

Bloody Week for People in Ala., Miss.: Funeral in Jackson and Two New Deaths



BENJAMIN BROWN'S FUNERAL IN JACKSON

"COLORED ENTRANCE"
B'ham Victim Fled Through Here

RODELL WILLIAMSON'S MOTHER

Man Found In Wilcox

BY BETH WILCOX

PINE HILL--The body of Rodell Williamson, age 31, was found in a fishing net over a creek here last Monday.

The next day, Williamson's cousin, Fred D. Campbell, identified the body at the Brownlee Funeral Home.

"It was hard to tell who he was," Campbell said later, "but I went back four or five times to make sure." The victim's mother, Mrs. Willie McCaskey of Lower Peachtree, said she told Campbell "to look at his (Williamson's) heels--they're rough, you can tell by that." Then, she said, Campbell "came out and said, 'Yes, that's him.'"

Mrs. McCaskey said Charles Brownlee, owner of the funeral home, told her not to look at the body. But Campbell said he saw signs of violence.

"It really seemed to be that his neck was natural-born broken, and his head all covered up, smashed," said the cousin. "I asked Mr. Brownlee to pull back the rag over the head, but he wouldn't do it."

"He (Williamson) sure looked to me like something was done to him," Campbell said. "There was a gash around the back of the neck, and bruises on his chest."

But Brownlee said, "I don't think it was racial--you know what I mean." And one of Wilcox County Sheriff P. C. ("Lummie") Jenkins' deputies said any talk about foul play is a "damn lie."

However, the FBI was called into the case, to see if a full investigation is necessary. And Williamson's funeral, scheduled for last Wednesday, was postponed until Saturday.

"I saw him last Friday for the last time, when he caught the school bus to go up and pick up his pay," said Mrs. McCaskey.

Campbell said, "David McCaskey (a relative) told me that about 11 or 11:30 Saturday night, Rodell came to his house. McCaskey did not open the door or go out, because he was asleep. But he knows it was him--by his voice."

"Later," Campbell went on, "I heard that a doctor's nurse was going to see a patient, and she said she saw a man between the sick lady's house and the road. He was beaten and on his knees. He looked real bad. But she didn't stop, because she was afraid."

"We asked the sheriff about it," said Campbell, "but he didn't say anything."

'We Can't Leave And Do Nothing'

BY MERTIS RUBIN

JACKSON, Miss.--"We can't afford to leave here and do nothing about the murder of Ben Brown," said Owen Brooks, acting director of the Delta Ministry.

Brooks was one of the people who spoke May 18 at the funeral of Benjamin Brown, who was killed in the May 12 uprising at Jackson State College. About 1,500 people packed into the Masonic Temple here to pay their re-

was slain in 1963.

"Haven't a single white man served one day," he said. "We've got to change by uniting ourselves together."

Stokely Carmichael of SNCC attended the funeral, but made no comments. But Rap Brown, SNCC's new chairman, had a lot to say that night at a mass meeting in Pratt Methodist Church.

"Black people are as guilty as that racist cop whose bullet killed Ben Brown, because we didn't do nothing and for 400 years we've been doing nothing," Rap Brown said.

"We killed Ben Brown, too, but we can't afford to let Ben Brown die. We let Medgar Evers die. We've been letting black people die for years. Ben Brown is dead because he's black."

The SNCC chairman related Ben Brown's killing to the war in Viet Nam: "(President) Johnson has become a two-gun cracker. He's killing you over there in Viet Nam, and he's killing you in Jackson. . . . Next to Viet Nam, Mississippi and Alabama have the highest casualty rate for black people."

The Rev. Allen Johnson of Jackson said the people should boycott all white stores in the city, until their demands (CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO, Col. 4)

Another B'ham Killing

BY ROBIN REISIG

BIRMINGHAM -- "Aren't the police trained to shoot down, not up? Why couldn't they shoot him in the leg?" asked the young widow of Bobby Thom-

Thomas, a 20-year-old father of two, was shot and killed by a Birmingham police officer last Monday. According to police reports, he had broken into a small restaurant when he was shot in the back by officer Paul A. Price.

Thomas is the fourth Negro to be killed this year by a law officer in the Birmingham area. Ten weeks and one day of marches protesting past killings had ended less than two weeks before Thomas was shot.

The victim was not armed. Price refused to comment on the killing. But a police official said Thomas was one of three Negro men spotted by Price inside the W & W Beverage Store at about 2 a.m.

Price ordered the three men to stand still, said to the official. When they ran, Price fired into the store. J. C. Barnes was hit in the leg, according to the official, but Henry Smith and Thomas ran out the back door.

Thomas's body was found several hours later, a block and a half away.

Smith, after being released on bond, said he wasn't robbing the store. He said he heard the policeman shout "something, but I don't know what." The morning he died, Thomas was

scheduled to start a new job. He had been laid off work for a month, and "got up 6 a.m. every morning to look for a job, but he never did have any luck," said his widow, Mrs. Ruby Dean Thom-

bery or burglary. "Police don't shoot except at a fleeing felon," said Birmingham Chief Jamie Moore, "and it doesn't make much difference where they aim."

On Tuesday, said Mrs. Thomas, a police officer with a warrant searched her house "for tools," but didn't find any. "I told them I didn't see why they come searching," she said. "He's dead and paid for his mistakes."

Tuesday morning, four members of the Alabama Christian Movement--George Walker, Tommy Wrenn, James Armstrong, and the Rev. L. J. Rogers --met with Chief Moore.

"We wanted a statement of the chief of police of his investigating of the homicide case involving Bobby Thomas, but he refused to do this," Wrenn said later. "He said his men are not trained to stop a suspect by shooting in the lower part of the body--the legs--and that his officers do not aim at the head with the intention of killing."

Wrenn said the chief referred to Thomas' previous record--including a conviction for grand larceny and burglary.

"We may have to march with the caskets again to dramatize the Negro's problem," said Wrenn. "I believe you can apprehend a criminal, especially if he is unarmed, without killing him."

SCENE OF THOMAS' DEATH
as a slender, pretty 20-year-old.

"I feel bad that he got shot that way--didn't want him to die that way, any kind of way but that way," she said, talking about how Thomas was shot in the back.

Under law, police can use whatever force is necessary to catch someone who has committed a felony--like rob-



B. BROWN

C. EVERS

spects. "Brown was a quiet person," Brooks said, "but he had a will-to-do. He did more in 22 years than most people do in twice that time." (Brown worked as a group leader for the Delta Ministry in 1965-66.)

Brooks said Brown was "murdered, a victim of racism." "So that Ben and all the other Ben Browns don't die for nothing, we've got to commit ourselves to stand together," he said.

Although the Rev. Kenneth Dean of the Mississippi Council on Human Relations had asked city officials to attend the funeral, none of them came. But there were some white students from Millsaps College in Jackson.

"I've been told by some of the whites here that they care," Dean said at the funeral. "But when people care, good things happen."

