

# THE SOUTHERN COURIER

VOL. III, NO. 51

WEEKEND EDITION: DECEMBER 16-17, 1967

TEN CENTS

## State Trooper Claims Self-Defense

# Lee Youth Killed

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

LOACHAPOKA, Ala.-- Clayton Pitts, a 20-year-old Negro farm worker, left his home last Saturday to spend the evening with friends at a nearby cafe.

A few hours later, he was shot to death by an Alabama state trooper.

This week, law enforcement officers and Pitts' friends gave conflicting accounts of the events that led up to the killing.

Major John Cloud, chief of the Alabama highway patrol, said the trooper--James Howard Bass, 27, of Opelika--shot Pitts in self-defense.

According to Cloud, Bass arrested Pitts for drunken driving around 10:30 p.m. Saturday night on rural Highway 14. Cloud said Bass "didn't have any trouble with (Pitts) at the time of the arrest, and he thought he had searched the boy pretty thoroughly."

But, Cloud continued, Pitts pulled a knife on Bass in the patrol car on the way to the Lee County jail. Cloud said Pitts slashed Bass three or four times across the abdomen before the state trooper shot and killed the youth.

"They wasn't real deep cuts," Cloud noted, "but the trooper's shirt was cut everywhere the knife went." Early this week, Bass was released from the Lee County Hospital in Opelika.

T. E. Peterson, director of the Opelika funeral home where Pitts' body was taken, said the dead man had been "shot five times in the chest and stomach area."

Why were so many shots fired? Cloud said, "The first two shots didn't stop the boy--so (Bass) kept firing."

"We regret that it happened," said Cloud, "but a man's got a right to defend himself. I wouldn't anticipate any charges being filed (against Bass). It was justifiable homicide."

But Mrs. Fannie Mae Pitts--mourning her son at home in the company of friends and relatives--said bitterly that she doesn't believe the official version of Pitts' death.

When two Opelika state troopers came to see her on Sunday, Mrs. Pitts said, she told them, "It's wrong. Why would it take five bullets to stop one man? Even one bullet will make you weak."

Mrs. Pitts said she doesn't think her son would have stabbed anyone without



MISS HUMPHERY, G. WILLIS JR., W.J. WILLIS, MISS WILLIS

provocation. "I never had no confusion out of him," she said sadly. "He was quiet--but he was the kind of person you couldn't push around."

And several of Pitts' friends said that the official account of the arrest is not the true story.

Gordon Willis Jr.--whose family operates the Hatchet Place, a cafe about a mile west of Loachapoka on Highway 14--said Pitts was one of some 70 people there Saturday evening.

Willis said Pitts left the cafe around 10:30, intending to take a drive in a friend's car. But, said Willis, Pitts--who didn't have a driver's license--saw the state trooper's car parked opposite

the cafe, and changed his mind.

After Pitts returned to the cafe, said Miss Lettie Mae Humphery, Trooper Bass came to the door and called to him to get in the patrol car. "Bass said, 'You're under arrest,'" recalled Willis. "The boy wanted to know, for what? The state trooper refused to tell him for what."

Willis said Pitts "stood up side the (patrol) car," next to Bass, and the state trooper "pulled out one of them long kind of sticks. So Pitts got in."

"They didn't exchange no words. The state trooper didn't even search or handcuff him. If (Pitts) did have a knife,

looks like it was the trooper's fault."

But, Willis added, Pitts "was a nice guy. If you say to him, 'Clayton, you're wrong,' he would apologize. He wouldn't get mad. I don't believe he'd do anything like that--knife somebody for no cause."

Several young people at the cafe said that Negroes have reason to dislike and distrust Bass. "He had a reputation of beating folkses," said Willie James Willis.

"Most everybody feel that it (the killing) was wrong," said Gordon Willis Jr. And his sister, Miss Atherine Willis, said, "It was just senseless. Clayton had his whole life before him. And now he's dead."

## To Oppose Wallace

# New Party

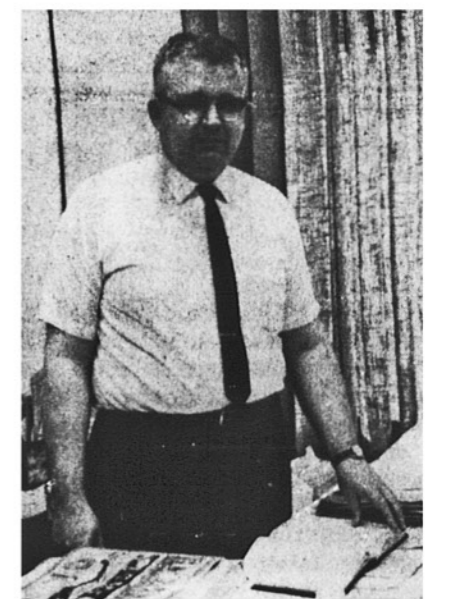
## Is Formed

BY BOB LABAREE

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.--A new political organization, calling itself the Alabama Independent Democratic Party, was formed last week in Birmingham. Its announced purpose is to make sure that the national Democratic candidate for President is on the Alabama ballot next November.

Twice in recent years, Alabama people have not been able to vote for the candidate nominated by the Democratic National Convention. In 1964, it was impossible for an Alabamian to vote for President Johnson.

Birmingham attorney David J. Vann, head of the AIDP, said the new party is ready to support the national Democratic presidential candidate, if the regular Alabama Democratic Party is pledged to former Governor George C. Wallace.



DAVID J. VANN

The problem is that under the U. S. Constitution, people actually are voting for presidential "electors," not the candidates themselves. The electors then meet and vote for the President and Vice-President.

Of course, electors usually are pledged ahead of time to one of two presidential candidates--a Democrat or a Republican. For this reason, most states no longer bother to put the names of the electors on the ballot--they simply let voters pull a lever for one candidate or the other.

Alabama, however, still prints the electors' names on the ballot. If there are no electors pledged to the national Democratic candidate, there is no way to vote for him.

Vann is chairman of the AIDP's executive committee. The vice-chairman is attorney Peter Hall, a member of the all-Negro Jefferson County Progressive Democratic Council.

For the moment, Vann said, the AIDP is waiting to see whether the Alabama Democrats come out in favor of Wallace. "We're not going to determine what we do until they act in January," he said.

Vann insisted that his party has "a single objective--to make sure that the people (of Alabama) will be able to vote for the same presidential and vice-presidential candidates as every other American."

Dr. John Cashin, a Negro dentist from Huntsville, has also been working on a new "Democratic" party--one that might oppose Alabama Democrats in state and local races, as well as the presidential contest.

Vann admitted that the AIDP's charter limits it to the coming presidential election. "We have one dragon to fight," he explained. "We don't want to divide our energies."

Birmingham attorney Orzell Billingsley raised the question of the delegation Alabama is going to send to the Democratic convention in Chicago, Ill. (CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE, Col. 1)



DR. KING GREETES DEXTER AVE. WORSHIPERS

# Dr. King Hits Racism; Klan Stages a Parade

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN AND SARAH HEGGIE

MONTGOMERY, Ala.--"I'm worried about America, because it is sick with racism," the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. told a 90th-anniversary audience at the Dexter Ave. Baptist Church.

Two hours later, 43 robed Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and about 50 plainclothes supporters paraded through the streets of Montgomery.

The people who came to hear Dr. King, a former pastor at Dexter Ave., filled the church beyond its capacity. "I see a lot of new faces," remarked the present pastor, the Rev. G. Murray Branch. "Even some of the members are here for the first time."

Dr. King said that, in his opinion, the late President Kennedy was the only national leader who could admit that he was wrong about a situation like the Viet Nam war. Now, Dr. King said, "our leaders lack the courage and maturity to admit that they have made a mistake."

Later, the Rev. James Spears of Decatur, Grand Dragon of the Klan in Alabama, denied that the Klan's march had anything to do with "Martin Luther King preaching in that church." He said the march was to support American soldiers in Viet Nam, and to oppose federal gun-control laws.

Spears said he is concerned about Dean Rusk, U. S. secretary of state, who "gave his daughter to a Negro to have as her husband. This is a disgrace to womanhood, and a disgrace to America."

"(Some of you) white folks go to Panama City and rub sun-tan lotion all over you," Spears observed. "The nigger sits in the shade and rubs his body with Clorox."

## 'We Want You'

BY PATRICIA JAMES

MERIDIAN, Miss.--Two Ku Klux Klan posters were found at the Newell Chapel Church early this month. One poster was nailed to the church, and one to the parsonage.

The posters, about two feet long and 18 inches wide, said "WE WANT YOU," and were signed by the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. The signs were turned over to local police, and the FBI was also notified.

