

Negro Deputy Charged in Bullock Killing

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

UNION SPRINGS--Willie James King and Richard Lee Harris were laughing at a joke as they left the Golden Horseshoe Club together early last Sunday morning.

As the two young Negro men started toward their car, the way was blocked by Bullock County's only Negro deputy



WILLIE JAMES KING

sheriff, Tom "Preacher" Tolliver. Suddenly a shot rang out, scattering the crowd in front of the night club. King fell to his knees. Bystanders heard him gasp, "Preacher, you done shot me."

A moment later, King, a 30-year-old construction worker, lay dead on the sand in a pool of blood.

James Simpson, one of the bystanders, said he watched as Tolliver fired his pistol and King fell to the ground. After that, Simpson said, Harris fled into the night, and Tolliver chased him, firing the pistol.

Then Simpson knelt by King, a friend for many years. "He wasn't dead yet," Simpson said later. "He raised up with his hand under his head." As Simpson watched in horror, King gasped twice and collapsed.

"When Preacher got back, I told him, 'The boy is dead,'" Simpson said. Then he went to tell King's pretty young wife, Mozell, that she was a widow.

About six hours later, Mrs. King drove the 12 miles to Union Springs with H. O. Williams, a Bullock County Negro leader. They woke up Justice of the Peace E. O. Hickman, and Mrs. King

swore out a warrant against Tolliver for the murder of her husband.

As soon as he could get his clothes on Sunday morning, Hickman said, "I took the warrant over to the sheriff personally. I wouldn't let anybody else take it."

But what happened after that was a mystery to Bullock County's angry Negro community. For more than 24 hours, nobody could find out where the warrant was. And several people saw Tolliver driving around the county Sunday and Monday, still wearing a pistol, a uniform, and his tin badge that says "private watchman."

Tolliver and Bullock County Sheriff C. M. Blue Jr. refused to talk about the incident. But, late Monday afternoon, District Attorney Ben C. Reeves confirmed that the warrant had been served.

Why wasn't Tolliver in jail? Reeves explained that "some white friends" had put up the \$2,000 bond right after Tolliver was arrested.

Was Tolliver still acting as a deputy? "That would be up to the sheriff," said the district attorney. "They tell me this was an accident--Richard Lee (Harris)

was resisting arrest, and in the scuffle Tolliver's gun went off and killed a bystander."

"It'll all come out before the grand jury in July," Reeves added. "That's what juries are for. There's two sides to every story."

But Bullock County's Negro leaders--and some of the people who saw the killing--weren't willing to wait.

"The first thing we've got to do," said Williams grimly, "is get that gun out of Preacher's hands." The Negro leaders called a mass meeting for late this week to decide what form their protest would take.

Meanwhile, King's friends pieced together the events surrounding his death. Harris remembered that he and King were "laughing and joking like always" when they left the Golden Horseshoe Club.

"Preacher was leaning up against his car," Harris said. "He called over, 'Cut out the goddamn mess.' I said, 'Why? We ain't did nothing.'"

"He said he had it in for me a long time ago," Harris recalled. "He come

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MRS. MOZELL KING (LEFT) BUYING NAACP MEMBERSHIP

THE SOUTHERN COURIER

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TEN CENTS

Senators Told Of Poverty

BY PATRICIA JAMES

JACKSON, Miss. -- "The whole county is poor," said Mrs. Unita Blackwell of Issaquena County. "We don't have a factory--nothing but plantations. We have children who have never had a glass of milk."

Isn't there any kind of employment? asked U. S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy of New York.

"No employment," answered Mrs. Blackwell. "We need more than Head Start. We need everything."

This was just one of the exchanges last Monday in the Heidelberg Hotel here, as five U. S. senators--Kennedy, Joseph Clark of Pennsylvania, George Murphy of California, Jacob Javits of New York, and Winston Prouty of Vermont--learned about poverty and the war against it.

The senators heard from community leaders, and from representatives of Mississippi anti-poverty agencies. They also heard from one of their own--U. S. Senator John Stennis of Mississippi.

Stennis recited some of his criticisms of the anti-poverty program, and of CDGM (the Child Development Group of Mississippi) in particular. "From my own investigation," he said, "I know that a large part of the poverty-program money has been misused, mismanaged, unaccounted for, and wasted."

Some of the CDGM workers are immoral beatniks, said Stennis, and "they use CDGM cars on weekends to go places when they are not even working on their job." Senators Kennedy and Javits both disagreed with him.

After Stennis was finished, a stream of witnesses testified that the poor people of Mississippi needed help badly.

Claude Ramsey, president of the Mississippi AFL-CIO labor union, said the anti-poverty program had made some mistakes, which should be corrected.

But he added, "I don't think Senator Stennis is fully aware of the problem in this state. I don't think he understands the magnitude of this."

Said Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer of Ruleville, "We want to have a chance of helping the poverty-stricken people in Sunflower County." She said many people in the county ate only grits, rice, and beans, day after day.

A white lady, Mrs. Ida Lemore of Jackson, testified "All I want to say... is if people can help, we need it."

Many witnesses, including Miss Marian Wright of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, attacked the federal food stamp program, which has replaced free commodity foods in many areas. Dr. A. B. Britton, chairman of the Mississippi State Advisory Committee to the U. S. Civil Rights Commission, said the food stamps should be free.

Senator Clark said the law-makers should get the U. S. Department of Agriculture to "do something to feed these hungry people."



SENATOR KENNEDY (ABOVE), AUDIENCE (BELOW) AT POVERTY HEARING

'I Know It Wasn't Right'--Juror Conner Freed

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN

MONTGOMERY--Sam Sistrunk of Ozark stood dejectedly in the Montgomery Post Office, minutes after he was released from service on the jury that had freed Harvey Conner.

"I know it wasn't right," said Sistrunk, the only Negro on the 12-man jury. He said he had tried to dispute the 11 white men who thought Conner was innocent, but he finally gave in.

"I tried to tell 'em," he said last Wednesday, "but you know how it is... No matter what we do, God knows, He'll take care of it."

After a day and a half of testimony and about 100 minutes of deliberation, the federal-court jury had found Conner, a former Elmore County sheriff's deputy, not guilty of violating the civil rights of James Earl Motley.

Motley, a 27-year-old Negro from Wetumpka, died in the Elmore County jail last Nov. 20, about two hours after Conner arrested him.

The federal government's case against Conner was built on the testimony of two witnesses--Reuben Clark, a Negro serving in the Air Force, and Perry C. Stacks, a white state trooper.

Clark said he was driving with Motley last Nov. 20, when Conner stopped their car at about 1:40 a.m. After Clark got out of the car, he said, he heard a voice telling the deputy, "You don't have anything to do with this. It happened in Montgomery County, not Elmore County."

The airman said Conner replied, "You telling me how to run my business?" and then the deputy "asked Motley out of the car."

Conner finally arrested Motley, Clark testified, but Motley refused to get into Conner's auto, even after the deputy fired a shot in his direction.

Motley went back in the car he was riding in, said Clark, but when two state troopers arrived, Motley got out quietly.

"That's when Sheriff Conner touched him on his right shoulder," Clark said. He said Conner asked, "Why didn't you get in (my) car when I told you to?"

"At the same time," Clark went on, "he was hitting him (Motley) up side the head." When Conner stopped striking Motley, the airman testified, Motley crumpled to the ground.

As two state troopers carried Motley back to Conner's car, Clark said, the deputy told them, "Don't get that blood on my seat."

Stacks, one of the state troopers who answered Conner's call for help that night, told virtually the same story. He said Motley's hands were "at his sides" while Conner was striking him, and he testified that he smelled no alcohol on the victim's breath.

