

How Two Girls Saw School Integration

'Everyone Expected King At Her Graduation'

BY STEPHEN E. COTTON

BIRMINGHAM--Suzy is an average sort of girl. She lives in a small, neat house on Birmingham's north side. She graduated from Phillips High School last spring. She plans to be a nurse.

But there is something just a little bit different about Suzy. At least, she thinks she is a little different. She felt sorry for the Negroes who integrated Phillips in the last two years. She still feels guilty about the way she and her white classmates acted.

Suzy was afraid to be friendly. She is afraid to say anything friendly even now. She asked that her real name not be used in this article. But this is how it was for her:

Someone told me there were nine Negroes at Phillips, but I never counted them. I only knew the one in my class. Her name was Lillie Mae. Everyone expected Martin Luther King to come to her graduation, since she was the first one. I think just her mother came.

I talked to her just once. She'd been absent a lot, and she asked me where could she get her graduation card--the little card that says where you graduated from. I'd picked mine up late myself. When she asked me, I looked around and there wasn't anybody in the room, so I told her where I had gotten mine.

When she came back, there was still no one there, so I asked her if she had gotten it. She said she had. I said, "It's a wonder they gave them to us this late." She said, "Yeah."

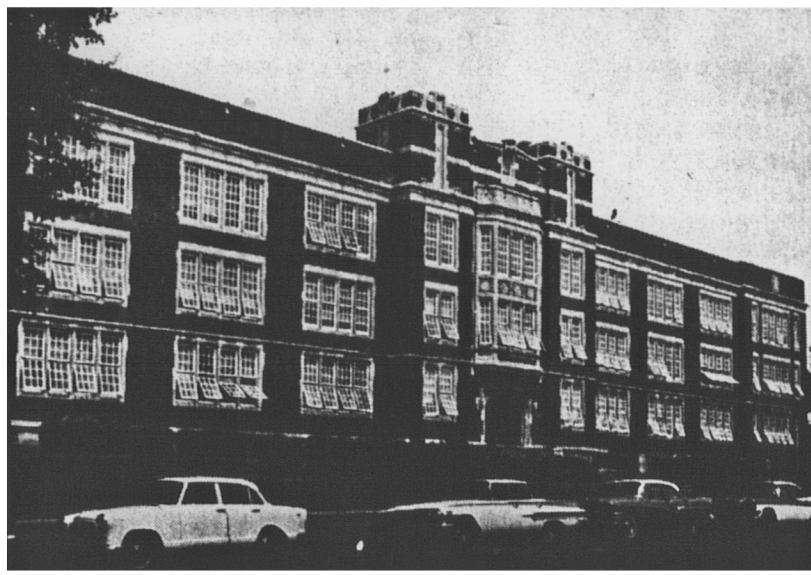
That was the only time I ever talked to her. The whole time, I kept looking at the door. If someone had seen me, they would have said, "Why'd you talk to her? You didn't have to tell her anything."

If she said everybody at Phillips was a big s.o.b., I'd understand why. She's going to go through life thinking she didn't have a single friend there. She's wrong, but she'll never know it.

I thought about writing her a note, but they'd know who did it. Every once in a while, I'd say something to sort of make them wonder.

One time people on the newspaper were making up jokes. They'd take a book title and put somebody's name next to it like he wrote it. There was a boy from North Dakota, so they put his name with "Yankee Go Home." Someone (CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE, Col. 3)

It might seem that the two girls here aren't talking about the same situation, because their views of some of the facts are so different. But these are two views of integration as seen by members of the same class, in the same school, during the same period of time. Only the girls are different--one is Negro, the other white.



BIRMINGHAM--When school opened here in 1957, the Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth took his two teen-aged sons over to Phillips High School to try to enroll them.

That was the first school integration attempt this city had seen in recent times, and it didn't get very far. Shuttlesworth was beaten to the ground by a mob of chain-swinging whites.

It wasn't until six years later that the first Negroes actually enrolled in any previously all-white schools here. In 1964, the first three Negroes entered Phillips.

About 60 Negroes were in school with whites here last year. The board of education said last week that another 288 transfers to integrated schools had been approved for this fall.

'They Had to Stick With Friends--We Were New'

BY STEPHEN E. COTTON

BIRMINGHAM--Miss Lillie Mae Jones is an average sort of girl. She lives in a rickety frame house on the north side of town. She is 19 years old, quiet, and shy. She graduated from high school last May. She plans to marry in December.

But the high school she graduated from was Phillips. That makes her just a little bit different. Until she and two other Negro girls enrolled there two years ago, Phillips was an all-white school.

The two other girls graduated a year ahead of her. Younger Negro students have since transferred to Phillips. Last week, Miss Jones told what it was like for her:

It wasn't any big deal for me. When I was in elementary school, I was in New York. There were three of us in the school. There might have been more, but that's all I remember. And even though things are more integrated up there, they would shy away from us, too.

I don't know why I decided to go to Phillips. A minister came around and asked whether I wanted to transfer. At first, I said I wanted to stick with my friends. But then I said, "What the heck? I'll still see them every day." So I decided to go ahead on.

I felt it wouldn't be anything new to me, and I'd understand the kids there. In a way, I felt like I might get better courses there, and I think I did. I didn't do too well--not well at all. Those kids joke and carry on, but they really get down to their lessons. Like

at Hayes--I went there before I went to Phillips--if we had homework, I'd probably be able to do it in a study period. We might just have homework in one class.

But we had homework every day in every class at Phillips. I worked at least an hour and a half every night--sometimes longer than that.

It seems to me they graded harder, too. The grade was just what you did on the tests. At Hayes if you spoke up in class, that helped your grade.

I flunked physics. I just couldn't get it. The teacher helped me with it, but then he told me I didn't need it anyway, so I dropped it and took a home-making course.

The teachers were real nice. And most of the kids were nice and friendly. Whenever I thought I knew the answer, (CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE, Col. 1)

THE SOUTHERN COURIER

VOL. II, NO. 36

WEEKEND EDITION: SEPTEMBER 3-4, 1966

TEN CENTS



WILL MOORER ON HIS LAND; ASCS STAKE AT FRONT LEFT

Negro Farmers Bury Their Cotton Crops

BY WAYNE HURDER

TYLER--Will Moorer has been harvesting since Aug. 24, and it looks like a bad year. He expects his crops of cotton and corn to be about half as big as they've been the past few years.

But things could have been a little bit better, he says, if a man from the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) hadn't told him to plow under more than an acre of his cotton.

Moorer said there were two reasons for this year's poor harvest. First, he said, J. A. Minter--who rents Moorer his farm land--wouldn't rent it to him until April, so he had to plant his crops a month late. Second, he said, a drought in late June killed many of the young plants.

But, he said, the reason he had to plow under an acre of his cotton isn't so clear.

In mid-April, Moorer said, a man told him that ASCS had given him a cotton allotment of about 14 acres. "He measured it off," said Moorer, "and told me where to put the stick."

About five or six weeks later, Moorer said, the man "came back and measured again." This time, he said, the man told him that he had planted too much and would have to plow up more than an acre.

The man said he had made a mistake measuring the first time. "It weren't no mistake on my part," said Moorer. "I planted right down to where he said."

Sam O'Hara, head of the Dallas County ASCS, said that if the measuring man makes a mistake, the farmer doesn't have to plow up the extra cotton. "If he has planted exactly within the stakes," O'Hara said, "then we stand by it."

But all over the Black Belt, Negro farmers have been plowing under some of their cotton for several years. This year is the second time for Will Homer. In 1964, he said, he had to plow under a quarter of an acre.

