

'Somebody Got Their Lines Crossed Up'

Is Choctaw Hospital Integrated, or Not?

BY ROBIN REISIG

BUTLER, Ala.--Last May 1, after a careful six-month "planning stage," the Choctaw General Hospital was officially desegregated.

But last Friday, the U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) ruled that the hospital was not in compliance with the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and could not receive federal funds.

Said one hospital official, "Somebody in Washington got their lines crossed up."

Irving Wilner, the federal official in charge of the Choctaw General case, admitted that HEW's decision was based entirely on information obtained before Dec. 30, 1966. "I was not aware the hospital had done a thing to change its practices," he said.

The hospital had filed the required forms with the state health department as soon as it desegregated, officials said, and a federal investigator from Atlanta, Ga., was in Butler for an inspection the day before HEW's announcement.

But according to Wilner, Washington knew nothing of this. The ban on federal funds may be lifted as soon as the hospital proves it is complying with the Civil Rights Act.

But the ruling has shaken the staff of Choctaw General. "I'm not going to dispute it," said an angry hospital official. "If they leave me alone, I'll leave them alone." But the official later said Choctaw General will continue with integration, and is still hoping to be approved for Medicare and other federal programs.

A decision based on the investigator's recent visit won't be reached for at least a month. And anyway, how much integration did the inspector--from the Atlanta branch of the Office of Equal Health Opportunity--find when he visited the

hospital last week?

"We're integrated," claimed the hospital official. Room assignments are made "just as they (patients) come in," he said. (But this week, he admitted, "there was no bi-racial room occupancy.")

On June 28, the Rev. L. I. Spears--a Negro member of the bi-racial committee dealing with complaints of discrimination--went with the hospital's administrator to Meridian, Miss., to speak with an HEW representative.

Spears said the HEW man asked if the hospital met the specifications for integration. "I told him no it wouldn't, and the hospital administrator admitted it wouldn't," the minister said.

Spears explained last Wednesday, "It's token. The 300 ward (formerly all-Negro) is predominantly Negro. Yesterday I went on it, and saw only two whites."

Spears--and a Negro employee who didn't want her name

used because she was afraid of losing her job--said the hospital has turned many double rooms into single rooms since May 1. The employee said she thought this was to avoid integrating the rooms. But the hospital official said, "Integration didn't have anything to do with it."

Negroes and whites still sit on separate sides of the staff dining room. But the official said staff members have not been told to sit separately, and he expects they will sit together "when they get over the shock."

But a Negro employee said that a few days after May 1, a Negro woman who sat down at an empty table in the white section was told to move. After that, said this employee, "quite a few Negroes stopped eating in the dining hall."

Other employees said the only time they saw a Negro and a white person eating at the same table was the day the inspector came. "Since the inspector was here," said one employee, "it's been working out better."

THE SOUTHERN COURIER

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TEN CENTS

250 Protest Welfare; And Now It's More Actions Planned Lady Power

BY BETTIE MANUEL

JACKSON, Miss.--About 250 people marched from the Parish St. Baptist Church to the welfare office here last Friday. They asked the welfare officials for adequate aid payments.

One of the marchers, Mrs. Geraldine Smith, said she had to care for her seven children on \$79 a month. She said the welfare department told her she had to work, although her children are not school-age.

"I have to carry them around to other people's houses if I go out to work," she said. "Then they get sick, and I have to pay out what little I earn for medicine and doctor bills."

Another marcher, Mrs. Ida Mae Smith, said she was rejected for welfare two weeks ago. She said she has no income except Social Security benefits for two of her seven children.

The march was organized by the Hinds County Movement for Welfare Rights and the Freedom Democratic Party (FDP). Speakers from the FDP's Jackson office said the march was the



first in a state-wide series of demonstrations for welfare rights. They said there would be a meeting next Saturday in Mt. Beulah to organize further demonstrations.

BY KERRY GRUSON

TUSKEGEE, Ala.--"Anybody know what 'woman power' is? Woman power means us," said Miss Dorothy Height, president of the National Conference of Negro Women (NCNW).

"The time has come for women to work together, to see what we need and what we can do to get it."

Last weekend, ladies from all over Macon County gathered in the Tuskegee Institute ballroom to see what they could do. They discussed just about everything that was on their minds.

There were complaints about low-paying jobs, inadequate welfare, substandard housing, and lack of medical care. One mother even suggested, "Let's do something about that music they play in recreation centers. It's just not wholesome. It isn't elevating for the children."

The weekend session--organized by Mrs. Consuello J. Harper, president of the Macon County NCNW branch--was the first "Project Womanpower" workshop in the country. Similar workshops are planned in 30 communities across the U. S.

"Alabama is always behind," Miss Height told the ladies. "But this time, it is a path-finder. We're going to show people what power women have."

The Macon County ladies set up one committee to work on day-care centers, and another to examine welfare payments. "We're going to look into why Negro families get less than white families," said one participant.

The group elected Mrs. Beatrice Moore of Hardaway to head a committee on credit unions.

There were other committees, too--and a final warning. "We always go to meetings and resolve 'whereas' and 'whereas,' but things stay just as is," said Mrs. Clara Byrd. "We must work together."

Boone Gets 30 Days

3 Demonstrators Fined

BY PATRICIA M. GORENCE

MONTGOMERY, Ala.--Three civil rights demonstrators were fined a total of \$350 and costs last Friday in Municipal Court. One of them, the Rev. Richard Boone of SCLC, also was sentenced to 30 days in jail.

Judge Bishop Barron found Boone guilty of interfering with the arrest of another demonstrator, Jacques Bradley, last June 19. Police Captain E. L. Wright testified that as he tried to arrest Bradley, Boone grabbed Bradley and said, "If you're gonna arrest him, you have to arrest me too."

Wright said he then arrested both men. The arrests came after city police had blocked an attempted march to the Capitol.

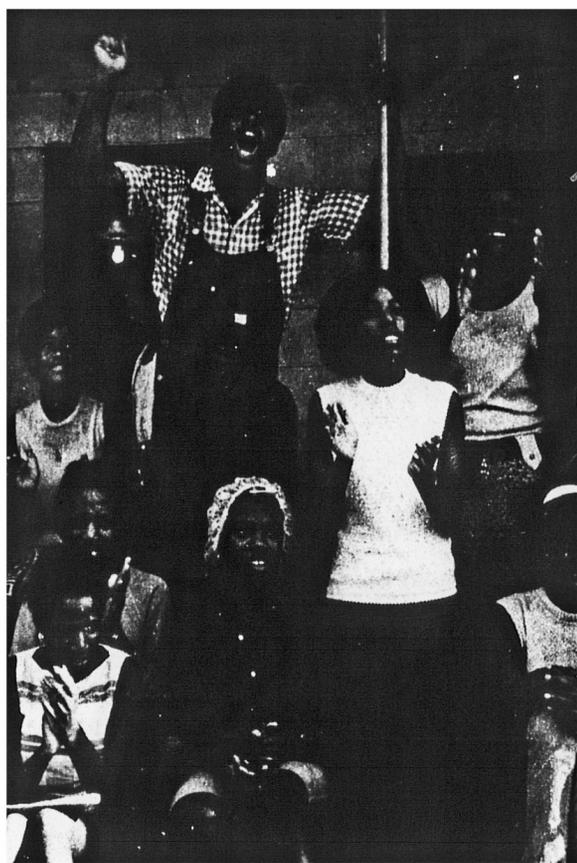
Boone's attorney, Solomon Seay Jr., argued that "the whole conduct of the city was unlawful and unconstitutional," because the city refused a permit June 19 after allowing Negroes to march without one earlier.

