

NORTH + SOUTH

Southern Christian Leadership Conference Staff News, Dec. 1966

HOSEA WILLIAMS "ELATED" AT "COOL" CHICAGO RECEPTION

Hosea Williams arrived in Chicago on a day when the temperature was five above zero. He told TV, radio and newspaper reporters: "There is something about the weather here in Chicago that forbids me from expressing my pleasure to be here in the 'Windy City.' I can say with a great deal of accuracy and without fear of contradiction that I have received a cool reception... (later) Naturally, when I was asked to bring a staff here to conduct a voter registration and voter motivation drive, I was elated!"

In Memoriam

ALPHONSO HARRIS

Alphonso Harris, the warm and friendly "big brother" of the Freedom Singers, died recently in Albany, Ga.

His funeral was held in Albany on Dec. 5th. J. T. Johnson, the entire Grenada staff, and a number of Grenada residents attended the services. Ben Clark and Robert Johnson spoke at the funeral service.

Alphonso, Bill, and Emory had just signed a contract with a recording company and were to start cutting discs at the first of the year.

Mr. Harris didn't die in one of the many jails he occupied, nor did he die on one of the numerous Southern highways he traveled. He died in his home town when things were starting to look good for him.

We have mixed feelings: thanks and regret, joy and sorrow. The life he had he gave to the Movement.

BREAKTHROUGH FOR BREADBASKET

SCLC's Operation Breadbasket has attracted national attention with an unprecedented victory in Chicago.

In an agreement with a big food chain company there, Breadbasket won new jobs and promotions, but more than that. For the first time, a big white-dominated company agreed to:

- 1) Transfer some accounts from huge white banks to struggling Negro banks.
- 2) Offer its Negro customers products manufactured by small Negro firms.

Breadbasket is now pushing ahead with demands for the same concessions from even bigger corporations in Chicago. Rev. Jesse Jackson is leading this drive.

NOTES FROM GRENADA

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The BLACKOUT of white stores has continued successfully since June. During the Christmas Season there will be a "total BLACKOUT," no Christmas shopping in Grenada.

Charges were dropped against all children thirteen years old and under who were arrested at the recent school demonstrations. The older youngsters pleaded "not guilty" to charges of blocking the sidewalk and failure to disperse. No trial date has been set.

Efforts have been intensified to obtain release of 15-year-old Tommy Green. He was on probation from a previous arrest when he was arrested during the school demonstrations. Judge Cofer revoked his probation, and sentenced him to five years. To date none of the marchers, including Green, have had a trial to determine if they were actually guilty.

Election Day in Grenada County: In June 700 Negroes were registered, and by November the Grenada Movement had registered 3,131 (about 59%). MFDP candidate Clifton Whitby received 1,302 votes, Eastland 3,070, and the Republican, Walker, 872. This is a small turnout for Negro voters, but was still the largest Negro vote in a rural Mississippi county.

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PERSONALITIES

At this writing, Herbert Coulton, Director of Affiliates, is recuperating from an illness at his home in Petersburg, Va. J. T. Johnson hasn't been feeling well in Grenada. We hope Frogmore didn't get you down, J. T. Seriously, best wishes to both J. T. and Herbert....

Pamela Dana and Bonnie Hutchings of the Southern field staff have returned to California to complete their education. They hope to get back in the Movement some way later.....

Lester Hankerson was Soul Food chef at Freedom House up to Thanksgiving.... Dr. King is getting to work on his new book....

Our Frogmore retreat got a big play in the Southern Courier, and Jet ran a feature photo of MLK and staff members singing "We Shall Overcome" at Frogmore....

Mrs. King received a heart-warming response to her Freedom Concert before a standing-room-only audience at Grenada Nov. 13.....

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(Lets have a Cheer)

RAH RAH REE,
BEAT "BIG" BILL LEE.
RAH RAH RASS,
WIN ROOTS, GRASS.

Hosea assigned six workers to Greene Co., Alabama to get-out-the-vote and the win for Tom Gilmore. This is an index-card lead-them-to-the-polls campaign. Gilmore is running against Sheriff "Big" Bill Lee who is known for his violence in moderation.

NAACP Legal Defense Fund attorney Fred Wallace reported at Frogmore that tedious research uncovered rigged elections in four counties: Greene Co. is one of them. A court postponed the election until early in the new year.

Albert Turner is project Director, and will move to Eutaw until the elections are over. Also in Eutaw are Winters Knox, Phil Goober, Roosevelt Barnett, John Reynolds, Daniel "Sign Man" Thompson.

During the November elections one Movement Negro, Rev. Peter Kirksey, was elected to the Green Co. school board.

PROGRAM "FIRST" FOR SCLC

New Antipoverty programs sponsored and arranged by SCLC got underway early this month in Wilcox and Lowndes Counties in Alabama.

Mrs. Mew-soong Li, taking time out from Operation Dialogue, struggled for weeks to arrange the programs of adult basic education. Dr. King praised her efforts.