Conner gave a very different version of the night's events. He said that while he was looking at Clark's identification, Motley got out of the car and "came between us and pushed me back."

The deputy said Motley "staggered," and "his speech wasn't as good as it should have been."

When the troopers came, Conner said, Motley got out of the car again. Then, he said, Motley "stood up immediately and grabbed me in the collar."

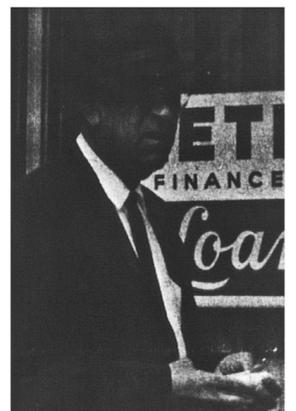
"I asked him to turn me loose twice," Conner testified, and when Motley didn't, he hit him twice, until "some blood came." Conner said he stopped hitting Motley as soon as the victim let go, and Motley was still standing up at that time.

The defense also tried to show that Motley was fatally injured by falling and hitting his head on a fence-post at the jail, not by being struck with Conner's slapjack.

But Judge Frank M. Johnson reminded Conner's lawyers, "You gentlemen should not lose sight of the fact that this man (Conner) is not being charged with murder in this case." He meant the federal crime, if any, was violating Motley's rights, not causing his death.

The jurors apparently considered the case for just the amount of time it took to convince Sistrunk. The Ozark brick contractor said one of the white jurors offered "to sprinkle some white on me."

"I told him it wasn't a matter for foolishness," Sistrunk said. "I made him ashamed of himself."



HARVEY CONNER

Natchez Jury Hears of Plot, Can't Decide

BY MERTIS RUBIN

NATCHEZ, Miss.--A jury of nine whites and three Negroes couldn't reach a decision this week in the case of James L. Jones, one of three white men charged with the murder of Ben Chester White, a Negro.

The jury had heard a statement saying that White was killed last June 10 as part of a plot to lure the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. to Natchez. Sheriff Odell Anders said Jones gave him the statement last July.

In the statement, Jones allegedly said that he and two other defendants in the case--Claude Fuller and Ernest Avants--drove out to White's house and hired him to help look for a lost dog.

Later in the evening, the statement said, they stopped on a bridge, where Fuller told the old Negro man, "All right, Pops, get out." The statement said about 17 rifle bullets were then pumped into White's body, and the victim was also shot in the head with a shotgun.

According to the statement, Fuller said he "had orders from higher up" that White "had to go." The shooting occurred during the Meredith march, after James Meredith had been shot and Dr. King came down to lead the protest.

In his statement, Jones allegedly said Fuller told him White was killed in order to get some attention away from the Meredith march. Fuller was quoted as saying the killing might "get ole Martin Luther down here, and then we can get him too."

It was not until the third day of Jones' trial that Circuit Court Judge James Torrey let the jury hear Jones' statements. Defense attorneys had objected that Jones did not have a lawyer when he made them.

According to jurors Monroe Fitzgerald and Melvin Witherspoon--both Negroes--the jury spent all the time voting 7 to 5 for a conviction. They said there was never a chance that all 12 would agree.

Local NAACP President George Met... (CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX, Col. 1)

New Negro Policeman in Opelika Promises, 'I Aim to Do My Best'

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

OPELIKA--"I'm going into it full heart and soul," said James Baker Jr., one of Opelika's first two full-time Negro policemen. "This is something I have thought about for a long time."

"As a law-abiding citizen, registered voter, Christian, and father of six children, I have felt that when and if the opportunity presented itself, I wanted to become a law-enforcement officer," Baker said.

Baker, 27, and John Pruitt, 34, will begin work as rookie police officers this Monday. City Police Chief William J. Trussell Jr. said they will have the same authority other policemen have.

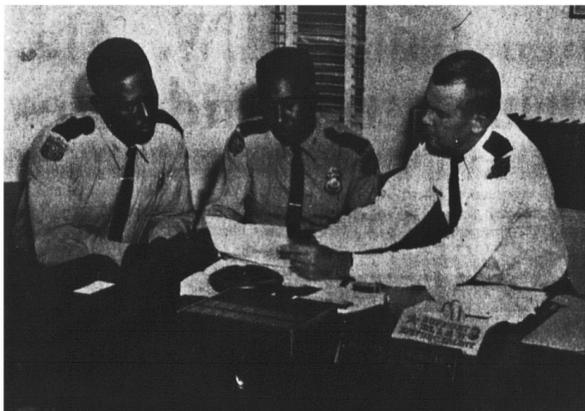
"When I hired them," Trussell added, "I said we're not going to give you an inch, and we're not going to take an inch. You'll work all over town. Whether his skin is white, green, or red, if he's breaking the law, arrest him."

Baker, a 6'7" former high school basketball star, said he planned to do just that. "I figure it's a challenge, being one of the first Negroes," he said. "I aim to do my best."

"The hardest part is people getting used to it," Baker continued. "Some figure it will be a good idea, but some don't."

Chief Trussell and Opelika Mayor T. K. Davis Jr. are two people who have said they think hiring Negro policemen is a good idea. Davis said the new officers "will fill an important need in the community," and perform "a vital service."

"Of course, it's not unusual for a city to have colored policemen any more,"



BAKER (LEFT), PRUITT (CENTER), TRUSSELL (RIGHT)

Chief Trussell said, "but I feel like it's a step forward for the Opelika Police Department. These are two real good men."

Opelika's Negro leaders, who spent three years trying to convince the city to hire Negro policemen, agreed with Trussell. "It was a long time coming, but we're glad it's here," said one leader.

Pruitt is one of four Negroes who joined Opelika's police reserve last October, shortly after Negroes rioted at a Darden High School football game. Did the riot help persuade Opelika to desegregate its police force?

"I think it was mostly coincidence," the Negro leader said. "But that may have speeded things up a little."

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Editorial Opinion

Everyone Is Involved

What does all the fuss about academic freedom have to do with Negroes and poor people? The debate that has been going on for the past two weeks might seem to concern only those people who are fortunate enough to go to college.

But there is more at stake--perhaps the immediate future of everyone in Alabama. Because the Wallace Administration is once more trying to stamp out all forms of disagreement and dissent.

George Wallace has always viewed the state's colleges as brain-washing centers for future Wallaces. As was demonstrated in last week's legislative hearings, Wallace has usually been able to find "educators" willing to make sure students don't learn too much in college.

But now some students want to learn more. Students at the University of Alabama have decided they aren't afraid to hear two sides about the Viet Nam war, civil rights, and other issues. And campus leaders around the state seem to agree.

George Wallace must now win this battle. The students who are fighting him now are probably going to be running the state in 20 years. If they can be exposed to some new ways of thinking, they may not repeat the terrible mistakes of the Wallace years.

SWAFCA Deserves a Try

White farmers and officials have made a lot of noise about the Southwest Alabama Farmers Cooperative Association (SWAFCA). But no one has yet mentioned one good reason why the program should not get government support.

Under the SWAFCA program, small farmers in ten Black Belt counties would get higher prices for their crops, and would learn modern farming methods. Certainly, there is nothing subversive about that. But nonetheless, the white officials babble hysterically about their visions of Communists in the cotton patch. It is impossible to take these objections seriously, and we doubt that anyone will.

It is true that SWAFCA is a revolutionary approach to the problems of destitute tenant farmers. But it is time for a revolution in the Black Belt. SWAFCA's peaceful revolution has been carefully planned by responsible people. It should be given a chance.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor: To the people of Dallas County--Wake up! Open your eyes and look around you! This past Saturday (April 1), another Negro was beaten unmercifully by city policemen.