Boone was sentenced to 30 days and fined \$100, and Bradley--convicted of disorderly conduct--was fined \$50.

Barron also convicted Miss Gladys Williams of unlawful public assembly (parading without a permit), and fined her \$100. Miss Williams and two other girls--Miss Gloria German and Miss Nitrician Hadnott--were arrested June 19 after trying to break through police lines.

In juvenile court last week, Miss German was put on probation, and Miss Hadnott was lectured and released.

Miss Williams was also convicted last Friday of assault and battery, for throwing a broken bottle that cut a white boy on the arm. Witnesses for the city



PRATTVILLE, Ala.--About 25 people were present when the "wakening rally" began June 29 in Prattville. But as the group marched and sang through predominantly Negro neighborhoods, 30 more people--most of them under 21--joined the procession.

The march was sponsored by the Autauga County Improvement Association. On the application for a parade permit, the reason for the march was given as "I don't know." But Edward Rudolph of SCLC, who led the march, said it was a "wakening rally" for the Negroes of Prattville.

Prattville police--there were ten of them at one point--kept a close watch on the marchers. Two state troopers were also on hand.



REV. RICHARD BOONE

were not sure whether the boy had struck Miss Williams with a stick before or after she threw the bottle.

The incident occurred June 13 near Sidney Lanier High School, where both Miss Williams and the boy were students. City Prosecutor Matt Piel contended that Miss Williams should have gone to school officials for help when the boy started arguing with her.

"The whole root of the problem lies at the feet of the staff at Lanier," Seay answered. He said school officials "have turned their backs" on Negro students' complaints.

Miss Williams was fined another \$100 on the assault charge.

All three defendants said they will appeal, and all are out on bond.



MISS GLADYS WILLIAMS

'They Call Me a Nigger'

BY FRANKLIN HOWARD

MOBILE, Ala.--"They call me a nigger and a dirty, stinky swamp rat," said Leo Roy, a Negro youth who attends formerly all-white Choctaw County High School.

Roy was testifying in U. S. District Court last Wednesday, as the U. S. Justice Department asked Judge Virgil Pittman to end harassment of Negro students in Choctaw County schools.

Another witness said that in a history class, Negro students were called "nigra, nigger, and Indians,"

Farmers Finally Get OK

SELMA, Ala. -- The federal government has decided to over-ride Governor Lurleen B. Wallace's veto, and fund the Southwest Alabama Farmers Cooperative Association (SWAFCA).

The SWAFCA office this week received a "statement of reconsideration," signed by Bertrand Harding, acting director of the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO).

The statement, dated last Friday, said SWAFCA had been "found to be fully consistent" with the federal anti-poverty law. It said SWAFCA could start spending its \$400,000 grant from OEO.

SWAFCA also received a copy of OEO's reply to Mrs. Wallace's veto message. OEO told Mrs. Wallace it had read her 14 objections to the ten-county farm cooperative with "great interest and care." But, the anti-poverty agency told the governor, "we cannot accept the objections you express."

Selma Mayor Joe Smitherman, Dallas County Probate Judge Bernard Reynolds, and other Black Belt officials had joined Mrs. Wallace in strongly opposing the grant to SWAFCA.

OEO's decision to over-ride the governor's veto was announced last Monday. But at mid-week, there had been almost no mention of the decision in Alabama newspapers or on local TV and radio.

SWAFCA officials said their first step would be to hire consultants, technicians, and other employees. They said more than 600 people had applied for jobs with the cooperative, and even though the deadline was June 25, ten to 20 more people apply every day.

One of Mrs. Wallace's objections to SWAFCA was that "abundant evidence" linked the co-op to "the violent 'Black Power' organization--the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee."

OEO told the governor that its investigation has "not substantiated" charges that SWAFCA members were engaged in "illegal acts," or that they would use the federal money for "unauthorized purposes."

Mrs. Wallace also said the project is "doomed to fail, because of the lack of qualified personnel and recognized methods."

As with all such demonstration grants, OEO replied, the risk of failure is "substantial." This is so, said the federal agency, "especially if the project's opponents engage in physical or economic harassment."

OEO said SWAFCA had the approval of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the Economic Development Administration, and the Atlanta OEO office.

Judge Permits March --About a Year Later

BY GAIL FALK

SHUBUTA, Miss.-- Federal Judge Dan Russell has ordered local officials and the Mississippi State Highway Patrol to protect Negroes in Shubuta next time they have a demonstration.

But this week in Shubuta, residents said they aren't thinking of marching any time soon.

Russell's order came almost a year after Shubuta people requested it. The order was the result of a suit filed last summer by John Sumrall and the Rev. J. C. Killingsworth, after officers broke up two demonstrations in this little Clarke County town.

The suit claimed that highway patrolmen beat people demonstrating in support of 21 demands Shubuta Negroes had sent to the mayor and city council.

During hearings on the case last September and October, several of the marchers testified that they needed medical attention after highway patrolmen beat them back with billy-clubs Aug. 20, 1966.

Highway patrolmen who had been on duty in Shubuta claimed in court that they didn't injure anyone. They said the marchers got hurt falling over themselves as they rushed away from the downtown area.

In his ruling, Russell ordered Shubuta Mayor G. S. Busby, Shubuta Marshal

H. A. Green, Clarke County Sheriff I. N. Riley, Clarke County Constable G. R. Carpenter, and state Public Safety Commissioner T. B. Birdsong to protect Negroes who march peacefully.

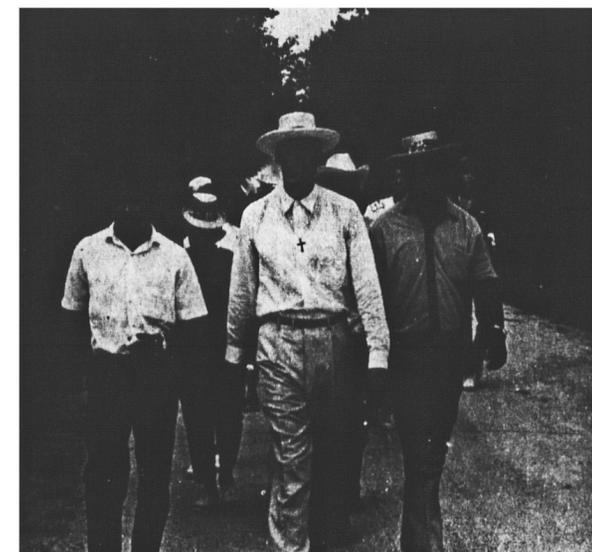
At the same time, the judge laid down some rules for any future marches in Shubuta:

1. Marchers must give 24 hours notice of the route they will follow.
2. They must march only in daylight, and must not sing or chant.
3. They must march two abreast on the side of the street, and they may not march in front of City Hall--the place where last summer's demonstrations were broken up.

But in Shubuta, people who were in last year's marches said it didn't make much difference what the rules are, since they don't have any plans for another march.

