

MISSISSIPPI FREE PRESS

"The Truth Shall Make You Free"

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Employees Still On Strike At Harts Bakery

COMMENTS

By Charles L. Butts

I have been asked by some people why I have given such complete coverage to the Harts Bakery strike for such a long period of time. The reasons are as follows. This is the biggest news that I know of in Mississippi in line with the concerns of this paper. The issue of whether labor unions come into the South is extremely important to the little man here. Because so few people understand how a union and a strike work, it is difficult for a union to win in the South.

This newspaper has a responsibility to inform the public about the situation.

The FREE PRESS is the only paper in Jackson that I know of, that has given the strike a line of type. Our newspaper is the only one in the South that has been willing to give the union favorable and complete coverage.

When a bigger story comes along, it will get priority.

I heard a very pleased father remark the other day that he knew of two baseball teams that were playing each other and happy about it. The unusual thing about these teams was that they were not of the same color. In Mississippi, color normally separates everything, even fun. This father reported that the Negro team had visited the white ball club at their diamond, and the next week the return match was to be played at the Negro field. The father said that he hoped there would be much more of this kind of interchange. He said that he felt that it was important for everyone to know each other a people doing things that people do, rather than knowing each other as kinds. That certainly seems to make good sense. It seems that when people are having fun they forget a great many of the things that they would think about if they thought what they were "supposed to think."

Hickory
Dickory
Dock
Two
Mice
Ran
Up
The
Clock
The
Clock
Struck
One

And the other got away
With only minor injuries.



PAUL HIGLER, Labor Representative from Washington, walks with Jackson Picketer. Higler, who represents the American Bakers and Confectioners Union, assures him that all of the other Harts employees in Greenville and Memphis will stay on strike until Jackson gets a contract.

A fourth Harts plant at Sikeston, Mo., is in a different Union, but he felt confident that it will hold out for Jackson, too.

Local Paper Reports Drop In Voting Complaints To Commission

Some time ago, one of the Jackson papers carried an article that was concerned with the Civil Rights Commission Report to the Congressional committee. The article said the report showed a sharp drop in the number of voting complaints from the previous year.

The FREE PRESS was surprised by the figures, which said that there were only 10 voting complaints reported to the Civil Rights Commission in the whole year. Bob Moses, a student working in Mississippi on voter registration said, "I know of more than 50 in Forrest County alone in Mississippi. In Walthall also, I know of at least 8 voting complaints."

The FREE PRESS also asked two members of the Mississippi Civil Rights Commission about the number of voting complaints that have been reported just in Mississippi. They both said that at several of their monthly meetings they had more than 10 complaints that dealt with voting. They said that they have sent to Washington for an explanation and exact figures. The FREE PRESS will make a report on that Washington report as soon as it returns.

At the present, however, it seems to be clear that the 10 voting complaints is not a true picture of the voting situation. Many people who have encountered difficulty

in registering to vote have filed their complaints with the Justice Department. Apparently the Justice Department, which is a separate part of the government, does not report its complaints to the Civil Rights Commission.

The Justice Department works somewhat differently than the Commission. It does not require affidavits, only a person's name and address. Justice officials will come and get the affidavits themselves. The Commission does require affidavits. A Commission member said that in order to assist in the elimination of injustices, that all persons who have complaints, make them to both the Justice Department, % Burke Marshall, Civil Rights Division, Washington, D. C. and also to Rev. Murray Cox, Mississippi Civil Rights Commission, Gulfport, Mississippi.

GREENWOOD ENJOYS A SUCCESS

Some of the students who are working on voter registration in Greenwood, Mississippi report that they have just completed a very successful voter education project. Members of the group had prepared leaflets that contained important information about how people could register to vote. They handed out the leaflets from the post office steps. The distribution

was carried on without incident.

The leaflet, in addition to its information, had a phone number to call anytime within the next 4 hours for additional information. The young people reported that they received a great many calls throughout the next day and night. They all were very encouraged by the response.

