

KIDS TELL MAYOR ALLEN C. THOMPSON ABOUT LIFE IN SLUM AREA

## Jackson Mayor Tours Slums

# 'This Is Just Terrible'

BY KATY SIEPMANN  
**JACKSON, Miss.** -- "We'll do anything to make you happy," said the big sign on the side of the city bus.

The bus was chartered last week to take Mayor Allen C. Thompson, his commissioners, and various city department heads on a tour of Jackson's slum areas.

The tour was suggested by Negro members of the Committee of Concerned Citizens, who presented a list of grievances to the city council April 16. And the mayor--who had turned down many of the committee's demands--said the tour opened his eyes.

"I can see why they laughed when I said there were no slums in the city," Thompson said during the tour April 18. "This is terrible, just terrible."

For nearly 3 1/2 hours, the members of the committee showed the mayor such

things as over-crowded housing, uncollected garbage in the streets, and smelly drainage ditches through people's back yards.

Thompson told his department heads to take "whatever steps are necessary to clean up this mess. . . . If the property-owners won't do it, then let's take them to court. If you don't have enough lawyers, then tell me, and we'll hire some more."

A committee member remarked, "We got some Negro lawyers too, you know, Mr. Mayor," Thompson replied, "I think we oughta use 'em--we will." And the mayor agreed to the idea of hiring Negro inspectors who would enforce the city housing code.

Thompson also ordered the city sanitation department to begin cleaning up the trash in the slum areas. He said the department should "get extra crews and extra trucks, if necessary."

There were many streets on the tour that were too narrow for the big city

bus. In several places, the mayor and his group got out, looked into the houses, and talked to the people.

Mrs. Annie Ratcliff was surprised to see the mayor coming to visit her, but she told him how it is to live by an open drainage ditch:

"The water come right up here every time it rain. We gotta put the furniture up--it come right into the house and flood it."

"We went down there (to City Hall) two years ago, and they look at me like I was a child. Nothing ever done about it. I jus' want to climb the nearest tree when that water come. I sure hope they do something about it now."

Thompson told the engineering department to get busy checking all the open drainage systems in the city. He said the ditches should be drained, cleaned, and kept free of waste in the future.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE, Col. 4)

# THE SOUTHERN COURIER

VOL. IV, NO. 17

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TEN CENTS

## 3 Caravans And A Wagon Train

ATLANTA, Ga. -- A march from Memphis, Tenn., to Marks, Miss., a wagon train of poor people winding through the South, and three huge caravans to Washington are included in the detailed plans for SCLC's Poor People's Campaign.

The plans were announced this week by the Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, president of SCLC, who will be present for the start of all major phases of the campaign.

The campaign schedule begins next Monday, when Abernathy, other national leaders, and about 100 poor people begin presenting demands to government officials and congressional leaders in Washington. This will go on for three days.

Then, next Wednesday, a mass meeting will be held in Memphis, where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was killed April 4. On Thursday morning, Abernathy will lay a memorial star in cement on the motel balcony where Dr. King was slain.

Immediately afterward, Abernathy will lead a march out of Memphis toward Marks, which SCLC calls "the location of some of the most extreme poverty in the United States." The march is to arrive in Marks May 4.

On May 7, two processions will depart from Marks. One will be a wagon train that will travel through Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia, picking up poor people on the way. This wagon train will arrive in Washington about 25 days after leaving Marks.

Also on May 7, about 1,000 of the marchers who came from Memphis will start out on a bus journey to Washington. These people will stop for rallies in Nashville and Knoxville, Tenn., and

### Two Officers Accused--One Indicted

# What Did Devance Say?

BY MARY ELLEN GALE  
**TUSKEGEE, Ala.** -- "Two people can hear the same thing and understand it differently," said Willie Pease, a member of the Macon County grand jury for the spring term of Circuit Court.

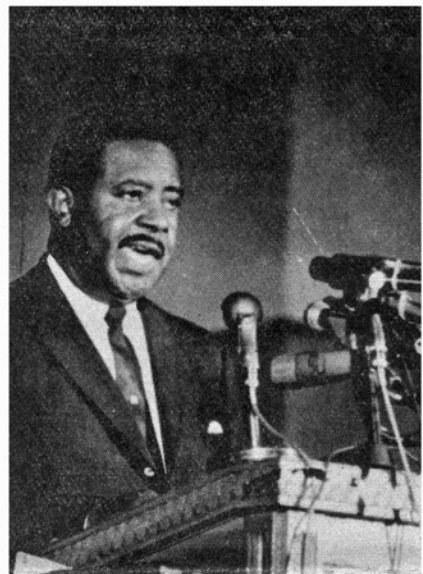
And that, Pease said, may be the reason why the grand jury indicted only one of two white law enforcement officers accused of beating and threatening a young Negro man.

The alleged victim--Ocie Devance Jr., 22, of rural Notasulga--signed warrants charging that State Trooper James H. Bass hit and kicked him while Notasulga Police Chief Bobby Singleton threatened him with a gun.

After Devance testified before the grand jury during its secret session last week, the 18 men and women indicted Bass for assault and battery. But they refused to indict Singleton on any charge at all.

There was no mention of the controversial charges in the grand jury's written report. But Pease--one of 15 Negro jurors--said the group voted 13 to 5 in favor of indicting Bass.

On the charge against Singleton, he



REV. RALPH D. ABERNATHY Danville, Va., before getting to Washington on May 12.

The next day, the people in this caravan will begin building a shanty town--called "City of Hope"--in the nation's capital.

Meanwhile, three caravans of poor people--from the South, the Midwest, and the Northeast--will be heading for Washington. The people in these caravans will march part of the way, and ride part of the way in buses, cars, wagons, and other vehicles.

Poor people from Mississippi will begin the Southern leg of the campaign by walking to Jackson for a mass meeting May 5. The next day, a caravan will leave Jackson for Washington. On May 8, a mass rally in Chicago, Illinois, will begin the Midwestern caravan, and on May 9, a rally in Boston, Massachusetts, will kick off the Northeastern caravan.

The caravans are scheduled to arrive in Washington between May 16 and May 18. Major demonstrations will begin May 20.

said, the jury was about evenly split. Since 12 "yes" votes are needed for an indictment, the police chief will not have to stand trial.

Pease said he voted to indict both men, and "to tell you the truth, I don't know the reason why the others voted no. Way I understand it, he (Singleton) was in on it too--he pulled the gun."

But Gus Calhoun, another Negro member of the grand jury, recalled Devance's testimony differently.

"Seemed like they didn't have nothing on him (Singleton)," Calhoun said, "Mr. Devance said Mr. Singleton didn't do a thing to him."

In an affidavit, Devance said the officers attacked and threatened him twice--once at the Notasulga City Hall and again at a police pistol range--shortly after he was arrested for disorderly conduct last March 16.

But according to Calhoun, Devance told the grand jury that although Singleton was present during the beating, he didn't participate in it--or draw his pistol.

Why would Devance tell one story in public and a different story to the grand jury? "I think some way or another, it wasn't meant like it was said, no way," Calhoun suggested. "The newspapers or somebody got ahold of him--

## U.S. Judge Tells Tuskegee To Re-Admit All Students

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

**MONTGOMERY, Ala.** --A federal court has ordered Tuskegee Institute to re-admit--immediately--all of the students who were expelled without hearings after a month of protest demonstrations.

"You cannot--merely by closing the Institute and re-opening it two weeks later--deprive 50 or 60 students of their status as students," U. S. District Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. told college officials at a hearing Wednesday.

And, he said, they cannot enforce a state-court injunction ordering the protesters to stay away from the campus.

"The law is rather basic," Johnson said, and it requires that every student receive a fair hearing before he can be thrown out of school.

At the same time, Judge Johnson told the students who filled the federal courtroom, "this doesn't mean (you) ought not to be expelled. . . . It's a question of orderly procedure."