In Pleasant Hill, William Towns and other farmers in his community each had to bury 2 1/2 acres of their cotton.

In Sardis, W. B. Clarke said he has plowed under about three acres of cotton three or four times in the past ten years. His brother, March Clarke Jr., had to plow under more than an acre this spring.

A member of the Farmer's Aid Committee in Selma, Miss Shirley Mesher, said she is investigating several of these cases. She said she thought these mistakes victimized too many Negro farmers too often.

FARMERS FILE SUIT

WASHINGTON--Six Dallas County tenant farmers are suing the U.S. Department of Agriculture to get it to stop making crop subsidy payments under the present system. The farmers say the payments are no longer doing what they were intended to do.

The payments are made to all farmers who voluntarily cut down on the number of acres of cotton they plant.

When the crop-subsidy law was passed, the farmers' suit says, a tenant farmer could get part of his payment at the time of planting, so he could finance his crop. With this money, a tenant farmer wouldn't have to buy supplies on credit at the plantation store.

But now, the suit says, under a U.S. Department of Agriculture regulation, a tenant farmer can be forced to turn his subsidy check over to the plantation owner as security for the rent.

The suit mentions the J. A. Minter plantation as one of the places where tenant farmers have had to turn their checks over to the plantation owner.

OOPS

YORK--"Yes, I love the Negro," said the Rev. W. H. Spears, Grand Dragon of the Alabama Ku Klux Klan, at a rally here last Friday. An aged Klansman looked up at Spears from underneath his drooping white hood. The 40 or 50 men, women, and children stirred a little.

"But I love him in his place," the Grand Dragon added.

Everybody's Talking About Schools Greene County High Desegregates

BY JOHN SHORT

EUTAW -- "How fast does light travel?" asked a Greene County High School teacher. It was Percy Johnson's turn to answer. "One hundred eighty-six thousand miles per second," he said, and got it right.

It was just a normal school day --except that Percy Johnson was a Negro student in a formerly all-white school. He and seven other Negro students attended the first day of classes last week at the high school, as classroom desegregation came to Greene County.

Last year, attempts to integrate the high school were blocked. Marchers left after they were met on one side by members of the Ku Klux Klan, and on the other by Sheriff Bill Lee and the police. The only Negro admitted was given her own private classroom until she dropped out.

This year it was the county Board of Education that decided to desegregate

the schools. In the spring, the board sent out a notice announcing the desegregation of the first grade and grades seven through 12. "Any student who will be entering one of these grades next year may choose to attend any school in the Greene County Public School System, regardless of the school's former racial designation," the notice said.

So on Monday, 80 Negroes showed up to register at Greene County High. Principal J. J. Schwerdt said the school had only enough room for two Negro students in each of six classes. Admission, he told the students, would be decided by how good their last year's grades were and how near they lived to the school.

On Tuesday, eight Negro students who had been accepted went to classes. Some others had been accepted, too, but they didn't make it to their first day.

For the eight, the half day of school was spent filling out forms, planning schedules, and getting textbooks.

How did it feel? "We were just like one of them," said Percy Johnson, who is in the ninth grade with his twin brother Jesse. "They didn't call us names or anything like that."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO, Col. 3)



PERCY AND JESSE JOHNSON

'Willing to Go Down Swinging'

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN

MONTGOMERY -- The anti-school-guidelines bill inched slowly but surely toward passage this week in the state Legislature. The Senate approved a newer and tougher version of Governor George C. Wallace's bill Wednesday, with the slightly surprising total of seven senators voting "No."

The Senate's version of the bill--which the House was expected to adopt--would make it impossible for local school boards to sign guideline compliance agreements, now or in the future. The House passed a bill last week that

would have thrown out all current compliance agreements, but allowed school boards to "re-comply" if they wanted to.

Senator Bill McCain of Tuscaloosa County--which could lose up to \$900,000 under the Wallace bill--spoke out Tuesday against this feature of the bill. Under the Senate bill, said McCain, school boards can't comply with the 1966 desegregation guidelines even if they want to.

"You're not giving them but one thing to do--turn over their negotiating rights (with the federal government) to the governor's commission. . . . I don't think it's a good bill."

But Senator Bob Wilson of Walker County said he was "willing to go down swinging" in the fight against the guidelines. The purpose of the desegregation guidelines, said Wilson, is "mak-

ing people kneel down, making 'em crawl, making 'em submit to the wishes of the federal bureaucracy. . . .

"No system has ever been socialized or communized without sacrificing efficiency and excellency."

The substitute bill was written by Senator Larry Dumas of Jefferson County, and strongly supported by Bob Gilchrist of Morgan County. Both senators--particularly Gilchrist--have opposed Wallace in the past, but Gilchrist explained:

"I've probably had more fights with Governor Wallace than any of the others. . . . When I think he's wrong, I'll oppose him. When I think he's right, I'll support him."

When the bill was finally passed, those voting against it included McCain, Neil Metcalf of Geneva County, L. D. (CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO, Col. 4)



SEN. BILL MCCAIN

Tuscaloosa City, County Boards Stand To Lose \$900,000 in Aid

BY JOHN SHORT

TUSCALOOSA--The Tuscaloosa city and county school boards were looking forward to the start of school this fall. They had more than \$900,000 of federal money to spend--and they had the projects to spend it on. But last week they decided to wait and see how Governor George C. Wallace's anti-guidelines bill turns out.

The county board of education postponed the opening of its schools a week

--until Tuesday. Superintendent W. W. Eliot said the board wanted to see if Wallace's bill will make it illegal to comply with the federal government's desegregation guidelines.

"We are in compliance with the federal regulations," said Eliot, "and we hope our funds are not withheld." The U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare could take away more than \$500,000 from the county schools if the (CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO, Col. 4)

Teachers Rehired, Marches End In Helicon School Agreement

BY ELLEN LAKE

HELICON--Mrs. Versie G. Merrilweather arrived at the Crenshaw County Courthouse one morning last week, expecting a fight. She had come to a hearing to explain why she should be given back her teaching job at the Helicon School.

The hearing never took place. But before the morning of Aug. 25 was over, Mrs. Merrilweather had been rehired. So had four of the other five teachers

fired last spring after a six-month boycott by Helicon students. And B. Y. Farris, Helicon's unpopular principal, had been replaced by Murray Foster, a teacher at the school.

In addition, Crenshaw County Negro leaders were told that at least some of the 134 students who had applied to transfer to the white Highland Home School would be accepted. In return, they promised not to resume the dem- (CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO, Col. 5)

THE SOUTHERN COURIER

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MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104
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THE SOUTHERN COURIER is published weekly by a non-profit, non-share education corporation, for the study and dissemination of accurate information about events and affairs in the field of human relations.
Price: 10¢ per copy, \$5 per year in the South, \$10 per year elsewhere in the U.S., patron subscription \$25 per year used to defray the costs of printing and publication. Second-class postage paid at Montgomery, Alabama.

Editor: Michael S. Lottman
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Regional Circulation Mgrs.: George Walker
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Vol. II, No. 36

September 3-4, 1966

Editorial Opinion

How's That Again?

Last week, a federal anti-poverty official in Atlanta, Ga., seemed to say that funds were withheld from 21 all-Negro Head Start programs because of discrimination against white people.

The official was Robert W. Saunders, regional civil rights coordinator for the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO). An Atlanta newspaper quoted him as saying the 21 proposed summer Head Start programs had refused to recruit white students and teachers. Civil rights, he is supposed to have said, "is for the white man as well as the Negro." Much was made of the fact that Saunders--who was responsible for withholding the money--is a Negro and former NAACP official.

