

# THE SOUTHERN COURIER

VOL. III, NO. 37

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TEN CENTS

## Lawyers Fear Slow-Up in Teacher Integration

# School Boycott in Choctaw



FRANK M. JOHNSON JR.

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN  
MONTGOMERY, Ala. -- At the hearing, federal court lawyers for the desegregation of Montgomery County schools.

But by the end of the hearing, the lawyers were begging Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. to be stricter with other Alabama school districts than he has been with Montgomery.

The only witness Tuesday, Montgomery County Schools Superintendent

Walter McKee, testified that ten teachers--five Negro and five white--have been assigned to schools where the students are mostly of the opposite race. The system has about 1,000 teachers.

"We can find colored teachers to go to white schools," McKee said. "That's not a problem with us."

But, he said, he had "a terrific problem of getting white teachers to accept" assignments to mostly-Negro schools. He said that altogether, "12, 13, maybe 14" white teachers were employed for Negro schools, but all but five resigned.

McKee testified that more Negro teachers could have been assigned to white schools, but "we want to keep a fairly level balance."

The superintendent said only the four

senior high schools in the city of Montgomery would get teachers of the opposite race, because there are "only a few deputy sheriffs" in the rural areas of the county.

He said the first Negro students who went to white schools were watched "every minute of the day," to avoid trouble. For the teachers, he said, it will be "the same thing, only in much greater degree... Any little issue that comes up in the classroom is going to be a racial issue."

Last June 1, Judge Johnson issued a desegregation plan for Montgomery County, providing that "race or color will not be a factor in the hiring, assignment, reassignment, promotion, demotion, or dismissal of teachers." (CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO, Col. 5)



REV. EZEKIEL HARRISON

BY BETH WILCOX

LISMAN, Ala.--The Rev. Ezekiel Harrison's two children attended formerly all-white Butler High School last year. But this fall, they aren't attending any school.

"They don't want to go back to Butler, so I don't want to make them go back," Harrison said this week. "Both my kids made the grade last year, but the white kids would shoot spit-balls, mess up their clothes with Purex, and hit girls in the stomach."

The Harrisons and other families are also staying away from the two Negro schools in northern Choctaw County--East Choctaw and Choctaw County Training School. They said they are protesting inadequate facilities at the Negro schools.

Special Report

## Rallies In Milwaukee

BY PATRICIA M. GORENCE

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin -- After more than a week of marches and rallies, the NAACP Youth Council and its adviser, the Rev. James E. Groppi, are still demonstrating for open housing here.

Groppi, a white Catholic priest, said marches will continue until "we have a fair housing bill on our desk." The demonstrators want a law giving Negroes the right to buy a home in any part of town.

Comedian Dick Gregory joined more than 1,000 white and Negro marchers last Saturday. He told the marchers, "I came here to be with you until it's over, one way or the other."

Gregory noted that Groppi, a white man, is leading a militant black protest. "The fact that Father Groppi happens to be white is significant," he said, "because Whitey has needed to send some white folks in and hit the front line. (Groppi is) going to stop a whole lot of niggers from beating white folks, and he's going to put a whole lot of Baptist ministers on the spot."

The group then marched to City Hall, and from there to the predominantly-white South Side--more than 16 miles in all.

Gregory was also on hand for last Sunday's march, along with Lincoln Lynch of CORE. About 2,000 marchers took part in Sunday's demonstration.

The open housing marches began Aug. 28, with a walk from the North Side--across the city's "Mason-Dixon line," as Groppi calls it.

The Youth Council's Freedom House was burned Aug. 29, shortly after the second open housing march.

After that, Milwaukee Mayor Henry Maier declared a state of emergency, and banned all marches and demonstrations from 4 p.m. to 9 a.m. for 30 days. The ban was criticized by whites and Negroes alike.

Rallies were held at the burnt-out Freedom House on Aug. 30, Aug. 31, and last Friday, protesting the mayor's ban.

On Aug. 30, police ordered the press to leave the rally, and then broke it up. During the three nights of rallies, more than 250 protesters were arrested, and at least 50 people were injured, including many policemen. Groppi was arrested twice.

The mayor's ban against marches was lifted last Saturday. "We're going to go out there again, and we're going to walk," Gregory told marchers the day the ban was removed. "I don't want you to quit now. I want to go on."

But this week, the city council refused to consider an open housing law, by a vote of 18 to 1. The only alderman voting for the measure was the council's only Negro member, Mrs. Vel Phillips.

## Amerson's Chief Deputy Resigns; He Drank on Duty, Sheriff Says

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

TUSKEGEE, Ala. -- Macon County Sheriff Lucius D. Amerson lost his chief deputy last week -- Arthur L. Knowles, the only white Southerner to serve under a Negro sheriff in modern times.

"I asked him to submit his resignation for conduct unbecoming a law officer," said Amerson this week, a few hours after Knowles was found guilty of drunken driving in neighboring Tallapoosa County.

But Amerson said Knowles' resignation had nothing to do with that incident in another county--I asked him to leave because he reported on work drunk. A law enforcement officer has no business drinking while on duty."

The sheriff promoted Eddie M. Ivory to chief deputy, and hired Demetrius Robinson, a 22-year-old Tuskegee Institute graduate, to fill Ivory's old job. "I'm in the process of looking for another deputy--but if I don't find one, we will still do the job right," said Amerson.

Before he took office as the South's only Negro sheriff last January, Amerson spent long hours trying to find a Southern white man to be a deputy.

But this time around, he said, he isn't hiring anyone on a racial basis: "I'm looking for the best man to do the job--somebody that needs employment and will appreciate it," he said.

Thirty miles away, in the Tallapoosa County Court of Common Pleas in Dadeville, Knowles' lawyer argued that the

people who didn't appreciate Knowles' job were the Alabama state troopers who arrested him.

The attorney--State Senator Tom Radney--pointed out that Knowles was stopped last July 26, only moments after he left the Blue Creek dance hall on Highway 49.

Why did two patrol cars "converge" on Knowles, when they had traffic duties to perform all over the county? Radney asked.

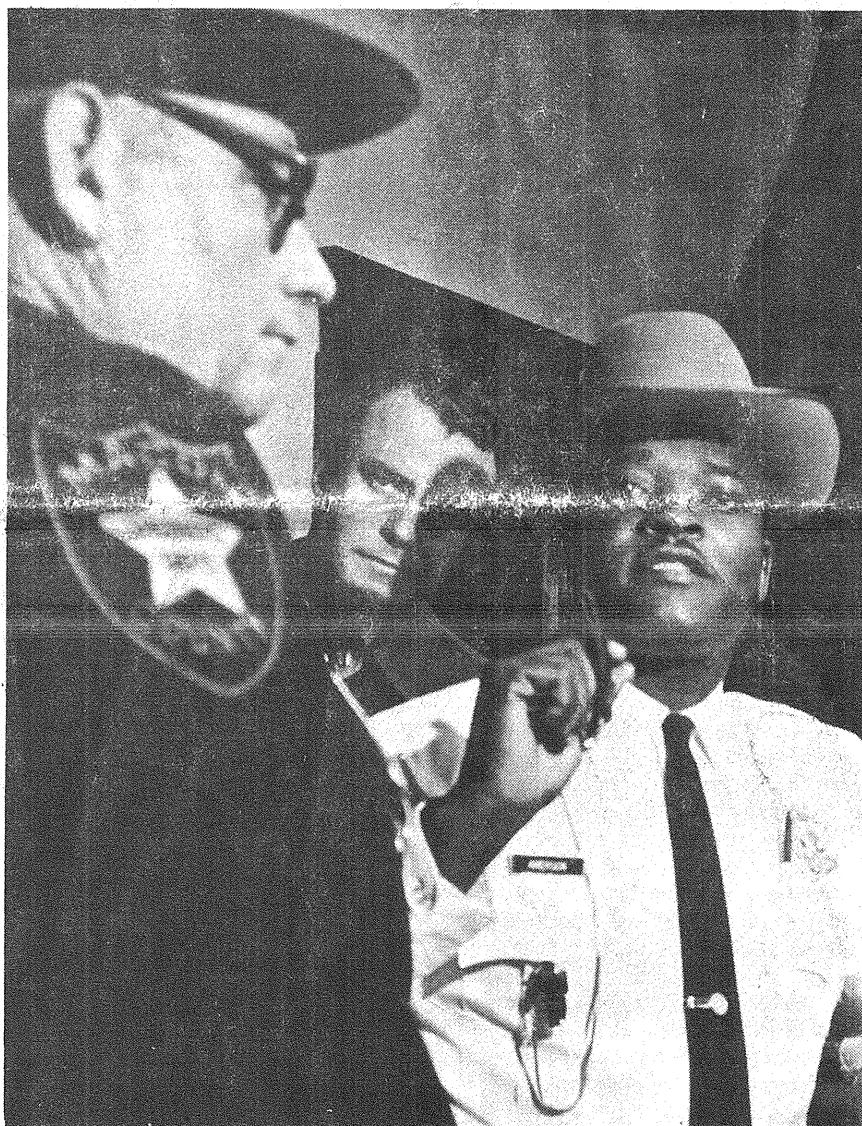
"Both of them said the heck with 300 cars" at the dance hall, Radney argued, because they thought, "We got a prize arrest we can give to the papers and make a good show of it."

Radney said he was representing Knowles. "I'm not going by the way," he said, "because the case illustrates the point that under present Alabama law, arresting officers must make a 'subjective judgment' as to whether a driver is drunk."

"I tried to get the Alabama Legislature to pass a law that would protect the law officers and the citizens," said Radney, referring to a bill which would have required blood tests in all drunken driving arrests. (The measure passed the state Senate, but died in the House.)

Radney contended that "having a beer or two beers" does not automatically make a man guilty of drunken driving. "Each case must be decided on its own merits," he said.

