

Campaigners Settle in Resurrection City

Action Begins in Capital

BY JOHN C. DIAMANTE

WASHINGTON, D.C.--"We are participating in the greatest drama this country has ever known, and everybody's in the play," said the Rev. James Bevel at Resurrection City's first "town meeting."

"The theme of the play is to re-distribute the wealth of the country," Bevel told the Poor People's campaigners who have settled in the makeshift city between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial.

"The philosophy of the play is that God owns the universe," Bevel went on. "So go out and do that play, and let the players come who will--and do the drama, to educate the country."

No one knows how the drama of the Poor People's Campaign--the last dream of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and perhaps the last hope of his organization, SCLC--will turn out. But at least the first phase--the caravans--is over, and the second phase--direct action--has begun.



SOUTHERN CARAVAN MARCHES THROUGH NORFOLK, VA.

BY BOB LABAREE

RICHMOND, Va.--For the 450 people on the Southern caravan of the Poor People's Campaign, the longest and hardest part of the two-week trip from Mississippi to Washington was over when they arrived in Richmond last Saturday.

From there, it was just a few more hours to their destination. SCLC's plans called for them to complete the long journey to Washington last Sunday. But on Saturday evening, Albert Turner, leader of the caravan, announced that the group would stay in Richmond for a few days, to give the people in Washington more time to prepare for them.

Other caravans--from the Midwest

and the Northeast--were also reported to be waiting in cities not far from the capital.

But Turner had pointed out several times during the trip that it was especially important for the Southern group to reach Washington soon. "We're the ones most dedicated to non-violence," he said. "We've seen it work. We know what it can do."

He even suggested that the young men and women who had been chosen as marshals on the Southern caravan would play an important role as leaders in Washington.

Four days later, on Wednesday, the caravan finally entered the nation's capital.

Actually, for many of the marchers,

the delay in Richmond was a welcome opportunity to rest. In 14 days, the caravan had stopped in 14 major cities and a handful of smaller towns between Mississippi and Virginia, while covering a total of more than 1,700 miles. Some 30 to 40 of those miles had been traveled on foot.

At each stop along the way, SCLC carried out its plan to help give local civil rights movements "a shot in the arm." In the presence of reporters and TV cameramen from all over the country, local leaders stood up and talked about the problems in their own communities.

In Durham, N. C., young Negro leaders reminded city officials that a sym-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO, Col. 1)

Whites Oppose Mobile Zoning

BY JOHN SINGLETON

MOBILE, Ala.--Last Monday's special meeting of the Mobile County school board was in an uproar as soon as the opening prayer began.

As county Schools Superintendent Cranford Burns began the prayer, he was interrupted by a large number of white people who hollered, "No, we won't pray. Our kids can't pray in school."

More than 500 whites and 50 Negroes attended the meeting in Mobile's Municipal Auditorium.



LANGAN

POGUE

The public session was held to consider a court-ordered zone - attendance plan for Mobile schools. Under the plan, students would be assigned to schools without regard to race.

One of the first people to speak against the plan, W. C. Boykin, quoted a Bible verse that says, "Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle." The way he pronounced the last two words, they sound like "our pistol."

John L. Leflore, a veteran civil rights leader, broke the chain of white complaints by telling the people that Negro children are now getting the fair break they deserve. "If there is any more gerrymandering (of school zones)," he said, "we are going back to the court."

And Leonard White, a Negro teacher, said better-qualified white teachers should be assigned to the schools where

faculty desegregation is already taking place.

"If we are forced to have white teachers in Negro schools," he said, "we want them to be of equal caliber to the black minds that have been drained to the white system."

A white man ridiculed White's demand by asking, "How can (Negro children) learn from white teachers if they (the children) are inferior?"

The man said he lives half a mile from Williamson High School--an all-Negro school that about 500 white students will be required to attend, if the zone plan is finally adopted.

"As I sit on my porch, I hear screams, hollering, police and ambulance sirens," he said. "Yet they are forcing our children to go into this dangerous area." He then told the crowd that he has no children in school, but he will fight anyway.

Dr. Sidney Phillips, a school board member, told the crowd he is against "deterioration of education in favor of integration."

As Mrs. Jackie Jacobs, an instructor at Mobile State Junior College, came to the stage along with Jerry Pogue, a militant civil rights worker, the white parents started to leave, shouting, "We don't want to hear any nigger."

"We are glad you are leaving," Mrs. Jacobs screamed. "We're glad you're angry. As black people, we've been mad all our lives."

"I pity you," she added. "You're a bunch of sick, sick people."

Pogue was one of the people arrested last week, during a march held to protest "discriminatory practices by the county of Mobile." Riot-control squads with fixed bayonets halted the march at one point.

The night before the march, City Commissioner Joseph N. Langan told the people at a meeting that "the Negro has the best three friends downtown they'll ever have" in the present commissioners. Langan also spoke to the people the next day.

SCLC leaders say the point of the campaign is to tell the country, especially the Congress, that the nation's poor people cannot wait any longer for jobs, housing, and some form of guaranteed income. Resurrection City has settled down with a population of about 3,000.

The city's 600 specially-designed housing structures include tents for dining and recreation, a full-scale day-care center, a sign-making shop, and a large medical-dental-psychiatric clinic set up by the Medical Committee for Human Rights.

There is also a Poor People's University, and a City Hall stands on the Dr. Martin Luther King Plaza. (The Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, president of SCLC, is "mayor" of Resurrection City.)

The second stage of the campaign was



WORKSHOP IN GREENSBORO, N. C., supposed to be a massive march on Memorial Day. But the march has now been scheduled for June 19, as a climax to a month of direct action.

This week, poor people began going up to Congress--to testify about hunger and about their problems with government agencies, or to attend hearings in large groups.

"I didn't come because I had confidence in Congress," said Bevel one day. "I came because I had confidence in myself. When some of you folk get up there and see and hear how ignorant congressmen can be, you'll start appreciating your own intelligence."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX, Col. 1)

'The White Folks Done Took Over Hurtsboro'

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

HURTSBORO, Ala.--Johnny Streeter stood out in his front yard last Monday evening, with his hands on his hips, a fading bruise on his head, and a mournful look in his eyes.

"I just don't know how come the people in the South are so low-down," he said angrily.

He put a hand up to his head, to see if the bruise was still there. It was. "I just couldn't see what in the world he did it for," said Streeter. "I been with him 30 years. That many years, I wasn't expectin' no licks."

Streeter, a small, wiry Negro man in his late forties, was talking about his employer, W. A. "Will" Dozier, a white man. Streeter said Dozier struck him on the head one day last week, while his back was turned.

"We was workin' on some paint tins" in Dozier's hardware store, Streeter said. Then, he recalled, there was an

argument about where to put the tins.

"I got hot, and he got hot," said Streeter. "I said, 'I better get outa here.' I went to turn--next thing I knew, he hit me. He hit me for nothin'."

The blow was so hard it stunned him, Streeter continued, and he didn't hit back. Instead, he said, "I just got up and left."

At his hardware store this week, Dozier--an elderly man not much bigger than Streeter--didn't deny the incident. But, he said, "there was nothing to it. It didn't amount to much."

