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Big City Drop-Outs

NEW YORK CITY--Who are the big-city drop-outs?

It could be an ex-college student from South Carolina who has taken the hippie way for relief from life's hustle and bustle, or a guy named Froggy--Greenwich Village's self-styled poet and philosopher. It could be the girl on LSD in Tompkins Square park--hippie headquarters.

In the world of the wino, who cares about rage when a bottle is at hand? New York's hippies are integrated, so an Alabama Ku Klux Klansman without food or shelter could if he wanted put up for the night with 50 of the big-city drop-outs.

The 42nd St. people are like no other people in the world, even though they come from every city in the world. Once you're in the city of New York, and you make the scene for a while, you become a part of the scene.

Who is a square in the big city? Hardly anyone, because there are so many scenes to make--away from the 9-to-5 world, that is, if you have given up making your first million and have contented yourself with a Harlem stoop or a jam session with wine bottle and bongo drum.

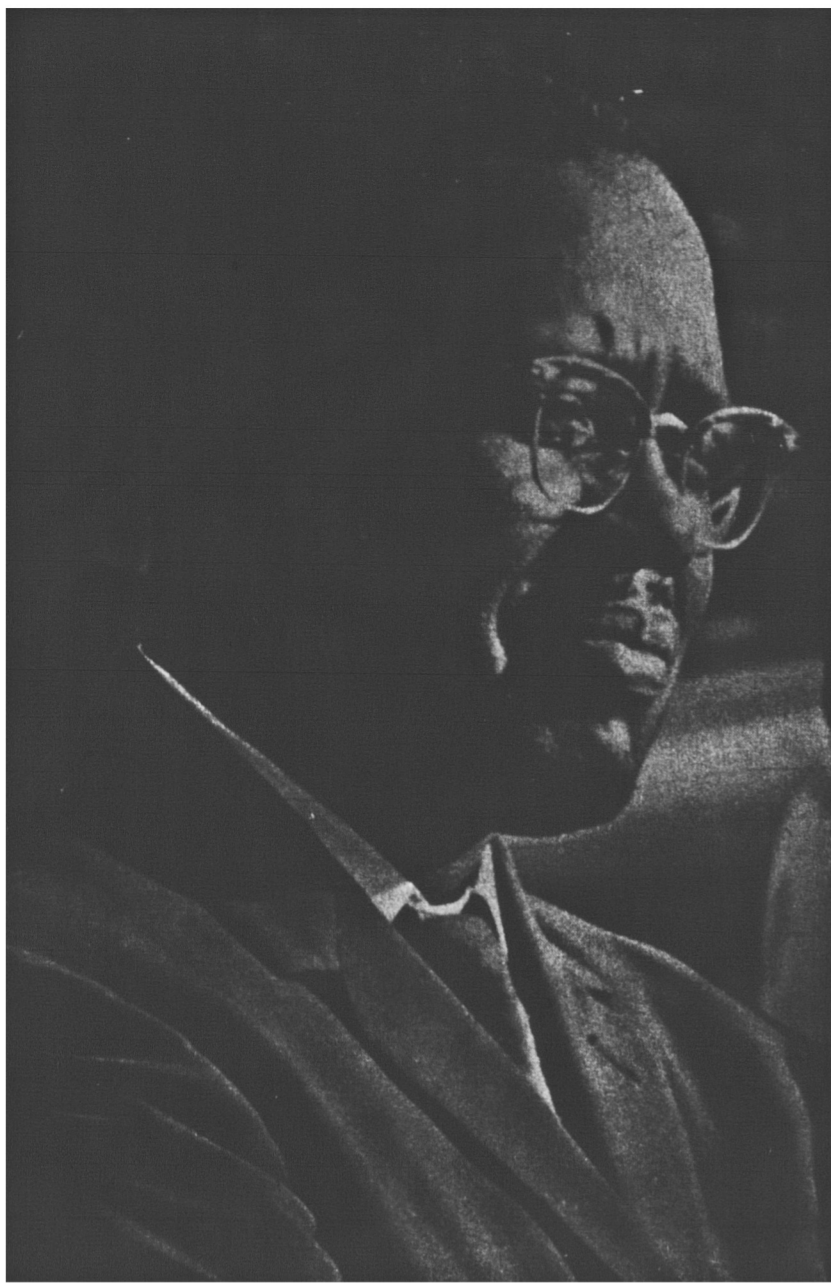
In one session, you see a Negro, a Southern white, and a Spanish-American. Should a course in drop-outism be offered to the ambassadors in the U.N.?