But Knowles--although he pleaded not guilty to driving while intoxicated--testified that he had drunk four cans of beer during the four hours preceding his arrest. And Tallapoosa County Attorney Charles R. Adair Jr. pointed out that (CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO, Col. 6)



KNOWLES (LEFT), AMERSON (RIGHT) AFTER SWEARING-IN LAST JANUARY

## 'What a Mess We Be In'

# People Want Their Roads Paved

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

PHENIX CITY, Ala.--"What a mess we be in," said Mrs. Jennie Mae Turner, looking down the hill at the dirt road that runs in front of her home. "When it rains, you can't hardly get in or out."

And for that reason, said Mrs. Turner, she and 73 other residents of Pumpkin Bottom have asked the Phenix City Commission to pave their roads--for free.

Why should Pumpkin Bottom--a mostly-Negro section--get free roads when other people in Phenix City have to pay for paving?

The Pumpkin Bottom residents explained their request in a petition they gave to Mayor Lee Lott.

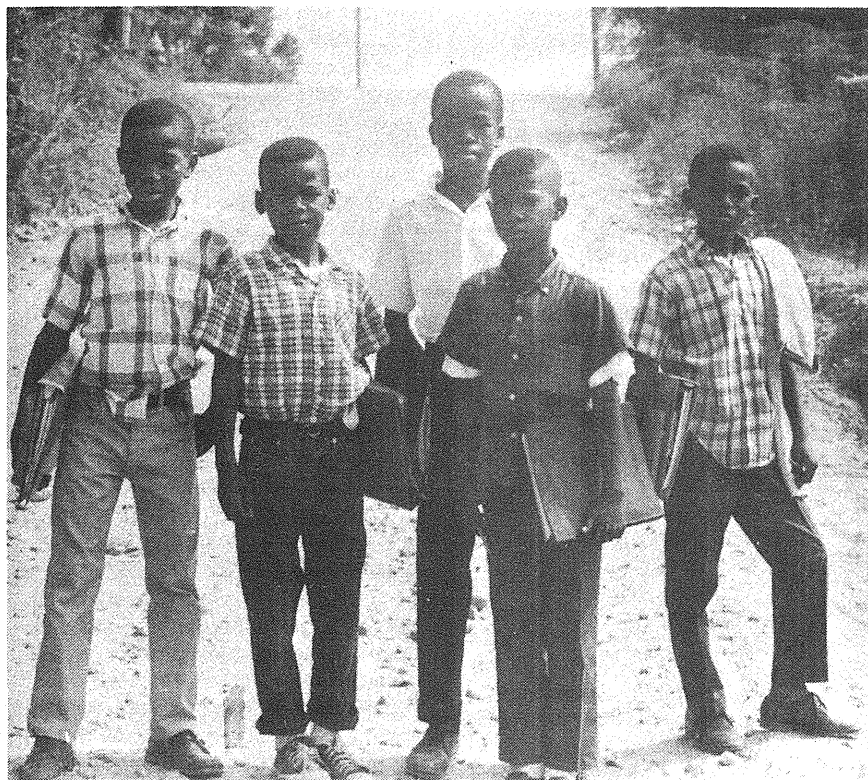
"For the most part, we are low-income families which means that our regular utility bills and the high cost of living takes every penny we can earn," the petition said.

Said Mrs. Mattie Ingram, who handed the petition to the mayor at the city commission meeting on Aug. 29:

"We pay city tax for the school and hospital. We pay for garbage disposal. We pay for water. They just put the sewer in here, and most of us haven't finished paying for that."

"We just aren't able to pay for paving," said Mrs. Ingram. "But we need it. Like I told the mayor, we went to the poll for 'em (the city commissioners). It's time they ought to do something for us."

"We would like to pave every street in Phenix City," Mayor Lott replied



ON A DRY DAY IN PUMPKIN BOTTOM over 30,000 people."

this week. "But we don't have sufficient funds to do any paving without assessing property owners."

"Pumpkin Bottom is not the only low-income section. Phenix City generally is low-income, white and colored. All the money the people make in Phenix City is spent in Columbus," said the mayor, glancing around his own business office in Columbus, Ga. "We have so little tax revenue that we have about the lowest budget in Alabama for a city

the last white person's home, Lott said, the white people paid for the paving themselves.

But the Pumpkin Bottom residents said they weren't convinced. "All I know is we're boxed in," said a lady who signed the petition.

"What they do, they should do equally for both races," added Mrs. Turner. "But it don't look equal to me."

In the petition, the Pumpkin Bottom residents said the city should help them find better jobs if it wants them to be able to pay for their own roads. Mrs. Turner said most of her neighbors are low-paid maids or mill-workers.

"We have brought in 1,500 new jobs," Lott replied. He listed 600 at Alabama Kraft Company's new mill in southern Russell County, 600 at Swift Manufacturing Company's planned new factory just south of Phenix City, and 300 at Opelika Manufacturing Corporation's new textile plant.

The textile plant, to open in the next 60 days, "will definitely be an equal opportunity employer," Lott said. "This is one of the questions I asked."

Lott also said the city commission "has done everything in the world we can" to improve Pumpkin Bottom. He mentioned new street lights, water pipes, and sewers.

The Pumpkin Bottom residents agreed that the city is doing more for them now than ever before. "But the cost of everything is going up, up, up," said Mrs. Ingram. "We just can't pay no more."

## First Day Quiet In Grenada

BY MERTIS RUBIN

GRENADA, Miss.--A year ago in Grenada, Negro children entering white schools for the first time were attacked and beaten by gangs of white residents.

But this year, things were different. Last Friday, about 150 Negro children enrolled without incident in formerly all-white John Rundle High and Lizzie Horn Elementary schools.

Why was everything so quiet and calm? Local Negroes said they figure the white people have gotten used to seeing black children in white schools, or have decided that the best way to deal with integration is to ignore it.

When schools opened this week in Jefferson County, many Negro parents said their children were turned away from white schools because of "over-crowding."

Said W. D. Smith, "When I took my third-grader down to the white school to enroll him, they told me they were not taking any Negroes into the third grade."

In Neshoba County, the Rev. Clint Collier called a school boycott. He said one Negro principal "has commercialized the school, by placing a store in the school to sell candy, gum, pop, paper, and pencils to the students. Where does the profit go?"



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ROOM 1012, FRANK LEU BUILDING  
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PHONE: (205) 262-3572

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Editor: Michael S. Lottman  
Executive Editor: Mary Ellen Gale  
Photography Editor: James H. Pepler  
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Editorial Opinion

**Local Control?**

After months of talking about the importance of local control over community action programs, the Southeast regional branch of the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) apparently has decided that it doesn't always mean what it says.

OEO did give a list of ingenious reasons for its refusal to allow the Macon County (Ala.) Community Action Program (CAP) board to replace its executive director. The only trouble is that most of the reasons don't make much sense.

An OEO letter explained that Macon County's policy of putting CAP staff members under "renewable contracts" fails to give them "the most important element necessary for effective performance... job security."

But the anti-poverty program is meant to help poor people--not to provide one or two individuals in each county with high-paying, life-long jobs. And it's hard to see why CAP directors--who handle huge sums of federal money--should not be subject to public control. Most officials with comparable jobs are elected or appointed for definite terms of office, and regularly have to face the inconvenience of proving that they are doing something to earn their salaries.

The chief complaints against the Macon County CAP director, Mrs. Beulah C. Johnson, are that she has failed to get poor people actively involved in decision-making, and that she has failed to get the money out to where the poverty is. The CAP board--a representative group of county citizens and public officials--is in a much better position than OEO to decide whether the complaints are justified.

Whether OEO likes it or not, a large majority of the CAP board members obviously feel that the county needs a new CAP director. They should be able to make their own selection without interference from federal officials. And the board members have a right to wonder why OEO is suddenly so concerned about "job security"--and so indifferent to local wishes.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

A friend of mine left last month, going back to Hawaii, and from Hawaii he will go to Viet Nam. My prayer will go with him until he return home safely.

I hope that everyone here in Enterprise will pray for Willie to return home to his mother and loved ones.

Perrie Scott  
Enterprise, Ala.

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

I'm wondering what would've happened if the Negroes of Clarke County (Miss.) would've stood together, that worked with CDGM in 1965 and 66. I wonder if MAP would still be here now.

If our people would only stop thinking of themselves and work together for all the poor poverty people and where all poor Negroes could have the same chance, we could get somewhere.

But when MAP came along and flashed a few bills in front of their noses, they quickly learned how to lie, cheat, and deceive their own people for the white power structure and a few dollars.

Miss Eva Young worked with CDGM. We even had her young son in Head Start at CDGM. But since we weren't funded by the federal government, she just found fault of the school under Friends of Children. It's not a good school now, since she's working with MAP.

If MAP is that good, why is there so much under-cover, under-handed back-biting, stealing, cheating, lying, and deceiving so many poor, weak-minded people, just to get their children?

Promising parents a job to get the children. Bragging about the big money they're getting just transporting two or three children. I understand they do have to have at least one unit of children to get what they claim.

They claim they feed the children four times a day. What time do they have to teach the kids anything, or what are they leaving the parents to do?

Friends nor CDGM can't go in other counties or take children from the centers that are already in operation to put in their centers. Nor do they sign up four-month-old babies and 1 1/2 years or 19-month-old babies, to make out their units. Or claim to take a certain age group of kids, and get any age they can.

I guess that's what the white power

# Henry County Parents Protest School Set-Up

# Strikers in Selma Plan Next Move

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

ABBEVILLE, Ala.--Negro parents this week accused the Henry County Board of Education of violating a federal court's school-desegregation order in half a dozen ways.

And, the parents said, the board is still using federal money to help white schools keep their present superiority over Negro schools.

When school opened last Friday, the parents reported to a meeting of the local NAACP, teachers at Negro schools were filling out freedom-of-choice forms for their students--in direct violation of the court order.

Kenneth Ward, an NAACP leader, said about 300 children at Henry County Training School and 100 children at Newville Rosenwald Elementary School "chose" to stay at the all-Negro schools on forms filled out by their teachers.