"There's the boy right there," said Dozier, nodding toward the back of the store, where Streeter was waiting on two Negro customers.

Then Dozier turned to a white man standing nearby. "I don't know what this country's coming to," he said. "I don't know how these rumors get out, but they do."

He was right about that, Hurtsboro's Negro community was still talking about the incident this week. And Streeter's family and friends said they don't see why he went back to work for Dozier.

"If it had been me," said his daughter, Miss Carlene Streeter, a pretty high-school senior, "I'd be in court right now."

Streeter said he thought about signing a warrant against Dozier, but "I decided to let it go. I don't think it'll happen no more."



JOHNNY STREETER AT HOME NEAR HURTSBORO

Protest Teacher Firings, School Conditions

Holly Springs Students Walk Out

BY JOHN SISSON

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss.--"If you want to hear what I have to say, you'll have to follow me out of here," an SCLC worker said to a student assembly at all-Negro Sims High School in Holly Springs.

At that, 800 students walked out of school April 30 to begin a protest against the firing of three teachers and against the conditions at their school. They were led out by R. B. Cottonreader, who had come to Holly Springs to recruit for the Poor People's Campaign.

The next day, at least 500 students and some teachers marched again. This time they were met by Sam Coopwood, the mayor of Holly Springs, and Joe Williams, superintendent of the Holly Springs schools. Coopwood agreed to discuss the grievances with a few representatives of the marchers, but in the meeting that followed, the mayor refused to grant any of the demands.

The students vowed to stay out of school, and to demonstrate until all their demands are satisfied.

Three weeks later, the protest is still going on. Last week, Cottonreader and several others were arrested during a night march.

Although the students are demanding improvements in nearly all aspects of their education, it was the decision not to re-hire Oscar Fant, Mrs. Betty Far-



R. B. COTTONREADER

row, and Don Williams that kindled their protest.

"I have a great deal of respect for my students," said Don Williams, "and nobody can say that I wasn't doing an excellent job. I think that's what created a lot of concern among students, because I was doing my job and doing it well."

But the superintendent said employment of teachers is not a matter for the students to become involved in.

"In the answer (to the students' formal list of demands), I indicated that every professional, ethical, and legal code had been followed," he said. "And the teachers involved were informed that they could meet with the Board of Education to discuss their cases."

There is some dispute about who was responsible for firing the teachers. Sims High School Principal Fred Moore--who is also not being re-hired--said the superintendent "had some complaints on these teachers--his complaint about Mr. (Don) Williams was that he didn't have an 'A' certificate. He asked me about them, and I suggested he use his own judgment."

The superintendent replied that there was no truth to this, and that Moore had not included the three teachers on the list of those to be re-hired. Don Williams thinks that personal differences between himself and the principal were the real cause of his firing--and of Mrs. Farrow's firing as well.

Don Williams said he needs only six more hours of graduate courses to qualify for his "A" teaching certificate, and will easily get those hours this summer. In the year that Williams has been band director at Sims, he said, the band has won first-place trophies in every musical competition it has entered.

Student demands do not end with the re-hiring of the three teachers. The

protesters want more teachers, improved physical facilities, better equipment and instructional materials, more buses, and free lunches. They are also demanding that the school board apply for federal funds for the education of poor children.

When asked about these demands, Superintendent Williams said, "They didn't bring anything to our attention that we didn't know of already, and that we haven't laid the groundwork for already."

While admitting that the pupil-to-teacher ratio at Sims is greater than at Holly High (the white school), Williams said that in the last two years, he and the school board have been working to overcome differences in the two schools.

"Teachers' salaries at Sims are now almost up to the level of those at Holly High," he said, and one additional teacher has been hired for next year at Sims and Frazier (the Negro elementary school).

But Negro protesters say they want more than awareness of the problems of their school--they want action.

"People have been aware for years," said Don Williams. "Awareness is not hard--all you've got to do is go around and look."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX, Col. 6)

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Table with 2 columns: City, Alabama and Phone Number. Lists various cities and their corresponding phone numbers.

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Editorial Opinion

'A Terrible Loss'

Readers of the Race Relations Law Reporter learned last week that the 12-year-old civil rights publication is going out of business. The death of this valuable service underlines the reluctance of white America to take any responsibility for deprived or disadvantaged black citizens.

The Race Relations Law Reporter is a quarterly collection of all court decisions, laws, and administrative rulings on racial issues. Civil rights lawyers--who lack the time or the money to compile these materials themselves--have come to rely on the Reporter.

The disappearance of the Reporter is "a terrible loss," says civil rights attorney Donald A. Jelinek of Selma, Ala. "It's the only thing there is for people who don't have time to read every case that comes out."

In a letter to subscribers, the Reporter said it is folding because "the Ford Foundation has not found it advisable to extend its financial support," and because "no other source of financing the publication has been found."

Campaign

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

pathy march after the death of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. had been broken up with fire hoses.

In Waverly, Va., people from the caravan were shown through a community of slum houses owned by State Senator Grayland Gray.

Along the way, the receptions by the local rights groups were enthusiastic. But the reception by other local residents--especially the police--varied from city to city.

To many of the marchers, for instance, the Atlanta (Ga.) policemen were a welcome change from the Alabama state troopers--with fixed bayonets and cans of chemical spray--who waited for them at the state Capitol in Montgomery.

Young Negroes on the caravan who called out "Soul brother" to Negro policemen in Atlanta were surprised when many of the officers shouted "Soul brother" right back.

One young marcher had his own explanation for the difference in attitude. In Georgia, he said, "they don't take us seriously. In Alabama, they knew we meant to change things."

Dispute Over Macon Recreation Plan

around," he said. "Then we'd have \$670 for staff, and \$8,000 for the people. Why can't we ask Washington to let us do it that way?"

"I don't agree with that," responded Mrs. Hattie S. Kelly, another board member. "You can carry on recreation with nothing but what God gave you, if you have good supervisors. . . . These children can make bats. I've made bats. You don't have to buy horseshoes. You can find some old horseshoes that were discarded."

But Mayberry said maybe the protesters are right. "Here's a grant of \$8,000, with only \$670 to buy something for the people," he commented. "There's something wrong with that."

As a partial solution, he suggested that staff workers in the new rural-resources program could help supervise recreation, so that more of the \$8,000 could go "into the hands of the people who need it."

Community residents also disagreed about sites for recreation. At first, Mayberry told Mrs. Elaine Benn that the program is planned for only ten centers--and her community, Rockefeller Hill in Tuskegee, may not be one

Opinions Differ in Russell County

Stamp Plan: Success or Not?

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

PHENIX CITY, Ala.--Russell County has been selling food stamps to poor people for about a month now, and according to white officials--and a local civil rights leader--the program is a success.

But some of the people the program is supposed to be serving aren't very enthusiastic about it.

Otis W. Taff, chairman of the Russell County commissioners, owns a grocery store which has been approved to accept food stamps and turn them into the federal government for cash. He sat at the counter one afternoon this week, and talked about the program.