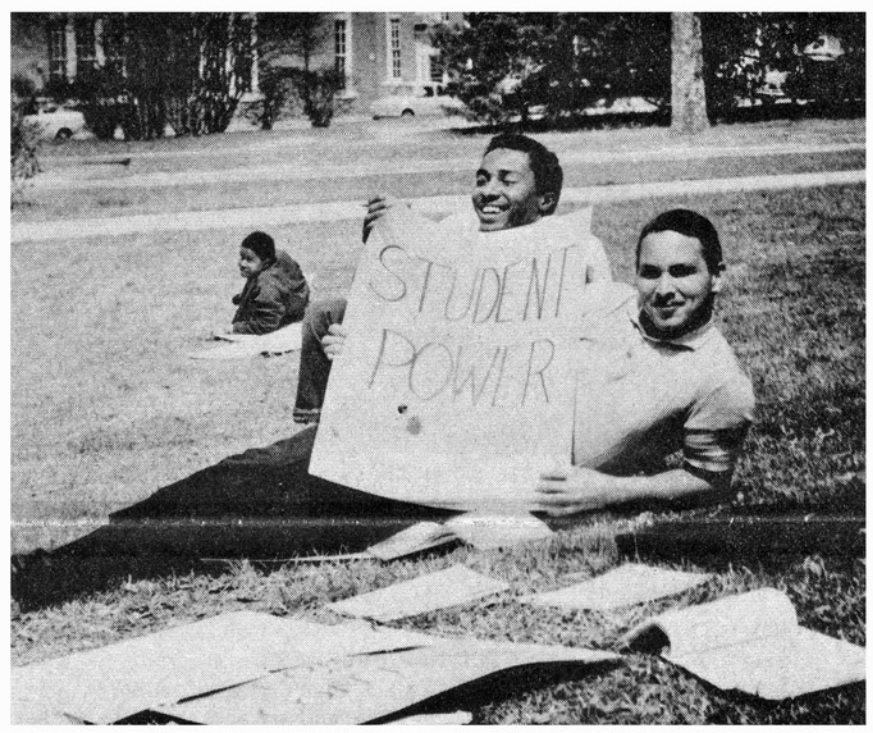
Fred D. Gray, an attorney for the Tuskegee administration and trustees, at first protested against re-enrolling the students.

"The administration has grave reservations," he said, because the students might disrupt classes and destroy Institute buildings and property.

In addition, Gray said, "we have reason to believe a busload of non-students arrived Sunday" and is making plans to cause trouble on campus.

But Judge Johnson interrupted Gray before he finished talking about the non-students. "I'm not interested in that," the judge said. "You have (local) law enforcement officers."

If anyone--student or not--breaks the law, Johnson said, "put (him) in jail."



QUIET MOMENT DURING TUSKEGEE PROTEST the case to federal court early this week.

But the judge did order the students not to engage in activities which would disrupt "the operation of the Institute as an educational institution."

George W. Dean Jr. and Reber F. Boulton Jr., attorneys for the students--objected on the grounds that the order is "broad" and "vague." But Johnson said it's perfectly clear.

"For the time being," he explained, the students can say what they like--but they cannot hold demonstrations on campus. "No parades, no nothing," he told the silent spectators.

"After we get over this critical period," Johnson added, "this court will protect the students' rights (to peaceful protest activities)."

Attorneys for the opposing sides also disagreed about what kind of hearings the students should get. "Considering the difficulties at Tuskegee in the past weeks," Gray said, the administration wants to hold closed sessions.

But Dean--and Judge Johnson--said each hearing should be open to the accused student, his attorney, members of the press, and at least a few other observers.

About 50 students were expelled--and another 100 placed on probation--after several weeks of protests, climaxing in the imprisonment of several prominent trustees. Thirty-seven students took

derly and peaceful fashion through speaking, writing, picketing, assembling, and leafletting."

The students said they were trying to get the college to provide "modern educational programs. . . rather than merely training Black students in obsolescent technical skills designed to keep the Black people relegated to second-class status."

But in a reply, college officials said some of the students' actions were neither peaceful nor legal, and created "confusion, chaos, and disorder."

The college said the students "boycotted classes," "commandeered various offices," "destroyed Institute property," "threatened, harassed, and intimidated various faculty members"--and "held hostage trustees of the Institute."

Judge Johnson didn't rule on the factual dispute. He urged the students and the administration to work out their differences together.

"This is a situation that a court ought not to handle," he said. After his orders expire (in 20 days), the judge suggested, both sides could ask for an indefinite extension--instead of coming back to court for another hearing.

"I have more important things to do," Johnson commented.

## Student's Talk Shocks Catholics in Mobile

BY JOHN SINGLETON

**MOBILE, Ala.**--Alphonse Allen, a tenth-grade student at the Most Pure Heart of Mary School, caused a lot of talk in Mobile's Catholic community with a speech he gave recently at school.

The address was titled "The Rise of Black People," but it turned out to be a dynamic appraisal of the Mobile situation, and a strong criticism of the Catholic church.

"Black people of America," Allen began, "the time is now, and has been for more than 200 years. Here in Mobile, we have been content with unequal school systems, poor housing, etc., etc."

"Black people, I know what you're going to say--'I'm tired of hearing that.' Well, if you're so damn tired, DO SOMETHING!"

"One thing we have got to do," Allen suggested, "is organize ourselves. If black people would only recognize the beauty in their black skin and nappy hair. . . ."

"Wear your bush Afros and walk down the middle of Government St. Shine your black skin, then climb the highest tree and proclaim to the world that you're black, and damn proud of it!"

Then Allen turned his attention to the Catholic church. "You ask where the Catholic church stands on all this segregation and George Wallace?" he said. "That's it, brothers, they don't! The Catholic church in Alabama is meaningless. This may shock you, brothers, but in our beloved church there are racists!"

Archbishop Thomas J. Toolen, "as our shepherd," Allen continued, "has never once told the people of their obligations to themselves and their brothers in regard to the race situation. Never once has the archbishop, committed to God to morally guide his flock, told his people that they cannot be honest Christians and segregationists at the same time. . . ."

"Sunday after Sunday, bishops and priests ascend the pulpit, and preach the gospel of 'brotherly love.' Sunday after Sunday, white people flock to church and rot in their pews. And in the very next breath, they come home to teach segregation to the fresh minds of their children."

"Black people, what more can I say? What more do you need? The time is NOW!"

"If it takes the burning of every city from New York to Los Angeles," Allen concluded, "then that, black brothers, is our task. If it means that every black man in America has to be killed for this just cause, then that too, black brothers, is our moral duty."

## 'Proud of Our Heritage'

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

**TUSKEGEE, Ala.**--"We are proud of our heritage," Mrs. Corinne Cropper Perry told the Tuskegee City Council. "We want names that have something to do with us."

Then Mrs. Perry walked up to the front of the meeting room, and handed a petition to Mayor Charles M. Keever.

The petition--signed by 36 residents of the Church St. community--asked the council to reconsider the two names it has given to a road in the area.

One end of the road is marked New St., and the other has recently acquired a sign reading "Avant Drive," Mrs. Perry said: "We don't want either name."

Church St. community.

Instead of "bringing in someone from Omaha, Nebraska, and the other side of town," she said, the council should name the road for "one of the pioneer families who contributed to the humble beginning, growth, and development of the now internationally-known Tuskegee Institute."

Mrs. Perry said she polled the community, and most people want the street named for her great-aunt--Miss Lula M. Cropper--who lived in the area and taught school with Booker T. Washington.

If the council objects to "Cropper Drive," Mrs. Perry said, the residents will accept "Fitten St."--in honor of another family of early settlers.

The councilmen agreed to consider the petition, and pass it along to the city planning commission.

relative newcomers from the Midwest--and don't even live in the



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**Dump Residents Settled**

*But Not for Long*

BY JOHN SINGLETON  
MOBILE, Ala.-- Many of the former residents of Mobile's controversial "Dump City" have found new homes--but not for long.

Actually, their "new" homes are old rooming houses on a tract of land at the north end of Jackson St.

Last week, the people were told that they will have to move again in 30 days, because they are on the site of a new Alabama Power Company sub-station. The new plant is supposed to provide electricity for the proposed Northside urban renewal project.

The people who have settled at the end of Jackson St. have been living a communal life--some would say it is similar to the tribal ways of their "African ancestors." During the winter, they could be seen gathering around a fire, to cook or just to warm themselves before retiring for the night.

On April 16, ten of these people attended a meeting of Mobile's City Commission. Their spokesmen told the



MRS. DOROTHY WILLIAMS commissioners that even if the people technically don't fit into any form of welfare, it should be recognized that they are crippled with severe economic problems.

The people seemed to have lost all hope or will to resist. They sat silently, waiting to see what would be done about their condition.

