



CARL ELLIOTT, CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR, CHATTED WITH EDUCATORS BEFORE ADDRESSING PRINCIPALS MEETING IN MONTGOMERY WEDNESDAY. FORMER CONGRESSMAN CITED HIS RECORD IN WASHINGTON ON EDUCATION LEGISLATION, INCLUDING NATIONAL DEFENSE EDUCATION ACT OF 1958.

## 'Crusading' Elliott Charges Alabama 'Mised, Misused'

BY ALAN BAUGHMAN

TALLADEGA -- Carl Elliott, a tall, shambling man with iron grey hair and drawing voice, spoke out sharply against the Wallace Administration at a rally here this week.

Elliott spoke of "a great crusade" for Alabama as he enlisted the support, help, and prayers of the crowd of 3,000 people.

"We are crusading for the new Alabama," he said. "And we will strive to make it rank first in education, first in industrial expansion and economic growth, first in dedication to the law and to justice, first in the eyes and respect of this great nation, and first in the reverent growth of the human spirit."

"The future itself--that's what this race for governor is all about," the former congressman thundered.

"The Alabama we love so well has been too often misled, mistreated, and misused by men who have put their own personal ambitions above the well-being of the people."

"Because of the lack of responsible leadership, Alabama has not been permitted to make the kind of dazzling progress that is well within its capabilities."

The former congressman cited evidence that Alabama was third from the bottom in salary, population growth, bank deposits, and education.

For Talladega County, he specifically

## 65 or Older? Watch Deadline

Elderly people have until Mar. 31 to sign up for the health insurance part of "Medicare."

Persons 65 years of age or older who do not sign up by then may have to wait two years for another chance. They will also have to make higher payments.

The health insurance, which covers doctor bills and other medical expenses, is voluntary and costs each person \$3 a month. The government pays \$3 also.

Those who want the insurance must ask for it at their local social security office.

The hospital insurance part of Medicare is automatic for folks over 65, whether or not they are eligible for regular social security benefits. They do not have to sign up for that part.

Robert M. Ball, commissioner of Social Security, said that many people think they must be fully retired before they may collect social security benefits. But this is not true, he said.

Older persons who are on state welfare may also arrange with the state welfare department to take part in the Medicare program and to have the \$3 paid for them.

Social security officials have said that, if notified, they will visit the homes of elderly people to explain Medicare and register people for it.

Social security officials urged citizens to notify the local social security office of anybody more than 65 years of age who has not signed up for Medicare.

Alabama social security offices are in Anniston, Birmingham, Decatur, Dothan, Gadsden, Huntsville, Mobile, Montgomery, Selma, Sheffield, and Tuscaloosa.

# Courts, Rights Groups Press Teacher, Pupil Integration

## 'DESEGREGATION KIT' LACKS ONE IMPORTANT ELEMENT

BY ROBERT E. SMITH

BY TERRY COWLES

MONTGOMERY--Delegates from almost every county in Alabama came last Saturday to hear speakers from the federal government, the NAACP, and the National Educational Association tell them how to get an integrated school system this fall.

Everyone was given what was called a "desegregation kit." The kit was a manila envelope that contained all the information needed in desegregating formerly all-white schools. In fact it gave everyone just about everything, one delegate said, "except the guts. You gotta supply that yourself."

David Marlin of the U. S. Civil Rights Commission addressed the delegates first. He told them that 1966 "finds us in a very interesting position."

He said that after 12 years, since the U. S. Supreme Court declared school segregation illegal, less than one-half of one per cent of the Negro children in Alabama attend integrated schools.

Marlin said there are two chief explanations why integration of schools has been slow. One was that the "freedom of choice" plan handed down by the courts does not encourage speed. The second explanation was that a lot of people were harassed and intimidated.

"The very heart of this whole revolution is the schools," he said. "As long as the 'freedom of choice' plans are there, get out there and make that choice."

After Marlin spoke there was a question-and-answer period. A Roman Catholic priest from Sheffield, Father Bryce Joyce, complained that all the federal government did was "investigate" and nothing was ever done to correct what was wrong.

"The federal government is so far behind us they can't see us any more," Father Joyce said.

Marlin replied that desegregation was a "slow process."

Caryle Ring of the U. S. Office of Education of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare explained the newer, stricter guidelines for desegregation. These guidelines have been revised after last year's failed to bring about much desegregation.

Ring drew applause from the delegates when he said, "Some time the Negro teachers use their influence against integration because they are afraid they'll lose their jobs."

Teachers and the federal government continued to catch fire from all sides during the entire meeting.

