

Mrs. Johnson Refuses to Give Up Her Desk

BY MARY ELLEN GALE
TUSKEGEE, Ala. -- Mrs. Beulah C. Johnson was at work as usual this week in the downtown office of the Macon County Community Action Program. But is she still the CAP's paid director?

The CAP board--in a unanimous vote last week--said no.

Mrs. Johnson and her attorney, Charles S. Conley of Montgomery, this week said yes.

And the Southeast regional branch of the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) has ruled that the CAP board will have to give Mrs. Johnson a hearing before the question can be answered.

In a telegram early this week, OEO regional director Ralph A. Phelps Jr. overturned the CAP board's latest vote to dismiss Mrs. Johnson, and told the board to set a hearing "at a date and

time mutually agreed on." It was the third time in the last four months that the CAP board has tried--and failed--to fire Mrs. Johnson from her \$12,000-a-year job.

According to board chairman B. D. Mayberry, 22 members came to a special meeting Dec. 27 to discuss nine charges against Mrs. Johnson with her and her lawyer.

When neither Mrs. Johnson nor her attorney showed up, Mayberry said, the board members agreed that she had forfeited her right to a hearing.

The group authorized Freddie L. Washington, the CAP's associate director, to take over as acting director last Monday (Jan. 1).

But Mrs. Johnson refused to move out of the office.

"I have no intention of relinquishing my position in the manner you dictated," Mrs. Johnson wrote Mayberry last Friday. "I am entitled to a hearing, and am insisting upon it. I shall remain in this office as director until

I am properly terminated from it."

This week, Mrs. Johnson and Conley, her lawyer, agreed that she has no "right" to the director's job. But, they said, she does have a "constitutional right" to a detailed explanation of the charges against her.

The accusations were made public following a closed session of the CAP board last Nov. 30. They included "inability to communicate with disadvantaged people," and "failure to recognize the board as the governing body" of the Macon County CAP.

But, said Conley this week, "the charges were so general and ambiguous it was not possible to respond." In letters to the CAP board, Conley and Mrs. Johnson asked for more information in order to prepare for a hearing.

When the information was denied, Conley said, "I contacted the regional (OEO) office."

Conley and Mayberry disagreed sharply this week over the Dec. 27 meeting. Mayberry said he told Con-

ley the hearing should be held before Jan. 1, and notified him--and Mrs. Johnson--of the Dec. 27 date.

But Conley said that Mayberry had agreed to put the hearing off until mid-January. By the time he learned the hearing was set for Dec. 27, Conley said, he had already made arrangements to be out-of-town that day.

Another problem, Conley said, was that Mrs. Johnson suffered "an apparent heart attack" after receiving the board's letter of dismissal, and was "confined to bed for several days."

In her office this week, Mrs. Johnson declined to say whether she had had a heart attack. But, she added, "I was carried to the hospital. I was ill."

Mrs. Johnson said she returned to her office this week--in defiance of the CAP board's vote--because the board has not followed the correct procedures in firing her.

For example, she said, "suppose we had money here for child day care cen-



MRS. JOHNSON IN HER OFFICE THIS WEEK

THE SOUTHERN COURIER

VOL. IV, NO. 1

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TEN CENTS

Miss. Negro Legislator Seated; Others Meet Deadline for Bond

BY ESTELLE FINE
JACKSON, Miss. -- Robert G. Clark was sworn in without incident last Tuesday as Mississippi's first Negro state representative in about 100 years.

Clark, who represents Holmes and Yazoo counties, had faced a possible

Remarks Start Fuss in Selma

SELMA, Ala.--Marius J. "Ace" Anderson, a disk jockey and the only Negro employee of radio station WTGX, says he started something with an editorial on his show last Friday.

In the editorial, Anderson complimented the two Negroes appointed to the Selma police force six months ago. But he added, "We also feel that the practice of using certain individuals or families for exploitation purposes should be refrained from."

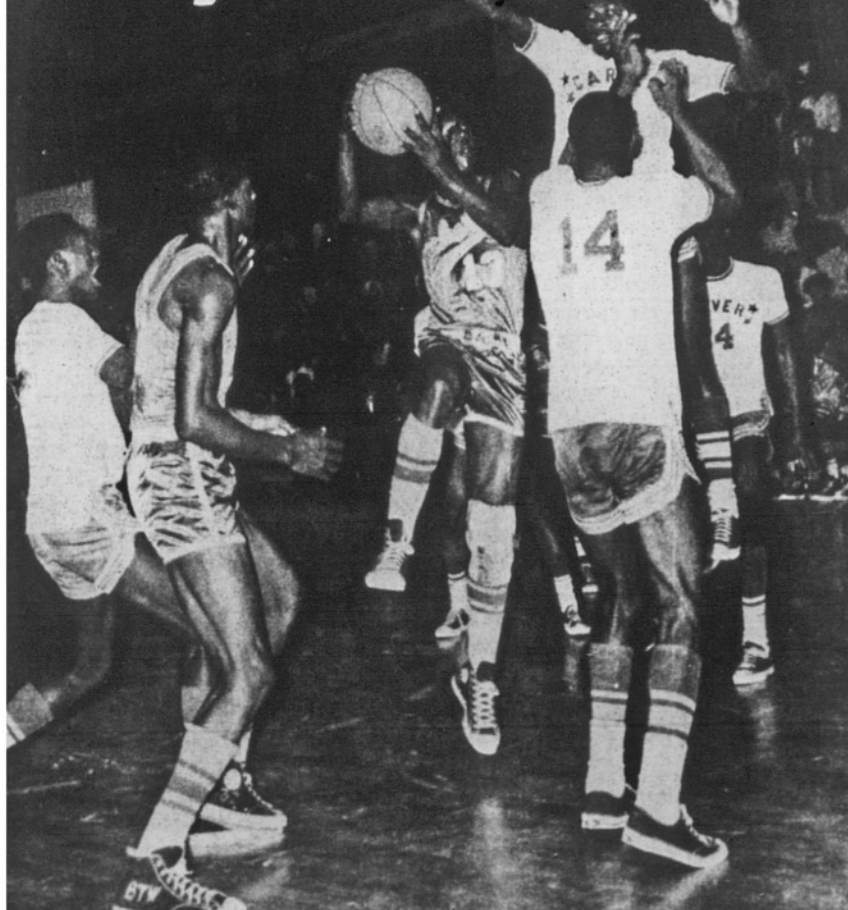
Later, said Anderson, a station official told him Police Chief Frank Farrish asked for a copy of the editorial.

