



THE HENRY COUNTY FREEDOM BANNER

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September 23, 1965

GREETINGS FROM THE HCFB

The editors of the Henry County Freedom Banner bring you greetings with this the first issue of a newspaper that will tell the truth about Henry County and carry the message of freedom to all corners of the world.

We are disturbed by the fact that area newspapers are quite selective in their presentation of the news. Knowledge of recent civil rights demonstrations in Troy and Eufaula have only been gained by word-of-mouth. This newspaper will attempt to print the news and information that our readers want to know about and which has been denied them in the past. We will not submit to the false threats and petty reprisals of those who fear and attempt to rule others by fear. Truth has a liberating and peaceful effect upon those whose lives are dedicated to freedom. Surely, "the truth shall make us free."

--The Editors

DEMONSTRATIONS IN EUFAULA

On the evening of Sept. 10, seven T.V. McClure High School students picketed the football stadium in Eufaula where the local team was playing. The demonstrators were protesting the poor equipment at the school, such as old typewriters and unsafe football uniforms. Principal Bryant Foster, who was watching the game, came out, tore up the signs, and ordered them to leave. More people joined the demonstrators soon after and turned the assembly into a massive Freedom Rally.

Thirty-five Eufaula policemen and deputized white citizens arrived and promptly arrested five of the leaders including SCOPE worker Larry Butler and SNCC worker Scott Smith. Miss Mary Palmore was struck by a policeman which prompted the crowd to throw

bricks and bottles at the police who responded with tear gas.

On Saturday morning six picketers outside the Eufaula courthouse who were protesting the arrests and beatings of the night before were arrested themselves for failure to leave an unlawful assembly. On Monday 100 student demonstrators marched to the courthouse to protest the weekend's arrests. Judge Jack Wallace was holding court inside and three of the demonstrators were arrested and charged with contempt of court.

Later in the week a court injunction was issued against the SCOPE and SNCC workers to refrain them from encouraging the destruction of school property, nonattendance of school classes, or even mentioning the word "school" in any public or private gathering.

TOKEN INTEGRATION IN SCHOOLS

Eleven years after the 1954 Supreme Court decision declaring segregated schools to be unconstitutional Henry County has made a token effort to obey the law and integrate its school system.

It chose to do this by the "freedom of choice" plan which allowed students to pre-register for the school they wanted to attend.

There are six students now going to formerly white schools in Henry County. In Abbeville eleven pre-registered but only one actually attended classes. Five Negro students in Headland are attending Headland Elementary and Headland High Schools.

Eufaula, in neighboring Barbour County, has had a strikingly different reaction to token integration. There, 40 pre-registered for the desegregated schools but only five were accepted, with no explanation given as to why some were rejected. Those five therefore refused to enter their new schools until the other 35 were also admitted.

401 registered under the Voting Bill in Henry County.

STAND UP FOR FREEDOM

by Ida Danzey

We have talked for 100 years and more about equal rights and what needs to be done in Henry County. But we haven't yet taken the responsibility to get it done.

The time is now to begin to fight. The time is now to accept the Disciples of Freedom who have come to help us work toward the betterment of the Colored People of Henry County.

Don't wait for them to ask for your help. Offer whatever you have to help take care of their necessities and co-operate in performing the duties and tasks that are for your advancement.

How many of us are willing to join in the Freedom Struggle and sacrifice our lives, time, and energy to help the black man and woman face the reality of today. There are people who have done this and are doing this now. Are you willing to do accordingly?

If you are not prepared to accept both the good and bad as a way of life, if you don't have enough faith to do what is right and serenely accept the worst that may happen, then you aren't prepared to live or die as God's child.

A Christian seeks and finds God's light, whatever the darkness and dangers that may engulf his life and the lives of his friends and loved ones.

Do not let fear of job or property loss and personal safety prevent you from following the light of Freedom, regardless of where it may lead. The way may be long, dark, and dismal but at the end lies the shining glory of God professing the brotherhood of all men.

Freedom is the light that longs to shine where darkness, dangers and fears encircle your lives if you will only let it.

Now is the time to stand up for Freedom.

TWO ARRESTED IN 'FRIENDLY TOWN'

The sign says, "Welcome to Abbeville, A Friendly Town." On Saturday, August 23, Eddie Sanders and Michael Bibler went into Ez-zell's Department Store to purchase some luggage. Instead they were met by a man with a scowl whose first words were "Get out of this store."