Before the funeral, the Committee to Protest the Murder of Ben Brown had put out a list of demands to be made on the city, county, and state governments. These included:

1. The governor must "suspend the suspected killers," and open an immediate investigation into Brown's death.
2. "All lawmen accused of killing civilians (must) be suspended immediately."
3. "Big Red" (Negro policeman Ellison Weathersby) should be fired immediately."
4. "The governor, sheriff, and mayor of Jackson (must) integrate every level of the police force, down to the last paddy wagon and squad car."
5. Jackson must immediately hire at least 20 Negro policemen.
6. Lynch St., where the killing occurred, must be blocked off near the Jackson State campus, or a 15 m.p.h. speed limit should be enforced.

In addition, the committee demanded low-cost public housing, 350 new jobs for Negroes, free food stamps and school lunches, job-training programs, and re-opening of the Jackson swimming pools.

At the funeral and in meetings throughout the week, people talked about how to achieve their goals.

Charles Evers, NAACP state field director, told the mourners that Brown's death was the 45th racial killing in Mississippi since Medgar Evers

Educators Plead for More Money

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

MONTGOMERY -- "The average Tuskegee student's family is at the poverty level or below," said Tuskegee Institute President Luther H. Foster. "If Tuskegee's appropriation is reduced or eliminated, many of these students would have to transfer or--tragically--give up their education."

Without state money, Foster explained, tuition rates in five graduate and professional programs would have to be doubled--pricing a Tuskegee education out of reach for many Alabama families.

And the loss, he said, might damage "the total program . . . so that Tuskegee will be less attractive to Alabama students. . . . This will undoubtedly encourage students to transfer to other institutions offering strong programs."

Although Alabama's annual grant to Tuskegee is only 5% of the \$13,000,000 budget, Foster said it is "the vital factor enabling Tuskegee to secure grants from other sources, primarily foundations and the federal government."

Foster spoke to the Alabama Legislature May 18, just two weeks after Governor Lurleen B. Wallace recommended cutting Tuskegee's appropriation out of the state's education budget. Two other men joined him in asking the legislators to restore Tuskegee's funds to last year's level of \$670,000--or raise them to the \$1,067,000 the institute requested this year.

"Let me tell you this, and get it straight," said former State Senator John H. Pinson, who helped arrange a substantial increase in the grant to Tuskegee 24 years ago. "This was not their request to us, it was our request to them,"

Tuskegee, he said, amended its charter in 1943 to allow for expanded state aid: "If this hadn't passed, there's no telling how many nigger students would be at the University of Alabama and Auburn--they would have swamped 'em."

To cut off Tuskegee's money now, "without any warning, is not right morally or legally," said the elderly former senator.

Pinson, a Tuskegee Institute trustee under the arrangement with the state,

said former Governor George C. Wallace had promised him a few months ago that Tuskegee's funds would be continued--and probably increased.

"I asked him about it yesterday," Pinson continued, "and George say, 'I forgot it.'"

State Senator Tom Radney, who now represents Macon County, reminded the legislators of Tuskegee Institute's "grand and glorious history in our nation."

Then he put in a good word for Lyman

Ward Military Academy in his home county of Tallapoosa. "All the private schools are doing an excellent job," said Radney.

Lyman Ward, Marlon Institute, and Walker Junior College are the only three private schools besides Tuskegee which have regularly received state funds. All their students are white--and all three were left in the governor's education budget.

But the over-all budget was cut by 3.6%. And so the state's educators

flocked to Montgomery last week to ask the Legislature for more money.

"I believe the people of this state--if they understand the competition we face and the potential of education--will be willing to pay for it," said Auburn University President Harry M. Philpot.

"We're right at the bottom of the 50 states in terms of per-student expenditures," said University of Alabama President Frank A. Rose. "There just isn't enough money being appropriated for higher education."

But there were signs that the legislature was not willing to give all the schools all the money they wanted. "It's quite evident here we're \$250,000,000 short," said Etowah County Senator Ollie W. Nabors. "I don't see any possible way for the Legislature to get this kind of money out of the people of Alabama."

Some educators said loss of state money might mean loss of accreditation for their schools. Several speakers predicted that unless Alabama raises teachers' salaries, it will lose teachers by the hundreds to neighboring states--such as Georgia--which have just boosted their education budgets.

And some schools said they needed the money they had asked for just to stay in business. E. B. Holloway, superintendent of the Alabama Industrial School for Negro Children at Mt. Meigs, described badly-needed repairs.

"Raw sewage is floating on the grounds," and the school was without running water for several weeks last year, he said.

"The dining room is sinking in the middle. If we have a rainy season, the (CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO, Col. 3)



LEGISLATURE HEARS UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA PRESIDENT FRANK A. ROSE

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Table with 2 columns: Office Name and Phone Number. Includes Birmingham Bureau, Greenville Bureau, Montgomery Bureau, Tuscaloosa Bureau, Tuskegee Bureau, Selma Bureau, Mendenhall Bureau, Meridian Bureau.

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Editorial Opinion

Racism Leads to Violence

This week's editorial is written by Dewey Johnson of Mobile:

Our records show that much of our crime and violence is racially motivated. Racism touched off a bloody war between the states, from 1861 to 1865. The hottest debate in Congress then was over slavery. Peoples of reason realized that all men should be free, and it was time for a change.

But the states-rights conservatives opposed change. They left the Union, shots were fired--and the war was on. Thousands of people were killed, but the slaves were freed. It was time for a change. Now I see another war cloud in the cradle of the Confederacy, and it, too, is racially motivated.

In our fast-changing world, there is room for only one race--the human race.

Dallas CAP Attacked By a Negro Member

BY BETH WILCOX

SELMA--One of the members of the Dallas County Community Action Committee (CAC) has criticized the operation of the anti-poverty program here.



ANDERSON SMITHERMAN

Anderson charged that Selma Mayor Joe Smitherman closed down the anti-poverty office for a short time last month, "because a Negro secretary was moved into the front office, where there was a white secretary."

A spokesman for the federal Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) in Atlanta, Ga., confirmed the charge: "I understood the mayor had a disagreement with the office in Selma. He subsequently closed it. . . . The evidence is that the mayor simply took it upon himself to encroach on the activities of CAP (the community action program)."

The OEO spokesman and Joseph Knight, chairman of Dallas County CAP, both said Smitherman is no longer interfering with the program. "The mayor has removed himself from any intention of being on the board," said Knight.

Anderson also criticized the way CAC meetings are conducted. "If you say much, it puts you out of order," he charged.

"We get along in meetings all right. Most of us are very careful not to press things, nor to offend one another. But while we are attending to our relationship, the real problem is going unattended."

Says Minister at Tuskegee High Ceremony

'God Smiled' at CR Laws

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

TUSKEGEE--"God smiled" when President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the first civil rights act in 1957, and smiled again when President Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, said the Rev. Charles M. Prestwood Jr.