Chief Farrish said only, "I have not talked with Ace Anderson."

The disk jockey said one of the Negro policemen, James Pritchett, told him he "would be spinning records behind bars."

Anderson said his chief complaint is that Pritchett always brings people to a corner, in front of a crowd, to give them a traffic warning.

Can't Stop BTW



MONTGOMERY, Ala.--The Booker T. Washington Yellow Jackets (in action above) won their own Holiday Tournament last Friday, with an 82-69 triumph over cross-town rival Carver High.

Larry McTier and Alton Ferguson led BTW's balanced attack with 23 points apiece, and Willie James was right behind with 22.

In the consolation game, Laurel High of Alexander City scratched out a 66-65 win over South Girard of Phenix City.

challenge from the man he defeated last November, veteran State Representative J. P. Love.

Love said last month that he would ask the House not to seat Clark, because of alleged technical errors in the black independent's nominating petition. But a few days before the Legislature convened, Love announced that he was dropping his challenge.

After taking the oath of office, Clark sat alone at a double desk in the front row of the House.

All around the state this week, Negroes elected to local office last November were being sworn in. For some, the oath-taking came after a long struggle to find companies willing to write the bonds required for county officials.

About two weeks ago, most of the new black officials said local bonding companies had refused their applications. Mississippi law requires officials to get bonded before they can be sworn in.

But lawyers and civil rights groups--here and in the North--began putting pressure on the bonding companies, and one by one, the Negro officials got their bonds.

Kermit Stanton of Bolivar County was probably the last black office-holder to get bonded. Stanton, a county supervisor, was required to post a \$125,000 bond, based on a percentage of the collectible taxes in the county.

He needed signatures from five co-operating companies to complete his bond, and he had to drive all over the state to get them. His bond was filed at 4 p.m. last Friday--near the close of the last working day before the first-of-the-year deadline.



ROBERT G. CLARK (RIGHT) TAKES OATH OF OFFICE

Kids Beaten in Schools, Lowndes Parents Claim

BY BETH WILCOX
HAYNEVILLE, Ala. -- Six members of the Lowndes County Christian Movement have asked Miss Hulda Coleman, the superintendent of schools, to halt "unfair" treatment of their children.

In a letter, the parents told Miss Coleman that children had been beaten in the schools. And several members of the Christian Movement said this week that they knew of beatings administered by instructors at Hayneville High School, now all-Negro. Some people said children had been beaten with switches, in the presence of other students.

"I have discussed it (the beating charges) with the principal of Hayneville High School," Miss Coleman said

10-Year Sentences For Two in CR Death Case

BY MERTIS RUBIN
JACKSON, Miss.--"This is all I can give you," said U. S. District Judge Harold Cox, as he sentenced two civil rights case defendants to ten years each in prison.

The judge last week gave the maximum prison terms to Sam Holloway Bowers Jr.--identified as the Imperial Wizard of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan--and Alton Wayne Roberts of Meridian.

Bowers, Roberts, and five others were convicted on federal conspiracy charges last October, in connection with the 1964 deaths of three civil rights workers in Neshoba County.

While handing out the sentence, Judge Cox said the men could be paroled "at such time as the (parole) board determines." And Cox didn't impose fines on any of the men, although the federal law they violated provides for fines up to \$5,000.

Billy Wayne Posey of Philadelphia and former Neshoba County sheriff's deputy Cecil Ray Price drew six-year

this week. "As far as I can determine, there has been no beating. I would not tolerate any abusing of children in the school."

"Maybe we can find out what's at the bottom of this," the superintendent continued. "I think what we need to do is discuss it. Any beating should be discussed with me."

Miss Coleman said that none of the Christian Movement members who signed the letter had come to talk with her about the charges. "They have not made one single complaint to me," she said.

Will she answer their letter? "I would hope that I can talk to them," she said.

"We'll be glad to send someone up

Youth's Body Found in Field

What Caused Wilcox Death?

BY BETH WILCOX

SNOW HILL, Ala.--The body of 18-year-old Archie Lee Wooden was found Christmas Day, on a newly-cut path through a lonely field.

Lindsey Young recalled this week that he had gone to see Mrs. Willie Mae White at about 6:30 p.m. Christmas night.

"I was at her house, and blew the horn," said Young. "She came out and said, 'Hush, I hear something.' Someone said, 'That's Wooden's voice.'"

"He wasn't dead then," said Young, "because we shouted for him, and he said, 'Here me.'"

But Willie Catts and Milton White--two of Wooden's schoolmates at Snow Hill Institute--said Wooden was silent and still when they reached him, three or four minutes after they had heard

his last cry.

According to published reports, Wilcox County Sheriff P. C. "Lummie" Jenkins concluded that Wooden's death was an accident. Jenkins could not be reached for comment this week, but several people repeated his explanation that the victim had fallen on a stake.

Catts, White, and Mrs. White said they saw the stake. "The stick was no bigger than a quarter in width," said Mrs. White. "There were pieces of clothes on the stick. He fell right on it."

Mrs. White said the stick had a "good" point on it, and there were many others in the new path, sticking up out of the ground. But late last week, the stake was gone. The people said the sheriff had taken it away for further examination.

One of Wooden's relatives -- who asked not to be identified--said he saw the body at the spot where it was discovered.

"There was a small cut in his side, where the stick he fell on--or was pulled off of--was," the relative said. "There were no other bruises on the body."

A Southern Courier reporter who also saw the body said there were no bruises or signs of mutilation.

"I just hate it so bad--he was like my own child," said Young. "What I want to know is, what was he doing down there in the ditch in the first place?"

The victim's mother, Mrs. Dannie Wooden, said she couldn't understand it, either. She said her son was an "obedient" child: "There was no reason anyone would want to do anything to him."

Mrs. Wooden said she had been to Camden twice to see the sheriff, but had only been able to see a deputy. "Used to be, every time I turn the corner in Camden I'd see the sheriff," she said. "No one showed me where the body was found, either."

But if the body was down in the ravine, she asked, "why was there blood up by the road near the telephone pole?"

Friends said Wooden knew a white girl in town, but they would not elaborate.