**Text by
Norman Lumpkin**



Photos by Jim Pepler

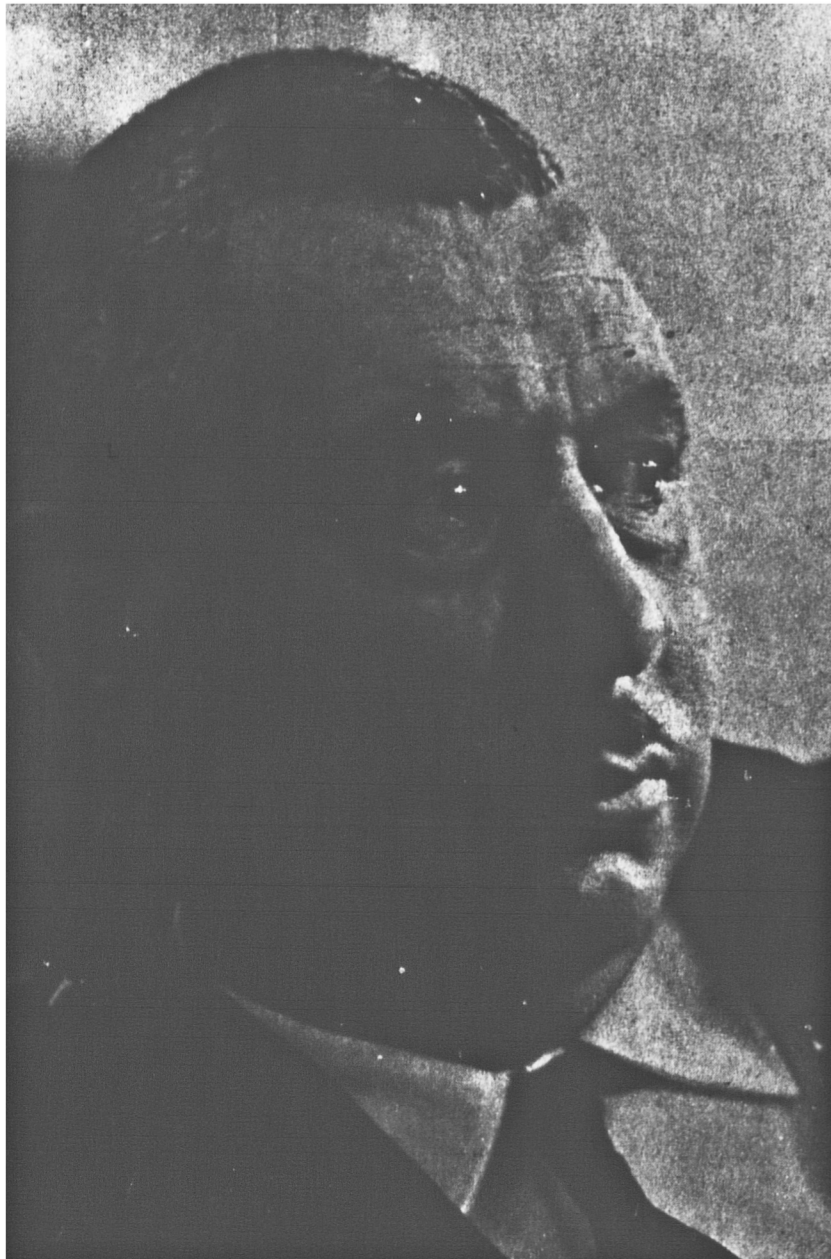




FRED D. GRAY



RUFUS C. HUFFMAN



H. O. WILLIAMS

After 13 Days, 73 Witnesses Bullock County Vote Trial Ended in Empty Courtroom

BY MARY EDLEN GALE

MONTGOMERY, Ala.-- By the time the Bullock County election trial ground to a halt last month, nobody was paying much attention to it any more.