"And in 1965, when President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act, I am sure God said, 'Hallelujah, America may amount to something yet!'" Prestwood, a young white minister from Pensacola, Fla., spoke at Tuskegee High School's baccalaureate service last Sunday to an integrated audience of nearly 100 people.

Behind him on the high school stage sat 20 seniors--the largest bi-racial graduating class in the school's history.

"I am sure that God has rejoiced because you parents, teachers, and seniors have joined together under the most difficult circumstances anyone could think of," Prestwood told them.

The minister said the seniors were graduating into a world of new hope for poor people in America: "When I see the long arm of the federal government reach down to lift up little children and, in the name of God, say they will

have a chance through the Head Start program--it reminds me more of Jesus than all the creeds in Christendom."

But Prestwood warned the seniors that they faced many grave problems. There is something wrong, he said, when "the number-one health problem in America is over-eating and the number-one source of death among children in America is parental abuse."

"We have become so insensitive," he said, "that when 609 men die battling for a hill in Viet Nam, we call it 'minor casualties.'"

"We have forgotten that the spirit together with the sword will win over the sword alone."

The minister said that people are confused by new definitions of morality: "We are living in a time when the very ethical foundations of our society are being changed. Within 50 years things that are now considered sins will be done with decorum."

In the midst of such change, he said, "we need to find a mooring. In the ethics of Jesus I find a mooring." He told the seniors a story about a jockey who went to a small town to ride a race-horse owned by a rich man. The

In Abbeville Peace Comes To an End

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

ABBEVILLE--"We had three such peaceful meetings," said Charles L. Weston, director of the Barbour-Dale-Henry Community Action Program. "As someone said, '\$75,000 will smooth over a lot of things.'"

The CAP director was talking about the \$75,000 the federal Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) is giving the three counties to operate an eight-week summer Head Start program. The peaceful meetings were the three separate county meetings held earlier this month.

But when the three sets of county board members got together for their joint monthly meeting May 18, the peace came to an end.

Several Negro board members raised questions about the nine-member personnel committee which is choosing Head Start children and employees.

When Weston announced that the committee hadn't made its choices yet, Robert Pittman, a Barbour County board member, stood up.

"Does the personnel committee have the power and authority to hire the employees" without first getting the tri-county board's approval? Pittman asked.

Weston turned to the minutes of the April meeting. "Yes," he said. "The vote was 15 to 4."

Pittman replied only, "I don't remember that." But after the board meeting, another Negro board member said he remembered it well.

"That committee isn't going to do anything for us," he charged angrily. "The five white members are people who almost never came to meetings before. They don't accept racial equality. The four Negroes--some of them mostly come to second motions."

James Malone, a Henry County board member, questioned last month's board vote to allow Ike Wallace, a white Abbeville businessman, to continue serving on the board although his father-in-law has a paid staff job.

"You say you had a letter (from OEO) that approved going along with this nepotism," said Malone. "Is it here? Could we see it?"

"Well, no," Weston said. "I thought I had it, but I forgot to bring it along. But I have it in my office."

In that case, Malone said, "I'm on the board--can my wife work as a teacher's aide?"

Three white women--all members of the personnel committee--set up a murmur of disagreement. "I believe he'd have to resign," said one of them.

"If you're going to let one work on through, why not let another?" Malone shot back. But Weston explained that "we're just letting this error go till the annual meeting--it wasn't deliberate."

School Budget

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

dining room will fall," Holloway added. Without money for more beds, he said, "the children will have to sleep together."

E. H. Gentry, president of the bi-racial Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind at Talladega, said overcrowding there had reached the critical stage. The school turned away ten children last year and will have to refuse many more, if funds are not increased, he said.

Officials from the Alabama Education Association (AEA) pleaded for more money for all schools.

AEA Vice President Vernon St. John reminded the Legislature that it had just approved a multi-million-dollar tax for new roads.

"I'm for it," he said. "But the people that ride on those roads are infinitely more important than the roads. We must raise the level of education in Alabama."

man took the jockey aside, pulled a pistol, and said, "I've got a lot of money bet on this race. If you don't win, I'm going to shoot you." Then, said Prestwood, the rich man's chief opponent took the jockey aside and said, "If my horse doesn't win, I'm going to shoot you."

The jockey solved his problem by riding so that the two horses finished in a dead heat, said Prestwood. He compared the jockey's situation to that of his audience "in a community polarized, yet searching for unity."

"I'm not interested in a dead heat," Prestwood told his listeners. "In days when everyone is pleased to be known as a moderate, I do not apologize to be known as a radical white Protestant. As Benjamin Franklin said, 'If two men think alike, one of them is unnecessary.'"

Before Prestwood spoke, a white minister--the Rev. John W. Moon of the First Baptist Church in Tuskegee--gave the invocation. At the close of the service, a Negro minister--the Rev. Vernon A. Jones of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Tuskegee--gave the benediction.

2 Arrests, 1 Beating In Mobile-Area Restaurants

BY ROGER RAPOPORT

MOBILE--Eating in some Mobile-area restaurants these days can be an unhappy experience.

Last month, two Negro men were arrested for disorderly conduct after they and two women companions tried to get served at the Krystal restaurant on Government St.

Then on May 15, a 15-year-old Negro boy needed three stitches to close a head wound he got after eating at the Dizzy Dip Drive-In on Dunlap Circle in Prichard.

The Non-Partisan Voters League (NPVL) has protested both incidents to the U. S. Justice Department.

William L. Balasco and Gordon Smith were arrested early last April 17 at the Krystal on Government St. Balasco was convicted and fined \$50 on April 26 in Records Court. He is appealing the conviction. Charges against Smith were dropped because he had to leave town for military service.

According to Balasco's signed statement, he and his three friends were ignored in the restaurant while a white patron, who arrived later, was served first. When Smith asked why the white man was served ahead of the Negro group, the statement says, the waitress replied, "I'll be there when I get there."

The statement says the waitress asked the Negroes if they were trying to start a "mess," and then she went outside.

When the group decided to leave, says Balasco's statement, they discovered at least six police cars surrounding the restaurant. The men were then arrested.

The waitress testified in court that

JACKSON FUNERAL

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

are accepted. A boycott was being organized this week.

At mid-week, no police officers had been arrested or suspended for the shooting of Ben Brown. But Alvin J. Bronstein of the Lawyers Constitutional Defense Committee said he had given authorities the names of policemen who had fired at Negroes, rather than over their heads.

Bronstein said his investigation showed that Brown was not charging police lines when he was killed. "According to eye-witnesses," said Bronstein, "Mr. Brown had come out of a restaurant on Lynch St., where he had gone to eat, a few seconds before he was shot in the back."