James Malone, who gathered the reports from the Negro parents, said that at the white Newville Elementary School, "the fourth grade had seven children, the fifth grade 13 children, the sixth grade 17, and the seventh and eighth grades 39 children and three teachers." And, he said, Newville Elementary has two "extra" white teachers, with no classes at all.

At all-Negro Henry County Training School, he continued, the third grade had 54 students and one teacher, the fourth grade 53 students and one teacher, and the sixth grade 57 students and two teachers.

"These (teacher) assignments are clearly based on race and nothing else," Malone charged.

Ward said teachers paid with "Title I" federal money--intended to help low-income students--were not divided equally among Negro and white schools.

For instance, he said, the two largest white schools have full-time band directors. Only one Negro school has a

band director, "who also teaches a social studies class," Ward said.

Malone accused the Henry County school board of putting up pre-fabricated buildings at Negro schools "to avoid integration."

Of 14 or 15 such buildings now on order by the school board, Malone said, all but one are presently scheduled for placement at over-crowded Negro schools.

Several parents said school bus drivers had apparently been told to follow last year's bus routes--instead of new ones that would result in desegregation of the school buses.

In one case, Malone said, a Negro child who had chosen to attend mostly-white Headland High School finally had to get a ride with a supervisor. "The supervisor is not going to be there every day," Malone pointed out.

Only about 25 Negro students out of more than 2,000 chose white schools this year, Malone said. But, he added, (CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE, Col. 4)



MEETING IN SELMA

BY BETH WILCOX

SELMA, Ala.--Newly-hired employees were reporting for work this week at the Laura Industries raincoat plant, despite a strike by workers who want a union.

Last Tuesday, about 400 strikers stood outside their union hall, hooting and shouting at people they knew who were going inside the plant to work. Pickets stood beside the two entrances to the plant, but cars passed freely in and out.

There had been rumors of possible violence, and the new workers were told not to come to work until noon. But there were no incidents Tuesday, and at mid-week, no violence had been reported.

In a series of meetings held in local churches last week, speakers urged workers to keep people from going into the plant. "I think you should tell people very clearly what you think of them if they do this," said Ramelle Macy of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU).

"There are many towns like Selma, Ala.," Jim Pierce of the AFL-CIO said last week. "In many cities like Selma, people are not eating well, and children are poorly clothed. But in many more towns--towns which are unionized--people are happy, prosperous, and safe."

Last Sunday, in a meeting in Brown's Chapel, the Rev. P. H. Lewis of the Dallas County Voters League said he and three other men--the Rev. F. D. Reese, the Rev. C. C. Brown, and Edwin Moss--would meet with David Wallace, president of Laura Industries, on Tuesday.

"We have been in contact with those forces downtown," Lewis explained. He said the delegation meeting with Wallace included "not union officials, but four leaders in the community."

On Tuesday, Reese reported on the meeting. "Mr. Wallace told us that his door was always open to anyone who had complaints," said Reese. "We said that things ain't going to be like this any more, and that we would use any means within the law to get this thing resolved."

At the same meeting, Robert Nunn, one of the leaders of the strike, said, "If Wallace doesn't give us what we want we are going to burn Selma down."

People who attended the meetings said they aren't sure what to think. Last year's split between the voters league and the Dallas County Independent Free Voters Organization was still evident in what they said.

"There's a lot of people's spirits cool when they see Rev. Reese and Rev. Lewis up there," said Nathan Payne of Orrville, who was an unsuccessful independent candidate last November. "I'm with these people who are striking. I have faith in the union, but I don't know about the rest of this."

People also said they remember what happened at other local plants when the workers tried to get a union. The workers lost their jobs and were never hired back, the people said.

## Barbour-Dale-Henry CAP Warned on Hiring Policies

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

CLAYTON, Ala.--Federal officials have warned the Barbour-Dale-Henry Community Action Program (CAP) that they may cut off its money if accusations made by Negro board members are true.

In a letter to the Southeast regional branch of the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO), the Negroes charged that white board members and CAP director Charles L. Weston were discriminating against Negro job applicants.

In reply, OEO has told Weston that

proof of the charges "will place your agency in the serious position of a possible termination or suspension of funds."

The accusations grew out of a long-running battle between Weston and Negro board members over the way the CAP hires its paid staff.

Despite strong objections from several Negroes, the CAP's personnel committee--with a white majority--has full control over employment.

"All the high-paid jobs were going to whites," said the Rev. G. H. Cossey, a Negro member of the personnel committee. James Malone, another Negro committee member, said that qualified Negro applicants were not even being considered for top jobs.

When the committee voted last month on hiring five people to administer two new programs--surplus food and referral centers--the white majority overruled the Negro minority and gave all the jobs to whites, said Malone.

In some cases, Malone said, the people hired are segregationists who have publicly refused to treat Negroes fairly.

The Negroes' letter--signed by board member Robert Pittman--charged that Robert Vann was chosen field director of the food program, although he did not meet the qualifications the CAP board had set up.

"We required a bachelor's degree," said Pittman. "Mr. Vann has only a few months of college work."

Another charge concerned the referral centers, planned to give poor people advice on where and how to get all kinds of aid. According to the Negroes' letter, Weston told local mayors that they could choose the referral center directors in their cities.

"The mayor didn't help anybody--why should his appointees?" asked Malone. "This is clearly out of line."

In a letter to Weston on Aug. 30, J. M. Merrell Jr., acting director of the OEO's Southeast regional office, agreed (CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE, Col. 3)

## Huntsville's Mayor Hearn Grilled at SOCC Meeting

BY BOB DINWIDDIE

HUNTSVILLE, Ala.--Mayor Glenn Hearn spoke to a mass meeting of the Sisters of Concern Club (SOCC) last week. It was his first appearance before a Negro group.

"We could take the \$22 billion we spend yearly in Viet Nam and completely rebuild and revamp the cities of this country," the mayor said.

After Hearn's talk, the audience of 75 SOCC members and about 15 friends had an opportunity to ask the mayor some questions.

One man asked why urban renewal was displacing residents of the Magnolia Terrace sub-division. "These people have worked all their lives to get these homes, and now the Housing Authority comes along and offers them \$6,000 or \$8,000," he said. "They are too old to start all over again."

The mayor replied that he wasn't able to answer any questions about urban renewal, because the "urban renewal people are a separate federal entity."

When asked why City Hall had no Negro employee above the menial level, Hearn said, "We accept anyone who has the qualifications."

The mayor admitted that "we've never had any Negro secretaries at City Hall, at least not since I've been there." However, he added, the city is presently looking for two secretaries, and he would be "delighted" if some Negroes applied.

In his talk, Mayor Hearn said Huntsville is so free of problems that the bi-racial Community Relations Committee has been almost without work the last two years.

But during the question-and-answer session, Joe Cannon of the Huntsville Council on Human Relations said there is a different reason why the bi-racial committee has no work. He said many people feel the committee's four Negro members are not sensitive to Negroes' problems.

Cannon said the mayor should ask Negro citizens whom they want to represent them, rather than telling them, "These men are your spokesmen."

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Your Welfare Rights

# If You Can't Do Any More Work

BY LAURA ENGLE

A person between the ages of 18 and 65, who is unable to work because of an incurable physical or mental handicap, is eligible for Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled (APTD). In order to qualify, the applicant must prove to the satisfaction of the welfare department that his disability is both "permanent" and "total."

Frequently, applicants have difficulties in trying to meet the requirements for this type of aid. In many cases, this is because they do not know what their rights are, and how a decision is reached.

For instance, Mrs. P. had very bad arthritis, and had suffered a heart attack which left her unable to work for more than an hour at a time. She went to the local welfare office and asked for help.

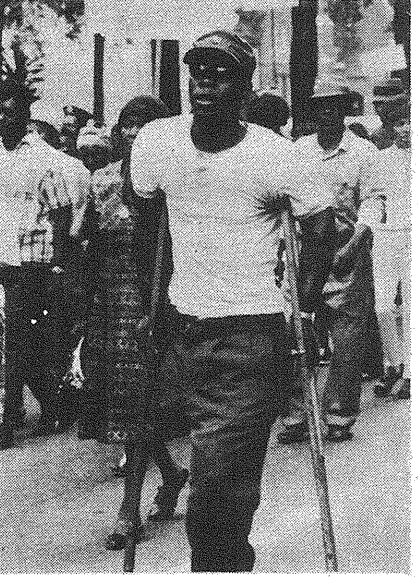
But a welfare worker told her, "You look pretty healthy to me. You have to be down in the bed, or in a wheelchair, before you can get help." Mrs. P. went home without even making an application.

The welfare worker in this case had no right to refuse Mrs. P.'s application. The welfare department is not a doctor, and can't tell just by looking at Mrs. P. whether she is disabled or not. That decision is made by a state medical reviewing team, composed of doctors and social workers.

When someone applies for APTD, the welfare department must obtain medical evidence about the applicant's condition. If the applicant has been hospitalized recently, his hospital records must be consulted. If not, the welfare department must pay for a new examination by a doctor chosen by the appli-

cant.

Welfare offices are not supposed to pay for any examination by a doctor who maintains segregated office facilities.



WELFARE MARCHER IN MISS.

In practice, however, they often do.

The applicant has a right to choose his own doctor, and the welfare department is not supposed to influence his decision. The chosen doctor then fills out a form, telling his diagnosis of the patient's ailment, how serious he thinks it is, what the chances for improvement are.

In addition, the applicant must be visited by a social worker. The social worker submits a report on her interview with the applicant--including what the applicant says he can and cannot do, information about his education and about jobs he has had in the past, and

her evaluation of the applicant's disability.

Both of these reports--and any other evidence the applicant wishes to submit--are then turned over to the state medical reviewing team for a decision. They may decide that the client is permanently and totally disabled--and therefore, eligible for APTD.