One delegate said that he had asked six teachers to come to the meeting and not one of them was there.

"How can you help someone if they won't help themselves?" he asked.

Another delegate from Marengo County asked one of the speakers from the federal government, "What I want to know is when are you people gonna come down there."

Just about everyone agreed that it was easy enough to talk about desegregating schools, but doing it was another thing. James Kolb, from Crenshaw County, said that the people that he has to deal with are either Kluxers or Uncle Toms.

A representative from the NAACP, Miss Jean Fairfax, told the delegates the more Negro children who are enrolled in formerly all-white schools this fall, the less chance there is of any one family being singled out for reprisals.

The Rev. Joseph Lowery of Birmingham agreed.

"If you get 100,000 knocking on those school doors, they will integrate," he said.

## Pickets Hit In Prattville

PRATTVILLE--One of the first civil rights demonstrations attempted here ended in violence Wednesday.

David Houser, nephew of SCLC local president Dan Houser, was knocked unconscious and hospitalized when hit by a bottle in the face. Others, including Willie Wood, president of the Autauga County Voters Association, were hit by bricks, bottles, or stones thrown by about 30 whites.

At the side of the post office, from 10 to 20 students and adults marched with signs like "Segregation Must Go" and "Don't Buy Here Until You See Black Faces." At about 5 p.m. shoving and pushing began when whites appeared and taunted the marchers.

Wood later said, "The police said they couldn't keep law and order and protect citizens."

Minutes later Wood got on the phone to the FBI and asked for protection. And then he called Attorney General Richmond Flowers and asked for protection. Flowers said he would call the State Troopers and get protection.

## Crippled Girl Brings Discovery

HUNTSVILLE--A few weeks ago the Community Action Committee here found out about a little crippled girl who lives about 12 miles out of town in Madison County.

The family of 10 children had no income at all, and the girl needed corrective shoes.

When the anti-poverty people heard about the fourth-grader they brought her to Huntsville for the help she needed.

The girl's eyes opened wide when she saw the sights of the Space City--the lights, the cars, all the people, the signs, the buses, the big buildings. She had never been to any city before, although she lives just 12 miles out of town.

This discovery led the Community

"We will have to desegregate the pupils first, before the teachers," the Montgomery County Superintendent of Education said in federal court last week.

"The student-teacher relationship is based on respect," said Walter T. McKee. "If there is no respect, there is not much teaching and education going on."

To that Attorney Fred Gray shot back to McKee, "Are you going to tell the court you will wait until the attitude of the white people of Montgomery changes before you do something on this point of faculty desegregation?"

The exchange before U. S. District Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. represented a debate repeated throughout the state in the past seven days.

Many white educators and parents said quicker integration of students and any integration of teachers would wreck the public schools.

Negro leaders and civil rights groups argued back that school integration, although token, has gone fairly well and more integration will improve, not hurt, the schools.

The U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare stressed teacher desegregation in its new guidelines for the 1966-67 school year.

The guidelines were a great topic of conversation at the separate Negro and white teachers associations meetings at the end of this week.

White teachers viewed the rules as one more federal invasion of local school affairs. Many Negro teachers feared for their jobs if the faculties are desegregated in their systems.

"You know who will be the first to go," said one Negro teacher.

At the meeting of the Alabama State Teachers Association in Montgomery, leaders of the Negro group were prepared to promise quick court fights or other aid for Negro teachers who claim they are displaced by integration.

Money has been set aside in ASTA's budget for such aid.

The Alabama Education Association met in Birmingham at the end of the week. An all-white group, its leaders voted in January to admit members of either race.

(The Georgia Education Association convention this week in Atlanta is expected to abandon a similar all-white restriction in its constitution.)

The AEA in Birmingham planned to discuss whether to combine the teachers groups, or at least their annual conventions.

Another big topic in the hotel lobbies and workshops was the possibility of a special session of the Alabama legislature to split up surplus educational funds.

Governor George C. Wallace and the major candidates planned to attend the meeting.

Three of the school superintendents at the Birmingham convention were greeted with federal court orders last Friday in Montgomery.

After hearing McKee and two Negro staff members in the Montgomery County case, Judge Johnson "approved in part and rejected in part" Montgomery's desegregation plan.

He ordered all grades but five and six desegregated in all schools next fall, and ordered all 12 grades desegregated by the year after.

He told the school board to send every Montgomery County parent not later than April 1 a transfer form as approved by the federal government.

Johnson ordered 21 old rural Negro schools closed by September 1967, and at least seven of them closed by September of this year.