When they failed to respond with military precision the police were summoned and promptly arrested them for "Trespassing After One". The Sheriff would not allow anyone to sign a property bond so they

spent nine hours in jail until the \$200 bail could be raised. They were released and ordered to appear in Court on Monday.

At that time, the judge, Mayor Vickroy, denied both defendants the right to legal counsel, a jury trial, and a public trial. The accused therefore refused to plea, but were nonetheless pronounced guilty and sentenced. They are free on \$600 appeal bond.

EDITORIAL

We salute Mr. John C. Forrester whose bid for a city commissioner's post in Dothan made him the first Negro to run for public office in that city. Mr. Forrester received 563 votes which placed him fourth among the nine candidates for police and fire commissioner.

Mr. Forrester's warm smile and friendly, sincere manner have won him countless friends. His courage and determination will be a source of inspiration to all. We hope that the many qualified Negroes of Henry County will follow this example and run for office in the spring elections.

Mr. Forrester's defeat only re-emphasizes the fact that the struggle for freedom does not end with registration. One must study the issues and the candidates thoroughly and then actively campaign and vote for that man who will best do the job.

Previous elections have seen many candidates make golden promises which have never been fulfilled. These sins have gone unpunished because the power of the ballot has been denied to large numbers of people. Never before have you had the power to make your pleas turn into concrete programs. Never before have you had the power to make your requests into demands.

The time has come to stand up, proud and tall, to assert your rights and make Henry County into a decent place for everyone to live and raise their children. Citizens of Henry County: Don't let the Freedom Train pass you by!—MB

FOOTBALL

Companyville 14, Henry County 0
Friday: Henry County at Carver

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CO-OP FORMED IN JACKSON, MISS.

The Madison County Sewing Co-op is located in a large, former exhibition hall on highway 22, a mile west of Canton. Twenty-six women and one man are employed there. Each is a member of this co-op. They work eight hours a day, paying themselves for the first four hours and donating the final four. They work at 16 sewing machines, a long cutting table and one pressing board.

The principle of the co-op is one member-one vote. No matter how much an individual invests he is allowed only one vote. Everybody benefits according to their participation.

Mrs. Levy, vice-president of the co-op, talked about its formation. "Well, last fall, three of us, Mrs. Harris, Maggie Douglas and me talked about what we'd like to do. What we decided was a sewing co-op. So we began going around to see if we could get people to a meeting to talk about this. At first it was hard to get people out. When we got the people together at two or three meetings they said they would like a sewing co-op, but not many of them thought we could do it. So we got people to bring in things we could make. Things like shirts and aprons. Then we went around asking people to donate money. Most people gave two-fifty. We made four shirts and sent them to New York. We didn't get any money from these but we got some sewing machines. Then we made ten shirts and sent them to New York and we got a donation of \$15,000 to move out here to this big building and to repair it. We had to put in plumbing and lights to work by. Then we got the contract from the Child Development Group of Mississippi for 6000 little children's snacks. That's what we're working on right now. We got a long waiting list of people who want to work in here now. But the girls we get in first are those from out of the kitchens: maids and such. Then there are those who lost their jobs because they were active in the Madison County movement. Some were fired for trying to vote. Next are those who really needed the job, who didn't have any money. These who have children and were making a dollar and a half a day, on the days when they get work. Lots of people with lots of kids get only that. And that's not enough to live on.

We hope what we're doing is going to work out all right. We worked awful hard getting it going, and so many people didn't believe we

would be able to do anything. We are going to keep on working hard. We want people to see that Negroes aren't lazy like so many say. They say we won't do anything, but what can you do when there's no jobs? People want to work and this is the best way. When you're working with each other for each other." (Partial reprint from The Voice, August 30, 1965.)

MARLEN BEGINS PROJECTING

A ten week crash program took place in Harlem this summer which accomplished much in revitalizing this ghetto of New York. Project Up Lift employed 4500 Central Harlem youth in recreation, education and community service projects. The project serviced 100 day camps; repaired, fixed up and painted 50 buildings; set up 25 parks in vacant lots; serviced 100 homes; provided competitive recreation for 10,000 youngsters; and placed into the economy \$3.5 million in salaries and services.

Community service projects included establishment of tenant councils; voter education and registration drives; consumer research to show the high cost and low quality of food in the area; and organized readings in Negro heritage.