The spectators' benches in federal court here were practically empty. The people who were there said the testimony was putting them to sleep. The judge had taken to prowling around the courtroom.

And of the five defeated Negro candidates who filed the suit, only one showed up regularly to help his attorneys put on their case. That was Rufus C. Huffman, who lost the race for Bullock County tax assessor in the May 31, 1966, Democratic primary run-off.

Where were the other four? H. O. Williams--who ran for sheriff of Bullock County--had gone back home to Union Springs in disgust. "I'm not going to sit there and watch," he said.

Two other plaintiffs--Ben McGhee, who ran for Bullock County commissioner, and attorney Fred D. Gray, who ran for the state Legislature from Bullock, Barbour, and Macon counties--showed up only to testify. And Alonza Ellis, another candidate for Bullock County commissioner, never came to court at all.

The empty courtroom was mute testimony to the problems and delays which have plagued the huge election case since it was filed 15 months ago.

The defeated Negro candidates sued officials in Bullock, Barbour, and Macon counties. The suit charged that the white defendants had conspired to defeat the Negroes in the May 31 election.

The defeated candidates asked the federal court to set aside the results of the Democratic primary run-off, and to order a new run-off--and a new general election--for the five contested offices.

But a series of motions and hearings dragged on for months before the case finally came to trial last May. Then--after four days of testimony--the trial was recessed until the end of July.

When the 73rd and last witness stepped down from the stand on Aug. 4, the candidates' opponents had been in office for seven months.

And U. S. District Judge Virgil Pittman was apparently unimpressed with a large part of the testimony presented by the Negroes' head attorney, Fred Wallace of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. During the last nine days of the trial, Pittman grew more and more impatient with Wallace.

On one occasion, Wallace and his secretary, Miss Audrey Fleher, testified that the run-off election was fraudulent. Miss Fleher suggested that ballots had been cast in the names of dead people. Wallace suggested that ballots had been cast in the names of people registered to vote in other counties.

But on cross-examination, neither of them could give names or numbers to back up the accusations. When defense attorney R. E. L. Cope Sr. moved to exclude the testimony, Pittman shot back, "He (Wallace) is an attorney. He knows there's nothing to that. This is no use to me."

Miss Fleher also testified that 141 registered Negro voters either were left off Bullock County's official poll list or "not carried properly--not in the beat to which they were originally assigned." Wallace said the result was that many Negro voters "wandered" around the county on election day, looking unsuccessfully for their voting place.

But when Maury D. Smith, an attorney for Bullock County officials, asked how many of the 141 Negroes actually voted, Miss Fleher said she didn't know.

And Judge Pittman agreed that the information was important. "The court is vitally concerned with whether these people voted or not," he said. "Of course we're interested in any irregularity, but this goes to the real heart of the thing."

Later, attorney Cope presented evidence that only 111 of the 141 Negroes were entitled to vote. Of the 111, he said, 98--or 87%--cast ballots on May 31.

At another point, Wallace noted that 210 white people registered to vote in Bullock County on an "unannounced" registration day between the May 3 primary and the May 31 run-off. He said that on each of the other 263 registration days in the last six years, fewer than 19--and usually fewer than ten--white people signed up to vote.

The attorney then tried to ask George Blue--who defeated Negro candidate McGhee to win a third term as a county commissioner--about the unusually large turn-out.

Wallace said he was trying to prove there was an illegal "organization" of white officials, who conspired to inflate the white vote and decrease the Negro vote. But Judge Pittman refused to permit the question.

