

Alabamians Tell Hopes and Fears for 1966

New Year's Eve is traditionally a time for having a big party and making resolutions. A lot of people make New Year's resolutions, and tell each other how great and prosperous the coming year will be.

But everybody doesn't feel that way. To Mrs. Louise Marshall, of Troy, the new year "looks like the same thing

over and over again." "A day is just another day," she said. "It's just like turning another page."

But her husband, Ike Marshall, said New Year's Day is a time to be "thankful to God for my being here this long." (He's 68 years old.)

A 17-year-old high-school girl agreed with Mrs. Marshall. "It's just

another year," she said. "If no one had told me, I would never have known." Mrs. Martha Summer, of Montgomery, refused to make any New Year's resolutions. "I'm not going to live that long, I work so hard," she said.

Mrs. Summer said she did domestic work in a private home. "I'm tired of cleaning, cooking and washing for other folks' children while my own go lacking," she said.

Though she wouldn't make any resolutions, Mrs. Summer did have a New Year's wish:

"I'd like to get an office job, so I could sit there on my fanny and type all day, and make lots of money."

Others were more hopeful about their prospects for 1966.

For Carlton Adams, of Mobile, the best thing about the new year was, "I got a new house. Be movin' in soon, and outta this shack."

Adams lives in Mobile's hobo jungle, hidden between the railroad yards and a polluted creek, just a few blocks from the center of the city.

He said he'd also like "a more better job" in 1966. And, if he can "find the right woman," he'd like to get married—but he doesn't expect to find her.



MRS. MARTHA SUMMER

For Miss Diane Madison, the best thing that could happen in the new year would be "if I got an A in chemistry."

Miss Madison, who "came out" at the big, elegant Negro debutantes' ball in Mobile's Municipal Auditorium Sunday night, is a sophomore at Bennett College, an integrated school in

Greensboro, North Carolina.

She was an excellent student by the standards of Central High in Mobile, but said she discovered at college that Central's standards weren't very high. "The Vietnam war is going to get worse before it gets better," Miss Madison said.

Alabamians were thinking about civil rights as 1965 turned into 1966. "There's gonna be big changes" through civil rights activity, said Carlton Adams. But he said he doubted the changes would affect his life very much.

For John Leflore, a long-time civil rights worker in Mobile, the new year will be very different from the old. Leflore retired from the Post Office at the end of the year, after more than 45 years of service.

He might be among the Negroes running for local offices in Mobile County this year. He couldn't run before, because he was a federal employe.

Leflore said he hoped for "a continuation of the kind of policies that George Wallace has espoused," because these policies have "welded Negroes together" better than anything else could have.

He foresaw just one personal problem in his retirement—"People sometimes become lazy when they don't have pres-

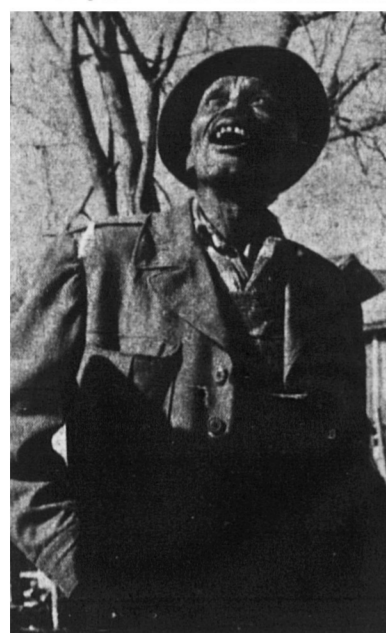
sure on them." But he said he expected other problems from "this dormant state that's so obvious among Negroes of our community."

Said J. M. Gantt, an elevator operator in Montgomery:

"The coming year will be just about what you make it. Life is largely what you make it."



JOHN LEFLORE



IKE MARSHALL



MRS. LOUISE MARSHALL

Quiet Demonstration In SCLC Vote Drive

BY STEPHEN E. COTTON

BIRMINGHAM--"At least it's better than no demonstration at all," sighed one SCLC staff member.

He was watching 250 civil rights workers singing freedom songs on the steps of the Jefferson County courthouse here last Tuesday.

The demonstration was part of a county-wide voter-registration drive. Fourteen Northern college students and 25 SCLC staffers have come to Birmingham to join in the campaign.

Some of the SCLC people wanted something dramatic to happen during the demonstration, so that unregistered Negroes in the county would take more interest in the drive. But there wasn't much drama here Tuesday.

Early in the day, Mayor Albert Boutwell himself saw to it that Negroes were issued a parade permit.

The chanting demonstrators marched from Kelly Ingram Park--the scene of hosings and police-dog attacks in 1963--to the courthouse, ignoring stoplights as they snarled traffic at a half dozen downtown intersections.

At an hour-long rally at the courthouse, speakers called on Negroes to register, and demanded that county officials aid in the voter-registration drive.

The Rev. Abraham Woods, who has worked on registration in the county for several years, said the county ought to have "deputy registrars going out in the community and knocking on doors." He also said registration offices should be open six days a week.

Mr. Woods said there are now only three places to register in Jefferson County--the courthouses in Birmingham, Fairfield and Bessemer. When the Board of Registrars is in session in one of the three offices, the other two are closed.

Tuesday the registration office at the Birmingham courthouse was closed, because the Board of Registrars was in session in Bessemer.

According to SCLC plans, Negroes who wanted to register Tuesday were supposed to sit in at the registration office at the courthouse here.

The sit-in was called off when the SCLC workers decided there were too few unregistered Negroes in the demonstration.



SPEECHES DRAW CHEERS

That has been the major problem with the voter-registration drive so far--few unregistered Negroes have turned out.

Some of the complaints against county officials that were voiced on Tuesday had actually been cleared up before the demonstration began.

The Board of Registrars Monday agreed to register voters in Bessemer for five days this week.

And Dr. John Nixon, state head of the NAACP, said he and several other Negroes had been assured Monday that the board would be in session on Saturdays, beginning next week.

A few hours before Tuesday's demonstration began, the Jefferson County Commission authorized the hiring of six more clerks to help the Board of Registrars speed up the registration process.

The SCLC drive officially began three weeks ago, when the Rev. Martin Luther

(CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX)

New Political Group in Lowndes To Name Own Negro Candidates

BY EDWARD M. RUDD

LOWNDES COUNTY -- Last August, leaders of the Lowndes County civil rights movement sized up their chances of joining the ranks of the Democratic Party here. Their decision: if you can't join them, then beat them.

So last month the Lowndes County Christian Movement unleashed a Black Panther in the backyard of the Alabama Democratic Party's "white supremacy" Rooster. The Panther is the emblem of the new Lowndes County Freedom Organization, formed to support Negro candidates.

"We had to find some ways or means to get our own people on the ballot," said John Hulet, president of the Lowndes Christian Movement.

"The Democratic Party has a right to say who can come on their ballot, and I feel like they would turn us down," he said.

Alabama Attorney General Richmond Flowers has said the words "white supremacy" should be removed from the Democratic Party emblem. And Democrats might be willing to include some Negroes on their ballot. But in Lowndes County, it's probably too late for any invitations.

Plans Made For A Credit Union

BY JOHN KELLY JR.

EUFULA--More than 100 Eufaula citizens met last week to organize a credit union.

The meeting, held Dec. 21 in the Baptist Academy school, was called to order by John Kelly Jr. and the Rev. W. M. Lewies.

After a brief statement, the chairman of the meeting, the Rev. G. H. Cossey, introduced the main speaker, William E. Jordan.

Jordan gave the group a big hello and then pointed out some of the advantages of a credit union for a county, city or community.

He mentioned the low interest rate at which a member may borrow money from a federal credit union. Any member may borrow up to \$750 on his or her signature alone, he said.

The meeting was then thrown open for questions and comments. Then Kelly and Mr. Lewies proposed that the group file an application for a charter with the federal government. This motion was adopted by those present, with two opposed.

Mr. Cossey said that as soon as the charter is approved in Washington, a credit union will be set up in Eufaula. A committee was appointed to make plans for the credit union.

Eufaula citizens decided they wanted a credit union in a meeting last November. One purpose of the credit union is to help Negroes get started in business.

As someone said at the November meeting, "God helps those who help themselves."

In a credit union, members pool their savings, usually by buying shares in the organization. The members then can borrow money at low interest rates.



"I feel even if we were nominated on their ballot ticket, we would have to walk in the footsteps of the Democratic Party and be doing the same things they've been doing all their days," said Hulet.

The Freedom Organization will get into politics for the first time in the May primary. "This will be our day to assemble in or around the courthouse in Hayneville and nominate our own candidates for the Freedom Organization, instead of voting for people in the Democratic Party," said Hulet.

Realizing what trouble this assembly could meet, Hulet added solemnly: "People in Lowndes County, whether they live or die, will put up our own candidates--that's a sure thing."

The Negroes will be trying to nominate candidates for sheriff, tax assessor, tax collector and two spots on the school board.

The Lowndes County Freedom Organization isn't an overnight political development. It has its roots deep in the Lowndes County Christian Movement.

The Christian Movement started holding mass meetings a year ago. It started small, and has always done things the people wanted and could do for themselves. Its first project was a community park in the Mosses area.