Harts Officials Seem Desperate Federal Dir. Clears situation

Desperate Harts Bakery Company officials spent time going around to the Jackson grocers who had taken out their Harts bread in support of the strike. A FREE PRESS reporter was on hand when James Ramsey, Salesmanager for the Jackson plant, accompanied by two of his salesmen approached a grocer who had stopped allowing Harts bread to be sold in his store until the strike was settled. It happened that the grocer was a very important account for Harts. He had previously sold about the equivalent of all the Kroger stores in Jackson.

The company men came into the grocer's office saying "We want to put our bread back on your shelves." They quickly launched into an explanation as to why he ought to let them.

The salesmen pointed out that the striking employees had taken two complaints to the Federal Labor Relations Board in New Orleans. The FLRB had dismissed the case and the union is appealing it to Washington. Although the Harts men may not have actually said so, they led both the grocer and the FREE PRESS reporter to believe the FLRB had said that the strike was illegal. This particular grocer did not want to support an illegal strike. He allowed the Harts men to put his bread back.

Immediately after the company men left, the FREE PRESS called John Lebus, Director of the FLRD in New Orleans. After carefully checking his files, Lebus said that the two charges had been dismissed and "could be repealed to Washington."

Federals Did Not Say Illegal

Lebus was very explicit in saying that the particular complaints that the union had did not have anything to do with whether the strike is illegal. "The complaints were not relevant to the whole question of whether the strike is illegal," said Paul Higler, Union representative from Washington. Over the phone, FLRD director, Lebus, said, "I do not want to infer, in anyway, that our ruling means that the strike is illegal."

After checking with one of

the attorneys who are handling the situation, the grocer who had told the salesmen to put their bread back in, made sure that they did not bring any more the next day. The grocer said, "After that phone call, I support the strike 100 percent."

Clarksdale Teacher Not Rehired After 10 Years

A Clarksdale school teacher of 10 years experience did not have her contract renewed. The woman was Mrs. Aaron Henry, wife of a Clarksdale Civil Rights leader.

According to the Coahoma County National Association Newsletter, the only reason for her contract not being renewed was because of her husband's activity in civil rights. Mrs. Henry received an A. B. degree from Jackson State College and did her graduate work at Atlanta University.

Movie On Politics

"Where Were You?" is the title of a movie-forum which will be presented at the Farish Street Branch YMCA on Monday night, August 6, at 8 p. m. The half-hour long film, produced by the Ford Motor Company, describes the processes of representative government in the United States, stressing the responsibilities of the individual citizen under the representative system.

The film offers candid views of the operations of political parties, describing the choosing of candidates, the nominating of them, and the manner in which campaigns are conducted. A discussion period will follow the movie, featuring comments on the film itself, and a question and answer session during which any problems raised

(Continued on Page Three)

Brutal Beatings Still Occur

This week many stories have come into the office about people who have been beaten by police. In almost every case, the people were not guilty of the crime for which they were brought in. Many times they were never charged. The reason for the arrest in the first place, was nearly always because the people were Negro.

Because of the fear of further punishment no one knows how many beatings there are by the police, or by other people who are not apprehended by the police. In the office we hear of many more beatings than we are able to print, because the people are so fearful that they will be beaten again. And then, of course, there are the many who we do not hear of, and who almost no one hears of.

Why do people take it upon themselves to beat other people. There probably are some reasons that only a psychiatrist could answer about each of the people that chooses to beat another human being, but there also is a reason why such a great portion of the society finds such actions acceptable. One probable reason is that some people do not look on others of the same human race as themselves as being human. Their minds have been so indoctrinated.

But there is a reason for this to be able to exist. And that reason is that, it is to the advantage of the people in power to keep everyone else the same place that he is. Long, long ago, the most effective method of keeping people down was developed. That was the way of fear.

Fear can be so developed in a people that they can actually come to the point of actually believing that they are inferior. Whenever imagination, individuality, humanness is met with pain, then dullness, conformity, and animalism become means by which to escape pain. Eventually the transfer takes place in which lack of pain becomes good; and that it therefore, is good to not display the freedom of mind that makes us human.

This kind of tactic to retain the "way things are" was developed in the past. When, probably no one knows. But that is not important. What is important to realize, is that it continues today, in its most gruesome form. When we know of such incidents, we must not yield to the temptation to merely say that's the "way things are" because that is why it is done, to keep them that way. We must show our humanness, and seek to stop the tactic.