It's better than the county's old surplus-food program--discontinued about 11 years ago--because "you deal with the merchants you been dealing with all these years," said Taff.

The surplus food wasn't very good, Taff added. For instance, he said, "they gave away processed cheese, and these poor people didn't know what to do with it."

Although surplus food is free and food stamps cost some money, Taff said "the people here are very well satisfied. If you're talking about racial problems, we don't have anything like that here."

Taff said he doesn't remember why the free-food program was stopped. But the Rev. Austin Sumbry, head of the all-Negro Russell County Voters Association, recalled that "the people said they didn't want it."

"The way it was issued out, the people didn't approve of it," said Sumbry. "Whites in one line, colored in another line, and all that stuff."

But in Pumpkin Bottom--a Negro section of dirt streets lined with rickety frame houses--people told a different story.

"Everybody liked it (the surplus food)," said Mrs. Mattie Ingram. "But they just cut it out. I never heard no reason."

The Rev. A. C. Daniel said, however, that he knows what happened. When Taff was running for office in the late 1950's, Daniel recalled, "he met with the people at Rev. Sumbry's church, and we called him in question on the food."

"He said oh yes, he was going to continue it--even expand it. No sooner he got elected, he turned around and sent the carload back to Birmingham."

"He have a big store. I reckon he--and the other merchants--thought it wasn't helping their sale. I haven't voted for him since."

Daniel said free food would help more people than food stamps ever will: "I tell the truth about me--I need it--and so do the rest."

At the Russell County food stamp of-



REV. A. C. DANIEL (LEFT) AND JAMES PALMER IN PUMPKIN BOTTOM

in any starving condition." But Albert Quinn, secretary of the local NAACP, disagreed. "I have been

But at half a dozen homes in Pumpkin Bottom, people who probably are eligible for the stamps said they aren't getting them.

"They don't have that--not for our people--do they?" exclaimed a tired-looking housewife.

"I was thinkin' about going down to get it," said Mrs. Maggie Randall, "but I haven't gone. Maybe I will, but it's so far."

And Mrs. Ingram said she isn't even going to try. "They don't pay you no mind downtown," she said. "I feel like I'd just be throwin' time away."

Daniel and Mrs. Ingram both said Russell County needs a broad-based anti-poverty program to tackle all the problems that confront its poor people.

"The houses is rundown," said Daniel. "You want a lavatory closet, you can't get it." Mrs. Ingram said she wishes there were a Head Start program to help the children.

About three years ago, Russell County joined Lee County in an unsuccessful effort to get federal anti-poverty funds. The people in Pumpkin Bottom don't think the local white officials tried very hard.

Taff--the chairman of the county commissioners--said the anti-poverty program "just died" for lack of interest.

Why haven't civil rights leaders tried to revive it? Sumbry said "most people in this area are in civil service, or work in the cotton mills. They aren't

all over this county trying to get development," he said. "I can't get the people to come together. They have a fear."

And, he said, the biggest obstacle is the rural ministers. "I don't know what a minister's doing bein' afraid," he remarked. "The people take care of them, feed them, house them, buy them a car. They shouldn't be tied to anybody."

But Mrs. Ingram said the problem isn't so much fear as hopelessness. For instance, she said, Phenix City officials promised to pave some streets in Pumpkin Bottom if the city received a federal grant.

"It was in the paper about they got some money for highways," she said. She looked out her window at 14th Court. A funeral procession--several cars full of white people--was jouncing slowly over the deep ruts toward the nearby white cemetery.

"That cemetery is paved," she said. "We have paid for everything--schools, sewers, water--everything they ask, and we're poor people. We go to the polls and vote for 'em, but we can't get nothin' done."

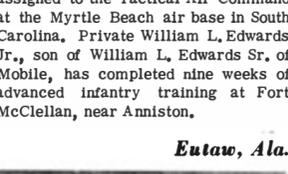


Montgomery, Ala.

Two 1967 graduates of Alabama State College have recently completed advanced training in the armed forces. Airman Lawrence Moore--son of Mrs. Evelina Lindsay of Bessemer, and an alumnus of Brighton High School--has been graduated from an Air Force technical school at Sheppard air base in Texas.

Moore was trained as a communications specialist, and has been assigned to the Tactical Air Command at the Myrtle Beach air base in South Carolina. Private William L. Edwards Jr., son of William L. Edwards Sr. of Mobile, has completed nine weeks of advanced infantry training at Fort McClellan, near Anniston.

Eutaw, Ala.



MISS SINNIE J. RICHARDSON

Miss Sinnie J. Richardson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Amos L. Richardson of Eutaw, last month became the first Miss Wright State (Ohio) University. Miss Richardson, an 18-year-old freshman, was crowned at the school's first annual spring formal. She won the title over six other candidates in a vote of the student body. Miss Richardson is a sociology major, and her hobbies and interests include judo, wrestling, sewing, modern dance, and acting.

New York City

The Ford Foundation has announced the establishment of a Legal Defense and Educational Fund to help the nation's Mexican-Americans attack problems of discrimination through legal channels. The new organization--similar to the NAACP Legal Defense Fund--will be financed by a \$2,200,000 grant from the Ford Foundation. "In terms of legal enforcement of their civil rights, American citizens of Mexican descent are now where the Negro community was a quarter-century ago," said McGeorge Bundy, president of the foundation. The grant was announced at a ceremony in San Antonio, Tex.

Atlanta, Ga.

Gerardo Ebanks, professor of modern foreign languages at Morehouse College and columnist for The Atlanta Voice, has written, produced, and directed a radio documentary-requiem entitled, "A Tribute to the Memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr." The program was broadcast here over station WIGO, and it was also sent coast to coast over WIGO's 28 affiliate stations. More recently, Ebanks appeared on television here in the role of Christ, on the program "Colloquium."

New York City

The NAACP has asked U.S. Attorney

Muncie, Indiana

Ball State University has created a Martin Luther King Jr. memorial scholarship program for Negro students interested in improving human relations. The scholarships--ranging from \$390 to \$1,000 a year--will be offered to needy students who "exemplify outstanding citizenship, leadership capacity, understanding, and the potential for furthering progress towards effective human relations."

Birmingham, Ala.

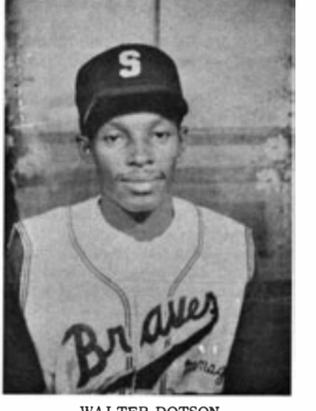
In a speech earlier this month to the Birmingham Council on Human Relations, Donald A. Jelinek of Selma called the U. S. Department of Agriculture a "vile, racist agency." Jelinek, director of the Southern Rural Research Project, said the USDA declared a state of emergency for plantation-owners last year because of the poor cotton crop, and gave the growers \$10,000,000 in loans. But, he said, the government would not declare an emergency for "the starving people who work the land."