"If anyone has been talking about a march, it hasn't been in my hearing," said Mrs. A. H. Jones, one of the four ladies who signed the list of demands last summer.

And neither of the two men who filed the suit even works in Clarke County any more. Killingsworth was called to a church in Hattiesburg last month, and Sumrall works for CDGM (the Child Development Group of Mississippi) in Jasper County.



A YEAR AGO IN SHUBUTA

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Editorial Opinion

Bad Taste?

Even before Governor Lurleen B. Wallace went to Houston, Texas, for medical treatment, some people were saying it was "bad taste" to protest state policies during the governor's illness. We do not agree.

Lurleen Wallace, like anyone else, deserves a full and healthy life. But so do the Negro citizens of Alabama. While Mrs. Wallace is fighting her tragic physical illness, there is no reason why others cannot go on fighting the equally tragic moral and spiritual illness that afflicts the state of Alabama.

Bullock County People Wait for Grand Jury

UNION SPRINGS, Ala.--Richard Lee Harris was tried for disorderly conduct here last Monday. But many of the people in the courtroom were already looking forward to another hearing next month.

That's when the county grand jury is scheduled to consider charges against Tom ("Preacher") Tolliver, the Negro deputy accused of killing Harris' friend, Willie James King.

King and Harris were leaving the Golden Horseshoe Club together last April 9, when Tolliver arrested Harris and King was shot.

Last Monday, witnesses gave conflicting and confusing accounts of the events leading up to the shooting.

Tolliver testified that he arrested Harris for swearing at him. Harris then jumped on him, the deputy said, so he lifted up his gun to hit the defendant, and a shot went off. Tolliver also testified that he arrived at the club after it closed.

LEE COUNTY FOOD

AUBURN, Ala.--Applications for Lee County's free-food program are now being taken at two centers in Auburn and Opelika.

Lee County residents petitioned for free food last January, but it took until now for officials of Auburn, Opelika, and Lee County to agree on sharing the costs of the program.

Anybody now on welfare can apply for the food. So can single people earning up to \$100 a month, two-member families earning up to \$120, three-member families earning up to \$145, and so on.

Applications are being taken this Friday at the Lyman Building in Opelika, and next Monday through Thursday at the Drake Community Center in Auburn.

To Reach 'the Poorest of the Poor'

Job-Training Program for B'ham

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.--Birmingham's anti-poverty agency has won a \$3,400,000 federal grant, to run a new and experimental employment program.

The Concentrated Employment Program (CEP)--coordinated by the Jefferson County Committee for Economic Opportunity (JCCEO)--is designed to train 1,400 unskilled people, and to find jobs for them.

Target areas for CEP will be Smithfield, Ensley, and North Birmingham.

The program--expected to begin by Aug. 1--is planned to reach "the poorest of the poor," said Dr. John W. Nixon, chairman of the Manpower Coordinating Committee. Nixon's committee did much of the work on CEP.

"The demonstrations and economic

withdrawal and selective buying have helped the middle-class Negro, the high school graduate, the college-trained Negro," said Nixon. "Now they easily find employment with the federal government or industry. The poor Negro, who did more for the demonstrations, more for the movement, hasn't been helped. Now it's his turn.

"It's a small program, compared to our needs, but it's a beginning."

Representatives of the NAACP (Nixon is state president), the Alabama Christian Movement, the Urban League, the Downtown Action Committee, the school board, the state employment service, and other groups have been serving on the Manpower Coordinating Committee for the past several months.

"This is the first time we've had all of these (groups) together," said Nixon,

Miss. Food Stamp Cost Cut; Doctors Tell of 'Starvation'

'A Step'

BY GAIL FALK AND REUBEN PATES

GREENVILLE, Miss.--Poor people in Mississippi learned this week that food stamps are going to be cheaper. In the 35 Mississippi counties under the food stamp plan, a person who used to pay \$2 for \$12 worth of stamps can now get the same amount of stamps for 50¢.

A family of six or more people, who used to pay \$12 for \$70 worth of stamps, can now get the stamps for \$3.

However, these changes help only those people classified as having no income (\$0-\$30). For people with some income, the price of stamps is still the same.

The changes in the food stamp program resulted from the protests of people in the state who said they could not afford the stamps.

This week, Mrs. Ora D. Wilson of Washington County said she thinks the program is reasonable now, "because I will be able to buy the stamps for 50¢."

"I couldn't afford the stamps at the old price, because they was too high," she said. "But now I think it's all right, because I can get \$3 much easier than I could get \$12."

But, said Mrs. Thelma Barnes, director of the Washington County anti-poverty program, "if a person doesn't have any money, even 50¢ doesn't solve their problem."

Mrs. Barnes said the change is "a step in the right direction," but "the entire scale overall is too high."

Other people gave examples of this. One Washington County man, Granville Tyler, said he was charged \$75 for stamps because his stepson's income was added to his own. He said he couldn't afford to pay \$75 before, and he still can't afford it.

Mrs. Queen Ester Young said she doesn't get stamps because her son draws a check for \$47.10 a month, and this makes the stamps too expensive.

William Seabron of the U. S. Department of Agriculture said all food stamp prices must be lowered soon. He said the department is studying the whole price scale. The price of food stamps will go down in Alabama and other states soon, he added.



REACTION TO REPORT In the Jackson Daily News

OK Marshall, Senators Told

TUSKEGEE, Ala.--Alabama's only bi-racial city council sent a letter to the state's two U. S. senators last month, asking them to vote for a Negro.

The Tuskegee City Council urged Senators Lister Hill and John Sparkman to support the appointment of Thurgood Marshall, a former NAACP attorney, to the U. S. Supreme Court.

President Lyndon B. Johnson announced the appointment in June, but Marshall must now be approved by the Senate.

The Tuskegee council didn't mention Marshall's race. Instead, the letter praised President Johnson's efforts "to infuse the spirit of justice, fairness, and democratic treatment and involvement by providing equality of opportunity and equal protection under law for all citizens."

The resolution supported the appointment of Marshall, because of "his ability, training, and competence."

Councilman J. Allan Parker proposed the resolution at a June meeting. In choosing Marshall, Parker said, "the President is trying to select the (person) best qualified, without any prejudice of any kind."

Still Smoking



MOBILE, Ala.--This bombed-out house was in the news again this week, as the center of a controversy between John Leflore and the mayor of Jackson, Ala. Leflore, a long-time civil rights leader in Mobile, was sleeping in the house last week when it was struck by a dynamite bomb. Afterwards, Leflore said the bombing might have something to do with his investigation of the death of Johnny McKenzie. McKenzie was killed by a Jackson policeman last June 2.

Jackson Mayor C. B. Esby Jr. heard that, and demanded an apology from Leflore--"not only to the Jackson police department, but to all the citizens of Jackson, white or colored."

'Shocking'

BY PATRICIA M. GORENCE

ATLANTA, Ga.--"These children go to bed hungry and get up hungry and don't know nothing else in between," said a Negro mother in Mississippi. A team of doctors interviewed this lady and other people last May, as they surveyed six Mississippi counties for the Southern Regional Council.

The doctors were studying the health and living conditions of Negro children enrolled in classes sponsored by the Friends of the Children of Mississippi.