"The local detectives asked me if our church had been involved in civil rights," said Charles Young, a member of Newell Chapel. "I told them that meetings had been held in the church, and that our church did believe in promoting dignity for men."

# 'Naturals' Cause Fuss in Selma; SNCC Presents

# Fuss in Selma; School Demands

BY BETH WILCOX AND MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN

SELMA, Ala.--At least three senior students said they were suspended from all-Negro Hudson High School last week because they were wearing their hair in a "natural" or "Afro" style.

One of the three, Erskine Higgins, said it all began when Hudson's principal, W. J. Yelder, called some boys into his office last week for cutting classes.

"They had a lot of hair on their head, and he said that they had to cut it," Higgins charged. "Then the boys started calling names of people (who had long hair). So he (Yelder) called us (the seniors) in, and told us we had to cut our hair."

"I came to school one day after that," Higgins added, "but they said I couldn't come back unless I cut it. So I cut it. His head is now shaved clean."

Edward Tabb, another senior, said he, too, was told that he couldn't come back to school until he got his hair cut. "I hadn't got my hair cut since May," he explained, "but I kept it trimmed up--shaped up and edged up. I kept it neat." Nonetheless, said Tabb, "the principal said I looked like a sheep."

John Reese, who had the most hair of the three, held up his bent index finger to show how long his hair was--about two inches. "The reason I got it cut," said Reese, "was that the Science Club was going on a trip to Birmingham, and I wanted to make the trip."

Principal Yelder denied that students were put out of school for wearing natural hair styles.

"They were out of school because they wanted to be," he said. "We have some rules and regulations, (but) I haven't put anybody out for not cutting their hair. You know enough about children to know that they'll say one thing and mean another."

But in a Montgomery press conference last week, Johnny Jackson of SNCC insisted that the students were "kicked

out" because Yelder said they were wearing Afros.

"What's an Afro?" asked a white reporter. "Is that one of those robes you wear?"

Jackson, SNCC's state project director, said the incident at Hudson led his group to present a list of demands to the state board of education.

In a petition left at the board's office Dec. 7, SNCC said black people should have "full control over black public schools," including "the right to pick principals and teachers on all levels."

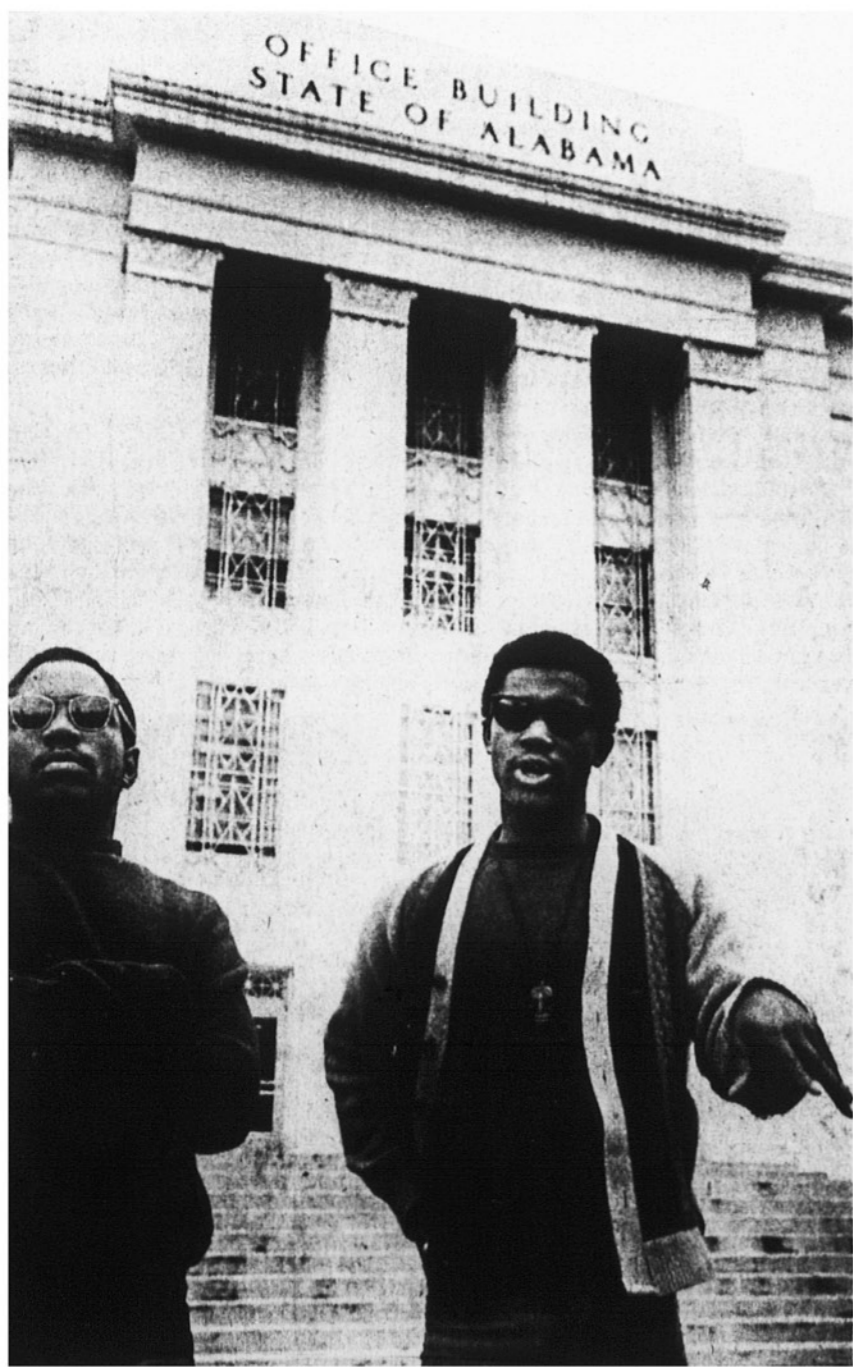
SNCC recommended that "black history--not 'Negro' or 'Afro-American' history--be taught on all levels of public schools."

A reporter asked if SNCC thought its demands for black control of black schools would violate federal-court desegregation orders.

"We don't care what the court tells a honkie governor to do," answered Jackson's companion--identified as "Che," SNCC's state office director. "Those laws are not for us."



JOHN REESE



"CHE" (LEFT) AND JOHNNY JACKSON (WITH AFRO)

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Table with 2 columns: City, Alabama and Phone Number. Lists various cities like Alexander City, Birmingham, Helena, etc.

Vol. III, No. 51 December 16-17, 1967

Reed Blasts 'Illegal' STAR Waits For Money School Study Group

BY MARY ELLEN GALE MONTGOMERY, Ala.

Several members of Alabama's new, all-white Education Study Commission said this week that they will do their best to represent Negroes as well as white people in making a survey of the state's educational needs.

do an adequate job. We will represent as many people interested in education as possible. This is a small group--it could not include everyone."

Some commission members agreed that racial discrimination and segregation have contributed to Alabama's educational problems. But they also said they will try to face the issue in making their study.

"I sort of resented Mr. Reed's remarks," said James Edmondson, president of Judson College in Marion. "Speaking for myself, I am fair and impartial with respect to the race question."

Edmondson said he has acted as an educational consultant to two Negro institutions, and "I consider Mrs. A. G. Gaston (wife of Birmingham's Negro millionaire) a friend."

William Thrash, business manager of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 312 in Birmingham, said the commission "can make the right kind of study and the right kind of recommendations" with or without Negro members.

"I'm president of the Building and Construction Trades Council," he added. "I represent both kinds (races)."

Another commission member--M. D. Thornton, a vocational education teacher at Montevallo High School--said he thinks Negroes have a voice on the group through State Schools Superintendent Ernest Stone.

"Every person in the state is represented by the state superintendent," Thornton explained.

Mrs. Lillian Manley, head of the biology department at Judson College, said Negroes are not the only people complaining about the commission's membership.

"The strongest comment I've heard is from a lot of school superintendents," she said. "A lot of factions think they should have been included."

Graham Wright, a Talladega druggist and a former state legislator, said Reed shouldn't blame Governor Wallace for

Editorial Opinion

The New Party

The new Alabama Independent Democratic Party is a good idea, as far as it goes. The trouble is, it doesn't go very far.

The party's founders are correct in saying Alabamians ought to have a chance to vote for the national Democratic presidential candidate. But if this is all the new party intends to accomplish, it will hardly even begin to attack the problems of Negroes and poor people.

If George Wallace runs for President, no power on earth is going to put Alabama in the national Democratic column. The AIDP offers only the possibility of a small protest vote--for those people who think that voting FOR Lyndon Johnson is a protest.

Local and state elections have a more immediate effect on the lives of poor people than the presidential voting has. But these elections are precisely the area that the AIDP has promised to stay out of.