Vote Upheld

OXFORD, Miss.--Leaders of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) say they plan to appeal a federal-court ruling upholding last spring's municipal elections in Sunflower and Moorhead.

Slates of independent black candidates lost by sizeable margins in both cities last May, despite a Negro voting majority in Sunflower and a large Negro registration in Moorhead.

Afterwards, civil rights lawyer Morton Stavis filed a suit on behalf of Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer and others, asking for a new election. The suit charged that there had been no Negro election officials, and that illiterate Negro voters could not get help from other Negroes.

The suit also said Negro voters were "intimidated" by having to stand in segregated waiting lines. But last week, Claude Clayton--the U. S. district judge who was recently appointed to the U. S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals--said there was no evidence that unfairness--racial or otherwise--had any effect on the outcome of the election. He refused to throw out the results.

"The truth of the matter is that there is no objection to picking them up," she added. "The bus driver doesn't mind. The parents don't object to it."

Two Faces of Jefferson County

Residents Call Bessemer 'Terrible Place' to Live

BY BOB LABAREE

BESSEMER, Ala.—Many years ago, said a Negro lady who is a native of Bessemer, her mother received a bit of kindly advice from a white woman. "If I were you," the white lady said, "I'd move out of here, even if it's no farther than Birmingham. Bessemer is a terrible place for a Negro."

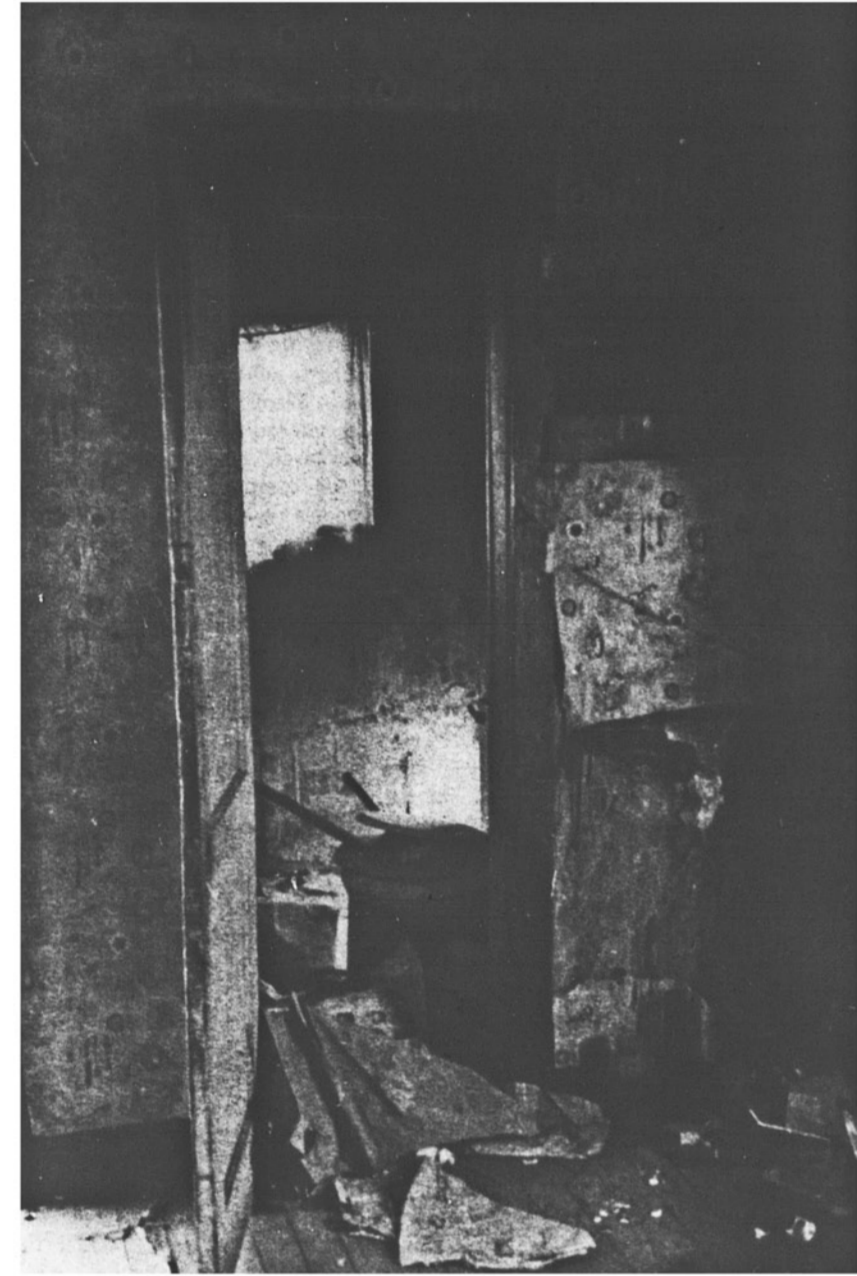
That was a long time back, but many people in Bessemer feel that nothing has changed very much since.

The civil rights movement came to Bessemer in 1964. The Voters League of Bessemer and SCLC workers conducted the first voter registration drives. But Negro leaders estimate that, even now, only a little more than half of the black people in Bessemer have registered to vote.

The leaders say that some people are still afraid. "We'd offered to take them down in cars and to provide baby-sitters for them and everything," said one veteran of the Voters League, "and still they wouldn't come out."

Even many Negroes who have registered--and who frequently speak up--want their names kept out of print. "We've got so little," a mother explained. "They just might take that from us too, if they knew what we said."

Walk down any narrow unpaved street, lined with dilapidated old shacks, and you'll find Negroes who will tell you what's terrible about living in Bessemer.



INSIDE A BESSEMER HOUSE

"Look at this place," said a man sitting on his run-down porch. "These houses are killing people. And they won't pay a dime to fix it unless you holler."

An old man pointed to the large open ditch running past his house. "I been living here 24 years and it's been here that long," he said. "Water gets up two feet around my porch sometimes. It stinks for weeks afterwards."

"The other day I spent all day riding around town with a young married couple looking for a decent house," said another woman. "There wasn't but one or two they let us see with a commode, and none with a bath."

Other problems are obvious to anyone driving through the city: no street signs in many places, inadequate lighting, poor sewage systems, and dirt streets.

But some people feel that not all the blame belongs with the city. "We're used to not asking," as one man put it.