Don't let people fool you that things are better. If you aren't careful, you will be worse off than you were four years ago. You still have no justice in Dallas County?

Was it necessary to nearly beat a man's brains out to arrest him? Ask yourself--will I be next?

The only way you can stop this slaughter is by letting officials know what you think. If they cannot change, then they should be removed. People must be placed on the police force that respect all citizens, and an effective and fair police force must also have Negroes on it. This must be done to get justice.

We are asking persons who witnessed the beating of Mr. Polnitz to please give what information you have to persons who ask for it.

Stand up and be a member of the human race. All it costs is a little of your time. What you will gain will be self-respect and dignity as a Negro.

Clarence Williams
Dallas County Independent Free Voters Organization
Selma

and child working and living on the farms in this state.

You will recall last September when the Negro farmers of this state worked so heart-breakingly long and hard in trying to elect their nominees to their respective county ASCS committees, but to no avail. The powerful state ASCS committee, which has jurisdiction over all the county committees in the state, appointed Mr. Spragins to serve with them. He has full voting rights on the state committee. This will mean more to the Negro segment of our farmers than any number that might have been elected to the county committees.

Please consider giving the members of the state committee -- Mr. Jack Bridges, Headland; Mr. Wheeler Foshee, Red Level; Mr. J. L. Morrison, Greensboro; and Mr. R. N. Williams, Mount Hope -- some kind of recognition, and ask the Negro farmers to write them at their home address or at their office in Montgomery at 474 South Court St. and express their appreciation to them. After all, those gentlemen had the fortitude to break a policy of 32 years standing, and the least we can do is recognize them for it.

Amos J. Scranton
Tuskegee

To the Editor:

My name is Jimmie Lawson, and I'm writing to tell you that I'm not in Viet Nam anymore. . . .

I'm sorry that I'm just telling you about this, but I was so proud to leave Viet Nam that I forgot about to tell you. So please mail the papers to my home address. I really did enjoy reading The Southern Courier in Viet Nam. It let me know what was going on back home. And I know I will enjoy it just the same here.

Jimmie Lawson
Greenville

Students Defend Free Speech

Newspaper Ad Causes Uproar

BY JOHN C. DIAMANTE
MOBILE -- A newspaper advertisement opposing Governor Lurleen B. Wallace's stand on school desegregation gave Mobile its own academic-freedom crisis last week.

On April 3, a day before the University of Alabama debate began, 30 people --including three University of South Alabama faculty members--took an ad in a Mobile paper.

The ad expressed "dismay" at the governor's plan to defy the federal-court desegregation order.

The Rev. J. W. B. Thompson, Episcopal minister at the mostly-Negro Good Shepherd Church in Toulinville, said the ad had been "whipped up in a hurry." He said he didn't expect much reaction to it.

But on April 4, State Senator Mylan Engel of Mobile delivered a tirade on the Senate floor, calling the ad "vicious" and "immature."

Then Engel, who is a member of South Alabama's governing board, told TV reporters that those "who teach our young people" had no right to criticize the Wallaces in public. That was enough to alarm some people about the future of

the three-year-old university.

Students at South Alabama planned a demonstration on behalf of their faculty's right of free expression. But South Alabama president Frederick P. Whiddon and student body president Rick Boutwell negotiated with the would-be demonstrators.

So instead of demonstrating, the students issued a resolution criticizing Senator Engel's attacks and supporting "the right of freedom of expression (in . . . the university)."

Some students now are trying to get 600 signatures on a petition that goes farther than the resolution. The petition would force the South Alabama student government to take a stand on the basic issues of school desegregation and the Wallaces' defiance.

Meanwhile, Thompson, who had "whipped up" the original anti-Wallace ad, collected the names of 489 more people--including 30 from the South Alabama faculty -- for a bigger and stronger ad in the Mobile newspaper.

The second ad "brings back the real issue--which is our concern over racism," said Thompson.

"We were surprised and pleased at all the commotion caused by that first small ad," he said, but now the people who "defended the abstract issue of academic freedom" should "use their freedom to confront the gut issue of racism."

'This Is Not Wallace U.' POWER and RACISM

By STOKELY CARMICHAEL

HEADLINE OF CONTROVERSIAL CARMICHAEL ARTICLE

By ROBIN REISIG

TUSCALOOSA--"This is not Wallace University," read a sign in front of the residence of University of Alabama President Frank A. Rose.

The sign was one of several placed there by students supporting Rose in his dispute with a group of angry state legislators. The dispute grew out of a student-sponsored program, and a booklet -- "Emphasis '67 -- Revolutions" -- containing articles by Stokely Carmichael of SNCC, Roy Wilkins of the NAACP, and Miss Bettina Aptheker, a member of the Communist Party.

State Representative Ralph Slate of Morgan County struck the first blow in the conflict April 4 in the Alabama House. He charged that some of the authors in the booklet "want to turn the university over to the students to run, as they do in Berkeley, California."

Then Representative Leland Childs of Jefferson County introduced a "speaker-ban" measure, to declare state campuses off-limits for Communists, other people who advocate the overthrow of the government, and people who have refused to answer questions about subversive activities.

Legislators also threatened Rose's job because of the booklet, and there was a move to investigate "subversive" activities at state institutions.

The Carmichael article, which caused much of the excitement, was a basic explanation of the black power philosophy, aimed at a white audience.

It told of black Americans' "two problems: they are poor and they are black." And it concluded "We are just going to work, in the ways we see fit, and on goals we define, not for civil rights but for all our human rights."

Carmichael's article was countered within the booklet itself, as Wilkins criticized black power as "a reverse Mississippi, a reverse Hitler, a re-



verse Ku Klux Klan." Speaking before Birmingham attorneys the night of April 4, Rose said he and the university were not for sale, and that if he couldn't run a free university, he guessed he'd "have to find another job."

"I'm not going to sell out. . . I have no ambitions to be president," he said, (Presidential aspirant George Wallace had joined the booklet's critics.)

Rose further said, "We defend the democratic right of any American--and therefore of any Alabamian--to dissent."

Later, Ralph Knowles, president of the University Student Government Association (SGA), said that "for a person to become educated, he should hear all sides of the issue--regardless of how controversial or distasteful they may be --and then rationally decide which views to accept and which to refuse."

Student leaders from colleges and universities throughout the state have rallied to the SGA's and Rose's support.

Another controversy erupted at Troy State College, where the student paper printed merely the word "censored" in place of an editorial supporting Rose. Editor Gary Dickey said Troy State President Ralph Adams--who was appointed by Wallace--said the student newspaper "is owned by the state, and we have no right to criticize the state."

Meanwhile, students are circulating a petition in support of Rose, according to Mike Van De Veer, spokesman for the group that demonstrated and placed signs at the president's home.

"I'd welcome George Lincoln Rockwell, George Wallace, Robert Welch, Billy Graham, and Stokely Carmichael speaking on the same night," said Van De Veer. "It'd act as a mild diuretic to the mind for these students. They don't like Communists, civil rights workers, Republicans or Klansmen, but they don't know what Communists, civil rights workers, Republicans, or Klansmen are about."

New Twist To Barbour Fight

BY MARY ELLEN GALE
CLAYTON -- The controversy over Barbour County's summer Head Start program has been simmering in the background for months. This week, it broke out into the open.

At a meeting with Community Action Program (CAP) officials and advisory board members last Monday, representatives from the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) said they weren't satisfied with the proposed Head Start centers.

