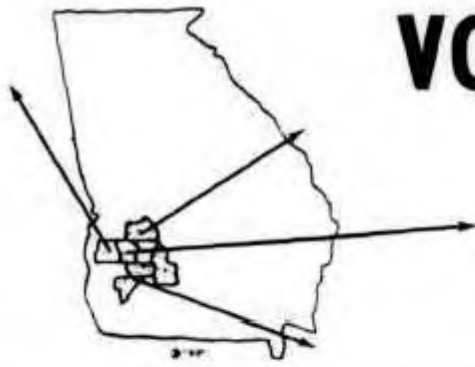




VOICE OF AMERICUS AND S. W. GEORGIA

VOLUME TWO, NO. THREE

MARCH 20, 1965

AMERICUS, GEORGIA

PRICE FIVE CENTS

SELMA DEMONSTRATIONS

The past eight weeks in Selma, Alabama were climaxed last week by efforts to march to the Alabama capitol in Montgomery, Sunday, March 7.

Dr. Martin Luther King's group of 450, determined to show Gov. Wallace and all the U.S. that their desire to vote should be granted, clashed in a bloody show with state police. The police used tear gas and brutally beat the advancing marchers, forcing them to turn around. About 40 were injured and hospitalized.

Tuesday, March 9, the president said, "The Federal District Court in Alabama has before it a request to enjoin state officials from interfering with the right of Alabama citizens to walk from Selma to Montgomery in order to secure the right to register and vote."

The world was shocked by the most brutal killing since President Kennedy, when Rev. James Reeb, from Boston, and two other white ministers were brutally beaten by racists Tuesday night. The country held its breath, but he died 48 hours later.

Ralph McGill, of the Atlanta Constitution, said of the killing of Rev. Reeb, "Must any American citizen in 1965 be called upon to die or be slugged to unconsciousness to establish a right to register....Must a defenseless, in-offensive minister be murderously assaulted to establish the basic rights of citizenship?"

Simultaneous demonstrations were held across the country, to dramatize to Johnson their feeling of urgency in solving the Selma situation. Marches were staged from California to Canada, and in New York and Washington D.C. Nearly 1,000 marched for 2 hours in front of the white house. 10,000 joined Michigan Gov. George Romney and Detroit Mayor Jerome Cavanaugh in downtown Detroit. Even in Albany, Georgia, 15 marched in front of the Post Office. 75 ministers, present in Albany for a statewide meeting to obtain equal employment opportunities for Negroes, marched to downtown Albany to protest Selma wrongs. 700 white persons, cursed by other white Christians, marched to the leadership of a Lutheran minister in Selma.

Saturday, March 13, Gov. Wallace met in Washington to discuss solutions to the Selma situation. Gov. Wallace said he has always believed that "all eligible people are entitled to vote."

The largest demonstration in Selma was held Monday, March 15, when Dr. King lead nearly 4,000 to a memorial service for Rev. Reeb at the Dallas County Courthouse. Many clergymen from across the country were present. A federal judge ordered police to permit the march.

PRESIDENTS' BILL RESPONDS TO SELMA

Monday night, March 15, President Johnson delivered a 50 minute message to Congress and the Union, televised over TV.

His dramatic speech was broken frequently by loud and long applause.

The occasion was to state his form of action in the Congress to resolve the Selma situation. "Every device has been used to keep Negroes citizens from voting," he exclaimed. He stated to Congress that Wednesday he would present a bill to eliminate all barriers to voting, "in federal, state, and local elections." The most important part of the bill is that federal registration officials will be sent in if local officials refuse to register persons without regard to religion, race, or national origin.

He said, "The command of the constitution is here, and this is no constitutional issue; there is no moral issue; it is wrong, deadly wrong to deny the right of an individual to vote. It is right in the eyes of every man and God that this justice should come."

TWO CHURCHES BURNED IN WORTH COUNTY

Two Negro churches were burned Saturday night between 12:30 A.M. and 1:00 A.M., March 6th. The churches, Oak Grove Baptist and New Beulah Grove, are less than a mile apart, 18 miles north of Moultrie on Highway 33. Oak Grove Baptist was burned to the ground.

The cause of the burnings has not been determined, but an arson is suspected.

Neither of the churches have been involved in civil rights activity, but SNCC staff believe that some white people were trying to intimidate the Negro community and there might be some connection with the recent Moultrie demonstrations.

Oak Grove Baptist Church is pastored by Rev. Sparks, and New Beulah Grove by Rev. Ely Harrington.

WOMEN POLICE PATROL HIRED

Two local women were hired by the Police Department March 1st. They are patrol women during the morning and afternoon when children are going to and from school, at Eastview.

Mrs. Annie Smith of 208 Ashby St. works the corner of Lee and Ashby St. Mrs. Rosa Chapman of 55 B B Benson Drive, works opposite Eastview School.