FIL has been a lifesaving operation. The population density of Harlem is over 66,000 people per square mile. If this were true of the whole city, there would be more people in New York than there are in the rest of the United States. The major part of the project, planned recreation, was able to provide activities for the restless youth of Harlem and prevented less constructive activities, as well as giving considerable on-the-job training.

SCOPE WORKER'S LETTER

Dear Jo:

What do you want for your birthday? (signed) Mother

Dear Mother:

One or more of the following: 10 reams of mimeograph paper, a box of 4-hole stencils and stencil folders, a large desk and file cabinet for the office, a stapler, staples and marking pens.

(signed) your daughter

"...I base no man's rights upon his color, and plead no man's rights because of his color. My objection to slavery is not that it 'sinks a Negro to the condition of a brute' but that it 'sinks a man to that condition..."

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

SPEAKING OUT AGAINST RACISM

The Ku Klux Klan meets weekly in Dothan and the White Citizens Council meets weekly in Abbeville. Both groups represent one type of the extremism which is attempting to subvert our constitutional liberties by a reign of fear and hate.

Racism, whatever its form or style, seeks to chain the mind and soul of man with violence, lies, and rage to reduce its victims to the level of beasts in order to exploit them as beasts. There is only one key that can unlock these shackles. That key is an insistence on truth loudly demanded by courageous men. As Edmund Burke put it two centuries ago, "All that is necessary for evil to triumph is that good men fail to act."

On July 13, Alan Cranston, Comptroller of the State of California gave a speech in Los Angeles on the nature of extremism. In the following excerpts you have only to substitute the specific of racism for the generality of extremism to have an accurate description of the situation in Henry County and what can be done about it.

"The extremist today is on the move....He beclouds concentration on the real issues by focusing on the unreal. He daunts the weak and the timorous, especially at the local level. He incites his neighbors to supplant reason and understanding with emotion and hate. He divides and degrades America....

"The virus of extremism will be only as strong as we permit it to become. We know that extremism thrives on fear, hate, and bigotry. But I suspect that we are not yet fully aware that the greatest ally of extremism is indifference....

"We cannot be indifferent to the dynamic sources of our own strength as responsible Americans. We cannot be indifferent to the strident voices and the sinister tactics of the extremists. Fear of extremism is not the answer to today's challenges....Faith in ourselves is....Each of us must express our faith in our society through words and work...in all the channels of communications and influence within the structure of our society and our Government..

"More of us need to speak out, with positive and active faith in ourselves and our Nation. Silence is not golden, my friends. Silence is darkness. In the darkness, the extremist contrives to tarnish this golden state. And then bend it to his perverted will.

"Truth, faith, and the clear voices of good men of many persuasions will spotlight the extremists...and reveal them as they really are--feeble and fearful, holding only the weapon of fear and the weapon of hate."

SCLC HOLDS NINTH CONVENTION

The city of Birmingham was the scene of SCLC's ninth annual convention held there August 9-13.

The central theme of "Basic Issues, Human Rights, the Grand Alliance" emphasized SCLC's branching out into new directions.

More than 1,000 people attended, including delegates from counties, ministers in business suits and coveralled black and white field workers. At a series of panels, workshops and speeches they gathered to discuss SCLC's feeling that it must form a "grand alliance" with labor, churches, intellectuals, and the academic community.

The aim was for the united groups to seek federal aid for employment and job training, integration of schools, aid to education on both primary and college levels, housing and health care for "all Americans."

On Tuesday and Thursday about 500 delegates and Birmingham citizens marched to City Hall and to the Jefferson County Courthouse to protest the absence of Negroes among Birmingham's firemen, policemen, and city hall and courthouse clerks.

BARBOUR COUNTY
GOES TO WASHINGTON

A group of Barbour County citizens are planning a week-long trip to Washington, D.C., from Oct. 8-15 to observe how the government works and to see their representatives in action.

The trip will include special appointments with Vice President Humphrey, several Cabinet officers and Congressmen as well as sight-seeing and shopping. Visits to the Justice Department and the Office of Economic Opportunity to discuss Barbour County's problems are also being planned.

Organized by SCONE workers and the Barbour County Voters' League, all those who wish to go will leave Eufaula by car caravan. Food and lodging will be provided but everyone is expected to bring enough cash for personal expenses. Many of the Barbour County churches have agreed to sponsor people who wish to go on the trip but lack the money.