The Barbour County CAP advisory board had planned to pick 100 Head Start children at a meeting Tuesday night. But the selection was postponed because of OEO's objection to the proposed sites for the centers.

"The centers were turned down because they are all Negro schools," explained James Kenneth Ward, assistant director of the Barbour-Dale-Henry CAP. "OEO is not going to fund any program that is all-Negro or all-white."

Ward said the Negro schools were the only centers CAP could find so far. But John Kelly Jr., spokesman for a group of Negroes who have been arguing with CAP over the program, said CAP officials didn't look in the right places.

"We contend the centers should be in areas where the white people will participate," said Kelly. He suggested two sites in racially-mixed areas--the Eufaula Baptist Academy (a Negro private school), and the Shiloh Baptist Church (a Negro church in Clayton).

But Ward said he had gone to Kelly, chairman of the Baptist Academy's board of trustees, to ask for the use of those sites. He said Kelly "gave me the run-around."

"We also tried to get Rev. Cossey (G. H. Cossey, director of the Baptist

Academy) to let us run the program there and at Shiloh," Ward continued. "But he wouldn't give me permission in writing. He gave me an excuse every time."

Cossey said it was true that he wouldn't sign any papers for the Head Start program. "They gave us no criteria," he explained. "They ought to give us some idea what they're going to do, and who the personnel will be. Instead, they just said point-blank they wanted the building."

"I'm doubtful about the selection of personnel," added Kelly. "They're still saying they want people with college degrees. That would leave the poverty peoples untouched--and that's who the program is for."

"We should have qualified peoples," Kelly said, "but a person with a high school or junior high school education can instruct pre-school-age children. You can't teach a little child science or math anyway."

But Ward said CAP isn't going to back down on its requirements for Head Start teachers. "If I can find 20 people with Ph. D.'s in child development, I will hire them," he said. "I want the best people we can get."

"We got 20 other jobs for teachers' aides with no education requirement," Ward added. "But these people don't want this--no, they want to do something they can't do."

Ward said the critics of the Head Start program should bring their complaints to board meetings. "They say nothing to the board," he charged. "They raise sand after they get out. They just don't want to go right."

But Kelly--who attended the Tuesday night advisory board meeting--said he didn't think he needed to speak up. "OEO did it for us," he explained.

Men from HEW, Ala. Debate the Guidelines

TUSCALOOSA -- A federal official who helped create and enforce the school desegregation guidelines came to Alabama last Tuesday to debate an attorney who has often opposed them in court.



DAVID SEELEY

The meeting between David Seeley, assistant U. S. commissioner of education, and Montgomery attorney Maury D. Smith might have been called "Integration vs. Desegregation."

"The Constitution does not require integration," Smith said in the University of Alabama Law Forum. "It merely forbids segregation."

"Each man thinks he can define law by himself," Seeley said as he began his talk. He said the "key issue is, what did the Supreme Court say back in '54?" He was referring to the U. S. Supreme Court's famous school-desegregation ruling.

Seeley said it is wrong to claim that

separate schools are all right "so long as the Negro youngster is given the opportunity to go the white school and so long as he is let in."

This "sounds like freedom," Seeley said, but it really only "masquerades under the guise of freedom."

Smith argued that the "real issue" is not what the Supreme Court said, but rather, "Do the guidelines exceed the (1964 Civil Rights) Act of Congress?" He said they do, in several ways. The U. S. Congress said racial balance could not be required, Smith contended, and the guidelines "have not received Presidential approval," as specified in the Civil Rights Act.

Seeley called this lack of formal Presidential approval "technicality." Smith said he signed President Johnson's had not signed the guidelines because they were "a hot political potato."

When Smith complained that Negroes in a North Carolina county had demanded more integration after a dedication of a brand-new Negro school, Seeley said it was "tragic in a way" that a man could talk of establishing a "Negro" school.

One questioner asked how, "under freedom of choice," a white student --without a choice--could be given a Negro teacher.

"No person has a constitutional right to choose the teacher for the youngster," Seeley answered. If they did, he said, school systems would "go crazy."



Brundidge with the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Port Washington, N.Y.

The new Liptrot-Dawson Funeral Home held an open house last Saturday. The Rev. O. L. Gamble, pastor of County Line Baptist Church, was the speaker



OPEN HOUSE

for the occasion, and Brundidge Mayor R. E. Barr brought greetings from the city. People were there from all sections of Pike County. (From Mrs. D. B. Maddox)

Montgomery

G. T. Dowdy of Tuskegee Institute has been named to the civil rights advisory committee of the Alabama ASCS (Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service). He joins A. G. Gaston of Birmingham, Bishop William M. Smith of Mobile, and J. H. Glanton of Dothan on the committee. Jack M. Bridges of Headland, chairman of the state ASCS committee, said the civil rights advisory committee assists the state committee in assuring equal employment opportunities and equal participation in federal farm programs.

Washington, D.C.

The U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) has moved to cut off federal aid to Marion Institute in Marion, Ala. HEW Secretary John W. Gardner approved the cut-off in March, and it will become final later this month. Marion Institute was one of two colleges and four local school districts penalized for failing to comply

Miss Mary Elizabeth Moore, a Negro teen-ager from Birmingham, is now able to attend public school without charge while she lives with a white family here. Richard and Margery Rosen of Port Washington opened their home to Miss Moore, one of five children of a widow living on Social Security, so she could take advantage of a desegregated Northern education. But the local school board said she could not attend unless she paid tuition. After the NAACP Legal Defense Fund argued the case, however, State Education Commissioner James E. Allen ruled that Miss Moore should be admitted. She is staying with the white family under a National Urban League project called STEP (Student Transfer Education Program).

New York City Roy Wilkins, NAACP executive director, received the 1967 Freedom Award last month at a dinner in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. The award was presented by U. S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk and former U. S. Senator Paul H. Douglas. President Johnson sent a message hailing Wilkins as "one of the true leaders, not only of our time, but of all time."



DOUGLAS, WILKINS, RUSK



Fannie Lou Hamer



The committee: Senators Murphy, Javits, Clark, and Kennedy



Mrs. Hardy of Wayne Co. and Mrs. Blackwell of Issaquena Co.

U.S. SENATORS MEET THE PEOPLE

Anti-poverty program hear-
ings in the Heidelberg Hotel,
Jackson, Miss. (Story on Page
One)

Photographs by
Jim Pepler



Water



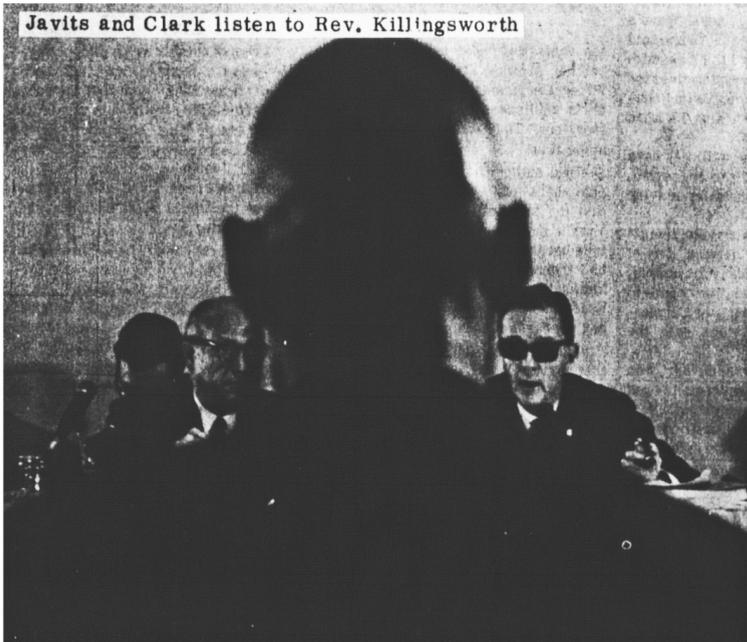
Senators Javits and Clark



Audience action



Audience reaction



Javits and Clark listen to Rev. Killingsworth



Senator Stennis testifies

THE STORY OF 'JUBILEE'

BY GAIL FALK

Hundreds of novels have been written about slavery, the Civil War, and Reconstruction in the South, but white men and women are the heroes and heroines of most of these books.