In recent years, asking has occasionally done some good. One woman told how, three months ago, she called the police to request stop signs for her corner. "In 15 minutes a policeman was out here," she said. "And the next night at 11:30 they were out there putting them up."

Usually, more persistence is needed. A mother recalled that, several years ago, nobody in her neighborhood could get any water in the morning before noon. She said, "I kept going down to the water works two and three times a week for about a year and finally we got it changed. Oh yes, they HATED the sight of me!"

Another man summed it up: "They (city officials) won't do nothing until you pull on their coat tail good and hard. And you can't mind doing that."



HOUSE FOR RENT IN BESSEMER



ROW HOMES ON DIRT STREET

Preston Learns to Talk, And Sara Uses a Fork

BY ANDREW J. MCKEAN

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.--Everyone thought Preston Stephens was deaf. At home, he wouldn't speak. At school, his classmates and teachers tried to be friendly, but the little boy remained aloof and silent.

"We just loved him to death," said Mrs. Philomena Davis. "One day he finally said 'thank you,' and the whole school started buzzing. He's been smiling and talking ever since."

Preston is one of the children at St. Vincent's Day Care Center, a Birmingham nursery school run by the Jefferson County Committee for Economic Opportunity (JCCEO). The school opened in 1965. Mrs. Davis is its director.

"We're teaching these children respect for authority, good manners and hygiene, and how to relate to groups so they won't be so far behind when they get started in school," she said.

"But above all, we're teaching these little boys and girls who they are and what they are--individuals with God-given dignity."

Many of the children rarely had milk before coming to St. Vincent's. Their stomachs weren't used to it and, at first, it made them sick. Now, most of them like it.

"It's a blessing to be able to give these children one good meal a day," said Mrs. Davis. "But it's no use if we don't get into the homes. The parents must become actively engaged. We're here for a helping hand, but they'll have to do the real work themselves."

Mrs. Davis is planning an adult-education course which will include evening classes in nutrition, and day-time visits to St. Vincent's to see the school cooks at work.

The children also learn about table manners. Mrs. Davis said many mothers have told her, "Do you know that my child will not sit and eat unless the table is set correctly?"

But teaching good manners is hard work, Mrs. Davis added. When one problem is licked, she said, another always pops up: "I finally taught little Sara that watermelons were to be eaten with a knife and fork. One of the little boys per-

sisted in eating his with his fingers. Furious, little Sara exclaimed, 'Oh, you're messy. Goddamn, you're messy.'"

Cleanliness is emphasized at the school. Each day begins with a health inspection. Local doctors have given their time to examine and treat the children. In addition, the young students learn to wash, brush their teeth, and wear clean clothing.

Parents are kept informed of their children's progress. Teachers and teacher's aides--many of them volunteers--make weekly visits to each child's home to discuss any problems.

Before the nursery school became a delegate agency of the JCCEO, it was a private project under the leadership of Monsignor E. L. Foster. The Catholic priest wanted white support, and went from door to door in the Kingston area trying to get it.

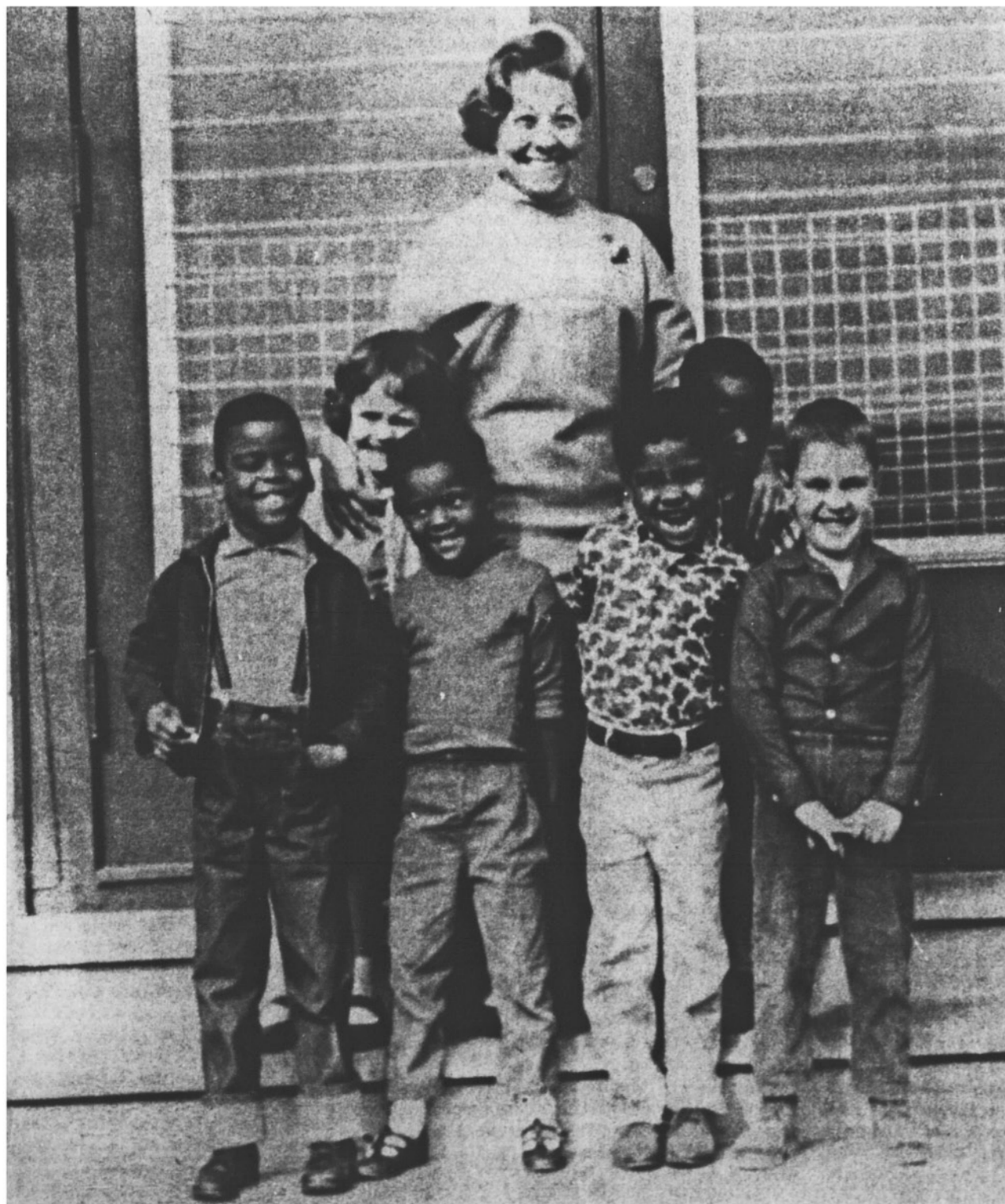
"Nearly every white door slammed in his face," Mrs. Davis said. "Now that they're seeing the program in fruition, their reluctance has wilted. We're presently 10% white and there are many white children on our waiting list. 'People fear what they don't know, and they hate what they fear. I want people to try to get to know us.'"