The new party will leave this field clear for nominees of the Wallace-controlled Alabama Democratic Party--most of all of whom will be white, and many of whom will be conservative and racist. In fact, by drawing "loyal" Democrats to the polls, the new party will probably help the Wallace-backed candidates.

The AIDP--or some other group--might decide to send an integrated delegation to the Democratic National Convention. As a symbolic gesture, this would be worthwhile. But again, it would do little to change things in Alabama.

At least one group that was beaten to the punch by the AIDP might still put up some state and local candidates. It would be beneficial indeed if the various new groups could get together in some sort of unified state-wide effort. We hope that just this once, the different liberal and Negro factions will manage not to kill each other off.



Madison, Wis. Recording star Otis Redding and six other men were killed last Sunday when their plane crashed into the icy waters of Lake Monona. Redding, a 26-year-old native of Macon, Ga., was a great

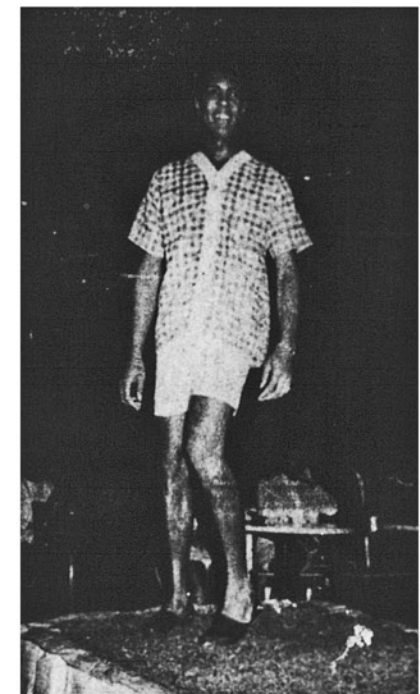
Tuscaloosa, Ala. The Rev. T. Y. Rogers of the First African Baptist Church has been named director of a program that will train Negro ministers to improve the living conditions of black people. Rogers said the ministers will be trained to attack the problems of starvation, high rent, political isolation, and poor police-community relations. The program will begin next Jan. 22.



OTIS REDDING favorite of audiences all over Alabama, Mississippi, and the rest of the U. S. He was apparently on his way to a concert engagement when his two-engine plane crashed in heavy fog. Four of the other victims were members of Redding's troupe--Jimmy King, Ron Caldwell, Phalin Jones, and Carl Cunningham, all teen-agers from Memphis, Tenn. Also killed were the pilot, Richard Fraser, 26, of Macon, and Redding's valet, Matthew Kelly, 17, of Macon.

Birmingham, Ala. When Stokely Carmichael spoke to Negro audiences in England, his words about black power didn't take hold, said Clifford Hill, first secretary for information in the British Embassy in Washington, D. C. The reason, Hill told a Miles College audience Dec. 5, was that most of the people Carmichael was talking to didn't consider themselves to be exploited. "You must understand," Hill said, "the greater part of our colored population didn't arrive in the U. K. (England) until after the Second World War. . . . Though driving a bus is not very far up the economic ladder, to a Pakistan immigrant it is a darn sight better than walking behind a mule." Hill said England is trying to learn by America's mistakes in race relations.

Montgomery, Ala. About 300 people crowded in the Lacos Club last Sunday evening to see a men's fashion show. The show was produced by seven Montgomery men--Norman Lumpkin, Prince Abbott



FASHION SHOW Howard, Lloyd Howard, Edward Davis, Timothy Howard, Billy Stevens, and Grant Lewis--to raise money for the Capital City Boys Club. Using fashions supplied by the Steins and Victor's clothing stores, male models displayed everything from underwear to overcoats.

Tuskegee, Ala. The Tuskegee Civic Association (TCA) celebrated its birthday last Sunday by electing Charles G. Gomillion to his 23rd term as president, and William P. Mitchell to his 18th consecutive term as executive secretary. The only new officers chosen are James Lumpkin, vice president for Zion Hill, and Mrs. Rachel K. Taylor, vice president for Green Fork. At the annual meeting, Gomillion said Tuskegee Negroes have come a long way in the last ten years. After Mrs. Della D. Sullins, membership chairman, announced that TCA now has 1,161 paid members, the 25 people at the meeting elected the 1968 officers.

Montgomery, Ala. Mrs. Lottie Cillie, the Head Start nutritionist, wasn't very happy when she was told she had to attend a staff meeting at 7:30 p.m. last Friday. But the "staff meeting" turned out to be a surprise birthday party for Mrs. Cillie, given by the Head Start cooks. About 50 people enjoyed the buffet supper and birthday cake in the St. Jude center.

Washington, D. C.

"I'm becoming the NAACP's answer to Twiggy," said comedian-candidate Dick Gregory. "When I get into a cab, the driver asks for the fare in advance." Gregory said he has lost 28 pounds on a Thanksgiving-to-Christmas fast, demonstrating "solidarity" with the people of Viet Nam. His fast is the first in history to be carried on in the midst of a 26-city, 35-engagement speaking tour. (Liberation News Service)

Birmingham, Ala.

Students and faculty members at Miles College are working on a show called "Blues 'n' Roots"--a program of poetry, drama, and dance, by and about black people. John McClusky, an English instructor who is directing the 24-student cast, said the show is partly educational. "There is a gaping hole in the education (Miles students) have been getting for 12 years," he said. By exposing the students to black art, he said, "we're filling a vacuum." The show will be presented at noon next Monday at Miles, and McClusky said the group plans to take the production to other schools, churches, and community centers in the coming year.

Montgomery, Ala.

The Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA) celebrated its 12th anniversary Dec. 4 and 5, with the theme "Evaluating the Unfinished Task of Emancipation." Mrs. Johnnie R. Carr, giving her message as MIA president, said, "I will not give up. Some of these days have been dark, but I do believe we shall be free." Representatives of the Montgomery Urban Redevelopment Agency and the Montgomery Council on Human Relations participated in a discussion of the city's urban renewal program. At the close of the Dec. 5 meeting, Mrs. Carr told the small crowd, "It would be wonderful if we could send Dr. King (the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., former MIA president) a telegram saying that we had a church-full tonight to celebrate the 12th anniversary. But we can't. We will send a telegram saying that we did celebrate the 12th anniversary." (From Arlam Carr Jr.)

Integrated Jury Acquits Avants in Natchez Death

BY MERTIS RUBIN NATCHEZ, Miss.--A jury of three Negroes and nine whites last Saturday found Ernest Avants not guilty of murder in the 1966 slaying of Ben Chester White, an elderly Negro from Natchez.

Two FBI agents had testified that Avants told them about his part in the killing. According to the agents, Avants said he shot White in the head with a shotgun, on instructions from a man identified as "Fuller." (Claude Fuller is also a defendant in the case.)

The agents said Avants also told them White was already dead when he shot him. Defense attorney Travis Buckley then rested his case without calling a single witness. The jury took less than three hours to set Avants free.

Integrated Jury Acquits Avants in Natchez Death

White was killed during the period when the first Meredith March was going on in Mississippi.

In the earlier trial of James L. Jones --the third defendant in the case--the state claimed that White's death was

part of a Ku Klux Klan plot to lure the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., one of the march leaders, to the Natchez area.

The jury in Jones' trial could not agree on a verdict, and no date has been set for his second trial. Fuller is still waiting to be tried.

All three defendants--and several alleged officers of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi--also face a civil suit in U. S. District Court.

In that suit, filed last June, White's brother Jesse is asking the federal court to award the White family up to \$1,050,000 in damages.

The suit accuses "one of the defendants (in the civil case)" of shooting Ben Chester White 17 times.

"Then another of the defendants shot off the top of (White's) head with a shotgun," the suit continues. "Thereafter, they carried (White) onto a bridge, threw him into the creek below, and burned the blood-spattered automobile to conceal their crimes."

The bi-racial committee was appointed last July, after a Brookhaven policeman was accused of brutally beating George Davis, a Negro. The NAACP then called off a one-day-old boycott.

In November, the bi-racial committee issued a report making 15 recommendations for improved race relations, but no action was taken on the report.

Recently, two MAP (Mississippi Action for Progress) Head Start centers have been burned in Lincoln County. Faulty wiring was blamed for the fire at an all-Negro center in Bogue Chitto.

But when the Pearlhaven Center was burned two days later, people said, a gasoline can was found at the rear of the building. The Pearlhaven center, in a white neighborhood, had opened three days before the fire with three Negro and 42 white children.

After the boycott was called off this month, several disappointed Brookhaven residents traveled to an NAACP meeting in Crystal Springs (Copiah County), to complain about what they called a "sell-out."