Students from those schools would be allowed "freedom of choice" transfers for the next school year.

"All faculty and programs must be on a desegregated basis," Johnson said in court. "The board must take steps to eliminate past discrimination."

He ruled out separate Negro and white teachers meetings and a "dual transportation system."

The judge asked for a report on student transfers by May 15 and on faculty desegregation by June 15.

"This order is approximately the same," he said at the end, "as the ones

### Bound to Happen

NEW YORK CITY--The Columbia Journalism Review noted that last fall someone absent-mindedly sent the following over United Press International wires:

(VATICAN CITY)--Liberal and traditionalist wings of the Roman Catholic Church clashed today in Vatican City during the reconvening session of the Ecumenical Council. The issue was church indulgences. The indulgence issue was one of many that sparked Martin Luther King to break from the church in the 16th Century.



FORMER GOVERNOR JOHN PATTERSON AT PHENIX CITY RALLY.

## JP Campaign Theme: 'Federal Interference'

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

PHENIX CITY--"Our liberty is being taken away," shouted former Governor John Patterson. "The federal government is interfering in an illegal way with the rights of our citizens."

"The people of Alabama have a right to live under a Constitution that means what it says. They have a right to govern themselves."

"I will never surrender this right, Never."

Nearly all the 500 people gathered on the front lawn of the Russell County Court House burst into applause. But one of two Negro men on the fringe of the crowd turned to the other.

"Come on, let's go," he said. As most of the crowd surged forward to shake the former governor's hand, the two Negroes silently walked away.

That was the end of the beginning of Patterson's campaign to win back the chair he gave up to George Wallace four years ago. It was the second of two "opening rallies" in the two towns Patterson claims as home.

The first rally was held two weeks ago in New Site, the tiny Tallapoosa County community where the former governor was born. The second was held last week in Phenix City, where he grew up and made his political fortune.

Now he was seeking to recover the old magic that brought crowds to their feet and lazy voters to the ballot box in 1958. The Phenix City gathering welcomed him a little cautiously, the way a host-

ess treats a guest who hasn't been around to see her for quite a while.

The people nodded and clapped when Patterson promised four-lane highways, better education, bigger old-age pensions, and new industry.

"They clapped a little harder when he said, 'I'm a great believer in law enforcement. I will enforce the laws fairly, equally, and impartially. Everyone--demonstrators, agitators, or federal agents--will be expected to obey the laws and respect the rights of others.'"

They cheered when Patterson attacked the federal government.

"They're trying to tell us how we can operate our schools, who we can serve in our restaurants, and whose hair we can cut," the former governor said.

"They're meddling with our jury system--even that--and our right to bear arms. These are the actions of a police state."