This story, naturally, was picked up by other newspapers all over the South. A Montgomery paper ran the story under the headline, "Head Start Funds Denied for Reverse Discrimination."

Some people thought the story sounded fishy. If it is true that Saunders found 21 cases of Negroes discriminating against whites, and none of whites discriminating against Negroes, then either things have changed around here in a heck of a hurry, or Saunders doesn't see too well. It also seemed that Saunders was falling into the old OEO habit of finding "reverse discrimination" in Negro programs that simply couldn't beg, borrow, or kidnap white participants.

Of course, no one can be sure that Saunders said what the papers said he said. He has been extremely hard to reach since the story appeared. That's the way the game is played in high government circles. Whenever an official puts his foot in his mouth, he goes off to the mountains to have it removed while other officials try to explain what he really meant.

So an OEO statement from Washington, issued by Samuel F. Yette, special assistant for civil rights, said that "in no instance did Negroes oppose white participation in the program." This is at least as improbable as the first story. "The opposition," continued the statement, "came from school and other local officials who failed to meet civil rights criteria."

So which is it? Do only Negroes discriminate, or don't any Negroes discriminate? And did Saunders say what they said he said, or not? And if not, why doesn't he say that he didn't say what they said he said?

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I have several questions I have been wanting you to answer for quite some time now . . .

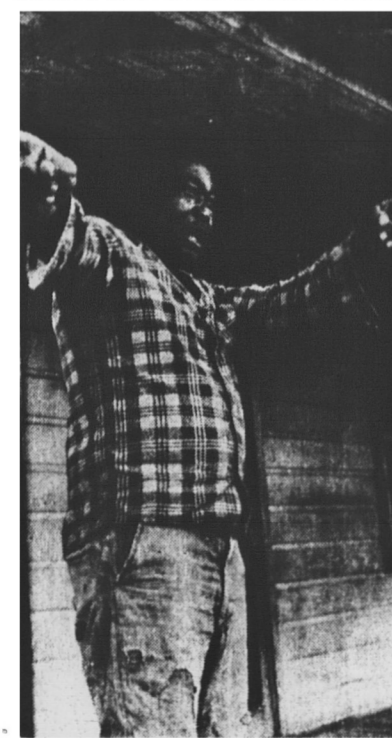
1. Why the almost total change in the Southern Courier's "staff"?
2. Why every once in a while the extra two pages?
3. Are the over-sized advertisement spaces and photo page to make up for not enough news articles?
4. Why won't you keep a permanent sports article instead of an occasional one?

I was delighted to see the WJLD "Top 14" and "Party Line." The "Editorial Opinion" is out of sight (I'm a teenager), but my favorite is (Jim) Pepler's brilliant photography. I'd rather study it than watch television.

Robert Fikes
Birmingham

(In answer to Mr. Fikes' questions:
1. Many staff members from the

Gees Bend Farmer Namon Pettway:



NAMON PETTWAY

No Land and No Money

BY JOHN SHORT

GEES BEND--Namon Pettway supports his wife Beth and 12 children by selling the timber he grows on 48 acres of his land down by the Alabama River.

But the federal government is building a dam across the river at Millers Ferry, 15 miles downstream from Gees Bend. The dam will create a lake for fishing and swimming by flooding the land next to the river.

And Namon Pettway's 48 acres will be covered by the rising water.

Pettway said he would be left without land--and without money. "A man came around and offered me a small price for this land," he said. "I didn't take the first small price. But when someone came around the second time, I gave in. I figured the government would take it, anyway."

Pettway said he sold his land to the government for about \$65 an acre--less

Man Convicted of Assault, Battery After Being Shot by State Trooper

BY WAYNE HURDER

SELMA--State trooper W. E. Stewart stood in the door of the courtroom with a cigarette in his mouth, looking as if nothing in the world was happening.

Inside the Dallas County courtroom, the man Stewart was accused of trying to kill--Jeffrey Henderson--was being tried for resisting arrest and assault and battery.

If Henderson were found guilty of the two charges, that would probably give Stewart a legal excuse to use in his own case.

The trooper, seemingly relaxed, listened as Judge Hugh Mallory announced his verdict:

"Jeffrey Henderson, I find you guilty of assault and battery, and fine you \$500 and costs and sentence you to six months hard labor for Dallas County.

"For resisting arrest, I fine you \$100 and costs and sentence you to six months hard labor."

A white man--who had just been fined \$5 for making an improper turn--listened as Judge Mallory told Henderson, "For making an improper turn, I fine you \$10 and costs."

After the trial Aug. 25, Negroes began planning a march from Brown's Chapel to the county courthouse. It was scheduled for last Monday, but then was called off.

In court, Henderson said he was shot when he tried to ward off a blow from Stewart's flashlight.

GREENE COUNTY HIGH

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

It was much the same for Miss Patricia Ann Branch in the 11th grade. "I had a very nice home-room teacher," she said.

Greene County apparently decided to accept desegregation before a court ordered it. A Birmingham federal judge was about to reach a decision on a desegregation suit filed by the Rev. William Branch of Forkland. The judge was waiting to see the outcome of a similar case in New Orleans, La.

Negro Cashiers In Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM -- Bruno's Food Stores, a local retail grocery chain, has hired two Negro cashiers at its store on Sixth Avenue South.

The women began work Saturday, two months after a meeting between the Rev. Edward Gardner of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights and James Baldone, personnel manager for Bruno's.

The meeting took place last June, after 17-year-old Larry Coleman was dismissed from a Bruno's store.

Gardner said he told Baldone that Bruno's stores were "way overdue" in hiring Negroes. The only reason the Christian Movement wasn't already picketing Bruno's, said Gardner, was that the leaders wanted to talk to the personnel manager first.

"I went to the Sixth Avenue store before we met with Mr. Baldone," Gardner said, "and I watched the place for about 45 minutes. Just about all the customers were Negroes, and I saw one Negro man purchase \$45 worth of groceries. They had nine cash registers going, and not a Negro on any of them."

Now there are two Negroes on the cash registers, but Gardner said that two clerks would not be enough to satisfy the Christian Movement.

Baldone was out of town this week, and no one at Bruno's could say whether more Negroes would be hired.

The state trooper, however, testified that he shot Henderson after Henderson swung at him and knocked him down. Henderson was shot July 23, after he and his girl-friend, Miss Dolores Smith, were stopped by the trooper on their way home from church.

As Henderson was walking back to the trooper's car, he said, he mumbled that he didn't see why he was getting a ticket.

Henderson testified that the trooper, hearing what he said, walked over and raised up his flashlight, as though he

were going to hit him. Henderson said he lifted up his arm to protect himself.

"My throwing my hands up caught the lick," said Henderson, but the trooper "backed off and shot me."

Stewart testified that he told Henderson to get into the patrol car, but Henderson didn't and said he wasn't going to.

Then, the highway patrolman testified, Henderson suddenly started swinging. After Henderson knocked him down, Stewart said, he shot him.

When defense lawyer Bruce Boynton

asked Stewart if he had been taught to defend himself without using a gun, the trooper said yes. But, he added, he had been unable to stop Henderson by hitting him with a flashlight.

Boynton is appealing the decision.

Boynton said he had been told that Stewart would also be tried Aug. 25, on the charge of assault with intent to kill. However, the judge sent the case to the grand jury without telling Boynton.

It will now be the grand jury's duty to decide whether there is enough evidence to put Stewart to trial.

Discussed at MFDP Convention

Black Power, Strike City

BY PATRICIA JAMES

SUNFLOWER CITY, Miss.--More than 125 people showed up in this small town last Sunday for the state-wide Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) Convention.