Or they may decide that he is not permanently disabled (that is, the disability is only temporary), or that he is not totally disabled (that there are jobs he can do), or that he is neither one. If so, the applicant will be denied aid.

What does "permanently" disabled mean?

It is largely up to the doctor examining the applicant to decide whether or not the disability is permanent.

Very often--since the welfare department makes only token payments to examining physicians--the examinations are superficial, and the applicants' forms are not completely filled out. However, the doctor is supposed to say whether or not the applicant will ever be able to work again.

Some disabilities are obviously permanent, like the loss of an arm or leg (although the welfare department may take the position that an artificial limb removes the disability). Severe paralysis is clearly permanent.

It is not necessary for the applicant to prove that his case is absolutely hopeless. This could rarely be done, anyway, since new medical discoveries are made every year, and cures are found for diseases which were incurable just a short while ago.

Besides, the federal law governing this type of welfare says a disability should be considered permanent if

treatment is unavailable for a particular applicant. For instance, if only continued expensive treatments could help the applicant, and he has no way of getting those treatments, the disability could be considered permanent.

If an applicant can be helped by having an operation, he can sometimes get welfare until he recovers from the operation. However, if the applicant has a good reason for not wanting the operation--if he is very frightened, or there is great danger involved--his refusal cannot prevent him from receiving aid.

Next week: What is "totally" disabled?

**'Teacher-Choice' Blocked**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

But McKee testified that all the teachers in the 14 Negro schools that were shut down this fall were assigned to other Negro schools. And, he said, all of the system's 100 new teachers will be in schools of their own race.

McKee said "a few" of the new white teachers said they would teach in Negro schools, but then changed their minds because their husbands or neighbors objected.

At the end of the hearing, the judge noted that Montgomery County had reported on its faculty desegregation last June 15, but the Justice Department hadn't done anything about it until shortly before school opened.

"I just don't have much sympathy at all for you in this case," he told the lawyers--Reuben Ortenburg and Alexander Ross of the Justice Department, and Fred D. Gray, representing the original Negro plaintiffs.

Judge Johnson praised Montgomery

County's progress in desegregation, saying it is "ahead of the state in almost every field." But Ortenburg said other school districts have done better.

"Other than Huntsville, where are they?" Johnson demanded.

Ross replied that 40 of the 99 systems under the federal court's state-wide desegregation order--including many rural districts--are putting at least one "desegregated" teacher in every school.

And Gray said he is worried about "what effect this court's order may have on the other 99 districts.... I hope we don't meet what may happen in this case, in 99 other school systems."

Earlier Tuesday, Johnson and two other judges temporarily stopped enforcement of the state's new "teacher-choice" law, which gives parents the right to choose the race of their children's teachers. A hearing will be held next Saturday on whether to issue a more permanent order.



End of Louisiana Rights March

Marchers, Guardsmen, and the Klan

When the march from Bogalusa, La., to the state Capitol in Baton Rouge ended Aug. 20, the demonstrators were accompanied by hundreds of law officers. Several curious Ku Klux Klansmen were there, too.



PHOTOS BY  
TONY GANZ



# School Days in Mississippi

## Problems In Quitman Co.

BY PRESLEY FRANKLIN

LAMBERT, Miss.--Leaders of the Quitman County school-desegregation project ran into opposition from the Negro community last month.

The project leaders were trying to get Negro students to switch to formerly all-white schools during a ten-day transfer period ordered by a federal court.

Three weeks ago, the Rev. K. C. Brown, owner of the Masons' hall in Lambert, gave the project permission to use the building on Aug. 25. But on the morning of Aug. 25, Brown told William P. Franklin, a desegregation project leader, that the hall was not available for discussions of school integration.

Why did Brown change his mind? "That's none of your business," the minister said.

Franklin and Alex Capron, another project leader, stood across the street from the hall on Aug. 25, and spoke with parents who came to the cancelled meeting. Arrangements were made to use a local church on a later date.

But the incident--and others like it--have slowed school desegregation in Quitman County, said Capron.

"It is one thing if you don't want your freedom," he said. "But it is another thing if you use your power over other people to keep them from gaining theirs."

## The Way It Was Last Year For Negroes at Marks High

BY PRESLEY FRANKLIN

MARKS, Miss.--During the first week of school a year ago, the Negro students took over formerly all-white Marks High School. The white students merely observed us.

There were 16 of us, and we had the run of the school because a rumor was making a turn around the campus. As one white student said in class, "If you hit that nigger, (President) Johnson would put you in jail."

But after the first week the rumor died away, and the white students really got to us. They made fun of our skin, hair, and noses.

I believe they got to me the most because I was the only Negro student in the 11th grade. I hope I don't be the only one in the 12th grade this year.

Two white boys gave me the most trouble. Every day for the whole school year, one of them would meet me in the hallway as I was going to my sixth period class. He would call anyone nearby to help him annoy me, because he and I were nearly the same size.

He would say things like "Hey, look at burr-head," and "Look at that stinking nigger."

One day during chemistry class, he

and another white boy suddenly said, "Let's kill that nigger." After a while, the teacher got tired of hearing the same statement over and over, so she made them stop.

But nearly every day thereafter, the same two white boys made similar remarks, such as, "Let's throw some phosphorus on that nigger." (Phosphorus is a quick-burning element used in making matches.)

In history class one day, the history teacher's son asked if white students would be forced to go to the "nigger school" next year. A white girl replied, "You'll get some money like the niggers that come over here."

The teacher asked me, "Do you get any money for coming over here?" I told her that I did not.

Then she said, "I may lose my job for asking you this question, but why did you come over here?" I waited for a moment or two and then said, "For personal reasons." No one asked me that question again.

This year I am going to make it a pol-

icy to leave the classroom whenever the teachers leave--because when they were gone, the white children threw spitballs, crayons, rubber bands, and broken pencils at me.

My advice to Negro students who are going to attend a formerly all-white school is this: get someone else Negro to go with you.

And get your parents to talk to the school board and the superintendent of education, so they will talk to the white teachers about giving the Negro students a better shake.

If the Negro students are not treated more fairly, they will be faced with the same choices we had to face at Marks High School last year. We could put up with the annoyance and try to make a grade, or answer back when the white students bothered us and fail to make a grade.

Of the 16 Negro students at Marks last year, only one-fourth passed into the next grade. The other three-fourths--the ones who defended themselves--all failed.

## Bolivar Parents Lose Battle Over Principal

BY KERRY GRUSON

ROSEDALE, Miss.--For the second time in two years, a group of angry parents is trying to get Joseph T. Keesee fired from his job as principal of the all-Negro West Bolivar Training School.

And for the second time in two years, Bolivar County Schools Superintendent William B. Shirley says that Keesee is going to stay where he is.

The first protest came a year ago, after half of the high school students at West Bolivar failed a grade.

Led by Morgan Brown, a former teacher, the children's parents tried to organize a "blackout" of the West Bolivar school and to send their children to formerly all-white Rosedale High School instead.

But the blackout didn't work very well. "Many of the children had already chosen West Bolivar (on the school system's freedom-of-choice forms) and were not allowed to change schools," explained Brown.

So the parents passed around a petition demanding that Keesee be fired. They gathered 505 signatures.

But Shirley, the schools superintendent, told the parents that Keesee had a contract and couldn't be asked to leave. Shirley said he would "reconsider" the matter when Keesee's contract expired at the end of the year.

Last week, Shirley said that's just what he did. "We looked into the complaints and did not find them valid," the superintendent said. "A lot of the parents that signed (the petition) didn't know what they were

signing. This protest is the personal whim of one person."

Although Brown said the parents had talked to Keesee several times, the principal said he never saw the petition or had a chance to meet with the dissatisfied parents. "I would be delighted to discuss a lack of communication," Keesee said.

But he also said that he didn't think the parents' complaints were justified.

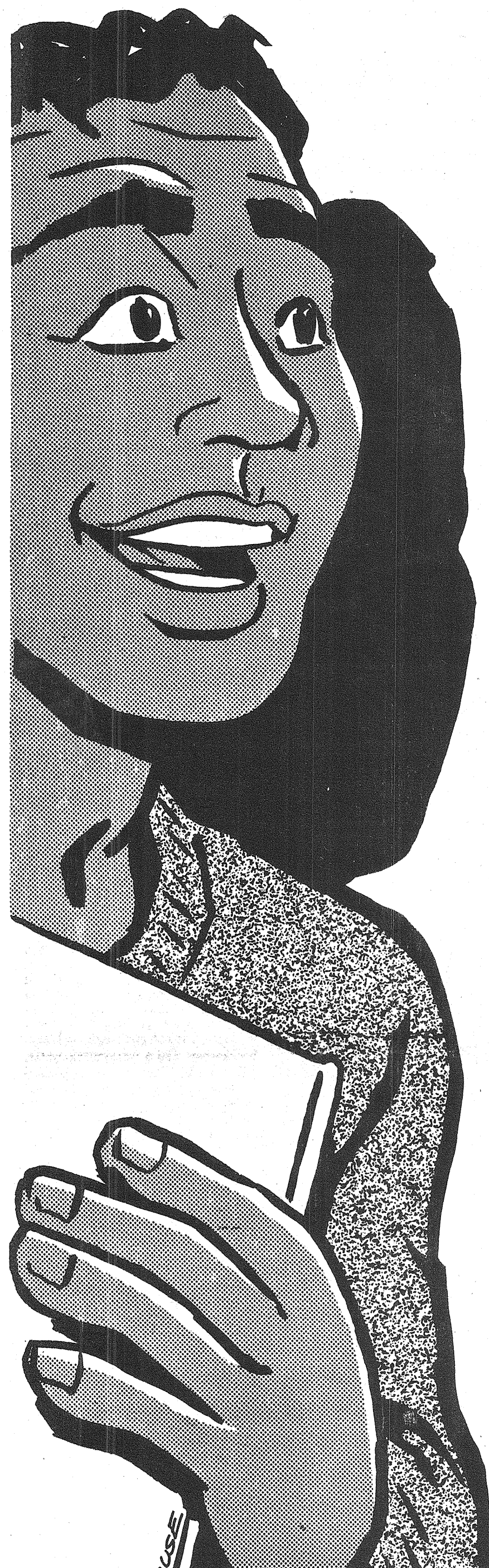
"I didn't fail the students," he said. "They failed themselves. It's not just the school, it's the whole economic background. I know that there were a number of children that went out every night and got back at any time" instead of studying, he said.