"Jubilee," by Margaret Walker of Jackson, Miss., is a different story. The novel, published last fall, tells about black men during that historic time.

The heroine of "Jubilee" is Vyry, who was born a slave on a plantation in Terrell County, Ga. Everyone said Vyry looked just like Lillian, who was the daughter of John Morris Dutton and his wife, "Big Missy" Sallina, the owners of the plantation where Vyry grew up.

Almost everyone knew the reason. "Marse John" was Vyry's father too. But Vyry's mother was a slave, and this meant that blonde, gray-eyed Vyry was a slave as well.

The little girls often played together, but Vyry was not allowed to wear her blonde hair in curls like Lillian's, and she slept on a pallet at the foot of Lillian's big canopied bed.

But Vyry never complained. She never imagined she could live any other way. Never, that is, until she met Randall Ware, a Negro blacksmith. Ware was a free man. He owned a shop, a grist mill, and more than 200 acres of land in Dawson, Ga.

He fell in love with Vyry. He wanted to marry her, but in those days slaves were not allowed to marry free men.

Ware talked to Vyry about freedom. The idea frightened the slave girl. "Freedom is a secret word I dare not say," she told Ware. But at night she dreamed she was trying to go through a beautiful door marked "Freedom." Although she kept turning the golden knob, the door would not open.

Marse John would not let his slave daughter marry Randall Ware, but Vyry bore two of the free man's children. She named them Jim and Minna.

One day Ware told Vyry that he could not stay in Georgia any longer. White men in Terrell County wanted to kill him because they suspected he was helping slaves to escape. Vyry agreed to escape to the North with him by the underground railroad.

But Vyry was caught before she left the plantation. The punishment for trying to escape was 75 lashes on her naked back. Ware could not wait. By the time Vyry recovered from the fever that followed her whipping, he had gone North.

Vyry stayed with her children on the Dutton plantation after the Civil War broke out. She worked in the kitchen as she always had, while the white men of the plantation left to become Confederate soldiers and most of the slaves ran away to join the Union Army.

She was still working faithfully in May, 1865, when the troops of General William Tecumseh Sherman came to the plantation and told the slaves that they were free.

Vyry was glad, but puzzled. She didn't know where her man, Ware, had gone, or if he would come back. She didn't know what to do with her freedom.

Many former slaves were traveling with Sherman's army because they didn't have anywhere else to go. One of them

was Innis Brown. He asked Vyry and her children to go with him to Alabama.

Brown had been a fieldhand. He wasn't smart like Randall Ware, and he didn't know a trade, or own a shop and land. But he was a good farmer and a hard worker, and Vyry finally agreed to go with him. They loaded all they had into a rickety wagon, and in January, 1866, set off with the two children to find a new life.

Neither Vyry nor Innis knew anything about Alabama. Much of the land in the Wiregrass was still wilderness, and they had heard freedmen could just pick an empty plot of ground and settle there.

They crossed the Chattahoochee River into Alabama at Fort Gaines. Before long, they found a spot they liked in a river bottom not far from Abbeville.

The family worked hard, clearing, building, and planting. Then, when the spring rains came, they found out why no one had been living in the river bottom. The Chattahoochee flooded, killing their cow and ruining their farm.

The house near Abbeville was only the first of several homes for Vyry and her family. Next, they moved onto 25 acres of rocky land owned by a white man. Brown marked his "X" on the man's contract without understanding how sharecropping worked. After a year of struggling to make a crop on the poor land, Vyry and Innis discovered they owed all they had earned--and more--to the white owner.

After that, Vyry got a job cooking and Innis worked hard doing odd jobs in Troy until they had saved enough to build a home on 40 acres of their own land just outside the Pike County town.

Not long after the house was finished, white-hooded Ku Klux Klansmen burned it to the ground to show that they didn't like Negroes who owned property. As the family looked through the ruins of their hard work the next morning, Innis suggested rebuilding. But Vyry told him, "Doesn't you know yet what them Ku Kluxers mean? . . . They means GIT!"

Vyry and her family moved to Luverne. But Crenshaw County was in the midst of a bad famine. Most of the land in that area was swampy and there was no place to farm.

With the help of the Freedmen's Bureau, the family finally located land near Greenville, in Butler County. This time Vyry refused to build a house until she could be sure it would not be destroyed by Klansmen. Sadly, she discovered that white people in Greenville were like white people in Troy--they did not like independent Negroes. It seemed that the Brown family would never be able to settle down in their own home.

But one day Vyry answered a call for help from a white woman in labor. The baby was born safely, thanks to Vyry's skill. There was no other midwife in Greenville, and the townsmen begged Vyry to stay and be their "granny."

A few days later, Vyry and Innis began building their house at last. And their white neighbors came around to welcome them and help them build.

Vyry saw Randall Ware once more in her life. He came back to Georgia to look for her, and traced her across the state line to Greenville. He begged her to return to Dawson as his wife and to let him educate the children.

Vyry let Jim go off with his father to Selma University. But she chose to stay with Innis Brown in the house they had built in Greenville, and she lived there all the rest of her life.



ARTIST'S IDEA OF VYRY AS A YOUNG GIRL

A Negro Writes of Her Family's Struggle

BY GAIL FALK

JACKSON, Miss.--Vyry is not just a character in a book. There really was a Georgia plantation slave who tried to build a life of freedom for her family in Alabama.

Her name was Margaret Duggans Ware Brown, and she was the great-grandmother of Mrs. Margaret Walker Alexander, the author of "Jubilee."

The story of how Mrs. Alexander wrote a novel about her great-grandmother's life is almost as interesting as the book itself.

Mrs. Brown died an old woman in Greenville about the time of World War I. But Mrs. Brown's daughter (who is Minna in "Jubilee") used to tell stories about her mother to her grandchildren.

Margaret Walker, now Mrs. Alexander, was one of those grandchildren.

Ever since she heard those stories as a girl in Birmingham, she wanted to turn them into a novel.

When she was 19, Mrs. Alexander wrote a draft of the first 300 pages--the story of Vyry's life on the plantation. But she put her book down, realizing that she didn't know how to write well enough.

"I was always telling, not showing. No one had taught me about simple characterization or picking details or how to make a scene come alive," the author says now. She went North to learn.

Mrs. Alexander studied writing at Northwestern University in Illinois and at Iowa State University. In the 1930's, when many young authors were practicing on short stories, Mrs. Alexander wrote poetry.

"That was because there has always been music in my life. My mother and sister were musical. My grandfather was musical. Pattern and rhythm are what I know," says Mrs. Alexander.

Some people criticized the poetry for its strong note of protest. Critics have objected to "Jubilee" for the same reason.

"Well, I'm a Negro and a woman and

I'm poorly. Those are my reasons for protest," Mrs. Alexander says.

Some of her poems became well known--especially one called "For My People"--and Yale University published a book of her work. But the young woman wasn't really interested in being a poet. "My whole life ambition was to finish off 'Jubilee,'" she says now.

