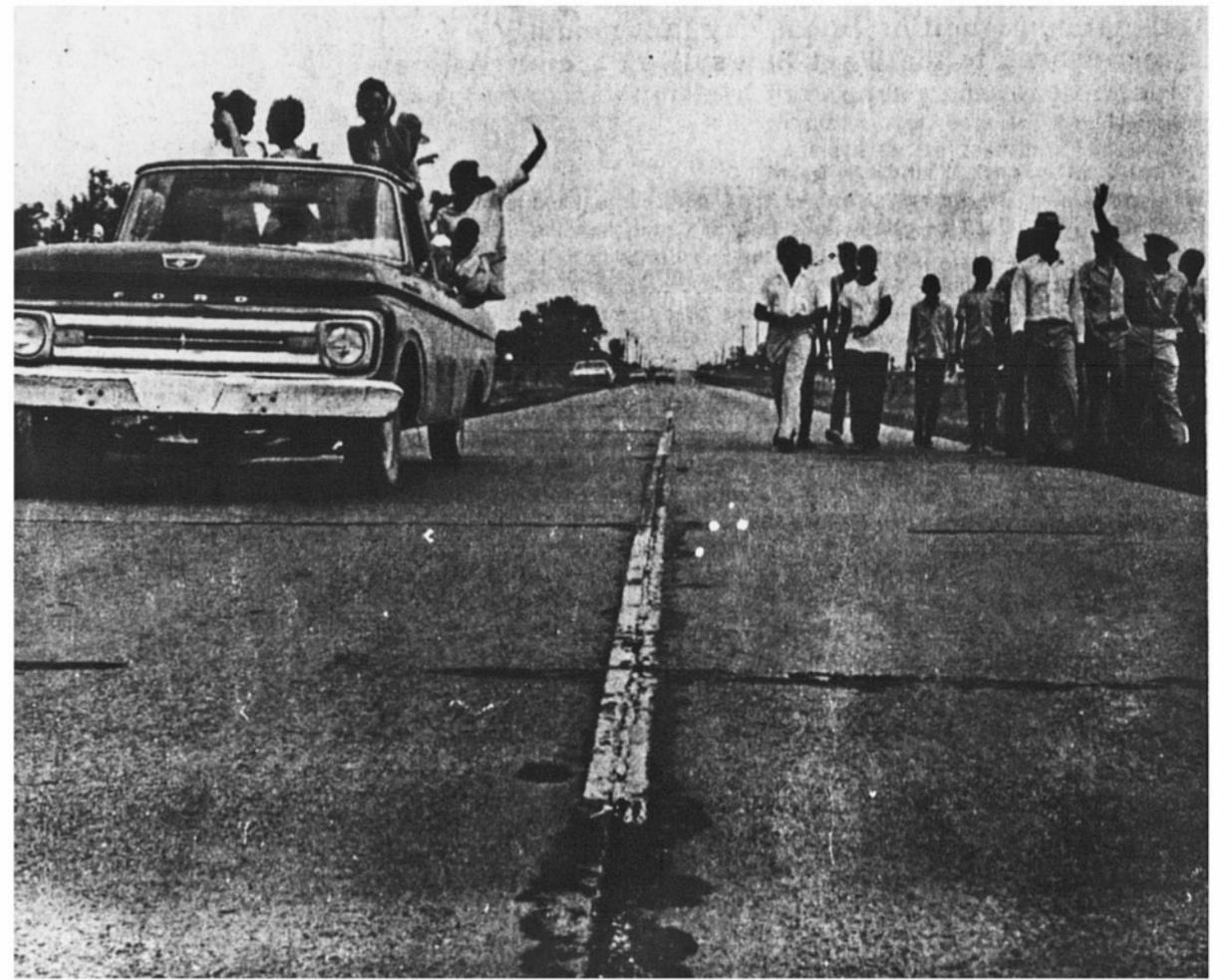
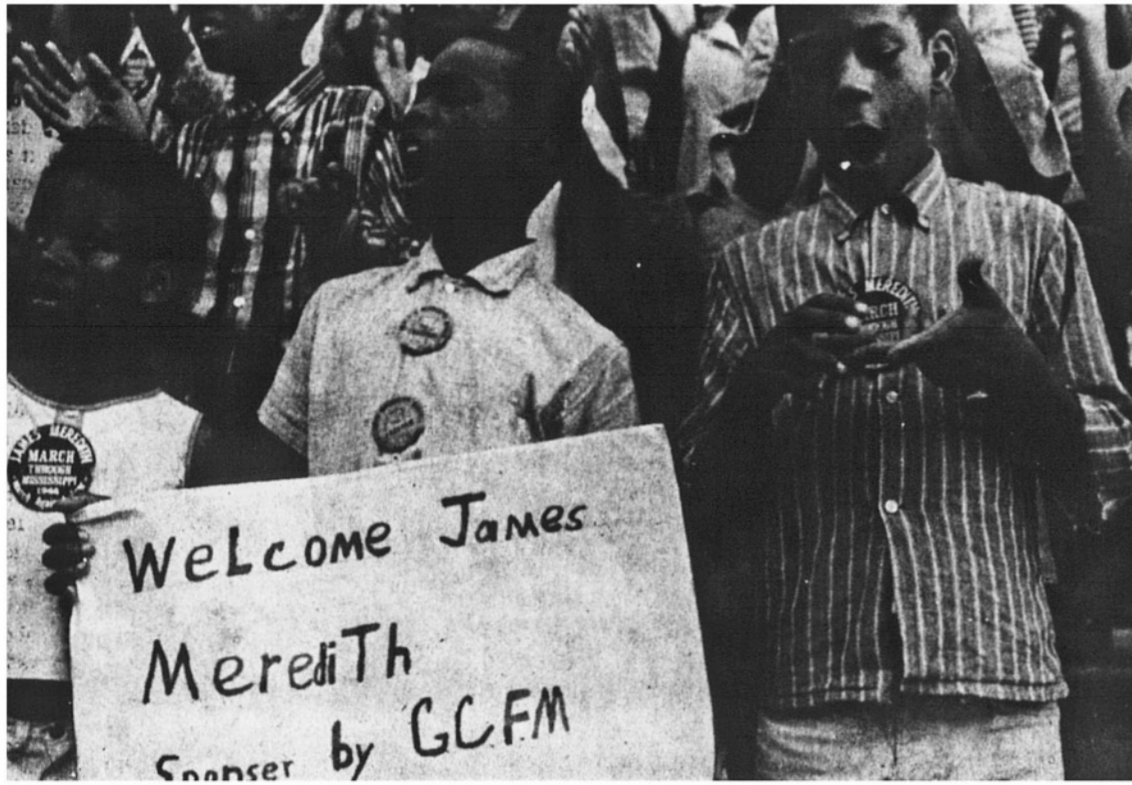
The worker would be eligible for ADC anyway. The welfare department cannot force a parent to leave his family--or a family to leave its community--to accept work somewhere else.

Incapacity in a parent may be the result of either a physical or mental condition. It may be the result of an injury (such as loss of a limb), an illness (such as tuberculosis), or a defect (such as mental retardation).

