

Jackson

Research Report--Batesville, Mississippi

Local Officials

Sheriff	Earl Hubbard
Chancery Clerk	G. B. Vance Jr.
Circuit Clerk	Ike Shankle
Superintendent of Education	L. Stacy Davidson
Tax Assessor	J. V. Still

County Supervisors

W. F. Barnett	Coco
Bill P. Knox	Orenshaw
M. H. "Nick" Aldridge	Pope
D. B. Wilson	Batesville
W. Shuford Jones	Batesville

Attorney for School Board: Cliff Finch

Attorney for Board of Supervisors: Bob Riser

Mayor of Batesville: Dan Ferguson

Batesville City aldermen: Dewey Crowson, Harold McGarley, and Huntington Howell

Batesville Town Marshal: Forest Tuttle

Policemen: Tom Ratford, J. D. Potts

Some of the Sheriff's deputies: Skeeter Thurner, Alvin Peak, _____ Brewer,

E. E. Thornton, Carson Helms

Directors of the Panola County Savings and Loan Association

R. B. Cox
 J. D. Vance
 G. E. Shinn
 C. B. Young
 W. C. Bailey
 F. V. Graves

Officers

W. J. Cox, President
 C. B. Young, Vice President
 Miles C. Mitchell, Secretary-Treasurer
 D. R. Johnson, Attorney

Directors

Batesville Security Bank

J. C. Dunlap
 J. Wesley Whitten
 R. T. Riser
 Albert Barnett
 J. Q. West
 S. H. Gaines
 John Neacham, Jr.

Officers

J. C. Dunlap, President
 R. T. Riser, Vice President
 John Neacham, Jr., Executive Vice President and Cashier
 Mrs. Claire Sanders, Assistant cashier
 Mrs. Elizabeth Florence, Assistant cashier

I have not yet been able to obtain the board of directors for the Bank of Batesville and Branch of Pope

Judge William Kyle, Sardis, is an associate justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court-district 3, northern. He was born near Batesville and was state senator from Panola county from 1928 through 1950 when he became attorney general. Later that year he was appointed to the judgeship.

Jamie Whitten, from Charleston in Tallahatchie county seems to have connections here--at least there are several people with the same last name. We have: Buster Whitten, a former constable who shot a Negro James B. Whitten, director and general manager, Batesville Concrete Co. J. Wesley Whitten, once a member of the board of education, owner of an insurance agency, and a director of the Batesville Security bank.

The state senator from Panola county is Dennis M. Baker, a local attorney who has been state senator since 1956. He was on the executive committee of the White Citizen's Council in 1961 and 1963. He is a farmer, insurance agent, attorney, and businessman.

W. T. McCullough, Pope, is one of the county's representatives. I have not found who the others are. He is a cotton buyer, merchant, and druggist. The two representatives from the previous session were C.C. Finch and CC Vick.

Sheriff Earl Hubbard is from Courtland and was a county supervisor from 1960 through 1964.

C. C. "Cliff" Finch, school board attorney, was a member of the Mississippi House of Representatives from 1956 through 1964. He is now district attorney from the fifth judicial district in northern Mississippi which includes Tallahatchie, Yalobusha, Panola, and I believe Tate and Decoto counties. He has a local practice and is a member of the American Bar Association.

Bob Riser, attorney for the Board of Supervisors, is also city attorney, and vice-president and director, Batesville Security Bank.

Alderman Harold McCarley owns local radio station WBLE.

Alderman Huntington Howell is the editor of The Panolian. Once he wrote an article criticizing the White Citizen's Council which was picked up by Claude Sitten and others. Howell received trouble on this and has kept quiet since.

Miles C. Mitchell is an insurance agent, past president of the Batesville Chamber of Commerce, and is secretary-treasurer of the Panola county Savings and Loan Association.

John Neacham Jr. is a director and officer of the Batesville Security Bank and past treasurer of the local chamber of commerce.

I was able to see the ownership map of the southern district of Panola county. There were no large landowners. Apparently the big farms are in the northern half of the county. Panola county has more farms than any other county in Mississippi and half of them are between 10 and 49 acres.

Important local industries are The Batesville Company, a subsidiary of United States Industries, which makes ladies hosiery and is reported to hire Negroes only as janitors, Panola Incorporated of Batesville, which makes women's foundation garments and has its home office in Chicago and Polaron Products of Mississippi which has its home office at 165 Huguenot Street, New Rochelle, New York. It is reported to pay Negroes less than whites for doing the same work and is also reported to have once fired Negroes for attempting to form a labor union. I have the names of the directors of the corporation.

Batesville has an integrated library and Negroes can use the same entrance as whites. Once they had to use the back door. However, Negroes tend not to use it. The bus depot, one room next to a drive-in, is integrated. However, there doesn't seem to be a public bathroom around. While there are no signs in the railroad station, there are two waiting rooms, one used by whites and one by Negroes. Filling stations have 3 bathrooms, as a rule, though I have found one place which has only two, but does not let Negroes use them. Some restaurants have separate rooms for Negroes, others simply don't let them in. One drug store, owned by Charles Houston, closed its lunch counter because they thought we were going to demonstrate. This apparently happened the day we got to Batesville. The courthouse has a water fountain for whites only. I could not find the bathrooms. The Dickens funeral home does not bury Negroes. There is a definite difference in the streets and houses in the white and Negro neighborhoods. Reportedly the federally aided lunches in the schools differ. Like chicken vs. boloney sandwiches. The listed expenditure above state minimum program for instruction in Mississippi school districts is:

North Panola district/per child:	white, \$104.28	Negro 1.76
South Panola district:	white \$59.55	Negro 1.35

Panola county is served by the Mississippi Power and Light company. However, the Tallahatchie Valley EPA, part of the Rural Electrification Association, Department of Agriculture is located in Batesville and competes locally. There are two dams built by the US Army Engineers, Enid and Sardis, near here. I would appreciate any information I could have on the relationships of these agencies. I will look into them.

Apparently Judge Clayton of the northern Mississippi district court did not permit any sort of delay of the Panola county court order. It is thought that he has eyes for the vacancy in the 5th circuit court of appeals. That is why Shankle, the local registrar is complying. Martin and Flannery from the Justice Department have been here from time to time. It is said that the registrar's office can handle only 3 people at a time but I sneaked in there and saw a long table which in my opinion could handle more. Shankle refuses to open the courthouse at Sardis, saying he does not have the staff. Flannery says he has not decided what to do, but that the present situation is unacceptable to him. I will do more research on the court order in Oxford and Clarksdale on both the Panola and Tallahatchie cases. I will also obtain copies of the court order.

We have a list of the registered voters and ~~will~~ are compiling a list of leaders in the Negro community. Some of the Negroes own their own land, but in 1960, 78.1% of the Negro farmers were tenants.

Eugene Eucher