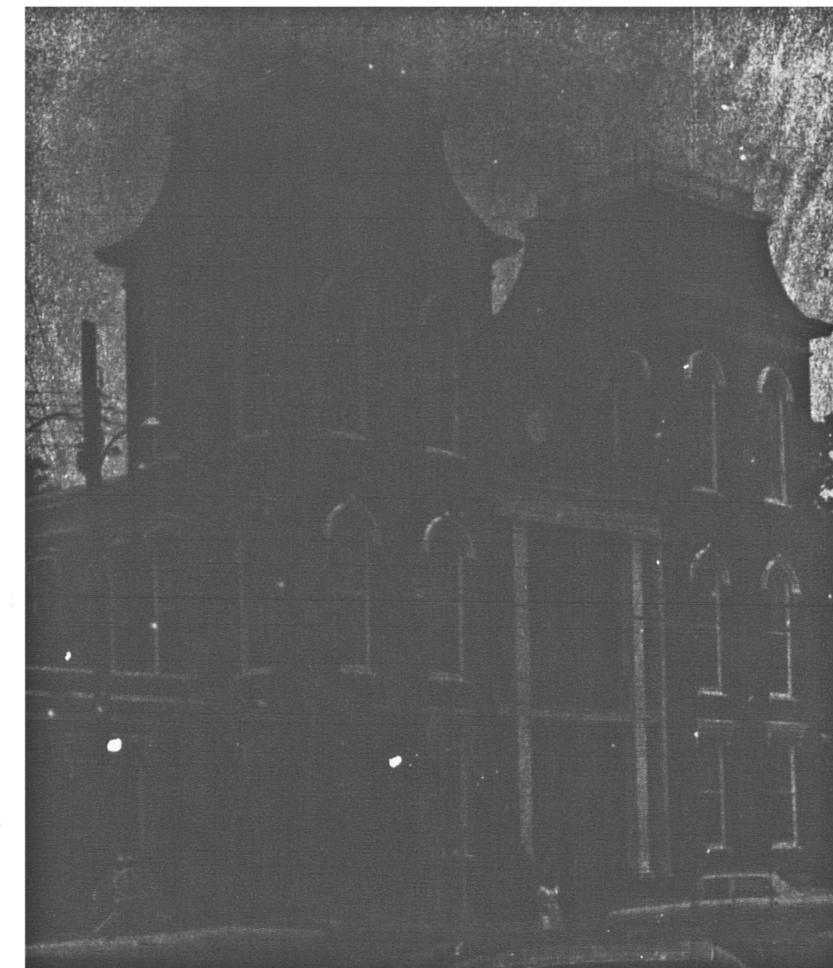
"We're not going to take up this court's time... to obtain political information for a group that admittedly engaged in bloc voting," Pittman said. "Do you contend that a person who holds political office has no right to go out and ask people to vote for him?"

When Wallace asked whether Blue had used the probate judge's list of registered voters, Pittman interrupted again. "Every candidate uses these files," he observed. "The last time I ran for office, my campaign workers went down..."

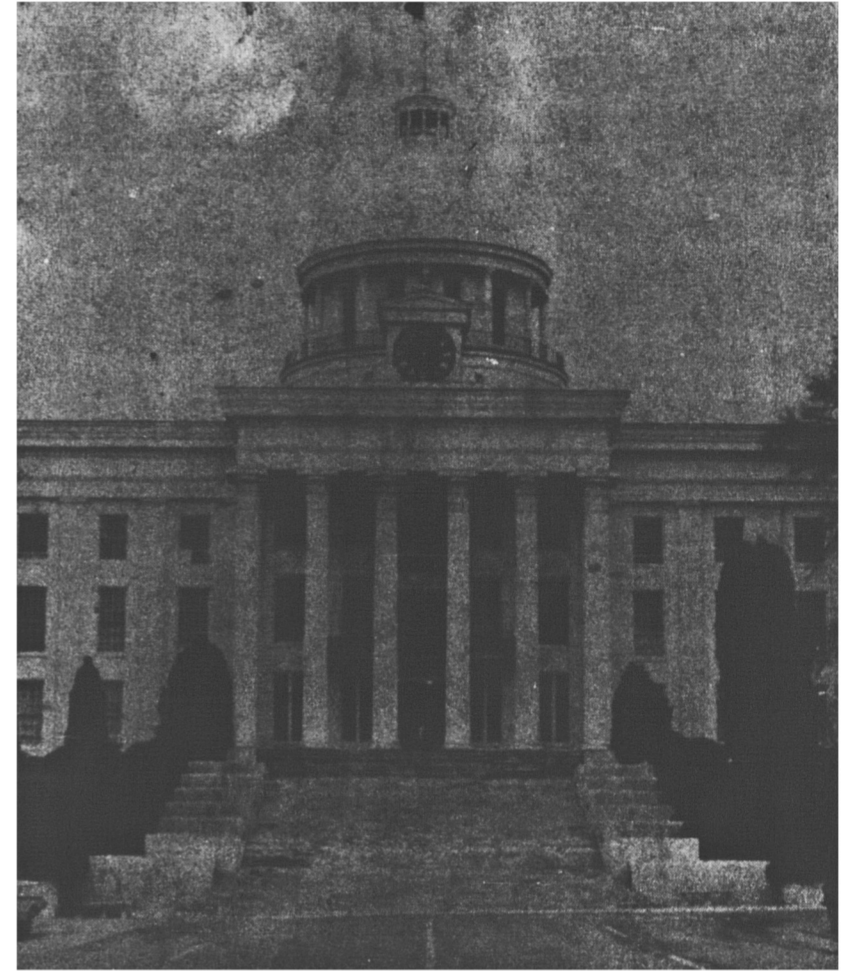
Wallace never asked any of his witnesses if they had tried and failed to see the probate judge's voters list before the run-off election. But Huffman, the Negro candidate for tax assessor, testified that Probate Judge Fred D. Main had attempted to prevent him from examining the files on July 28 of this year.