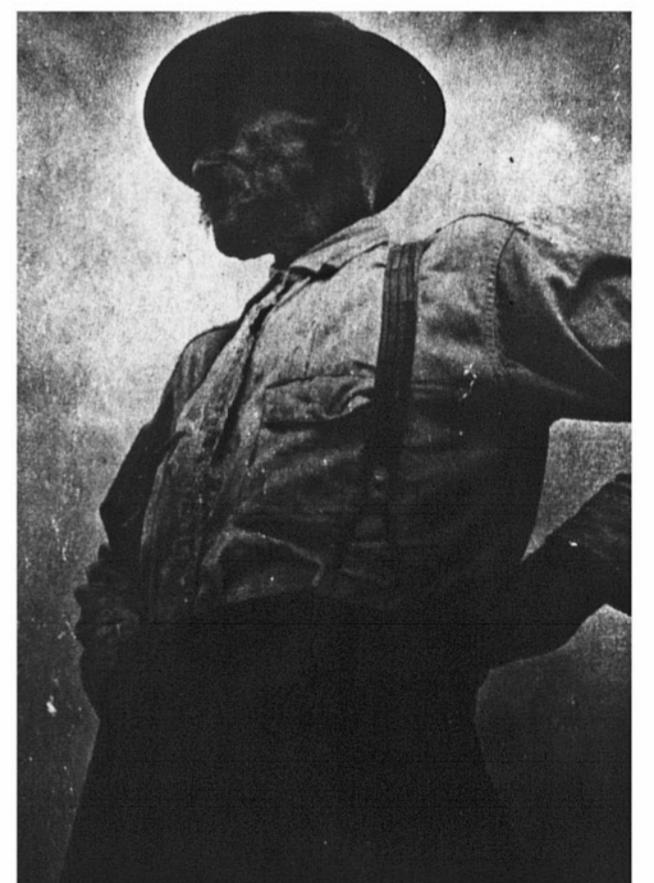
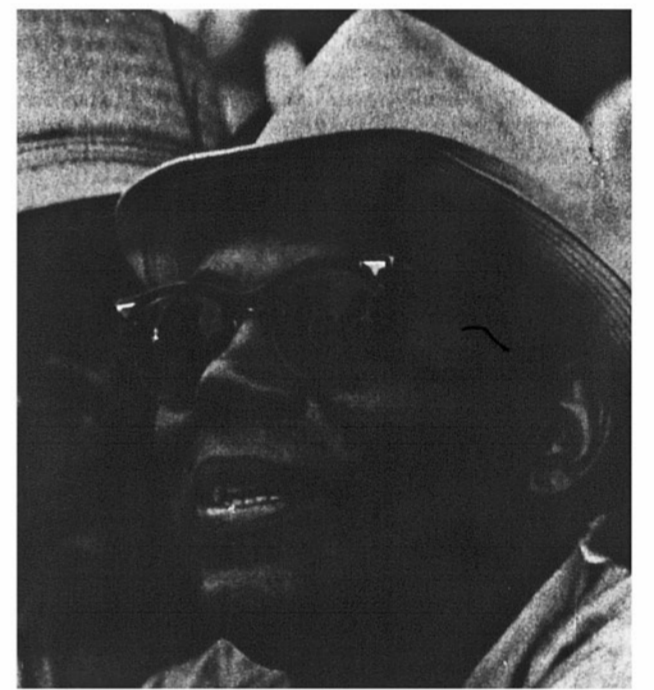
Unlike the standard for APTD--which will be discussed in a later column--the major standard for ADC is whether or not the condition prevents the parent from supporting his family (in the case of a father), or caring for her home and children (in the case of a mother).

Like all decisions of the local welfare office, a determination that a parent is not incapacitated can be appealed to the state welfare department.

James Meredith: 'Walk Against Fear' Through Mississippi



Photos by
Tony Ganz



So What Did Freeman See?

BY LAURA ENGLE

BATESVILLE, Miss.--Orville Freeman, the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture, roared through nine Mississippi communities in one day last month.

In a speech to the West Batesville Farmers Association, he said the purpose of his trip was to "look and learn."

What did he look at? What did he learn?

For one thing, he looked at two of the Delta's largest and most profitable plantations--the Delta Pine plantation in Bolivar County, and the Mascot plantation in Coahoma County. The purpose of the visit to the Delta Pine--as outlined in the day's travel schedule--was to "view drastic change in farming operations."

Early Ewing, an official of the Delta and Pine Land Company, was the guide for this part of the tour. After explaining various innovations in fertilization, weed control, and irrigation, Ewing answered questions from reporters accompanying Freeman.

Someone asked him if it wasn't true that many of his workers had been replaced by machines. "Well," Ewing answered, "that's a little like asking about the chicken and the egg. It's hard to say if the workers were replaced by machines, or if the machines replaced the workers."

At the Mascot plantation, brothers Andrew and Oscar Carr took the secretary to the site where they are building one new duplex and eight new single-family units for their resident farm workers. This is being done with a \$60,000 farm labor housing loan from the Farmers Home Administration (FHA), and \$15,000 of the Carrs' own funds.

During a stop at a Head Start Center in Bolivar County, Ted Carter of the Mound Bayou STAR center joined the tour. Carter said he was concerned that the tour schedule didn't include a single stop at the home of a poor family. Somehow, he convinced the tour leaders to make an unscheduled visit with some poor people.

The family the tour visited was typical of many in the Mississippi Delta. The father of the house was unable to work, because he suffered from tuberculosis. The mother seemed to be mentally retarded. Somewhere between 14 and 18 people lived in the house--no one was quite sure of the exact number. Four of the children also had tuberculosis.

The family had been denied a welfare grant for Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled. They said they were turned down because they had borrowed too much money in the past from other sources. (Under the law, this is not a reason for denying welfare.) However, they were getting Aid to Dependent Children--the maximum amount of \$90 per month.

The family paid \$23-per-month rent for a run-down house. They said their application for an FHA loan, to build a new home, had been denied--they had no money to repay the loan, and the adults in the home were too sick to work. One daughter said the family would have to put up \$44 to buy food stamps.

As the reporters asked questions, Carter explained how federal and state regulations keep the family from participating in programs that might help them. Freeman said nothing.

But then the visit was over, and the tour went on--to a recreation center in Coahoma County, a luncheon in Clarksdale, and the Batesville Co-op (where everyone ate watermelon).

In Batesville, the tour visited a family "presently living in a badly dilapidated house" while their new, FHA-financed home was being built. This family had a \$3,300 yearly income--the Mississippi average is about \$2,800.

At a barber shop built with a federal loan, Secretary Freeman had his hair cut.

In Oxford, Freeman was the featured speaker at the ground-breaking ceremony for a new United States Plywood-Champion Papers plant. Surrounded by officials of the company, their wives, and "Miss Oxford" in an ante-bellum dress, the secretary pretended to cut down a pine tree.

Then he gave a speech lauding the "foresight" of the people of Mississippi, who planted a handsome stand of loblolly pines--halting soil erosion and providing an opportunity for employment and advancement of the people in the community.

The audience--all white except for a few reporters and federal officials--applauded mightily.



AGRICULTURE SECRETARY HEARS HOW IT IS

Cabinet Member Meets Farmers

'We Have to Stick Together'

BY ROBIN REISIG

EUTAW, Ala. -- "Secretary Freeman, we want you to see how the federal dollar is handled here."

"We don't get any of it."

"We don't get no jobs, no dollars," Orville Freeman, U. S. Secretary of Agriculture, heard and saw a lot during his quick "look, learn, and listen" tour through West Alabama and Mississippi last month.