Among the things discussed in the Baptist Grove Church were "black power," CDGM, political education, Strike City, support for MFD, reor-

ganization of the freedom party, welfare, and voter registration.

Johnnie Matthews from Humphrey County asked for a definition of black power. Ray Robinson Jr., a civil rights worker from Washington, replied, "Negroes spend too much time trying to define black power. Black power means as much as white power does. Every black man should know what black power means. Black power does not mean for you to go and kill white folks."

Up in Chicago, Robinson said, black power means "Burn, baby, burn." If that's what it means in Chicago, that's black power, he said.

"Seems to me like it's a new thing to these folks," said W. G. Middleton from Panola County. "We talk about black power, but power is in the ballot. Get people together and discuss politics."

"In the examination of the civil rights movement there are slogans we can use. This is the one that frightens the hell out of the white folks," said the Rev. Clifton Whitley, a Negro candidate for the U. S. Senate.

Robinson, who has been traveling all

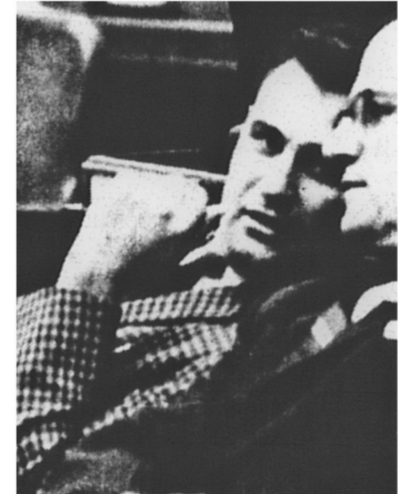
over the country to get money for the people in Strike City (near Greenville), said that since winter would be coming soon, he wanted to know what is going to be done to keep the people in the tents from freezing to death. He said there should be something organized to help these people.

Mrs. Annie Devine from Madison County said the people in Strike City and Tent City have their own organization. MFD should try to deal with these folks' problems, said Mrs. Johnnie Mae Walker from Forrest County. A meeting was announced for this Saturday in Greenville, to determine what can be done to help the people in Strike City and Tent City.

Whitley was asked whether he himself thought he had a chance of winning the November election against Senator James O. Eastland and Congressman Prentiss Walker. "Eastland is not going to take any votes from me, with your help," Whitley said. "We have got to organize our people around people."

It was decided that the people would go out and campaign for Whitley.

Legislature



SEN. BOB GILCHRIST (LEFT)

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

Bentley of Blount County, George Hawkins of Etowah County, Ed Horton of Limestone County, Roscoe Roberts of Madison County, and A. C. Shelton of Calhoun County.

While the legislators were debating, federal court action was about to affect the school situation.

The Fifth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in New Orleans, La., ruled that Wilcox County must desegregate grades one to three and seven to nine by the time classes begin on Sept. 12.

And in Montgomery, the U. S. Justice Department asked a federal court to stop the state of Alabama from paying students' tuition at "racially segregated" private schools.

TUSCALOOSA

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

bill doesn't let them comply.

To comply with the 1966 federal guidelines, the city and county schools had to have more than just token integration.

Last year, there were nine Negro students attending classes with whites in the county system; this year, there are supposed to be 99. In the city schools, the number of Negro students in integrated classes is to go from 67 last year to almost 300 this fall. The facilities of both systems are to be integrated.

If the anti-guidelines bill turns out as most people expect, Tuscaloosa schools could lose a lot more than just federal money. "We spent last year in planning, purchasing, and training," said City School Superintendent H. D. Nelson. "We have new reading centers, mathematics centers, new library equipment, and 44 new staff members. The fruits of our labor last year were about to be harvested."

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

onstrations that accompanied last year's boycott at Helicon School.

This agreement emerged from a small back room in the county courthouse. But there were differing versions about how the agreement was reached.

"We were waiting in the courtroom, when Alton Turner (attorney for the county Board of Education) called out Fred Gray (attorney for Mrs. Merriweather)," said James Kolb, chairman of the Crenshaw County Democratic Conference.

"Then Gray called out Mrs. Merriweather, Collins Harris, and me, and told us what Turner had proposed. He said that Mrs. Merriweather and other teachers would be rehired and some of the kids accepted at the all-white school, only if we agreed not to demonstrate around the schools."

But James H. Hollis Jr., a member of the board of education, had a different story. He said the board had already decided to rehire the teachers at a

meeting held just before the hearing was scheduled.

"We are trying to have enough teachers so that if all the students come back to school, we'll have enough to teach them all," Hollis said. If not all the students return, he added, some of the retired teachers will be fired again.

Hollis said that the only thing the Negro leaders got in exchange for their promise not to demonstrate was a list of the Negro students who had applied to go to Highland Home and the names of those who had been accepted. According to that list, received last Tuesday, nine of the 134 applicants will be allowed to transfer.

Nine cases of contempt of court stemming from the Helicon boycott and demonstrations were supposed to come to trial last Tuesday. But Mrs. Josephine Golden, register of the Crenshaw County Circuit Court, announced that the cases were being "indefinitely" delayed. She said a number of similar cases, scheduled for trial next week, will also be postponed indefinitely.



Montgomery

"I didn't have too much trouble," said Mrs. Joesetta Maxine Brittain Matthews. "When I first entered the school, the only trouble was that when I entered the lunch room and sat down, some of the kids would get up and move." Mrs. Matthews was talking about her year at Auburn University. On Aug. 24, she became the first Negro to receive a degree from the 118-year-old school, when she was awarded a master's degree in education. Mrs. Matthews, a 23-year-old graduate of Indiana University, is the daughter of Joseph M. Brittain, a professor at Alabama State College in Montgomery.

Selma

SNCC workers Gloria Larry and Stuart were married last Saturday at St. Andrews Episcopal Church. Afterwards, a reception was held at the Freedom House in Selma. The new Mrs. House is from Berkeley, California, and her husband is from Detroit, Michigan. They are planning to spend their honeymoon working to elect Negro candidates in Dallas County on Nov. 8.

Montgomery

Last Sunday, Day St. Baptist Church sponsored a "Back to School" program, designed to give helpful information to