Commissioner Joseph Langan told Mrs. Dorothy Williams--one of the spokesmen for the group--not to refer to the people as residents of the dump. He said the land they had been on is no longer the city dump, and as far as he knows, it belongs to the Alabama Power Company.

Langan said the commissioners can't

solve all the problems in the world, and have already done more than their share.

Mrs. Williams asked what could be done now for the people. "Some haven't eaten in days," she said, and "we have found a number of TB cases."

In the next city election, Mrs. Williams warned the commissioners, they will want the Negro vote. Commissioner Lambert C. Mims then smiled and asked how Mrs. Williams could vote for him anyway, since she lives in Prichard.

"Perhaps you could get some of the people (settled) out in Prichard, since you are familiar with that area," he

added. Mrs. Williams said some of the people had lived at the dump for as long as 30 years, and it was Mobile's problem, not hers.

When the commission adjourned, the group was taken to the welfare department to see Mrs. Doris Bender, head of the local office. The department agreed to help support the people for another month.

Mrs. Williams said this week that she is trying to raise enough money to send 35 former dump residents on SCLC's Poor People's Campaign. She said donations can be sent to the Rev. Arnold Voigt at the Faith Lutheran Church in Mobile.



Troy, Ala. from two white areas. (From VEP News)

Mrs. J. M. Warren has been chosen to serve on the federal grand jury for the Middle District of Alabama. The grand jury met this week in Montgomery.

Montgomery, Ala.

Miss Alicia Thornton was named Miss Teen-Age Capital City April 6 at the end of a two-day pageant sponsored by the Beta Nu Omega chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. Miss Thornton, a student at St. Jude High



MISS ALICIA THORNTON School, defeated nine other contestants in a competition that included modeling, performing, and answering questions. The other entrants were Miss Jacquelyn Barnett, Miss Bertha Campbell, Miss Janice Caple, Miss Carol Jackson, Miss Geri Lewis, Miss Vera Payton, Miss Billie Ruth Rawls, Miss Ethel Sippial, and Miss Cynthia White.

New York City

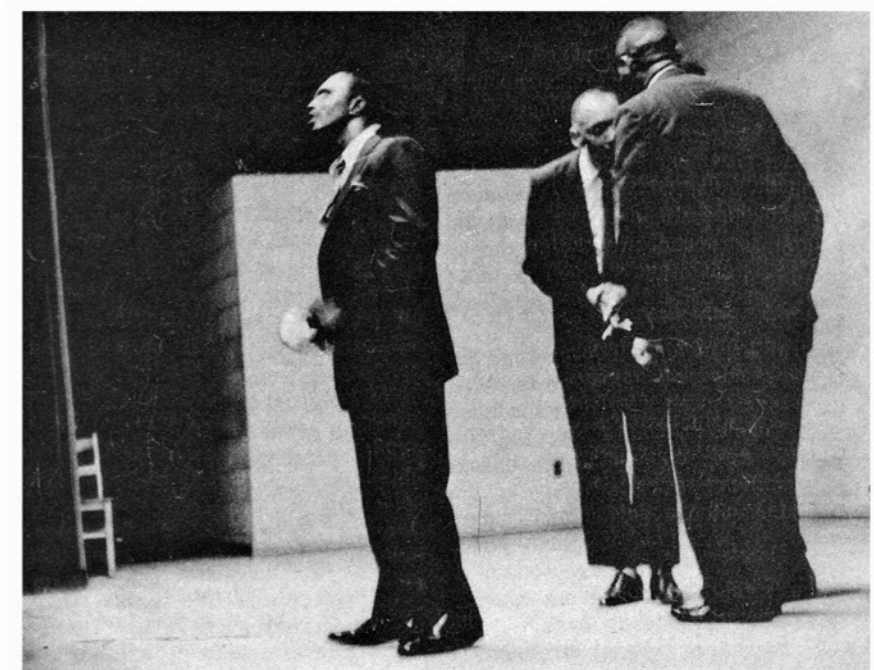
Sherman L. Roberson Jr. of Savannah, Ga., has been appointed NAACP field director for the state of Georgia. Roberson, a graduate of Savannah State College, helped start the 1960 sit-ins in Savannah, and later worked on a successful selective-buying campaign.

Montgomery, Ala.

Five students were initiated into the Kappa Omicron chapter of the Alpha Kappa Mu national honor society this month at Alabama State College. The new members, all juniors, are Miss Joyce Thomas of Montgomery, Miss Mary A. Chatman of Munford, Miss Roberta Curry of Montgomery, Miss Christine Smith of Prattville, and Donald Burrell of Montgomery.

N. Little Rock, Ark.

John Wesley Smith of N. Little Rock has become the 34th Negro elected to a school board in the state of Arkansas. Smith, a contractor, defeated a white incumbent last month by a vote of 1,589 to 1,382. Smith polled a heavy Negro vote, but also received strong support



EDDIE IVORY (LEFT) LEADS THE CHRISTLAND HARMONIZERS

**Company for Mrs. Irby: 'She Just Come On In'**

BY BOB LABAREE

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.--Mrs. Hattie Irby's house smells strongly of coal-smoke, and the furniture is worn. But she manages to keep the floor swept clean, even though the wind is always blowing dust in off the dirt street out front.

About five years ago, Mrs. Irby, who says she is 69, lost her sight. Doctors have told her that cataracts were the reason.

"But I can still see shapes," she says, and when you walk through her door for a visit, she can tell you whether it's a nice day or not.

She even insists that she's seeing better all the time. "My sight is coming back by degrees," she said earlier this month.

For almost five years, Mrs. Irby lived alone on the bottom floor of the old two-story house she rents in the Rickwood area. Because of her cheerful nature and sense of humor, she usually didn't go too long without a visitor.

But ever since early last summer, when Miss Mary Cotton first sat down on her front step, Mrs. Irby has had more permanent company.

"She didn't say nothin', she just come on in," said Mrs. Irby. "That's just the way Mary is."

And since Miss Cotton had no money and no place to go, Mrs. Irby let her stay.

"I never put nobody out," she says. People estimate that Miss Cotton's age is about 45, but no one can be sure, since she doesn't talk much. "And when she does (talk), you can't hardly understand it," said Mrs. Irby.

Another problem is that Miss Cotton,



A RICKWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD

too, is blind.

Miss Cotton could see a little at first, Mrs. Irby said, but not now. Now, Miss Cotton mostly sits in her bedroom by the fire, braiding her hair and talking quietly to herself.

Just recently, Mrs. Irby said, she has been frightened by Miss Cotton's "shaking spells." During one of these spells, she said, Miss Cotton almost shook herself into the coal fire.

With the two checks she gets every month from Social Security and welfare, Mrs. Irby said, she can get by all right. But, she admitted, it's been harder

since Miss Cotton moved in.

The anti-poverty program workers who found the two ladies last fall still visit them often.

But the workers say there isn't much more they can do.

"JCECO (Jefferson County Committee for Economic Opportunity) doesn't have the funds to help anybody," explained Mrs. Aurelia Coar, director of the Smithfield Neighborhood Service Center. "We can just guide people to existing agencies."

Mrs. Coar said members of her staff called the welfare department to see if they could get help for Miss Cotton--but a welfare worker said she probably wouldn't be able to see Miss Cotton for about a year.

"Eventually, we'd like to get Mrs. Irby out of that old house," said Mrs. Nancy Russell, a case worker for the Smithfield center. "But right now, I think her main problem is Mary."

**Miss. Official Loses Job After Conviction**

BY KATY SIEPMANN

WOODVILLE, Miss.--Last January, James Jolliff Jr. took office as one of Mississippi's first Negro county supervisors since the 1870's. But after just three months as a Wilkinson County supervisor, Jolliff has been convicted of obstructing justice, and removed from office.

Jolliff's troubles began before he was elected. One day last September, he was put temporarily in charge of Gladys' Cafe in Woodville. Two agents of the state Alcoholic Beverage Control Division came in and began a search of the cafe.

Jolliff asked them if they had a search warrant, and they said they didn't need one. When Jolliff insisted that they did need a warrant, he was arrested.

His trial did not come up until last month. After hearing testimony from Jolliff, the ABC agents, and other witnesses, the jury was instructed that the search was illegal if the agents did not have a warrant. The jurors--ten white and two black--were also told that since Jolliff was in charge, he was justified in stopping the search.

But after a few minutes, the jury returned with a verdict of guilty. Jolliff was sentenced to two years in jail--but the sentence was suspended, and he was

put on probation for five years. He was also fined \$500 and taken out of office. The conviction is now being appealed.

