

NORTH + SOUTH

Southern Christian Leadership Conference Staff News, Jan. 1967

SCLC CHRISTMAS TALES

The Orange Santa Claus

Debbie Frankle reports from Chicago: During the boycott of a shopping area, James Orange donned a Santa Claus suit and, along with four other hefty Freedom fighters, gave candy to the children and told them not to go in the stores. I understand some children were reduced to tears when their mothers tried to take them shopping, insisting they couldn't go in the stores 'cause Santa told them not to. Or were they reduced to tears at the sight of James Orange in a Santa suit?

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An Ebony Christmas

Marian Willingham of our Finance Office went shopping in Atlanta for an ebony baby doll. She located a whole row of these dolls on a store counter, lined directly behind all the white dolls. Before selecting her gift, Marian moved each ebony doll in front of the white ones.

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'Tis More Blessed to Give....

The children of Hosea Williams went downtown before Christmas and picked out gifts they would like to receive. On Christmas morning, the Williams family distributed these gifts to children in an impoverished neighborhood.

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"Whit's" Christmas

Late in November, the family of William Whitsett, SCLC print shop foreman, was faced with a difficult Christmas. A fire in their apartment destroyed all furniture, clothes and personal items in a bedroom and damaged some possessions in other rooms. Four of the seven Whitsett children were at home and were rescued by neighbors. "Whit" was visiting his wife in the hospital. After the fire, the SCLC clerical staff's Benevolence Club took up a collection and Frances Sims, Club chairman, presented a check for \$130.50 to "Whit."

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SCLC CHRISTMAS TALES (Cont.)

Sleeping Bunny

During the Holidays, the King and Abernathy children worked many hours rehearsing and finally staging a performance of "Sleeping Beauty" at the King home. The children conceived and produced the entire show by themselves. It was complete with programs, lighting, music, costumes, and splendid dancing and acting before an enchanted adult audience. The cast, in order of appearance; Yolanda King, Bernice King, Martin Luther King III, Juandalynn Abernathy, Donzaleigh Abernathy, Ralph David Abernathy III, and Dexter King. Bernice ("Bunny") played Sleeping Beauty.

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The Secret Code

"S-C-L-C-double-0-7." All over Atlanta, children are passing this secret code. They got it from our 007, Rev. B. J. Johnson at the annual SCLC staff Christmas party for underprivileged children on Dec. 17. Gifts, refreshments, and entertainment for the 138 children were supplied by friends of SCLC. The party was planned and supervised by Carole Hoover, Anne Durrah, Lillie Hunter, Frances Sims, Gloria Fraction and Dora McDonald. Rev. Abernathy spoke to the children and pointed out that it was the staff, not executives, who did all the work on the party. Then B. J. (Bond, James) disclosed the code.

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JUNIUS GOES REPUBLICAN

Junius Griffin, Administrator and Director of Public Relations, analyzed the election results and, after 18 months with SCLC, joined the Minorities Division of the Republican National Committee on Jan. 4. "Griff" is at Washington, D. C., but he's going to keep in touch with the Movement.

On Dec. 28, a farewell party for Junius was hosted by Claudette and Wesley Mathews. Unfortunately, Junius was stranded by snow in New York, so the staff at the party had no choice but to drown their sorrows.

SUNSHINE'S GARDENS

Where the Movement goes, often goes our own Mr. Ben "Sunshine" Owens. And Sunshine has got to have his greens. So, he makes sure by planting gardens and growing corn, watermelons, greens, cucumbers, asparagus, and spinach. He's also becoming famous for sending peanuts and pecans to our leaders. Sunshine has worked for SCLC in many places, including Crisp County, Ga., and Sumter, Perry and Greene Counties, Ala. Your greens are mighty tasty, Sunshine, but how about some moonshine, too?