But Brown said most of the students who were failed in June, 1966, had been in good academic standing during the school year.

Why is the protest beginning all over again? "We don't think it is right for Keesee to stay after so many tax-paying registered voters complained," Brown said.

But he also admitted that the parents can't think of anything to do. A plan to demonstrate in front of Keesee's home last week was called off at the last minute.

And Shirley said that even if the parents do think of a new way to protest, he isn't planning to listen. "I'm getting tired of bringing this up every time the wind changes," he added. "The things they are complaining about are a bunch of bull. It was a waste of time to go over it with them last year."



## 'We Wear Our Coats in Class,' Student at Alligator Tells Court

BY KERRY GRUSON

OXFORD, Miss. -- "The blackboards are cracked. When a teacher writes on them, you can not see the writing."

"In the winter, we have to wear our coats in school. The way I kept warm was by getting a seat near the heater."

"When you get ready to go to the restroom, you have to go through another teacher's room, or go outside around the school."

"At the end of last year, there were 724 books in the school library."

Those were some of the answers that Miss Phyllis Bredy, formerly a student at the all-Negro Alligator Elementary School in Bolivar County, gave last month in federal court here.

Miss Bredy, 12, was replying to questions asked by attorneys for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. The lawyers were trying to persuade U. S. District Judge Claude Clayton to close the school.

Miss Bredy told the court that each classroom at Alligator had only one light-bulb. She said it was not easy to see what she was doing in class on dark

days. Last year there was no playground, she said. This year the ball field has been made into a playground, so there will be no ball field.

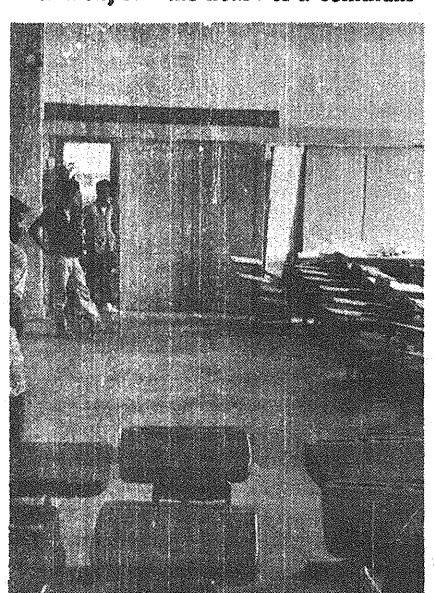
Because of overcrowding, Miss Bredy said, the school library sometimes doubled as a lunch-room.



MISS PHYLLIS BREDY

But Alfred A. Livingston, an attorney for the Bolivar County school board, told the court that the Alligator school's advantages were more important than its defects.

He said that local parents did not want the school closed because a school, like a church, is "the heart of a communi-



ALLIGATOR CLASSROOM

ty." The parents, he said, had chosen to send their children to the Alligator School.

"Alligator is indeed a school of choices," replied Paul Brest, a lawyer for the Legal Defense Fund. "It is a school where a child had the choice of going to the bathroom by walking around the school building or through another class. It is a school where there is a choice whether to have a playground or a ball field, a cafeteria or a library."

Brest argued that other schools in Bolivar County could easily enroll the 120 children assigned to Alligator. He said that improving the school would just be "throwing good money after bad."

But Judge Clayton said he didn't think there was room for the children at other schools. Instead of ordering Alligator closed, he directed the school board to fix up the school as much as possible within the "financial limits" of the county.

But the students aren't likely to notice any difference. Bolivar County officials testified that they didn't have enough money to make improvements at the Alligator school this year.





# Macon County Folks Seek Water Service

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

TUSKEGEE, Ala.--James Ligon took the cover off the small well next to Mrs. Annie Trotter's frame house on Motley Lane, and let the bucket down 28 feet into the water.

Then he began hauling on the rope to bring the full bucket back up to the top. The hot summer sun was beating down on his head, but he didn't seem to mind the work.

"Days like this," he said cheerfully, "we come over to get water five or six times." He poured the water from Mrs. Trotter's bucket into one of his own and gave it to a small boy, who lugged it up the hill to the Ligon home.

Ligon, 17, is one of 11 children. His family and two other families regularly get water from Mrs. Trotter's well because their wells have run dry.

Most of the other 20-some families who live on Motley Lane also have been having trouble getting water. Mrs. Willie B. Gilmore said her well only works during the winter--and not all the time even then.

"We get water from a spring for drinking," she said. "We take jugs and drive there about three times a week. If we have to tote it in the winter, sometimes it freezes in the jugs 'fore we can get it home."

"I have to do the wash out at the washeteria, unless I can catch enough water in a barrel," said Mrs. Gilmore, who has six children. "Makes it bad when you want to take a bath. The children get dirty playing, and we can't get enough water to keep them clean."

"If I had the water," she said, smiling, "I'd just wash and wash. I sure would love to use it freely."

Mrs. Benjamin Foster, another Motley Lane resident, said she and most of her neighbors also would like to have enough water. But they haven't had any luck in persuading the City of Tuskegee or the Farmers Home Administration (FHA) to run a pipe up their street.

Mrs. Foster went to see the FHA about a federal grant to provide Motley Lane with running water. But Montgomery Allison, the local FHA supervisor, told her the FHA wouldn't lay the pipe unless there were enough families to make the water system pay for itself.

"He also said if anyone out here was inside the city limits, those people couldn't get it," Mrs. Foster recalled. "Some people are. If you're going to exclude them, there wouldn't be enough. There might not be enough anyway."

The Motley Lane families began asking the city council about a water line four years ago, Mrs. Foster said. "We gave them a petition in 1963--the same time they got a petition from the people on Washington Ave."

Earlier this year, the city ran a water line out Washington Ave., and charged each family \$150 for it. But at the city council's last meeting, Mrs. Foster was told that a similar line would cost the Motley Lane families about \$665 apiece.

"After they said that, I didn't try to keep up with it," Mrs. Foster said. "I don't know anyone in Tuskegee who would pay that much. And a lot of the people here are on welfare--they just don't have that kind of money."

Mrs. Foster wondered why the cost was so much higher for Motley Lane than for Washington Ave. "I feel that they just set that higher price because they didn't want to run the line out here," she said.

In a way, said Tuskegee Mayor Charles M. Keever this week, Mrs. Foster was right.

One reason for the different price, he said, was that "the distance beyond the city limits on Washington Ave. is only about half the distance on Motley Lane."

But, the mayor continued, another reason was that the city paid part of the cost of the Washington Ave. water line.

Why would the city pay for one line but not for another? "The Motley Lane area hasn't developed," Keever said. "Washington Ave. seemed like it was going to. We felt like that was where we should spend the taxpayers' money."

Keever didn't rule out a water line for Motley Lane some time in the future, when the city has more money. "We would like to get water to all our citizens if possible," he said. "And we will furnish the water if they can get the FHA to pay for the line now."

But the mayor also explained why he didn't think the FHA was likely to do that. "They got stuck on the Chehaw water system" in rural Macon County, he said, "and so did we."

After the FHA ran a water line out to Chehaw, said Keever, many families just put a spigot in the yard instead of installing water pipes in the house. He said the families don't use enough water to pay the city back for the cost of purifying it.



JAMES LIGON (CENTER) GETS WATER FOR HIS FAMILY

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## Choctaw Boycott

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

of the board of education, Mrs. Thelma Craig, executive secretary of the civic group, reported on an earlier session with Schools Superintendent Woodie Napper:

"The superintendent was quite calm. He said, 'We had a good program ready for this year--good food, a good health program.' You know they can always get us with food."

"But he couldn't understand why there were no children. We told the superintendent we'd let him know why there are no children when we meet with him."

Mrs. Craig noted that Napper had told a local newspaper, "This thing will solve itself by the end of the week."

"He's only saying we'll start fighting among ourselves," Mrs. Craig told the people at the meeting. "Let's don't confuse ourselves by fighting or wondering. Let's put our forces together to keep this thing going."

# After Showing Movie in Crenshaw Mill Operator Boycotted

BY SANDRA COLVIN

LIVERNE, Ala.--Last July 28, G. T. Miller showed a film--"Alabama: What It Has and What It Needs"--at the Crenshaw County courthouse.

Since then, said civil rights leader James Kolb, Miller--a white man who operates a feed mill here--has had nothing but trouble.

Somebody has been "circulating material to the white people...to encourage them to boycott Mr. Miller," Kolb said. "As far as I can see, this boycott has knocked off about 80% of his business."

Unsigned leaflets were placed in white people's cars, Kolb said. The leaflets were entitled, "Local Businessmen Denounces Law Enforcement Officers and Encourages Negroes To Steal, Take, and Riot."

The leaflets said Miller, when showing the film, had stressed the fact that Negroes have been mistreated by whites, and have worked for little or nothing. Miller was quoted as telling the audience that if they couldn't make a living, they should "steal, take, rob, or riot, to get it. . . . I'd do it, too."

Furthermore, said the leaflets, Miller criticized the city and county law officers: "This, Mr. Average Citizen, happened to your County, City, and Courthouse."

Miller said he also received a letter from the Court of County Commissioners, forbidding him to hold any more meetings in the courthouse. The letter gave no reason for the commissioners' action.

Miller denied making the statements that were quoted in the leaflets. He said

the film, which he made himself, is concerned with Alabama's natural resources.

The mill operator said he offered to show the film to the county commissioners, making the same comments that he always makes, but the commissioners did not respond.