In their report, issued last week, the doctors said the children's nutritional and medical situation is "shocking." They said the children "are living under such primitive conditions that we found it hard to believe we were examining American children of the 20th Century."

Children and parents "live on grits, bread, flavored water," said the report. According to one doctor, only one of the families he visited ever had milk--and even in that case, milk was just for "the sickest" members of the family.

"Malnutrition is not quite what we found," the doctors said. "The boys and girls we saw were hungry--weak, in pain, sick. Their lives are being shortened. They are, in fact, visibly and predictably losing their health, their energy, their spirits."

"They are suffering from hunger and disease, and directly or indirectly, they are dying from them--which is exactly

what 'starvation' means."

These children suffer from injuries and diseases that require medical attention or corrective surgery, the doctors said. "Now, at seven or eight, their knee joints or elbow joints might show the 'range of action' that one finds in a man of 70, suffering from crippling arthritis."

But, said one doctor, some hospitals refuse to provide care for Negro children, because of the known poverty of their parents. One mother said she goes to the doctor--or takes her child--only when she is absolutely convinced that death is on the way.

The doctors' report listed some ways of partially correcting these conditions.

"Welfare and food programs--including the commodity food program--are in the hands of people who use them selectively, politically and with obvious racial considerations in mind," the doctors said.

They said the food stamp program should be changed so that poor people can get the food stamps free.

The doctors concluded: "Mississippi is for its poor--and particularly its Negro poor--a kind of prison, in which live a great group of uneducated, semi-starving people from whom all but token public support has been withdrawn.

"They are completely isolated from the outside world. They have nowhere to turn for material aid or moral support. Their story needs to be told not merely for their sakes--but for the sake of all America."



St. Mary, Miss.

"You're going to have to organize to get something out of a candidate other than his just in that office," A. J. Woodard told the Clarke County Voters League last month. Woodard, who helped to found the voters league, said two candidates for governor--Ross Barnett and William Winter--had promised him they would integrate the highway patrol. The Rev. J. W. Shanks of DeSoto is president of the group. Beat chairman are the Rev. Melvin Sumrall, beat 1; Odell Cameron, beat 2; and Jimmy Blank, beat 3.

Montgomery, Ala.

An exhibition of "Masterpieces of Religious Art" is now showing at the Alabama State College Art Gallery. On display are 25 colored reproductions of religious paintings. The exhibition, sponsored by the American Federation of Arts, will be here until the end of July.

Huntsville, Ala.

George Brakefield, manager of the Huntsville Housing Authority, spoke last month to the local chapter of the Alabama Council on Human Relations. Brakefield explained the city's small number of four- and five-bedroom public housing units by saying, "The cost is terrific when you get that big." He added, "I think a person who is able to have that many children really doesn't need to be in public housing to start with." Brakefield said the housing authority needs to find families who can pay at least \$23 a month for rent; "We are not charity . . . In other words, it would be impossible for us to operate and rent every apartment that we've got for our minimum rent." He said he agreed with Huntsville Mayor Glenn Hearn, who said recently, "We hope to be the first slum-free city in the country."

New York City

The Northern California Board of

Rabbis has given \$3,000 to the Selma Inter-religious Project. This enabled the project's steering committee, meeting here, to increase the budget for the coming year.

Montgomery, Ala.

More than 7,000 people, white and Negro, came to Montgomery last weekend for the district convention of the Jehovah's Witnesses. The delegates came mainly from Alabama, southern Louisiana, and Mississippi, and met for four days in Garrett Coliseum. The Witnesses believe that the Bible is God's complete word, and that there is no need for other oral or written traditions. They also believe that baptism--by total immersion--"symbolizes the burying of a former course of life, and the beginning of a new life of unselfish devotion to the Creator."

Huntsville, Ala.

Women in Community Service (WICS) are now operating a full-time office in Huntsville. One of the group's principal activities is to recruit and screen applicants for the federal Women's Job Corps. Seven volunteers work out of the WICS office in the Elks Bldg. Since Jan. 27, the volunteers have sent 13 young women to Job Corps centers all over the U. S.

Montgomery, Ala.

Mr. and Mrs. Freddie Lee Hubbard wish to announce that their name is Hubbard--not Huffman, as reported in last week's Southern Courier.

New York City

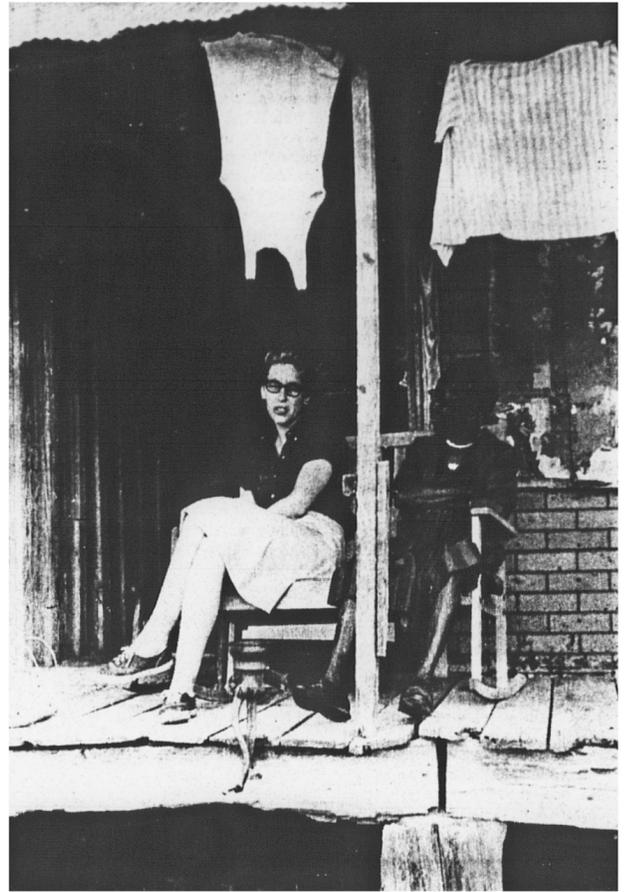
Macon County Sheriff Lucius D. Amerson took part in the NAACP Legal Defense Fund's annual convocation last month in New York City. Others present included Bill Moyers, President Johnson's former press secretary; Jack Greenberg, the fund's director-counsel; and U. S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark.



BILL MOYERS, LUCIUS D. AMERSON, AND JACK GREENBERG



In Gees Bend Workshop



Questions and Answers

GEES BEND, Ala.--"You drive through the country," said the Rev. Francis X. Walter of the Selma Inter-religious Project. "You see cotton and corn and pasture. Yet people are poor and have to move away. Why is that?"

About 30 white people from out of town--and even more Negroes, mostly from Wilcox County--traveled down the red dirt road to Pleasant Grove Baptist Church here two weekends ago. They came to the second Rural Life Workshop to ask questions, because questions like Walter's had troubled them.

The answers--in the interchanges between black and white--were frank. J. M. Brook, who runs a cucumber cooperative in Wilcox County, answered Walter's question with an accusation: "YOU kept me handicapped. When day began to break, YOU had most of the money and land." He didn't need to explain that "you" meant, not his friend Walter, but the white man.

"I see you can't conceive of poverty," Lonnie Brown told the well-dressed, mostly-white group. "Maybe you've seen about it, heard about it, read about it."