GREETINGS FROM YOUR FRIENDLY TAX COLLECTOR

Jim Harrison, SCLC Comptroller, asks that all salaried employees inform him where their W-2 income tax forms should be sent. Forms will be mailed by Jan. 31. Subsistence workers may have, by Feb. 10, a statement of their subsistence payments in 1966 if they request it from Jim by Jan. 31.

PERSONALITIES

A New York Times reporter in Hanoi, North Vietnam, went to a bomb shelter during an air raid Dec. 27, and there he found -- Diane Bevel!.....

Bob Fitch was in the hospital just before Christmas but he recovered in time for a Yule trip with wife Lynne to Chicago..

Featured by photos in the Dec. 24-25 Southern Courier was a class of Atlanta Children taught by the National Teacher Corps, including Jean (Mrs. Andy) Young...

Callers at Freedom House during the Holidays included Richard Smiley, from Midland School in Los Olivos, Calif.; Paul, Patty and Rebecca Bokulich from Selma; and Barbara Jean Williams, from American University in Washington, D. C. ...

Other recent visitors in Atlanta: Mr. & Mrs. Toussaint L'Overture Harrison, Jim's parents from Stockton, Calif.; Lillie Hunter's son, John from Tennessee A & I State University in Nashville; Gloria Fraction's niece Denise, from Chicago; Frances Sims' sister Gwen, from Huntsville, Ala.....

Ben Clarke and Willie Tabb are newly assigned to the Chicago voter project...

Note to Chicago Staff: Get Ben to read you some Negro poetry....

And speaking of Ben, when Hosea was presented with a rather lavish Christmas gift from his staff, he said: "I don't know if I should accept this, because if Ben Clarke had anything to do with financing it, I'll end up paying for it.".....

Freedom House had the world's biggest Christmas card with names of each staff member printed in large letters....

Dorothy Cotton, CEP Director, addressed the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom at their annual Human Rights Day meeting in Philadelphia Dec. 10. Dorothy spoke to more than 400 people on the relationship between the civil rights movement and the war in Vietnam.....

George Shinhoster's grandmother passed away in late December. The funeral was in Savannah. Our hearts go out to George and his family.

BLACK POLITICAL POWER MEETS FOR RALLY

On Jan. 5 Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, after a Chicago press conference with Hosea Williams, fired up a mass rally for the voter registration and political education campaign. Other speakers: Hosea, Negro Congressman John Conyers of Michigan, the newly elected Negro mayor of Springfield, Ill., and Lucius Amerson, the Negro sheriff for Tuskegee, Ala.

SCLC TRIUMPH!

The Chicago DEFENDER in a Dec. 28 editorial said that Government approval of SCLC's new housing project in Chicago "re-enforced public confidence" in Dr. King's leadership. The project will rehabilitate slum apartment buildings in three neighborhoods. The editorial praised our philosophy of constructive nonviolent programs and said: "Dr. King has reaffirmed the credo he has preached from the start of the stormy battles of the civil rights revolution."

C. E. P. NEWS

Annell Ponder of the Citizenship Education Program and Ben Mack, Field Secretary of South Carolina, went to Washington, D. C., Dec. 8-10 to represent SCLC at a conference on Negro history. About 3,000 educators, community leaders and nationally prominent Negroes met to discuss the problem of racism in education and the lack of accurate information for school children on the Negro's contributions to history.

The conference, sponsored by the American Federation of Teachers, heard of textbooks which contain glaring omissions and untruths about the role of Negroes in history. Participants agreed that a concerted new effort must be made to improve the teaching of Negro history. They also strongly criticized the use of the American language to convey favorable interpretations of "whiteness" and offensive interpretations of "blackness."

One popular idea at the conference was that the term "Afro-American" should replace the term "Negro," since black people have a rich African heritage.

Annell and Ben were especially interested in getting ideas and information for C. E. P. adult education classes.

The next C. E. P. workshop will be Feb. 13-17 at the Dorchester Community Center in Liberty County, Ga.