He said he told the commissioners in a letter, "This same film, with practically the same comments, was shown some time ago at the Crenshaw County courthouse, with permission from (Probate) Judge (James) McSwain."

Miller said he also told the commissioners that he "would never tell anyone to burn, steal, riot, or cause any destruction of any personal or public property."

"One of the Ku Klux Klansmen sitting in the front row in the courthouse asked

me if I was inciting the Negroes in Detroit and other places to riot after I showed the film," Miller recalled last week.

"I answered no, that I thought we, Negroes and whites, should get together and work out what was best for the people, all of them."

Some of Miller's customers have told him they will give him their business if he doesn't work "with the OEO (Office of Economic Opportunity) or the colored folks in the county," he said.

His wife added, "We have been asked not to work (hire) any Negro people who attend predominantly-white schools, or their parents."

Miller said he had been asked to fire one Negro employee who is sending his daughter to a previously-white school. But, he said, he refused.

## WANT ADS

ARKANSAS--The Arkansas Council on Human Relations has affiliate councils in Conway, Fayetteville, Pine Bluff, Fort Smith, and North Little Rock. We are interested in establishing local councils throughout the state. ACHR is integrated at all levels, working in education, voter education, employment, welfare, and housing. For information, write Arkansas Council on Human Relations, 1310 Wright, Little Rock, Ark. 72206.

FEDERAL JOBS--The Interagency Board of Civil Service Examiners is holding examinations for the positions of cook, commissary worker, and meat cutter. The jobs are located in South Alabama and Northwest Florida. Information and application forms can be obtained from Alex Culver, Examiner in Charge, 413-A Post Office Building, Montgomery, Ala. 36104.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED--The Montgomery Community Action Committee needs all the volunteer help it can get to work in Head Start class rooms. Men, women, and teen-agers (minimum age 16) can all be of use. Volunteers will assist as teacher's aides and cook's helpers, and will take children on field trips in the area. A volunteer can choose his or her own hours between 8 and 11:30 a.m. on a convenient day Monday through Friday. Transportation and lunch will be furnished. If you are available, apply to the Rev. E. W. McKinney (volunteer director) or Mrs. Zenobia Johnson at 429 S. Decatur St., phone 262-6622. Or you can offer your services to St. Jude's Center, 2048 W. Fairview Ave., or Resurrection Center, 2815 Forbes Dr. If it is more convenient, go directly to the neighborhood Head Start location nearest you.

ATTENTION NURSES--Serve in the Air Force Reserve. There are vacancies available in the 542nd Medical Service Flight for qualified nurses. Previous service not required. As a nurse in the Air Force Reserve, you continue in your present civilian occupation, and train one weekend per month. In addition, you will serve 15 active duty days each year in a well-equipped Air Force hospital. If you are between the ages of 20 and 35, with no dependents under 18 years of age, and you are currently registered as a nurse in any state, you may qualify as a nurse in the United States Air Force Reserve Nurse Corps. If you have a desire to serve with a dedicated team to help safeguard the health of America's airmen, call Maxwell AFB, 265-5621, Ext. 5818, or write to MSGT G. K. Flowers, 3800 ABW (BPMQR), Maxwell AFB, Ala., 36112.

MERCHANT MARINE -- The United States Merchant Marine Academy desires to inform qualified young Negro men of the opportunities available to them at the academy and in the United States Merchant Marine. The academy is located on Long Island Sound at Kings Point, New York, about 20 miles from New York City. The academy educates and trains young men for careers as licensed deck or engineering officers in the Merchant Marine, through a four-year college curriculum leading to the bachelor of science degree. In addition to receiving a degree and a license as third officer or third assistant engineer, graduates may be granted a commission as ensigns in the United States Naval Reserve. Candidates for admission must be nominated by a U.S. congressman or senator, but appointments are made on the basis of candidates' competitive standing within the state from which they are nominated. Competitive standing is determined by College Board examination scores, high school rank in class, and evaluation of candidates' leadership potential and motivation. Men desiring admission to the academy with the class entering in

FOR A BETTER ALABAMA--The Alabama Council on Human Relations has active chapters in Birmingham, Mobile, Montgomery, Huntsville, Florence-Tusculumbia-Sheffield, Auburn-Opelika-Tuskegee, Talladega, and Tuscaloosa. It has a staff that works throughout the state. The Alabama Council is integrated at all levels: its staff officers, staff, and local chapters all have people of both races working side by side. The Alabama Council wishes to establish local chapters in every county in the state. If you wish to join the Council's crusade for equal opportunity and human brotherhood, write The Alabama Council, P. O. Box 1310, Auburn, Alabama.

ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN--I am now studying electronics and radio from the National Technical Schools in Los Angeles, California. I am now at the stage of my training to start doing radio repair work. For more information about this radio service, contact Arthur Holfield Jr., Rt. 1, Box 259-A, Marion, Ala. 36754.

MISSISSIPPI JOB OPENINGS--Project MARK, a new anti-poverty program run by the Mississippi Medical and Surgical Association, Inc., has started hiring staff. Positions are open for a director, at \$11,000 per year; job developer, \$7,800 per year; recruiter-counselor, \$6,000 per year; secretary-bookkeeper, \$80 a week; clerk-typist, \$65 a week. The project will contact 1,000 students in deprived areas and select 100 for training in "paramedical" fields, such as medical technician, lab assistant, doctor's secretary. Contact R. Hunter Morey, chief recruiter and acting director, Mississippi Medical and Surgical Association, Inc., Project MARK, Room 6, Masonic Temple, 1072 Lynch St., Jackson, Miss. 39203, or phone 353-3594.

POST OFFICE JOBS--The Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners for the U. S. Post Office, announces an open competitive examination for positions of substitute postal clerk and substitute city letter-carrier for all first, second and third-class post offices in Autauga, Chilton, Elmore, Lowndes, and Montgomery counties. Rate of pay for these positions is \$2.26 or \$2.64 per hour. In addition, postal employees receive vacation, sick leave, low-cost life insurance, health benefits, maximum job security, and good retirement benefits. No formal education or special training is required, and applicants who pass the Civil Service examination have their names placed on a register in the order of their scores for future consideration, without regard to race, creed, color, sex, or national origin. Interested applicants may obtain additional information and application forms by contacting their local postmaster or Alex Culver, Examiner-in-Charge, Room 406, Post Office Building, Montgomery, Ala.

BIRMINGHAM SERVICES--Worship with the New St. James Baptist Church, 600 N. Fourth Ave. Birmingham--the church with a program, the minister with a message. Sunday School 9:30 a.m., morning worship 10:45 a.m., Baptist Training Union 5:30 p.m. The Rev. L. Clyde Fisher, pastor.

HENRY COUNTY NAACP -- Mrs. Beulah C. Johnson, director of the Macon County Community Action Program, will speak to the Henry County branch of the NAACP at 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10, in St. Peter's Baptist Church on Girard St. in Abbeville.

CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS -- "Substance" is the title of the lesson-sermon to be read in all Christian Science churches this Sunday, Sept. 10. The Golden Text is from Psalms: "The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage."

HELP WANTED--Interviewer wanted for telephone survey work. Must have private line. Not a selling job. Air-mail a letter--including your education and work experience and the names of your references--to American Research Bureau, Field Staff Department, 4320 Ammendale Rd., Beltsville, Md. 20705. Give phone number when applying.

## CAP Jobs

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO)

that "systematic exclusion of qualified Negroes" from top jobs would violate OEO policies.

Merrill instructed Weston and the CAP board to "suspend" hiring of employees, and to provide proof that the personnel committee was approved by a majority of the board members.

This week, Weston refused to discuss his reply to the charges.

Mrs. Lena Frost of Demopolis, Ala., sells 600-1,000 Southern Couriers every week in Marengo and south Greene counties.



If you want to sell The Southern Courier in your community, write to 1012 Frank Leu Bldg., Montgomery, Ala. 36104, or call 262-3572.



50,000 Watts, Top Dial 1550

## Mobile's Top Radio Personalities

### Deacon McLain Says:

Feel good with a GOODY'S HEADACHE POWDER and pay less....

### Dorothy Stanley Says:

LUZIANNE COFFEE gives you 30 extra cups per pound....

### Ruben Hughes Says:

MacLEAN'S TOOTHPASTE gets teeth really clean....

### Jordan Ray Says:

COCA-COLA gives you the taste you never get tired of. Get Coke in one-way bottles, too.

THE GOODWILL GIANT  
MOBILE, ALA.

## Bishop Gaylor



calls you by your name in full; revealing your past, present, and future like an open book. Bishop Gaylor has helped many thousands in all affairs concerning your loved ones. Happiness and success can be yours by not being misled by those claiming to be the Almighty.

Please use a little common sense, and remember--if one's power is strong enough, he can call you

by your full name. Otherwise, if they can't call your name in full, how do you expect them to help you in any other matters? I have been located in a business office in the heart of this city for the past 30 years. Remember--an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Consult the one and only one who has proven his help by past deeds.

16 SOUTH PERRY ST. MONTGOMERY, ALA.  
No Letter Answered Unless Accompanied with Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope  
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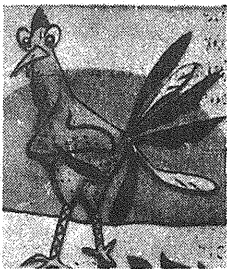
# Montgomery Shopping & Service Guide

The advertisers on this page offer goods and services to people in the Montgomery shopping area.