Every Sunday night, the Christian Movement holds a mass meeting somewhere in the county. About a quarter of the people at these meetings move around with the Christian Movement. The rest are people from the community where the meeting is being held. The

meeting places are always filled up.

The Christian Movement also has a strong supporting arm in Michigan. Negroes there have left Lowndes County, but they have not forgotten what they left. They have formed a Northern branch of the Christian Movement, to send back money and encouragement.

Last summer, the Lowndes County Christian Movement, with the help of SNCC, ran a campaign to get Negroes elected to the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service committees. Although Negro farmers were in the majority, they could not elect Negro ASCS committeemen in four of the five communities where they put up candidates.

Many people in the Christian Movement and SNCC feel that Lowndes County public officials threw away their last chance to court the Negro vote in this election.

"We don't know, but we feel sure that we were tricked at the ballotbox," said Hulet. ASCS officials have said the elections were conducted honestly.

"We did it fair and square," said Stokely Carmichael of SNCC. "We believed in them, and they cheated us."

"They told us to vote, and we did everything they said. Now that we have the power, they're not going to shame us. Ignorant, smelly, with our noses running, we're going to take that political power because it belongs to us."

Carmichael said the Freedom Organization will not be closed to whites. "This is not a black nationalist party," he told a crowded mass meet-

ing the night after Christmas. "But if you think white folks are coming out here before they can get something out of it, you're mistaken."

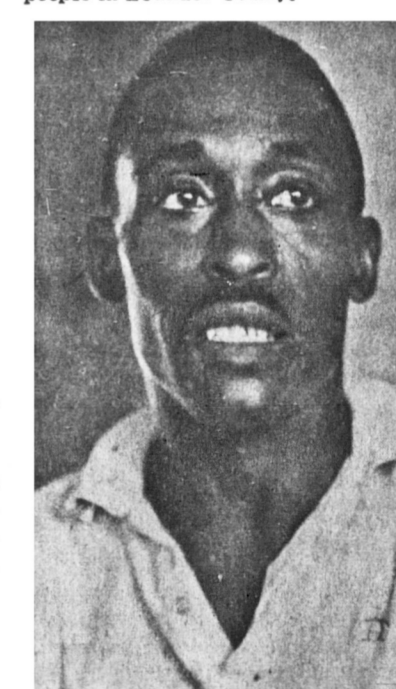
In the same mass meeting, it was pointed out that Alabama Democratic Conference spokesmen have said they can deliver 90 per cent of the state's Negro vote.

But Carmichael told the mass meeting that the Democratic Conference, not the Freedom Organization, was splitting the Negro vote.

Members of the Lowndes County Freedom Organization will not be able to vote in the regular Democratic primary in May. This means that if Attorney General Flowers runs for governor, he can expect no help from the county where he took his strongest stand for equal administration of justice.

But Hulet feels that Negroes in Lowndes County have to work from the bottom up to improve their lot.

"We fail if we vote in the primary, because we will lose out in the local Democratic election. And the election of local officials is the most important thing for people in Lowndes County."



JOHN HULETT



PARADE TO THE COURTHOUSE

Attorneys Argue Fairness of Poll Tax

MONTGOMERY -- Alabamians may get a New Year's present from the federal courts. They may be told that they don't have to pay \$1.50 every year in order to vote in state and local elections.

Last week, a panel of three federal judges listened while the U. S. Justice Department and the state of Alabama argued about whether the poll tax discriminates against Negroes and poor people.

After the hearing, the judges said they would not rule out the poll tax unless the Justice Department could show that it was used to discriminate.

But they decided to hear some more facts before they made a final ruling.

The Justice Department claimed the Alabama poll tax should be abolished, because it is used to keep Negroes from

voting. But the state of Alabama disagreed. In a hearing held Dec. 20, attorneys for the state tried to convince the judges that the poll tax is simply a test to see whether a citizen is really interested in voting.

The attorneys for Alabama also said the federal government was trying to give everyone the right to vote. "Never in the history of the Anglo-Saxon race," they said, had such a thing been done.

In fact, said John Kohn, a state lawyer and a close political friend of Gov. George Wallace, George Washington's wife couldn't vote, Abe Lincoln's wife and mother couldn't vote, and until 1918, "the lowest livery boy could vote while the saintliest white woman could not," Kohn said it was up to the courts to

save the nation and the constitution, "because the people have lost the ability to control their government."

"If this nation is going to be saved," he said, "it will not be saved by the Congress; it will not be saved by the executive branch; it will not be saved by the people. It will be saved by the courts."

At this point, Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. leaned over to interrupt. "That's one of the greatest arguments I've ever heard," he declared.

In another case, Alabama Attorney General Richmond Flowers filed a brief in a suit aimed at overthrowing the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The suit was brought in the U. S. Supreme Court by the state of South Carolina.

Flowers plans to argue that no illiterates, black or white, should be allowed to vote. The vote act outlawed literacy tests in Alabama and other states.

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Editorial Opinion

Flowers Is Right

Alabama's May primary is not far away, and the state's political climate is beginning to heat up. Several well-known figures have announced their candidacy for various offices.

But there have been other developments besides politicians' throwing their hats in the ring. In Lowndes County, a militantly Negro political movement has sprung up. At the same time, Attorney General Richmond Flowers has begun a campaign to remove the words "white supremacy" from the label of the Alabama Democratic Party.

It is too soon to tell whether the Lowndes County Freedom Organization, as the new movement is called, will be a force for good or ill. Certainly it is a sign that in some counties, Negroes are so fed up with segregationist politics that even suggestions like the attorney general's will not win their support.

But there is no question that the "white supremacy" label must go. Flowers is right--the label is an offensive relic of a system that has broken down. And more than a change of label will be needed if the Alabama Democratic Party really wants the Negro vote.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

Why is it so hard for a white man to get segregation out of his blood?

Why send Negroes to Vietnam when they don't have anything to die for? We don't have freedom, all we have is killing and harassing.

The Ku Klux Klansmen want to kill, why not send them to Vietnam? If they want to kill someone, they could do it there.

The white man wants the Negroes to go back where they came from. Has he stopped to think, he needs to go back where he came from? This is not his

To the Editor:

Could a Northerner who has spent very little time in the South make a suggestion? How about helping us to locate the events in each story by identifying the state where the events are taking place?

The lead-in to each news story now shows the town. How about adding the three or four extra letters necessary to show the state? It would sure make finding some of these places on the map easier.

Thanks for making our geography job easier. Keep up the good job that

To the Editor:

Your newspaper provides all the news that is fit to print, but that other newspapers don't feel fit to print.

I realize from my past summer in Selma with the Medical Committee for Human Rights that the presence of the press and/or medical personnel act as deterrents to violence. Your glare of publicity seems to shine most brightly in those small municipalities whose Southern exposure has in the past

home, no more than the Negroes'. We have just as much right to be here as the white man.

The white man is eating, sleeping and fighting alongside Negro GPs in Vietnam, so why segregate yourself here? You cannot afford that kind of thinking.

This word "nigger"--oh, how I hate it! Anyone can be a nigger.

We are tired of being told what and how to think. We want our freedom now --not years to come, but now.

Name withheld
Jackson, Ala.

you are doing.

John L. Gable
Arlington, Va.

(Editor's note: THE SOUTHERN COURIER is an Alabama newspaper. Therefore, when an Alabama city appears in the lead-in, we don't think it's necessary to mention the state. We do include the state for cities outside Alabama--except for the major ones that everyone knows, like New York, Chicago or New Orleans.)

blocked out any of the Northern lights.

The lucidity of your reporting is only excelled by the sharpness of your photographic essays. There's a poetry in those pictures which makes good reading even better.

Stay as sharp as your reporters' pencils.

Edwin L. Zinman
New York, N.Y.

It's Coming-Out Time in Mobile

BY DAVID R. UNDERHILL?

MOBILE -- A few weeks ago, a full-page picture on the front of the Mobile Press Register's society section announced that this year's debutantes had arrived. The 14 of them had just "come out" at the glamorous Camellia Ball in the Admiral Semmes Hotel.

Last Sunday night, 27 more debutantes came out at another glamorous ball, in the Municipal Auditorium, and the head of the Press Register's society section didn't even know about it.

The ball at the auditorium was the 19th annual Debutante Cotillion, sponsored by the Strikers, a social organization of 40 Negro men. The group was founded in 1931.

There is an older, white social club in Mobile with the same name. LeBaron James, the president of the Negro Strikers, said the identical names were no accident.

According to James, the Negro Strikers and other Negro social clubs are trying to do the same kinds of things that the white clubs have been doing since before the Civil War--holding social affairs and performing civic services.

The Negro Strikers' most important affair each year is their huge Debutante Cotillion.

This year, the 27 Negro debutantes had a cocktail party at the Sheraton Bat-

tle House Hotel three days before the big ball. Then, Sunday morning, they had a breakfast at the Admiral Semmes Hotel, and checked into rooms there. They used the rooms throughout the day and evening, for changes of clothes and for receiving guests.

Mrs. Dorothy Daponte, one of Mo-

Sermon of the Week

Message of Christmas Teaches Trust in God

SELMA --What is the meaning of Christmas? One answer was given last Sunday by the Rev. P. R. Hunt, speaking on Selma radio station WHBB.