From the farmers he met along the way, the secretary learned how many hogs they owned, what crops they were growing, and how the weather looked--for these were the questions he asked as he met them.

The local farmers were at ease with the U. S. Cabinet member. It was like talking to another farmer. "We have to stick together, or we'll be snowed under by the big city slicker," Freeman

told Negro farmers in Eutaw.

As a chartered bus carried federal farm officials and newspapermen through the Black Belt, there were statistical lectures on conditions in the counties. But some of the most interesting moments of the trip came when Negro leaders boarded the bus and told about their own localities.

Modern methods of cotton farming--along with increased evictions--"have just about forced the colored population into a sincere request for industry," said the Rev. William Branch of Forkland. "In most Black Belt counties, there seems to be a tactic in operation --to force Negroes to leave the county, to leave the South."

Branch then told of plans for garment and canning factories in Greene County: "We've decided to stay here in Greene County--going to make this county green, sure enough."

Calvin Orsborn, business manager of SWAFCA (the Southwest Alabama Farmers Cooperative Association), also talked to the busload of government men and reporters. He said SWAFCA's "type of diversification is the answer" for the small farmer, in this age of big farmers.

One of Freeman's first stops in Alabama was at the food stamp office in Eutaw, where one Negro works with five whites. (None of Alabama's other five food stamp centers employs Negro office workers.) Freeman said there is no discrimination within the Department of Agriculture. "Most of the (office) people," he said, "are under the civil service system," and the department hires qualified Negroes "so fast it makes your head swim."

"In the past," said Freeman, "a lot of people in important positions (in the department) were from the South, and Negroes felt there was discrimination. But that's not true now."

Later, the secretary stopped at the all-white surplus food office in Marengo County, and broke the seal on its first shipment of surplus food. He stopped at the homes of several white farmers,

and at the homes of several Negro farmers.

There was a lot of newspaper discussion of Freeman's route before he came. He denied reports that Alabama congressmen had pressured him to visit more white people. As it turned out, the tour had a "white" stop to match every "black" one.

In Greene County, the busload of officials and newsmen descended on the comfortable cement-block home of Joe Jones, a Negro tenant farmer. Jones told them his cotton-allotment checks

are too small.

Then the tour moved down the road, to visit with Jones' white landlord--Sigurd Jensen, an elderly immigrant who spoke with a thick Danish accent. He had a complaint, too: "You need help, and you can't get it, and the roads are full of them."

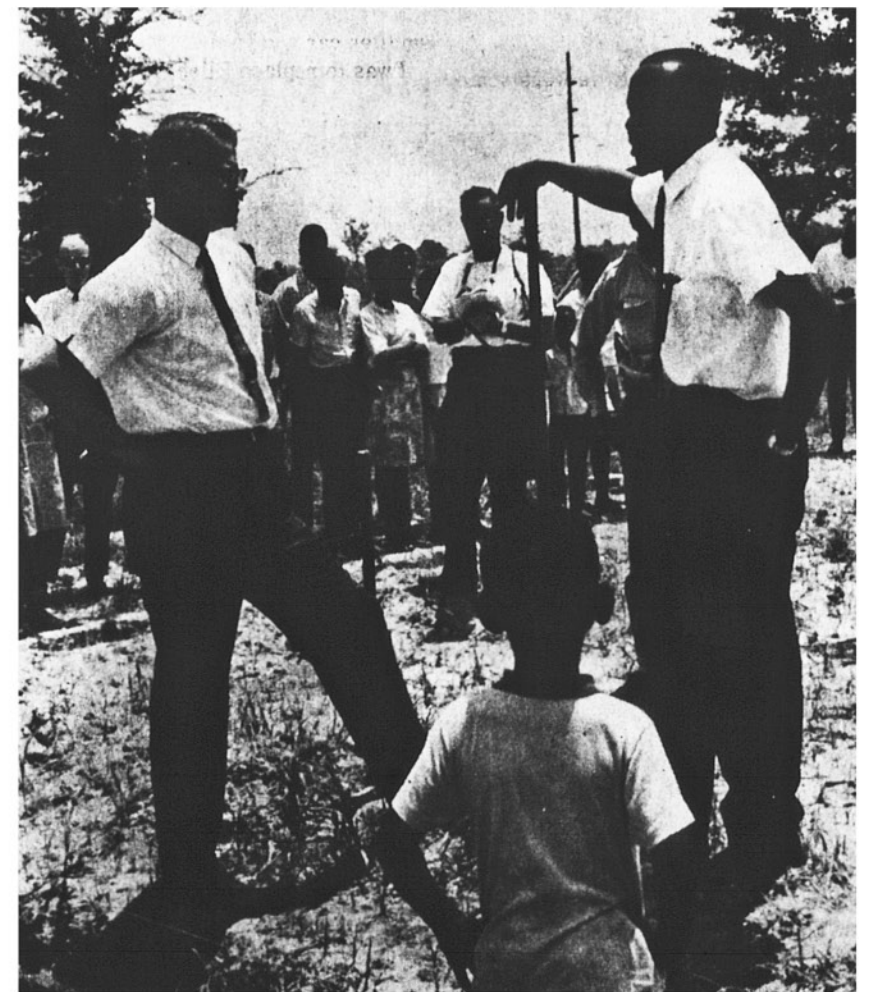
As the bus left that plantation, a federal official told the reporters the tour had visited Jones' home because it was "a typical house."

"What's typical about a block house?" someone asked, as the bus

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7, COL. 5)



FREEMAN (LEFT) LISTENS AS HIS WIFE TALKS TO LOCAL LADIES



FREEMAN AND REV. WILLIAM BRANCH



FREEMAN'S WIFE TALKS TO MISS NAOMI WASHINGTON IN LINDEN

(Photos by James E. Lytle)

Two Years of The Southern Courier

Going Where the Action Is

BY VIOLA BRADFORD

I'll never forget the summer I first became associated with The Southern Courier. It was in July, 1965--around the ninth. I distinctly remember this date because it's my sister's birthday. She was having a few friends over for a party, and I was serving the refreshments.

It was about 11:30 p.m. when the phone rang. Princesa Howard (now Mrs. Princesa Wade) was calling. Sometime earlier, she had talked with me about the paper, because she knew that I was interested in writing.

Now she was calling to tell me that two young men were in Montgomery who would be working with the paper, and to ask if they could come over. After midnight, the doorbell rang, and it was Princesa with two white men.

My sister's guests and I were a bit surprised at first. This doesn't usually happen in Negro neighborhoods at night--that is, whites making friendly or business calls. They introduced themselves as Geoff Cowan, then a law student at Yale, and Jim Pepler, a photographer. We exchanged greetings as we headed to the kitchen for some refreshments. We then sat in the den and began talking about the Courier.

It wasn't until the second issue that I wrote an article. It was about the Head Start program in Montgomery. I was a stringer--unpaid but willing to work for a cause by reporting community news.

My by-line for several issues was "Victoire Bradford," because it was my French class name and I liked it, and because--I must confess--I didn't want anyone to know that I was the writer. And then again, I did--that explains the half-and-half name. But later I found out that it didn't work. Some people knew all the time that it was I.

Since the paper was established, its staff members would frequently go to dinner, churches, movies, dances, and other places together. We would always be stared at as if we were some great phenomenon--but I guess we could have been called that. Neither whites nor Negroes were used to seeing such integrated groups walking around like human beings TOGETHER in Montgomery.