When he asked to see the "public records" in the probate office, Huffman said, he was cursed, "harassed, and to some extent intimidated by Judge Main."

Several Negro poll-watchers and election officials who worked at the National Guard Armory in Union Springs on May 31, 1966, said that policemen and white election officials threatened to arrest the Negro poll-watchers.



BULLOCK COUNTY COURTHOUSE



STATE CAPITOL BUILDING

But when Wallace asked Union Springs Police Chief Travis Tillery why policemen were stationed at the armory, Pittman broke in.

"It would be rather ridiculous if police officers were not present in a situation like this, when large numbers of Negroes and white people were voting together for the first time," said the judge. If the election officials didn't take precautions, he said, "we'd be nuts."

Tillery and other law enforcement officers testified that Negroes crowded around polling places, took notes, and in some cases handed out marked ballots on election day--in violation of Alabama law.

But when Wallace asked the officers why they didn't arrest the alleged law-breakers, he got some answers which seemed to contradict the earlier testimony. "They (the poll-watchers) weren't doing nothing but standing there and marking things," said Tillery.

And former sheriff's deputy Eugene Driggers said, "Everything was going along so smooth, I thought it would work out all right."

Tillery admitted that he couldn't name any Negroes who were handing out marked ballots. Driggers--who testified that such ballots were apparently being passed out at half a dozen polling places--gave only one name, Alfred H. Broadnax.

But when Wallace called Broadnax to the witness stand, Broadnax indignantly denied the charge.

White officials from Barbour and Bullock counties insisted that their poll lists included more white voters than census totals of white residents for a good reason: sudden growth since the 1960 count.

Several Bullock County officials said there were so many new white people in their county they felt like strangers themselves.

But Macon County officials admitted that their poll list was too large by at least 700 names. The county board of registrars agreed to purge the list as soon as possible.

And Judge Pittman said he was "seriously concerned" about the large numbers of white voters.

Even if all the white people who voted in Bullock County really were qualified to do so, the judge said, the turn-out was "extraordinarily high." He told the defense attorneys that they would have to "produce some concrete evidence" to persuade him that all the white people's ballots were legal.

The attorneys responded by calling several witnesses to testify that a total of 351 white people living outside Bullock County in May, 1966, were qualified to vote there. The attorneys suggested that the census missed these people.

On cross-examination, Wallace tried to show that the names of several such voters were used to cast illegal ballots. At one point, he asked county commissioner Blue if he were "positive" that a certain lady was a missionary in Thailand in May, 1966, and could only have voted by absentee ballot.

"I think I'm positive," said Blue. Wallace retorted, "If I told you that SOMEONE had signed her name on the poll list (on May 31), would that surprise you? Would that shake your definite conviction that she was in Thailand?"

Throughout the trial, there were three attorneys' tables in the courtroom--one for Wallace and his associates; one for the defense attorneys, and one for John Rosenberg of the U. S. Department of Justice.

Rosenberg showed up in court every day. But he seldom opened his mouth. And the federal government earlier made clear that it had little interest in the case. After beginning an examination of election records, the Justice Department suddenly backed off--leaving the Negroes' attorneys confused about what had been done, and where the records were.