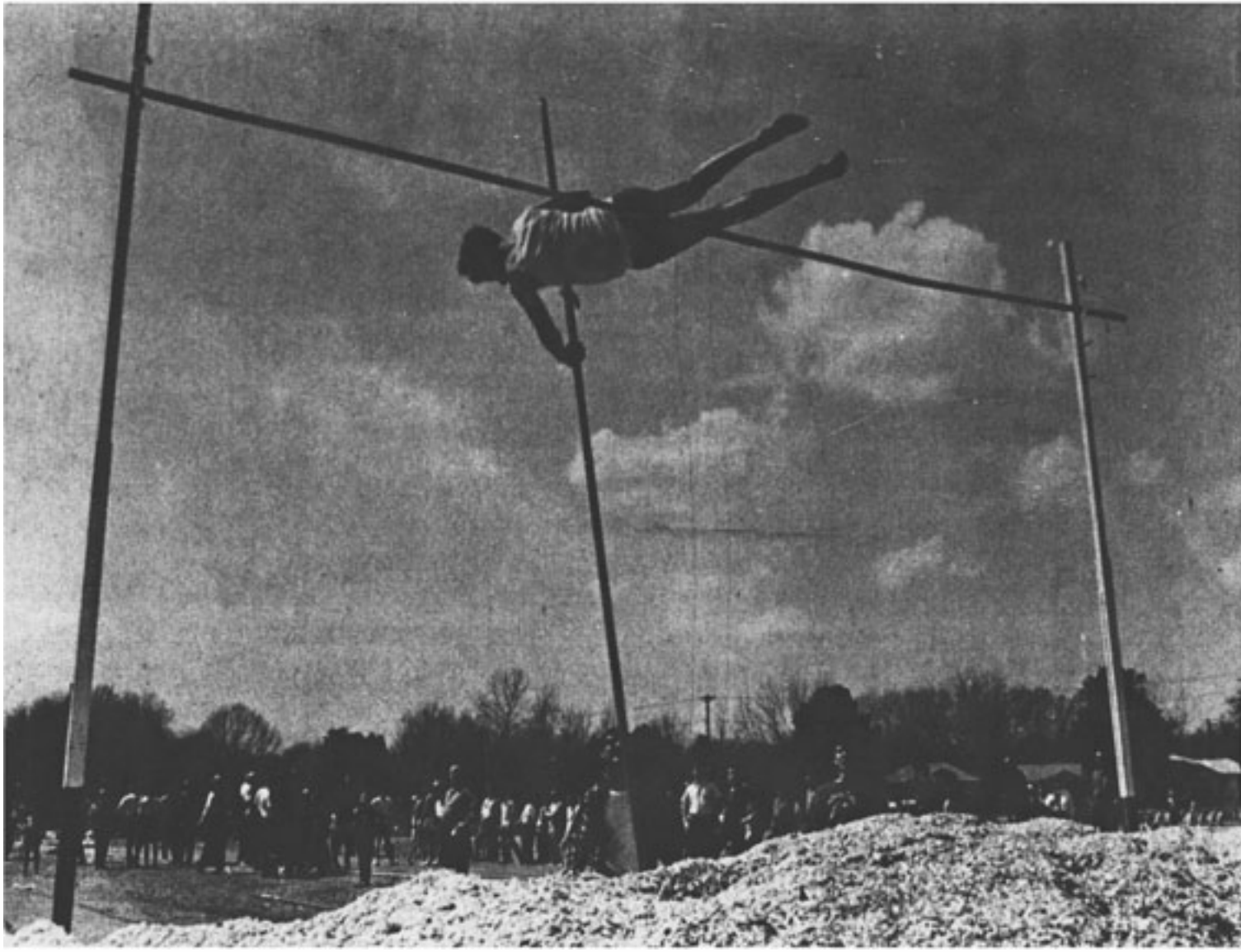
"A federal agent came around to a TV station the other day and said, 'You have to put on programs for certain people or else you'll lose your license.'"

"Katsenbach has ordered the FBI to investigate candidates in the Alabama governor's race. But I can promise you, no amount of intimidation will silence me."

The applause was long and loud. But Patterson wasn't quite through.

"The federal government's been dabbling in this campaign," he went on. (CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE, Col. 6)





Photographs by  
James H. Pepler



### Track & Field

## Further, Faster, Higher

Pole vaulting, broad jumping, hurdling, running and shot putting further, faster, or higher-and whenever possible, resting-that's the life of the high school track men who met in Montgomery last Saturday.

An added attraction in the Ramsay-

Lee-Lanier meet was the exhibition performance of Richmond Flowers Jr., University of Tennessee freshman Flowers, seen here in the 220-yard dash (lower left) and 120-high hurdles (right center), departed for Australia Monday as part of a U. S. team to compete in games there.





THE BASES HAVE HOBBY SHOPS WHERE AN AIRMAN CAN CARVE WOOD OR REPAIR CARS



BUT SOMETIMES HE WANTS TO GET AWAY, INTO TOWN

# Airmen Like Life in Montgomery: A Friendly Town With No Snow

BY GREG KANNERSTEIN

**MONTGOMERY**--The life of a serviceman is a lonely one, in some towns.

When he goes off his base, he is attacked by hoodlums or pursued by police. Parents hide their daughters and unleash blood-thirsty hounds. And prices soar at the sight of a uniform.

For Negro servicemen new to the South, the system of segregation has been a real shock.

But most of the 10,000 airmen who live at Maxwell and Gunter Air Force bases (and contribute about \$80 million a year to the local economy) don't have such problems. Many of them say Montgomery's about the friendliest place they've seen.

The bases have huge recreation programs--from sports to hobby shops--but the men like to get into town on evenings and weekends. When they do, they find plenty of entertainment.

"I was a little shook up my first time through town, when I didn't see many bars," one young airman recalled. "But now I know there are some really good night spots."

He also remembers his first day in town. While he was waiting for a bus, a man pulled up in a car, asked him where he was headed, and drove him right out to the base.

Negroes have few complaints, although, as one said, "It's still the South."

A young Negro sergeant, who grew up in Alabama but has been stationed all over the country, said: "I was really surprised when I got to Montgomery. Things have really changed. I go into all kinds of places now and never think about anything. But you know a few years ago someone would have said something."

"There's been a lot of progress in the South," he went on. "Why, I've been up to Birmingham to be part of an integrated color guard at a football game. Little things like that really help."