Los Angeles, California

Bill Cosby, star of the "I Spy" television series, defended actor Sidney Poitier during a recent discussion on a local TV show. "It's kind of fashionable these days for people to knock Sidney because of what's he's done with his last few movies," Cosby noted. (Poitier has been criticized for playing only "good" Negroes.) "It's like knocking Jackie Robinson for never arguing with an umpire during his first three years in baseball," Cosby said. "Do you realize what the Establishment would have done to a black man if he'd turned around to an umpire and went 'Blah, blah, blah' in his face?"

Shopton, Ala.

The Bullock County (formerly Shopton) Braves held Opening Day here May 11, with a game against the Oakwood Clowns. Teams were also invited from Pine Level, Mt. Meigs, Mitchell Hill, Fort Davis, Midway, Union Springs, and other places. Walter Dotson is now general manager of the Braves, after 16 years as manager. James McGee is now the manager.



WALTER DOTSON

Governor Brewer Says He Still Backs Wallace

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN

MONTGOMERY, Ala. -- Governor Albert P. Brewer assured Alabamians this week that he is still an "enthusiastic" supporter of former Governor George C. Wallace.

Some people in the state had hoped--or feared--that Brewer would lead Alabama down a different path than the one Wallace followed. But in a press conference last Wednesday, Brewer heaped praises on Wallace, and promised to support the former governor's campaign for President.

"From the time of (Wallace's) inauguration (as governor) in January of 1963 to the present time, this distinguished native of Barbour County, Ala.,

has risen in national prominence to the position of a serious contender for the presidency of the United States," Brewer said.

"As I have supported him in his every candidacy since 1958, I wholeheartedly support him in this endeavor."

"Because of threats which have been made to the personal safety of Governor Wallace and his family," Brewer said, the state will continue to provide "such security . . . as may be necessary to protect them from physical harm."

Brewer said state troopers will accompany Wallace on his campaign trips, as they did when Wallace's wife, Lurleen, was governor.

Since becoming governor upon Mrs. Wallace's death May 7, Brewer has accepted resignations from several of Wallace's cabinet members--notably Finance Director Seymour Trammell, Executive Secretary Cecil Jackson, and Public Safety Director C. W. "Bill" Russell.

He has replaced these officials with men who are widely respected--like new Finance Director Bob Ingram (a former newspaper reporter with a reputation for honesty), and Public Safety Director Floyd Mann.

But last Wednesday, Brewer made it clear that he is not renouncing Wallace. He backed this assertion with some Wallace-like statements about Alabama affairs.

The governor said he has "had some contact with the legislators" about a court order requiring the Mobile board of education to determine school assignments by zones, without regard to race.

"This has caused great concern to the people there," Brewer said. "And frankly it would cause great concern to me if I were there."

The order--issued by the U. S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals--means "nothing but irrevocable harm to the schools of Mobile County and, if extended, to those of our state," the governor added.

The "democratic" way to desegregate schools is a freedom-of-choice plan, Brewer said. "I have never heard of a child being denied a choice of school under freedom-of-choice."

'Something Is Wrong'

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

TUSKEGEE, Ala.--The Macon County Community Action Program has received a federal grant of \$7,997 for summer recreation. But at a noisy session last week, CAP board members and community residents disagreed on how the money should be spent.

Spokesmen for several different areas of the county said they have located--and made plans to clear--land for baseball fields. They asked the CAP to buy balls, bats, and backstops.

But board chairman B. D. Mayberry told the group that only \$670 of the federal money is allocated for equipment. "It is unlikely that this program can do significant funding in any (recreation) center this year," he remarked.

A baby in the back of the City Hall courtroom burst into tears, and several board members and visitors started talking at once. "Where do the other \$7,330 go?" demanded one man, getting to his feet.

When Mayberry said most of it will be used for salaries, there were more mutterings of disapproval, and Probate Judge Preston Hornsby--vice chairman of the CAP--spoke up. "Looks like it could be turned

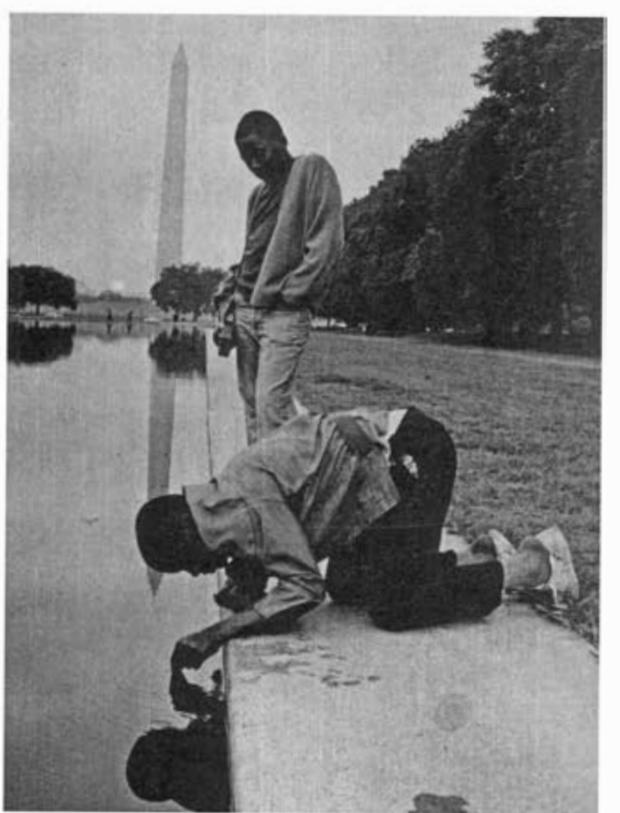
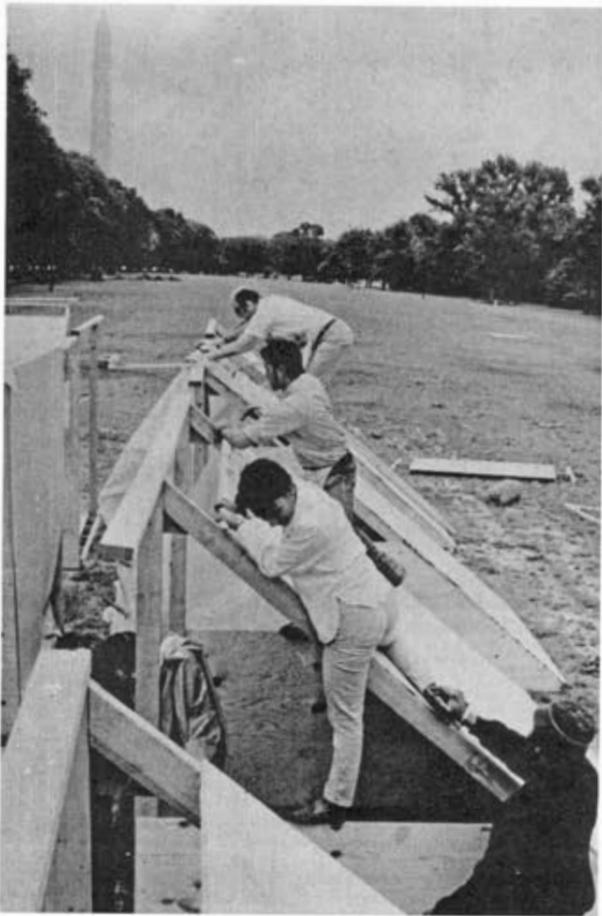
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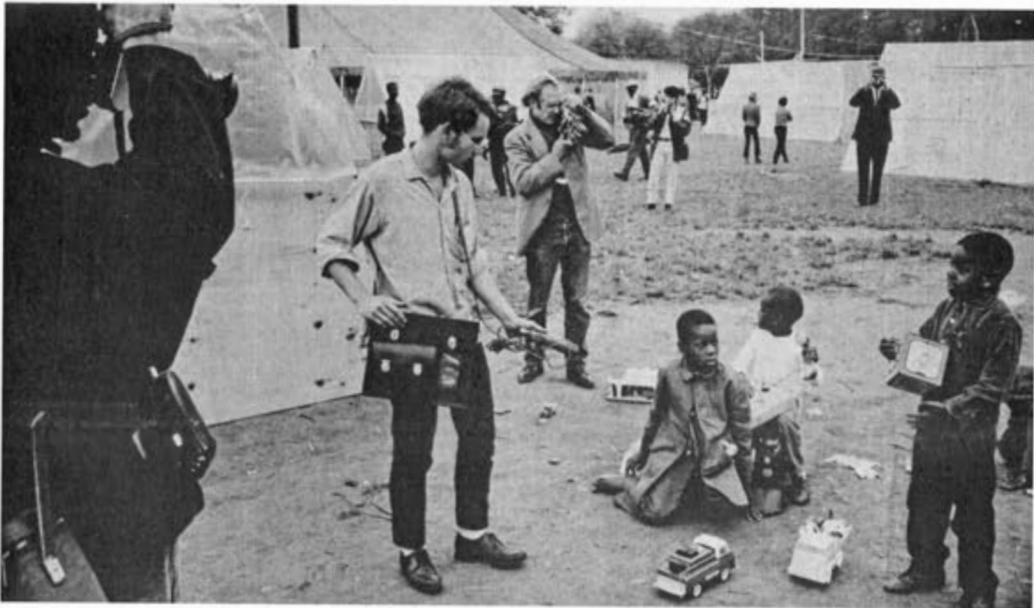
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Poverty Power In Washington