For 25 years that ambition was just a dream. Mrs. Alexander married and became the mother of four children. And she started teaching English full-time at Jackson State College.

"I haven't spent my lifetime writing. I have spent my lifetime teaching," Mrs. Alexander says with regret. "I have had to live in the academic world to make a living. Teaching was supposed to be a means to an end. I almost dried up teaching."

But all the while "Jubilee" was growing in Mrs. Alexander's mind. If she could tell her great-grandmother's story well enough, she thought, it would be the story of thousands of freedmen who struggled to build new lives after Emancipation.

And then, Mrs. Alexander got a chance to finish the book she had begun

when she was still a girl. She won a fellowship for a semester of writing and study at Iowa State. By chance, she completed her novel on April 9, 1965, 100 years from the day the Confederate Army surrendered to the Union forces at Appomattox, Va.

But writing the book wasn't easy. Although her grandmother's memories provided enough material for the main lines of the story, Mrs. Alexander knew she would need to combine research and imagination to turn the tales into a full-length novel.

Because she wanted "Jubilee" to give a true picture of Alabama and Georgia in the 19th century, she spent months studying the Civil War and Reconstruction. One major problem was Vyry's master, John Morris Dutton, Mrs. Alexander didn't know how a Southern plantation owner lived, or what he might have thought.

But her research turned up a Georgia planter's diary and papers, carefully preserved in a historical library in North Carolina. Mrs. Alexander used the planter as a model for Dutton.

Tucked away in the same library, Mrs. Alexander found papers giving many slaves' recollections of life on the plantations. Those recorded memories became details of "Jubilee."

In Dawson, Ga., Mrs. Alexander went through the town records until she turned up the papers for Randall Ware's property. In one year, 1875, he had sold all his property except his blacksmith shop. Like a detective putting clues together, Mrs. Alexander made an "educated guess" that the Ku Klux Klan had a hand in the sale.

"That man would not willingly have sold all his property," she suggested. "It was the price he paid for staying there."

Where research couldn't help, imagination could fill in the details. One of the high points of the book, for example, is the day the Union soldiers come to Vyry's plantation and read the Emancipation Proclamation, which said the slaves were free.

Mrs. Alexander's grandmother, who was then six years old, remembered that her mother fried chicken all day. She recalled that her brother Jim wanted to run off and follow the army, and that Jim picked her up and shouted, "You're free! You're free!"

By imagining how Vyry must have felt, how the soldiers acted, and what some of the other slaves did after they were freed, Mrs. Alexander made that thin memory a whole chapter of her book.

She says she left out some true stories because they would have sounded



PORTRAIT OF VYRY AS AN OLD LADY

too fantastic. For instance, a black panther prowled around one of Vyry's Wiregrass homes, but Mrs. Alexander's publishers told her to leave that story out. They said it sounded like she made it up.

Town authorities in Troy wrote the publishers of "Jubilee" to complain that the story about Klansmen burning Vyry's new house in Troy couldn't be true because things had never been that bad there. Mrs. Alexander says she knows from her grandmother that the house was burned, and she knows from her research that things were that bad.

"Jubilee" is built around the music that surrounded Mrs. Alexander as she grew up. At the beginning of every chapter are the words of a song that Vyry might have known. "Some of them I've known all my life. Others were the result of research," Mrs. Alexander explains.

She found the song that starts "I'll be dar when de muster am calling" in a 100-year-old song book. "It made my hair rise," Mrs. Alexander says. In the book, Vyry sings that song to tell her joy as she rides with her family in their covered wagon--bound for Alabama and a new life.

Although she is again teaching full-time at Jackson State College, Mrs. Alexander is hard at work on a new book about Negro religion and has plans for novels about her grandmother and her mother.

But she is modest about her accomplishment. "I'm not sure I'm a great writer," she says. "I lived with 'Jubilee' so long it was an impassioned thing."

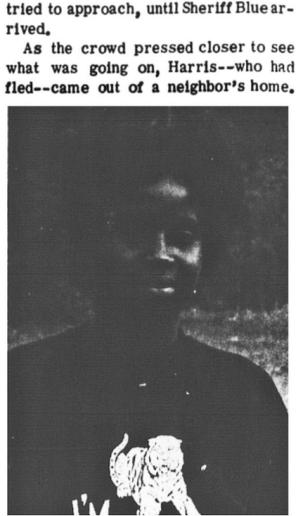


THE AUTHOR OF "JUBILEE" (RIGHT), AND HER DAUGHTER (LEFT)

Witnesses Describe Killing Lewis, Mrs. Johnson Hit Co-Op, But Gomillion Indicates Approval

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)
 on around and reached up his hand to put handcuffs on me. I didn't see what I done to be arrested, I jerked my hand away, twisted away, and he hit me on the back of the neck with his pistol.
 "I heard a shot, I seen Willie falling. Two more shots and I was running," Simpson, who was talking with friends nearby as King and Harris left the night club, looked up when he heard Harris and Tolliver arguing.
 "I seen Preacher grab his pistol," Simpson said. "He raised his arm like this--I don't know whether to hit or to shoot. When the shot fired, that boy (King) fell."
 Whatever the argument was, Simpson said bitterly, "It just wasn't nothin' for nobody to pull out a pistol about. But Preacher, he pulled that gun out two or three times before, other nights, been waving it around."
 District Attorney Reeves said Tolliver had arrived at the night club after it closed. But Simpson and Mrs. Dorothy Baskin both said they had seen Tolliver inside, drinking, earlier in the evening.
 "He drunk just as much as anyone else there," said Mrs. Baskin, who lives next door to the club in the northwest Bullock County community of Highlow. "I tell you the honest truth, he drinks enough to get drunk when he come along out here."
 Mrs. Baskin said she heard the shot Sunday morning, and ran outside. "Willie was lying there with a bloody spot under his right arm," she said. "Blood was coming out of his nose and mouth."
 After the shooting, Mrs. Baskin said, she and some friends tried to go to King's aid. "Preacher had his hand on his gun," she said. "He told us to get back. We got back."
 Mrs. Baskin said Tolliver stayed by the body, pulling his gun on anyone who

tried to approach, until Sheriff Blue arrived.
 As the crowd pressed closer to see what was going on, Harris--who had fled--came out of a neighbor's home.
 BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN
 MONTGOMERY -- The head of the Alabama Democratic Conference, Inc., (ADC) and the director of Macon County's anti-poverty program have been actively opposing a federal grant to the Southwest Alabama Farmers Cooperative Association (SWAFCA), according to people in Washington.
 Reliable people in Washington and in Alabama said Rufus Lewis of the ADCI had sent a letter to the federal Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO), outlining his objections to the ten-county farm cooperative.
 Lewis could not be reached for comment this week, and Mrs. Johnson would not say whether or not she was opposing the program. But Mrs. Johnson said, "I think it's always good to check anything and anybody out before you spend the people's money."
 "I have my own opinions about how things should be done, and who should be doing them," she added.
 A leader prominent both in the ADCI and in Macon County affairs, C. G. Gomillion of Tuskegee, said he was inclined to be in favor of SWAFCA.
 "From what I understand about their efforts there, I would be in favor of it," Gomillion said.
 "I'm in favor of cooperatives on the basis of principle," he explained, saying he spoke from his own experience with a credit union and a people's cooperative store. "It seems to me that if a cooperative is operated by responsible persons, I certainly would be in favor of it."
 Gomillion said he didn't think such cooperatives had to be headed by established Negro leaders.
 "Any folk in any county who can establish and operate a cooperative ought to have the opportunity to do it," he said. "If local people are interested enough to try to establish one, they should receive all the help they can get."