A Negro was appointed to fill Jolliff's place until a special election for supervisor is held on May 28. Jolliff filed as a candidate in that election, but the county election commission refused to put his name on the ballot.

In a hearing last week, a state court denied Jolliff's request that his name be put on the ballot. Now that decision, too, is being appealed, but the case probably won't be decided before the election.

"This had been a white, this wouldn't have happened," Jolliff said this week. "It's a simple act of racism." He charged that his treatment represents a "conspiracy of white racism in Mississippi that has pushed this whole thing to a goal of hate."

"This will only bring unity to Negroes by ousting me out of power," he added.

"The type of law that Mississippi has must be changed," Jolliff said, "because one part says that if you're convicted of a felony, you gotta get out of office." The charge he was convicted of has nothing to do with his functions as a county supervisor, Jolliff said, "and I think that's unconstitutional."

**Letters to the Editor**

To the Editor:

Yesterday I attended the annual meeting of shareholders of AT&T (American Telephone and Telegraph) in Boston, and I am enclosing the question I asked the chairman of the board along with an article clipped from The Southern Courier several months ago.

Although I am not certain, I believe that the president of AT&T, who is also a director of Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph, was present. His name is Mr. Ben S. Gilmer. Mr. H. I. Romnes, chairman of the board, presided and answered my question much as a wise manager would answer an employee who knows he has been bought off by a 50¢ raise: "I wasn't aware of this particular incident--but we are trying to bring service to everyone as soon as possible--thank you for bringing this matter to our attention," etc. If you are interested, I will purchase a transcript of the meeting so that no action is taken on telephone service, at least the community and Mrs. Mary Davis will be aware that the directors know the situation in Davisville. The community should then try to put some pressure on Montgomery.

Really, I believe that when a large company talks about participating in programs to alleviate the "problems of the city," it should do something about the rural areas which have been bypassed by massive technological growth. There are summer communities in upper New York State which I am quite familiar with, where a tiny community of vacationing businessmen has no trouble at all getting phone service installed--and it isn't temporary, or expensive to the individual. The "problem" would seem to be a euphemism for "racism" and "poverty"--two nasty words no decent citizen wants to mess with.

I do hope that Davisville and commu-

nities like it will put pressure on the phone company--after all, they are the public and should demand service. I am presently sending a memorandum to all the members of the board of directors of AT&T, for what it is worth. Enclosed is a \$25 contribution to the Courier. I think that the paper is a valuable and badly needed means of communication.

Mrs. Brooke Outerbridge  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Mrs. Outerbridge's question:

Is Southern Bell Telephone a wholly owned subsidiary of AT&T?

If the answer is yes, my next question is: Since the Telephone Company is a public utility and a monopoly, why is it that, in this day and age in the United States, certain segments of the public are denied--or cannot get--telephone service?

I am referring specifically to a recent article in a Southern newspaper. The article is entitled "A Phone Before I Die," in which members of the rural community of Davisville, Ala. (Macon County), relate their problems in acquiring phone service....

I would like to know, as a stockholder in a public utility monopoly, why any individual who wants a telephone or telephone service does not have the right to this service regardless of expense. Frankly, I do not think that lack of money is any excuse for such a large and powerful enterprise not to invest in any citizen or group of citizens in this country.

THE SOUTHERN COURIER welcomes letters on any subject. Letters must be signed, but your name will be withheld upon request.





*Charles Griffin and Family*

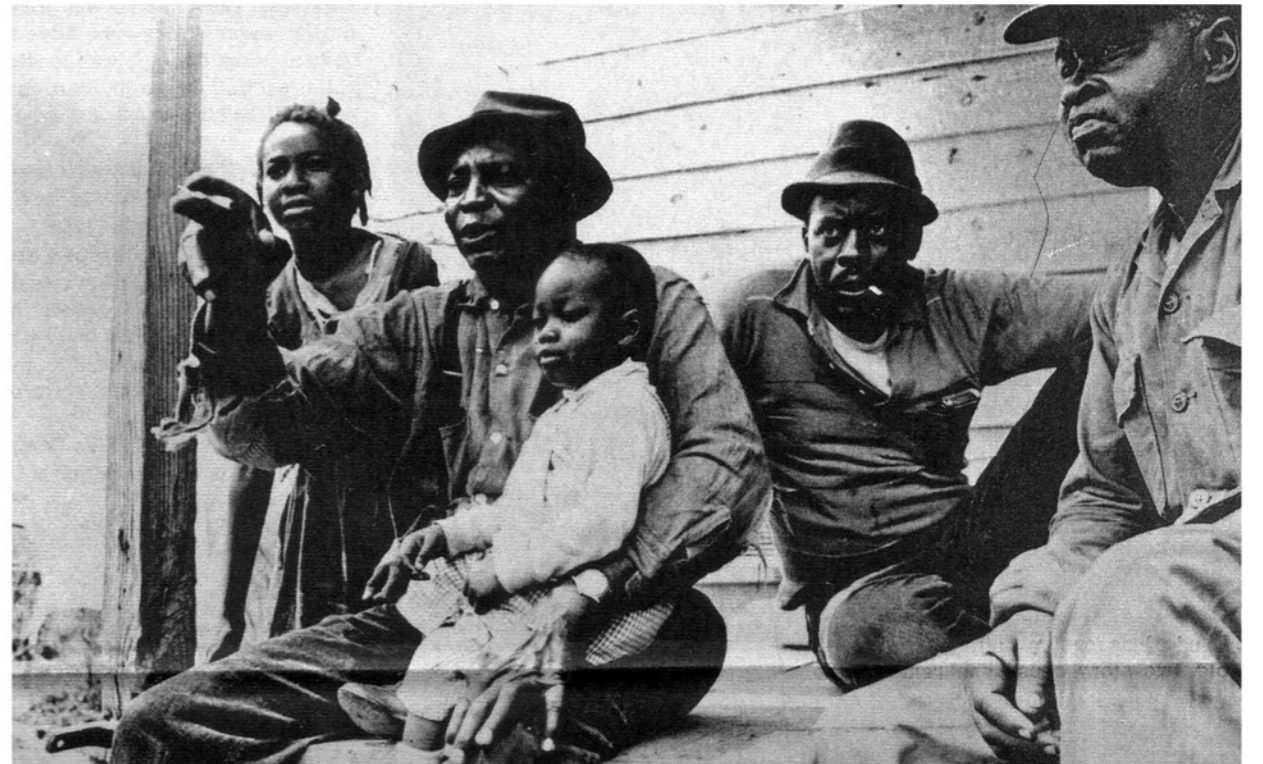
# A Story of Land

SARDIS, Ala. -- Many years ago, Ernest Lee Shanion, a black man, maintained a 320-acre farm near Sardis in Dallas County. After he died and his children moved away, his six-room house was empty and the land either lay idle or was leased to others to farm. While Shanion was alive, Charles Griffin, another black man, was born to a family living on the Hain plantation, also near Sardis. Griffin's family owned no land, lived in a two-room house belonging to a white man, and farmed another man's land.