When Wallace said the NAACP Legal Defense Fund could not pay for handwriting experts to study questionable signatures on some absentee ballots, the Justice Department declined to help. The government said it didn't want to violate its "neutral" position.

Most of the white people who appeared in the courtroom claimed that there was no discrimination against Negroes on election day. But what they said and the way they said it were two different things.

Almost no white person managed to pronounce the word "Negro" correctly. The defense attorneys and their witnesses spoke of "the nigra vote." And sometimes it was just plain "nigger."

No Negro witness ever used a comparable term--such as "cracker" or "red-neck."

Over and over, the white witnesses expressed indignation or surprise--or fear--that Negroes had finally gotten and used the power to vote.

"You couldn't stir 'em with a stick," said Mrs. James G. Cassidy, a white woman, about the "crowd" of Negro poll-watchers at the armory in Union Springs.

When Negro poll-watchers came up to the table in Fitzpatrick, said Mrs. Margaret Tompkins, an election official, "we didn't know what to do... We were all a little nervous, because it was something new."

At the end of the trial, Judge Pittman said he would hand down a decision later this fall, after studying the testimony and mountains of written records. Then he praised the attorneys for both sides.

"When people are running for office, it's easy to get emotionally involved," he said. "I am pleased with the conduct of counsel."

But H. O. Williams, the defeated Negro candidate for sheriff of Bullock County, said he wasn't pleased with anything about the trial. "Our rights got lost somewhere," he said.

And Huffman, the Negro candidate for tax assessor, recalled that even charges of election fraud didn't affect the operation of the county probate office. During his argument with the probate judge last July, Huffman said, he remarked that he wanted "to be respected as a man."

"Judge Main said, 'Let me tell you one damn thing--you get no more out of me than anyone else,'" Huffman remembered. "I said, 'I don't want more--I just want as much.'"

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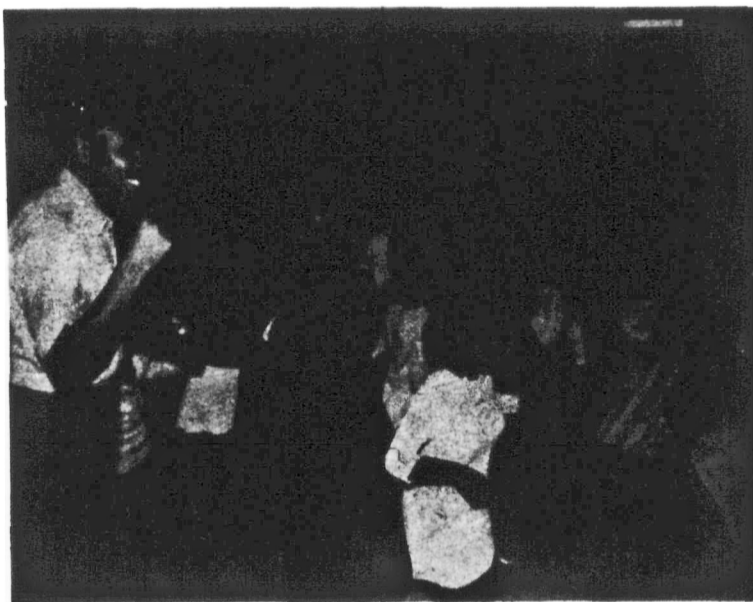
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Harris of Meridian Wins Opener

Ala. A&M Looks Strong

BY BOB DINWIDDIE
 NORMAL, Ala. -- Alabama A & M Coach Louis Crews lost 22 lettermen from last year's championship football team, but he isn't shedding any tears over the outlook for this season. "We could have another pretty good team," Crews said last week. "It all depends on how our up-coming freshmen come through." Crews said he has 28 freshmen who will get a chance to play.



The A & M coach isn't so sure of his starting line. He has to groom an entirely new set of ends this season, since all the old ones graduated. Two top candidates for the starting end positions are freshmen Andrew Robinson of West Palm Beach, Fla., and Donald Hinton of Detroit, Michigan.
 Another freshman who will get a great deal of attention is big Levon Thomas of Chattanooga, Tenn. Thomas stands 6'3" and weighs 312 pounds. "I think the boy is going to be a pretty good football player," said Crews. "For his size, he has a surprising amount of speed and agility. I think there will be a place for him on the team."