Mrs. Davis said she is very pleased with the cooperation she has recently received from the white community. City officials have helped arrange field trips, and several local womens' organizations have presented plays for the children.

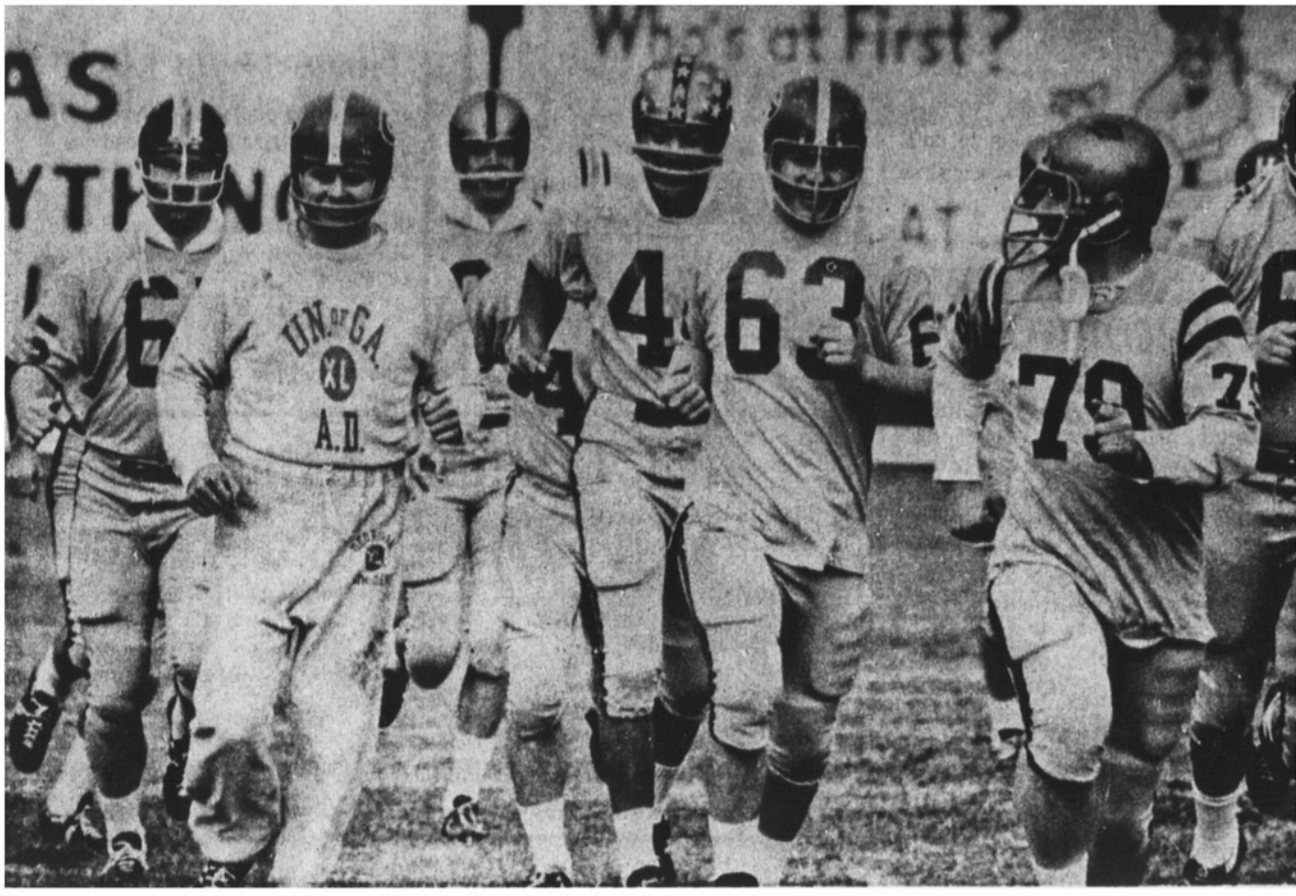
Eighty children are enrolled in St. Vincent's day nursery. That's just "a drop in the bucket," said Mrs. Davis. Her waiting list has the names of 100 more.

There is a "desperate need" for day care centers all over Jefferson County, Mrs. Davis said: "If every child could get this kind of care, we could do wonders. But we just don't have the funds."

"When a parent comes and tells me how desperately he wants to enroll his child in the center and I'm forced to say no, it just breaks my heart. It takes all the starch out of me."



MRS. PHILOMENA DAVIS AND NURSERY SCHOOL CLASS



Blue-Gray Game, 1967

Charles Mitchell Was There

MONTGOMERY, Ala.--It was a cold day, but Charles Mitchell was sweating.

Mitchell--the first Alabama State College football player ever selected for the annual Blue-Gray game--was trying to impress the Gray coaches in practice the week before the game.

Negroes have played in the nationally-televised all-star game for the past three years. But Mitchell--a senior from Mobile--was the first man chosen from any of the nearby Negro schools.

"We (Alabama State) tried to get a player in the game last year," Mitchell said after the Dec. 26 practice. "We have players capable of playing in this game every year--being that we are from Montgomery."