MRS. DOROTHY BASKIN
 Aaron Blakely, a bystander, saw Blue and Tolliver arrest Harris. "Blue told him, 'I'm puttin' you in jail... you're liable to go to the penitentiary. You caused a good man to get killed,'" Blakely said.

No More Fights After School Officials Act

BY GAIL FALK
 ENTERPRISE, Miss. -- Like many newly-desegregated schools in this area, Enterprise High School has been troubled with fights between Negro and white students since September.
 But during the last month, say Negro students, the fights have completely stopped, because of the actions of school officials.
 "Before, I kept wanting to drop out," said one Negro high school student, who didn't want her name used. "Everything seemed to be so inhuman. You just expected for young adults to act better than that."
 The white students constantly picked on the Negroes, especially on the boys, she said. The Negro boys didn't talk or hit back much, said the girl, because "a fight's the last thing they wanted. They were outnumbered." But still, she said, fights often broke out.
 The girl said the 11th- and 12th-grade teachers and the principal tried to keep order, but they didn't always have control: "One while, steam was so hot over there I thought some of the (white) boys was going to jump on the principal, because of the way he was acting toward us."
 But, she added, "all that's stopped since the big fight."
 The "big fight" was a tangle that started when a gang of white boys jumped three Negro boys (all juniors) on their way to the shop, Charles Killingsworth, one of the Negro boys, suffered a ruptured eardrum in the scuffle that followed.
 After that, Killingsworth's father, the Rev. J. C. Killingsworth, went to District School Superintendent T. R. Chisum. "I told him these problems that were constantly coming up just had to stop," Killingsworth recalled this week.

"I asked what action did the school officials plan to take. I told him I had some ideas, but I felt like it was their problem--that's what they are paid for."
 And before long, said Killingsworth, two things were done.
 A notice was sent home with every student at Enterprise High School, announcing a new school policy. The note said any student who started a fight would be suspended from school for ten days, and any student who got into a second fight would be suspended for the rest of the year.
 Then an FBI agent from Laurel came to the school, and called a conference with all the white boys who had been in the big fight. According to Killingsworth, these same boys had been involved in most of the other fights, too.
 According to Killingsworth, the agent later said he had told the boys that if they caused more trouble for the Negro students, they and their parents would end up in court.
 Superintendent Chisum refused to make any comment about the situation.
 But the Negro girl who wanted to leave Enterprise High earlier in the year said she likes going to school, now that the harassment has let up.
 "It's too good to be true," she said.

Mrs. King sat calmly in her living room, surrounded by her family and friends. "I don't know what to do to support my children now," she said. "I know I'll have to work."
 Only her two older children were there. "My baby was havin' fits, so I sent her to her grandmother," said Mrs. King.
 "I feel really bad," she continued, "but I wanted to do something. I wasn't scared at all to sign that warrant. Something ought to be done about it. I feel like they taken his life just for nothing."
 Harris was charged with disorderly conduct, and released on bond the next morning.
 The day after the killing, Harris spoke quietly about King, a life-long friend. "We was like brothers," he said. "If I had anything, he could ask for it. If he had something, he'd give it to me."
 Other friends described King as "quiet," "a good worker," and "the nicest boy you'd ever want to meet." "He wasn't no sand-raiser, never," said Simpson.

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SNCC: N'ville Riot Was a 'Frame-Up'
 ATLANTA, Ga. -- Last weekend's disturbance in Nashville, Tenn., was a "set-up and a frame-up," SNCC charged this week.
 More than 100 Negro students and citizens--including at least three SNCC workers--were arrested, and 50 people were injured after SNCC chairman Stokely Carmichael spoke to Nashville students.
 Weeks before Carmichael's appearance, SNCC charged, white officials and newspapers began predicting a riot. "The fact is that Stokely Carmichael went to Nashville... and then left for another city with no trouble breaking out," said a SNCC statement. "But the white powers--that be in Nashville could not let their prediction fail to materialize."
 So, SNCC said, a Negro student was arrested in a Fisk University campus restaurant, and when a crowd gathered, police called out the riot squad. By last Monday, said SNCC, the black section of Nashville was "like an occupied concentration camp."

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WANT ADS
 JOB OPENINGS--The Southern Courier will soon be interviewing applicants for four positions on its business staff. Two people are needed to work on circulation and subscriptions, and two are needed to work on advertising. High pay, generous expense accounts. Applicants must be honest, responsible, and willing to work long hours, and they must be experienced or interested in business. A car is required. If interested, call 262-3572 in Montgomery to arrange an interview.
 FOR A BETTER ALABAMA--The Alabama Council on Human Relations has active chapters in Birmingham, Mobile, Montgomery, Huntsville, Florence-Tusculumbia-Sheffield, Auburn-Opelika-Tuskegee, Talladega, and Tuscaloosa. It has a staff that works throughout the state. The Alabama Council is integrated at all levels: its staff officers, staff, and local chapters all have people of both races working side by side. The Alabama Council wishes to establish local chapters in every county in the state. If you wish to join the Council's crusade for equal opportunity and human brotherhood, write The Alabama Council, P.O. Box 1310, Auburn, Alabama.
 PEACE DEMONSTRATION--Join the nation-wide demonstration against the war in Viet Nam. Meet at noon Saturday, April 15, in Kelly Ingram Park, Fourth Ave. N. and 16th St. N., in Birmingham.
 CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS--"Ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you." These words of Jesus, as given in the gospel of St. John, will open the responsive reading in The Bible Lesson on "Doctrine of Atonement," to be read in all Christian Science churches this Sunday, April 16.
 TALLADEGA --Make \$10 or more a week by selling The Southern Courier. Call 262-3572 in Montgomery.
 EASY MONEY--Sell The Southern Courier in Huntsville, and make \$20 for a few hours of work. If interested, call 262-3572 in Montgomery.
 ECUMENICAL SEMINAR--The Ecumenical Institute of New Orleans, La., is sponsoring a spring seminar for clergy and laymen April 24-28 at the Gulfside Assembly Grounds in Waveland, Miss. Information on courses and costs is available from the Toulminville Methodist Church in Mobile, or from the Ecumenical Institute of New Orleans, 3404 Louisiana Ave. Parkway, New Orleans, La. 70125.
 CHURCH SERVICES--The Bayside Church of Christ in Mobile, 713 Bayou St. at Malin, cordially invites the public to its Sunday worship at 11 a.m. Bible school is held at 10 a.m. on Sunday, and Bible classes at 7 p.m. every Wednesday evening. The Rev. J. F. Gilcrease, pastor.
 LEARN TO READ -- Learn how to read, or improve your reading. No charge for lessons. For information, call Mrs. Chambliss, 265-4394 in Montgomery.
 ARKANSAS--The Arkansas Council on Human Relations has affiliate councils in Conway, Fayetteville, Pine Bluff, Fort Smith, and North Little Rock. We are interested in establishing local councils throughout the state. ACHR is integrated at all levels, working in education, voter education, employment, welfare, and housing. For information, write Arkansas Council on Human Relations, 1310 Wright, Little Rock, Ark. 72206.
 CHOICE OPPORTUNITY--For medical records librarian or technician. The challenging task of directing the medical records department of a modern 95-bed hospital awaits the "challenger" at Good Samaritan Hospital in Selma, Ala. Exceptional working conditions, fringe benefits, salary open. Letter of application should include character references, work experience, and educational background. Send to Good Samaritan Hospital, P.O. Box 1053, Selma, Ala. 36701.