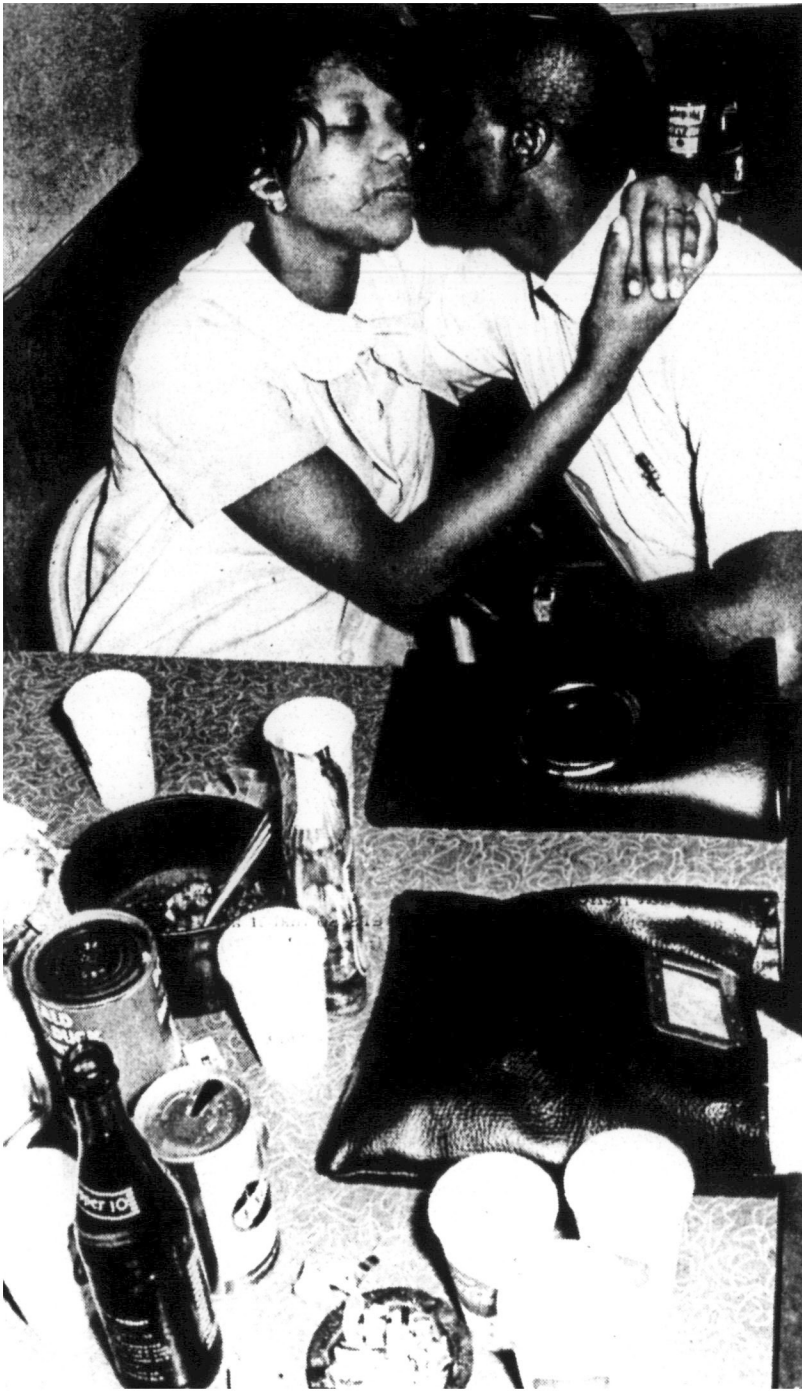
students planning to attend a college or trade school. Some of the topics discussed by a panel of students were "Getting Adjusted to School," "Financial Aid," "The Proper Dress," and "Religion." The panelists included Jacob Qualls and Miss Carolyn Gibson, Hampton Institute; C. P. Everett, Tuskegee Institute; Miss Rosa Moore, University of Alabama; Dock Rone, an entering freshman at University of Alabama; the Rev. Thomas Jordan, a graduate of Morehouse College; and Isaac Green of Morehouse. The moderator was Miss Patricia Guy, a student at Huntingdon College.

Troy

Grown-ups and children packed the First Baptist Church for the closing exercise of summer TICEP (Tuskegee Institute Community Education Program). Tuskegee Dean P. B. Phillips, head of TICEP, spoke on how to organize a local community action program.

Meridian, Miss.

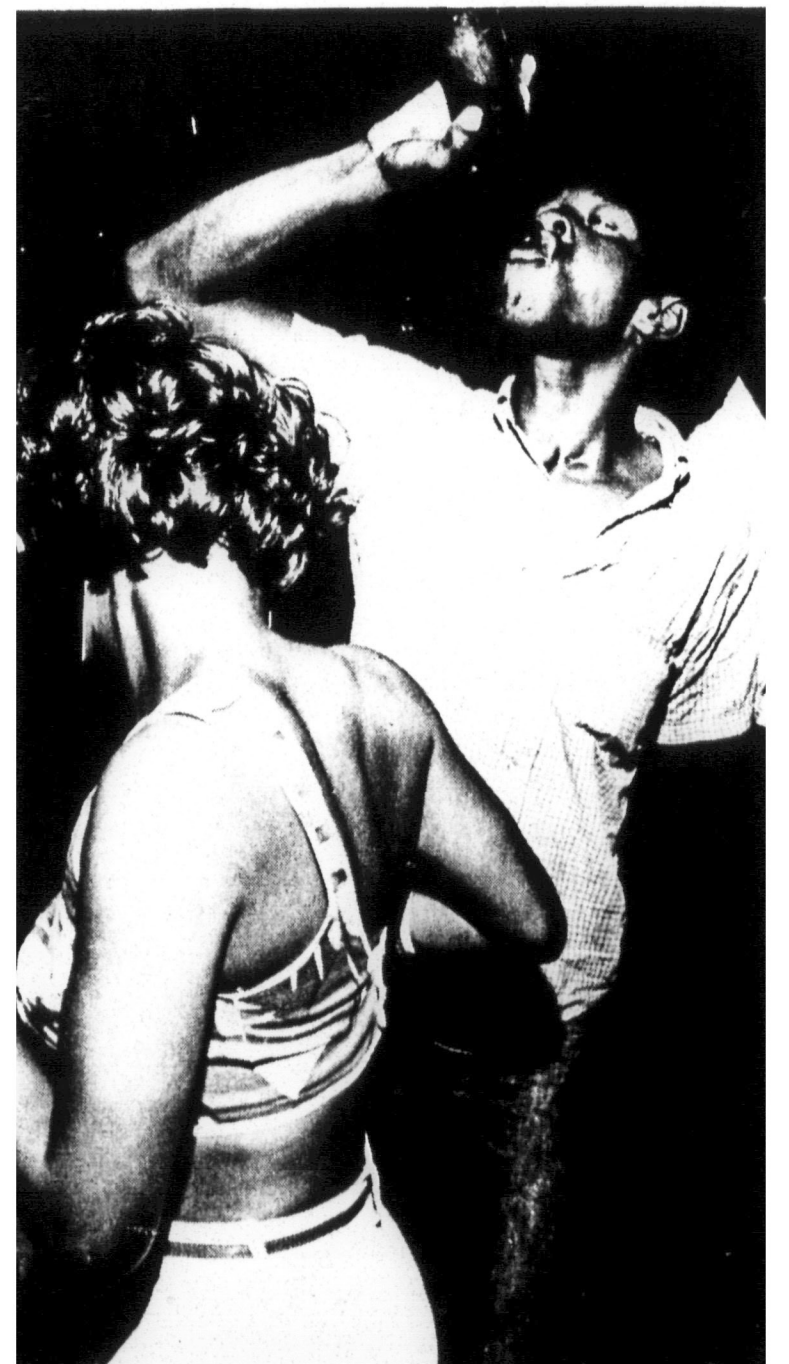
Mrs. Polly Heidelberg, who has been and still is going to school in the STAR adult-education program, had this to say when she came home from school one day: "I ain't what I used to be. I ain't what I want to be. And thank God I ain't what I'm goin' to be."



*It Could Be Dick's Place, Harry's Place,
Or Frank's Place, but It's...*

TOM'S PLACE

Photographs by Jim Pepler



'Something to Be Really Proud Of'

FREEDOM QUILTING BEE

BY WAYNE HURDER

ALBERTA -- Negroes in Dallas and Wilcox counties have found a way to end their dependence on the local white man's money.

Negro women used to spend hours making quilts which they sold to white people for \$5 or traded to them for rags. Now about 150 women are selling their quilts up North for \$25 or \$30 apiece.

What's doing it for them? The Freedom Quilting Bee, a co-operative started last February by the Rev. Francis X. Walter, an Episcopal minister.