MEDICARE

Two weeks ago in Comments, the defeat of the Kennedy Medicare bill was discussed. At that time it was pointed out that the Senators that voted against the bill were voting against the interests of the not so high class. Passing the bill would have put old age insurance into the same program as Social Security. Both Mississippi Senators voted against the bill.

All the guilt does not lie with the Senators however. At least the Senate considered the bill, but the House Committee in charge of the bill, did not even pass it onto the floor of the House of Representatives. Since the bill had no chance for debate in the House, it had no chance of becoming a bill even if it had passed the Senate. This is no excuse for the Senators, but it means that the Representatives are certainly to blame as well.

Senators are elected from the state at large, but Representatives are elected from much smaller areas. We can be sure that the Mississippi Congressmen were part of the efforts that kept the Medicare bill from getting any attention in the House.

Remember how your Representative stood on issues such as these when he comes back to ask for your vote this fall. One man's vote is important in any and every election but the vote for any Representative is small enough that one vote is very significant.

If you are not now in a position to vote, you ought to try to make yourself able to vote as soon as possible. The registrar's office is open every week day. Failure to be registered and voting means that men who are voting against important legislation are going to keep on going to Washington to vote against such bills.

Whitfield Man Beaten Because He Did Not Say 'Mr.'

A Whitfield man told the FREE PRESS that he entered a store in which he had been trading for over a year and was beaten and told not to return. The man, who requested that his name be withheld, said that he entered the store and asked for Charles, who is one of the owners of the Whitfield and Pierce Grocery. The customer who is Negro, was told to ask for "Mr. Charles." The man said that he never had called him "Mr." and did not see any reason to then, since he was always called only by his first name. Apparently after Pierce insisted, and the customer refused to comply, he struck him in the head. The beaten man said that he was then attacked by other men that were in the store. He was beaten in the face and head until he was unconscious he said.

When the customer left, he was told not to come back until he called "Mr." The man said that he did not think he would. He added that he knew of several people in the community that were going to boycott the store.

Jackson Man Beaten

On Sunday, Lee Cotton, a construction worker, was picked up by the police and questioned. He was standing on the corner of Mill and Amite, when the police drove up and asked him, "Nigger, where's the pistol?" Cotton told the FREE PRESS that he was told that since he did not give them a pistol that he did not have that they were going to beat his head. He was taken to Jackson Jail where he said he was beaten. After the beating, he was charged with drunkenness and resisting arrest. Although he paid the fine, he claimed that he was not guilty.

Greenwood Boy, 14 Beaten By Police

Greenwood, Miss. — A fourteen year old Negro boy was beaten by police last Sunday, July 22, and then released with no charges preferred against him. The boy had been accused of breaking and entering the house of a white person, a charge which he steadfastly denied.

The crime reportedly took place on July 18, some time during the day. However, both the boy's father and brother support his claim that he was working in the fields during the time that the forced entry was supposed to have occurred.

The police beat the boy, presumably in an effort to force a confession. When this proved futile, the boy was released. He was then taken to a doctor by his family, where his injuries were pronounced not serious. The boy was allowed to return home to recuperate.

Book Review

Career Of Jim Crow

THE STRANGE CAREER OF JIM CROW, by C. Vann Woodward. Galaxy Books, Oxford University Press, 472 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York, 155pp. \$1.50

Although first published seven years ago this book remains one of the best and most useful histories of segregation. In a brief and readable account, C. Vann Woodward, Professor of American History at Johns Hopkins University, tells of the post-Civil War period of integration, the rapid rise of segregation at the beginning of this century, and the still growing attack on segregation in the 1950's and 60's.

The book deserves a wide audience among all those interested in the South today. Even the most sincere opponent of racial separation is likely to think of that institution either as having deep roots in the era of slavery or as arising immediately after Reconstruction. Yet in his book Woodward demonstrates that for a period of twenty-five years after Northern troops were withdrawn from the South, (i.e., from 1876-1900), Negroes and whites lived an integrated life.