Many times I thought I wouldn't keep working for the Courier. In the fall, I worked after school, making headlines. (I also started receiving a salary, which helped me a lot since I was in school.)

I'd ride the bus to and from work, or many times I'd get a ride with some of the other staff people. One night Edward Rudd, one of the reporters, was kind enough to give me a ride home. We didn't notice until after he'd driven up to my door that two white men had followed us.

They had a large flashlight that looked like a spotlight. I got out of the car, and went up on the porch. The men put the light in my face, drove up my street to turn around, then came back, slowed up, and kept driving. After I had gotten in and gone to bed, Edward called to tell me that they were policemen.

As a result of this, my mother and grandmother became pretty worried. They suggested that I stop working for the Courier. At that time, I thought I'd never see the Courier again, but Robert Smith, one of the editors, promised my parents that I'd get home safely. And since then--although I had several close calls on the job--I always got home safely.

Months passed, and I was a headliner and a writer of very few articles. I wrote one that December, about two Ne-

gro girls who were the first to make the top honor roll at Lanier High School.

The next week was Christmas. We didn't have an issue that week. On Christmas Eve, Geoff Cowan, Gail Falk, Jim Pepler, Barbara Flowers and her sisters, and I--along with some of my friends--went caroling. We walked and sang in the Negro neighborhoods, as well as some white neighborhoods. It was cold, but we enjoyed it. The Christmas caroling spirit made me feel good to be a part of the group.

We were too busy singing and being happy to think about being harassed by the whites who drove by. Our last stop was at Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Durr's, where we ate graham crackers and drank egg nog.

In March, 1966, two months before my graduation from high school, I wrote an article entitled "Graduation - Then What?" not realizing that I really should have been asking myself the same question, not realizing that on graduation night, I'd be marching down an aisle not knowing where I would be going from there.

But after school was out, I could work full-time for the paper during the summer months.

I had no story printed in the first anniversary issue of the Courier. I considered the first year as a period in which I was to meet people and find out how things and people really were--including members of the Courier staff. The next year brought more people to meet, more meetings to attend, more work to do, and last but not least, more experiences--more stories to cover that could have taught me a lot, made me happy or sad, or gotten me arrested or killed.

In September, 1966, I didn't enroll in any college. I'd been rejected by the University of Alabama, and accepted by the University of Arizona for the spring term. During that semester while I was out of school, I was a real full-time reporter with the Courier.

The first thing I had to do was learn to drive and get a license. It took two visits to the testing station. The first time, I hit a truck trying to parallel-park, and was asked not to return for two weeks. The second time, I drove a smaller car and passed the test.

I was to replace Ellen Lake, who was leaving the staff, and ten counties of the 67 in Alabama were left up to me to cover.

Ellen and I drove around for several days, visiting people and places in the area. Tired, sleepy, and hungry, we stopped one day at an eating place in Opp--in fact, three eating places. Why so many? No, not because we were so hungry that we ate three times, but because we couldn't find a place that would serve me food.

The third place was a drug store. The women evidently saw us coming, because they came from behind the counter and met us at the door. We walked in as one of the women went back behind the counter. The conversation went like this as I began to order:

"What kind of sandwiches do you have?"

"I'm sorry, we don't sell sandwiches here." (The counter was decorated with pictures of such snacks.)

"Well, may I have a Coke or an orange drink, please?"

"I'm sorry we don't have any drinks." (There was a Coke, orange, and some other kind of soda machine on the counter.)

"Well then can I get an order to go?"

"I'm sorry, we don't have orders to go."

Finally, with my patience wearing out, a smile on my face, and my stomach talking to me, I suggested, "Well, we'll sit in here and eat what you have." She answered, "We don't use those chairs and tables."



MISS VIOLA BRADFORD

I said "Well, thank you anyway." As we were leaving, a white couple came in and sat down at the table, and the women took their order. At this I left, but not before informing the women that they were violating a law.

I was now doing from one to two and sometimes three articles a week. Most of them came from places outside the counties I was responsible for, because that was where the action was--Montgomery, Lowndes County, and Selma.

Ah, peaceful Selma--a place of rest and harmony, with the assurance of protection by the inhabitants of two buildings that sat across the street from each other: the police headquarters on one corner, and SNCC and LCDC on the other. I'll never forget Selma and some of the wonderful people that worked with SNCC.

The November, 1966, election campaign of the Lowndes County Freedom Organization, running under the symbol

Whatever Happened To SNCC's Picket Appeals to Kids

BY KERRY GRUSON

UNION SPRINGS, Ala.--Negro leaders in Bullock County have been trying to figure out what has happened to Richard Lee Harris since his trial last July 3. But everybody they talked to had a different story.

The first surprise came on July 6, when Sheriff C. M. Blue, Negro deputy Tom ("Preacher") Tolliver, and another deputy arrested Harris at his home. The arrest was made on orders from Judge Fred D. Main, who tried Harris July 3 and later found him guilty of resisting arrest.

Civil rights leaders had thought Main would not hand down a decision. Instead, they were looking forward to next month's meeting of the county grand jury. The grand jury will hear the case against Tolliver, charged with killing Harris' friend, Willie James King, the night he attempted to arrest Harris.

Harris said the arrest was the first he and his family had heard of Main's decision. On the way back to the jail, he said, Tolliver gave him a different reason for his arrest--"We're taking you in for messin' 'round with Red." Tolliver was referring to Rufus C. Huffman, a Union Springs civil rights leader. Huffman and other Negro leaders have been working to get Tolliver out of the sheriff's office.

"We'll just wait to see what they're going to do, and then we'll get them," Huffman said this week. "The sheriff's office is liability to Bullock County."

Harris spent the night of July 3 in jail. "If they're going to harass him, (Harris' father) and I decided that he's better off in jail," explained H. O. Williams, a Bullock County leader.

But last Friday, the fine was paid and Harris was released. "They told me this was the end, that they won't come

FAMILY LOSES LAND

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

name appeared "above ours." Walton said his family worked the swamp land for about 20 years, but "the coons and deers destroyed" it for farm work. Then, he said, the five families of Waltons used the land for hunting and for wood.

Billingsley said he and Walton would continue to fight for the land. The Rev. Thomas E. Gilmore, a Greene County civil rights leader, added:

"I think that we have many, many other cases here in the county where whites have taken land by moving on to it."

after me any more," Harris said.

But who paid the fine? According to court records, it was C. S. Paul, a white man. (The Harris are share-croppers on Paul's land, but they plan to move off in the near future.) Paul refused to discuss the matter. Harris thinks his brother paid the fine. And Harris' father told Huffman he had no idea who paid it.

Huffman had one explanation for the mystery. "Somebody must have been talking to them," he said. "Somebody must have put the pressure on them."

Mobile Killing

BY FRANKLIN HOWARD

MOBILE, Ala.--Dan Casher, a 24-year-old Negro, was shot and killed last week in an argument with Henry Watson, a white grocer. Watson was charged with first-degree murder, but at a hearing last Tuesday, the case was dismissed.

Judge Charles White-Spinner set Watson free after witnesses testified that Casher had threatened the 75-year-old grocer with a pair of pliers. The witnesses said the argument was over money owed to Watson.

Casher was shot with a .38-caliber pistol that Watson kept behind a counter in the store, according to the testimony. Some people who were there, however, said they didn't see any pliers in Casher's hand during the argument.

The day after the killing, people in the Antwerp St. area were angry. They threw bricks and bottles into the store, and a friend of Casher was stopped as he tried to burn it up.