Some C. E. P. staff members went to Annemarie, Ala., in mid-December to help teach adults in the new SCLC-sponsored anti-poverty project in Wilcox County.

GRENADA: HARRASSMENT, CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEERS, A NEWSPAPER

Negro citizens of Grenada have encountered more physical harrassment. Pickets have had to dodge deliberately reckless drivers. Three girls reported a shot was fired at them when they passed the Shell station on Commerce street.

Abuse and beatings continued at the integrated schools. For example, a high school boy suffered a fractured skull. A girl was chase by two white men on her way home from school. SCLC has repeatedly demanded protection for the children from local, state and federal authorities.

Hundreds of UCLA students pitched in \$2 each and sent 11 students a spend Christmas vacation in the Grenada project. They tutored classes and brought programs of art, drama and Negro history.

Commenting on the successful Christmas Blackout of Grenada, Pete Lowenburg, UCLA spokesman for the volunteers said: "This Blackout Christmas is the best holiday being celebrated in this country. Christ would know us and feel at home."

Bruce Hartford has organized a Poor Peoples Committee to study welfare laws, and after confrontation with the welfare department, committee members won the right to accompany welfare applicants during all hearings.

The Grenada Movement is publishing a mimeographed paper, The Grenada Weekly Advocate. It includes up-to-date Movement news, Movement history, sermonettes, child-care advice, social announcements, and editorials. Jim Bullock is editor.

MORE FAME FOR SCLC

We've been educating the country about Operation Breadbasket lately, and the press has been playing it up. Many Negro newspapers ran our full story, with pictures of Rev. Fred Bennette, National Director, and other Breadbasket leaders. JET had a big cover story and NEWSWEEK wrote a feature on the program. Our own Dave Wallace did a cover story in the Chicago Theological Seminary's magazine, REGISTER. Chicago businessmen who were helped by Breadbasket victories have been placing ads urging support for the program. P. S.: Thanks to Carol Griffin for helping N&S stay informed on Breadbasket in Chicago.

SCLC DEMANDS PROTECTION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Dr. Bob Green recently went to Camden, Ala., to investigate situations in the Wilcox County integrated schools. He found, in long interviews with Negro pupils, that a pattern of physical mistreatment and constant abuse existed ever since the schools were integrated last September. Bob reported this in detail to the U. S. Justice Department and on behalf of SCLC he demanded a court injunction on school officials, requiring them to provide protection for the students. He also suggested that federal funds should be cut off if the harrassment continues.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

At 12:01 A. M. on Jan. 1, 1967 some SCLC staffers sang "We Shall Overcome." We hope you did, too. Let's make this the best year for SCLC.

MORE "QUIET WORK" OF SCLC

While major SCLC programs are making headlines, many smaller projects and movements related to SCLC are working effectively at the local level. For example:

SCLC's Roosevelt Barnett and the Montgomery Improvement Association recently won more than 180 new jobs for Negroes at stores in Montgomery. One store gave in after five weeks of picketing, and other businesses quickly fell in line after that.

George Rascoe, who works with Golden Frinks in the Bertie County, N. C., Freedom Movement, was in Atlanta last month, reported on plans for a poor people's store and efforts to integrate Negro schools, now that white schools are integrated.

Mike Baum, Co-ordinator of the Greater Miami Chapter of SCLC, writes that this Affiliate is working with slum tenants to get improvements in housing. The Miami Movement keeps spirits up at mass rallies and demonstrations.

The Wilcox County SCLC is a sponsor of the new antipoverty program for seasonal farm workers, and SCLC is supplying staff for that project.

WHAT'S HAPPENING, BABY?

Do you know what's going on at some projects not mentioned in this issue of North and South?

We don't either, because we haven't heard from them. We can't make long distance calls to get the news. We depend on you to take a few minutes to write us. No news means no N&S. Please, please write: North and South, SCLC, 334 Auburn Ave., N. E., Atlanta, Ga. 30303