Still, Negroes and whites tend to go their own ways when they go off the base. "I never thought anything about color out in California," a white airman said. "But down here, when my colored friends go over to the Larcos Club or a place like that, I don't go along. I'd just feel funny, like a daisy in a rose garden."

"It's a funny thing about the South," he said.

"People are real friendly, but some of them--when you talk about certain subjects, they just go crazy."

Young airmen don't earn much--\$88 a month is a typical salary. But this doesn't keep them from enjoying life in Montgomery. Not all the enjoyment is in night clubs, either.

"I'm a motorcycle bug," one said. "And I've been all over these back roads--made some friends in town that way, too."

Another serviceman likes to go to the sporting events. "Why, they even got us discounts for Blue-Gray game tickets," he said. "Good seats, too."

Airmen like the local stores. They agree that prices don't go up when merchants learn they're in the service. Some say it's a lot easier to get credit when they show their Air Force identity cards.

For this and other reasons, Air Force wives find Montgomery pleasant--too pleasant, one meek-looking husband thought.

"Every time we go to town, she ends up buying all kinds of things. The stores are really well-stocked."

"For everything--stores and entertainment--this is the best town we've been in. I thought Kansas was good, but Montgomery tops it."

The surrounding area holds many attractions for

airmen. Some appreciate the chance to learn about the Southern past. "I'd never even seen a state capital before, not even in my own state," one said. "And I really like to look at the old houses and think about what it was like back in the days of the Confederates."

"Some of the best hunting and fishing I've ever seen is right around here," one Westerner thought. "You just have to make sure you stay in the right county in the right season."

There are many kinds of hunting. "This is a great place for chasing women," one man said. "And a lot of fellows laugh at first, but they end up marrying Montgomery girls."

"You can't just sit back in the barracks, like a lot of fellows do, of course," he said. "If you go off the base, girls are easy to meet around here."

The Air Force brass appreciate the community's friendliness. "When McNamara comes around to close those bases," one captain thought, "he looks at the relationship to the community."

Not all airmen are enthusiastic about Montgomery. "I can't wait to get out of the South and the service," a slender 25-year-old said. "But I've got no real complaints."

"You have to be somewhere--it might as well be here. At least, there's no snow."



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# Sparkman Says, 'U.S. Belongs in Viet Nam' Ex-Governor Patterson Tours Wiregrass Towns In Southeast Alabama



SENATOR JOHN SPARKMAN Speaks to College Students

BY SAMMY STAGGS  
**MONTGOMERY**--Why is the United States involved in a war in Viet Nam? Senator John Sparkman sought to answer this question in his speech before the student body of Huntingdon College last Monday.

"The United States," he said, "has actually been in Viet Nam since 1954 when it pledged its support to France, the country which colonized Viet Nam and brought Western civilization to that country."

"The Geneva Conference divided the war-torn country into two separate parts, North Viet Nam, which was to be a communist people's republic, and South Viet Nam, which was to choose its own form of government by democratic elections."

"These elections were never held," the senator continued, "because the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong would not allow them."

"President Eisenhower permitted limited military aid to South Viet Nam, and several years later President Kennedy sent advisors to help establish peace in the country."

"By the time President Johnson came to office, however, the communist guerrilla forces had increased to such a degree that it was necessary to send fighting divisions."

"Many people think that the Viet Cong is composed only of North Vietnamese," Senator Sparkman said.

"Actually, the average member of the Viet Cong is a South Vietnamese who has been trained in subversion by the North Vietnamese communists, and he is controlled and directed by Hanoi and Peking."

"Is the United States in Viet Nam illegally?" Senator Sparkman asked.

Quoting a recent declaration by the American Bar Association, the senator said that the present United States position is in accord with the Geneva Conference, SEATO treaties, and the policy of the United Nations.

The senator, who has served almost 30 straight years in Congress and ran for vice president in 1952, explained that the crisis in Viet Nam is not merely a civil war but an effort of the communist North to take over the government of South Viet Nam and establish a communist government.

"It is against the policy of the United States to allow such communist aggression in any country," he said.

Sparkman, a candidate for renomination in the Democratic primary, concluded by saying, "The three things needed most in Viet Nam are a stable government chosen by the people, patience on the part of the Vietnamese and Americans, and confidence."

"At best, war is cruel and brings many hardships. Sometimes, however, we cannot avoid it without losing our honor. I know that we must, can, and will win."

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

"They want a rubber stamp for Lyndon Johnson in Montgomery. You know that stamp they put on beef? If you raised up the shirt tail of some candidates, you would find a little blue stamp that says 'U.S. Government-inspected and approved.'"