Negro Parents Get Letter

BY KERRY GRUSON

ALEXANDER CITY, Ala.-- Negro parents here got a invitation in the mail last week. It was a letter from city Schools Superintendent S. C. Doss Jr., inviting them to send their children to all-white Benjamin Russell High School.

Russell has always been white in the past. But this spring, under federal-court order, children were free to choose any high school they wanted.

Before the letter was sent, 22 Negro students applied for Russell, and were accepted. But last week, the superintendent urged more Negro parents to have their children transfer.

of the black panther, brought me to Lowndes County--the one county that I've been to in the whole state of Alabama that has Negroes who work TOGETHER for THEMSELVES.

As a result of working on this story, I also wrote an article for the Washington Post newspaper about the black panther party.

The arrest of Stokely Carmichael brought me back to Selma. The day I got to Selma, Carmichael was being released from jail. I'd never seen him before, and I decided to stay in Selma and hear him speak to the people. At first I thought, like most people, that he was just another troublemaker and really not worth listening to.

I was standing with my back to the door in the LCDC office when Carmichael entered. He made a comment to me and asked me who I was. (At the time, I was trying to figure out who he was--I did.) I told him whom I was working with, in a reluctant voice (but not reluctant enough to let him know that I didn't want to say). You see--the Courier was not a favorite with SNCC.

After talking with Carmichael and watching him quite closely, all thoughts and ideas about him that I had read in newspapers and heard from other people vanished. I began developing my own.

The election was the next day. This is when I really began to admire Carmichael for what he was doing. Never before had I seen a young man work so hard to help poor black people feel so happy, restore their sense of dignity, and make all the people in one area love him so much. I might add that Carmichael did his work, not in a black suit sitting behind a desk, but in a pair of blue work overalls, a short-sleeve shirt, and heavy boots. He's a devoted worker, in a cause in which he believes. No man should be denied this right, nor told how far his freedom of speech extends, when it isn't slanderous.

And then there was the aftermath in Lowndes. The voters had pulled their levers for the panther and then gone home, just as the slogan suggested. They went back home, walking up dirty, long tiresome roads that led to the old shacks they lived in, back to the

homes with no electricity, no running water, the outdoor toilets, and newspaper-plastered walls. But they were happy--not to return to this kind of homes--but because they had voted (some for the first time), and they knew that another election would come.

It was cold that Christmas Eve. I'd bought my Christmas gifts and I'd received some, but I wasn't really happy. If I didn't feel gay about having gifts, a turkey, and a warm, comfortable house, I wondered how the people in Tent City felt. So that's where I went Christmas Eve. It started out being a story for the paper, but it turned into a lesson for me and a girl friend of mine and another guy who went with us.

I wanted them to see how some black people had to live since they'd been evicted from their homes for registering to vote. Christmas Eve I really found out that one doesn't have to live in a big, fully-decorated brick house with Christmas lights or a fancy tree in order to enjoy Christmas.

All of the stories I've done, I categorize as "exposure" stories--stories about people who are poor, depressed, and oppressed. I consider it a valuable service to inform citizens about these problems that exist. Some may blame them on poverty (although poverty is a factor), but it all originates from racism, and there are thousands who are being informed of this through the Courier. This is why I've written for the paper these past two years.

As a result of being a reporter for the Courier I have had the opportunity to write a report for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, and to meet other Alabamians, white and black, whom I would otherwise never have known or been known by.

But above all, the Courier has helped me become acquainted with the leaders, followers, and organizations in Alabama who are struggling in this movement for civil and human rights and full equality and respect.

Congratulations to The Southern Courier, the newspaper that enabled me, directly and indirectly through my news coverage, to think for myself, to learn to be more considerate of others, to take on responsibilities, and to be me.

BY ROBIN REISIG

BESSEMER, Ala.--"We heard people in the community complaining--they're asked to go around to the 'colored' side," said Johnny Jackson, SNCC state project director.

"People said they want the store out of the black community. SNCC is here to get it out by any means necessary."

So on Wednesday, Theophilus Smith (SNCC's Jefferson County project director), Jackson, and three Bessemer men were picketing outside Lorene's Cafe. They were asking for removal of the "colored" entrance, or removal of the store.

About a dozen children from nearby buildings soon joined them, as several dozen more children and teen-agers looked on.

SNCC decided to picket Lorene's Cafe after Jackson walked in the "white" side Tuesday, and was asked to use the other entrance.

As he walked in, said Jackson, a six-year old Negro kid yelled, "Hey boy, you going in the wrong side."

Then, Jackson said, "he ran. He knew where his place was in white society. He was six years old. We got to stop that."

The picketing Wednesday didn't seem to change the attitude of the white woman behind the counter in Lorene's. The store is divided inside by a partition. "The city forced me to put it up," she said. "That's been 18 years." She said she has no plans to take it down.

After picketing for an hour, Jackson took two steps into the white side, to

see if he could buy an orange drink. The old woman told him, "Get out of here."

But the pickets did have a strong effect elsewhere--with the Negro children.

"Us children do be in there every day. Most of her business is selling candy, ice cream, and potato chips," said Jackie Hall, 10. "White power rules our community. We ought to give black power a chance."

Hall said he was ordered out of the white half of Lorene's earlier this year. He joined the picket line.

"You go in the white side from now on," Hall told a smaller boy who was entering the colored side. Doubtful at first, the boy then gleefully repeated Hall's words. Instead of going in, he joined the picket line with a sign saying "Hellaway with Jim Crow."

Miss Brenda Hall also joined the line, although at first she said she was "scared to take one of those signs. They might put me in jail." Miss Hall is seven years old.

WANT ADS

ATTENTION NURSES-- Serve in the Air Force Reserve. There are vacancies available in the 542nd Medical Service Flight for qualified nurses. Previous service not required. As a nurse in the Air Force Reserve, you continue in your present civilian occupation, and train one weekend per month. In addition, you will serve 15 active duty days each year in a well-equipped Air Force hospital. If you are between the ages of 20 and 35, with no dependents under 18 years of age, and you are currently registered as a nurse in any state, you may qualify as a nurse in the United States Air Force Reserve Nurse Corps. If you have a desire to serve with a dedicated team to help safeguard the health of America's airmen, call Maxwell AFB, 265-5621, Ext. 5971, or write to MSGT G. K. Flowers, 3800 ABW (BPMQRP), Maxwell AFB, Ala., 36112.

UNION SPRINGS, Ala.--The NAACP is sponsoring a meeting for members and pastors of all Union Springs Negro churches at 3 p.m. Sunday, July 16, in the Wayman Chapel AME Church. The meeting is to discuss the involvement of the church in civil rights. The Rev. W. D. Bodie will speak.



MISS VIOLA BRADFORD IN GEES BEND

Campaign Time in Mississippi

Candidates Discuss What Duties Will Be: 'You Must Set a Pattern for New Ideas'

BY GAIL FALK

LEXINGTON, Miss.-- Black candidates from Holmes, Yazoo, Carroll, Montgomery, and Madison counties met in Lexington last week to talk about what their duties will be if they are elected.

Questions filled the air during the week-long workshop. Some of the questions were about what elected officials MUST do, and some were about what they CAN do.

The discussions were led by Jim Lewis of the Lawyers Constitutional Defense Committee, the Rev. Harry Bowle of the Delta Ministry, and Lawrence Guyot of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. The candidates weren't making campaign speeches--they were trading questions and ideas.