Evidence shows that they ate together in the same restaurants, sat together in street cars, drank together at fountains and voted together at the polls. There were two forces which permitted integration to survive for a time in the South. First, even after Northern troops were withdrawn, Northern politicians, newspapers, and public opinion continued to take an active interest in the protection of the Negro. The South, still weakened by war feared that an attack on Ne-

gro rights would lead to renewed Northern intervention. But even within the South, while there were attempts to keep the Negro economically and politically inferior, the idea of separating the races had not yet taken hold.

In part, this was because the upper class, Conservative Democrats remained in control in the South until the 1890's. Upper class whites took pride in their free and relaxed social contacts with the Negro, as this was an indication of a plantation background. Fear of contact with Negroes was a characteristic of the lower class white. Thus in 1885, in ridiculing a demand for separate compartments in trains, a leading Charleston, S. C. newspaper observed, "To speak plainly, we need, as everybody knows separate cars or compartments for rowdy or drunken white passengers far more than Jim Crow cars for colored passengers." Political reality, however, was a more important factor than social tradition in forcing the wealthy conservatives to respect Negro rights and to give Negroes political offices.

In 1889, there were twice as many Negro voters as whites in Mississippi. Moreover, a long agricultural depression in the 1870's and 1880's had made the poorer whites increasingly discontented with the pro-business, pro-railroad and pro-Eastern money policies of the Conservatives. Thus the Conservatives had to depend more and more on Negro votes in order to maintain political control over the poorer farmers. Finally, in the 1890's, the parties of the poor white farmers began to take politi-

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Career Of

(Continued from Page Two)

real control in the South.

The need for a target for the pent-up frustrations of twenty years of economic depression combined with the desire to end the political power of the Conservatives led to an attack on Negro voting rights. In 1890 Mississippi adopted a new constitution. Literacy tests and poll taxes were designed to

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keep Negroes from the polls, while cleverly constructed loopholes allowed the poor whites to vote. Other states enacted similar constitutions until the Negro voters who in 1889 were a majority in the deep South, numbered only a few thousand in 1902.

Still the races remained integrated. As late as 1900 the only segregated laws in the South were those applying to railroad cars. The laws which spread segregation to street-cars, public parks, water-fountains, elevators, entrances, residential zoning, and every aspect of daily life, were a product of the period from 1900 to 1914. Thus the important message of Woodward's book is that segregation has been merely a brief and recent episode in Southern race relations. There is nothing in history or in human nature which makes the separation of the races necessary.

Woodward's analysis can lead to pessimism as well. If the Negro once enjoyed political and social rights which have now been lost, then Negro history in this country has not been the slow but steady progress toward freedom which many of us imagine it to have been. Woodward's book closes with a chapter outlining the great advances of integration in the past twenty years, but we are left to hope that these advances represent the certain forward motion or the future, and not merely another turn of the cycle.

Movie On

(Continued from Page One)

by the film will be considered.

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Job Discrimination Viewed In Gulfport

Investigations in the Moss Point, Pascagoula area are now being undertaken to determine if and to what extent Negroes are being discriminated against in employment.

The investigations, which will be forwarded to the President's Committee on Equal Job Opportunities, is being conducted by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. According to Medgar Evers, the Association's field representative, who was recently in that area, Negro workers are limited to work as laborers with menial jobs. He further stated that while most workers are able to advance into apprenticeship programs, Negroes are denied this opportunity. Evers asserted that there is a great deal of enthusiasm for change in job discrimination. "The people are anxious to do something about it."

In Marietta, Georgia, the Lockheed Plant was found to be discriminating against Negroes. When the results of an investigation were turned over to the President's Committee, the changes followed rapidly.

Very recently, the President's Committee brought more job opportunities to Negroes in four of the major oil refineries located in the Lake Charles, Louisiana area. Continental, Cities Service and Cit-Con Oil Companies, and Petroleum Chemicals, Inc. all had complaints filed against them said Hebert Hill the Louisiana field secretary for the Association. An announcement of the new openings for Negroes in the four plants was announced by Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.

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History Of Clyde Kennard

The first in a series of articles on Clyde Kennard a young Negro man who unsuccessfully applied to Mississippi Southern College. Clyde Kennard is now serving out a seven year sentence at Parchman State Penitentiary.