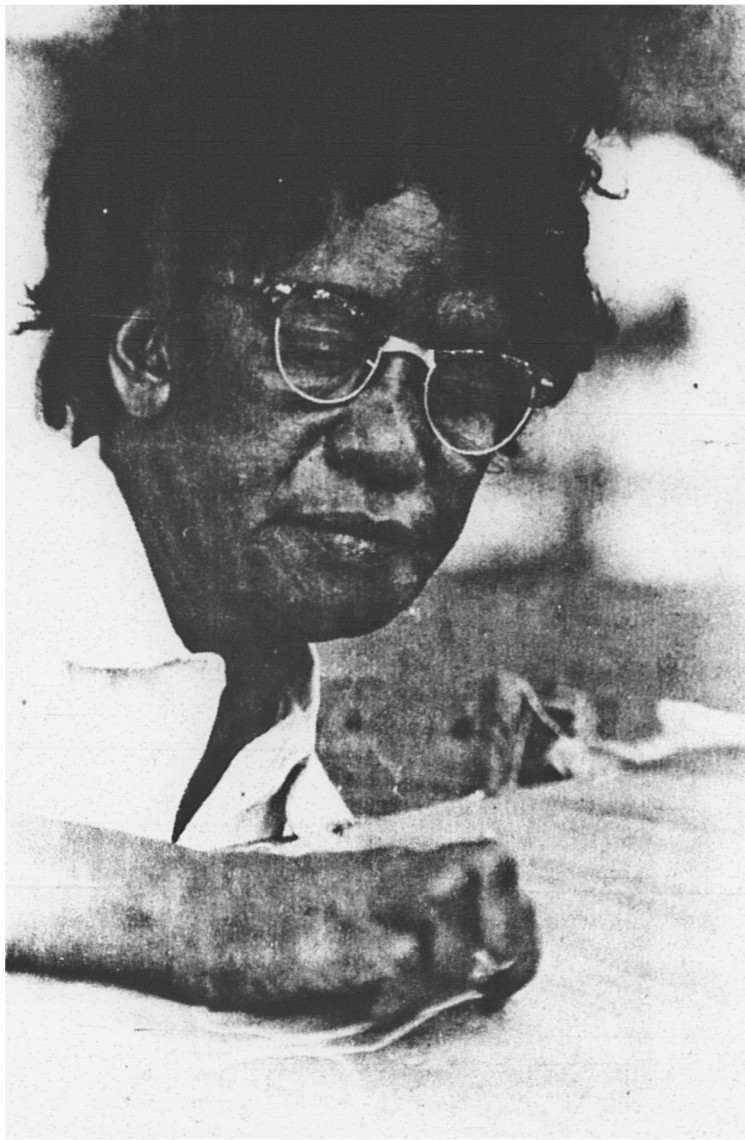
Father Walter said he started the quilting bee because he thought the Negro women who made the quilts were being cheated: "I got interested in it because it made me mad that the people were being cheated of knowing that they were doing something bold, that this quilting was something to be really proud of."

It all began last January when Father Walter and a friend were in Possum Bend, doing some work for the U.S. Justice Department. They saw some quilts hanging on a line--and an old woman quilting on her front porch. They tried to talk to her, but when the two white men came up to her house, she ran back into the woods.

Father Walter--who now works with the Selma Interreligious Project--came back later with an SCLC worker and talked to the lady about her quilts. When she told him how little she got for making the quilts, Father Walter decided to do something about it.

In February he got \$300 from the Jonathan Daniels Memorial Fund, and bought 30 quilts for \$10 each--about twice what the people usually got.

With the help of three friends from Birmingham, he held an auction in New York City and sold all the quilts. One of them brought \$70, and the others sold



SEWING IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF QUILTING

for \$30 to \$40. Another auction was held later in New York. Altogether at the two auctions, 125 quilts were sold for \$3,200.

This was the beginning of the Freedom Quilting Bee. Anybody could become a member, simply by making a quilt and selling it to the co-op. The co-op, in turn, would sell the quilt in the North.

The quilting bee got a big boost back

in June when Miss Lois Deslonde came up from New Orleans, La., to be technical assistant for the co-op. She was supported by a \$300 grant from the Southern Regional Council in Atlanta, Ga.

Her main job this summer, as she explained it, "was to get them conscious of good workmanship." She spent the summer holding workshops in 12 different communities, to tell the people how to make better quilts. She also worked at getting the people to run the co-op themselves.

The co-op is run by a 12-man board of directors. A committee of members decides what quilts to buy, and how much to pay for each.

When the co-op first started, each person usually received \$10 for a quilt. However, since some quilts could be sold for more than that, it was decided to pay some people \$13.

A little later, the members of the co-op began giving a bonus to each person whose quilt sold for more than \$20. However, last Friday the members decided that it wasn't fair to give bonuses--since the quilts that were sold at auctions usually brought more than those sold in stores, even though they might not be any better. So the co-op is going to start grading each quilt according to how well it is made, and the grade will determine the price.



QUILTS ON DISPLAY AT FREEDOM QUILTING BEE FESTIVAL

Soon there will probably be two committees to figure out how much to pay for the quilts--one on the east side of the Alabama River, the other on the west side.

The first thing a committee looks for in judging the quality of the quilts is the sewing. The stitches must be fairly close together, and even. The corners of the pieces have to be sewn down, and there shouldn't be any stitching on the outside.

A quilt is really just two layers of cloth, with cotton or other filling in between. The first step in making a quilt is to pick out a design. The design is occasionally taken from a book, or it might be a design that has been handed down from mother to daughter. Sometimes people will take a portion of an old design and use it as the design for a whole new quilt.

The next thing to do is to get scraps of cloth and sew them together to make the top layer of the quilt.

To make the bottom of the quilt, old feed sacks are sewn together. The bottom layer is spread out, and cotton filling is laid on it evenly. It's important that the cotton be even, or the quilt will be lumpy. The cotton used for the filling usually comes from the maker's own field.

The final step is to put the bottom of the quilt on a frame. It is drawn tight, and the top is laid over it. Then the top and bottom are sewn together.

Usually four or five people will get together to visit and work on a quilt. It normally takes one person a week to make a quilt, working two or three hours a day.

There are many co-ops across the country that try to sell quilts and other handicrafts. But the Freedom Quilting Bee's quilts are different.

Alabamians have a "more carefree interpretation of designs," said Miss Deslonde. Since a lot of the people don't read anything about quilts, she said,

they feel free to design them any way they like.

Father Walter said the people in the quilting bee are very creative, because they have been able to make such unusu-

al and bold designs with a limited amount of material.

A museum in New York thought enough of the designs to buy a couple for (CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX, Col. 5)



LOOKING OVER THE QUILTING BEE'S POTHOLDERS



WOMEN PONDER DECISION AT CO-OP MEETING

Mrs. Bessie Munden Builds a Playground

BY WAYNE HURDER

CAMDEN--"The children played in the streets between passing cars," said Mrs. Bessie Munden. "They had no place to swim except for a mud-hole. It had tin cans around it and mosquitoes breeding in it. That was a hazard, and I knew something had to be done about it."

And so in 1950, Mrs. Munden began

working to get a playground for Negroes in Wilcox County.

The result of her efforts is the Bessie Munden Playground, just outside Camden. There kids can swim in a pool while a lifeguard looks on; they can swing, seesaw, or play football, baseball, or basketball. Events like the recent Freedom Quilting Bee festival are held at the playground.

It was 11 years ago that Mrs. Munden convinced the 180 Negro teachers in the county to put up \$20 each for land. With that money, they bought 20 acres for the playground.

That first year, they received \$1,200

from the Wilcox County commissioners. Since then they have received \$1,000 every year except this year from the United Fund. (This year there was no United Fund drive in the area. However, to make up for the lost income, the county commissioners gave \$900 for the playground.)