Some People Charge 'Sell-Out'

However, some of the NAACP's 700 members said they are unhappy about the decision. They charged this week that they were "sold out" by their leaders.

For one thing, they said, they want more than 16 jobs. And, they pointed out, Negro job-seekers must still be recommended by the NAACP's labor-industrial committee, instead of being judged on their individual applications.

Mrs. Gladys Watson -- the local NAACP secretary who worked on the committee that met with merchants--said she has considered resigning her position. The decision not to boycott was simply "told" to the members, she said, and she objected to possible "discrimination" in recommending people for jobs. "Not all the stores are hiring," she added. "And how do we know the jobs are permanent?"

Stanton disputed all these charges, and the repeated rumor that some Negro ministers were bribed by the whites. "When people want to do something," he said, "they'll manufacture anything. Some were determined to have a boy-

And in Bessemer...

BY BOB LABAREE BESSEMER, Ala. -- Bessemer Negroes claimed another victory in their selective buying campaign last week, when the 20th St. A & P promoted a Negro stock-boy to cashier.

The promotion came after a two-week boycott of the A & P and of Bruno's, another chain food store.

Picketers' signs had called for hiring of Negroes, as well as promotions, but local leader Asbury Howard Sr. said he is satisfied with last week's agreement. "If a man has been with them a long time, as this one has, we prefer that they up-grade him," Howard explained. "If they don't have anyone qualified, we

want them to hire someone outright." A similar campaign in early November resulted in several department stores' agreeing to hire Negroes as cashiers and salesmen.

Meanwhile, the boycott continues at Bruno's. "And it will, as long as they don't give us what we want," said one of the picketers.

The manager at Bruno's--who asked that his name not be used--has not made any response to the demands. But he insisted that local Negroes have nothing to complain about. "We have colored working here as clerks in the \$100 bracket," he said. "There's nothing new about them."