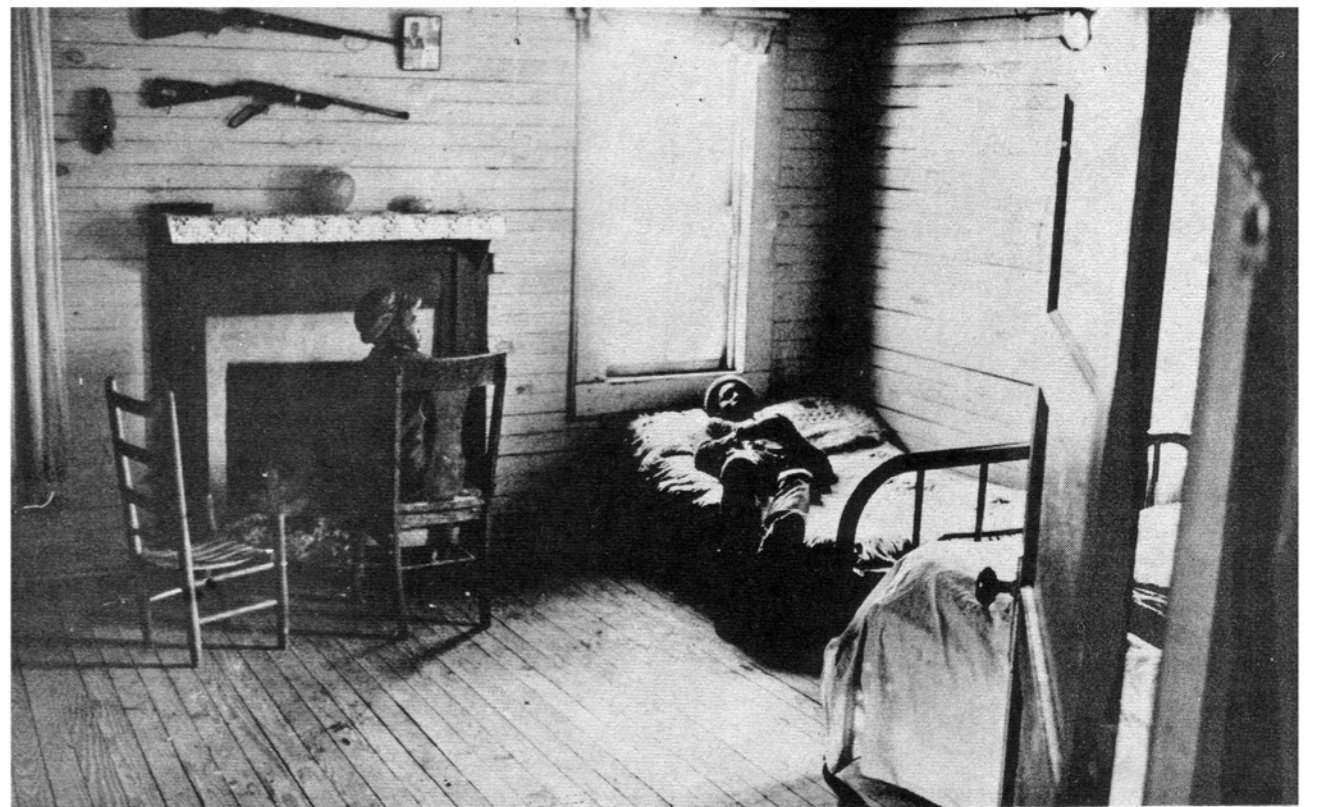
and nine months on the land and in the service of white men, Charles Griffin and his family of 12 were told to move. In January, 1967, the family moved into another two-room house on another "other man's" land.

Then, late in the winter of 1967-68, Griffin "saw a little paper somewhere" that told about Farmers Home Administration (FHA) loans to buy land. "I read you needed something down, but I didn't have anything a'tall." But later, he heard that if

(CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE, Col. 2)



Photos by Jim Pepler





### The Kids Have Fun Anyway

# Hawk-Houston Boys Club Is Separate But Not Very Equal

BY VICTORIA ENGLISH

**DOTHAN, Ala.**--Reginald Higgins is a ten-year-old pool shark. He's so good that, last year, he won a first-place prize in the National Pocket Billiard Tournament.

The Toranados is a five-piece band. The members displayed their musical talents recently on a local television show.

Both the Toranados and Higgins got their start at the Hawk-Houston Boys Club in Keyton Alley, in the west end of Dothan.

For the last four years, the Hawk-Houston club has been giving dozens of youths, aged six to 18, something to do after school.

The club began in 1964 when Mrs. Marion Hawk, wife of a prominent funeral director, "got tired of picking up the newspaper and reading about Negro juvenile delinquency."

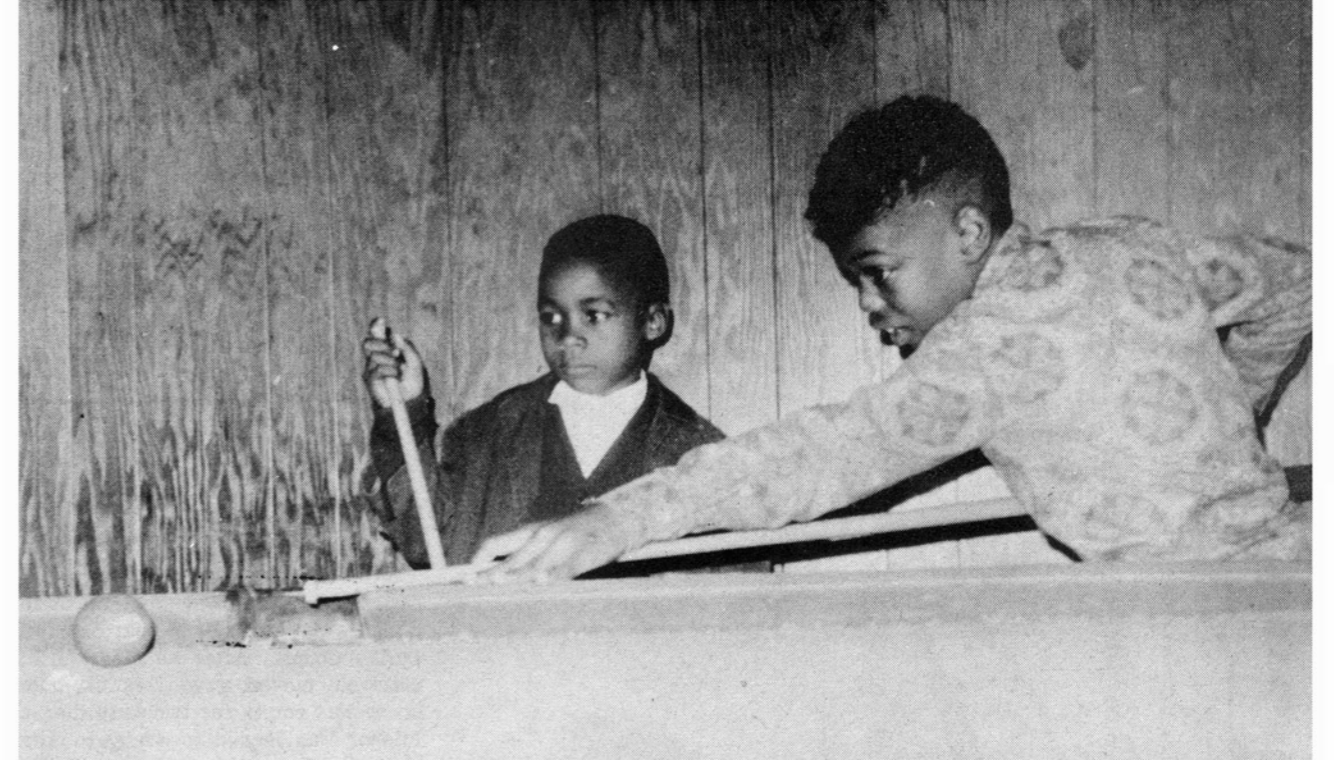
Mrs. Hawk talked to her husband about her idea, and they offered an old apartment building for use as a boys club.

At that time, there was already a similar organization--the Boys Club of Dothan. But the club was located in a white section of town, and in three years, it had never had a Negro member.

Mrs. Hawk said it wouldn't have helped much to ask the existing boys club to integrate its activities.

Even if the club had agreed, she said, "only five or ten Negro boys would have benefited. The main reason for the (new) club was to give Negro boys a place to go. It was formed to meet the immediate needs of slum children with no opportunities."

Mrs. Hawk said Charles Camp, then the director of the Boys Club of Dothan, "saw just as we did."



REGINALD HIGGINS DISPLAYS HIS PRIZE-WINNING SKILL AT POOL

Once the plans for Hawk-Houston were under way, Mrs. Hawk went on, "the citizens of Dothan were very cooperative in helping remodel and furnish the building. Everything we asked for, we got. After six months, the Dothan United Fund accepted us as one of their agencies."

This January, the United Fund gave \$28,000 to the Boys Club of Dothan, which has about 900 yearly members. The Hawk-Houston club--with only half as many members--received a little over half as much money, \$14,500.

That looks pretty fair, and nobody is complaining much about it. But the men who run Hawk-Houston admit that the separate boys clubs are not really equal.

Three years ago--while the Hawk-Houston club was still getting started--the Boys Club of Dothan moved into a new building on S. Alice St., in a pleasant section of town.

The rooms are big, electrically-heated, and well-equipped. There are tables for pool, ping pong, carpetball, shuffleboard, and practice golf. There are special rooms for arts and crafts, woodworking, and watching television or movies. The library is well-stocked with books.