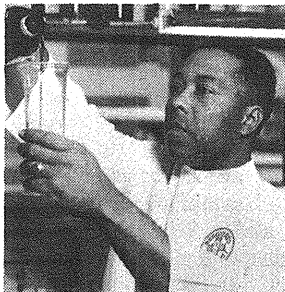
In the future, The Southern Courier will publish shopping guides for other areas. Lawrence Johnson of the Courier staff will soon be visiting merchants in all parts of Alabama and Mississippi. To make sure he includes you, write him at 1012 Frank Leu Bldg., Montgomery, Ala. 36104

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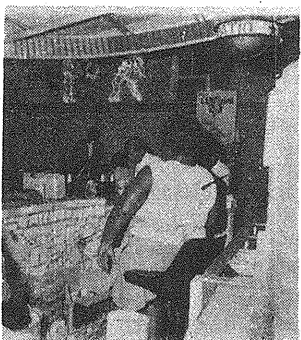
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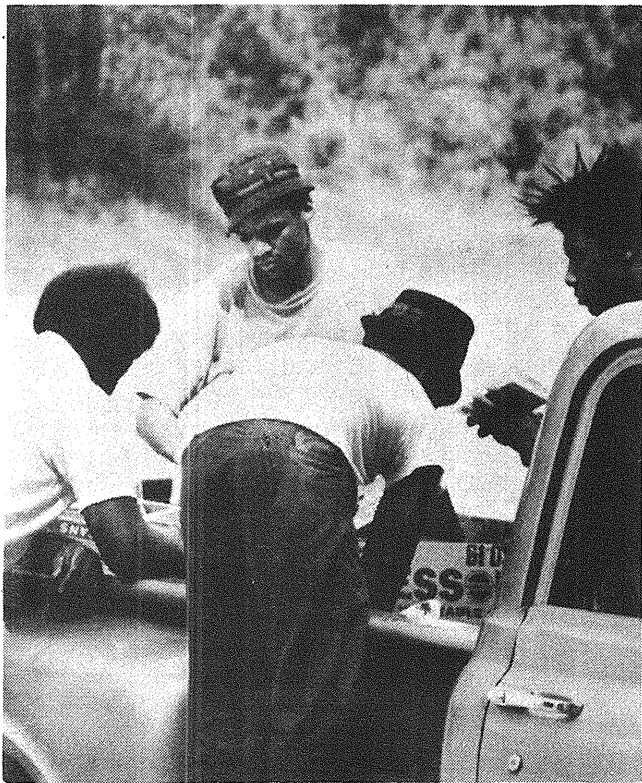
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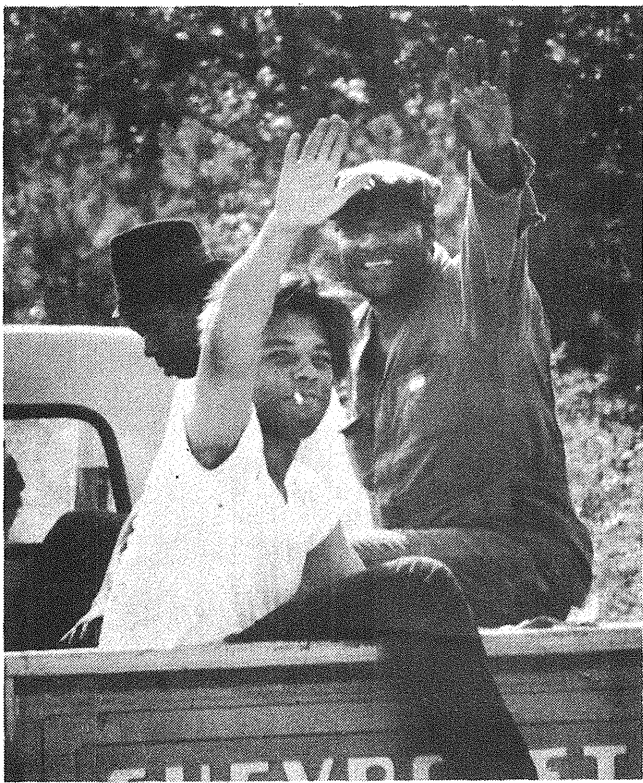
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UNLOADING THE FOOD



MARK COMFORT (RIGHT)

# Californians Bring Supplies To 'Brothers, Sisters' in Lowndes

BY BETH WILCOX

GORDONSVILLE, Ala. -- "Back in Oakland (California), we can get on the welfare, but here they can't get nothing. That's why we brought food here, instead of giving it to folks in Oakland," said Mark Comfort.

Comfort and his friends began delivering food to needy Lowndes County families last week, after driving here from California. They said they would have had more food to distribute, if it hadn't been for a run-in with Tennessee state troopers.

"We had been told that we might have some trouble, so we carried guns with us," Comfort explained. "We didn't have any trouble until we got to Tennessee. A road block was set up for us--about 30 state troopers." He said the police stopped his car and a truck carrying clothes and food.

"I heard them (the police) say they searched the truck twice and could only find clothes and food," said Comfort. When the truck was opened in Lowndes County, he said, "we found some empty cartons inside. And we'd had a whole bunch of suits of clothes inside--they were all gone."

How was the food collected? Ronald Brown, also from Oakland, said, "They have a store called Lucky's in Oakland. The man let us park the truck in the parking lot. We put signs around, and collected food from people until the truck was full."

"People don't want to admit when their own back yard is dirty," Comfort remarked. "We couldn't collect nearly as much food for people in Oakland as we could for Lowndes County."

"I worked in Lowndes County during the elections in November," Comfort went on. "I said I was going to come back and help them somehow, because they are my black brothers and sisters."

"You know," said Comfort, "people talk a lot about rebellions. We're trying to stop them. The federal government ought to be doing this, but instead they send \$70,000,000 to Spain, and that's a fascist country...."

"There's 5,600,000 WHITE people who are poor in Mississippi--that's government statistics. They ain't even taking care of their own,"

John Hulet, president of the Lowndes County Freedom Party, helped distribute the food. He said he wanted to make sure the food reached the people who needed it most.

One lady got three boxes full of grits, flour, corn flakes, cereal, dried milk, and vitamins for the four children she cares for.

"The only way I make it is that I get a check for \$24 a month disability from the welfare," she said. "I got arthritis, so I can't keep a garden or farm. We used to have surplus food from the government in this county, but they cut it off. We sure need this food."

Robert Pittman, spokesman for the Negro board members, made his complaint to representatives from the federal Office of Economic Opportunity in Atlanta, Ga.

"This is a direct slap at Tuskegee Institute," charged Pittman. He explained that the Negro college recently helped organize the South East Alabama Self Help Association (SEASHA) to fight poverty in 12 counties.

Last week the Rev. K. L. Buford, the NAACP's state field director, sent a letter of protest to congressional leaders and anti-poverty officials.

Without the efforts of the private agencies, Buford explained, there would be "no hope whatsoever" for Alabama's poorest counties and people.

## As Macon CAP Director Mrs. Johnson Keeps Job

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

TUSKEGEE, Ala.--Mrs. Beulah C. Johnson, executive director of the Macon County Community Action Program (CAP), still has her job.

Last week, after the CAP board voted 16 to 3 to replace her, Mrs. Johnson charged that the members had acted illegally. This week, the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) said she is right.

A letter from John Dean, OEO regional administrator in Atlanta, Ga., told CAP board chairman B. D. Mayberry that the board had not complied with OEO rules.

Until "corrective actions" are taken, the letter said, the CAP board must continue to employ all staff members in their present positions.

In voting to oust Mrs. Johnson, several CAP board members argued that her contract had expired and said the board had the right to replace her without listing any reasons.

But Dean's letter strongly criticized the CAP board's "renewable contracts." "Such a procedure... seems to deny your staff the most important element necessary for effective performance in a work situation--job security," Dean wrote.

To meet OEO regulations--and to keep its federal money--the board must eliminate "the present provision for renewable contracts," Dean said.

He also directed the CAP board to spell out grounds for hiring and firing staff members, and to revise its "inadequate" job descriptions to show "lines of authority and scope of responsibility."

"The regional office is not in disagreement with your board that it should have the authority to hire and dismiss members of the CAP staff," Dean noted. "This office does insist, however, that sound and just personnel procedures be established, approved, and followed."

After receiving Dean's letter, board chairman Mayberry said he had called a CAP meeting for 7:30 p.m. next Tuesday, "to get the board to comply," Dean said.

and other OEO officials have said they will attend, Mayberry added.

"We want to get our policies straight," he said. "Whatever the OEO rule is, I intend to abide by it."

Mayberry said the board "can't blame somebody else" for its problems: "We have been a little slack."

"We do not want to make attacks on individuals," he said. "We want to do what's right to get in a position to help the people we're committed to help."

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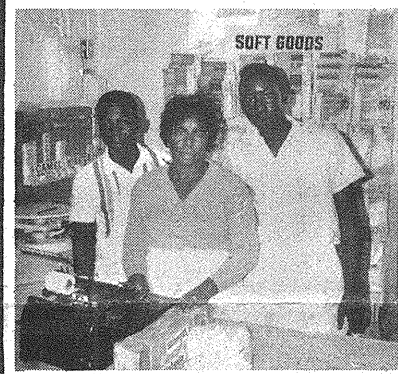
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Injured in Baseball Game

# He Waits for Sight to Return

BY MARY ELLEN GALE  
TUSKEGEE, Ala. -- "No one's to blame for it," said Jonas Bowens, "It's just one of those things."  
It was mid-afternoon, but Bowens, 17, wasn't outside working or playing. He was sitting in a darkened living room, watching television with his right eye.  
His left eye was hidden behind a big silver patch. Bowens hasn't been able to see out of that eye since he was struck by a baseball last July 22 during a game between the Tuskegee Eagles and the Opelika Blue Sox.  
Bowens was one of the Eagles' star players this summer. According to team manager Marshall Moore, Bowens was "very good" at hitting, fielding, and being team captain.