Poverty means a county where 80% of the people can't read or write, said Brown: "This is really poverty, 'cause you have to know something to earn a decent living."

The group learned how anti-poverty programs like those in Wilcox and Lowndes counties are fighting these conditions with adult-education classes and vocational training.

But much of what the workshop participants learned, they learned outside the formal discussions, by visiting in the small, all-Negro farming community of Gees Bend.

The out-of-town visitors stayed with Gees Bend families, in houses without phones or fancy plumbing. They visited the new local cooperatives. They saw cucumbers being sorted at a grading station, and they picked their own cucumbers in a farmer's yard.

"Gotta pick 'em now," the farmer told them. "They grow so fast, you wait a few more hours and they've already grown too big."

The visitors fanned themselves in the country heat, ate fried chicken and corn bread and black-eyed peas, and fed the goats and chickens. And in the morning, they awoke to the cock's crow.

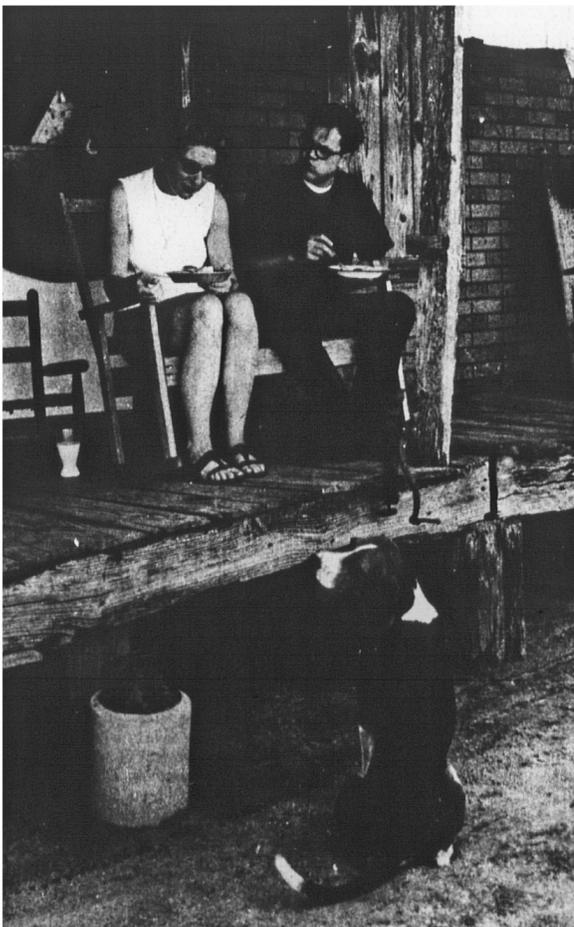
They visited Mrs. Eugene Witherspoon, president of the Freedom Quilting Bee Handicraft Cooperative, and saw piles of brightly-colored quilts that were about to be shown as "American folk art" at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D. C.

What did the participants think of the weekend? "We have a more sophisticated Negro population (in Huntsville)," said Joe Gannon, president of the Huntsville Council on Human Relations, "but we don't have the same kind of zeal. I'd like to see this dedication in Huntsville."

Gannon's 14-year-old son put it more briefly: "People are nicer here."

And Mrs. Addie Nicholson, who cooked for the large group, said as the meeting closed, "I'd like if there'd be another one next week."

PHOTOGRAPHS AND TEXT
BY
ROBIN REISIG



'It Could Be You'

BY ROGER RAPOPORT
AND ROBIN REISIG

TUSCALOOSA, Ala.--"It could be you," said a former employee of Bryce Mental Hospital. "It could happen to anyone."

The employee was talking about the way in which Bernard Porter, a famous scientist, was committed to the state mental institution.

After three weeks, Porter was a free man. But for the 21 days he spent in Bryce, he was a prisoner under the set of laws which govern Alabama's public policy on mental patients.

The American Psychiatric Association (APA) rates Alabama's mental health facilities last among the 50 states. The state is 50th in the number of doctors and other professional personnel for every 100 patients, and 49th in the average amount of money it spends daily on mental patients.

But the case of Bernard Porter indicates that the system has other problems just as serious as lack of money.

"You can be the poorest state in the nation, but that doesn't excuse the law," said a lawyer. He called the hospital admission procedure "almost a crime."

In some cases, said a person who has worked at the mental hospitals, doctors have signed commitment papers for patients they have not seen

in years.

"Most of the ones I've come across are not people who should be there," he said. "They're just people who've gotten in somebody's hair --like a son who doesn't want to be bothered with his mother and finds it's easier and a lot cheaper to commit her."

James T. Webb, a psychologist who once worked at Bryce, also termed the admission policy "very lax." "Getting admitted is much too easy," he said, "in the sense of others getting you admitted."

"It's impossible to commit yourself," he continued. "You can't go to a hospital, as in most states, and say 'Look, I need help.'" Instead, he said, a patient must "face the whole embarrassment" of public commitment by a judge, and is "typically kept in jail until such time as he's transferred to Bryce--two to five days."

Dr. William B. Robinson, the psychiatrist who saw Porter daily during his stay at Bryce, also criticized the admission procedures. Suppose, Robinson said, "I was walking along and fell, and you saw me and thought I was drunk and took me down to the police station. If I'm mad as hell and I say what I am, and I'm in overalls or something inappropriate to my profession--then I can be committed."



BRYCE HOSPITAL

NIGHTMARE AT BRYCE

Scientist Is Locked Up in Mental Hospital

BY ROGER RAPOPORT
AND ROBIN REISIG

HUNTSVILLE, Ala.--Sometimes it seems that Negroes have fewer rights before the law than white people in Alabama. But there is another group of people who have still fewer rights--mental patients.

If they are imprisoned, they have no right to bail or bond. Often they are not allowed to appear in court to defend themselves, and sometimes they are not even allowed to talk with a lawyer.

Most of these people are not charged with having committed a "crime." They are locked up because a doctor has said they are insane, or mentally incompetent. (Under Alabama law, the doctor doesn't even have to be a psychiatrist.)

So they are shipped off to state mental hospitals--Bryce for whites, Searcy for Negroes. There they stay for a three-week--or longer--examination period. Then the doctors decide whether the patient may--or may not--return to his home.

At Bryce, where there are 22 doctors (including five psychiatrists) for 5,000 whites, the patient stands a much better chance of being diagnosed and treated by his doctor, than at Searcy, where there are five doctors (none of whom are psychiatrists and two of whom do not speak English) for 2,500 Negroes.

But at Bryce as well as Searcy, the patients are kept locked up like criminals. Even for a sane man the experience can be a shaking nightmare.

For Bernard Porter, the nightmare began on April 22, when two Madison County sheriff's deputies saw him stumbling around and waving his arms in downtown Huntsville.

"Anyone staggering on the streets of Huntsville is under arrest," Porter says the deputies told him. He was charged with "highway intoxication," although he insisted that he had just stubbed his toe and lost his balance--and that he never drank anyway.

"He didn't look right," said deputy sheriff D. C. Nickelson, one of the arresting officers. "You been in a business a while," and there are "things people do and don't do," explained Nickelson, who likes being a deputy because "I enjoy working with people."

Porter spent the next 68 hours in jail. While being in jail was a new experience for Bernard Porter, Bernard Porter was also a new experience for the Madison County jail.