The gym has a regulation-size basketball court. The locker room is equipped with showers. An indoor exercise room can be used as a BB rifle range. Outside, there is a fenced-in play area with a lighted baseball field.

A mile away, the Hawk-Houston club is in a less attractive part of town, Keyton Alley is full of ruts and broken glass. Not far away is a commercial pool hall, where adults try--and usually fail--to shoot as well as Reginald Higgins.

The club has an outdoor basketball court, which doubles as a football field, volleyball court, and air-rifle range. Inside, there are two game rooms. The room for 11- to 18-year-olds has two pool tables, a television, a bench, and a gas heater. The room for six- to ten-year-olds has one pool table, an old piano, and a desk for the club's program director.

The club library is small. But it does have space for another TV set, several sets of encyclopedias, and some old

mystery and adventure stories. Arts and crafts and music groups share a back room.

"The quality of the facilities for 400 (youths) should be the same as the quality for 1,000," commented James Hall, former director of the Hawk-Houston club. "They are all still boys."

On one wall at the Hawk-Houston club is a poster provided by the national Boys Clubs of America. It says "Build Juvenile Decency," and it shows a picture of five boys, arm in arm. One of the five is black.

Despite the national organization's stand in favor of integration, Hall explained, "the folk ways of the community say no."

"We are controlled by local organizations," added Robert James, the present director of Hawk-Houston. "That is why national policy has limited authority."

John Fordham, the program director

at Hawk-Houston, said relations between the white and Negro boys' clubs in Dothan are "very good." And Ernie Marshburn, executive director of the white club, agreed.

"Yes," he said, "our program directors work together. We trade ideas, and we swap movies."

But no one has ever swapped any boys, and it doesn't look like they will any time in the near future.

For one thing, the Hawk-Houston club is more concerned about finding a building of its own, to replace the rented apartment house.

And for another, the members don't seem very interested in desegregation. A group of youths around the pool table one day last month were too busy with what they were doing. The only thing he was worrying about right then, said one of them, sighting along his cue, was whether or not the ball was going to go into the pocket.



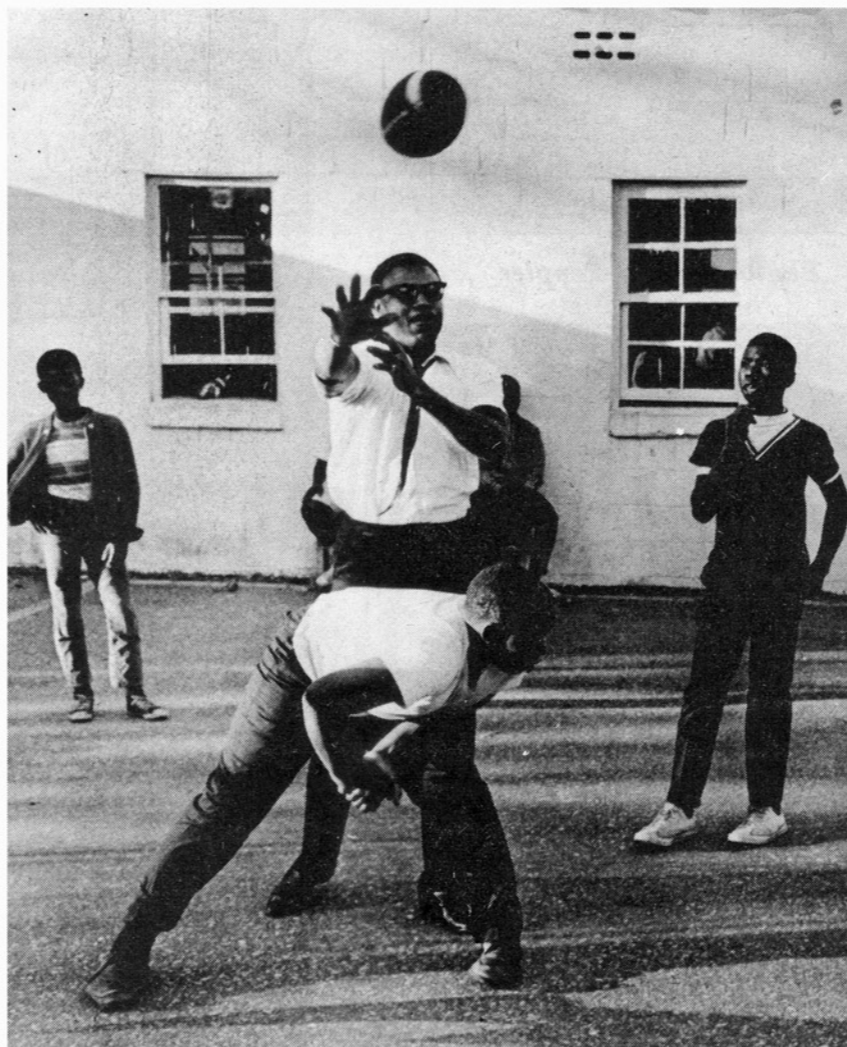
HAWK-HOUSTON ACTIVITIES INCLUDE ARTS AND CRAFTS



TIME OUT FOR JUST WATCHING



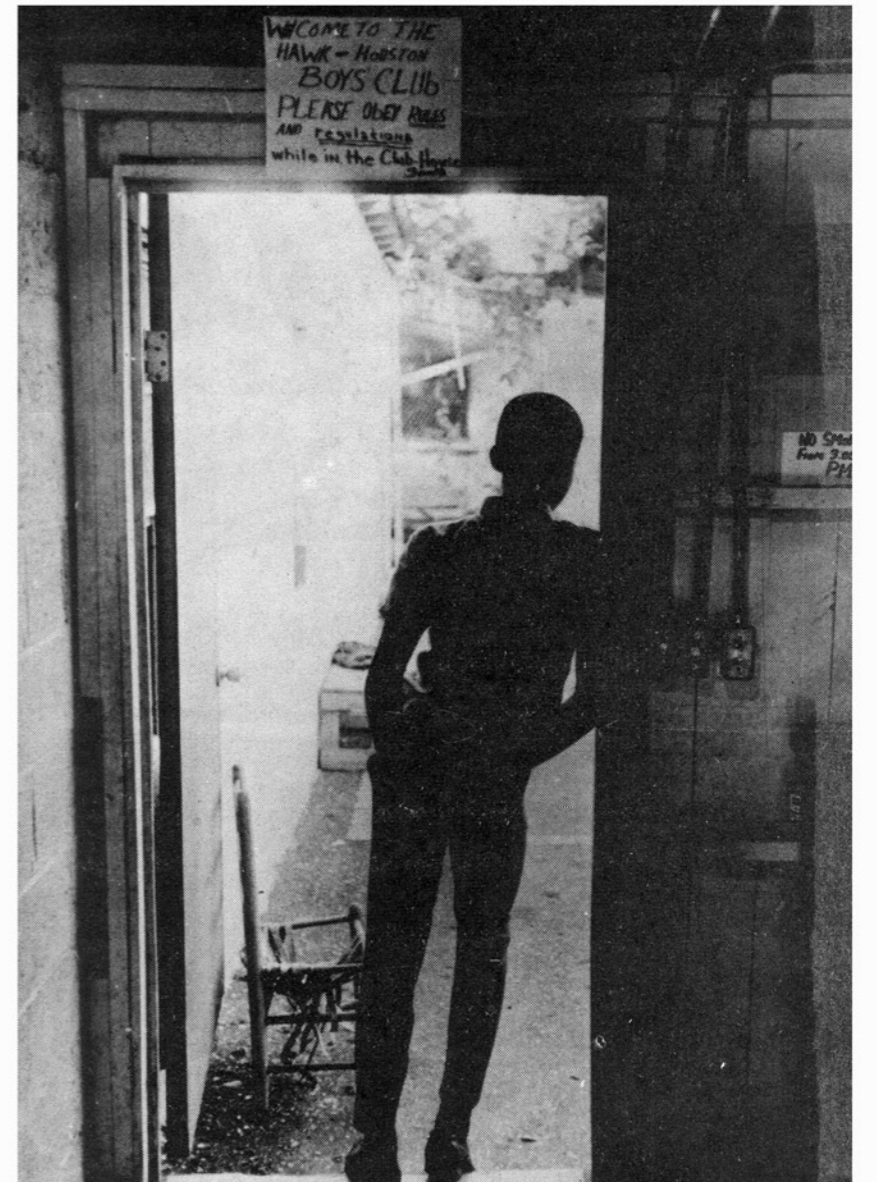
HAWK-HOUSTON MEMBERS PLAY BASKETBALL...