"Our older folks are doing pretty well," the coach added, "We've got one or two hopping around with injuries, though. In fact, our number-one tackle, William Kendrick, got hurt trying to run through a blocking dummy the other day."

Kendricks, at 6'4" and 250 pounds, could be one of the top linemen in the South. Pro scouts are already watching him, Crews said.

The A & M backfield is just about set for the opener. Little All-American Onree Jackson will open at quarterback, flanked by Maurice Coleman and Wil-

liam Sanders at halfback and either Alvin Presnell or John Sanders at full-back.

Some Places Excluded From Civil Rights Act

NEW ORLEANS, La. -- Privately-owned bowling alleys, pool halls, skating rinks, and amusement parks don't have to admit Negroes, the U. S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals said last week.

If these places "offer no exhibitions for the entertainment of spectators," the court said, they are not covered by the Civil Rights Act's provision against discrimination in places of "exhibition or entertainment."

Many amusement parks and similar places in the South have been open to Negroes since the Civil Rights Act was passed three years ago. In view of this decision, however, some of them may change their policies.

The appeals court ruled on a suit filed by Mrs. Patricia B. Miller after she and her two children--Denise and Daniel--were refused admission to the Fun Fair amusement park in Baton Rouge, La.

In the lower federal court where the case was tried, Mrs. Miller's lawyers contended that the amusement park came under the section of the Civil Rights Act referring to "any motion picture house, theater, concert hall, sports arena, stadium, or other place of exhibition or entertainment."

But the trial judge disagreed--and so did the court of appeals. In last week's decision, Circuit Judge Richard T. Rives said the "legislative history" of that section of the act indicated that it wasn't intended to cover amusement parks.

Testimony in the trial court showed that the Baton Rouge amusement park serves food at concession stands. There are sections of the Civil Rights Act prohibiting discrimination at all places that serve food.

But, Judge Rives noted, Mrs. Miller's lawyers agreed not to base their case on those sections.

U. S. District Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr., sitting on the appeals court, disagreed with Rives and Circuit Judge David W. Dyer. Johnson said President John F. Kennedy's message to Congress in 1963 made it clear that amusement parks were supposed to be covered by the Civil Rights Act.

Johnson noted that Kennedy had said, "No action is more contrary to the spirit of our democracy and Constitution--or more rightfully resented by a Negro citizen who seeks only equal treatment--than the barring of that citizen from restaurants, hotels, theaters, recreational areas, and other public accommodations and facilities."

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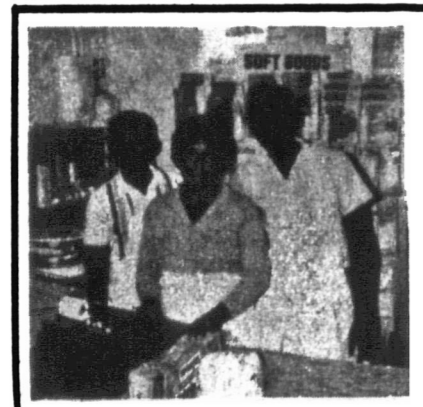
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'God Helps Those Who Help Themselves'

Why No Truant Officer?

BY ALAN BOLES

ROANOKE, Ala.--Negro parents are still asking the Randolph County school board to hire a Negro truant officer.

According to Wilkie Clark of the Randolph County Improvement Association, Schools Superintendent R. D. Simpson promised to hire a Negro officer at an RCIA meeting a year ago.

"I have discussed it a number of times," Simpson said last week. "But we don't have a whole lot of trouble in the county system. I wouldn't hesitate to hire one (a Negro truant officer) if the problem becomes acute."

Some people said they think truancy is already a major problem. "When school gets going, sometimes I can count six or eight kids on my street who are staying out," said the Rev. J. S. Brown, president of the RCIA.

"It's a real big problem," agreed Mrs. Texanna Royston, a teacher at Wedowee High School. "We need a truant officer badly. If he explained to parents how serious truancy is, some of them might send their children."