Brundidge

Brundidge Mayor Robert Barr was the speaker at the community meeting May 16 in the St. Paul AME Church. The mayor was questioned about the set-up of the city government, and he explained each person's responsibility. The people also endorsed the choice of Ed Wheeler as another Negro policeman. Jobs have been an issue here, but the Tuskegee Institute Community Education Program (TICEP) has spearheaded the way for people to do better. The anti-poverty program is expected to help, too. Mayor Barr and the city have promised to cooperate with everyone. For the first time in the history of Brundidge, city meetings are open for Negroes to come in and talk. The people were asked to visit these meetings, and have visited several already. (From Mrs. D. B. Maddox)

Troy

Willie Floyd Scott, valedictorian of the graduating class at Academy St. High School, has won the annual Reader's Digest award--a free one-year subscription to the magazine. Scott and Rommie Wheeler, the salutatorian, were recognized in Class Night ceremonies May 18. The Rev. E. Simpson James of Phenix City delivered the baccalaureate address last Sunday.

Montgomery

Montgomery Composite Squadron 32 of the Civil Air Patrol got a lesson in artificial respiration at its May 18 meeting. The instructor was First Lieutenant Tom C. Moore. A fly-in is planned for this Sunday at Monroeville.

Montgomery

In a double-ring ceremony, Miss Dorothy Jean Harris and Alfred Crawford were married recently in the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Ulysses Sankey. Sidney Harris, the brother of the bride, lit the candles on the improvised altar. Miss Doris Crawford was the bridesmaid, and George Crawford, brother of the groom, served as best man. Master James Gregory Houston was ring-bear-



MELVIN MOFFETT'S INJURY

Balasco swore at her. He denied the charge.

Meanwhile, Howard B. Risor of Chickasaw, manager of the Dizzy Dip, will be tried next Wednesday on a charge of assaulting young Melvin D. Moffett of Wilmer.

In a statement, Moffett said he and three companions--Miss Lou Edna

Moffett, his 24-year-old sister; Claude Morris, 15; and Robert Broadnax, 16--ate hamburgers and banana splits in the Prichard restaurant. Then, says the statement, the boys tried to buy some doughnuts.

Risor told them, "I'll give you five minutes to get out of here." When the boys returned to their table to finish their banana splits, says Moffett's statement, Risor laid a pistol on the counter and repeated his warning.

The group continued eating, Moffett said, until Risor announced, "You've got 30 seconds now." As the Negro customers left, the statement says, Risor followed them, and hit Moffett with a night-stick.

Risor had no comment about the incident.

John LeFlore of the NPVL said his group plans to integrate a number of Mobile-area restaurants this summer. "So far, we've only been able to get to 200 of the 700 restaurants in the county," he said. "We may get our heads beat in."

People Carry Placards To Macon CAC Meeting

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

TUSKEGEE--A small group of people carrying big cardboard signs walked in to the Macon County Community Action Committee's meeting May 18 about half an hour after it began.

Most of the signs were critical of the county's anti-poverty director, Mrs. Beulah C. Johnson.

One placard read "Mrs. Johnson makes \$12,000 a year--but children in Macon County are starving." Another sign asked, "Why did our director knock SWAFCA (the Southwest Alabama Farmers Cooperative Association)?"

One lady from Shorter--who has a child enrolled in the Head Start program--carried a sign reading, "My child travels 50 miles a day--why?"

The demonstrators marched quietly around the county courtroom, where the meeting was being held, so that everyone could see their signs. Then the group sat down in the front row.

But they didn't sit there very long. After a few minutes of discussion, John A. Price of the community action com-

mittee (CAC) pointed out that there weren't enough CAC members present to make up a quorum. Most of the members agreed to adjourn, and the meeting broke up.

What were the signs all about? Jimmy Rogers, one of the demonstrators, explained later that "we decided to protest because they are busing all the Head Start children in to Tuskegee, instead of taking the program out to the county."

"Mrs. Johnson isn't doing her job in Macon County," Rogers added. "Why is she writing letters to Washington about SWAFCA--which isn't even in Macon County--instead of trying to help the rural people here?"

Mrs. Johnson said this week that she didn't want to discuss the demonstrators: "I didn't pay any attention to them."

"We have just received \$108,980 to operate day-care centers for 90 children from now through September," she continued.

Why are all three day-care centers--and all but one of the county's Head Start centers--in Tuskegee? "These are the places where we were able to get licensed by the State Department of Pensions and Securities," Mrs. Johnson said. "They're very strict."

Rogers said he thought the CAC members might have ended their meeting because of the demonstration. But Price--the man who made the motion to adjourn--said that wasn't the reason. "We were already discussing the absence of a quorum when they came in," he said.

J. Allan Parker, the CAC member who presided over the meeting, said he wanted to continue rather than stop.

"The demonstrators didn't disturb us," he said. "We were trying to choose a committee to nominate officers for election at the annual meeting in June, and some people felt we should have a quorum. I felt we should go ahead. This way, the meeting was just wasted time."

CAC chairman C. G. Gomillion said this week that a special meeting would probably be called to choose a nominating committee.

Some people pointed out that there are now no CAC representatives from three rural precincts--Shorter, Hardaway, and Roba. They said the nominating committee shouldn't be chosen until the vacancies are filled.

Gomillion said the committee hopes "to schedule meetings in those three areas for that purpose before calling the county-wide special meeting."