Mr. Hunt, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, said Christmas reminds us that "God will never fail us."



"If you ever have any doubts about God, remember how the Lord fulfilled His promise to send the Messiah. That's the meaning of Christmas," he said.

"God not only gave mankind a savior, but He prepared mankind for His coming," said Mr. Hunt.

"And when the hearts and minds of men had been prepared, when the stage had been set, the Lord fulfilled His promise and sent forth His son."

Mr. Hunt said he agreed with the words of "O Little Town of Bethlehem" --"God fulfilled the hopes and fears of all the years" when He sent Jesus.

From this we see that God fulfills His promises, said the minister. "So it is with the prayers you offer. He hears them. He will never fail."

"Maybe you once thought, 'God has kept promises for others, but not for me.'"

"Don't believe it," said Mr. Hunt. "Just as He sent His son, He is not going to fail you."

Mr. Hunt also noted God's "second promise, the promise that He will come again. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved!"

You Can Afford College

Many Negro high school students in Alabama will not be able to go to college because they can't afford it.

But for Miss Margaret Mitchell of Auburn, Claude H. Oliver of Birmingham, Miss Thelma Y. Smiley of Montgomery and 37 others, things may be different.

They are all finalists in this year's National Achievement Scholarship Program. The program, for outstanding Negro students, is run by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Scholarship winners will be announced in February.

If, for instance, Miss Mitchell wins one of the more than 200 National Achievement Scholarships, she will be financially able to study her main interest--veterinary science--at the college of her choice.

Even if she doesn't win a National Achievement Scholarship, just being a finalist may help her get financial aid from some other source. And it will certainly help her get accepted by the college she wants to attend.

National Achievement Scholarships provide the money Negro students need to go to college. The award may be as low as \$250 a year, or as high as \$1,500.

This month, high school juniors begin competing for next year's scholarships. There are two ways to enter the competition--either you can be nominated by your high school, or you can take the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

School officials can get nominating forms from the National Achievement Scholarship Program, 990 Grove St., Evanston, Ill. 60201. The qualifying test will be given in high schools throughout the state on Feb. 26 and March 1.

For these or any scholarships, you need more than just good grades. Your extra-curricular activities should show that you have "get-up-and-go" and a real interest in the world around you.

Though they may not think so, all qualified high school students can afford to attend the nation's top colleges--like Harvard, Yale, and Princeton for men and Radcliffe, Wellesley and Smith for women.

At all these schools, if students are

bright enough to be accepted, they are sure to get the scholarship money they need to attend.

The Cooperative Program for Educational Opportunity provides guidance for students who want to go to these colleges, and tries to tell applicants where they have the best chance of being accepted.

You can get an application for this program's services by writing to the Cooperative Program for Educational



Opportunity, 17 Hillhouse Ave., New Haven, Conn. 06520.

Students can, and probably should, have applications on file as early as their junior year.

The National Scholarship Service and Fund for Negro Students (NSFNS) also offers college advice to high school students, through their schools and guidance counselors. It helps qualified students get into their chosen colleges.

NSFNS awards scholarships of up to \$600 to students who win other scholarships, but still need more money to go to college.

For this service, you should write to NSFNS at 6 E. 82d St., New York, N.Y. 10028, by the spring of your junior year.

The Eleanor Roosevelt Scholarship

sophomores. However, the main qualification, James said, is that each "has to be a lady." He added that the hope of becoming a debutante encouraged Mobile's Negro girls to act like ladies as they grew up.

Wealth and family background play no part in the selection, according to Dr. Gaines Thompson, a member of the Negro Strikers.

Mrs. Daponte said most of the white debutantes were "born debutantes," and that their selection depended mainly upon their family's wealth and position in the community.

The white debutantes have many more balls and parties than the Negroes, and their affairs are carefully covered in the Press Register.

James said, "Last time we tried to get some publicity, the Press Register was nice enough to give us a picture way back toward the want-ad section, and it was so dark, you couldn't tell who was who."

George Cox, executive editor of the Press Register, said the paper often ran stories about Negro social events, but carried them in the news sections instead of the society section.

"I don't think we have to give any reason," he said. But he added, "My door's always open. Any nigger group can come in and talk."

News from Washington

Literacy Program Has U.S., Private Backing

BY LAURA GODOFSKY

WASHINGTON -- Alabama residents who can't read or write may get help next year from a vast new program now being set up by the U.S. government, private industry, labor unions and other groups.

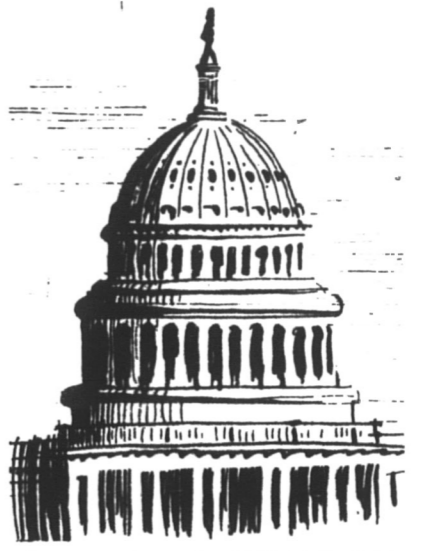
The federal government's anti-poverty agency, the Office of Economic Opportunity, is expected to announce a grant of \$800,000 to get the program started. A larger amount of money will be contributed by private groups.

Next March 1, James Farmer will leave his job as the national director of CORE, to head the private organization that will run the program. The new organization will establish literacy and education centers and projects all over the United States.

These centers and projects would be run in cooperation with local anti-poverty groups. The goal of the new program is to give people the education they need before they enter job-training programs.

Many people cannot now be trained for jobs, because they can't read textbooks or instructions.

The federal government may take new



steps to enforce the 1964 Civil Rights Act, judging from some of the recent changes that have been made in Washington.

U.S. Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach told all federal agencies to conduct regular inspections to be sure that programs getting federal money are desegregated. A program to train inspectors will start in February.

Katzenbach also said government agencies should not give federal money to applicants who won't promise not to discriminate, or who have not lived up to their promises.

Until Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, no program may receive federal aid if it discriminates.

Another important change in Washington is the transfer of the Community Relations Service from the Department of Commerce to the Justice Department, and the appointment of Roger Wilkins, a Negro, as its new director. He is the nephew of NAACP leader Roy Wilkins.

Wilkins replaces Calvin Kyles, acting director, who was reportedly forced out of his job. Kyles did not want the Community Relations Service moved to the Justice Department, and was said to have made many people angry by his firm stand.

The Community Relations Service was set up under the 1964 Civil Rights Act to help solve problems in racial-ly troubled communities.

Brooks Hays, former U.S. congressman from Arkansas, has taken over as assistant to the director of the CRS.

Another Washington change is the appointment of Harold Howe as the new U.S. Commissioner of Education. In a press conference after his appointment, Howe said that he would work to bring about school integration throughout the South.



To the TV viewer, New Year's Day means the famous Tournament of Roses Parade and other big parades, followed by bowl games and more bowl games. Featured attractions of the day:

SATURDAY, NEW YEAR'S DAY

ORANGE BOWL PARADE--Gala festivities in Miami, Florida 9 a.m. Channel 10 in Mobile, Channel 12 in Montgomery, Channel 13 in Birmingham and Channel 15 in Florence.

COTTON BOWL PARADE--Gala festivities in Dallas, Texas, 9:30 a.m. Channel 12 in Jackson, Miss., Channel 19 in Huntsville and Channel 20 in Montgomery.

TOURNAMENT OF ROSES PARADE --Gala festivities in Pasadena, Calif., 10:30 a.m. Channel 10 in Mobile, Channel 12 in Montgomery, Channel 12 in Jackson, Miss., Channel 13 in Birmingham, Channel 15 in Florence, Channel 19 in Huntsville and Channel 20 in Montgomery.

SUGAR BOWL GAME -- Missouri (7-2-1) meets Florida (7-3) in a contest of also-rans. At least the blots on Missouri's record were put there by good teams--Kentucky, Nebraska and UCLA. But Florida ran up a mediocre record against weak opposition. Missouri should be favored when the teams meet New Orleans, 12:45 p.m. Channel 10 in Mobile, Channel 12 in Montgomery, Channel 13 in Birmingham and Channel 15 in Florence.

COTTON BOWL GAME--Arkansas (10-0-0) defends its 22-game winning streak against Louisiana State (7-3). Arkansas has one of the country's most powerful offenses and a solid defense. LSU, however, is another also-ran. The Tigers made it into the Cotton Bowl by swamping hapless Tulane, 62 to 0. They may find out how it feels in the game in Dallas, 12:45 p.m. Channel 6 in Birmingham, Channel 12 in Jackson, Miss., Channel 19 in Huntsville and Channel 20 in Montgomery.

ROSE BOWL GAME--Michigan State (10-0-0) has already beaten UCLA (7-2-1) once this year, 13 to 3. The mighty

Spartans will probably increase the margin in Pasadena's "grand-daddy" of all bowl games, 3:45 p.m. Channel 10 in Mobile, Channel 12 in Montgomery, Channel 13 in Birmingham and Channel 15 in Florence.