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Baha'is -- "Equality of Men and Women" will be the subject of this week's informal, public discussion by the Baha'is of Montgomery. These gatherings will be held at 8 p.m. the Chambliss home, 1925 Kenny St. in Montgomery, on Thursday; the Brook home, 33 Gallard in Tuskegee, on Friday; and the Featherstone home, 3222 Santee Dr., on Saturday. No contributions, no obligations.
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 CHURCH SERVICES--The Bayside Church of Christ in Mobile, 713 Bayou St. at Malin, cordially invites the public to its Sunday worship at 11 a.m. Bible school is held at 10 a.m. on Sunday, and Bible classes at 7 p.m. every Wednesday evening. The Rev. J. F. Gilcrease, pastor.
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'Now, Three or Four People Run the Town'

Commission or Council for Troy?

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

TROY--"Negroes are a certain percentage of the population," said Dan Johnson. "We feel like they should be represented just like everybody else."

Johnson, a white man, is chairman of the Committee for Progress, a bi-racial group which has petitioned to change Troy's governing body from a three-man city commission to a six-member council.

The committee has collected 600 signatures--enough to put the question to the voters in a city-wide election April 25.

Committee spokesmen--and some of Troy's Negro leaders--said that replacing the commission with a council would give Negroes an opportunity to serve on the governing body.

"If we switch over," said Mrs. Johnnie M. Warren, president of the all-Negro Pike County Voters League, "we might have a chance of working some Negroes on. I don't see where we have a possible chance now."

But supporters of the city commission said the Committee for Progress was raising the race issue just to win the Negro vote. (About 40% of Troy's 13,000 people are Negroes.)

"They won't have any more chance to elect a Negro than they do now," said Sam Murphree, a city commissioner for 19 years. "The council will be chosen the way we are--at-large."

Johnson admitted that the council--a mayor and five councilmen--would be elected city-wide. But, he said, each of the five councilmen would have to come from a different ward.

Another white man who favors the change charged that the people who want to keep the city commission "are all afraid a Negro's going to be elected. What the hell is wrong with it? Those people live here too. They pay taxes. They buy licenses. Why shouldn't they have some representation?"

"I'm not going to say anything about that," Murphree replied. "We are sympathetic to the Negro cause. We've had no trouble in Troy."

Besides changing the city's system of government, the Committee for Progress wants school board members to be elected (they are now appointed by the city commission). The committee also outlined plans to attract industry, improve recreational facilities, and encourage people to take an active part in local government.



MRS. JOHNNIE M. WARREN

But Murphree called these plans "just promises." "We can't promise the way they can," he said, "because we know we can't do all these things at once."

John E. Nolen, principal of the all-Negro Academy St. High School, agreed with Murphree that the commissioners are doing the best they can. "The people in now are broad and liberal-minded," Nolen said.

"The Wallace people haven't been able to get control here," he added. The council, he said, would provide "a way for them to get in, and set us back 25-30 years."

Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights

The weekly meeting will be at 7 p.m. Monday, April 17, at the St. James Baptist Church, 1100 Sixth Ave. N., the Rev. C. W. Sewell, pastor.



SPRING PRACTICE IN TUSCALOOSA

Negroes to Play For U. of Ala.?

BY ROBIN REISIG

TUSCALOOSA -- As veteran members of the University of Alabama football team turned out for spring practice last month, they found that something new had been added--the first Negro candidates for the Crimson Tide.

No Negroes have ever played varsity football for any Southeastern Conference team. But five Negro athletes--guard Dock Rone of Montgomery, halfback Jerome Tucker of Birmingham, halfback Arthur Denning of Mobile, halfback Andrew Pernel of Bessemer, and fullback Melvin Leverett of Prichard, were among the 151 players reporting for spring practice at Alabama.

Rone, a freshman, said he had asked Tide Coach Bear Bryant last fall if it was "OK if I came out for the team." The coach said it was, but Rone said he decided to wait, because "football would take time from my studies." "It was my first time in a predicament like this--an all-white school--and I didn't want to mess up," he explained.

Last January, said Rone, he went back to Bryant, and the coach "told me again it would be perfectly all right. He told me, 'We take football pretty seriously around here,' and he'd expect me to give it all I got."

"He told me I'd be treated just like everybody else, and I'd be expected to act just like everybody else. And that's been true."

At Carver High School in Montgomery, Rone was president of the student council, an honor society member for four years, captain of the football team, and all-state tackle. He said he turned down a scholarship to Mississippi Valley State, and came to Alabama with the intention of playing football.

Rone said he was "very well accepted by the older players. They lend assistance whenever it's needed. They seem to have taken a liking to me, which is all the more encouraging to me."

Natchez Trial

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

calfe said the hung jury was "no more than I had expected. Anytime there is Klansmen on the jury, then you know what's going to happen."

Last Monday night, Negroes staged marches in downtown Natchez to protest the outcome. Jones will be tried again in July.

And Pernel added, "Some of the white boys in my dorm congratulated me for going out, wished me luck, said they hoped I made the team."

Coming out for spring practice is just a first step toward playing for the Tide. Many candidates drop out along the way, and beginners don't go straight to the varsity.

"I'm pretty sure I'll be on the freshman team next year," Rone said. Since he is in a five-year engineering program, that could still give him three years, the maximum allowed, on the varsity team.

Alabama's team has always been all-white, but "since the University was integrated, we'd have taken any student who qualifies," Coach Bryant said. "We don't care what color they are, or what color eyes they have--just how they play."

In the past, many Negro athletes have left the South to play major-college football. Would Bryant now consider recruiting football players from Negro high schools?

"If they were qualified, had outstanding academic and athletic records, sure we'd be interested," he said.



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OLE GOSPEL SHIP

9-11 AM Willie McKinstry

NOON SPECIAL

11 AM-1 PM Sam Double "OO" Moore

AFTERNOON SESSION

1-3:30 PM Rick Upshaw

MOVIN' HOME SHOW

3:30-6 PM Sam Double "OO" Moore

EVENING SPECIAL

6-8 PM Rick Upshaw

OLE GOSPEL SHIP

8-10 PM Willie McKinstry

LATE DATE

10 PM-Midnight Johnny "Jive" McClure

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Midnight-6 AM Lewis White

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6 AM-Noon Rick Upshaw

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Noon-6 PM Johnny "Jive" McClure

SATURDAY EXPRESS

6 PM-Midnight "Little Walter" Anglin

Sunday

ALL-NIGHT SHOW

Midnight-10 AM Johnny Jackson

FAVORITE CHURCHES

10 AM-4 PM "Little Walter" Anglin

SONGS OF THE CHURCH

4-6 PM Willie McKinstry

JOHNNY JACKSON

6 PM-Midnight



News at Twenty-Five and Fifty-Five Past the Hour

BIG D RADIO

Birmingham

Nolen was referring to a Committee for Progress statement that if the city votes to replace the commission with a council, Governor Lurleen B. Wallace will appoint councilmen within 30 days.

But the state attorney general's office said last week that cities may install a new form of government only at the time of a state-wide municipal election. The next one is in August, 1968.

Under the law, Troy would have to elect 12 councilmen--the number it had before switching to a three-man commission 20 years ago. The Committee for Progress says the number should be

reduced to six.

Mrs. Warren said that either way, the council would be better than the commission. "Right now, three or four people run the town," she said. "When you ask for something, they feed you a mouthful of sugar--but they don't do anything. They wouldn't even cooperate with the poverty program."

"This fellow called me--he's white, but he's like me, he don't have anything," Mrs. Warren continued. "He said it's time for the poor whites and the Negroes to get together and bring about a change."

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