WASHINGTON, D. C.--A confrontation is a two-way street. In Washington, the nation's poor and the nation's "mainstream" are meeting each other--in Resurrection City, the Capitol, and elsewhere. Hopefully, both sides are learning something.

When the shanty-town by the Washington Monument is completed, it will house about 3,000 participants in the Poor People's Campaign.



Photos by Jim Pepler





RAIN SOAKS MARCHERS IN CHARLOTTE, N. C. . . .



. . . WHILE ONLOOKERS STAY IN DOORWAY

Southern Campaigners Tell Why They Joined the Caravan

WASHINGTON, D.C.--The Southern caravan of the Poor People's Campaign entered Washington this week, with almost 450 marchers from at least eight Southern states.

The group knew many hardships during the two-week journey. Buses broke down. Baggage was occasionally misplaced. Sometimes, people had to sleep on the floor.

Most of the campaigners marched nearly ten miles in the pouring rain on two successive days.

But there were good times as well as bad ones. The caravan received a tremendous welcome in Norfolk, Va., and Atlanta, Ga. The hosts were generous everywhere, and food was plentiful. And there was entertainment at each stopping place.

Nevertheless, a few travelers had

second thoughts. Samuel Hood, 19, joined the caravan in Atlanta. It was his first civil rights demonstration, and he talked enthusiastically about it for a week.

But by the time he reached North Carolina, he was wondering if he could still get his job back if he went home. And in Richmond, Va.--just a few hours from Washington--he took a bus back to Georgia.

Some people saw the hardships that were ahead, and didn't even join the group. In Savannah, Ga., Mrs. L. J. Greene, 33, decided to go to Washington on her own.

"I would go with you, but I'm not feeling too good," she said. "But I been with the movement from the beginning."

In 1962, Mrs. Greene joined SCLC leader Hosea Williams "sitting in, kneeling in, and lying in" to desegregate Savannah facilities. Now, she said, she hoped to be with the Poor People's Campaign in Washington by Memorial Day.

Some people seemed to welcome the hardships. Robert Henson--a young man from Birmingham, Ala., who walks on crutches because his legs were crippled with polio as a child--led the marchers three to five miles into almost every city between Birmingham and Washington.

With people beside him to wipe the rain out of his eyes, he walked ahead of the caravan into Greenville, S. C., and Charlotte, N. C., in a downpour. Sometimes the march leaders had to ask him to wait, so that the rest of the procession could catch up.

If you were to ask the marchers why they had left their homes to take the journey, many of them would give you the same answer--the answer which their little black and white SCLC buttons proclaimed--"I have a dream."

But there were other reasons. One youth from Mississippi said jokingly, "Man, I'm going to Washington to find me better women."

Young people made up more than half of the caravan, and they obviously were enjoying themselves. But most of them had a serious purpose too.

For Miss Annette Shelton and Stan Blakey, for example, civil rights demonstrations are nothing new. Miss Shelton has worked with SNCC in Mississippi and Chicago, and she put her experience to use as a campaign marshal. Blakey, who lives in Montgomery, Ala., marched from Selma to Montgom-

ery in 1965 while he was still in junior high school, and followed James Meredith through Mississippi in 1966.

He said the earlier marches included even more young people than the present one, and were less militant in their demands. "But in tactics, they were more militant," he said. "Every time we sat in or marched, there was violence started. On this one, we've had no violence."

Israel Sampson is only 16, but he can remember being drenched by Bull Connor's fire hoses in Birmingham and doesn't think he'll ever forget the dog bite he got during the same period.

He said his principal at Parker High School told him he could still be promoted if he went on the caravan. He plans to stay a week in Washington.

Charles Dansby, a 15-year-old from Atlanta, said he has never been in a demonstration before. But this time he plans to stay "until we get what we want."

His feelings about non-violence are shared by many of the young people on the march. "I believe that when you hit me, I hit you back," he said. "But there's so many old people here, they'd get hurt 'cause they can't run. So when I'm on this march, I ain't hitting back. But I don't believe in non-violence."

To many of the old people, the rea-

sons for coming to Washington are clear. "We suffered so long, nobody can tell us different," said Mrs. Sallie Harper of Charleston, S. C.

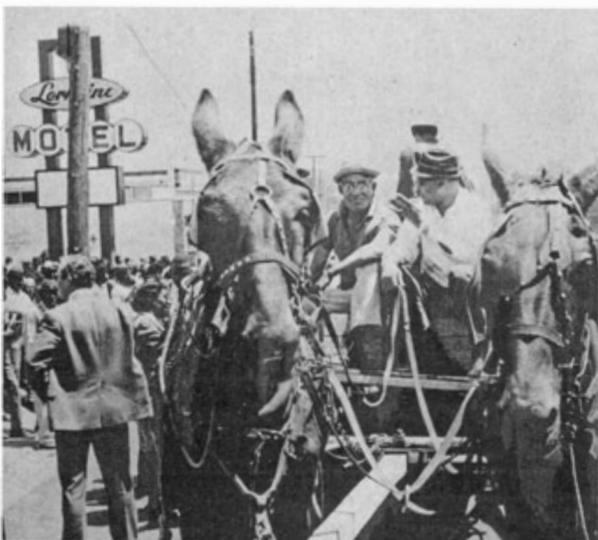
And Mrs. Heddie Harris wants to tell national officials herself that welfare for Negroes in her county in Mississippi is controlled by the county board of supervisors and the local landlords.