ORANGE BOWL GAME--NBC's third bowl game of the day will be the best and most evenly-matched. Two of the nation's top-ranked teams--Alabama (8-1-1) and Nebraska (10-0-0)--go at it under the lights. It will be the Crimson Tide's speed against the Cornhuskers' power in the Miami game, 7 p.m. Channel 10 in Mobile, Channel 12 in Montgomery, Channel 13 in Birmingham and Channel 15 in Florence.

SUNDAY, JAN. 2

NFL CHAMPIONSHIP -- The Cleveland Browns, kings of the Eastern Conference, meet the Green Bay Packers, Western Conference champs, for all the money. The Packers will have the advantage of playing at home, 12:45 p.m. Channel 4 in Dothan, Channel 12 in Montgomery, Channel 13 in Birmingham, Channel 19 in Huntsville and Channel 20 in Montgomery.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 5

YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERT -- Leonard Bernstein presents a salute to the great Soviet composer Dmitri Shostakovich, on the Russian's 60th birthday, 6:30 p.m. Channel 12 in Jackson, Miss., Channel 19 in Huntsville and Channel 20 in Montgomery.

FRIDAY, JAN. 7

HOLLYWOOD DEBSTAR BALL--Introducing 12 of the most promising young actresses in films and TV. Steve Allen and Jayne Meadows host the event at the Hollywood Palladium, 9 p.m. Channel 3 in Pensacola, Fla., Channel 6 in Birmingham, Channel 8 in Selma and Channel 32 in Montgomery.



AT THE DEBUTANTE COTILLION



New Year at a Dying Dump

PHOTOGRAPHY AND TEXT BY DAVID R. UNDERHILL

MOBILE -- When the restaurant opens at the top of the new 33-story First National Bank building in Mobile, diners will be able to see the city dump from their tables. If they've come to the restaurant at night, from the opera or the symphony, and have a pair of those little binoculars that many take to performances, they may be able to see people outlined against the flames of burning trash.

These people make their living picking paper and metal out of the garbage and selling it to junk dealers. One hundred pounds of paper brings 50¢. Brass, copper, and aluminum bring much more per pound and are also much harder to find.

About 60 people--mostly middle-aged or elderly men and women--live at the dump in shacks built of trash. Perhaps 200 others, including children, come to the dump regularly to earn what they can.

Most people say they average \$3 or \$4 a day and can make \$10 on a rare lucky day.

"I don't like it. But I'm too old and busted up to



do anything else," explained one man who lives at the dump. Nearly all the older people gave similar reasons for being there. They aren't very happy, but they aren't angry either.

The younger ones come because they can't make

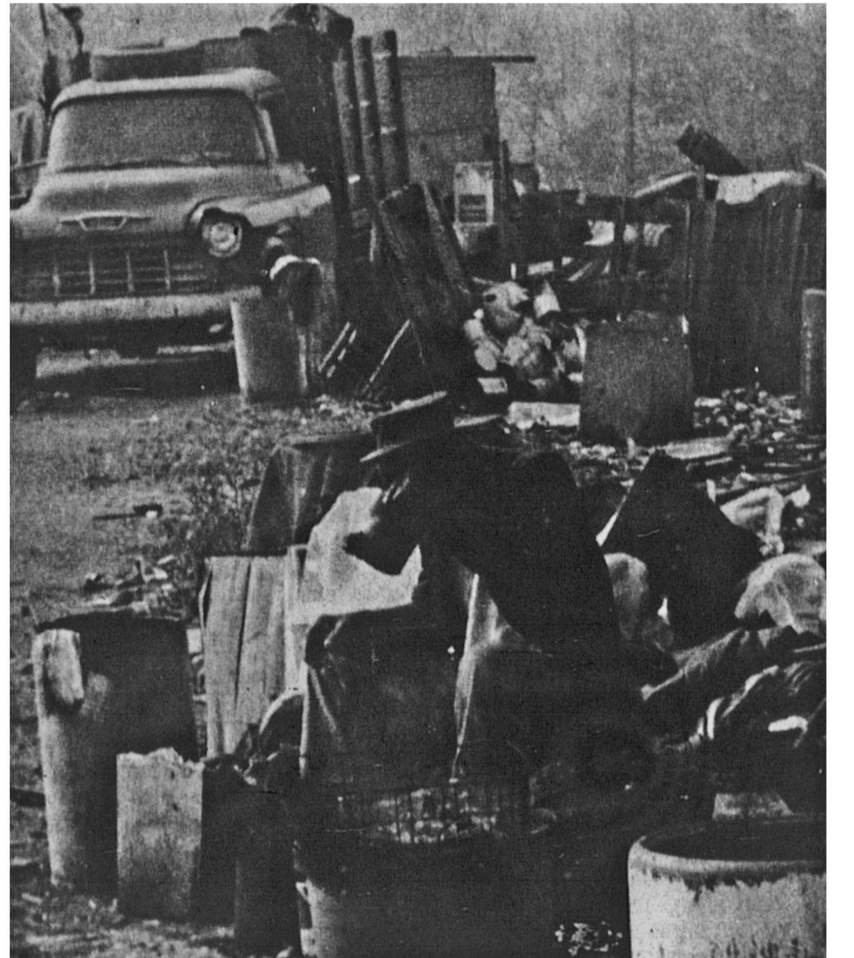
better money at anything else. A 21-year-old man, who left school in the seventh grade, recently quit a job in a restaurant to work at the dump. He made \$30 for 72 hours of dishwashing a week.

He, and most of the other young people and kids, didn't want their pictures taken, because they don't want anyone to know where they make their money.

But everyone at the dump is worried about the dump's closing. The city will soon open a new garbage plant. The dump won't close completely. Things like broken furniture, old refrigerators and tin cans will still be dumped there, and a few people may be able to make a living off them.

But food will be a problem. The people who live at the dump can't afford store prices, and so they eat what others have thrown away. All this will be going to the new garbage plant.

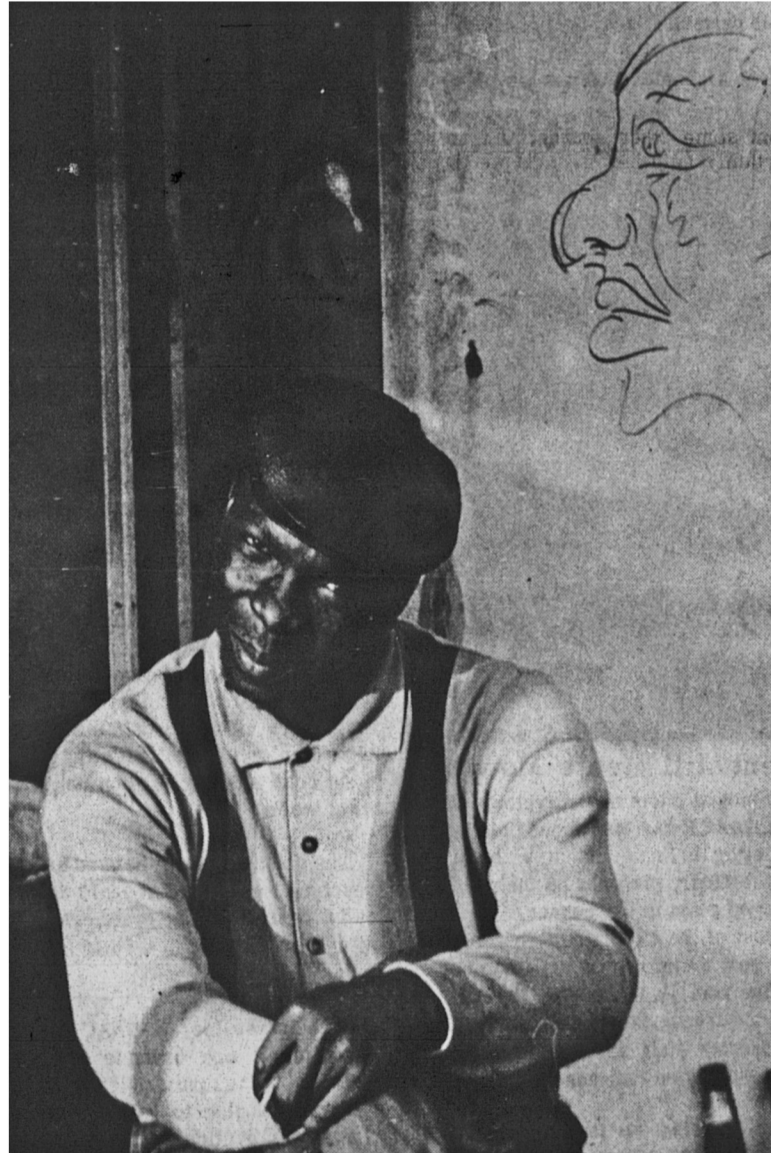
These people will have to make the best of whatever comes. They've all had lots of practice at that--like the lady sitting between two mountains of broken toys and crumpled Christmas wrappings, as flames climbed toward the top of one and smoke whirled around her. "The dump's real pretty right after Christmas, ain't it," she said quietly.