...AND FOOTBALL



SHOOTING POOL AT BOYS CLUB OF DOTHAN





Gov. Folsom's 'Advice' to Dr. King

# 'Don't Fight Back'

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN  
MONTGOMERY, Ala.--Did the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. get the idea of non-violent protest from former Governor James E. Folsom?

That's what Folsom seemed to be saying last week, when he issued a statement that recalled, "My last and only advice to the late Dr. Martin Luther King was this: 'Read about Gandhi and don't fight back.'"

At a press conference April 18, the former governor (1947-51 and 1955-59) said he doesn't know if he was the first person to suggest non-violence to Dr. King. But, he said, he gave Dr. King that advice during the time of the 1956 Montgomery bus boycott.

Shortly after taking office, Folsom recalled, there was an attempt to impeach him, although "I hadn't even had time to get my hands in the till." At that time, he said, a former editor of the Montgomery Advertiser "ordered me a book on Mahatma Gandhi--I believe Nehru wrote it while he was in prison."

Folsom said he "didn't take it all to heart," but when Dr. King called on him during the boycott, he told the civil rights leader, "Get that book and read it, and don't fight back."

Did Dr. King take Folsom's advice? "Whether he did or not, I don't know," Folsom said.

Folsom is one of six candidates running for the U. S. Senate in the May 7 Democratic primary. He said his solution for everything from racial problems to Viet Nam is "one man, one vote," along with a two-party system.

"With two primaries and one man, one vote, there won't be any trouble anywhere," Folsom said. In Illinois, he said, "they haven't had a primary since the state was created--everything is hand-picked. Look at the trouble they have up there."

And, he went on, "if we had one man, one vote in Viet Nam all these years, we wouldn't have any trouble there now...."

"Where they get our money anywhere in the world--especially in South America--they ought to be forced and required to observe the one man, one vote form of government, or they're not getting one red copper cent. I'd be willing to go down there and force 'em to have one man, one vote."

Folsom noted that three of his opponents--Congressman Armistead Selden, former Lieutenant Governor James B. Allen, and Huntsville attorney Bob Smith--are lawyers.

"I'm opposed to a man sittin' in the U. S. Senate and holdin' a law license at the same time," Folsom said. He said this violates the constitutional principle of "checks and balances."

Of his three lawyer-opponents, Fol-



JAMES E. FOLSOM AT PRESS CONFERENCE

som remarked, "As Governor (George) Wallace says, shake 'em up in a sack, drop 'em out on the ground, and you can't tell the difference."

(Selden, Allen, and Smith have all claimed Wallace backing in recent weeks--or have accused each other of not having it.)

(Last week, Allen endorsed the policy of ordering policemen to "shoot to kill" rioters. This week, after U. S. Attorney Genral Ramsey Clark opposed the "shoot to kill" approach, Selden said Clark should be replaced.)

(The other two senatorial candidates are Mrs. Frank Stewart of Center and retired Admiral John Crommelin of Wetumpka.)

As Folsom spoke at a press conference in a dingy Montgomery hotel room, one by one the TV lights flicked off and reporters put their note-pads away.

## Griffin Family

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE THREE)  
"a heap of us" got together, they could get a loan for land without a down payment. So Griffin and 11 others got together and bought the Shanon land from Shanon's six children.

On March 25, Griffin, his second wife, and 11 children moved into the six-room house once occupied by Ernest Lee Shanon. Soon afterward, Griffin began to work his share of the land.

For Miss Shirley Jean Boyd Griffin, age eight, the move meant the first chance to live in a house with glass windows and more than two rooms. But for Charles Griffin, it was most of all the first chance to live in his own house and farm his own land.

"You know, I can't get a job?" the former governor asked his listeners. "I managed eight fund-raising campaigns my first term.... But I couldn't get a dog-catcher's job in Washington--and they dump money all over the world. "See how much I think of them? I don't think a goddam thing about 'em, not a damn thing."

# Fire Destroys Church Ruling Changed On Amusement Parks

BY PATRICIA JAMES  
MERIDIAN, Miss.--The Mt. Pleasant Church, three miles south of Meridian, was burned down early on the morning of April 14.

The church, on Highway 45, is surrounded by houses owned by white people. It had been standing for close to 100 years.

The Rev. Luther Sharp, pastor of Mt. Pleasant, said he doesn't know of any reason why the church was burned. But, he said, "I haven't been surprised."

"Back several years ago," he explained, "when they were having civil rights meetings, I was called to pastor this church. I understood that white people in this community thought we were having civil rights activities. "We have never had any civil rights meetings. They (white people) thought this because we would always hold church services so many times."

Sharp said the insurance on the church was canceled just last month. The minister said he talked to Meridian Police Chief Roy Gunn, and "they said they were sorry it happened, and

that they are doing all they can."

Last month, after a wave of fires and bombings, Gunn issued shotguns to his men, and ordered them to "shoot to kill." He told his men that anyone milling around a church should be shot, because "a person who is low-down enough to burn a church is not worth the time of questioning him about it."

Because of this order, many people are saying, the burning of churches has moved to the rural areas.

"As soon as we can get ourselves together, we will try to build our church back," Sharp said last week. "We can't go without a church."

NEW ORLEANS, La.--The U. S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals has reversed an earlier ruling that took amusement parks, bowling alleys, and other such places out of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

A three-judge panel ruled last year that the Fun Fair Park in Baton Rouge, La., (and similar places) did not have to admit Negroes if they did not offer entertainment for spectators.

But in a 9-to-5 decision this month, the full court said that "to allow an amusement park... to invite the patronage of the public generally, and then permit it to exclude Negroes, would violate the clear purpose and intent" of the Civil Rights Act.



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, Ala. 36830.

CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS--"Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness." This verse from Thesalonians is part of the Responsive Reading from the Lesson-Sermon to be read in all Christian Science churches Sunday, April 28. The subject is "Probation after Death."

APPRECIATION SERVICE -- Members of the New St. James Baptist Church will celebrate the ninth Appreciation Services of their pastor, the Rev. L. Clyde Fisher, at 2:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. on Sunday, April 28.

BAHA'IS--The Baha'is of Montgomery invite you to their weekly fireside at 8 p.m. this Saturday, at the Community House, 409 S. Union St., Montgomery, Ala. For transportation, call 265-4394. Meet Baha'u'llah.

REGISTERED NURSES--Lee County Head Start needs a registered nurse for part-time employment, beginning in early April. For more information, write P. O. Drawer 1632, Auburn, Ala. 36830, or call 887-6536.

ELMORE COUNTY FOOD--People in Elmore County, Ala., can now apply for and receive free food under the federal commodity distribution program. Families on welfare, and others with low incomes, may be eligible for the program. Heads of households should apply at the USDA Commodity Warehouse, 206 N. Autauga St. in Wetumpka. They should bring documents or records showing the total income of all the members of the household. People living in District 1--Eclectic, Chaney Creek, Red Hill, Kent, Good Hope, Friendship, Ware, and Tallasee--and in District 2--Wetumpka, Wallsboro, Red Land, Rifle Range Rd., and Montgomery Hwy.--were to apply the past two weeks, April 15-19 and April 22-26. Others are as follows. District 3: people from Titus and Weoka on Monday and Tuesday, April 29-30; people from Central, Seaman, Grier, and Dexter on Wednesday and Thursday, May 1-2; those who can't come Monday through Thursday, on Friday, May 3. District 4: people from Millbrook and Robinson Springs on Monday and Tuesday, May 6-7; people from Elmore and Sweetning on Wednesday, May 8; people from Holtville, Deatsville, and Lightwood on Thursday, May 9; those who can't come Monday through Thursday, on Friday, May 10.

TUSKEGEE SUBSCRIBERS -- You have TWO local post offices: Tuskegee 36083 and Tuskegee Institute 36088. Your Southern Courier will arrive on time if it is sent to the correct one. Please check your mailing label, and let us know if it should be changed.