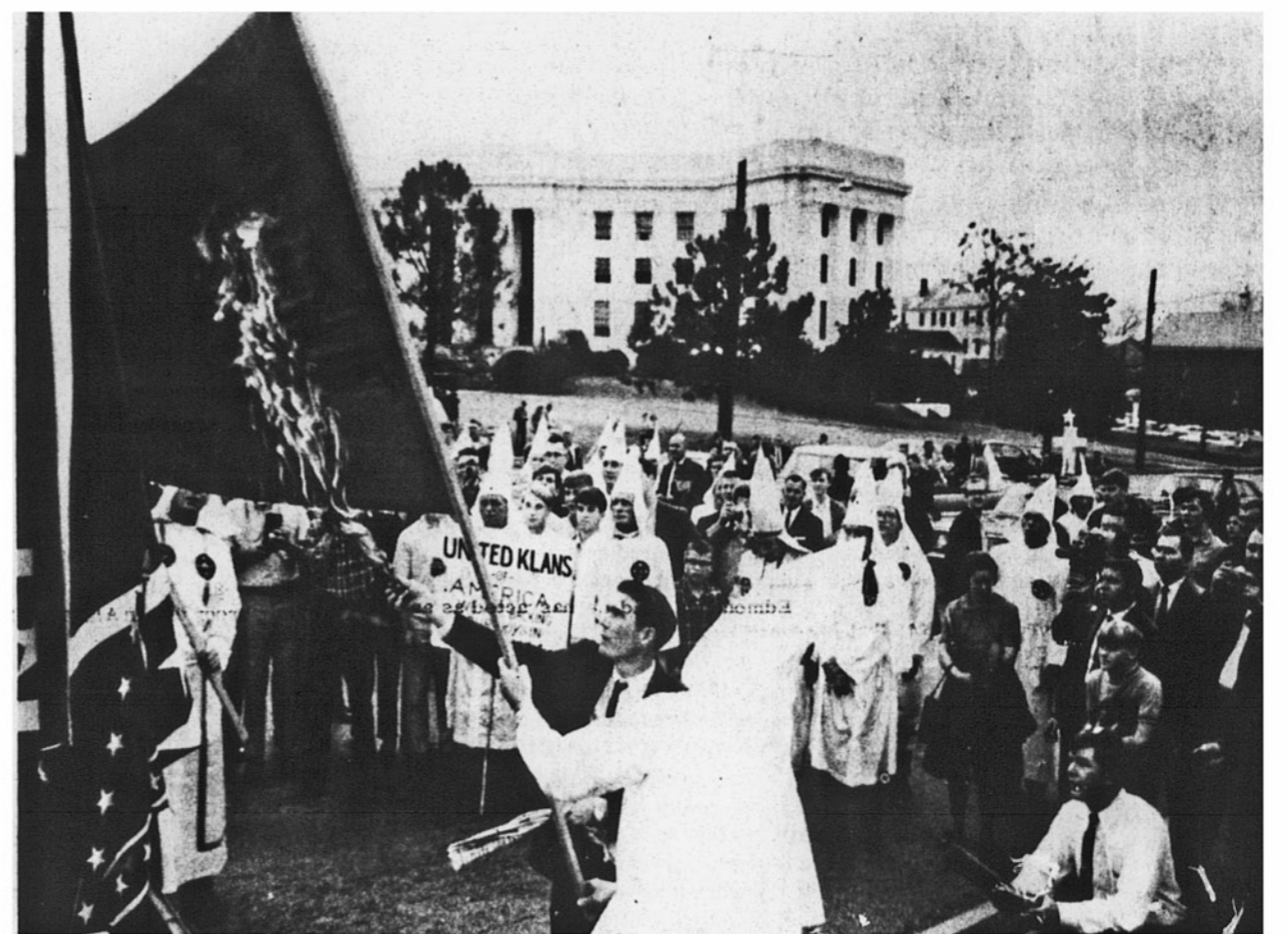


MRS. LOTTIE CILLIE (LEFT) AT SURPRISE PARTY

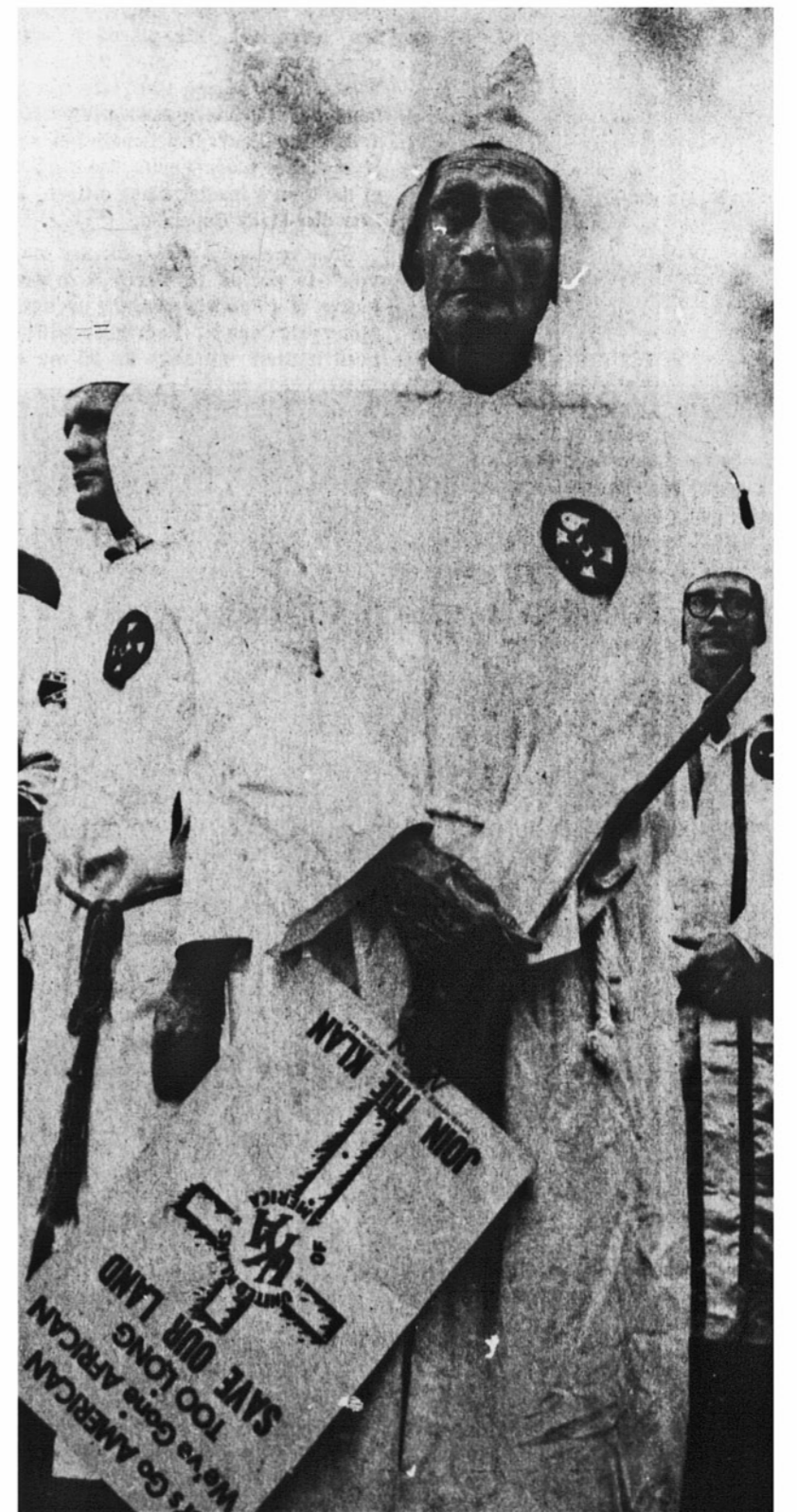
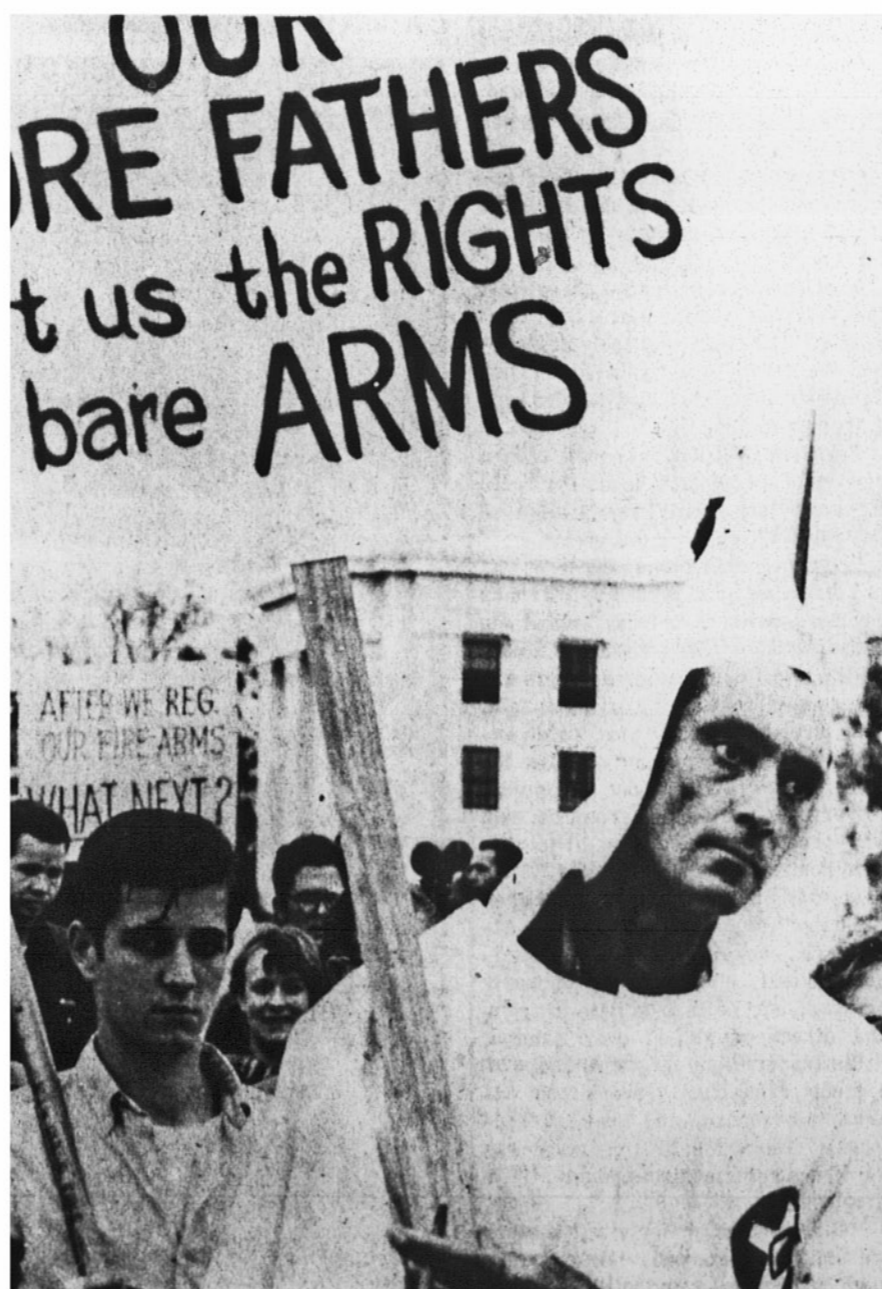
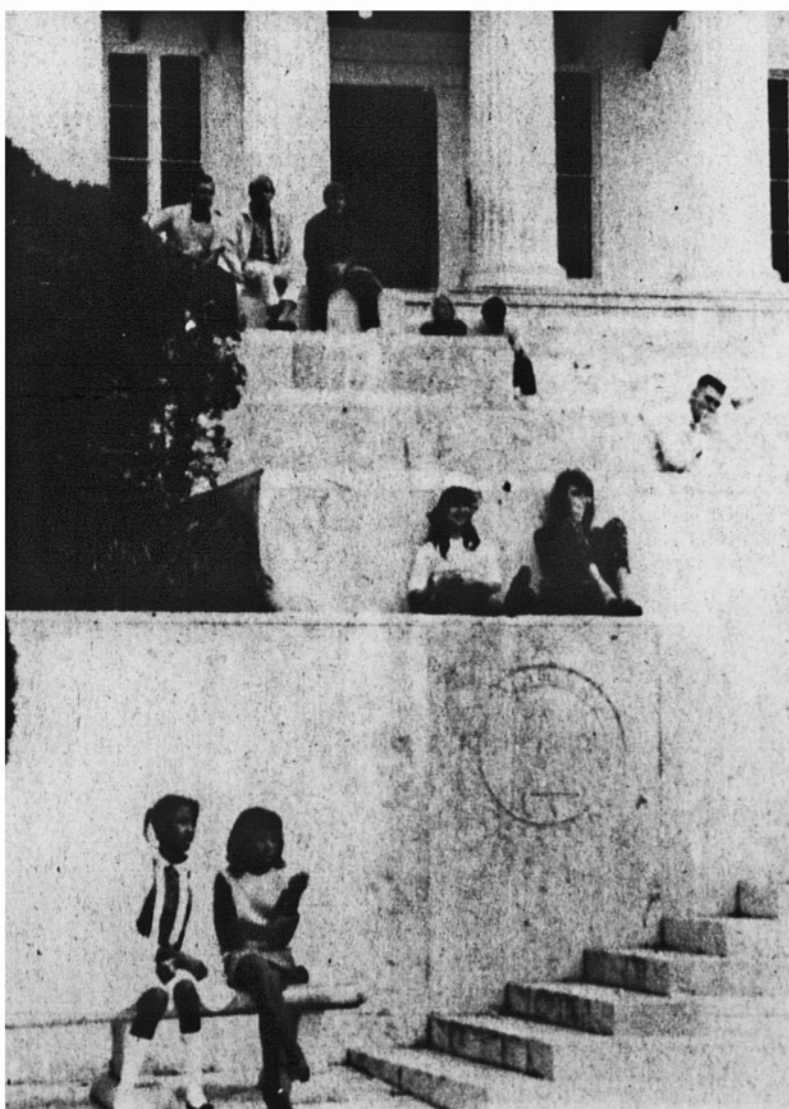