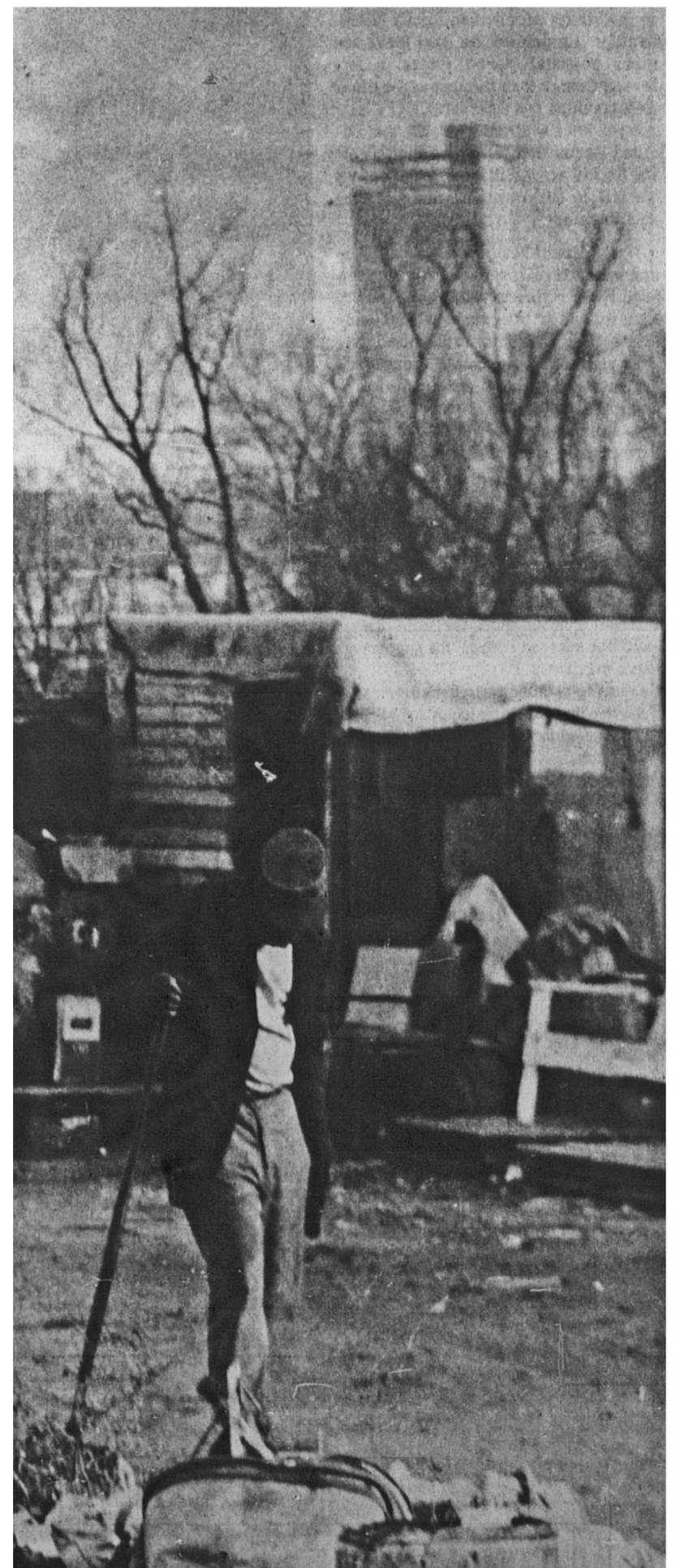
FOOD WILL BE A PROBLEM



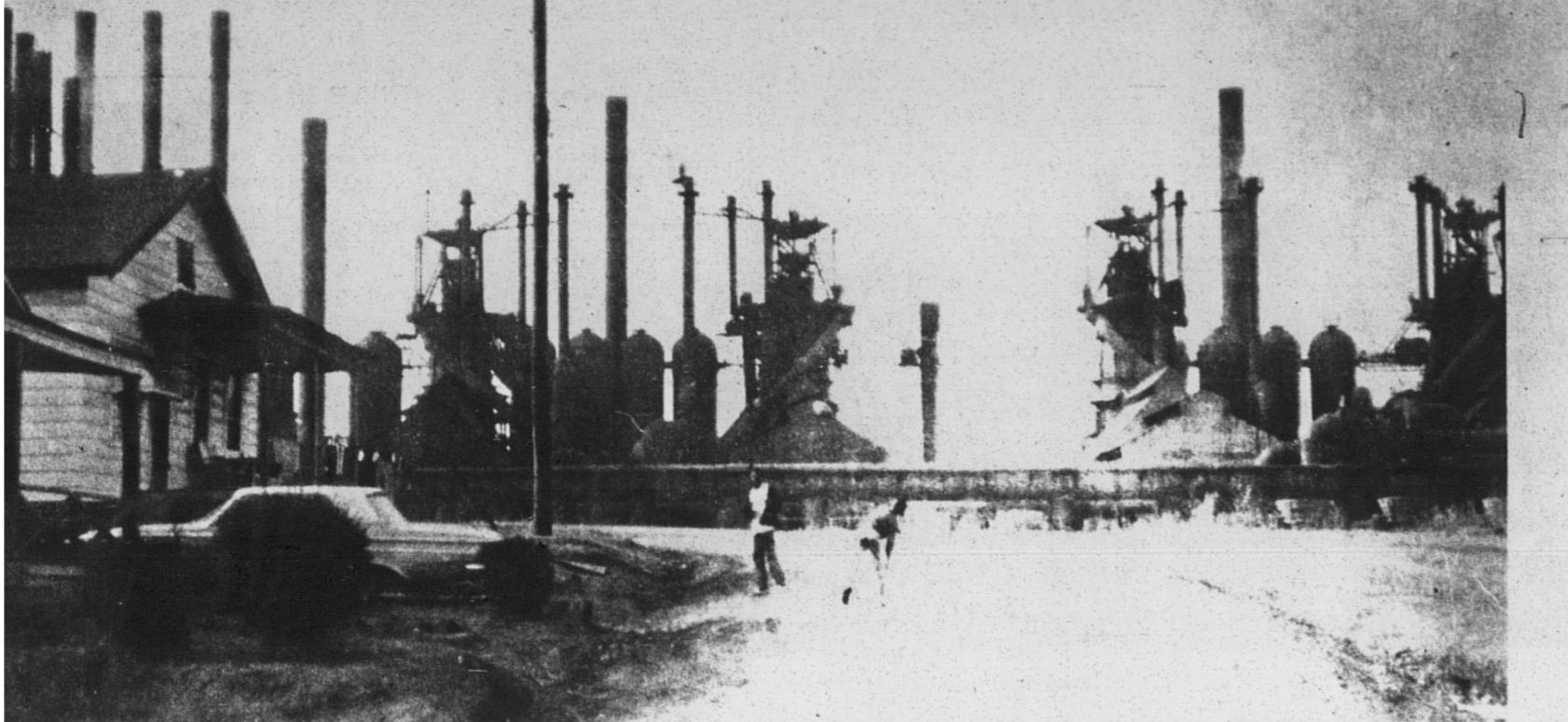
CLIFFORD HILL'S HOUSE SINCE 1956



THEY'VE ALL HAD PRACTICE AT MAKING THE BEST OF THINGS



Birmingham: Closed Door or Key to Future?



Thousands of men of both races are employed in the city's steel plants.

BY STEPHEN E. COTTON

BIRMINGHAM--At a hastily-called meeting in the basement of an aging, red-brick church, a group of Negro leaders here recently made a New Year's resolution.

They vowed that Jefferson County Negroes would register and vote in 1966. They resolved to organize the most massive voter registration campaign in the county's history.

But it will take a lot more than words to turn these vows into voters.

It will take hundreds of volunteer canvassers, phone calls, and speeches--and a miracle or two--to register the 80,000 unregistered Negroes in Jefferson County. Right now, less than one-third of the eligible Negroes are on the voting rolls.

One out of every four Alabama Negroes of voting age lives here in the state's largest county. Unless these voters are brought out in droves, Negroes won't have much of a say in state politics. White politicians will still be able to ignore the Negro and preach segregation.

That is why civil rights leaders are taking such an interest in voter registration in Birmingham.

Last month the Rev. Martin Luther King and Hosea Williams of SCLC came to town to rally support for a voter registration drive.

At a meeting of Negro students, Williams said, "Birmingham holds the key to the struggle for human dignity in Alabama." He pointed out that there are more potential Negro voters in Jefferson County than in most of the Black Belt counties put together.

"We were whipped crossing that Edmund Pettus Bridge, but we got the Voting Rights Act," Williams declared. "If we fail in Birmingham, that whipping was in vain."

But Williams realized that local leaders weren't at all prepared to organize a huge registration drive. So he asked Dr. King to send out telegrams to local leaders, calling a meeting to plan the drive.

Enough of Birmingham's Negro leaders gathered at the meeting in the basement of St. Paul's Methodist Church to give a pretty good idea of what shape the Birmingham civil rights movement is in.

At one point a noted church leader stalked out of the meeting saying that members of his organization had been insulted. Actually, no one had really been insulted. In fact, Williams had just finished showing that the vote drive could not succeed without the support of Negro ministers.