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NEED FOR NEW NEGRO BUSINESSES

Editorial, by Elizabeth Henry

The city of Americus is greatly in need of some Negro businesses, that we find in larger towns such as Albany and Atlanta.

There is not a single Negro insurance agency or attorney here, who could be of great service in aiding and understanding the needs of the Negro community, compared to their white counterparts. These men could employ women who have had business training in trade school, but cannot get a job in Americus because they are discriminated against in white businesses.

Mr. Slater King, of Albany, an insurance man himself, stresses the need for more Negroes to patronize businesses owned by their own people.

It is even feasible for Negroes to buy the homes that white men now own in the Negro community. Who could be more interested in the upkeep of the houses and in charging fair rent than someone in our own community?

We have Negro gas stations, cleaners, and grocery stores, so why should we let our money infiltrate into the hands of those who will never further our cause with the profits from our pockets?

The most urgent need for a Negro business we have at present is for a bus service. Why should we wait until a white man chooses to start a bus service and treat us as he sees fit? Many women have difficulties getting taxis to their jobs because of the high demand and lack of time for taxis to get back and forth during rush hours. Busses would also greatly cut down the cost of transportation for the passengers.

If some man would like to start a bus service, he would have a very secure and profitable job, and be doing a great service to the Negro community.

If interested, call 924-6628.

PREACHING WOMAN ARRESTED

An Americus Negro woman was arrested Sunday, March 7, and jailed when she tried to enter the 1st Methodist Church, a white church. When prevented from entering, she began singing and shouting, and was thereupon arrested for causing a disturbance.

Some observers say she had gone to various parts of the Negro community earlier, preaching from the Bible to those who would listen. She also tried to walk along the Andersonville Highway to preach in a neighboring town, because she dreamed God asked this of her.

She was hospitalized for medical treatments upon the advice of her doctor.

TO THE HUNDREDS IN SELMA

By Elizabeth Henry

To the hundreds in Selma, banded together
with a common cause,
May the world shake your hand.

To the hundreds in Selma, trampled on and
beaten,
May the world give a cry.

To the hundreds in Selma, tense and discouraged,
May the world give a prayer.

To the Congress of our land, whom we ask
impatiently to meet these peoples' pleas,
We lift our hearts, in hopes of speedy and
deliberate solution.

To the dedicated Rev. Reeb, who died for our
cause, may he forever be a symbol,
Of the fight to end injustice in America.

To the slayers of Rev. Reeb, may you know
your deplorable act is cursed by the world.

MRS. KING TO GIVE FREEDOM CONCERT

Mrs. Martin Luther King will give a Freedom Concert Sunday, March 28, at 6 P.M. at the Albany Third Kiokke Baptist Church.

The concert is billed as "an unusual type of concert, presented by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Mrs. Coretta Scott King, Soprano, will give a moving sensitive story of the freedom struggle told in song and narration."

Tickets cost \$1.00, and patrons cost \$2.00. Write to Albany Movement, Box 141, Albany. Proceeds will go to aid the new Albany Community Center.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS:
\$1.25.....Six months
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First class unmarked
mailing, 50¢ extra.

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MOULTRIE H. S. TO DESEGREGATE

by Herman Kitchens, Moultrie
SNCC

February 22 the students went back to their high school, Wm. Iryant, but if their school isn't reaccredited by April, they're ready to march again.

345 people went to jail during the school boycott for not complying with the Georgia truancy law, and disorderly conduct, but all charges have been dropped by local authorities. Members of SNCC are out of jail on bond, for contributing to the delinquency of minors. Their trials are scheduled for April.

Thomasville Federal Judge Elliot refused to make a ruling on the complaint brought by eight parents on the case that the Moultrie school board has refused to cease segregation. The parents also seek to prevent the board from enforcing the Georgia compulsory school attendance law against plaintiffs and members of their class under present conditions. When the Supreme Court makes a ruling on a similar case in Tennessee, Judge Elliot will make a ruling.

The Moultrie school board has agreed to desegregate grades 9 through 12 next fall, in compliance with the federal order to submit plans by March 3rd, and in response to the school boycott. Two additional grades a year will be desegregated.

NAACP BRANCH FORMS

Monday, March 15, at the Democratic Voters Club, two guests were presented from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Mrs. Hally, Director of the Southeast region of the NAACP, spoke on how important the club could be to Americus, and how the organization could be formed. She emphasized that a national organization like this will give greater strength to the community in trying to make accomplishments in the area of civil rights.

Mr. Joe Lewis Tucker was introduced as the new Georgia field director of the organization.

55 adult memberships were obtained by Tuesday, at a \$2.00 fee each. Only 50 members are needed for the club to obtain its charter. 25 young people, paying \$.50 each, will form the Youth Council.