By Ronald A. Hollander

In the fall of 1959 as a few Virginia schools were being opened to Negroes, as Thurgood Marshall debated with a Jackson editor the possibility of a Negro's studying law in the state of Mississippi, a young Negro man, serious, bright, quiet ("not a heck of a talker"), applied to Mississippi Southern College, MSC, as local folks called it, was approaching its golden anniversary. Of its 4200 students, all were white. It had always been that way.

The young Negro man was a native of Hattiesburg. He came of farming people, raisers of cotton and corn, peas and potatoes. His name had appeared on the rolls of Hattiesburg's Bay Springs School a colored school, of course. And being before the days of even separate but equal, the one school served as consolidated high school. His name had appeared, too, on the rolls of Phillip High School in Chicago, where he had lived with older sister, Sara. He attended the University of Chicago for a short time, but was forced to return home to support his disabled step-father and his mother.

The young Negro man wanted to continue his education, however. He talked to the two young sisters down the road. "Get an edu-

cation," he told them. In his free time he tutored a neighbor's daughter in English and history. She graduated valedictorian of her high school. Once he helped her write a speech on the 13th 14th and 15th Amendments of the United States Constitution.

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude . . . shall exist within the United States.

The young Negro man was "not for good times." He stuck to himself, "tended his business."

No State shall make . . . any law which shall abridge the privileges of citizens of the United States.

He took one step at a time; he was "not way out." Awareness, not demonstrations, he told the two young sisters down the road.

The right of citizens . . . to vote. . .

But he believed in himself, had strength in his convictions.

. . . shall not be denied or abridged . . .

And wasn't afraid, not after Germany and Korea as a paratrooper.

. . . by . . . any State . . .

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. . . on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Mississippi Southern College received the application of Clyde Kennard, Negro.

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Tenn Holds Primary

Thursday's Democratic Primary in Tennessee saw a registered electorate which was fifteen percent Negro, the highest percentage in the nation, vote on a slate of candidates which included liberals, and in some cases Negroes, for the positions of Governor, state Representative, state Supreme Court Justice, state Democratic Committeeman, and a score of minor Memphis positions.

The first election in which the Negro vote appeared in full power, the Primary witnessed some 75,000 Negroes casting ballots in Memphis, alone. The results of the voter registration drives reported in last week's FREE PRESS were in evidence, when the Negro fifteen percent of the registered electorate is considered with reference to Tennessee's population, which totals only some sixteen percent Negro.

Several Negroes were running unopposed for positions in Memphis. Elsewhere in the state, hopes ran high for liberal gubernatorial candidate Frank Clement. The appointment of a Negro to the state Election Commission was linked with his election. The Commission would then act to end discriminatory registration practices in rural Hay

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F. P. Adds To Staff

The Mississippi FREE PRESS has added another person to its full-time staff. Dewey Green, formerly of Greenwood, Mississippi, has become Circulation Manager and Advertising representative. The increase in the number of sales of the FREE PRESS have made the circulation position necessary. In order for the FREE PRESS to expand as it plans, there must be more advertising. Green will devote half-time to that position.

wood and Fayette counties, the action thus originating from a state body, rather than through Federal intervention, as in the past.

Ross Pritchard, Kennedy liberal, and a professor at Memphis State, ran in opposition to Clifford Davis, dean of the Tennessee House delegation, and old guard conservative segregationist. And on the state Democratic Executive Committee level, both J. H. Turner and Russell Sugarman sought to unseat more conservative, anti-civil rights opponents.

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Justice Department Sues

Bringing suit in the Federal District Court in Jackson last week, the United States Justice Department requested that U. S. District Judge Harold Cox direct the Green County Board of Education to renew the contract of a Negro teacher. The teacher was allegedly not rehired because of her participation in a voting complaint charging discrimination brought against the George County Registrar by the Justice Department.

The teacher, Mrs. Ernestine Denham Talbert, 33, taught at Green County Vocational High School while living in George County. Last April, Mrs. Talbert signed a Justice Department affidavit to be used in a suit charging George County Registrar, Eldred Green, with discriminatory practices. The suit and the signers of the affidavit received wide publicity. Nine days after the suit was filed, Mrs. Talbert was informed that her contract was not to be renewed for the 1962-1963 school year. Her contract was the only one not renewed in Green County. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy claims that Mrs. Talbert was fired to discourage Negroes from "cooperating with the Justice Department in its efforts to enforce the law."