At the opening session, candidates for sheriff, justice of the peace, and constable discussed the rules about warrants, arrests, and bond.

"When do you issue a warrant?" asked one of the candidates for justice of the peace.

"If a man came to me and said, 'I saw so-and-so go on my property and go off with a machine,' I would issue a warrant and give it to the sheriff or constable," answered another J. P. candidate, Ellis Sandler of Madison County.

"Well, suppose (the man who came to you) was not a reliable person?" asked Lewis.

"Before I issued the warrant, I'd check it out. I'm not supposed to issue it unless I have a pretty good reason,"

said John Daniel Wesley, Holmes County J. P. candidate.

"Suppose the sheriff comes to you and says a very reliable person told him he saw the man do it," Lewis asked.

"If it was a question of 'he said he said,' I would still check it out," Wesley answered. He said the man who saw the crime should come to the J. P. himself.

But Lewis explained that the way the law is now, the informer doesn't have to go before the justice of the peace. Once the warrant is issued, asked Holmes County sheriff candidate Robert Smith, "how does the justice of the peace decide whether to give it to the constable or to the sheriff?" Smith pointed out that sheriffs and constables both depend for income on the fees they collect for making arrests.

J. P. candidate Vernon Tom Griffin (Holmes County) said he would decide who gets the warrant by "how dangerous I thought it was. If I thought it was dangerous, I would have the sheriff and deputies make the arrest."

Lewis told the law-enforcement candidates there are four kinds of bond--cash bond, property bond, surety from a bonding company, and personal recognizance. A man can be released on personal recognizance by signing a statement promising to pay a certain amount if he doesn't show up for trial.

"Do they use that around here?" Lewis asked.

"Not for the colored," answered Griffin.

"Do you think people would come back if you used it?" Lewis asked.

"Some of them would," answered Griffin.

In another room, candidates for supervisor discussed the county budget and how to raise money for the projects they decide on.

There are two ways supervisors can raise more money, Lewis told the group--they can raise the number of mills they tax property owners, or they can raise the assessed value of the property.

Lewis explained that the supervisors set the tax (assessed) value of a property at a certain percentage of its real value. Then they tax property owners a certain number of mills (tenths of a cent) for every dollar of the assessed value.

There are limits to the number of mills per dollar that supervisors can charge--14 in the smaller counties, seven in the larger ones.

If the supervisors are charging as many mills as they are allowed, they can still get more tax money, by raising the assessment rate. Most property in Mississippi is assessed at 15 to 20% of its real value, said Lewis. In some places, he said, it's as low as 8%.

That way, Lewis said people who own a lot of property don't have to pay much tax. Under the "homestead exemption," he explained, a man doesn't have to pay property tax unless his property is valued at more than \$5,000. If the county only assesses property at 20% of the real value, he said, a man who owns \$25,000 worth of property won't have to pay any tax--because his land will be valued on the tax rolls at \$5,000.

The money the county loses in property taxes "comes out of your pocket in another way," said the Rev. Harry Bowle. The state pays money to the counties out of the state sales tax, he said--a tax that "works against the poor people."

Some of the questions the candidates asked had to do with special problems they might face because of their race.

U.S. to Send Observers

BILOXI, Miss.--Federal observers will be sent to 31 Mississippi counties to watch for discrimination against voters in the Aug. 8 primary.

U. S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark made this announcement June 29, after flying here to address the Mississippi State Bar Association's annual convention.

In a press conference before his speech, Clark said young Negro men must obey their draft boards, even if there are no Negroes on the boards.

The attorney general conceded that Negroes should be represented on draft boards. However, he said, "it is not my legal judgment that the absence of Negroes on a board will affect the legality of that board's action."

Clark said that a federal anti-riot law will not stop riots. "I wish the solution were that easy," he said.

Riots occur in areas of "high grievances," said Clark. People who want a solution for riots, he said, should look for solutions to these grievances.

The U. S. Congress is now considering a bill that would make it a crime to cross state lines for the purpose of starting a riot.



ROBERT SMITH



WARD MONTGOMERY

Five Negroes in Bolivar Start Running for Office

BY RUBEN PATES

MOUND BAYOU, Miss.-- Bolivar County's five Negro candidates kicked off their campaigns last Friday night in this town founded and built by former slaves.

Two Negroes are running as independent candidates for state-wide offices, and three are running for the county's five-man board of supervisors.

Two years ago, Bolivar County had only 500 registered Negro voters. But today, the county has a Negro voting majority--almost 9,000 registered Negroes and about 6,000 whites.

There is also a Negro majority in each contested supervisor's beat.

In beat 3, where Kermit Stanton is running for supervisor, registered Negro voters outnumber whites, 4 to 1. In beats 1 and 2, where Mrs. Ethel Gaddison and Frank Davis are supervisor candidates, there are Negro majorities of 2 to 1 or better.

The candidates for state office are Thomas Moore (for the Senate) and the Rev. Sammy Rash (for the House of Representatives).

Friday night's kick-off was one of the biggest gatherings in recent years in all-black Mound Bayou. More than 450 people crowded into John F. Kennedy High School, some of them waving balloons and banners ("We don't want any Toms"). The people shouted their approval with "Amen" and "Speak, brother."

Mitchell Kelly, a plantation owner running for sheriff and tax collector, was the only white candidate on the speaker's platform. He appealed for Negro votes, to help him win his August primary fight against other white candidates.

Kelly brought roars of support when he promised, "I will not tolerate any police brutality if I am sheriff."

The candidates for supervisor concentrated on day-to-day issues for Bolivar's Negroes--schools, roads, welfare, housing, and jobs. Two sharp attacks on the county school system came from Davis and Mrs. Gaddison.

"Don't tell me that you are going to give me an education and then, when I get grown, tell me I'm not qualified," Davis stormed. "We have a rotten school system in our beat--our children are being cheated out of an education," said Mrs. Gaddison.

Stanton said part of his platform calls for improvement of hospital services: "Fifty per cent of our population is senior citizens, but most of our hospitals don't even qualify for Medicare, because of segregation."

"Let's not be bought by promises,"

said Stanton. "The same promises have been made in past years."

Moore, the candidate for state senator, lashed out at people who said Negroes aren't qualified to run for office.

"Many of you have heard all your lives that 'you ain't nothing,' and you've been told this so long that deep down some people believe they're 'nothing,'" he said.

"We have lots of experts on race relations running around the country who think they know our problems. But we

have lived these problems, and we must do something for ourselves."

Mound Bayou's Negro votes will be divided between two of the beats where black candidates are running. Davis said the citizens here have "something that no one else in the United States has:

"You are the only independent town in America. Whatever you have, you got it from one another. Mound Bayou could be the biggest and greatest town in Bolivar County."

'I'll Make You A Good Sheriff'

BY PATRICIA JAMES

MERIDIAN, Miss.--An integrated group of about 70 people gathered in the 31st Ave. Baptist Church last Sunday to hear James Skelton, one of ten white men running for the sheriff of Lauderdale County.

Skelton was invited to speak to the Crusade for Voters League by Mrs. Tommie Whitlock--a member of the voters league and an active civil rights worker.

"No one thought about asking you for a vote (before)," Mrs. Whitlock told the crowd in the Negro church. "Why? Because you did not vote."