He was angry. He demanded a blood test to prove that he hadn't been drinking. He complained loudly because "I was kept in solitary confinement and the light was kept on all the time and I had to put toilet paper over my glasses to protect my eyes."

He demanded to see a doctor because, he claimed, "my sex parts were molested. I was severely choked twice, and thrown across the room by a jailer." After two sleepless nights, he finally saw a doctor. "I thought he was examin-

ing my body, but he was examining my mind," recalls Porter.

Dr. Himon Miller asked Porter to talk about himself. So Porter did. He told the doctor that he was a world-famous space scientist, who has been listed in "Who's Who" since 1947. He said he had worked on the first atom bomb and, after World War II, visited Japan "to see the damage I had done."

Porter also revealed that he was an artist, an editor, a publisher, a critic, and the author of 40 books--including the only book in existence that has to be read by a machine.

Dr. Miller also learned that although Porter makes a large salary, he does not



BERNARD PORTER

have a telephone or own a car.

The doctor was impressed: "He wrote down that I had delusions of grandeur," Porter recalls. Diagnosing the scientist as an "acute psychotic," "suspicious," and "hostile and belligerent," Dr. Miller had Porter sent to the "most-disturbed ward" of Bryce Hospital.

But everything Porter had said was true. An internationally-known nuclear physicist had just been committed to Bryce.

How could this happen?

Alabama law says that a county probate judge, in deciding whether to commit an individual, "shall fully investigate the case," with or without a jury, and with or without the individual, "according to his discretion."

Does Madison County Probate Judge Ashford Todd, who signed the commitment papers, believe that Porter is insane? (Todd is so old he will not discuss his age, and so hard of hearing that most questions to him must be repeated at least once.) "I assume so," said Todd. "I never saw the man."

Sheriff Jerry Crabtree said he could tell Porter needed a psychiatrist "by his actions and claims he was a secret agent and an internationally-known golfer . . . and he steadfastly maintained he had been choked and beaten (in the jail)."

Porter, however, denies that he ever said he was a secret agent or a famous golfer. And he says that Crabtree has known him and his wife for several years.

In a letter to the superintendent of Bryce Hospital, Porter suggested an explanation for Crabtree's statements--and for his own commitment to Bryce: "After I had been held in jail for 68 hours and it became clear that I do not drink and was not drunk, the only way to clear the jail records and get me out, since the police could not very well take me into court, was to send me to your hospital where I arrived with nothing wrong with me and where I continued so for 21 days.

"In effect, I took up your service time, ate your food and occupied a bed for no valid reason, all aids needed by some deserving patient."

At Bryce, Porter was "like no one else," according to the staff. "We thought he was a genius," said a man who works at the hospital. "It was sort of like catching the big fish in the pond."

Porter described his stay at Bryce as "another experience," with "good food and good lectures." He passed his time painting what seemed to him "about a mile and a half of woodwork."

After the usual minimum three-week observation period, Porter was released from Bryce. A staff psychiatrist, Dr. William B. Robinson, wrote Judge Todd that Porter showed "no evidence of the existence of mental illness."

When Porter left Bryce, he wanted to protest against the way he was committed. But he could not find a Huntsville lawyer who would help him. One attorney told Porter he was refusing the case "because of the political situation."

Now Porter says he no longer feels safe walking the few blocks home from work: "I could feel faint, have sunstroke, be epileptic . . . I could do any number of things which would draw attention to me, and the next thing (a policeman would say), 'You're staggering on the streets of Huntsville, and you're under arrest.' And like a nightmare, the whole incident could happen again."

Won't Rebuild Anti-Poverty Office

People Question Lowndes Program

BY BETH WILCOX

MOSES, Ala. -- Last March, the headquarters of the Lowndes County anti-poverty program was burned to the ground. D. Robert Smith, director of



AFTER THE FIRE

the program, pledged to rebuild the office on the same spot--just outside of downtown Hayneville.

Smith and C. C. Coleman--the white man who leased the original headquarters to the anti-poverty group--made an agreement about building a new office where the old one stood.

But at a recent meeting of the Lowndes County Christian Movement for Human Rights (the anti-poverty agency), the people decided to break the contract for rebuilding the office. The decision came after weeks of debate about the new building, and about the conduct of the war on poverty.

In the meeting, Robert Strickland pointed out that when the program started, Coleman was the only man who would rent an office to the Christian Movement.

"The space we rented was not ours," said Strickland, who is on the Christian Movement's board of directors. "It was up to anyone who wanted to--to build the new building if they wanted to."

But John Hulett replied, "Does a director (Smith) have the right to start fund-raising for the new building before he told us?" He said Smith put the Christian Movement's name on the contract for the new building.

"I agree," said Strickland. "He just started raising money without our OK. But he did ask for approval right after that. His friends offered him their help after the fire."

(Smith had planned to raise \$25,000--for a new office and other projects--from friends and private sources.)

"He can do what he wants with the money," said Hulett, a leader in the Lowndes County Freedom Party. "He can take the money and build wherever and whatever he wants."

But, Hulett added, "I don't think our people should be connected with a building, if we disapprove of the place or how the building is built."

Some of the people wanted the new building to be out in rural Lowndes County, instead of in a white section of Hayneville. Others were unhappy that under the proposed contract, the new building would belong to Coleman after a period of years.

"Don't think that Mr. Coleman is our friend, just because he rented the building to us," said Frank Miles Jr. "We know how white people in Hayneville treat us."

Hulett said the group should not feel bad about breaking the contract with Coleman: "The contract states that if after 90 days, no action is taken to rebuild, then the contract is moot."

"We don't need any lawyer to tell us how the contract can be broken," Hulett said. "White people break contracts every day."

Smith, the director, was not at the meeting. He said he wasn't told that the people were going to vote on breaking the contract.

"The decision not to adhere to the agreement is unfortunate," he said afterwards. "It's unfortunate that all the facts were not presented to the people objectively, so they could vote intelligently."

Smith said the people should realize that the building would be put up with outside funds, not anti-poverty money. Under a renovation fund included in a future federal grant, he said, it would still be possible for the people to have their own building on their own land.

At earlier meetings, the people had criticized the organization of the anti-poverty effort.

"There are people who make decisions who never come to meetings," one Christian Movement member complained. "How can they make decisions when they don't know what the people want?"

"This began as a people's organization," another member added.

The people were told, "If you are dissatisfied with the board (of the anti-pov-



WOMEN LEARN ABOUT DRESS-MAKING

erty program), you should have it considered at the board first. We cannot decide anything here at this meeting."

Strickland, in another meeting, criticized the way Smith was running the program. "Mr. Smith has asked for freedom to make everyday decisions," Strickland said. "I do think that any time a director takes advantage of this, there should be checks and balances.

"For instance, we put in an order for some medium-priced typewriters. The

invoices came back--all \$400."

The people have taken a wait-and-see attitude toward another development in the war on poverty--a \$53,055 "planning grant" for a health program run by the Lowndes County Health Department.

There are ten whites and seven Negroes on the board for this program. "The real reason we could not take leadership on this board was that there are no Negro doctors in the county,"

(CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE, Col. 1)

Meridian Parents Want to Know Why Teachers Weren't Re-Hired

BY GAIL FALK

MERIDIAN, Miss.--"They learn the children more than any other teachers down there."