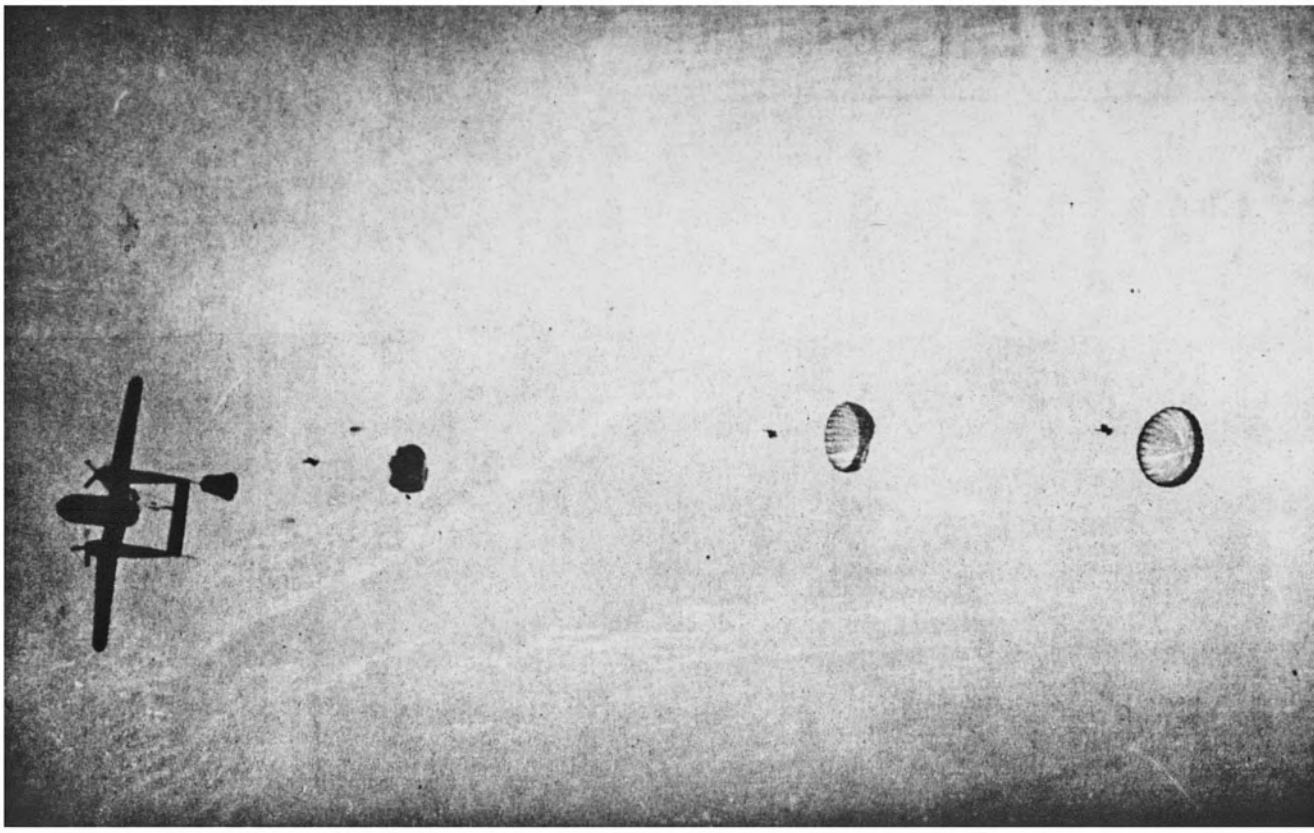
--Advertisement--

11th Annual Celebration Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights

The celebration will kick off at 7 p.m. Monday, May 29, in the Metropolitan CME Church, 1600-04 Ave. K, Ensley, the Rev. L. H. Whelchel, pastor. The usher board and choir will kick off the annual observance.



The Rev. T. Y. Rogers of Tuscaloosa will be the guest speaker. He is pastor of the First African Baptist Church, president of the Tuscaloosa movement, a board member of SCLC, and acting director of SCLC affiliates.



Military Shows Off Skills and Equipment

OPEN HOUSE
AT
MAXWELL AIR
FORCE BASE,
MONTGOMERY

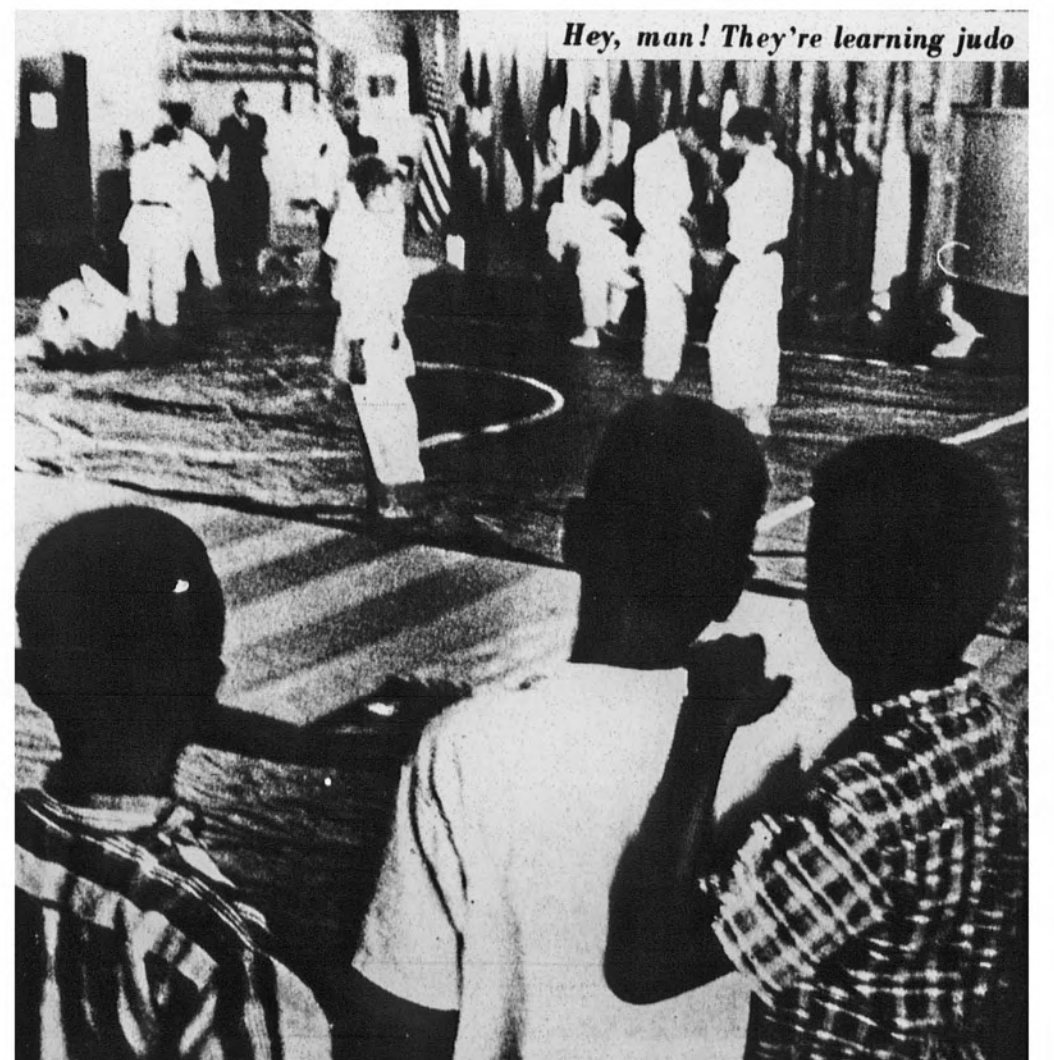
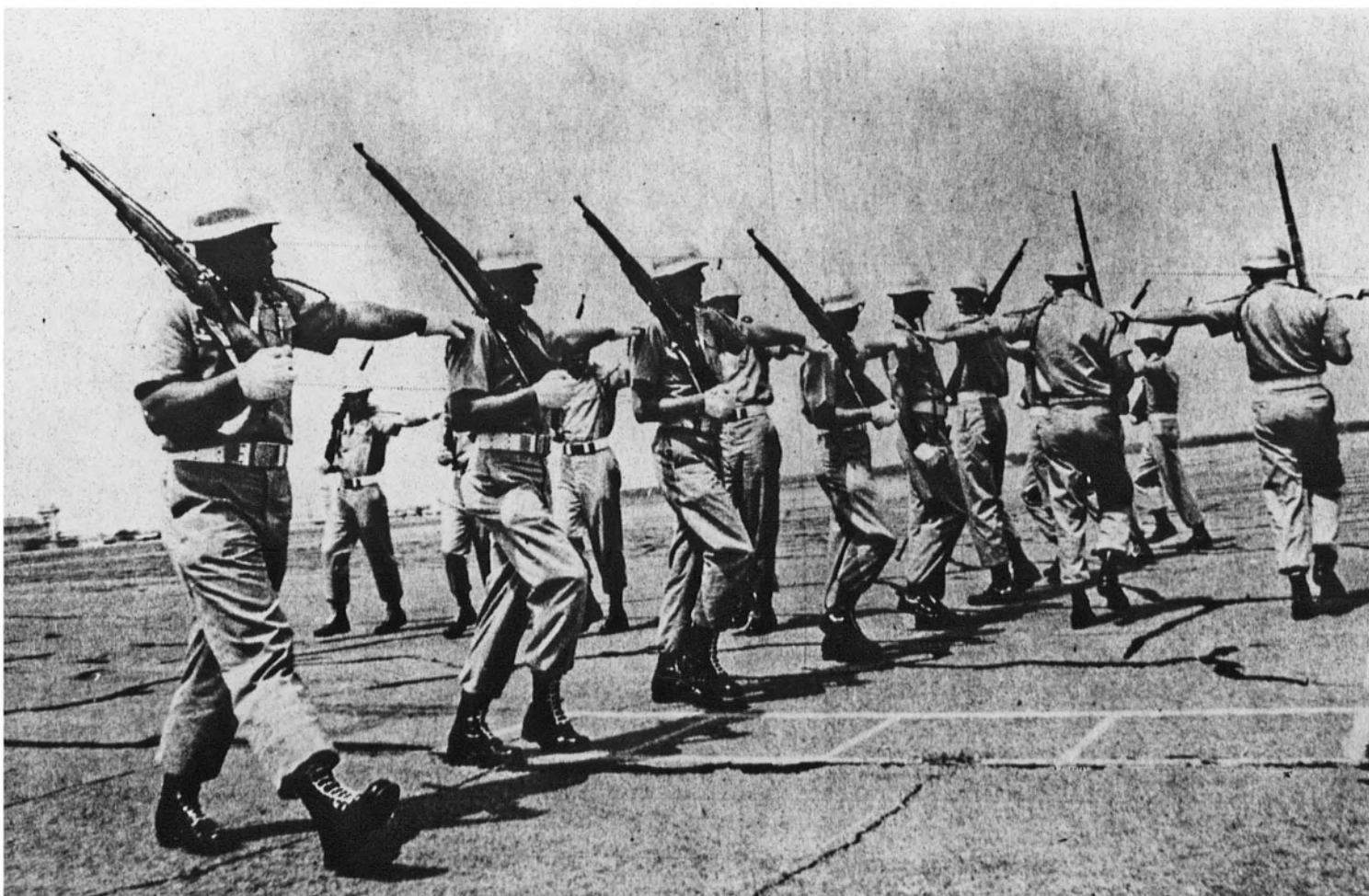
It's a bird...it's a plane...it's a Screaming Eagle