That kind of talk went over big at night in Phenix City. At noon the next day in Clio, a small town in the hills of Barbour County, it didn't seem to win as many friends.

As the Patterson motorcade rolled out of town, a Clio businessman looked across the street to where Patterson had stood on his platform truck.

"You can't defy the federal government," said the businessman, a deGraffenreid supporter in search of a new candidate. "It's foolish to try." He turned to three Negro men sitting on a nearby window ledge.

"When a colored kid entered the school, I was for it," he said. "It's the law now. People can get along with each other if they try." The three Negroes nodded their heads.

Across the Henry County line in Abbeville, Patterson's men were setting up for a rally in the town square. They let down a curtain of red, white, and blue streamers to hide the tires of the platform truck. The country music group that plays and sings for Patterson warbled "The Ballad of the Green Beret" for the sixth or seventh time that day.

Patterson toured the square, in and out of stores, shaking hands and passing out campaign cards. He gave one to an elderly Negro sitting on a bench. The man turned the card over and over between his hands.

When the former governor got up to speak, he was talking to an integrated crowd. Of the 200 people who stood in doorways, leaned against telephone poles, or sat down on the curb to listen, at least 50 were Negroes.

"Some people say Alabama has a bad image," Patterson said. "They don't know what they're talking about. Once a week a new plant leaves the North or the Midwest and locates somewhere in Alabama."

"Those folks up North criticize us because they're jealous of the progress we're making."

"Some folks say we've got to rejoin the mainstream of American life. Well, if the mainstream is those goateed draft-card burners, then I don't want no part of it."

"Some people say we've got to rejoin the Union. We're already in it. Look at all the Alabama boys that have been killed in Viet Nam."

When the former governor was all through, many of the white people in the crowd smiled and applauded. None of the Negroes did. After a few minutes, everybody went about his business as if Patterson and the sound truck had never been there at all.

## A TV Show Comes to Alabama

BY SAMMY STAGGS

**SNOWDOWN**--The last place anyone would expect to find television actors and a film company is in Snowdown, a quiet community surrounded by flat Alabama farm land and pastures.

Trees are scattered over the fields, and the Spanish moss blows gracefully from the branches. As you drive along the highway you can see milk cows resting in the shade of the silos, and the smell of hay and fodder is mixed with the smell of the dairy barns.

Snowdown has one service station with a large Rebel gas sign in front, and two country stores.

There is one two-story farmhouse in this south Montgomery County town which has been empty so long that someone has written "dead" on the rusty mailbox in front. The driveway has deep ruts, but they were not caused by tires. The rain washed away the soil in the drive.

Early in March a Trailways bus and three orange trucks pulled into the driveway and up the hill, and workmen began to unload cameras and lighting equipment. They were getting ready to produce a television show about an old woman and a little boy who are busily preparing for Christmas.

The show is a special program that will be seen on the ABC network next December, and is called "A Christmas Memory."

The star of the show is Geraldine Page, who has been in movies and several Broadway plays. Although she is 34 years old, she plays a 60-year-old woman. And for that reason she wears a frizzy gray wig, long wrinkled dresses, and a pair of dirty bedroom slippers.

In one scene Miss Page and the little boy are counting the pennies they have saved for Christmas.

She gives him some coins and says, "Here, this is your picture-show money 'til Christmas."

The director yells "Stop," and the actors relax. A loud helicopter flying over the house has ruined this scene.

### MOBILE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO)

The third idea is to help whites and Negroes get used to being together in the schools, Jackie says. "If our system is going to keep in line with the changes going on in our society, the people in the system will have to get used to each other."

David, who is treasurer of a newly formed, integrated teachers' union here says, "The union is a good example of what can be done. When we speak in the union, we speak frankly."

The new federal guidelines for desegregation of school faculties apparently will not directly affect Mobile.

The guidelines are for school districts desegregating under plans filed with the government since the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Mobile is integrating under a 1963 court order that doesn't require integration of faculties.

Five minutes later the director is ready to try again. Lights glaring, make-up men dabbing Miss Page's face to remove spots of powder, and suddenly a bell rings.

"Silence," yells the sound man, and the cameras begin turning. Miss Page and the little boy go through the same scene, and the director says "Perfect!"

This is one of the scenes television viewers will see next December on "A Christmas Memory."

The old house is well stocked for the filming. The producer has brought old-fashioned high-back parlor chairs, antique iron chandeliers, long thick lace curtains, and dark-framed portraits of distinguished looking men with patches of mustache and long sideburns.