*Sunday in Montgomery*

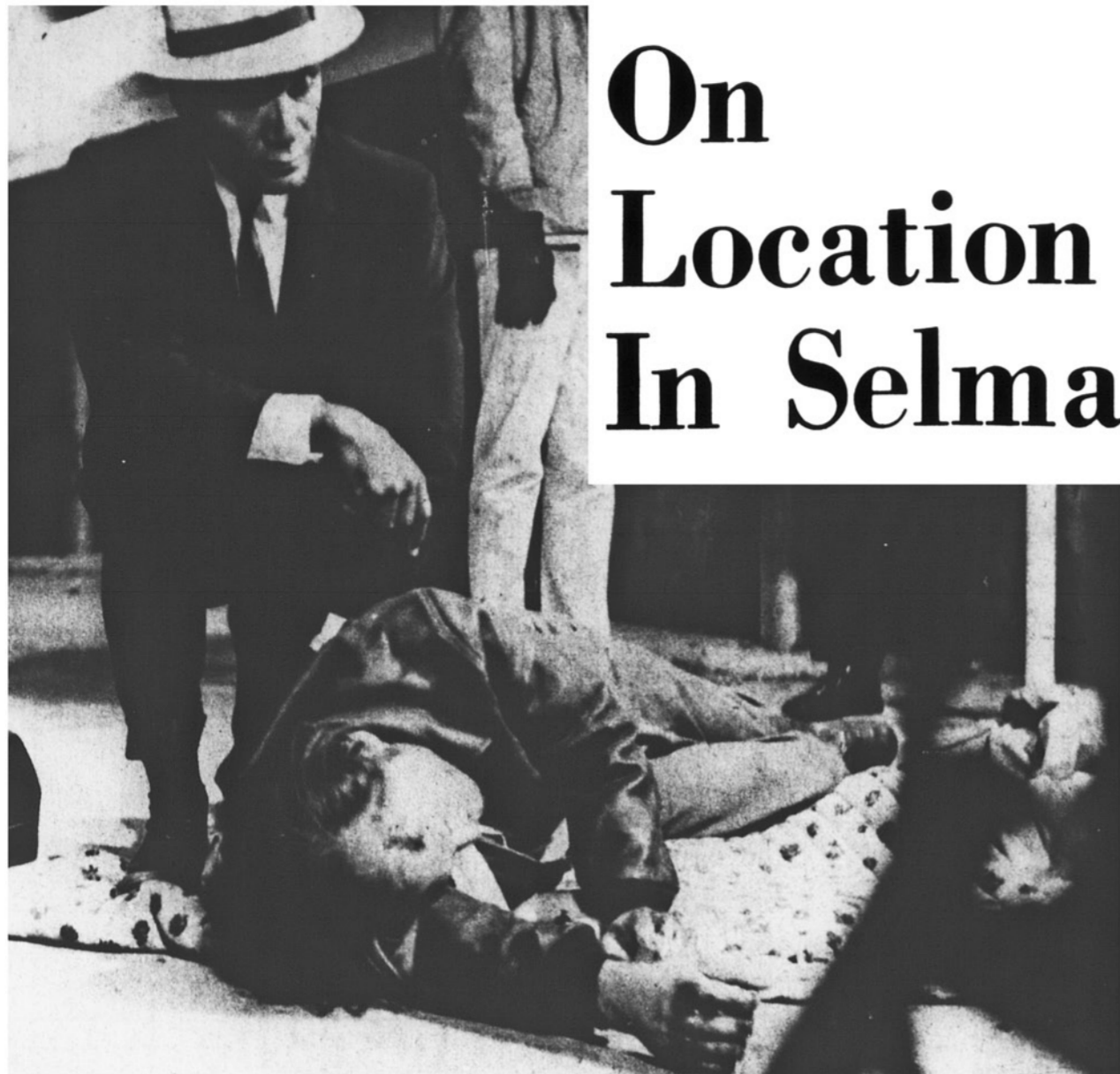
# King Spoke--And Then the Klan Spoke, and Marched, and Burned



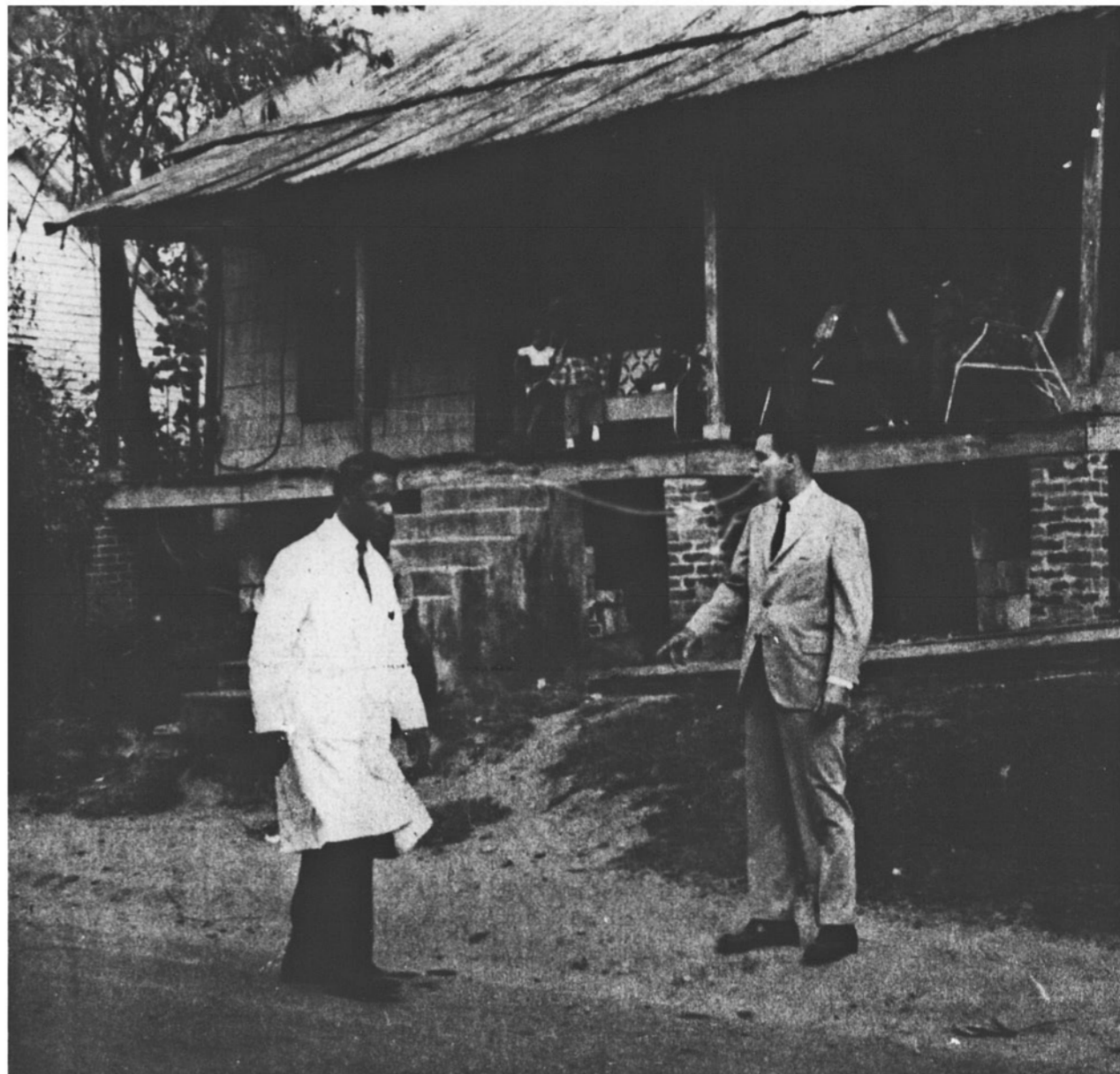
*Photos by  
Jim Pepler*



# On Location In Selma



PERCY RODRIGUEZ (LEFT) EXAMINES AN "INJURED" MAN



RODRIGUEZ (LEFT) AND ALAN ARKIN (RIGHT) IN A MOVIE SCENE

TEXT BY BETH WILCOX; PHOTOS BY JAMES E. LYTLE

SELMA, Ala.--For several weeks this fall, the city of Selma played host to a movie company filming "The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter."

Actors and cameramen took over a house on Range St. in a Negro neighborhood, and another house on Mabry St. in a white part of town.

Since the story takes place in the summer, curious bystanders could watch the movie-makers carefully spraying green dye over the brown leaves on the trees and raking the fallen leaves out of sight.

Make-up men rushed back and forth, applying "perspiration"--a mixture of baby oil and water--to the brows and clothing of the actors.

The movie takes place in a Southern town, and Selma was chosen as the real city most like the make-believe city in the story. But for courthouse scenes, the movie company traveled to Marion, in neighboring Perry County.

"The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter"--written by Southern novelist Carson McCullers--is a story of black and white people with all kinds of problems.

Some scenes in the movie concentrate on the uneasy relationship between the races. Other scenes center around the difficulties that the people--a Negro doctor and his restless children, a young white girl, a deaf-mute--have in working out their lives.

Probably the best-known actor in the picture is Alan Arkin, who played a Russian submarine commander in the popular movie, "The Russians Are Coming." He takes the leading role--the deaf-mute--in "The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter."



JOHNNY POPWELL

Arkin called it the most difficult part he has ever had to play.

"In 'The Russians Are Coming,' I did have to learn a new language," he said. "But this part involves a malfunctioning. It is very difficult to shut out hearing." He also had to learn sign language.

Another star of the movie is a pretty Negro actress, Miss Cecily Tyson. A few years ago, she played a social worker on the TV series, "East Side, West Side." Since then, she has had many parts in movies and on television.

In "The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter," Miss Tyson plays Portia, the daughter of the town's leading black citizen, Dr. Benedict Mady Copeland.