JOB HEARINGS--The U. S. Commission on Civil Rights will hold hearings from Saturday, April 27, to Wednesday, May 1, at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Ala. The purpose will be to collect information on job security and economic opportunities in 16 Alabama counties--Autauga, Barbour, Bullock, Butler, Choctaw, Clarke, Dallas, Greene, Hale, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Monroe, Perry, Sumter, and Wilcox. The commission is interested in hearing testimony from federal, state, and local officials, and from citizens of these counties.

REVIVAL--Revival is now in progress through Friday, May 3, at the People's First Friendship Baptist Church, 935 Early St., Montgomery, Ala. The Rev. James E. Noble, pastor of the Lily Baptist Church, is the evangelist. The public is invited. The Rev. R. B. Binlon, pastor; Mrs. Gladys Avery, reporter.

POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN--A state-wide meeting of the Poor People's Campaign will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 27, in the St. Paul AME Church on Tremont St. in Selma, Ala. It is very important for you to attend this meeting--final arrangements will be made for the trip to Washington.

**Radio Station WAPX**  
HAS INSTITUTED **The Pastor's Study**  
BROADCAST DAILY  
MONDAY THRU FRIDAY, 9:00 to 9:15 AM

THE PASTOR'S STUDY is a daily devotional prepared under the auspices of and in conjunction with the Montgomery Ministerial Alliance. Listen to your favorite minister in our Pastor's Study.

Also, for your continuing listening, our GOSPEL PROGRAMS, 4:00 to 6:00 AM and 9:15 to 11:00 AM, and with Gretchen Jenkins from 11:00 AM to 12 Noon, Monday thru Friday.

**WAPX Radio**  
1600 k.c. in Montgomery

Pictured here is  
**Wilber D. Johnston**  
(Bill) Johnston

candidate for Board of Revenue, place 4, with Sheriff Lucius D. Amerson of Macon County. Johnston has served as Special Deputy for the Sheriff's Department since Amerson took office in January, 1967. Amerson indicates that he wholeheartedly endorses Johnston for the position on the board of revenue, as he feels that Johnston is the candidate best suited for the position--the one who can do more for all the people of Macon County because of new ideas and new methods.

(Pd. Pol. Adv. by Friends of Wilber D. (Bill) Johnston)

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LOUIS SWAIN (RIGHT) AND CALVIN JONES (LEFT) AT FINISH OF 100

## Alabama A&M Runner Does 100 in Record 9.4

MONTGOMERY, Ala. -- A small crowd in Hornet Stadium last Saturday witnessed one of the most remarkable feats in Alabama sports history.

Louis Swain of Alabama A&M covered 100 yards of the bumpy track in the record time of 9.4 seconds. "A couple of watches caught him in 9.2," said A&M track coach Duane Gordon, but the 9.4 was plenty good enough for a school record.

"We're just starting track," said Gordon, "but that record will stand for a while--unless he breaks it."

Swain's teammate, Calvin Jones, was right behind him with a 9.5 clocking.

In the 12-team track meet, Florida A&M was all by itself in first place, with 70 points. Alabama State was second with 27 points, and Fisk University was third with 21.

A week earlier in Hornet Stadium, Carver High of Montgomery captured the district track championship with 38 points. Booker T. Washington of Montgomery was second, eight points behind, and Southside of Greenville was third.

Veteran miler Steve Rudolph of Lowndes County Training School took his event in 4:42.7. This will be Rudolph's third straight year in state championship competition.

## Stamp Program Bans 2 Stores

ATLANTA, Ga.--Two stores in Alabama and Mississippi have been disqualified from taking part in the federal food stamp program for a period of six months.

In Jasper, Ala., the Jitney Jungle store and its owner, H. N. Daniel, were disqualified April 6 after the U. S. Department of Agriculture charged them with accepting food coupons as repayment for loans and back bills, and with selling ineligible items to food stamp customers.

Tony Garbo's Grocery & Market of Laurel, Miss., was disqualified April 12 on charges of selling ineligible items (such as cigarettes and beer), giving cash as change for coupons, and overcharging a food stamp customer.

The charges against these two stores are grounds for disqualifying any participant in the food stamp program. The agriculture department's Consumer and Marketing Service in Atlanta makes regular investigations to insure compliance with the program regulations.



**Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights**  
The weekly meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 29, in the St. James Baptist Church, 1100 Sixth Ave. N., the Rev. C. W. Sewell, pastor.

## Blessings Blessings

The man with the gift--Rev. Roosevelt Franklin of Macon, Georgia. Some questions you may wish to know:

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- Can my wife stop drinking?
- Can my loved ones be returned?
- Where can I get money?

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Macon, Georgia 31201  
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## Foreign Visitors Meet Minister, CR Leader

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN  
MONTGOMERY, Ala.--If the Rev. Martin Luther King's non-violent philosophy was based on the Bible, asked the visitor from Kenya, East Africa, "how do you account for people who say 'An eye for an eye'? That's in the Bible, too."

"I prefer not to use the Bible as a proof text for a position that's already been adopted," answered the Rev. G. Murray Branch. But since the question has been asked, he went on, "it's simply a matter of progressive revelation."

"The Bible reflects a long process of thought and life," Branch explained, and those who believe in non-violence "follow a path which is consistent with the revelations of Christ. Christians make no claim, you see, of following Moses, or Joshua, or even the prophets."

But the questioner--Mohamed Hatimy, who works for the government-owned radio and television station in Kenya--wasn't satisfied. Christ "paid in blood for the sins committed by people," Hatimy said. "He never got anything done through peace."

Hatimy and about 15 other foreign journalists were in Montgomery last week, on a cross-country tour arranged by the World Press Institute.

Several of the journalists wanted to talk with someone who had known Dr. King. But when they met Branch and civil rights worker Roosevelt Barnett in the Dexter Ave. Baptist Church--where Dr. King was once the pastor--the discussion was mostly about religion.

"I don't understand religion in this country," said Laurent Chenard, of the Central Press Agency in Paris, France. "Explain to me how somebody can be religious and a segregationist."

"We define religion according to our own needs," Branch observed. By "a kind of selective allegiance," he said,



REV. G. MURRAY BRANCH people "find elements in the religious heritage to support and sustain their views."

What do you think of George Wallace's presidential campaign? asked Max Hastings of the London (England) Evening Standard.

"I don't regard him as a major danger," replied Branch. "I take the view, along with some others, that if the country has deteriorated to that extent (so Wallace could be President), then give it back to the Indians."

"He's not gonna make no kind of showing," Barnett added.

## 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.

Mrs. Lena Frost of Demopolis, Ala., sells 600-1,000 Southern Couriers every week in Marengo and south Greene counties.



If you want to sell The Southern Courier in your community, write to 1012 Frank Leu Bldg., Montgomery, Ala. 36104, or call 262-3572.

## Poor People Unite!

Join in the  
*March to Washington*

If you want to go to Washington with the Poor People's Campaign, fill out this clipping and mail to Alabama State SCLC, P. O. Box 956, Selma, Ala. 36701.

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**Q. I finally found MY perfume, an unusual fragrance that couldn't be confused with anyone else's. But, after all my searching, the perfume doesn't last!**

**A.** Maybe you're using perfume in the wrong places! Perfume dabbed behind the ears, contrary to tales told, is unstrategically placed. Instead put a few drops on pulse spots -- the inside of wrists, your temples, the crook of your arm, and along your throat. In the pulse spots, blood is close to the surface and its warmth helps to radiate scent. Another way to use fragrance so it lasts: Put a few drops of perfume on a Kleenex tissue to tuck into your bra.

**Q. My dry-cleaning expenses last year were over \$50, not including alterations. There must be some way to cut costs.**

**A.** There is! Wash everything washable. Sweaters most often look better when washed with a cold-water soap. Many types of fibers gain extra bounce and

fluffiness after a soap-and-water sudsing. Clean wool clothes in the new do-it-yourself dry-cleaning laundromats. Alteration costs are slashed by buying clothes that fit well. Raising or lowering hemlines should present no expense -- do them yourself!

**Q. My Saturdays are sad! Mother makes me help with housework while all my girl friends go to the school ball games or downtown to a movie. Is this fair?**

**A.** It's fair for you to help! All you need is a little change in schedule. Can you get some of your chores done at other times during the week to free some of your time on Saturdays? Try using all the shortcuts you can -- and still get the job done well. Kleen-Ups disposable dusters can be used for a day's dusting and then thrown away. If you show Mother you're willing to help her with household work, she'll probably be happy to let you meet your friends on Saturdays -- when the work's all done!

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