Randolph County Sheriff Charlie Willis Thomas--who was truant officer for about a year--said there is "quite a bit" of truancy in the county. "I'd say the greatest problem is among the colored," he added.

FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

In Alabama all our yesterdays are marred by hate, discrimination, injustice, and violence. Among the organizations working for a better tomorrow on the principle of human brotherhood is the Alabama Council on Human Relations, Membership in the Council is open to all who wish to work for a better tomorrow on this principle. For further information, write the Alabama Council, P.O. Box 1310, Auburn, Alabama.

Thomas said he quit the job more than a year ago because "I got so much other work up here, and the pay wasn't so good."

Besides, the RCIA objected to having a police official as truant officer. "I don't think it's fair to the child," Brown explained. "We don't want the children scared." But even when Thomas was on the job, said Brown, "we've never seen him come around and contact us."

Clark said school officials aren't doing anything about truancy because a large number of kids who stay out of school are employed by white people.

He said he had offered to take Simpson on a tour of Wedowee, a town near Roanoke, and show him the problem--but the superintendent refused.

Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights

The weekly meeting will be at 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 18, in St. Paul AME Church, 300 Fourth Ct. N., the Rev. S.M. Davis, pastor.

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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.

MERCHANT MARINE -- The United States Merchant Marine Academy desires to inform qualified young Negro men of the opportunities available to them at the academy and in the United States Merchant Marine. The academy is located on Long Island Sound at Kings Point, New York, about 20 miles from New York City. The academy educates and trains young men for careers as licensed deck or engineering officers in the Merchant Marine, through a four-year college curriculum leading to the bachelor of science degree. In addition to receiving a degree and a license as third officer or third assistant engineer, graduates may be granted a commission as ensigns in the United States Naval Reserve. Candidates for admission must be nominated by a U.S. congressman or senator, but appointments are made on the basis of candidates' competitive standing within the state from which they are nominated. Competitive standing is determined by College Board examination scores, high school rank in class, and evaluation of candidates' leadership potential and motivation. Men desiring admission to the academy with the class entering in July, 1968, should request nomination by a senator or congressman as early as possible, and not later than Jan. 31, 1968. Information concerning the academy program, requirements for admission, and procedure for requesting a nomination can be obtained by writing to Admissions Office, United States Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, N. Y. 11024.

HELP WANTED--Interviewer wanted for telephone survey work. Must have private line. Not a selling job. Air-mail a letter--including your education and work experience and the names of your references--to American Research Bureau, Field Staff Department, 4320 Ammendale Rd., Beltsville, Md. 20705. Give phone number when applying.

ATTENTION NURSES--Serve in the Air Force Reserve. There are vacancies available in the 542nd Medical Service Flight for qualified nurses. Previous service not required. As a nurse in the Air Force Reserve, you continue in your present civilian occupation, and train one weekend per month. In addition, you will serve 15 active duty days each year in a well-equipped Air Force hospital. If you are between the ages of 20 and 35, with no dependents under 18 years of age, and you are currently registered as a nurse in any state, you may qualify as a nurse in the United States Air Force Reserve Nurse Corps. If you have a desire to serve with a dedicated team to help safeguard the health of America's airmen, call Maxwell AFB, 265-5621, Ext. 5818, or write to MSGT G. K. Flowers, 3800 ABW (BPMQRP), Maxwell AFB, Ala., 36112.

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.

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.

WORK FOR FREEDOM--Interested in direct action for peace, student power, human rights, and free food programs? Work for Kairos-Mobile, and get to the nitty-gritty in Mobile and other places. Come by or write to Director, Central City Headquarters, 304 N. Warren St., Mobile, Ala.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED--Kairos-Mobile needs file cabinets, typewriters, office equipment, and books for its central city grass-roots headquarters. Help the central city by giving items you don't need. Call Kairos, 478-1504 in Mobile.

CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS -- "Little children, keep yourselves from idols." This Golden Text from I John sets the theme for this week's Bible lesson on "Matter," to be read in all Christian Science churches this Sunday, Sept. 17.

ELMORE COUNTY MEETING--The Elmore County Advisory Council will hold a special meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 19, in the Wetumpka Recreation Center. Business of importance will be discussed. Abram Billups, president; John Russell, reporter.

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