Now I know what the reserve chute is for



Photos by
Jim Pepler



Hey, man! They're learning judo

PPC Runs Independent Co-Ops

New Jobs for Poor People in Mississippi

BY GAIL FALK

JACKSON, Miss.--Every other Tuesday morning Doug Jenkins leaves Jackson with ten or 12 big burlap sacks full of cotton, hundreds of yards of cloth, several big cakes of clear wax, and supplies of felt, suede, glue, thread, and yarn.

When he returns, late at night, all these things are gone. In their place, he has hundreds of stuffed dolls and as many sets of doll clothes, about 400 brightly-colored candles, shoe boxes full of wooden and suede jewelry, and a menagerie of stuffed lions, owls, and rabbits.

Jenkins works for the Poor Peoples Corporation (PPC). Tuesday is his day to deliver supplies to the six PPC co-ops in Clay and Monroe counties, and to pick up the work they have produced during the past two weeks. On other days of the week he visits the six other PPC cooperatives now operating around Mississippi and brings back quilts; leather belts, hats, and handbags; cotton dresses, and hand puppets.

He delivers his loads to a big Jackson warehouse called Liberty House, where they are checked for quality and mailed to fill orders from all over the country. On an average week, Jenkins picks up and delivers \$4,000 to \$5,000 worth of goods.

Jenkins' truck is the practical link that joins all the parts of PPC. But what really holds them together is an idea shared by PPC's 125 workers.

PPC staff member Willie Blue put it this way: "There are thousands of black people all over Mississippi who can't get jobs, and who don't like being on welfare. The idea behind PPC is to have them earn their daily bread with their own ingenuity."

Jenkins had a simpler explanation: "PPC is black power--it's showing people how to do something for themselves."

Jesse Morris had the idea two years ago when he was a SNCC worker. Since poverty was the most serious problem faced by black people in Mississippi, he reasoned, employment was what they needed most. And he believed that the only jobs Mississippi poor people would be able to depend on were ones they created by and for themselves.

His answer was to start the Poor Peoples Corporation, a group of cooperatives owned and run by Mississippi poor people. The PPC co-ops are groups of six to 20 people that manufacture craft items--the products Jenkins picks up. In the co-ops, each worker does an equal share of the labor and gets an equal share of the pay. Each member has one vote.

Early in 1965, Morris gathered a staff and raised a few thousand dollars in loans and donations from sympathetic Northerners. This money was divided into loans to help new co-ops get on their feet. The loans were small--just enough to buy one or two sewing machines, pay the first month's rent, or purchase a month's supplies.

The most important things PPC could offer new groups were advice, moral support, and the chance to work very hard doing something for themselves.

For many people, that was enough. So far PPC has helped start 17 co-ops all over Mississippi. The co-ops operating now are in Holmes, Pike, Clay, Bolivar, and Monroe counties.

Some of the people who joined PPC had lost jobs because of civil rights activity. John Brown, now president of the West Point Woodworking Co-op, used to work at a stockyard. But he quit his job after Negroes who tried to integrate a cafe at the stockyard were met with cattle prods. Brown, who had worked with the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party for three years, couldn't get another job because "they (white people) considered me as a civil rights worker. They wouldn't hire me for nothing."

Many others who now work with PPC never had jobs before. Mrs. Mary Chandler and several of her friends in Mt. Nebo community near Prairie had been trying to find work at the factories in the area before they got together to start the Mt. Nebo Sewing Co-op. The factories "told us they weren't hiring anyone over 50, and many others under 50 weren't getting jobs either," Mrs. Chandler said.

And some people quit their old jobs when they heard about PPC. Mrs. Mary Diggs, now secretary of the Athens Community Co-op, used to work in a white lady's house. "Well, you gets tired of going out there working in another person's home," she said, "we heard about this and we discussed how we could start something of our own so we wouldn't have to go out and be maids all the time."

"We Negroes never had the opportunity to do something like this on our own. Now we're coming out from under the white people."

The co-ops are all different because it is up to the members of each group to set their own rules and manage their own affairs.

At Mt. Nebo, for example, the members decided they would work better if they set strict hours for themselves. They work an eight-hour day, five days a week. Anyone who is ten minutes late gets a half-hour's pay deducted from his check.