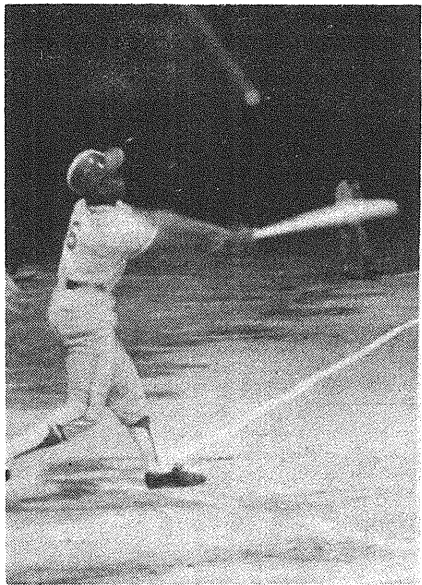
"This game he was hurt at, he was running the team," said Moore. "I was in street clothes on the side."

Bowens said he has "some hopes" of playing professional baseball after he graduates from Tuskegee Institute High School next spring. But first he has to get his sight back.

After he was injured, the young man said, his family took him to Lee County Hospital in Opelika, a few miles away

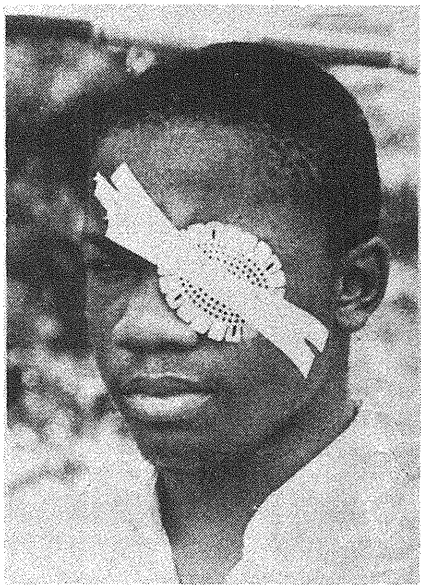
## Coppinville Eagles Loaded For 1967 Football Season

BY DANIEL JACKSON  
ENTERPRISE, Ala.--It's football season again, and the mighty Eagles of Coppinville High School are ready.  
This year, the Eagles are loaded with returning lettermen. Quarterback Franklin Brown, halfbacks Noah Shipman and James Johnson, and fullback Sammy Davis return in the backfield.  
Lettermen on the line include Freddy Williams, Billy Holloway, Benzel DuBoise, Tommy Russell, James Holloway, Jimmy Jones, Robert Smith, and Paul Jones.  
Roy Merritt, a great quarterback from Northwestern High School of Miami, Fla., heads the list of newcomers to the squad. Some people say Merritt is another Herman Walker.  
The Eagles are also counting on Willie Horace, a big tackle. Other rookies



BEFORE INJURY... from the ball park where the game was played. But, said Bowens, "the nurse suggested I see a doctor at home because I'd need more than one treatment."

Eventually, he wound up in John A. Andrew Hospital on the Tuskegee Insti-



...AND AFTER  
tute campus. He stayed there for 28 days, taking all kinds of shots and medicine to stop the bleeding behind his eye. "The doctor told me I'd be seeing out of it over a period of time," Bowens said. "In about two months, they say I should be able to see normally."  
Meanwhile, said his father, W. E. Nall, the family is trying to figure out how to fit Bowens' hospital bill into their budget.

"When they get through with it, it's going to be \$1,000," said Nall. "Marshall Moore said the team had insurance --but it didn't."

"Mr. Nall was president of the Tuskegee club," replied Moore. "He ought to know why we don't have insurance."

The reason, Moore continued, was that the club couldn't scrape up enough money. "Last year, the city bought us \$600 worth of equipment," he said. "So we went in our pockets for insurance."

But this year, said the manager, the city refused to help out, and the team spent the little money it had on equipment and transportation.

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## Why Doesn't Anniston Have Negro Officers?

BY ALAN BOLES  
ANNISTON, Ala.--A Negro applicant passed the civil service examination for patrolman a year ago, but this city still has no Negro policemen.  
If Anniston doesn't get a Negro officer soon, said the Rev. N. Q. Reynolds of the Calhoun County Improvement Association, the CCIA will stage some form of organized protest. "Maybe we're going to have to stand in the door of City Hall for a few days to get something done," Reynolds said.  
One of the city commissioners, Herbert Morgan, said the Negro who qualified was not accepted on the force because the city doesn't want just one Negro policeman.

"They (Negro officers) wouldn't want to work alone, among a bunch of whites," said Morgan. "They would have to work in pairs."

"What we're trying to do is to get two pairs," he added. "But we can't get them to apply. Cecil Montgomery (the chief of police) has been trying just as hard as he can to get some, but they don't seem to be interested in this kind of work."

Mrs. B. H. Barry, the city's civil service administrator, said four or five Negroes have applied for a patrolman's job. She said two applicants didn't pass the police department's physical examination, one or two failed the written exam, and one passed.  
"You can believe it or not," said Mrs. Barry, "but I was sorry. We need them, but if they won't come in and apply, what are you going to do?"

She said the man who qualified was put on the eligible list, but he was passed over when vacancies occurred.


Finally, she said, only two names remained on the list. Since the police commissioner has to pick from three names when filling a vacancy, she said, a new examination was given and a new list drawn up.

Now, said Mrs. Barry, the successful Negro applicant will have to take the test over again if he still wants the job.

### FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

In Alabama all our yesterdays are marred by hate, discrimination, injustice, and violence. Among the organizations working for a better tomorrow on the principle of human brotherhood is the Alabama Council on Human Relations. Membership in the Council is open to all who wish to work for a better tomorrow on this principle. For further information, write the Alabama Council, P.O. Box 1310, Auburn, Alabama.

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## Tallapoosa Juries Approved

MONTGOMERY, Ala. -- The Tallapoosa County jury box has been re-filled "in such a manner as to meet the requirements of the Constitution and the laws of the United States."

Lawyers for both sides in a suit challenging the Tallapoosa jury system agreed to this statement last week.

The lawyers--Oscar Adams, representing Negro plaintiffs Leon Banks and

the Rev. S. C. Perryman, and Tom Radney, representing the county jury commission--also agreed that a "representative cross-section of the Negro citizens of Tallapoosa County, both men and women, now appear on (the) jury roll."

U. S. District Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. then ordered the jury commission to keep the jury system free of racial discrimination in the future.

Why wouldn't the city help support the Tuskegee Eagles? "I feel as though there's a little politics in this new recreation board," said Moore. "There's a little prejudice against the lower-income people."

Moore said he went to Leonard "Gus" Sharpe, a recreation board member and city baseball commissioner, to ask for assistance. "He asked us what side of town we was from," Moore recalled. "He told me the folks playing with me was nothing but drunkards."

"I explained to him, if those were welfare boys on our team, they were the ones the recreation board should be trying to help."

But Sharpe said the recreation board turned down Moore's request because "he was running an independent club--we have a league under supervision."

"There's a lot of people full of alcohol at their games," Sharpe added. "I didn't say they were drunkards. I just told them they should clean up behind themselves."

### Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights

Men's Night will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 11, in the Thurgood CME Church, the Rev. Jesse Douglas, pastor.

Guest speaker: the Rev. L. H. Wheelchel, pastor of Metropolitan CME Church.

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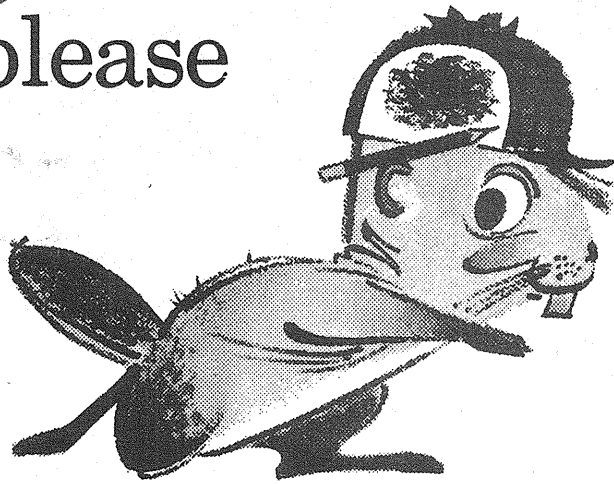
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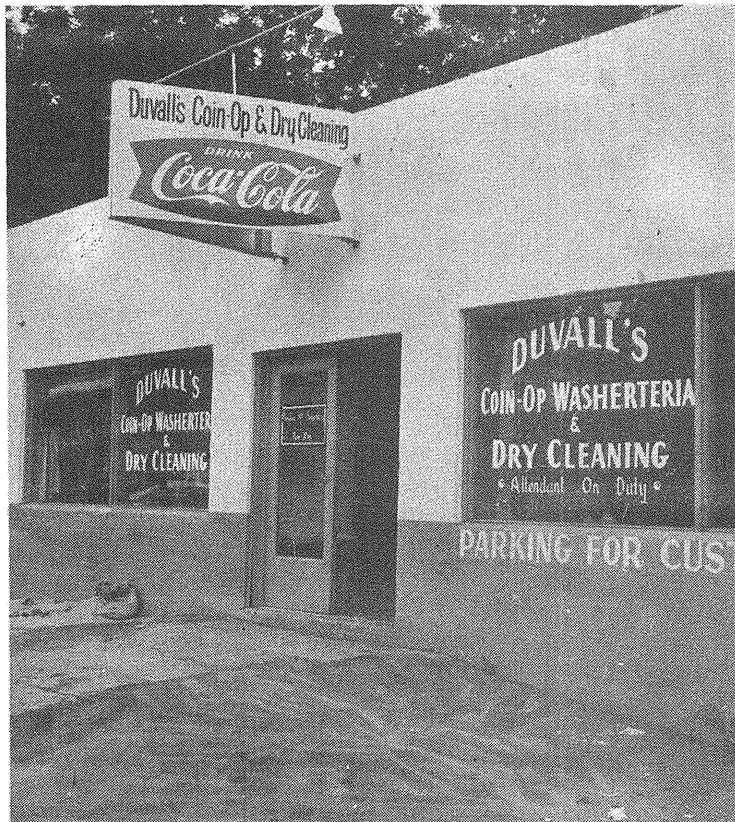
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