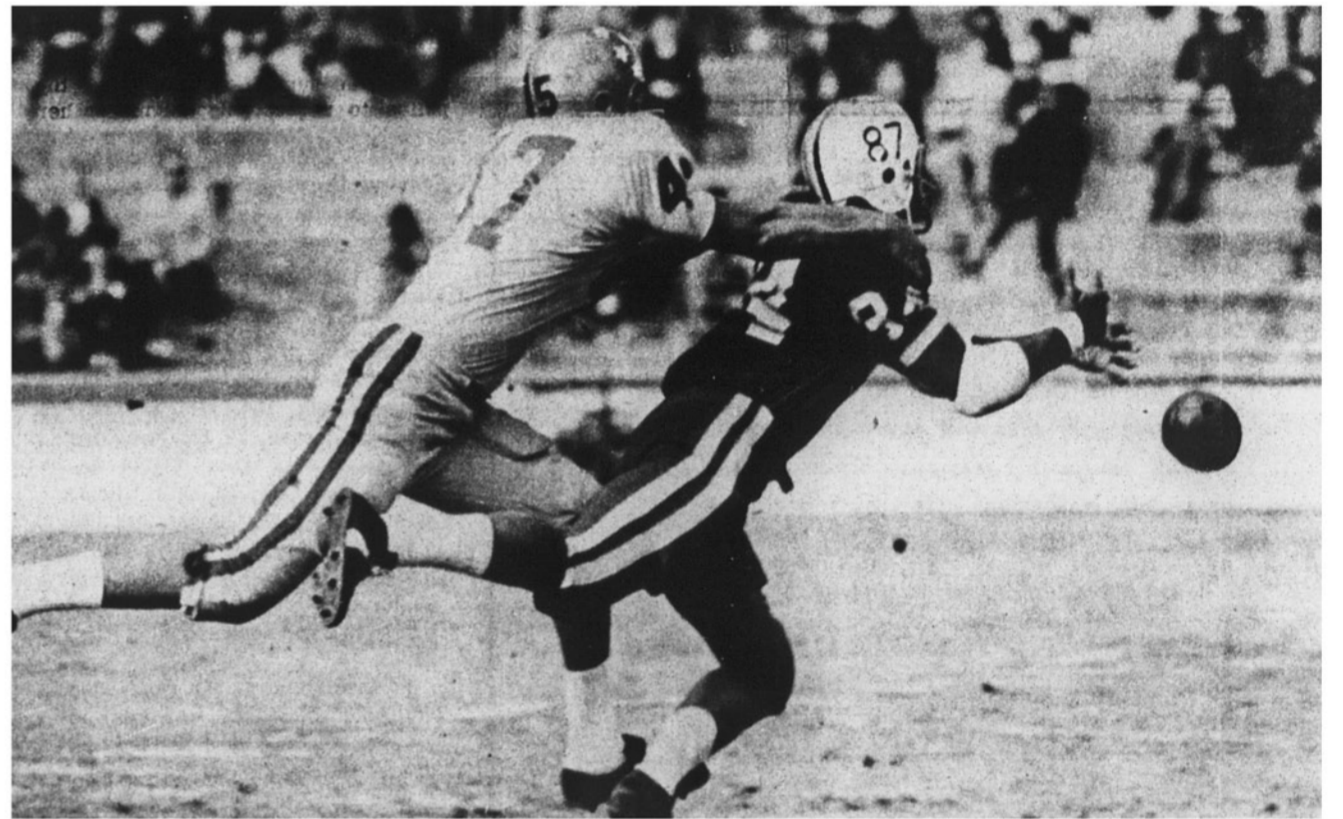
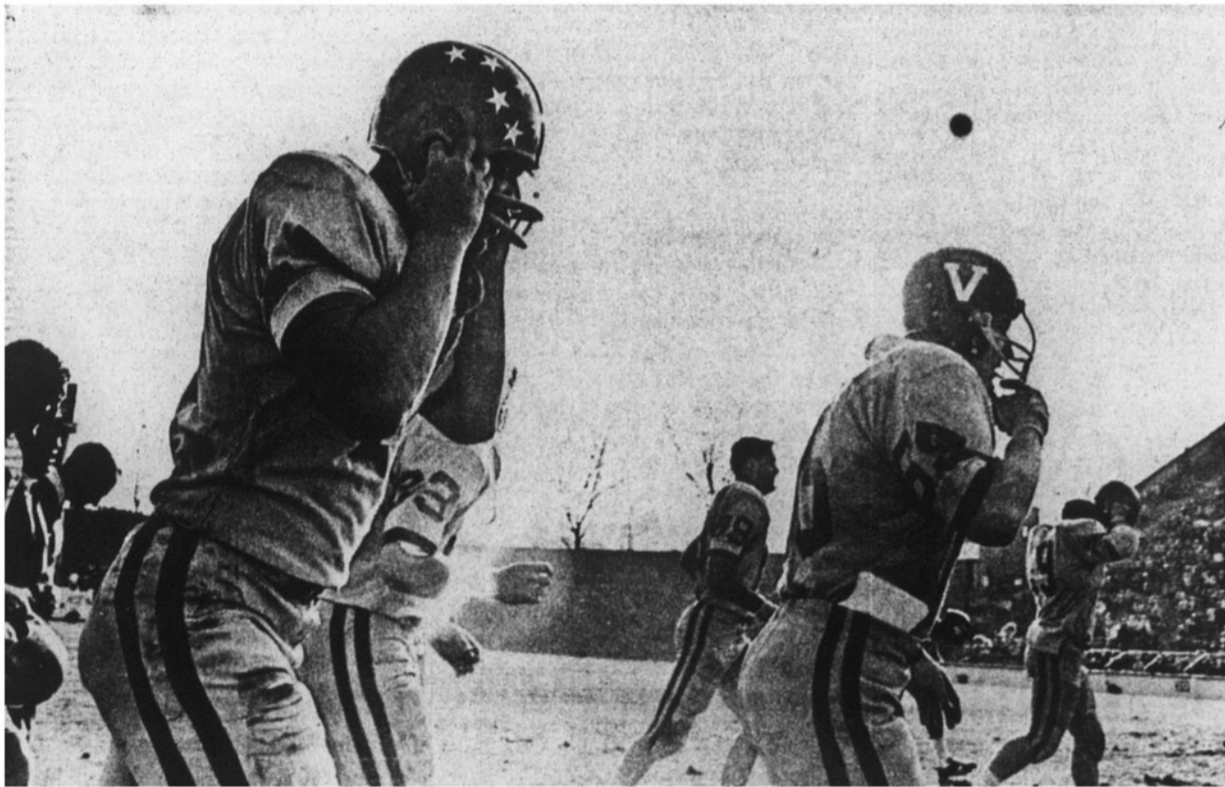
In practice, Mitchell (number 47 in pictures) worked out at defensive back, against the Grays' offensive team. Most of the time, he covered Auburn flanker-back Freddie Hyatt--who ran wild against the Blue in last Saturday's game, with two spectacular TD receptions.