But at Athens Mrs. Cordelia McFarland said she liked the co-op because "we can work out here as long as we want and stop when we get ready. If we work for somebody else, we work under them and they be telling us when to start and when to stop."

The workers at West Point also come and go as they please. "I don't push no time clock for nobody," explained John Brown, "and I don't want to make anybody else do that. As long as everybody does their share of the work, it doesn't matter what time they do it."

The pay checks Jenkins delivers to the co-ops are different sizes. Some co-ops are paid on a piece rate--which means, a PPC worker said, "if you don't make it, you don't get it." The price is set so that each worker should be able



MELTING WAX AT THE WHITE STATION CANDLE CO-OP

to earn \$1.25 an hour, but few co-ops are able to reach this level.

Some of the co-ops say they could earn \$1.25 an hour per worker if they could buy more sewing machines or had better lighting. At the Shelby co-op some of the workers sew slowly because they need eyeglasses, but don't have enough money to buy them.

Members of the White Station candle co-op, near West Point, said they weekly pay this winter was sometimes as low as \$8 and seldom more than \$15. They work in a dark, crowded building where it's hard to produce candles efficiently. In the winter it often was so cold that the wax got stiff and many candles had to be made over.

But at least one co-op has solved this kind of problem. The Prairie Sewing Co-op near Una was originally housed in a similar shack, but the members raised enough money for a new building

by holding socials, selling plates, and getting local people to contribute the cost of one cinder block. Now the co-op members have room to spread out and light to see by--and their wages have gone up. At the Una co-op, members take turns checking the finished products. Mrs. Eula Williams works full-time at Liberty House in Jackson, checking the stitching and the neatness of each item that comes in. Occasionally she sends back a stuffed owl without a nose or a pillow that isn't plump enough.

Why is there such an emphasis on quality? "We don't want people to buy our work just because they dig buying black. We want them to buy it because it's good," said Willie Blue.

And PPC wants to make itself an independent business. "We don't want to depend on a sympathy market," said Jesse Morris at a recent PPC meeting

in Jackson. "We're trying to be a business that is a business, so that if people get tired of civil rights--which they are--this thing can still go on."

To show what he meant, Morris told about a white-owned store in Florida. "The owner tells us to send the stuff down without the labels. They're just interested in the quality."

This determination to be independent has made PPC different from similar co-operative efforts around the South. From the start, its members realized there was more to becoming a successful business than producing a good product. They set up Liberty House in Jackson to take charge of buying the supplies and selling the finished goods.

Over the last year, the Liberty House staff has tried to make PPC a large-scale operation that does not depend on one person or one group.

Now Liberty House has a big mail-order department that sends out 10,000 brochures every month. PPC puts ads in newspapers around the country and has contracts with several anti-poverty groups.

PPC goods are sold across the nation in 70 stores with names like Kanadu, The Moppet Shop, and Toast and Strawberries. Recently, Liberty House opened three outlet stores of its own in Yellow Springs, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; and New York City.

But PPC still needs money. The corporation has not received any large foundation grants, and none of its applications for federal aid have been approved. The staff estimates that it would take \$95,000 to expand PPC and make it really competitive. The money would be used to build up stock, buy supplies in quantity, and do more sales promotion.

Whether or not PPC is able to grow larger, it has built itself a solid foundation. The idea--at first called an idealistic dream by many civil rights groups--has become a reality that may outlast them all.



MRS. CORDELIA MCFARLAND (REAR) AT THE ATHENS CO-OP



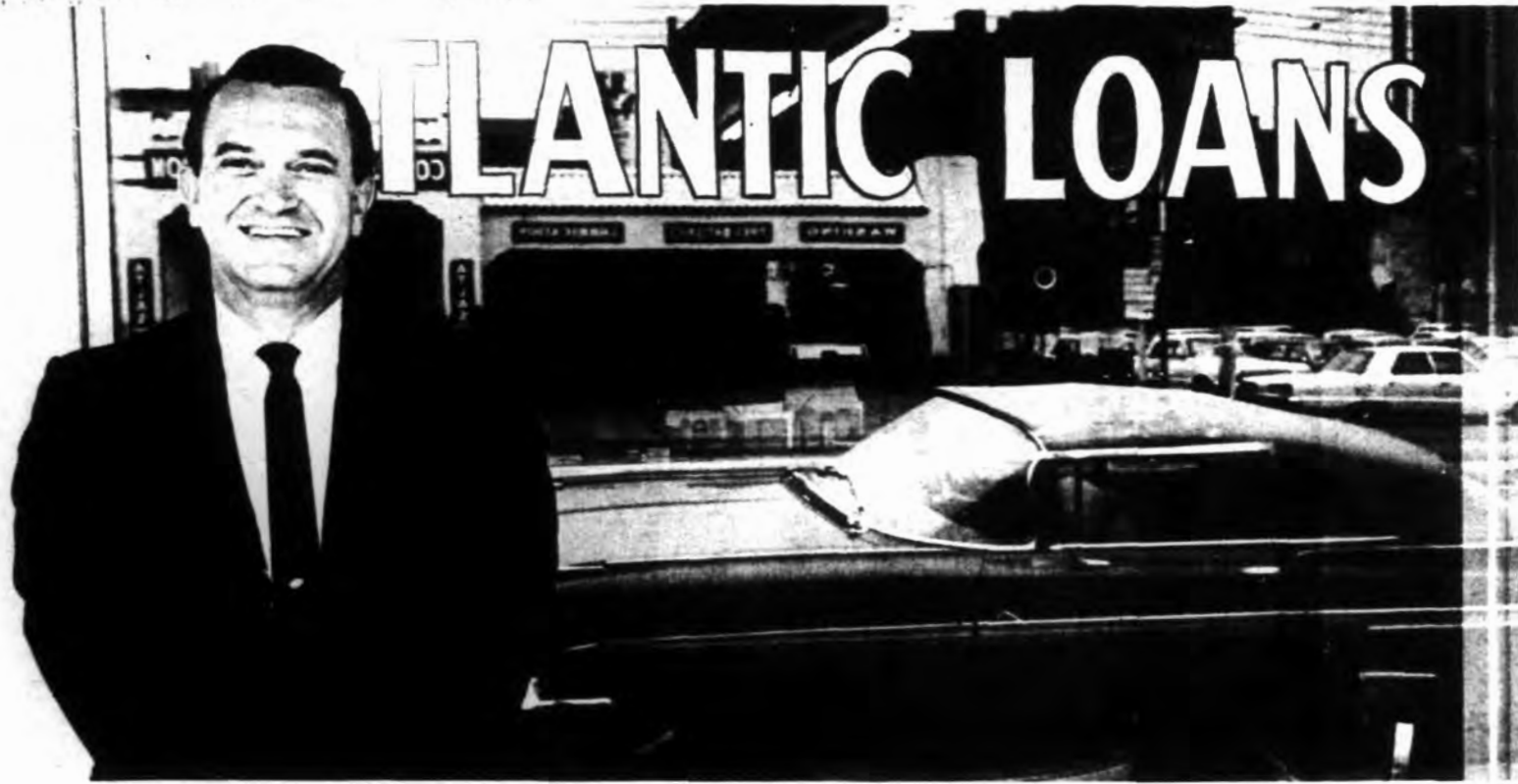
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Game of the Week

These Girls Play Rough!