A couple of other men rushed out early saying that they'd be happy to help but they just couldn't stay, and, yes, they'd be in touch.

Most of the people who were left behind didn't have the slightest idea how

to plan mass community action. One man suggested that the whole campaign had already been planned and they should all go home.

Williams may have a hard time persuading Negro leaders to work hard on the vote drive. And it may be impossible for him to get them to work together.

You could fill a small convention hall with all of the "Negro leaders" of Birmingham. There are political leaders, social leaders, economic leaders, religious leaders, and civil rights lead-



The Alabama Christian Movement still meets Mondays--all leading in different directions. The only thing most of them have in common is that they don't have many followers.

Many of them talk about the others behind their backs: "He's timid,"... "He wants to be the darling of the power structure,"... "He is a white man's nigger,"... "He wants to get a cut of the poverty program,"... "He can speak for middle-class Negroes--and that's all."

And a lot of what they say is true. There hasn't been a strong popular

Negro leader in Birmingham since the Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth left to become pastor of a church in Cincinnati.

In 1963, Shuttlesworth, president of the Alabama Christian Movement, changed the course of the city's history. As one old preacher put it, "Birmingham ain't the same old ham it used to be."

Shuttlesworth is still the Christian Movement's president, and the people still call him "our leader," although he comes back to talk to them only once or twice a month. The Alabama Christian Movement still holds mass meetings every Monday night, and 300 people still attend. They still post guards outside the doors, just as they did in the old days.

But now it is mostly old people who attend the meetings. Young people have grown tired of listening to Monday night prayer sermons week after week. They no longer come to hear speakers reminisce about what happened in 1963.

The truth is that it is hard to give rousing speeches about what has happened in the past two and a half years. The city has settled back into a comfortable pattern of segregation, dotted here and there with a little integration. The Alabama Christian Movement has

chat with elected officials. Taking time off from work means earning less money, and the jobs they have pay poorly enough.

Discriminatory employment practices are at the heart of Birmingham's racial problems. Thousands of men of both races are employed in the city's steel plants, but Negroes almost always earn less than whites who work in the same plant.

Jobs in all plants used to be classified by race--only certain jobs were open to Negroes, and they were always the low-paying jobs.

Ten years ago, the federal government began to bring pressure on the companies to open all jobs to Negroes. Over the years, most companies have agreed to do so, although some still have not. (One major company ended discrimination just three weeks ago.)

The companies told Negroes they could advance up the "line of promotion" without discrimination--the man who was entitled to a higher paying job was supposed to get it, no matter what color he was.

But in many plants, it never seemed to work out that way. Negroes were told that they weren't qualified for a promotion, or that they would have to take a written test. Somehow the white men still seemed to get better jobs. And Negroes, even those who had worked at the plant for years, were still stuck in the lowest-paying jobs.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits such discrimination. Grover Smith Jr., chairman of the NAACP's Labor and Industry Committee, has been working overtime to bring violations to the attention of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Washington.

But the going has been slow. Many workers refuse to file complaints when they've been discriminated against. They are afraid of losing their jobs, or they don't think it will do any good. And the Equal Employment Commission really can't do very much. It can threaten to have government contracts withdrawn, and it can try to persuade employers to end discrimination. But if an employer doesn't have any government contracts, persuasion doesn't always work.

The complaints may be used for a far-reaching legal suit that could dramatically change hiring practices in Birmingham, but that is a while in the future.

In the meantime, the NAACP has managed to halt one example of discrimination in the plants. A large union local was planning to hold two separate Christmas parties--one for Negroes and one for whites--until the NAACP found out. The NAACP sent telegrams

to everybody from the president of the local union to the President of the United States. The parties were cancelled.

The NAACP has also been concerned with jobs outside the steel mills. Early in December it fired off letters to the managers of 21 major stores in the city, demanding that Negroes be given more and better jobs.

When an NAACP official checked up, he found, to his amazement, that all but three stores had complied within a week.

In areas other than job discrimination, Birmingham has made halting racial progress.

In 1965 five Negroes were appointed by the City Council to various city boards and agencies, although few Negroes seemed to think much of the people chosen.

Recently the public library quietly unlocked the doors to its washrooms, which had been closed ever since Negroes made their first integration attempts.

But most of the city's swimming pools, which closed, rather than integrate, have never reopened. At least one fieldhouse in a public park is padlocked, though park officials say they locked it because it's too rundown to be safe.

There are no Negro firemen in the city. And Birmingham is the one major city in the South without a single Negro policeman.

isn't an action organization any more, and soon there were only two or three pickets walking the "line." Visitors to City Hall simply ignored them.

There are hints now that the city is really anxious to hire Negro policemen, but few young men now are applying to take the exam. They don't want to risk the embarrassment of failing the test, as so many other Negroes have.

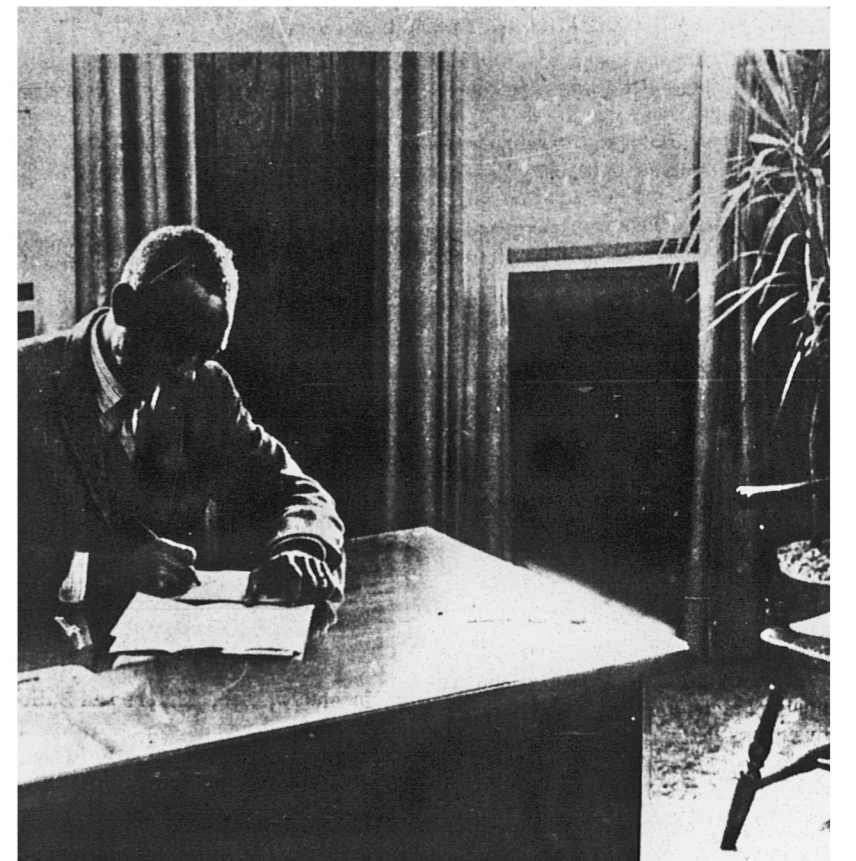
Meanwhile, Negroes themselves seem to be erecting new racial walls. This spring, construction will start on a new \$798,000 YMCA to replace the ramshackle 18th Street Branch. Because of its location--on Fourth Ave. North between 14th and 15th Streets--it is certain to be another all-Negro Y--just like the old 18th Street Branch. Most of the money for the new buildings will come from local Negro businessmen.

A. G. Gaston is asking that prominent citizens support a new Boys' Club for Negro youngsters rather than try to integrate the existing Boys' Club.

"Somebody's got to be practical enough to see that you can't use a Boys' Club to fight segregation," he explains. "We can't use the boys for that."

And where Negroes aren't actually erecting new racial walls they aren't working very hard to tear the old ones down.

There have been several voter registration drives in recent years, including one that began when the Voting Rights



John Nixon, state NAACP chairman and member of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, sits in the newly remodeled NAACP office. "Most leaders here are out of touch with the masses of Negro people," he says. "We've got to strike at the gut issues--unemployment and poverty."

For years the police force has been the symbol of segregation in Birmingham. Until seven years ago, Negroes weren't even allowed to take the examination necessary to become policemen. In 1958 a suit was filed demanding that the tests be given to Negroes as well as whites.

Since the ruling that Negroes must be admitted to the exams, the tests have been made much harder. Only a handful of Negroes have been able to pass, and all of those who did score well either have been disqualified or have not taken the job.

Again and again groups of Negroes have declared that the exams are much too hard. They have also charged that the exams have been administered unfairly.

In August, the Alabama Christian Movement decided to picket City Hall until Negroes were hired as policemen. But the Christian Movement just

Act went into effect last August, but none has gotten very far off the ground.

A number of people have labored hard over the years to organize the drives. But never have all of the county's Negro leaders come together to work on a single, massive campaign. As a result, far less than a third of the county's eligible Negroes are now voters.

And so a great deal rides on the current voter registration drive. If it succeeds, then, as Hosea Williams said, Birmingham might hold the key to human dignity in Alabama.