But Hyatt didn't run wild against Mitchell in practice. "He's nice, real nice," Mitchell said after one work-out. "He's got great moves. But I think I can handle him."

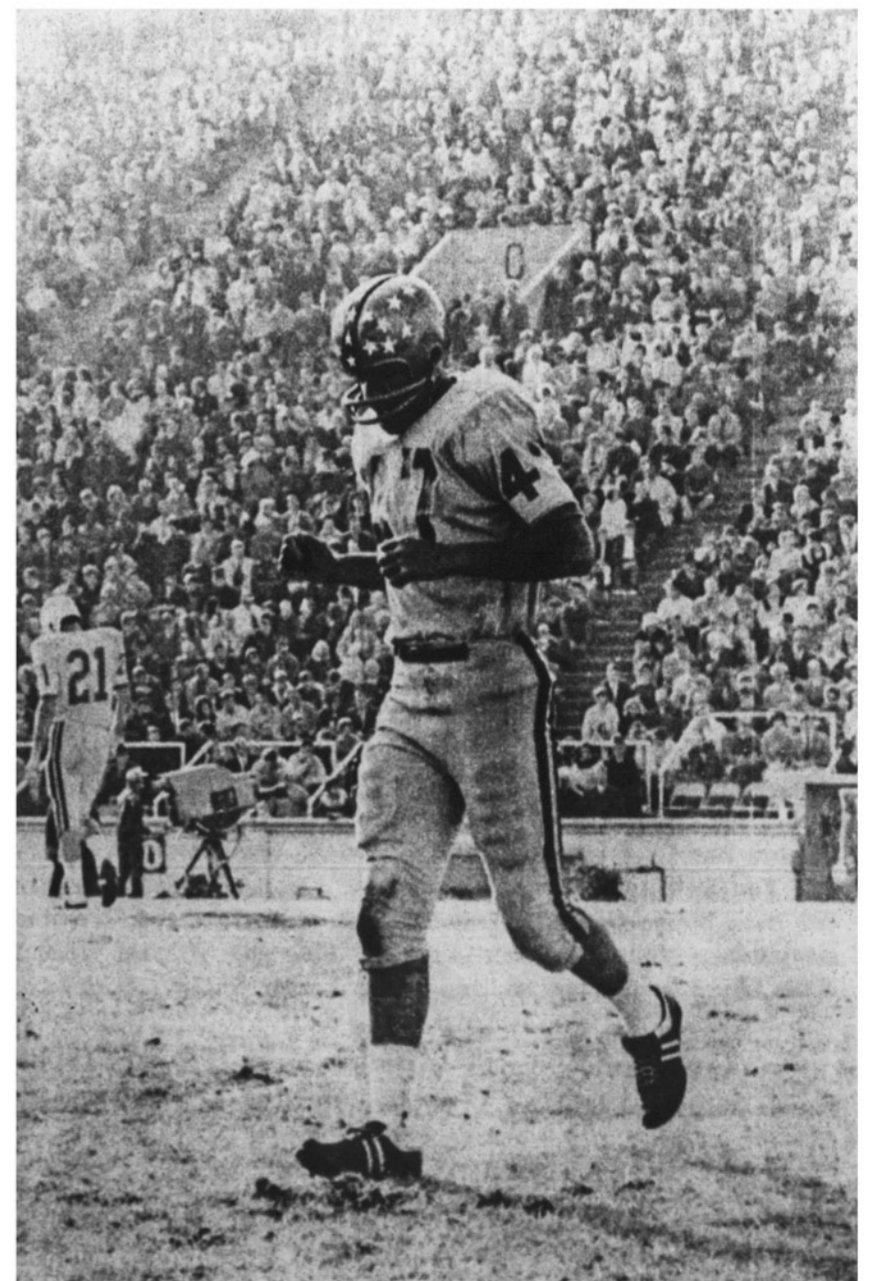
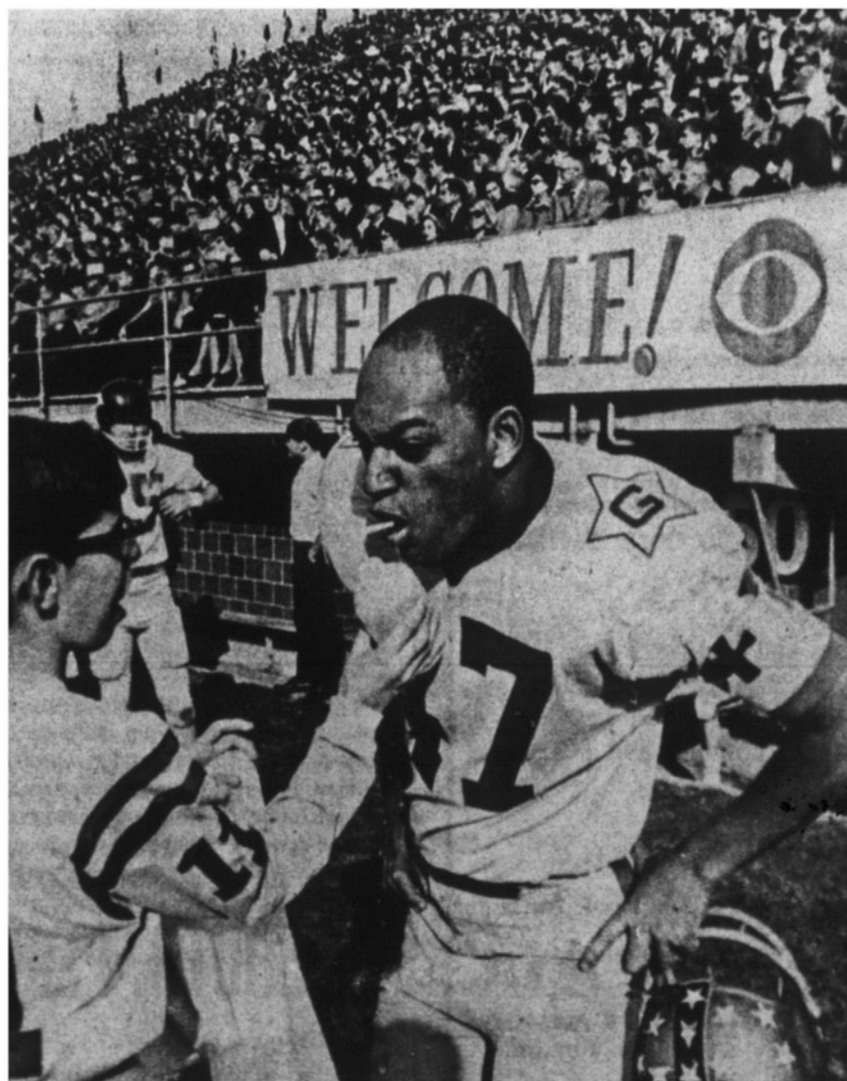
Hyatt and Mitchell got along fine during the week. In fact, the Auburn star seemed to go out of his way to make things pleasant

(CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR, Col. 1)

Text by Michael S. Lottman



Photos by Jim Pepler



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Macon Fight Goes On

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

ters and the CAP board told me to set up a pool hall instead. If I went ahead with the centers, I'd be accused of not going along with the board.

"But if I went ahead with a pool hall, I'd be using federal money for an unauthorized purpose. The director is in the middle. If the board tells you to do something that's wrong, you can't just go on and do it."

In reply, Mayberry said that the board intends to enforce its vote--whether Mrs. Johnson gives up her desk or not. "She will not have full authority to run the office unless the (board's) decision is reversed after the hearing," he said.

The CAP board planned a special meeting late this week to set a new hearing date for Mrs. Johnson. But Conley, her attorney, refused to say whether he will agree to it.

"I'm still concerned about clarification of the charges," he said. "I can't tell exactly what we're going to do if we don't get some more information ahead of time."

tion of the charges," he said. "I can't tell exactly what we're going to do if we don't get some more information ahead of time."

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.

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Mitchell Plays for Gray

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE THREE)

for Mitchell and the Grays' other Negro player, big John Eason of Florida A & M.

One day, Hyatt and Mitchell were clowning around while practicing punt returns. As one boot came down, Mitchell staggered under it, calling, "I got it, I got it--I think I got it." Everybody laughed, and Terry Padgett of Memphis State observed, "Charlie don't miss too often."

Mitchell was in the starting defensive backfield in Saturday's game, playing safety alongside Billy Hayes of Baylor.

Though the Blue won, 22 to 16, no long bombs were completed over Mitchell's head. He helped break up a few pass plays, covered well on kick-offs, and joined in a rush that wrecked a Blue field-goal attempt.

The Blue-Gray game might bring

Mitchell to the attention of some pro scouts. But he said the game--and the week of training with the Gray squad--meant more than that to him.

"They're a great bunch of guys," he said during the week. "I enjoy being with them. We all refer to each other by our first names. I kind of like it."



Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights

The weekly meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8, in the First Baptist Church, Kingston, 4600 Ninth Ave. N., the Rev. G. W. Dickerson, pastor.



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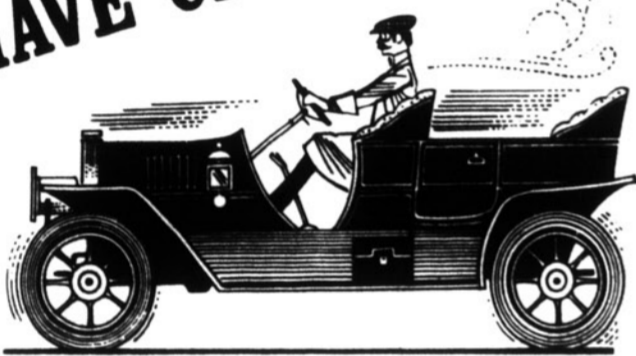
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Letters to ABC Maids

(Listed below are letters received from women who have recently been employed as maids in Boston and New York by ABC Maids Employment Agency, Florence, Ala.)

Dear Mr. Limer,

We arrived here Monday morning. All of us started to work the same day. Some of the girls had heard a lot of bad things about these kind of jobs. I have been here for four months now, and none of us have run into things like we heard. The people up here are so nice to me I don't believe I'll ever quit this job. I love to shop here. The prettiest clothes in the world are here in New York. I can't seem to buy enough of them. The night life and parties are out of this world. The boys are too. Mildred L. Brannon Jackson, Miss.

Dear Maids Service:

I know you thought I would never write, but I have been real busy. My husband let me come up here to get one of your guaranteed jobs. But he wanted me to find him a job after I got here. He was a cafe cook in Mobile. So two weeks ago I found him a job cooking at the Country Club out from Boston. He makes \$125 every week, and I make \$60 a week. The people I work for got him the job. They are good people. Hannah Mae Sims Prichard, Ala.

Dear ABC Maids:

I believe I got the best job in New York. The people I work for, both man and wife, travel out of state five days a week. They come home on the weekends. All I have to do is keep the house clean and cook one meal for them when they are home. I get \$50 a week. My sister that came with me, works across the street for a lovely family. She is making \$65 a week because she cooks two meals a day for four people and takes care of the house. I only wish I had come a year ago. Louise Hightower Bessemer, Ala.

Dear Maid Service:

I started working the same day I got here. All of us are working in the same community. I started at \$60 a week. I will get a \$10 raise after the first of the year. My off day is Sunday. We are having a wonderful time here. Lella Mae Thompson Union Springs, Ala.

Dear Mr. Limer:

I am really enjoying myself here in Boston. This is a pretty city. I love it here.

I am working for a retired lawyer and his wife. They have no children. I take care of the house and cook two meals a day. One week I have one day off, the next week I have two days off. My pay is \$75 weekly plus I live there. My sister says she is going to write you for a job up here. She is in Montgomery now. Frances P. Warren Eufaula, Ala.

Women between the ages of 18 and 65 are needed for more maid jobs in Boston and New York. Salaries range from \$45 to \$85 weekly, often with free meals, room, and TV. Friends are placed close to one another. All jobs are guaranteed. Tickets sent. All expenses advanced. For more information, write or call collect to ABC Maids, 712 W. Mobile St., Florence, Ala. 35630, phone 766-6493; or Mrs. Hattie Mae Scott, 120 Harris St., Atmore, Ala. 36502, phone 368-5740.

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