Mrs. Harris said she wrote letters to county, state, and national welfare offices, to get a check for her family of five. After four months, it finally came.

Before arthritis stopped him from working, John Brooks of Coy, Ala., spent many years in Florida as a butler for a wealthy white man. "Now I get \$92 a month Social Security," he said. "I want to know how I can live on that."

He wants to tell Congress that medical expenses take so much of his check, there's nothing left for anything else. Medicines alone cost around \$20 a month, and "the cheapest I get out of the doctor is \$6," Brooks said. "I haven't been in the hospital, so Medicare isn't any help."

As they arrived in Washington, the marchers talked softly about their hopes for the Poor People's Campaign. "Lord knows if we'll get what we want," said Mrs. Harper, the lady from Charleston. "But if we don't, it won't be for want of trying."

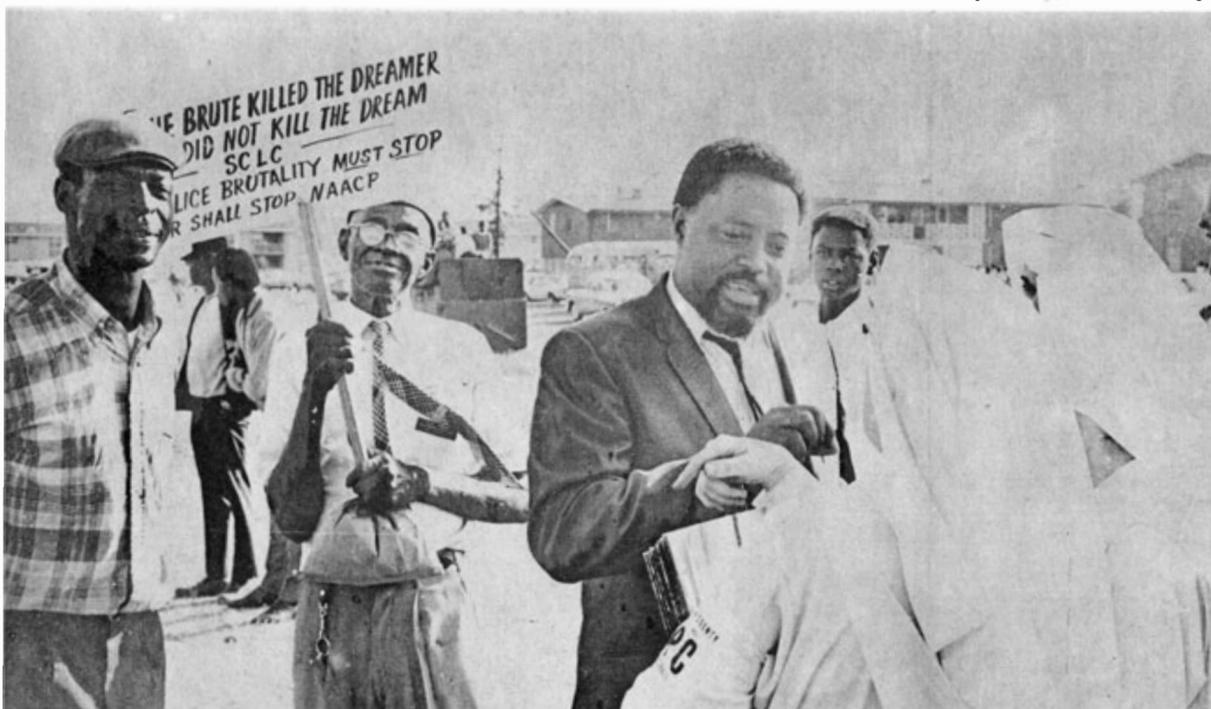


CAMPAIGN BEGINS IN MEMPHIS, TENN.



"WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?" ASKS BOY IN MACON, GA.

Text and Photos by Bob Labaree



NUNS WELCOME POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN TO SAVANNAH, GA.



ON THE ROAD



ROBERT HENSON (ON CRUTCHES) LEADS ATLANTA MARCH



In Old Kingston Community

'Road Back to Glory'

BY FRANKLIN HOWARD
 PRATTVILLE, Ala.--The predominantly-Negro community of Old Kingston, once the county seat of Autauga County, seems to be taking on new life.

Residents say this is due to the community's newly-acquired voting strength, and its growing economic power.

A symbol of Old Kingston's new life is a long-promised paved road, now becoming a reality. Residents call it the community's "road back to glory."

The road-building program came to Old Kingston during the Democratic primary campaign for the county Board of Revenue. J. B. Tucker, the incumbent, and Hobson Nelson will meet in a run-off June 4 for the right to represent Old Kingston's district on the board.

Ninety-four-year-old John Motley, the oldest Negro voter in the community, said the county "put people to work out here" because Old Kingston's voters now have power at the ballot box.

Probate Judge E. A. "Bud" Grouby--who was renominated in the May 7 primary--refused to comment on the upcoming run-off.

But he said county money has been allocated for grading, paving, and draining the road from White City--a predominantly-white community which has long enjoyed paved "farm-to-market" roads--past the Old Kingston Church and Hunter's Store.

The people of Old Kingston are taking pride in the community. There is even talk of incorporating Old Kingston as a separate town.

"I've got to have a new house now, being close to this new road," said Mrs. Amy Moss. "With all the dust, it just didn't make any difference before."

In the May 7 primary, Tucker--the present revenue board member--led Nelson in the district, 313 to 266. But in the box where Old Kingston people vote, Nelson led Tucker, 134 to 128.

It might seem ironic that the majority of people in Old Kingston voted against Tucker, now that they are getting their road. "The road was promised six years ago," one neighbor explained, "and we've been told to wait till next year ever since."

Nelson, the challenger, admitted that he can't claim any credit for the "glory road." But, he said, Tucker can't either.

"Who else can take credit for it?" Tucker replied. "I represent my district."

Nelson also said, "I'm in favor of treating the nra people fair. And with the white votes I've got and the nra votes, I'm pretty sure I'll win."

Tucker said he is "in hopes" that people in the Old Kingston community will vote for him.

Mrs. Gertrude Ziegler, a Negro lady who has been working for Tucker more



TRACTOR WORKS ON NEW ROAD

than 15 years, said he "treats me just like he do his white friends, I don't see no difference."

(This week, Tucker went to court for an order forbidding any tampering with the voter lists. He charged that names were being removed from the list, "in an effort to disqualify and disfranchise some of the people who voted for him.")

Regardless of the election results, residents feel that Old Kingston is on the move.