"Many lives have been lost, much blood has been shed, but we must carry on and stay together," she added. Before the speaker arrived, Mrs. Whitlock told the audience to take notes about what he said, so they could compare him with the other white candidates.

At first, Skelton said he didn't know what to talk about:

"Have you ever gotten up to talk or make a speech, and as you are sitting down thinking, 15 different things come across your mind--you have your speech ready, but as you get up to talk, you forget everything?"

"I know a lot of these people here," the candidate said. "Mrs. Whitlock and I grew up alongside each other. We both lived on a farm, and we know what it is to have a hard time, what it is to be poor."

Skelton told the mostly-Negro audience that he also knew what it is to fight with Negro people--"not over race, but other little things."

"I did this all the time, as a boy," he said. "But the next minute, we would be playing marbles or something."

But after that, Skelton said, "someone started digging a ditch and started separating us. I don't know who he (the ditch-digger) is." Some of the people said "Amen."

Skelton continued, "Someone told me that before this day is over, someone among you people here today would go back, and the white Citizens Council would know what has been done here today." But, he said, "I don't think that no one here would let their own people down."

"I've heard you're divided," Skelton told the crowd. "I didn't believe that. As was said a few minutes ago, 'if you're going to get what you want, you've got to stick together.'"

Skelton said he would like to put his record against that of any other candidate. He made five pledges:

1. Around-the-clock protection, with trained deputies.
2. Office hours on Saturday, and neighborhood stations where people could buy auto tags.
3. A safety co-ordinator, to work with other law officials on promoting safety in the county.
4. A "Young Citizens Deputy Sheriff League," composed of teenagers who get together to discuss their problems.
5. A "Sheriff's Scholarship Fund" for deserving students, and a summer camp for underprivileged boys.

"Out of the other nine candidates, I believe that I am closer to you than any other, and I believe I can prove it to you--I sincerely do," Skelton said. "I pledge to you I'll make you a good sheriff. I believe you know me and that I will do what I say."

After a question-and-answer period, the candidate concluded:

"I want to say that win or lose, we're still friends."

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Chased by a 'Deputy,' Troy Man Says He Got Huntsville Man Killed No Wages for 32 Years

BY BOB DINWIDDIE

HUNTSVILLE, Ala.--Lewis O. Johnson of Huntsville, a Negro, was killed in a two-car collision last April. Now a white man, Napoleon J. Jones, is awaiting trial for first-degree manslaughter.

Johnson, a 29-year-old father of four, was killed April 25, while on his way to work as a teacher at Berkley Junior High School. Another driver cut in front of Johnson, after chasing him down and overtaking him.

Johnson's car struck the other auto, and went out of control. His car crossed the lanes running in the opposite direction, hurtled into a deep ditch, and smashed into a large boulder.

The victim was dead on arrival at Huntsville Hospital, where his wife Catherine works as a nurse.

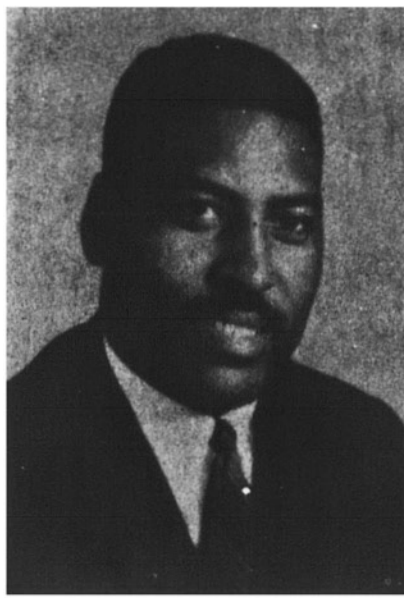
Why did this happen? Jones stated in the official police accident report, "This man (Johnson) ran the red traffic light at California and Governors Dr. He was driving terrifically fast.... I wanted to stop him and advise the danger of such."

When the light changed, Jones set out in pursuit of Johnson. Both cars passed another auto, driven by Robert W. Powell.

Powell later said Jones' car passed him, pulled back over into the right lane, moved up even with Johnson's auto, and then in front of Johnson--forcing Johnson on to the median.

The reports of the witnesses and the investigating officers are basically the same. Few facts are in dispute. But why--and on what authority--did Jones decide to chase Johnson?

At the time of the incident, Jones had an honorary deputy sheriff's card, pre-



LEWIS O. JOHNSON

sented to him by Madison County Sheriff Jerry Crabtree. He also had a badge with the inscription "Deputy Sheriff."

Crabtree explained this week that the card is "a purely honorary type of thing, similar to the governor's staff." He emphasized that the honorary card "in no way entitles (the holder) to make any arrest, or to attempt to enforce the law as a duly sworn officer."

Immediately after the incident, Sheriff Crabtree asked Jones to return the honorary card. He said the badge Jones was wearing definitely did not come from his office.

Jones said he had no comment.

Johnson was an Air Force veteran, and a graduate of Alabama A & M College. As a student, he took part in the 1963 sit-ins in Huntsville, and he was still quietly active in civil rights.

BY SANDRA COLVIN

TROY, Ala.--"I worked 32 years for nothing," said 71-year-old William Bass. "The only money I got was when I shined shoes."

Bass said he began to work at Sy's Barber Shop in Troy when he was 39. He said he still cleans up at the barber shop for the owner, J. S. Locklar, and Locklar still considers the work as payment for letting Bass shine shoes there.

"I bought all washing powder, mops, brooms--and everything else needed to clean the shop--with my own money," Bass claimed. "Mr. Locklar furnished none of these things. He still does not."

Bass said he used to shine shoes outside the barber shop. More than 15 years ago, he said, his doctor advised him to stop shining shoes on the sidewalk, because it was affecting his health. Bass then started to work inside the shop. Today, he said, he takes in about \$15 a week.

"I charge 25¢ for a shoe shine, and I still buy the things that I need to clean up the barber shop, and the materials I need for shining shoes," said Bass.

Locklar disagreed with Bass on several points. He said the barber shop was not opened until 1945--22 years ago. "Bass has been with me since then," said Locklar. "He understood in the beginning that he would not be paid anything."

But, said the barber, "I never took a penny from him, no matter what he



WILLIAM BASS AND FAMILY

would make--\$40, \$50, or \$100. ... He did buy what he needed to clean up the shop--he understood all of this in the beginning. This was what I called rent, for letting him shine shoes in my shop."

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Mr. Perry Callier, Director
Mrs. D. A. Williams, Voter Registration
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Freeman's Tour

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE FOUR)

lurched down a dirt road, past Negroes' wooden shacks.

Did the tour have any effect?

Freeman said that after running into complaints about the food stamp program, "I called Washington." He said he suggested that people should be allowed to buy food stamps on a time basis, with two or three months to pay for them. Later, food stamp prices were lowered in Mississippi.

Without mentioning names, Freeman paid tribute to cooperatives, calling them "the salvation of the small farmer." SWAFCA got its long-delayed fed-

eral grant before the week was out.

And the secretary showed that he recognizes the cycle that keeps farm people poor: "You've got to get jobs. To get jobs, you've got to get industry. To get industry, you've got to have trained people. To have trained people, you've got to have decent schools..."

With the reception Negro farmers gave Freeman, they may have won an important new friend, Negro farmers in the Black Belt, said the secretary, "treated me a lot better than the white farmers in Iowa."

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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.

HELP!--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.

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.

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.