In its suit against the Board of Education, and Evans J. Martin, County Superintendent of Education, the Justice Department has brought out that Martin did not accept the recommendation of the teacher's principal, Mac Arthur Hays, because he did not believe it to be "in the school's best interest to do so." FBI agent Warren Tool told the court that Martin told him that Mrs. Talbert's contract was not being renewed "because

she was involved in the case in George County and because he did not believe that teacher participation in controversial issues was 'good for the school.'"

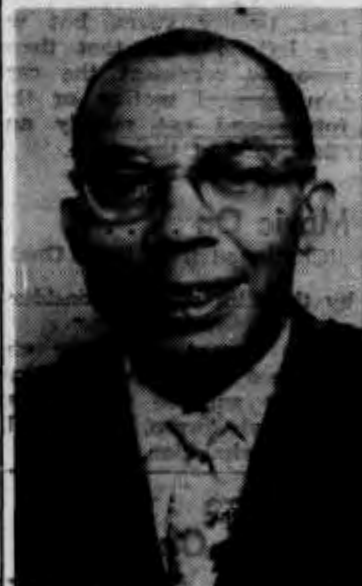
John Doar, attorney for the prosecution, rebutted charges of the defense of incompetence and laxness in duties by bringing out testimony attesting to Mrs. Talbert's achievements in organizing the school library, in aiding in extra-curricular activities and in purchasing and sorting textbooks and library texts. Principal Hays, Mrs. Talbert testified, had said he would recommend her anywhere; that he had only good recommendations. Several teachers testified that Mrs. Talbert had performed her duties well and that they had heard Hays praise her work in the school.

Assistant State Attorney

General Martin McLendon moved that the five-member school board be dropped as co-defendants. He pointed out that it had no authority to consider applicants not recommended to it. FBI agent Ernest Wall testified that when he first interviewed Board member Will Brown, Brown said that Martin's list had been approved without discussion of individual teachers, prior to the time that Mrs. Talbert joined the voting suit. In an interview a few days later, however, Brown told Wall that he had decided that the subject of Mrs. Talbert's employment came up at a special meeting of the Board following the announcement of the suit.

Patronize Our Advertisers

Noted Businessman To Speak At Central Insurance Agency Opening



MR. ALEXANDER, SR.

Sunday, August 5, 1962 marks the formal opening of Jackson Central Insurance Agency which will be held in the Masonic Temple Auditorium at 1072 Lynch Street at 3:00 p. m.

Highlighting the program as speaker will be Mr. T. M. Alexander, Sr., a noted insurance executive from Atlanta, Georgia. According to the record, Mr. Alexander is a graduate of Morehouse College, Founder-President of Alexander & Co., Inc. and holder of executive positions in several businesses. Also, while a recognized authority on Minority Group Housing, he has served on several City Committees for urban renewal and mutual development. In 1957, he threw his hat in to the political arena as a candidate for alderman, los-

ing by a small margin. Though he was engaged with the forementioned, he found time as NAACP President, worked with Atlanta Negro Voters League of which he is a charter member and executive committee member, and served as a Sunday School Teacher and worker for more than 25 years.

However, his hard work has not gone unrecognized or without reward. In 1957 he was selected as "Man of the Year" in business. Again in 1950, he was elected "Man of the Year"; but this time Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity bestowed the honor. In view of local and national service to the Y.W.C.A., he was selected as one of the seventeen delegates to the World Council of Y.W.C.A. in Geneva, Switzerland in 1961. His Alma Mater, too, has given him honorable distinction by naming him to its Trustee Board. Yet, he was not to feel his status of human worth as discerned by his fellowmen until he was listed in "Who's Who In America."

Complete as the record may seem, the fact that he is married to Mrs. Dorothy Hudson Alexander and is the father of three children must be added to his many civic religious and socio-humanitarian service.

The occasion of the formal opening of the Jackson Central Insurance Agency promises to be one of enjoyment.

This invitation is extended to the public with hope that you will respond.

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