Already, Negro families are coming in increased numbers to shop for food at Hunter's Store, a Negro-owned business in the center of Old Kingston.

And Gary Myree, owner of Myree's Place in White City, said the new road will help his tavern business tremendously. "My one vote had much to do with the new road program," he said.

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Another Fire

BY PATRICIA JAMES

MERIDIAN, Miss.--Mt. Zion Baptist Church was the scene of a burning late May 15 or early May 16. It was the third church burning here in the last two months.

On April 14, the Mt. Pleasant Church was burned down. That was the second attempt on Mt. Pleasant, and it was a success.

Three weeks before the burning of Mt. Pleasant, the parsonage of the Newell Chapel Church was destroyed by fire.

Mt. Zion Church had received posters, apparently from the Ku Klux Klan, saying that Mt. Zion would be "next." Newell Chapel received similar warnings before the fire there.

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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.



FOR A BETTER ALABAMA--The Alabama Council on Human Relations has active chapters in Birmingham, Mobile, Montgomery, Huntsville, Florence-Tusculumbia-Sheffield, Auburn-Opelika-Tuskegee, Talladega, and Tuscaloosa. It has a staff that works throughout the state. The Alabama Council is integrated at all levels: its staff officers, staff, and local chapters all have people of both races working side by side. The Alabama Council wishes to establish local chapters in every county in the state. If you wish to join the Council's crusade for equal opportunity and human brotherhood, write The Alabama Council, P. O. Box 1310, Auburn, Ala. 36830.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED--The Montgomery Head Start needs all the volunteers help it can get to work in the classrooms. 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 a.m. and 2 p.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 at 419 Madison, call 263-3474, or go to the nearest Head Start center.

CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS--"For in him we live, and move, and have our being..." This passage from Acts is part of the Lesson-Sermon which will be read Sunday, May 26, in all Christian Science churches. The subject of the Lesson is "Soul and Body."

DISABLED WIDOWS--Disabled widows may now receive monthly benefits based on their husbands' Social Security record. The widow must be at least 50 years old, and must have a physical or mental impairment that prevents her from doing any gainful work. To file a claim, you should bring your marriage record, your Social Security number, your deceased husband's number, and proof of your age to your local Social Security office.

MARY HOLMES GRADUATION--Mississippi State Representative Robert G. Clark Jr. will be the featured speaker at the Mary Holmes College commencement at 10 a.m. Wednesday, May 29, on the campus in West Point, Miss. At 11 a.m. Sunday, May 26, Donovan E. Smucker, president of the college, will speak at the baccalaureate service. The public is invited to both events.

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

ENTRANCE EXAM--Alabama State College will administer a special American College Testing (ACT) Examination on Friday, June 28. Students who failed to take the test on one of the national dates and who are interested in enrolling at Alabama State College for the fall semester of 1968 should register for the examination before June 21 with the Office of Testing and Psychological Services, Room 235 in Councill Hall on the campus in Montgomery, Ala. An ACT score is one of the requirements for admission to the college.

COURIER NEWSBOYS--The Southern Courier has a limited amount of 12-and-under tickets available for the Montgomery Rebels-Charlotte Hornets baseball game at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 6, at Paterson Field, Montgomery, Ala. These tickets will be given to deserving newsboys in the Montgomery area, but The Southern Courier cannot furnish transportation to the game or places to stay. If you want to attend this game--and you have a way to get to and from the field--write to The Southern Courier, 1012 Frank Leu Bldg., Montgomery, Ala. 36104. NEWSBOYS (and girls) ONLY.

GREENSBORO--Curtis Rhodes is now selling The Southern Courier in Greensboro, Ala. To have the paper delivered to your home, call him at 624-7174.

FEDERAL JOBS--The Interagency Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners for South Alabama and Northwest Florida is holding examinations for card punch operators, \$86 per week. This examination provides applicants with career employment opportunities in the federal service in the 28 counties of South Alabama and the ten counties of Northwest Florida. Interested applicants may obtain necessary application forms and copies of the examination announcement from any Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners and at most main post offices. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Federal Job Information Center, Room 105, 107 St. Francis Street, Mobile, Alabama 36602, or any U. S. Post Office.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES--Last year, more than 5,000,000 students were involved in home-study courses. A directory of accredited private home-study schools, listing 95 accredited schools with quality courses, may be obtained without charge by sending a postcard to National Home Study Council, 1601 18th St. NW, Washington, D. C. 20009.

UNDER 31 AND DISABLED?--A worker who becomes disabled before age 31 now needs only 1 1/2 to five years of work under Social Security to qualify for benefits. A person disabled before age 24 needs only 1 1/2 years of work in the three-year period before his disability began. If you were turned down before because you did not have enough work in under Social Security before you became disabled, you may be eligible under the new rules. Check with your local Social Security office.

TRAINING JOBS FOR VETERANS--Government agencies can now hire Viet Nam-era veterans for jobs under special, non-competitive "transitional appointments." These jobs--paying from \$3,776 to \$5,565 a year--are for veterans with less than one year of training beyond high school, who have the required qualifications for the jobs. The veteran must also agree to take at least the equivalent of one school year of education or training under the G. I. Bill. Veterans must have had at least 181 consecutive days of active duty--some part of it after Aug. 4, 1964--to be eligible for these jobs. Veterans remain eligible until one year after their discharge or Feb. 9, 1969, whichever is later. Interested applicants may contact any government agency they prefer, or any office of the Veterans Administration or the Civil Service Commission, or the Veterans Assistance Center in Atlanta, Ga., or New Orleans, La.

PAINTINGS--A traveling exhibition of small paintings is being shown through May 28 at Alabama State College, Montgomery, Ala.

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Gees Bend Folks Try Again

'City of King' in Ala.?

BY ESTELLE FINE
CAMDEN, Ala.--Wilcox County Probate Judge Bill Dannelly last week denied a petition to incorporate Gees Bend as "the City of King," in honor of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

The judge said this week that the only reason for denying the petition was that it did not "meet the Code of Alabama regulations."

In a letter to Orzell Billingsley Jr., the Birmingham lawyer who filed the petition, Dannelly said, "I find that your petition does not have the four qualified electors living in each quarter of each quarter section."

A few days after receiving the judge's letter, Billingsley sent new forms to Gees Bend, to get the proper signatures.

One Gees Bend lady, Mrs. Parzie Pettway, said the petition was turned down because "some folks just want to hinder us."

But other people in the community said they are not at all surprised that the petition was denied, since it was drawn up and signed 1 1/2 years ago, when the idea of incorporating the community first came up.

The petition was turned over to a lawyer who did nothing about it, the people said. But right after Dr. King was killed, they said, the subject of incorporation was brought up again at a meeting of the Boykin Improvement Association.

A new lawyer -- Billingsley -- was hired, but a new petition was never circulated.



BILLINGSLEY REV. WALTER CULLATED. Before that could be done, the people said, the old petition was submitted to Judge Dannelly.

"Some of those people (on the old petition) were dead," said the Rev. Francis Walter, "and the area was too big, and it was gerrymandered out of ignorance."