By 1959, there was enough money to build a pool and hire a life guard. A cement roller-skating area was installed, along with a large covered area for kids to play under in case of rain.

The playground is owned by the Wilcox County Teachers Association, an organization of Negro school teachers. Every year, the members make a contribution to the playground.

A board of directors--made up of school principals and local citizens--run the playground. Mrs. Munden is



MRS. BESSIE MUNDEN

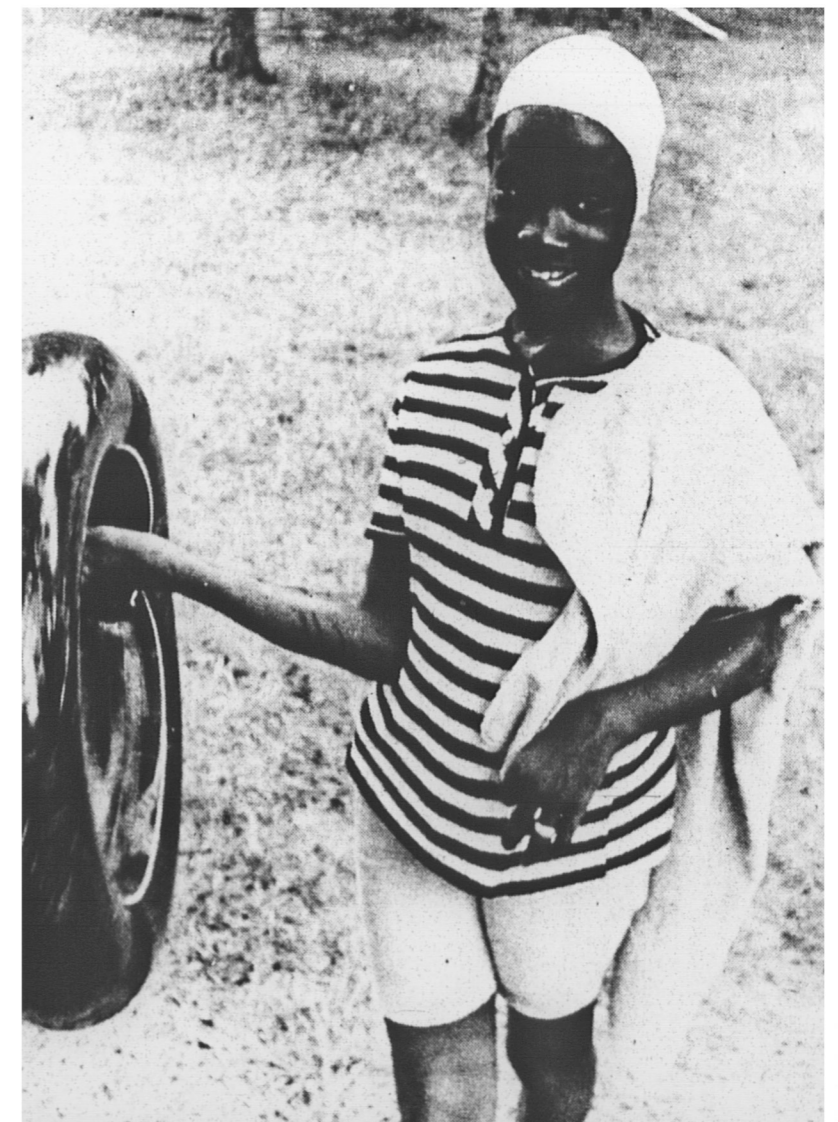
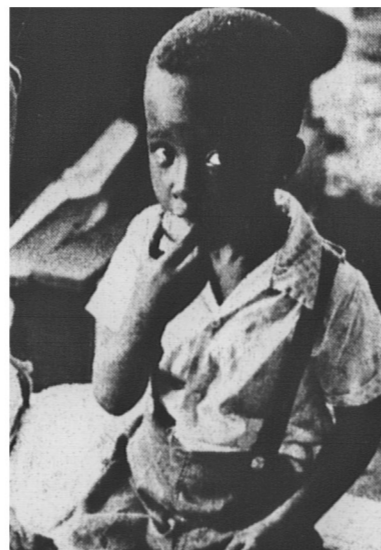
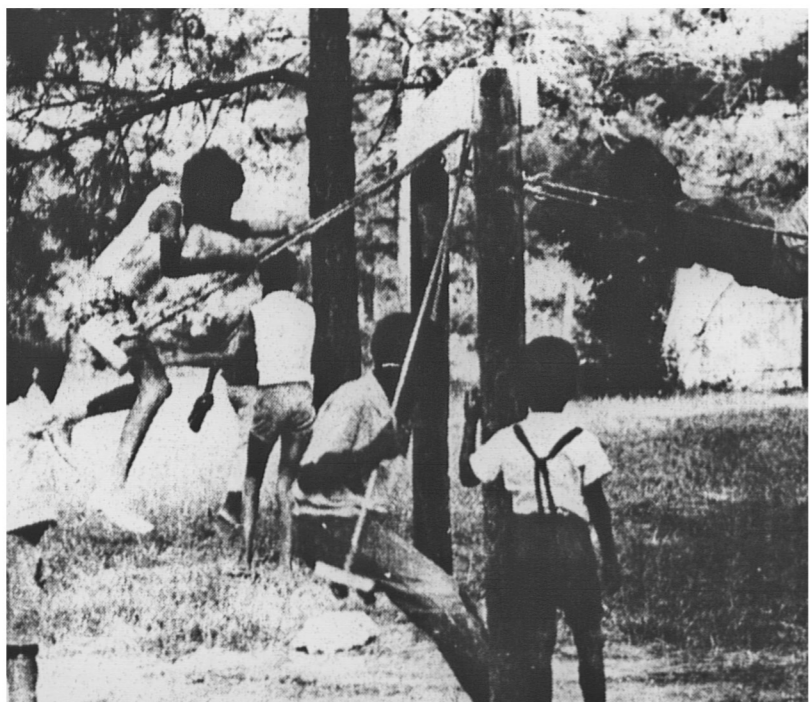
chairman of the board of directors. In all, the teachers have invested \$25,000 in the 20 acres, and they have no debts. For their next project, they are planning to put up a club-house and light the ball fields.

Albert Gordon, who said he lost his teaching position because of civil rights activity, is the director of the playground. He keeps it open every day of the week except Friday.

Kids from all over the county come to the playground. The Negro teachers have even been allowed to use the county's buses to haul school-children to the park on special play days.

A former county school superintendent, W. J. Jones, has helped the playground a lot, said Mrs. Munden. He has given the teachers money, attended their meetings, allowed them to use the buses, and donated baseball equipment to the park, she said.

Mrs. Munden is now a teacher-counselor at Camden Academy. For 28 years before that, she was a supervisor of instruction at county schools.



THINK AND GRIN

BY ARLAM CARR JR.

Paul: "That cake you're eating looks good."
 Saul: "It is good."
 Paul: "It makes my mouth water."
 Saul: "To show you what a good guy I am, here's a blotter."

Baby Ear of Corn: "Mama, where did I come from?"
 Mama Ear of Corn: "Hush, darling, the stalk brought you."

Hughie: "Hey! Why are you wearing my raincoat?"
 Louie: "You wouldn't want your best suit to get wet, would you?"

Con: "My brother is connected with the police department."
 Dick: "Police department? How?"
 Con: "By a pair of handcuffs."

Freshman: "But I don't think I deserve a zero on this paper."
 Professor: "Neither do I, but it's the lowest mark I can give you."