In the kitchen there is an open pantry filled with bright jellies and dried peppers.

A whistling kettle sits on the black pot-bellied coal stove, and the room looks too comfortable to be make-believe.

Miss Page comes strolling through the hallway while waiting to do the next scene. Although she seems tired, she is willing to chat.

When asked about her three children, she beams--"I just talked to their nurse on the phone. They are all taking naps back at the motel."

She says there are many film roles she would like to play, but each one takes a lot of time and study.

"A Christmas Memory" is a good example of what she means. It took several days like this in rural Alabama working a scene over and over to produce a single television special.



THE SCENE IS A TWO-STORY FARMHOUSE THAT HAS BEEN EMPTY SO LONG THAT SOMEONE HAS WRITTEN "DEAD" ON THE RUSTY MAILBOX IN FRONT, WHO WOULD EXPECT TO FIND BROADWAY STARS, TV CAMERAS, AND MAKE-UP IN THE MIDST OF THE FLAT ALABAMA FARM LAND? BUT THERE THEY WERE, A CREW FILMING A TELEVISION SHOW IN SNOWDOWN, MONTGOMERY COUNTY. SPECIAL SHOW STARS GERALDINE PAGE AS AN OLD WOMAN.

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Jim Clark vs. Wilson Baker for Dallas Co. Sheriff

# Two Old Foes Battle in Selma

## Reese Charges Called Factor

BY JOHN KLEIN

SELMA--The primary election for sheriff of Dallas County is a re-match of an old feud, with a new twist--thousands of new Negro voters.

Running for re-election, there's Sheriff James Gardner Clark Jr.--the same Jim Clark who became a national symbol of die-hard resistance to the civil rights movement through his handling of demonstrations here last spring.

There's Clark's opponent Wilson Baker, the Selma police and fire chief who is being cast in the role of a racial moderate.

There's the Dallas County Voter's League (DCVL), the Negro voter group, which surprised everyone by failing to back a Negro candidate for sheriff in the May 3 Democratic primary.

There's an embezzlement charge hanging over the head of DCVL president Rev. F. D. Reese that could make it unwise for him to antagonize Wilson Baker.

There's a newly-formed third party in Dallas County that may still bring forth a Negro candidate to oppose Clark or Baker in the November general election.

And federal examiners say 10,200 Negroes are now registered to vote here, as compared to 12,100 whites.

Four men have qualified to seek nomination for county sheriff in the May 3 primary. Besides Clark and Baker, there are Virgil B. Bates, former deputy sheriff, and Murphy Suther, former Selma police officer.

But Clark and Baker are generally considered the men to watch.

Clark has been sheriff here for 10 years, and he has defended his position against Baker once before.

When governor Jim Folsom took office in January 1955, he made Clark assistant commissioner of revenue, and when Dallas County Sheriff W. C. McCain died that fall, Folsom appointed Clark to complete this term.

In 1958 Wilson Baker resigned from the Selma police force to run against Clark for sheriff, and was defeated in a run-off vote.



WILSON BAKER  
Police Chief Running for Sheriff

"He led me by 337 votes in the first primary," Clark said, "but when the story spread to the voters about his having gone to a Ku Klux Klan meeting and made a speech, the tide turned."

Now Clark and Baker are opponents again, and it seems likely that the main issue will be provided by the three-month Negro voter registration campaign here last spring that led to passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

In the course of that campaign, Clark and his deputies arrested more than 2,000 persons. A three-judge federal court said afterward that there was no doubt Clark's actions were intended to "suppress efforts by Negroes to exercise their lawful and constitutional rights."

While Clark was making those arrests, Baker was saying that officials should permit peaceful demonstrations and avoid a direct confrontation with the Negroes.

Clark, who is making "law and order" his campaign slogan, would probably reply that the demonstrations last spring were anything but peaceful.

With the primary election approach-

ing, he said, "I certainly hope that my opponents will bring up my methods of handling demonstrations. I am proud of it. The Los Angeles police have said many times that they would have averted the riots in the Watts area, had they handled the situation there in the same way I did."

"I think it will help my chances in the election," he said, "because the white people and the Negroes both know had law and order broken down, we would have had a full-scale riot with probably two-thirds of the city leveled by fire and looting."

"I believe the other issues are comparatively minor," Clark said. But he added, "Even some of my bitterest critics will admit my department is more efficient than Baker's department has been in the past 14 months."

Clark has also linked Baker's appointment as police chief to "a group in Selma that feels so guilty they want to jump up and give the Negroes everything they want."