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN
MONTGOMERY--You may not believe this, but the Magnificent Nine of North Montgomery outlasted the Maxwell Air Force Base Ladybirds, 11 to 8, last Friday in a girls' softball game.

It was the sixth win against no losses for the all-Negro outfit from North Montgomery. The Ladybirds were playing their season opener on their home diamond.

The girls kept the fans awake with 11 errors, 12 bases on balls, 11 stolen bases, one hit batswoman, four wild pitches, and four passed balls.

The fans also got a laugh out of the umpire who yelled, "He's out!" as the lead-off batter, Miss Lorraine Jackson of North Montgomery, was thrown out at first.

After two innings of play, the Magnificent Nine hadn't managed to hit the ball out of the infield--but they still had three runs. The Ladybirds, hitting the long ball, led at this point, 4 to 3.

When the visitors rallied for three runs in the top of the third, the Ladybirds rallied right back for three of their own, making it 7 to 6 going into the fourth.

But the hand-writing was already on the wall for the Ladybirds. They were hitting some tremendous clouts to the outfield, but most of the balls were being hauled in by Miss Arwilda Griggs and Miss Beatrice Turner, left-fielder and center-fielder for North Montgomery.

The Ladybird defense, on the other hand, disintegrated completely in the fourth inning. The Magnificent Nine scored four runs on just one real hit.

The visitors got their 11th run in the fifth inning, when Mrs. Barbara Moses stole home while the Maxwell pitcher wasn't looking.

Then the game got serious. Even in girls' softball, there are times when a game suddenly becomes a test of nerve.

The first such time was in the Maxwell sixth. One run was in, and the Magnificent Nine's 11-8 lead didn't look



MISS CHERYL ARMISTEAD PITCHES TO MISS CISSIE COOPER very healthy. With Miss Nancy Kramer on first, the batter--Miss Carolyn Barnes--hit a shot out over second base. But Mrs. Mattie Powell, the North Montgomery second basewoman, flung herself through the air, caught the ball, and threw to first for a double play.

In the seventh and last inning, there was another tense moment. With two out, the Ladybirds loaded the bases, and Miss Helen Combs--who had two RBPs already--came to the plate.

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Troy Program

Little Miss Brenda Richardson, nine years old, of Bessemer, will speak at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 28, in the Bethel Baptist Church in Troy. She will speak on citizenship. You must hear her--she is the best at her age in Alabama. The public is invited. The Rev. L. C. McMillian, pastor; Mrs. Eva Daniels, secretary.

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BIG D WAKE-UP SHOW 6-8 AM Sam Double "OO" Moore OLE GOSPEL SHIP 8-11 AM Willie McKinstry SAM MOORE SHOW 11 AM-3:30 PM Sam Double "OO" Moore

LARRY HARGROVE SHOW 3:30-8 PM Larry Hargrove OLE GOSPEL SHIP 8-10 PM Willie McKinstry LATE DATE 10 PM-Midnight Johnny "Jive" McClure

Saturday

ALL-NIGHT SHOW Midnight-6 AM Lewis White WEEKEND SPECIAL 6 AM-Noon Larry Hargrove SATURDAY SESSION Noon-6 PM Johnny "Jive" McClure SATURDAY EXPRESS 6 PM-Midnight "Little Walter" Anglin

Sunday

ALL-NIGHT SHOW Midnight-10 AM Johnny Jackson FAVORITE CHURCHES 10 AM-4 PM "Little Walter" Anglin SONGS OF THE CHURCH 4-6 PM Willie McKinstry JOHNNY JACKSON 6 PM-Midnight



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

BIG D RADIO Birmingham

County Gets 'One Man, One Vote'

BY GAIL FALK

BAY ST. LOUIS, Miss.--"One man, one vote" is for counties as well as states.

That was the opinion of federal judges Claude Clayton, J. P. Coleman, and Harold Cox, who ruled last Friday that every supervisor's beat in Hancock County must have about the same number of people.

Until now, 68% of the people in the county lived in one district. These people paid 73% of the taxes, but had just one of the five supervisors, said Hancock County newspaper editor Powell Glass Jr.

Glass--who brought the suit asking for equal districts--said that under the new plan, the Gulf Coast county will have no beat with more than 3,600 people or less than 3,000.

The case was decided last week so that new districts can be set up in time

for the August primary elections. In his opinion, Judge Cox said he believed the U. S. Supreme Court would extend the one man, one vote rule to local governments.

Last Monday, however, the Supreme Court refused to apply the rule to a number of local governing bodies--including the Houston County (Ala.) board of supervisors.

Many one man, one vote suits have claimed that unequal districts were used to keep Negroes from holding office. But Glass said race was not a factor in the Hancock suit.

What difference will new districts make? "This will affect the problem of where you spend the money in the county," predicted Glass, who is editor of the Sea Coast Echo in Bay St. Louis.

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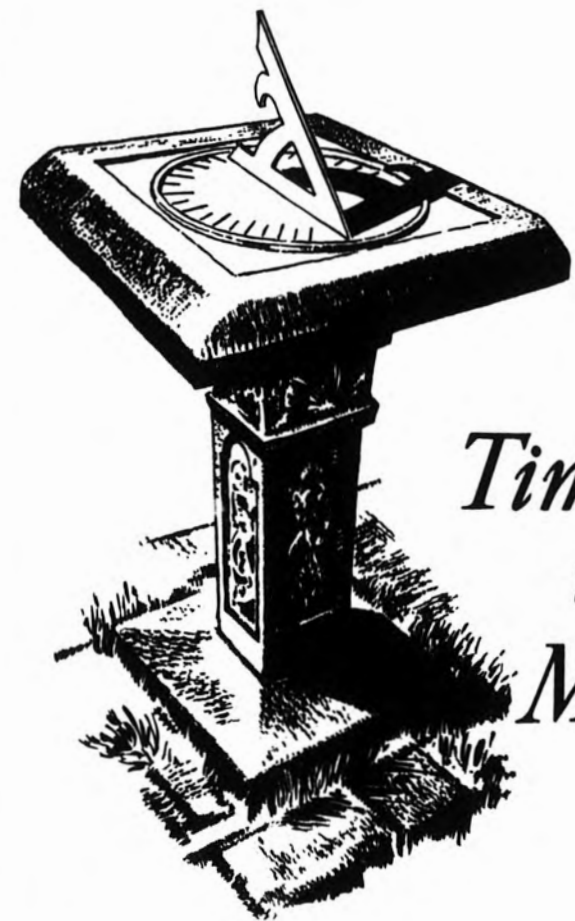
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