MAIDS AND EMPLOYERS--If an employer pays a maid \$50 or more in a quarter of a year (April 1 through June 30 was the second quarter), then the employer must report these payments to the Internal Revenue Service. This is so the maid will get the benefits of Social Security. The employer must withhold 4.4% of the maid's wages for Social Security, and must match this amount with his own money. Failure to report a maid's income will make the employer liable for the entire amount of the Social Security tax, plus penalties and interest. Information on how to report household wages is available at local Social Security offices.

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 #121, Gentilly Station, New Orleans, La. 70122.

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.

ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN--I am now studying electronics and radio from the National Technical Schools in Los Angeles, California. I am now at the stage of my training to start doing radio repair work. For more information about this radio service, contact Arthur Holifield Jr., Rt. 1, Box 259-A, Marlon, Ala. 36754.

POST OFFICE JOBS--The Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners for the U. S. Post Office, announces an open competitive examination for positions of substitute postal clerk and substitute city letter-carrier for all first, second and third-class post offices in Autauga, Chilton, Elmore, Lowndes, and Montgomery counties. Rate of pay for these positions is \$2.26 or \$2.64 per hour. In addition, postal employees receive vacation, sick leave, low-cost life insurance, health benefits, maximum job security, and good retirement benefits. No formal education or special training is required, and applicants who pass the Civil Service examination have their names placed on a register in the order of their scores for future consideration, without regard to race, creed, color, sex, or national origin. Interested applicants may obtain additional information and application forms by contacting their local postmaster or Alex Culver, Examiner-in-Charge, Room 406, Post Office Building, Montgomery, Ala.

BAHA'IS--The Baha'is of Montgomery will have as the subject of this week's informal, public discussion, "Communication Necessary Between Whites and Negroes." These gatherings are held at 8 p.m. at the home of David Gordon, 3514 Oak St. in Montgomery, on Thursday, and at the home of Mrs. Donna Brook, 33 Gaillard in Tuskegee, on Friday. No contributions, no obligations.

CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS -- "Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust. . . Thou wilt show me the path of life." This verse from Psalms is the Golden Text of this week's Christian Science lesson--sermon on "Life."

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.

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.

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She Fusses, And Street Is Fixed

BY PATRICIA M. GORENCE

MONTGOMERY, Ala. -- "I fussed with 'em and raised sand, and they finally fixed the street." That's how Mrs. Swetie Pickett explained the city's decision to fix part of Clayton Alley.

Half of the road--including the stretch in front of Mrs. Pickett's house--has been "surface treated," while the rest of it is still full of holes. This was one of the recent improvements that came after Clayton Alley residents complained.

J. F. Mainor of the city's street maintenance department said he didn't know anything about Mrs. Pickett's protests. He said the hilly part of Clayton Alley was "surface treated to keep it from washing away too bad, especially after a heavy rain."

The rest of the road wasn't paved because it didn't wash away much, he added.

"Surface treating a road is not the same as permanent paving," Mainor explained, but it will keep the road in good shape for "four to five years." The city has "no plans for permanently paving Clayton Alley," he said.

Mrs. Pickett said she was told the city would finish fixing the street "after they put the sewers in."

But Mainor said, "I don't know of no plans to put in sewers." The way the city operates, he said, "the people in the area have to buy the sewer pipes, and we will supply the labor."

A 12-inch sewer pipe costs \$1.50 a foot. In addition to the street repairs, a few of the houses on Clayton Alley have been painted in recent months.

"I complained about a leak, and after that the landlord came and fixed up all the houses," said Percy Jones, "That was about two or three months ago."

"But," said Jones, "then they raised the rent, from \$18 to \$25 a month."

"The rents were too low to begin with," said Herbert Rice of the Rice Banking Company. The company owns three houses on Clayton Alley. All three have been painted, said Rice, because "I wanted to do it." And, he said, "whatever needed to be fixed, was fixed."

"That type of property is the least desirable you can own," the landlord said, because "the expenses of maintenance exceed almost anything." He



MRS. SWETIE PICKETT

said it cost \$1,000 to \$1,200 to fix the houses.

The Montgomery Community Action Committee (CAC) recently received a \$172,210 federal grant that will be used for street improvements in other areas.

"The grant will be used to finance street improvements, removal of trash, and the cleaning out of drainage ditches in the target areas," said a CAC spokesman. The target areas are Greater Washington Park and parts of North Montgomery.

The idea behind this program--"Operation Mainstream"--is to "hire the poor to clean up the areas of the poor and improve their own living conditions," the spokesman said.

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FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

In Alabama all our yesterdays are marred by hate, discrimination, injustice, and violence. Among the organizations working for a better tomorrow on the principle of human brotherhood is the Alabama Council on Human Relations. Membership in the Council is open to all who wish to work for a better tomorrow on this principle. For further information, write the Alabama Council, P.O. Box 1310, Auburn, Alabama.

Meridian Airman Comes Home, Gets Stabbed

'Why Draft Someone Like Me?'

BY GAIL FALK

MERIDIAN, Miss.--Airman Leodis Henderson left for the Philippines and Viet Nam last Friday with a fresh scar on his arm. He said a white man had cut him there with a knife, "for no reason other than I am a Negro."

Henderson said he was attacked when he took his wife downtown to get some doughnuts, a few days after he came home on a three-week leave from the Air Force.

As he left the Shipley Do-Nut Shop, the airman recalled later, "four white guys started coming after me.

"One hollered, 'Get your knife out.' I said I didn't need any knife for him, and kept on walking."

Henderson said one of the white men swung twice with a knife, but "he stayed out of reach, so I thought he wasn't serious." On the third swing, however, Henderson said, the man cut him on the arm. The wound later required ten stitches.

Henderson said he had seen a policeman standing on the corner with the four men before they started chasing him. After he was cut, he said, "I looked back for the policeman. He seemed to have disappeared."

After that, the airman said, he drove straight to the Meridian police station. "I was angry," said Henderson. "I'm supposed to go to Viet Nam to fight for my country, and all of a sudden I can't



LEODIS HENDERSON

walk the streets. "(The man with the knife) was draft age, and I know he don't go to college.

Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights

The weekly meeting will be at 7 p.m. Monday, July 17, in the Metropolitan CME Church, 1600 Ave. K, Ensley, the Rev. L. H. Whelchel, pastor.

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I was thinking about why do they let guys like that hang around the street, and send someone like me to fight."

(Henderson said he had been drafted while he was out working to earn enough money for his last 19 hours of college.)

At the station, the airman said, he reported seeing a policeman before the stabbing: "I told them it seemed like it was his job to protect me... I told them I was going to call my company commander."

According to Henderson, the policeman on duty where the attack occurred was called in, and was asked to identify the four white men. Two days later, on June 25, Robert Ivy was arrested and charged with assault and battery with a knife.

But by the time Ivy's case came to trial last Monday, Henderson's leave

was up and he was on his way overseas.

The trial was originally set for June 30, but it was postponed three times. When the case came up last Monday, the charges against Ivy were dropped, since Henderson wasn't there to testify.

Henderson's sister, Mrs. Lucille Hardaway, said her brother had gone to the police station more than once to check about the case. She said he had explained that his leave would soon be up.

But City Attorney Billy Ray Covington said the case hadn't been delayed "on purpose." He said that on one court date, he was at the state bar convention, and the next date was the day before the Fourth of July.

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 COCA-COLA gives you the taste you never get tired of. Get Coke in one-way bottles, too.

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