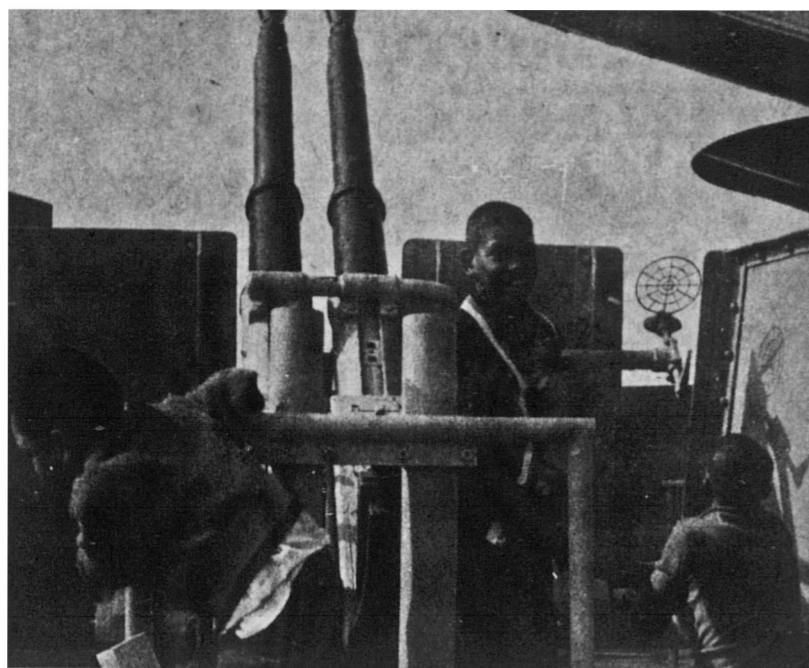
For if Birmingham leaders can bring out thousands of unregistered Negroes, then the drive will certainly inspire further progress both within the city and across the Black Belt.

But if the Birmingham drive fails--and Williams has said again and again how worried he is about it--the door to human dignity in Alabama may stay locked for many years to come.



Three weeks ago a new voter registration drive started in Birmingham.

Fire One!



MOBILE--Twenty-six SOUTHERN COURIER newsboys took an inspection tour of the battleship U. S. S. Alabama in Mobile Bay two days before Christmas. Finding everything in order, they left the ship anchored in the bay and went off to eat hot dogs, potato chips and marshmallows.

Prattville Group Wants Concessions by Jan. 30

PRATTVILLE--The Autauga County Voters Association last week asked the city of Prattville to declare its opposition to racial discrimination and extend city services to Negro neighborhoods.

Nine members of the association met privately with the mayor and city councilmen before the regular Dec. 21 council meeting.

Mrs. Sallie Hadnott, one of the nine, said later that they had told the council the Voters Association would "take whatever steps necessary" if its requests were not met by Jan. 30.

She said Voters Association president Willie Wood had told city officials he "hoped Prattville wouldn't have to learn by experience what other cities have learned, in order to comply with these requests."

The Jan. 30 deadline, Mrs. Hadnott said, was "just a division to determine whether they're going to do it or whether we're going to have to force them."

The association has asked for speed control signs, traffic signs, better street lights, "immediate attention" to public utilities, and a study of the possibility of paving streets in Negro neighborhoods.

The group also asked that policemen "be exact in making charges and reporting facts in cases that have racial overtones," that a Negro policeman be hired, and that a commission be formed to study how Prattville might participate in federal programs such as urban renewal.

Mrs. Hadnott said that except for the new requests concerning the police

THINK AND GRIN

BY ARLAM CARR JR.

Ray: What do you mean, your brother is always telling people where to get off?
Jay: He runs an elevator in a department store.

An Army recruit failed to salute a captain. The captain followed the recruit and demanded, "Didn't you recognize the uniform?"

"Yes, sir," replied the recruit, feeling the lapel of the captain's coat. "Pretty nice uniform. Look at this thing they issued me."

Harry: I hear that sculptors run in his family.

Larry: Yeah--they're all a bunch of chiselers!

A young doctor received a phone call from a doctor friend who wanted him to come over and play poker.
"Must you go out?" his wife asked.
"Yes, it's an urgent call," the young doctor replied. "There are three doctors there already."

Joe: A good day's work never killed anyone.

Moe: Neither did a good day's rest!

Bob: Why are you carrying that cane?
Rob: Because it can't walk by itself!

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Collins Released, Quick 'Trial' Clears Air

BY EDWARD M. RUDD

SUMTER COUNTY--In this heavily wooded western Alabama county, the road to peaceful race relations is under construction, and the signposts read "proceed with cautious optimism."

Things had been pretty much at a standstill up until the beginning of December. SNCC had come and gone. SCLC was going. The Sumter County Movement and the local chapter of the NAACP were not on speaking terms with the mayor or the county's bi-racial committee.

Then one of the leaders of the Sumter County Movement ran a traffic light in York and changed the whole situation.

Leaders of the Sumter County Movement claimed that the ticket for this violation and another for speeding, were police harassment. They called in Julian Hall from the NAACP, and went to see York Mayor Warren Grant.

The mayor decided to try the cases on the spot. He would be the judge and the members of the Sumter Movement would be the jury.

The "jury" found the "defendant" innocent on the speeding charge, but guilty of running the light.

After the "trial," the group turned to other problems like the anti-poverty program, and found that the air had been cleared.

"We discussed the poverty program --everything above board," said Mayor Grant. "When you clear the air, you can discuss anything."

Since then, the mayor has been meeting with the leadership from the NAACP and the Movement to discuss three major problems--a Negro boycott, the anti-poverty program, and the Sumter County Human Relations Committee.

The boycott had been called to improve job opportunities for Negroes in downtown stores in York. The Rev. Felix Nixon, president of the local NAACP chapter, gave the mayor the names of 14 Negroes who wanted temporary jobs during the Christmas rush.

The mayor took the names to the merchants, but came back empty handed. Mr. Nixon said he had no choice but to continue the boycott.

Mr. Nixon said he wasn't punishing the mayor with the boycott.

"In my best judgment, he's done a nice job and plenty else to keep down violence," said Mr. Nixon. "But he can't do it by himself."

Another thing the mayor can't do by himself is get an anti-poverty program in Sumter County. On this, he needs the help of Mr. Nixon and his group.

When the mayor applied for anti-poverty money last July, he was turned down by the government "due to the structure of the board." Mr. Nixon had complained that the mayor had "hand-picked" the two Negroes on the board of directors for the anti-poverty program.

Now the mayor had asked Mr. Nixon to provide the Negro representation on

the board. But Mr. Nixon won't cooperate until the mayor shows him the charter.

"We never heard the charter read, and we won't sign our name to anything we don't know the set up of," said Mr. Nixon. "We want to talk together and know who is who."

Mr. Nixon is also holding back on sending representatives to the Sumter County Human Relations Committee, a bi-racial group studying education, job opportunities and law enforcement.

But Mr. Nixon feels that the Negroes now on the committee don't speak for

the Negroes of Sumter County.

"When we ask them what they talk about at the meetings, they won't even tell us," said Mr. Nixon. "In October, we asked them to come explain and become a part of us. One showed up out of 14--and that was Negroes."

In all three problems, both sides still view the situation with a mixture of frustration and hope.

"They are going all the time in the opposite directions," said Mr. Nixon in an unhappy moment.

"But if we can talk," said Dr. Horton, "that's our best solution. I think we all have a cautious optimism."

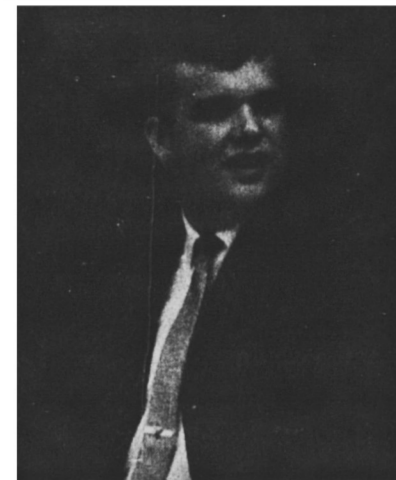
Wilkins Going to Prison

BIRMINGHAM--Lawyers for Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr. are appealing his ten-year jail sentence for conspiring. But even if that conviction is thrown out, Wilkins will serve a year in prison.

Wilkins, 22, will go to federal prison Jan. 4, to begin serving a one-year sentence for illegal possession of a sawed-off shotgun.

He had been on probation since he pleaded guilty to the shotgun charge in November, 1964. But last week Federal Judge Clarence W. Allgood ruled that Wilkins had violated the terms of his probation.

One violation was Wilkins' conviction last month in Montgomery for conspiring to violate the civil rights of people in the Selma-to-Montgomery march. Others involved leaving the Birmingham area without permission.



COLLIE LEROY WILKINS JR.

Wilkins said in court on Dec. 20: "If I made a mistake, it was an honest mistake, and nothing intentional was meant."

War on Poverty Comes To Macon County Area

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

TUSKEGEE--In Macon County, ten young men, all high-school drop-outs, are sweeping streets and erecting signs for the Tuskegee city government. But they aren't costing Tuskegee citizens a penny in wages.

The federal government is paying them.

In Macon, Lee, Elmore and Bullock counties, seasonal jobs are over for many agricultural workers. They have begun another kind of job--attending basic education classes.