"If your child was a slow learner, Mrs. Smith could bring it on up with the other ones."

"You don't hear the first thing about them. When you don't hear rumors, you know a teacher's character is pretty good."

These are some of the things Southside parents have been saying about three teachers whose contracts were not renewed at Mound Barton School. The parents have been protesting the school's action against Mrs. Delitha Brooks, Mrs. E. M. Smith, and Mrs. M. T. Davis.

Mrs. Brooks and Mrs. Smith have taught in Southside more than 20 years--longer than any other teachers at the school. "They taught a good many of these parents. The parents feel to these teachers like their mother," said Mound Barton's PTA president, Mrs. Syd Lee Walker.

Last April, when word got around that the teachers had not been re-hired, a group of parents went to the Mound Barton principal, Mrs. Hyweeda Robinson, to ask why.

"But she wouldn't give us a gee or a haw," said one of the parents. "Instead of giving an intelligent answer... she just said she had her reasons."

Not satisfied, a group of mothers wrote a petition to Meridian Schools Superintendent L. O. Todd. The petition--signed by 312 parents--said, "We the parents of Mound Barton School are asking you will you please reinstate these teachers."

But, said one of the parents who took the petition to Todd, the superintendent wouldn't agree to re-hire the teachers, and he wouldn't give a "satisfactory reason" for not doing so. "He said (the teachers) were uncooperative, but he wouldn't say in what way," she recalled.

During the spring, parents concerned about the teachers got together and got angrier. Southside has a reputation as one of the roughest parts of town, and when the weather got hot and muggy, a long-time resident warned, "The tension is too high now for people to mess around."

When summer school opened at Mound Barton, some parents kept their children home in protest.

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MRS. SYD LEE WALKER

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Finally, last June 7, Todd called Mrs. Walker to his office.

"I told him the parents was in an uproar, and he was going to have to do something," said the PTA president. "I was letting him know we were trying to head off any violence that might occur."

"He said to hold the parents off for a few more days... that he was doing all he could to get (the teachers) a job. He said Mrs. Davis already has a job."

Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Brooks say they have not yet been contacted about a job.

Todd was out of town last week, but his assistant--Arno Vincent--said he didn't think the parents would be protesting, if they understood the kind of teaching job the three ladies had done.

"They were not making a meaningful contribution to education," Vincent said. "They have been marginal teachers for a long time... The principal before had wanted to do this," Vincent said the only thing wrong was that the teachers should have been cut off sooner.

Then why didn't the superintendent or the principal explain this?

School officials don't like to give out specific reasons for this kind of action, said Vincent, because then the parents and teachers "would try to prove they didn't do it."

"But," said Mrs. Walker, "if they have a reason, they ought to be able to tell it."

"We feel like we are the school," said a lady who has several children at Mound Barton. "And we have a right to know those things."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Stokely

from Viola Bradford

The Neighborhood Organized Workers Incorporation of Mobile County speaks to civic gatherings and special church programs. The Neighborhood Organized Workers advise religious and civic groups on community organization and political education. Affidavit forms for human rights complaints, job discrimination charges, and other protests will be displayed, filled out for mistreated people in the audience, and filed with government agencies.

For DIRECT ACTION, check appropriate block(s) below, and mail to:

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Our group wishes that the Neighborhood Organized Workers appear and speak on a subject like present job openings, riots and non-violence, dating and socializing, education, or _____

YOUR GROUP'S NAME _____
DATE/HOUR/PLACE FOR PROGRAM _____
SUBJECT _____
TELEPHONE _____

Mr. Perry Callier, Director
Mrs. D. A. Williams, Voter Registration
Mr. Jerry H. Pogue, Research & Complaints

To Attend Ole Miss

Negro Star Gets Grant

BY YVES SAVAIN

HERNANDO, Miss.--"When I graduate from Ole Miss, I'll qualify to meet the challenges of the world," said Jimmy Isom, the first Negro to win an athletic scholarship to the University of Mississippi.

Isom's scholarship was announced last month by Tad Smith, athletic director at Ole Miss. Isom will go to Oxford this summer to take "one or two" academic tests, and that will be his first visit to the Ole Miss campus.

How does Isom feel about being the school's first Negro athlete? "Somebody had to be the first," he said. "It just happened to be me."

"I don't think I'll have any trouble," he added. "If you act like a student, you'll be treated like a student."

At Hernando Central High School, Isom ran the 100-yard dash in 9.5 seconds, and the 220 in 21.6--both very fast times.

And, said Isom, "I can do better than that." In high school, he explained, "we didn't have any starting blocks." These blocks can make a big difference in short races.

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.

Isom said he never had a chance to compete in the state championships: "We qualified, but we didn't have enough money to go."

Besides Ole Miss, two other schools--Harding College in Arkansas and Rust College in Holly Springs--offered scholarships to Isom.

His girlfriend, Miss Alice Greece, is also a runner. She does the 100 in 11.9. Miss Greece got a scholarship from Rust, and is in summer school there now.

During his walk from Hernando to Canton, James Meredith--the first Negro student admitted to Ole Miss--commented on Isom's scholarship.

"The athletic director said he was looking for an athlete, and he found one," said Meredith. "When everybody'll have that attitude, this country will be wonderful."

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WANT ADS

ARKANSAS--The Arkansas Council on Human Relations has affiliate councils in Conway, Fayetteville, Pine Bluff, Fort Smith, and North Little Rock. We are interested in establishing local councils throughout the state. ACHR is integrated at all levels, working in education, voter education, employment, welfare, and housing. For information, write Arkansas Council on Human Relations, 1310 Wright, Little Rock, Ark. 72206.

FEDERAL JOBS--The Interagency Board of Civil Service Examiners is holding examinations for the positions of cook, commissary worker, and meat cutter. The jobs are located in South Alabama and Northwest Florida. Information and application forms can be obtained from Alex Culver, Examiner in Charge, 413-A Post Office Building, Montgomery, Ala. 36104.

HELP DAN HOUSER--Dan Houser needs money for medical expenses, after being beaten in Prattville. Contributions can be sent to him in care of WRMA, 135 Commerce St., Montgomery, Ala. 36104, or in care of The Southern Courier, 1012 Frank Leu Bldg., Montgomery, Ala. 36104. Checks should be made payable to Dan Houser.

HELP!--A New York civil rights lawyer is writing a book on the famous Dred Scott case--only it seems that Scott's real name was Sam. Does anyone know anything about the nickname "Dred"--what it means, what it refers to? Call 872-1079 in Selma if you do.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED--The Montgomery Community Action Committee needs all the volunteer help it can get to work in Head Start class rooms. Men, women, and teen-agers (minimum age 16) can all be of use. Volunteers will assist as teacher's aides and cook's helpers, and will take children on field trips in the area. A volunteer can choose his or her own hours between 8 and 11:30 a.m. on a convenient day Monday through Friday. Transportation and lunch will be furnished. If you are available, apply to the Rev. E. W. McKinney (volunteer director) or Mrs. Zenobia Johnson at 429 S. Decatur St., phone 262-6622. Or you can offer your services to St. Jude's Center, 2048 W. Fairview Ave., or Resurrection Center, 2815 Forbes Dr. If it is more convenient, go directly to the neighborhood Head Start location nearest you.