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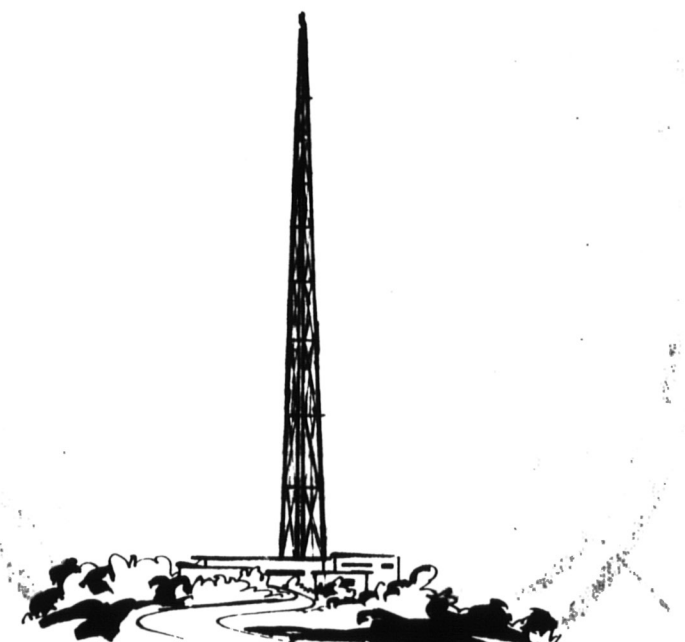
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Busted Nose Old School Annex to Come Down After PTA Complaint in Mobile

THOMASVILLE--Saturday in Thomasville continues to be the roughest time of the week.

Two Saturdays ago, a Negro girl got slammed by a door, and a white man was punched in the teeth, Last Saturday, said Andrew Leslie, president of the Thomasville Movement for Dynamic Action, Eddie Lee Jones "got his nose busted."

Jones said he and two other Negroes bought Cokes at the front window of the Dairy Queen on Highway 43. Then, said Jones, one of four white men nearby said, "You niggers won't come up front to get served any more."

At that, said Jones, he and his friends went back toward the front window, and some of the white men pulled out knives. Jones said he was hit with the closed knives, and "I went out." When he came to, his nose was smashed and bloody. Jones said he signed a warrant charging three of the white men with assault and battery.

This was "the first incident" at the Dairy Queen, said Leslie. "We've been going there a good while to get service."

MOBILE--Students at all-Negro Williamson High School are scheduled to get a new wing on their school this year. Parents in the Williamson PTA say the threat of a boycott--or of stepped-up school integration--produced this action.

For years, Williamson students have been using a wooden annex, built during World War II. Each year, it has fallen apart a little more. Now its roof leaks, the toilets are broken, and there are holes in the walls. "It's an unsanitary fire trap," said Earnest L. Freeman Jr., vice-president of the Williamson PTA. The Mobile Fire Department condemned the building last year.

The school board has planned for eight years to tear down the annex, and replace it with a new wing for the high school.

Cranford H. Burns, superintendent

It up again. When we saw those patches, we knew we were not going to let our kids go into that school again."

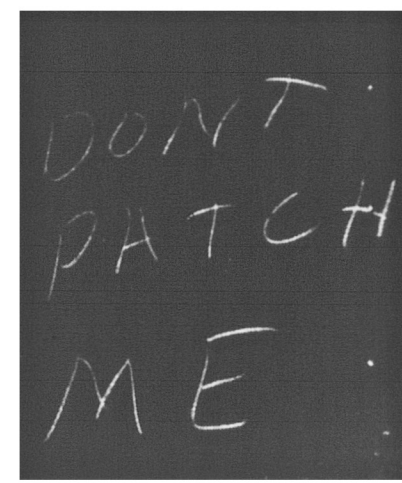
A committee from the PTA told the school board last week that if the annex wasn't torn down, they would either boycott the school or transfer their children to "some of the high schools in their immediate area where these conditions do not exist."

Many of the 1,200 students at Williamson High are now bussed down Dauphin Island Parkway past two new white high schools, B. C. Rain and Maryvale.

But, said one Williamson parent, "our threats paid off."

The wooden annex is being torn down almost immediately. And the school board has promised to start the new wing in December or January. Meanwhile, Williamson students will use ten modern portable classrooms.

"We've got to stop asking and start demanding our educational rights from the school board," said a PTA member. "That's the only way we're going to get things done."



of Mobile County schools, said the old wooden annex "is embarrassing." But, he said, the annex had not been replaced because there had been other, more pressing needs in the school system.

Last June, the school board promised to start work on the new wing during the summer. "But in August," said Mrs. Carrie Thomas, head of the Williamson PTA, "they were just patching

the wooden annex is being torn down almost immediately. And the school board has promised to start the new wing in December or January. Meanwhile, Williamson students will use ten modern portable classrooms.

"We've got to stop asking and start demanding our educational rights from the school board," said a PTA member. "That's the only way we're going to get things done."

FREEDOM QUILTING BEE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE FOUR)

exhibit, and one of the biggest furniture stores in New York bought three to put in its show windows.

Besides making quilts, the co-op also sells pottery and baskets. The pottery is made by a white man in Chilton County. Four other men in the co-op make

white oak baskets. There aren't many people in the area who can make baskets, because it is hard to get the wood. Few of the people have timber on their own land, so they have to ask white people for it.

Miss Deslonde had to leave last Sunday to go back to New Orleans. Now that she is gone, the co-op is looking for a person who knows something about handicrafts and business, to be the manager.

Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights

The weekly meeting will be held on Monday, Sept. 5, in St. Paul AME Church, 300 Fourth Court N., the Rev. S. M. Davis, pastor. Guest speaker will be the Rev. Prince Jenkins.

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5. LAND OF 1000 DANCES-- Wilson Pickett (Atlantic)
6. WORKIN' IN THE COALMINES-- Lee Dorsey (Amy)
7. POVERTY-- Bobby Bland (Duke)
8. HOW SWEET IT IS-- Jr. Walker (Soul)
9. I GOT TO LOVE SOMEBODY'S BABY--Johnny Taylor (Stax)
10. I BELIEVE I'M GONNA MAKE IT--Joe Tex (Dial)
11. NOTHING IN THE WORLD CAN HURT ME--Buddy Ace (Duke)
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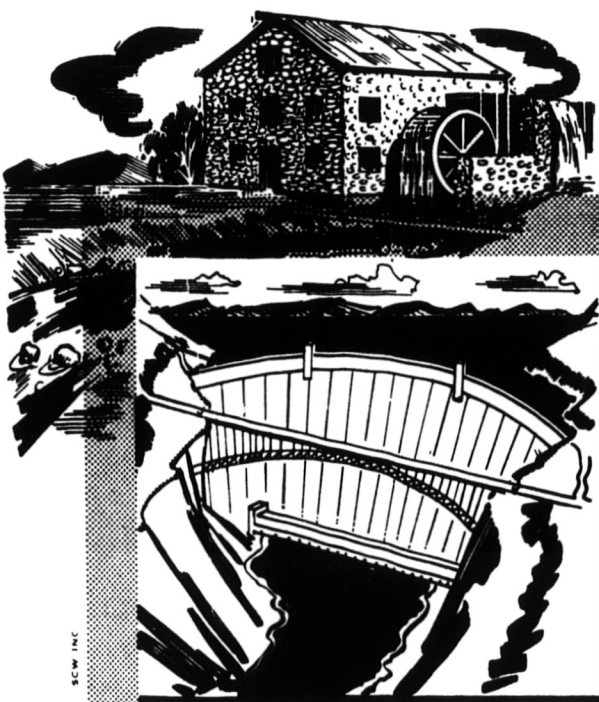
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