The federal government is paying them.

In Lowndes County, students and teachers from Tuskegee Institute are teaching evening and weekend classes. They are giving poor children and adults a second chance at a good education.

The federal government has agreed to pay them, too.

All three projects are part of the federal government's War on Poverty. Each of them is designed to help poor people get better jobs by getting a better education.

The ten young men sweeping Tuskegee streets are members of the Macon County Neighborhood Youth Corps. The youth corps, sponsored locally by the county Board of Education, is providing jobs for 100 high-school drop-outs from poor families.

These 16- to 21-year-old youths earn \$1.25 an hour for 30 hours of work a week, for 26 weeks. Besides the city, they work for Tuskegee Institute, the Veterans Administration Hospital and public elementary schools. Their jobs range from carpenter's assistant to receptionist.

Tutoring and remedial education, to prepare them for better jobs, form an-

other part of the program.

Three hundred more students, still in high school, have been enrolled in another Macon County Neighborhood Youth Corps project since mid-September. They are paid for part-time work. This enables them to stay in school, instead of dropping out to earn money.

The federal government recently granted \$1,400,000 to educate the seasonal agricultural workers in Macon, Lee, Elmore and Bullock counties.

This education project is directed by George T. Dowdy, a Tuskegee Institute specialist in agricultural economics. It will pay the farm workers \$25 a week for spending 25 hours a week in special classes.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX)

Delicious Foods

B&P

Super Market

The People's Store

Griffin Ave. at Broad St.--Selma, Ala.

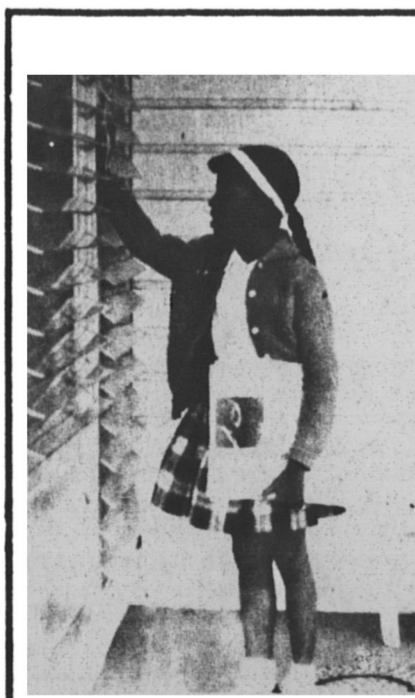
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Tales of the Wild West

BY BOBBI AND FRANK CIECIORKA

MOST PEOPLE TODAY don't know that Negroes played an important part in taming the American West. But they did. As early as 1539, a Negro explorer named Estevanico discovered the Pueblos of New Mexico. In the middle of the 1700's, Negro families were among the founders of Los Angeles. Before the Civil War, many Negroes were brought to Texas as slaves. After the war, many more went west to find a new life.

The big business of the West was raising cattle. The big problem of the West was to get the cattle to the people in the East who would buy them. That meant very hard work driving the big herds on the trails from Texas to the railroads in the North. The trip took two or three months. Over 5,000 Negro cowboys helped to do that work.

Besides being cowboys, many Negroes were cooks for the trail crews. The cook was often a cowboy who was too old for the hard work of riding with the herds. He was in charge of setting up camp and feeding the cowboys. He also kept

up their spirits by listening to their troubles and entertaining them. Sometimes he played a banjo or a fiddle.

Negro cowboys met with some discrimination. But there was less than in other parts of the country. In the East, poor white workers were afraid that Negroes would get their jobs so they hated Negroes. In the West, there were more jobs than workers. If men could work hard, that was more important than their race. Even so, very few Negroes ever got the top jobs.

There was more justice for Negroes in the West than in the South. If a white man murdered a Negro, he might hang for it if he were caught. And a Negro's testimony in court could put a white man at the end of a rope. But many of the whites who went west were uneducated confederates. So there were examples of people being murdered for no reason other than the color of their skin, just like in the South.

Thousands of Negroes also served in the cavalry. There were two regiments

WAR ON POVERTY

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE FIVE)

Seven thousand children and adults in seven counties will receive extra education through the Community Education Program developed by P. B. Phillips, Tuskegee Institute's dean of students.

The CEP, modeled on last summer's Summer Education Project and financed by a federal grant of more than \$2,000,000, will eventually operate in Lowndes, Macon and five other counties.

of Negro cavalry, the 9th and the 10th. They saw duty all over the West, from the border of Mexico clear up to Canada. The Indians called them "Buffalo Soldiers" because their tight curly hair looked like buffalo hair. They fought in many battles with the Indians. Negro cavalry captured Geronimo.

Sometimes Negro soldiers even fought against Negro Indians. One Negro who was on both sides was James Beckwith. He was a trapper, frontiersman, army scout and Indian fighter. He was also a member of several Indian tribes. When he died he was a chief of the Crows.

BESIDES WORKING AS cowboys or being in the cavalry, Negroes were also

farmers, trappers, prospectors and miners. A few owned saloons, hotels, dance halls and gambling houses. And some were outlaws.

One outlaw was Ben Hodges of Dodge City. He was a swindler, forger and cattle thief. Nobody trusted him but most people liked him. They thought his plans were funny. It was hard to find a jury that would convict him of anything. He lived a long life. When he died, he was buried near the founding fathers of Dodge City so that "they could keep an eye on him."

Another Negro outlaw who was not so well liked was Cherokee Bill. He was a robber and a killer. By the time he was 20 years old, he had killed so many people that the judge who sentenced him to hang said he was a monster. They asked him if he had any last words as he stood on the gallows. He said, "No, I came here to die--not to make a speech."

There were many Negro outlaws and there were many Negroes who rode with the posses that tried to catch them. Negroes rode with Billy the Kid and Negro cavalry rode after them. Negroes had a part in just about everything that happened in the West. Many were famous for bronco busting and for bulldogging.

Rodeo workers today say that Bill Pickett, a Negro, invented bulldogging. Pickett worked on the same ranch with Tom Mix and Will Rogers. In the early 1900's, they went around the country putting on shows. Pickett's bulldogging act was always one of the highlights of the show.

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Birmingham March

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

King Jr. addressed a mass meeting here. But that week, only 341 of the county's 80,000 unregistered Negroes went down to the courthouse to register.

The following week, the Northern volunteers began to arrive.

Last Monday the drive began to pick up. By Tuesday about 50 Negroes were turned away from the courthouse in Bessemer, because the registration

Gray Tops Blue in Rough Game; Negro Stars Integrate Classic

MONTGOMERY -- For 26 years, some of the best college football players in the country have re-enacted the Civil War here on Christmas Day, in the Blue-Gray game.

This year the game looked more like the Civil War than usual, as the all-star teams from the North and the South ended an exciting game with a wild-swinging brawl.

The Gray won the game, 23 to 19, on a touchdown pass in the final 25 seconds. Almost unnoticed in the excitement was the fact that for the first time, Negro football stars were playing in the Blue-Gray game.

Both the North and South teams were integrated. The Southern squad included Florida A&M stars Eugene Thomas at halfback and Johnny Holmes at tackle. End Jim Long of Purdue and tackle Bill Briggs of Iowa were the Negroes on the North roster.

Briggs was in the thick of the free-for-all that broke out after the South scored the winning touchdown. But the fight was enthusiastically joined by many other players, without regard for race, color or national origin.

As the game ended, South defensive back Anthony Golmont of North Carolina intercepted a desperate Blue pass. Three North players came off the bench and tackled him. The officials apparently didn't notice this violation of the rules.

There were reports that the Blue and Gray Association integrated the game for financial reasons. The association is operated by the Montgomery Lions Club, and income from the game supports Lions charities.

Television networks had refused to broadcast the game since 1962, because it was segregated. According to one report, the sponsors decided to integrate the game because they needed the profitable TV contract.

This was vigorously denied by Allyn



McKeen, the former Mississippi State coach who now runs the Blue-Gray classic.

"Absolutely no pressure was put on the association to integrate the game," said McKeen. "We did it because we thought the time had come."

"It takes a long time to change social customs," he explained. "If we had tried it sooner, we would have had trouble. But now people in the South recognize that integration is here."

Last year, he said, the stands were integrated for the first time, and there was no unfavorable reaction.

McKeen said the integrated teams would boost attendance at the game. "All of the whites still come," he said, "and now more colored people are buy-

ing tickets."

According to McKeen, the players' social life was fully integrated. The entire Southern squad stayed at the Whitley Hotel, while the North players all roomed at the Jefferson Davis Hotel.

"The ballplayers went everywhere together," McKeen said. "One night, for example, we had a big party with entertainment at the Jeff Davis Hotel. All of the ballplayers and coaches were there with their wives, and everyone had a good time."

McKeen also predicted that Auburn and the University of Alabama will soon have integrated football teams.

"It's a foregone conclusion," he said. "If the teams were integrated this year, there might have been some reaction, but in three years there won't be any at all."

Hero of the Blue-Gray game was South quarterback Randy Johnson of Texas A&I, who completed 20 of 33 passes for 308 yards and two touchdowns.

Johnson threw the game-winning TD pass to end Harlan Lane of Baylor.

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