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

JUST OUT--New issue of Spartacist, Contains "Black and Red--Class Struggle Road to Negro Freedom," and "Anti-War Sellout." Single issue 10¢, 12 issues \$1. Order from Spartacist League, P. O. Box 8121, Gentilly Station, New Orleans, La. 70122.

FOR A BETTER ALABAMA--The Alabama Council on Human Relations has active chapters in Birmingham, Mobile, Montgomery, Huntsville, Florence-Tusculumbia-Sheffield, Auburn-Opelika-Tuskegee, Talladega, and Tuscaloosa. It has a staff that works throughout the state. The Alabama Council is integrated at all levels: its staff officers, staff, and local chapters all have people of both races working side by side. The Alabama Council wishes to establish local chapters in every county in the state. If you wish to join the Council's crusade for equal opportunity and human brotherhood, write The Alabama Council, P.O. Box 1310, Auburn, Alabama.

CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS -- "Sacrament" is the subject of the lesson-lesson to be read in all Christian Science churches this Sunday, July 9, one of two Communion services held by the denomination each year. Bible readings include a verse from the Sermon on the Mount, "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."

TALLADEGA -- Earn \$10 or more a week by selling The Southern Courier. Call 262-3572 in Montgomery.

NEWSPAPER JOB -- The York Gazette, one of the last of the really turned-on and tuned-in liberal daily newspapers in the country, is looking for a bright and hip young person who could be trained for a responsible job on the city desk. The candidate--male or female, black or white--should have had some reporting experience and, preferably, some experience in editing and headline writing. Salary: \$140 a week for a person with three years of news experience. After he is actually on the desk, the pay will increase. Candidates should write James Higgins, assistant editor, at The Gazette and Daily, 31 E. King St., York, Pa., and they should mention that they heard of the job through The Southern Courier.

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.

KENTUCKY EXCURSION--A wonderful excursion trip, both religious and pleasure. See Louisville, the rolling Kentucky blue grass, and the birthplace of President Abraham Lincoln. Don't miss this great opportunity that comes only once in a lifetime. A round trip with two meals costs only \$24, and you have until July 21 to pay for your ticket. Tickets available at Low-Rate-Sav-On, at the corner of Jeff Davis and Holt St.; from the Rev. H. N. Petrie, pastor of the Union Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, in Madison Park; and from Mrs. Olivia Boyd and others.

BIRMINGHAM SERVICES--Worship with the New St. James Baptist Church, 600 N. Fourth Ave. Birmingham--the church with a program, the minister with a message. Sunday School 9:30 a.m., morning worship 10:45 a.m., Baptist Training Union 5:30 p.m. The Rev. L. Clyde Fisher, pastor.

Health Program

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE FOUR)

Hulett said, "We said, though, that as long as our people are helped by the grant, we would go along."

Dr. Robert P. Griffin of Ft. Deposit, acting director of the medical program, said the new grant is to cover a four-month survey of Lowndes County's health needs.

He said about 30 people--mostly survey workers and consultants on building, transportation, and communications--will be hired for this phase of the program.

"We'll hire whatever personnel we can from the population here," said Griffin. "There are no Negro doctors or nurses in the county, but medical personnel will be a very small part of the initial survey, anyway."

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Negroes Try 'Swim-In' Henry Sues At a Greensboro Pool



ON THE OUTSIDE LOOKING IN

BY ROBIN REISIG
GREENSBORO, Ala.--Six Negroes went to a large swimming pool in Greensboro last Friday, for what might have been a "swim-in". But as soon as they left their car, the white children in the pool scurried out of the water, and a plump white woman locked the entrance door. She told the Negroes through the high wire fence: "This is a private pool."

"If the pool is supported by tax money, why, hell, we're just not going to let it stay open," John Reynolds of SCLC had said earlier. Since the 1965 demonstrations in Greensboro, he said, the pool had been open only to white people. Negroes, said Reynolds, had to go to Eutaw (22 miles) or Marlon (21 miles) to swim in a pool.

But--as some of the children hid in the bath house, and some stared at the Negroes through the fence--the white woman said the pool is not for the public: "It belongs to the Southern Academy."

my."
The Negro group then went to look for Greensboro Mayor Bill Christian, but couldn't find him. When they returned to the pool, two white men had arrived.

One of the men told the group that Southern Academy is a private school, and the pool uses "no public funds at all."

"You're now trespassing," the man said. "Get off this property, or I'll get the officers to arrest you off."

The next morning, Reynolds and Miss Dorothy Vanhoose were picketing in front of V. J. Elmore's and Bill's Dollar Store on Main St.

Reynolds said they were planning to revive last summer's boycott of downtown stores.

OXFORD, Miss.-- State NAACP President Aaron Henry was barred from speaking on the University of Mississippi campus a month ago, because of the school's "speaker-ban" rule.

So last week, Henry, two Ole Miss professors, and several students filed a suit in federal court against top officials of the university. The suit asks permission for Henry to accept speaking invitations from a summer civics institute, and from the Ole Miss Young Democrats.

Henry said this week that he had spoken at Ole Miss once before--in January, 1966.

Since then, however, the university's trustees have passed a ruling that bars any speaker who "will do violence to the academic atmosphere, or persons in disrepute in the area from whence they come, and those persons charged with crimes or other moral wrongs."

"It doesn't say convicted of a crime --only charged," Henry pointed out.

"This writes off any civil rights worker who's worth his salt. Any civil rights worker who hasn't been arrested hasn't been around."

According to one of the professors who brought the suit, Charles Fortenberry, the purpose is not just to gain permission for Henry to speak on campus, but to get rid of the speaker ban altogether.

"The ban is so vague that it can be used to deny anyone," said Fortenberry.

Goes to Indiana, Meets Jim Clark

North Is Just Like Home

BY BETTIE MANUEL

MERIDIAN, Miss.--George Smith, a former civil rights worker, went up north to Ft. Wayne, Indiana, some time ago. He discovered that some things are the same in the North as they are in the South.

The second night he was in Ft. Wayne, Smith told people here, someone burned a cross in his yard. And a few weeks ago, he said, he found himself among the people who were protesting Jim Clark's visit to Ft. Wayne.

Smith had met Clark before, when Clark was the sheriff of Dallas County, Ala., and Smith was participating in the Selma demonstrations. Now Clark was in Ft. Wayne, to give a speech denying that he had used violence against the demonstrators.

When Clark arrived at the auditorium, Smith said, many Negroes yelled out that they didn't want to listen to him. According to Smith, Clark said, "That's the way the niggers in Alabama act--holler, clown, and go with white women."

Smith said Clark began his speech by saying that he was in Ft. Wayne to tell "the plain truth."

Then, said Smith, Clark told the people he didn't know anything about using dogs, tear gas, and wild horses on the demonstrators. The former sheriff said he would arrest an one who did something like that.

Finally, said Smith, Clark started quoting the Bible.

"By this time," said Smith, "I had heard as many lies as I could stand, so I stood up and tried to get the attention of the audience. Getting the attention of the black people in the audience was easy, but the white folks were too busy shaking hands with Jim Clark."

"So I went on and talked to the people

who would listen. I told them Jim Clark was lying, and that I knew it, because I was in Selma when he was doing it. "After I finished talking, Clark got up and said that it was the state of Alabama who did those things, not him."

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