Whatever the Negro masses think of Clark, it is clear that those in the civil rights movement consider him a symbol of police brutality and die-hard discrimination.

To the Rev. Edward Gardner of Birmingham, executive vice president of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights, he is "Jim Clark, the club-swinging, the head-beater."

Closer to home, DCVL chairman the Rev. F. D. Reese reminded a recent mass meeting of the many outsiders who came to Selma to take part in the demonstrations. "When that election is over, he said, "they're going to want to know one thing: Is Jim Clark gone?" His listeners roared approval.

DCVL officials have not publicly committed themselves, but they are generally expected to back Wilson Baker.

They are already backing Negro candidates for state representative, tax collector, coroner, and two positions on the board of revenue--but not for sheriff.

When the DCVL candidates were announced to a mass meeting, screening committee chairman R. J. Reagin said the group hadn't found any qualified Negro candidate for sheriff.

And the Rev. Louis Anderson said, "If we must select the lesser of two evils we want Jim Clark out...and though I'm not tickled about it, I want Baker in."

No one mentioned Samson Crum, a popular Negro postal employee who said

he had offered to run for sheriff and was refused "any financial or moral support."

But some Negroes here speculate that DCVL put up no candidate for sheriff because of embezzlement charges against president Reese.

They pointed out that Baker personally traveled as far as California and New



JIM CLARK  
Dallas Sheriff Seeking Re-election

Jersey to gather evidence allegedly showing that Mr. Reese had lined his own pockets with "thousands of dollars" from contributions that should have gone to DCVL. At that time, Baker said more people might be involved.

That was eight months ago, but the four embezzlement indictments against Mr. Reese have never come to trial. Postponed three times, the case is now set for trial Monday, March 28.

With the case still pending and more indictments threatened, the Negroes say, DCVL might find it wiser to support Baker than to oppose him with a Negro candidate.

But if Baker is seeking Negro votes, he isn't doing it openly. He refused to be interviewed by The Southern Courier reporter because, he said, he was afraid of being branded as a "Negro candidate" by his opponents.

All he would say was, "I'm a professional law enforcement officer and I expect to sell the people the need to have a professional man on the job."

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# Dallas County Voters Start Third Party

BY JOHN KLEIN

SELMA--Dallas County has a third political party now.

It's called the Dallas County Independent Free Voters Organization. Like the black panther party of Lowndes County, it is intended to run independent Negro candidates for county offices in the Nov. 8 general election.

About 100 local Negroes chose officers for the new organization at a meeting here Monday night.

They also chose a party symbol and slogan: a black-and-white diamond in a circle of chain, with the words "strength through unity."

Those backing the third-party movement in Dallas County give three main reasons.

First, like many Negroes here, they are unhappy because the Dallas County Voters League (DCVL) doesn't have a Negro candidate seeking the Democratic nomination for many county offices.

Second, they point out that registered Negroes will not be in the majority when the Democratic primary is held May 3, but they might be when the general election is held six months later.

Third, they claim that DCVL doesn't reach the poor and illiterate Negro voters in the back woods of Dallas County.

"We find that people out in the rural areas have never heard of a Dallas County Voters League," said Clarence Williams, newly-elected chairman of the Independent Free Voters Organization.

DCVL president Rev. F. D. Reese replies that DCVL has more than 2,000 members among the county's 10,200 registered Negro voters, and reaches many more through precinct meetings.

At Monday's meeting, Mr. Reese also argued that if a third-party Negro were

elected, he wouldn't have as much influence as a Negro Democrat would have through his contacts in the Democratic Party.

But he admitted that it is "a possibility" that all five DCVL candidates will lose out in the May 3 primary.

That's why DCVL isn't running a Negro for sheriff, Mr. Reese said: because he might get caught in a run-off vote with Sheriff Jim Clark, who is running for re-election.

"Even if (the white voters) hated Clark's guts, they'd vote for him," said Mr. Reese.

Instead, he says Negroes should

throw their support behind one of the white candidates. "If the Negroes could come together and decide who that is," he said, "then that man must have some 'caterance' to the desires of the Negro communities."

Though people at the meeting spent nearly an hour aiming hostile questions at Reese, DCVL and the new group seemed to be moving toward an uneasy coexistence.

"You can forget about the freedom organization in the primary and vote for whom you want to," explained James Lytle, a staff member of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, which backs the third-party approach. "Then you've got the candidates in the freedom organization to fall back on."

Mr. Reese was asked whether DCVL would support third-party candidates if its own candidates were defeated in the primary.

"I'll say this: If a Negro is up, I'll vote for him," he said.

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