Dr. Copeland's part--another major role--is played by Percy Rodriguez, native of a French-speaking section of Montreal, Canada. Rodriguez said he's been in show business for 30 years--



RODRIGUEZ SIGNS AN AUTOGRAPH

beginning at the age of nine or ten to earn money for his church.

More recently, he has been in a play on Broadway in New York City, and in movies and television shows. He went to England to star in the production there of "Blues for Mister Charlie," written by black author James Baldwin.

"I've played everything from Christ to the devil," said Rodriguez. He counted up some of his roles--sea captain, Greek-Cypriot gangster, Brazilian police captain, Arab slave-trader. In Montreal, he starred in a TV series about an Indian village. He has also had parts in Shakespearean and Greek classical drama.

"I've played practically every nationality," he said. "In this business if you play a character, you can last forever."

Rodriguez said he made a screen test five years ago for the part of Dr. Copeland in "The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter," but the movie was canceled. "They called me again when they decided to do it," he said.

He warned people who come to see the movie not to expect it to be like the book: "A script continually comes alive as you film."

Rodriguez said Robert Miller--who is directing the film for Warners Brothers-Seven Arts--has helped the actors develop their roles in the movie. "Miller will give us ideas, which excite something in us," Rodriguez said.

In turn, he added, "what we do excites something in him"--giving the director new ideas about the movie. "Everyone in a movie--from the man who sweeps the floor to the director--is important," Rodriguez added.

Another star of "The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter" is Johnny Popwell from Atlanta, Ga. Popwell said he plays semi-pro football, directs an anti-poverty program, and still finds time to act in and direct shows all over Atlanta.

His career began ten years ago, with a group of theatrical players from Atlanta, Morehouse, and Spelman colleges. One of his first big roles was the king in the musical comedy, "The King and I."

"And I played in 'Jamaica,' another musical," said Popwell. "Toured Germany and France with that."

The young actor said he has usually

tions. People ask, "Where does--how does--a Negro get that kind of training?"

As a director, Popwell has experience working with both races. The Red Clay Players--an all-white theater group in Atlanta--hired him to direct its production of a Tennessee Williams play, "Suddenly Last Summer."

Popwell said he likes working in Atlanta. "Atlanta is the third-largest cultural city going," he said. "They're going to have the Metropolitan Opera there--everything. I spent six years in New York. Dog eat dog. Every time a Negro part comes up in Atlanta, I'm the man."

The part of Willie in "The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter" is Popwell's first movie role. He got it more or less by accident.

Popwell said he was helping the film company try out people for the part of a young girl by reading Dr. Copeland's lines. The director liked Popwell's work, and hired him to play Willie--Dr. Copeland's son-in-law.

The actor said Willie's part grows out of "scene development. That means you learn more about Willie from what Portia (his wife) and Dr. Copeland say, than from what Willie does. The part of Willie is not really that deep."

But, Popwell said, Willie does change at least one other character--Dr. Copeland. "Before I am hurt, Dr. Copeland doesn't like me much--doesn't want to help me," he said. "Afterward, Dr. Copeland wants to help, but it's too late."

The problem, Popwell explained, is that Dr. Copeland doesn't think his daughter, Portia, should have married Willie. "Willie has nothing to offer his wife but himself. He's just a nice guy, intelligent," Popwell said.

Rodriguez, the actor who plays Dr. Copeland, said he enjoyed filming in Selma. "I love going on location," he

said. "It's a great travel experience--you learn about life, about people. It's a great life experience."

The people of Selma also got some benefit out of the movie company's visit. Many of them were hired as actors, as "extras" in crowd scenes, or to do other jobs.

One of the local employees was Marius J. "Ace" Anderson. The first Negro disk jockey on radio station WTQX in Selma, Anderson now has a TV "talk show" on Sundays.

As a casting co-ordinator for "The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter," Anderson tried to find local people to fill small parts. He said his biggest problem was getting them on the set at the right time.

Once, he told a group of 30 people--to go home because it was so cold. Then, Anderson said, the director "called for the 30 extras, and they weren't there."

Anderson solved the problem by taking all 30 parts himself: "There I was riding the whip, the ferris wheel, walking around the fair out there at four o'clock in the morning. It was something."

Anderson--who watched a lot of the filming--explained why it took so long to complete scenes which will last only a few minutes on the screen.

"They'll do and re-do scenes," he said. "They'll even go back a few days later and do a scene they have perfected."

In the middle of a fight scene, he recalled, the filming was halted while make-up men put "blood" on one of the actors.

"They are very exacting--they notice everything," Anderson said. In picking up a scene where it had stopped the previous day, he said, "they made one of my extras go back and change his clothes, because he didn't have the same clothes as the day before."



ARKIN TAKES TIME OFF



FILMING A CARNIVAL SCENE

**What Does Miss Grice's Letter Mean?**

# Still No CAP-SEASHA Meeting

BY MARY ELLEN GALE  
TUSKEGEE, Ala.--Two months ago, Alabama's community action program directors voted to meet with the South East Alabama Self Help Association in Tuskegee.

The CAP directors and the SEASHA leaders planned to discuss a long-standing disagreement over the initiation and control of anti-poverty projects in the 12 counties where SEASHA hopes to work.

But the meeting still hasn't taken place. And Miss Mary Y. Grice, head of the CAP directors association, now says that many members have had "some what of a second thought" about the whole idea.

control, Miss Grice wrote, "there can no longer be any 'dialogue' over it."

But, she went on, the seven CAP directors in the SEASHA area would probably agree "to have a discussion with your organization about our mutual problems."

This week, SEASHA officials said they don't know quite what to make of the letter. A top staff worker remarked, "If it means what I think it means, maybe we have nothing to discuss."

But Stanley H. Smith, SEASHA president, said the group still "wants to work cooperatively with the CAP directors," and will continue trying to meet with them.

immediately on a trip to Washington. But two CAP directors said they still expect to meet with SEASHA--and don't know why the session hasn't been held.

"Nearly everybody voted to go to Tuskegee, and I thought we were all going," said Gene M. Schroeder, director of the Area 23 CAP (Bullock, Pike, and Coffee counties). "Mary Grice never did notify us of a date, and I don't know what happened."

Mrs. Beulah C. Johnson, director of the Macon County CAP, told a SEASHA meeting last week that she will try to find out what happened.

"It was a motion put before the house and carried (at the CAP directors' meeting in October), that we would all meet in Tuskegee," Mrs. Johnson said. "Not just seven of us."

Mrs. Johnson was one of the 21 Alabama CAP directors who signed the resolution asking for CAP control of all anti-poverty programs. But, she said, she also made the motion for the CAP directors to meet with SEASHA. "My only concern is to help the dis-

advantaged," she said. "To do this, we have got to work cooperatively with any group with the same goal."

Mrs. Johnson said the SEASHA officials and the CAP directors must recognize that "there are several ways of making a bed. One way might be just as good as another way. The important thing is we both want the bed made."

In a letter to SEASHA, Miss Grice explained that several CAP directors feel it is "unnecessary to involve the entire CAP association in a meeting with SEASHA."

She pointed out that only seven of Alabama's 24 CAPs are "involved" in SEASHA's area. And, she said, the CAP directors' stand in favor of local control over all anti-poverty activities is "already on public record."

"The association unanimously, in Atlanta (Ga.) in August, passed a resolution requesting that the OEO (Office of Economic Opportunity) and Congress make a check-point procedure at the local level mandatory," Miss Grice noted.

"SEASHA is determined to get its program funded -- from whatever source," he added. If opposition from the CAP directors blocks a grant from OEO, he said, "we'll get it from somewhere else. We're going to see that the (poor) people get help."

Miss Grice was not in her office this week. A secretary said she had been ill for several days, and was leaving

Several SEASHA leaders have charged that the "check-point procedure"--which would require "single-purpose agencies" to get local CAP approval before setting up projects--is a means of destroying SEASHA.

Now that the U. S. Congress has "apparently" approved the idea of local

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**Bullock Technical Swamps Merritt**

# The Inverness Massacre

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN

INVERNESS, Ala.--In basketball, you hear a lot about the "home-court advantage." But you don't know what the term means until you've seen a game at Bullock County Technical School.

When visiting players enter the Tech gym, they are struck with a deafening wave of sound. Nine red-suited cheerleaders and a couple hundred basketball nuts have the place in an uproar even before the game begins.

The next thing the visitors notice is the ceiling--just a few feet above the basket, with huge beams hanging down. If the visitors have never played at Tech before, they're likely to see a few of their best shots bouncing off that ceiling.

And as the game goes on, the visitors begin to feel the Tech fans breathing down their necks. The excited fans edge closer and closer to the action, until by the end of the game, the players have to go three rows deep in the audience to take the ball out of bounds.