The projects will receive more than \$500,000 in federal grants over the next year. These self-help plans will enable citizens in Wilcox and Lowndes to receive modest stipends while preparing for new skills. They now are in danger of losing their jobs as seasonal farm workers.

SCLC is lending several staff members to help get the programs underway. They include Mrs. Li, Ethel Brooks, Rosemary Peoples, Prue Robertson, Herman Dozier and Carl Farris. Stephanie Stilwell, former Dialogue staff member, has joined Mew in the program.

Dr. Robert Green, back at Michigan State but still involved with our Citizenship Education Program, is a special consultant for the new antipoverty projects.

Our sponsoring Wilcox County affiliate held an official opening at Annemarie, Ala., Dec. 4. Junius Griffin was a featured speaker as SCLC representative. Another speaker was John Cook, president of Wilcox County SCLC.

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"AMERICAN NEGRO LEADER" VISITS ISRAEL.

The American Jewish Committee, in an effort to "bridge the gap" between its own Western and Oriental Cultures, invited three groups of "American Negro leaders" on a trip to Israel.

Who is our American Negro leader? Rev. Andrew J. Young!

Andy made it trip for two, so both he and Jean traveled throughout Israel on the 12 day "study mission" visiting schools, kibbutzim, colleges,

and discussing problems of integration and acculturation with officials.

The tour included the Christian Holy Places such as: Grotto of the Annunciation, St. Joseph's Workshop, Mary's Well, Traditional Tomb of King David, Room of the Last Supper, and Sodom.

On the return flight Andy and Jean stopped in Athens and climbed to the Acropolis.

Andy returned with 240 slides. Ask to see them, especially the ones of Andy on a camel and Jean wading in the River (puddle) Jordan.

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CEP TEACHERS HAVE THANKSGIVING RETREAT

Eighty-five CEP teachers and Atlanta staff came from eight Southern states to Penn Community Center, Frogmore, S. C., on the Thanksgiving weekend for a "refresher workshop."

This year they focused on economic improvement for their communities and discussed, among other things, credit unions and federal aid programs.

Most beneficial to the teachers were practice teaching sessions. The staff demonstrated techniques, and then the teachers themselves practiced what they had observed.

Annell Ponder reported that they left Frogmore with the "feeling that this was the best refresher we ever had."

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NEW BOKULICH ADDRESS

One-time Greene Co. workers Paul, Patty and Rebecca Shalom Bokulich (now 6 mons.) have a new address; 140 Broad St. Selma, Ala.

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ATURE OF N&S

This is the first issue of North and South. The deadline for material is the first day of each month. When the print shop is operating properly we will include some photos and play around with layout.

To keep N&S operating we need more than your help, we need your imagination. This could easily be a monthly catalogue of trivia. This could be the voice of assorted well-meaning Big Brothers. And there is a latent urge in the PR department to be big-time publishers.

Other things are possible. During the Frogmore retreat Stoney Cooks said he had recently met with a group of journalists and writers. Jim Bullock (where are you Jim?) has a manuscript for a book detailing the 18 Civil Rights murders in Alabama. Bruce Hartford seems to be in touch with a great deal of information on Grenada and its citizens.

Take time to write us a paragraph or two. Tell us what you think of the work, the ideas, the motivations that roar around inside SCLC. Write it now. Send it on: North and South, SCLC, 334 Auburn Ave. N.E., Atlanta, Ga. 30303

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STAFF MEMBER IN DUTCH

Overton Harcourt Klinefelter, Jr., alias "Harky," plans to flee the country Dec. 14. Destination: Holland. Plot: Matrimony. Heroine: Annelies Koopmans. Harky hopes to return with his bride in about two months. Dora McDonald commented: "Why can't some of you men find wives here in the office?"

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CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR ATLANTA CHILDREN

The Benevolence Club of our Atlanta clerical staff is having its annual Christmas party for about 200 underprivileged children on Dec. 17.

Sympathetic organizations and individual friends of SCLC in Atlanta are contributing funds for refreshments and gifts. Mrs. Lillie Hunter, Secretary to Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, is chairman of the Club's SCLC Christmas Fund.

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NEW IN CHICAGO

Joining Hosea on the Chicago Voter Registration staff are: Rev. Samuel Wells, Rev. Fred Bennette, Rev. B. J. Johnson, Herbert Coulton, Leon Hall, Robert Sims, Richard Smith, Lester Hankerson, Henry Brownlee, B. T. Bonner, Willie D. Leon, Dana Swan, Golden Frinks, J. T. Johnson.

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BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM HITS FREEDOM HOUSE

Freedom House in Atlanta apparently has a secret Ladybird because the house has been beautified. Residents at Freedom House have painted all the rooms, refinished the floors, acquired some more furniture, generally spruced up the place, and put up Christmas decorations. Residents also announced a "new food program". Hosea had the idea of purchasing a whole steer, cutting it up, and serving many many beef dinners. Rosemary Peoples thought the animal was a milk cow and got herself a velvet-padded milk stool.

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