Interested persons may pay their membership fee to Mr. Sam Weston or Mr. John L. Barnum.

(con't from p. 1)

Both women halt traffic for the children to cross the street, and have two boys each to assist them.

Mrs. Chapman and Mrs. Smith both agree that their employment is quite an advancement for Americus, and indicates progress is being made.

ADVICE TO OUR RACE

by Virginia Davis

To our people called the Black Race,
Let us stop and look and think
What harm we're doing to each other,
As we journey along life's way.

We know we're God's chosen people,
For he loves us one and all,
And it grieves him over and over
When he sees his children fall.

Now our mistakes sisters and brothers,
All we read but don't understand,
For if we did my friends and love ones,
We will gladly fold hand-in-hand.

We would bear our brothers' burdens,
We would feel our sisters' care,
We would not sit content,
Saying our friends get nowhere.

When we see some girl straying
From the teachings she should know,
Why not put your arms around her
And show her the right way to go.

Oh; no, we'd rather stand off and gossip
Talking about the things she does.
But have you ever stopped to think how you
Would feel if it were your child or you?

So, let us stop finding fault of the other
fellow

Let us start all over anew.
For if we look ourselves over closely,
We'll find that we have some faults, too.

"To everything there is a season, and
This is the time for truth."

SOUTHWEST GEORGIA YOUTHS ORGANIZE
by Jewel Wise

On Saturday, March 13, seven students from Americus went to Moultrie and met with students from Moultrie and Cuthbert to confer and discuss problems that are confronting S. W. Georgia, the South, and particularly problems with which Negroes are faced.

Our discussion comprised such subjects as: Voting, schools, employment, and the federal government. We voiced our opinions as to how we felt about these problems and what we could do to combat them.

We have not stipulated the date or place of our next meeting, but we are contemplating further discussion on the above topics.

Our purpose for meeting was to start a union for S.W. Georgia and then divide ourselves into groups according to areas. Each hometown will then try to solve problems of their own area.

NEW SNCC STAFF

The 1965 Southwest Georgia SNCC Projects Director is Roy Shields. Before coming to the Albany office, he was working in Mississippi, but was previously in Southwest Georgia, and at one time in Americus.

Jim Perry, from New Jersey, is now in charge of the Projects office in Albany.

Fred Anerson is the new staff person in Cordele, and came from Hattisburg, Mississippi.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH INTEGRATED

Several young women, including some Negro students, a teacher, and some white young women, have enjoyed attending services at the Calvary Episcopal Church the past month. They were warmly welcomed by the visiting Bishop in February, and also by the Rev. Pritchard. Some members of the congregation extended greetings to them.

The group has enjoyed courteous service several times at Georges' restaurant on Lamar St.

NEWS FROM SUMTER

by Iue Eddie Baldwin

The Sumter High School faculty and student body bid farewell to the cadet teachers of Fort Valley State College. Leaving after eight weeks in Americus includes Raymond Simmons of Macon, Dorothy Walker of Atlanta, and Betty Walls of Ellaville, and William E. Andrews of Bainbridge.

Thursday, March 11, Dr. Brown from Albany State College spoke to the seniors concerning coming to Albany after graduation.

The Juniors are making plans for a play they will present in May, near the closing of school.

THE VOICE OF AMERICUS

c/o Elizabeth Henry

Rt. 2

Americus, Ga. 31709

NEWSPAPER

INEQUALITY AND INJUSTICE IN "BLUES"

by Teresa Mansfield

Blues For Mr. Charlie is very realistic. It is a story dealing with contemporary discriminations and prejudices directed toward Negroes. The author, James Baldwin has written several other best selling books on the race issue. The Fire Next Time is the most challenging and passionate work of his career. Blues For Mr. Charlie is a high ranking work but it is considered drama. It is Baldwin's first excursion into the area of drama.

Baldwin is one the country's finest writers. Being a Negro himself, he knows the frustrations and hardships that a Negro must go through. This story symbolizes the Negroes' fight for justice, non-violence, and equality and, in the end is left only hope.

There are some very important lessons pointed out by this drama. One of the most important lessons is seen in the dilemma of the big town boy Richard, who becomes a victim of prejudices of the white structure of a back woods town in Mississippi. The story is based upon the famous Emmett Till case. My thought for today is that every town or city, whether urban or suburban, is not alike; and one must make the necessary adjustments according to his own environment.

Whites as well as Negroes should read this work with passion for it is a monument to a great writer and divine cause.

This book is available in the Youth Center Library.

ALBANY WHITE CABS DESEGREGATE

The one white-only cab in Albany is now going to haul passengers without regard to race. There has been pressure from Turner Air Force Base, because cabs refused Negro soldiers.

RETURN REQUESTED