All of this happened to Merritt High of Midway last Saturday, as Tech--led by two incredible high-jumpers named Genoris Crawford and Henry Manley--swept to an 87-71 homecoming victory.

Before the game, Merritt appeared to have some chance of winning. Robert Walker, at 6'5", and J. B. Goshay, at 6'3", towered over everybody in the Tech line-up, including Crawford and Manley.

But Tech jumped to a quick 9-1 lead in the first few minutes of play. Merritt fought back, though, and with three minutes left in the first half, the visitors actually took the lead, 28 to 27.

## Okolona Wins

BY GEORGE JENKINS  
OKOLONA, Miss.--Okolona girls won two trophies Dec. 1-2, when they defeated Siggers, 41 to 24, and Beasley, 42 to 18, in a tournament here. The boys won one trophy when they beat Siggers, 80 to 54.



### TECH FANS AT HOMECOMING GAME

Manley came right back with an easy lay-up, putting Tech ahead, 29 to 28. And then Crawford--driving, hitting from outside, and rebounding like a madman--reeled off eight straight points, putting the game out of reach and the fans into orbit.

Crawford, with 24 points, and Manley, with 22, led the Tech scoring. George Christian added 16 points, and Gerald Surles had 12. For Merritt, the big men were Paul Parker with 24 points, Walker with 14, Bill Kendrick with 12, and Goshay with 10.

Tech also won the B game, 45 to 39, after trailing by as much as seven points in the first half.

Earlier in the day, Miss Tech High (Mary Rodgers) and Miss Tech Elementary (Priscilla McClanay) were fea-

tures in a homecoming parade. After the game, Merritt was "buried" beside Tech's other home victims, in a make-believe cemetery on the school lawn. The visitors seemed glad that it was only make-believe.

## Head Start In Toolen's Hands

BY EDWARD RUDOLPH  
MOBILE, Ala.--By a 20-18 vote, the Mobile Area Community Action Committee (MACAC) has decided to leave the Head Start program in the hands of Roman Catholic Archbishop Thomas J. Toolen and his anti-poverty committee.

Many Head Start workers had been opposed to MACAC's taking over the program. But in a report on WALA-TV, people also objected to the way Toolen's committee operates. They said it has no constitution, no elected officers, no telephone listing, and no Negroes or poor people in positions of authority.

If the program were run by MACAC, said Miss Jo Ann Flirt, it would be less expensive and more available to the general public.

But the Rev. Thomas Nunan, head of the Toolen committee, replied that 40 of the committee's 72 members are Negroes. He also denied charges that the program is dominated by Catholics.

Nunan said that Mobile's Head Start program has one of the lowest costs-per-child in the state of Alabama.

**Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights**

The weekly meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18, in the Jackson St. Baptist Church, 230 S. 63rd St., the Rev. J. C. Parker, pastor.

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## Announcements

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**--The Montgomery Head Start needs all the volunteers help it can get to work in the classrooms. 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 a.m. and 2 p.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 at 419 Madison, call 263-3474, or go to the nearest Head Start center.

**FEDERAL JOBS**--The Interagency Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners for South Alabama and Northwest Florida is holding examinations for deputy U. S. marshals. The list of successful applicants will be used to fill future vacancies at Mobile and Montgomery, Ala., and Pensacola, Fla. Starting salary is \$5,867 per year. Interested applicants may obtain necessary application forms and copies of the examination announcements at any board of U. S. civil service examiners, and at most main post offices. Additional information may be obtained by contacting any post office, or the Federal Job Information Center, Room 105, 107 St. Francis St., Mobile, Ala. 36602.

**FEMALE HELP WANTED**--Interviewer wanted for part-time telephone survey work after Christmas. Must have private line. Not a selling job. Air-mail a letter including your education, work experience, and names of references to American Research Bureau, Field Staff Department, 4320 Ammendale Rd., Beltsville, Maryland 20705.

**BAHA'IS**--The Baha'is of Montgomery invite you to their weekly fireside at 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, at 3222 Santee Dr. in Montgomery. For transportation, call 263-6938 or 265-4394.

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**FEDERAL JOBS**--The Interagency Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners for South Alabama and Northwest Florida is holding examinations for general machinist, general machine operator, supply processing deliveryman, tool crib attendant, material processor, warehouseman, aircraft electrician, aircraft mechanic, aircraft engine worker, aircraft oxygen equipment worker, aircraft sheet metal worker, airframe worker, and aircraft instrument and control systems mechanic. These examinations provide applicants with career employment opportunities in the federal service in the 28 counties of South Alabama and the 10 counties of Northwest Florida. Starting salaries range from \$1,85 to \$3,41 per hour. Interested applicants must file Standard Form 57, CSC Form 5001-ABC, and Standard Form 15 (documentary proof required if the applicant is claiming ten-point veteran preference). The forms are available at any board of U. S. civil service examiners, and at most main post offices. Additional information may be obtained by contacting any post office, or the Federal Job Information Center, Room 105, 107 St. Francis St., Mobile, Ala. 36602.

**AGRICULTURE JOBS**--Applications are being accepted for the position of agricultural statistician trainee. Positions to be filled are in the Statistical Reporting Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Applicants must be pursuing college courses which at the time of graduation will meet the course requirements for the position of agricultural statistician (grade GS-5). Starting salaries range from \$4,269 to \$4,776 per year. Further information and application forms may be obtained from any board of U. S. civil service examiners, or from most post offices. Information and application forms are also available at the Federal Job Information Center, 275 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta, Ga. 30303. Applications must be received or postmarked not later than March 19, 1968.

**LOWNDES CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**--The Lowndes County Christian Movement and the Lowndes County Freedom Party will have a joint Christmas program at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24, in Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Gordonsville, Ala. Everyone is asked to please be present.

**AUTAUGA COUNTY NAACP**--The Autauga County branch of the NAACP will hold its regular meetings from 4 to 5 p.m. on the first and third Sunday of each month. Our motto is "Let every member get a member." Mrs. Sallie Hadnett, president.

**FOR A BETTER ALABAMA**--The Alabama Council on Human Relations has active chapters in Birmingham, Mobile, Montgomery, Huntsville, Florence-Tusculum-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.

**WANTED**--1. Assistant director for a community service agency. Qualifications desirable: more than a liberal arts education, experience in managerial work, record of community service. 2. Secretary. Qualifications desired: typing skills, 60 words per minute; stenographic skills, 100 words per minute, with a maximum 3% error in transcription; at least one year experience; personal qualities, good verbal facility, intelligence, reliability, courtesy, and integrity. 3. Field representative. Qualifications desirable: experience in development of community programs and reporting of management information. Ability to express thoughts clearly and to work in community leadership. 4. Clerk-typists (2). Desired qualifications: typing skills, at least 60 words per minute; personal qualities, neat, courteous, and intelligent. Duties and salary will be discussed when granted an interview. Apply to Coosa-Elmore Community Action Committee, P. O. Drawer H, Wetumpka, Ala. 36092, or telephone 567-9377 in Wetumpka between 3 and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and ask for Mrs. McDonald. The Coosa-Elmore Community Action Committee is an equal opportunity employer.

**OPEN HOUSE**--The Organized Community Action Program for Area 23 (Bullock, Pike, and Coffee counties) will hold an open house from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 16, at its central office, 116 Elm St. (Folmar Bldg.), Troy, Ala. The public is invited. Gene M. Schroeder, executive director.

**ROOSEVELT BARNETT DAY**--The Alabama Action Committee will have a Roosevelt Barnett Jr. Day at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18, in the Bell St. Baptist Church, Oak and Robinson in Montgomery, Ala. The community is invited to show its appreciation for the first assistant director of AAC. The Rev. James A. Turner, pastor; A. D. S. Harris, Frank Tate, and Collins Harris, sponsors.

**TSU DEFENSE FUND**--On March 4, five black students from Texas Southern University will face trial and the death penalty on a charge of murdering a white policeman. The accused are Douglas Wallace, whose defense is that he was already in jail when the policeman was shot; Floyd Nichols and Charles Freeman, whose defense is that they were on the other side of the city; and Traze-well Franklin and John Parker, whose defense is that they were in bed. Funds are urgently needed to make possible the freedom of the TSU Five. Donations and statements of support may be sent to TSU Five Defense Fund, Box 21085, Houston, Tex. 77026.

**CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS**--"Is the Universe, including Man, Evolved by Atomic Force?" This is the subject of the Lesson Sermon to be read in all Christian Science churches this Sunday, Dec. 17. "Ah Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee." This verse from Jeremiah is the Golden Text.

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT**--The Christmas Concert of the Miles College Choir will be held at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, in the College Auditorium, Birmingham, Ala.

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