Tuskegee Folks Begin Model Cities Planning

BY MARY ELLEN GALE
TUSKEGEE, Ala.--Bennie L. Davison, a volunteer organizer for Tuskegee's model cities program, was talking about street names when a lady in the audience raised her hand.

"I was just wondering," she asked, "what is the purpose for this meeting tonight?"

"To organize the Willow Park neighborhood," Davison replied. "We need to send a representative to the model cities commission"--the city-wide planning board.

When the federal government awarded planning grants to several cities last year, Davison went on. "Huntsville received theirs, but we were turned down because we didn't have enough folk involved. Now we're trying to get everybody in the city to take part."

Several people in the group of 40 shook their heads, and one of them--Booker Conley--spoke up.

"We don't have near enough people who should be here," he said, and the problem is that they don't know they live in Willow Park.

"Six hundred leaflets were given out personally," Davison said. "Isn't that how you got yours?" he asked a man in the audience.

"Well," said the man, "I was watching TV, heard my screen door slam, and there it (the leaflet) was." If he hadn't already known about the model cities program, he said, he wouldn't have come to the meeting.

And Horace Hicks suggested that city officials are going at things the wrong way, by trying to change street names instead of attacking really serious problems.

"Calloway St. has had the same name for 65 years, and now they want to change it," he said. "I'm sick of it."

"We don't have a hydrant on Calloway St.," he said. "If the homes catch on fire, they're going to burn up. We don't have a (street) light--we're falling in the ditches and walking on the stumps."

Davison told Hicks that these are just the kind of problems Tuskegee hopes to solve--if the city can first organize itself into ten neighborhoods, research their special needs, and then convince the federal government to provide some money.

For a moment, it didn't look like anything was going to get organized at the meeting, held earlier this month at Greater St. Mark's Baptist Church. No one would even volunteer to take notes.

But after a little more coaxing from Davison, the group elected officers and chose committee chairmen to look into a wide variety of problems. On the suggestion of Mrs. Inez Glass, people from each street in the area got together to form their own subcommittees.

"Let's not just talk," urged Davison, who was elected Willow Park's representative to the model cities commission. "Let's really express our opinion of what we want, put it on paper and get it somewhere. That's the only way you can get anything done these days."

Washington
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

There was talk of a shortage of funds for the campaign, but Bevel said, "We have the energy. Money is not our problem. Everything we need to get done, we'll get done."

In spite of the early confusion, the spirit of the early 1960's is present in Resurrection City.

"We are coming to ask for re-distributive justice," said the Rev. Jesse Jackson, the city manager. "We have not come here begging, but to bargain intelligently."

Blessings Blessings

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

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Another Challenge

BY KATY SIEPMANN
SUNFLOWER, Miss.--The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) has decided to send a "challenge" delegation to the Democratic National Convention this summer in Chicago, Illinois.

As a result of a similar challenge to the regular Mississippi delegation in 1964, the state Democratic Party has been required to permit black participation in its precinct, county, district, and state conventions this year.

But the MFDP executive committee said in a statement that "participation by black people in these conventions will have little or no effect on shaping the already established policies of the reactionary and segregationist Mississippi Democratic Party."

For this reason, said the MFDP, it will hold its own community, county, district, and state conventions, and will challenge the state party at the national convention.

In the regular party's county meetings last Tuesday, Negro delegates were elected to the state convention for the first time in this century.

However, said Charles Evers of the NAACP, the election of Negroes "was no milestone," because only the counties with Negro majorities elected black delegates.

Who picked the name for the new city?
"I think it was Billingsley's and Roman's (Roman Pettway Jr.'s) idea," said Mrs. Parzie Pettway. "But lots of people liked it."

Incorporation would make the town a legal city, with its own governing body, police force, and tax system. Roman Pettway Jr. said the incorporated city could apply for federal money to improve housing and education, and to attract new industry.

"A lot of children leave and go north and get jobs," Pettway said. "They don't want to go, but there are no jobs here, so they have no choice."

"It's time for colored people to control their own business," he added, "we have no say in the way our tax money is spent."

Walter--who has worked with several groups in Wilcox County--said an incorporated town would help the county's Self-Help Housing Project. The town could establish a housing authority through which federal money could be channeled, he said.

Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights

The weekly meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 27, in Mt. Olive Baptist Church, 6300 Third Ave. N., the Rev. Edward Gardner, pastor, The Rev. F. L. Shuttlesworth will be the speaker.

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Girls, women, of all ages! Are you planning to move to Massachusetts to live and work? The Women's Service Club would like to hear from you. Before you leave, drop us a note at 464 Massachusetts Ave., Boston, Mass. 02118, so we can expect to see and hear from you on your arrival. Have a pleasant trip!

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Holly Springs

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

The superintendent and other school officials have said complaints should go through "the proper channels," like the PTA. But leaders of the black community said they have found it hard even to hold a meeting with white officials when going through these channels. As a result of the student walk-out and demonstrations, the leaders say, city and county officials have asked them for a number of meetings, including one at midnight on a Saturday night.

But while black leaders in Marshall County have been working with the student movement, many teachers and parents still do not sympathize with or understand the protest.

The protesting students agree with what the Rev. James Bevel of SCLC told them at a recent meeting: "Under the present conditions, even if you graduate you ain't graduating to nothing."

Personally Yours

... answers questions about Junior Miss etiquette, grooming and interests.

Q. When you become 13, people begin saying, "Now you're old enough to . . ." Mom's latest dictum is that now I'm old enough to take over spring cleaning my room -- including window washing and bedspread cleaning. Sounds like a real drag -- have any shortcuts?

A. Springtime and growing up have advantages -- but spring cleaning isn't one of them! Here are some time-savers. Window-washing is shortened and simplified with the use of new Kleen-Ups window washers. These specially treated papers have their own great window cleaner that comes to life when the paper is wetted. Then just wipe the paper over the window, dry with paper towels. Incidentally, Kleen-Ups are great for mirrors too! If your bedspread must be hand-laundered, simply soak it overnight in the bathtub. In the morning, rinse and hang it out to dry. You have time to spare to whip up a new spring frock -- now that you're old enough!

Q. Mini, midi, maxi -- I'm mystified! What's the real spring forecast? I don't want high hemlines if we're about to be stormed by the maxi!

A. The spring forecast seems to be gangly gams and the long-skirted, high-necked ladylike look -- in other words a mix of mod and Bonnie-and-Clyde and whatever else strikes your fancy! Hemline length is ladies' choice -- and what a relief! If your last year's dresses are a mite less than mini -- and you like them that way, you don't have to spend the summer shortening skirts.

Q. Dad says no more Father's Day gifts, I think because I've given him a tie every Father's Day (and Christmas and birthday) for the past four years. Now I'm fit to be tied! Any original ideas?

A. What about a Father's Day Feast? A yummy brunch with eggs and rolls, and fruits and sausages, cold cuts and champagne. A plan-it and fix-it-yourself brunch will delight the whole family. Use a summer-bright color scheme and compliment it by using Kleenex paper napkins in the new deep colors -- avocado green, antique gold, or Persian blue. Any father would love a tailor-made Father's Day Feast!

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