

*It's a bird...it's a plane...it's a Screaming Eagle*

# Military Shows Off Skills and Equipment

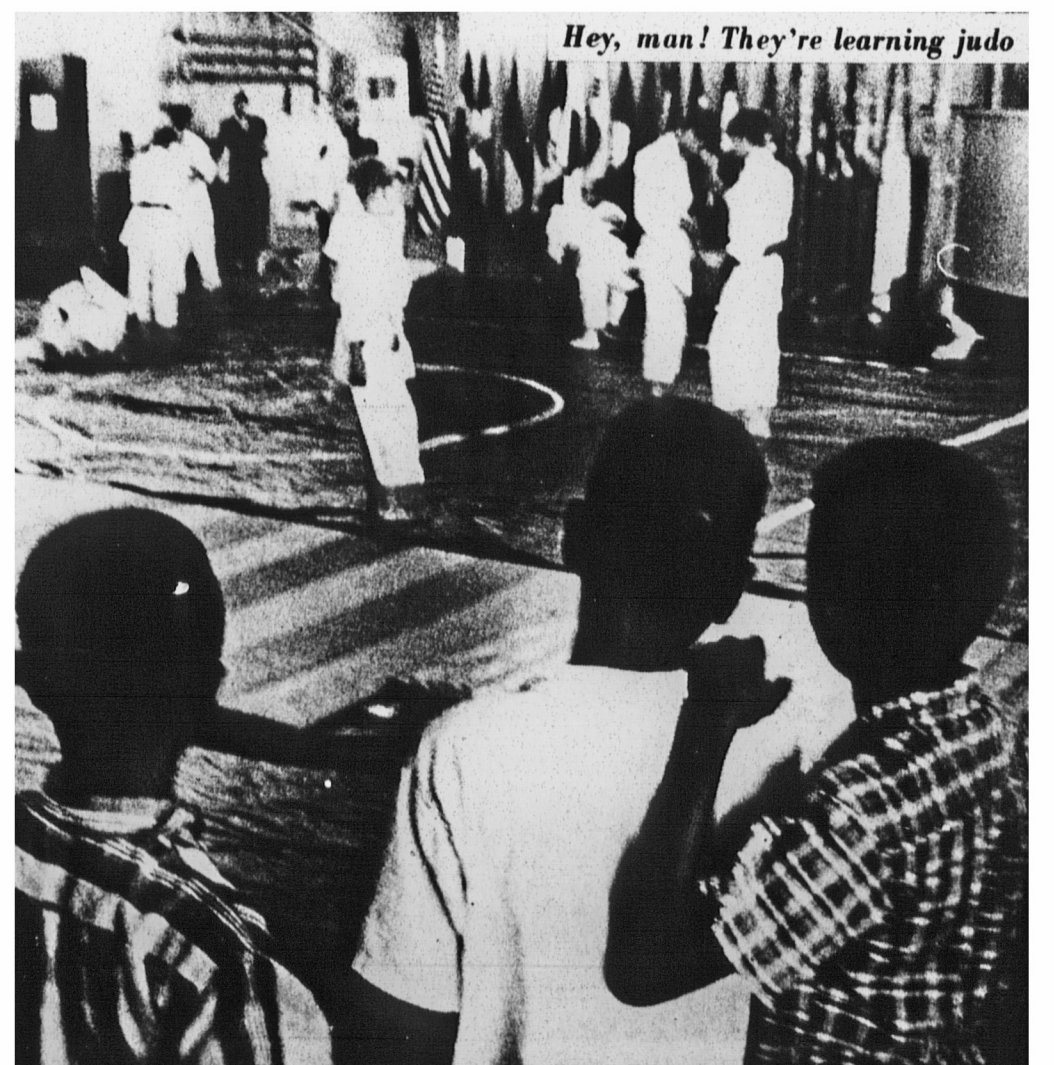
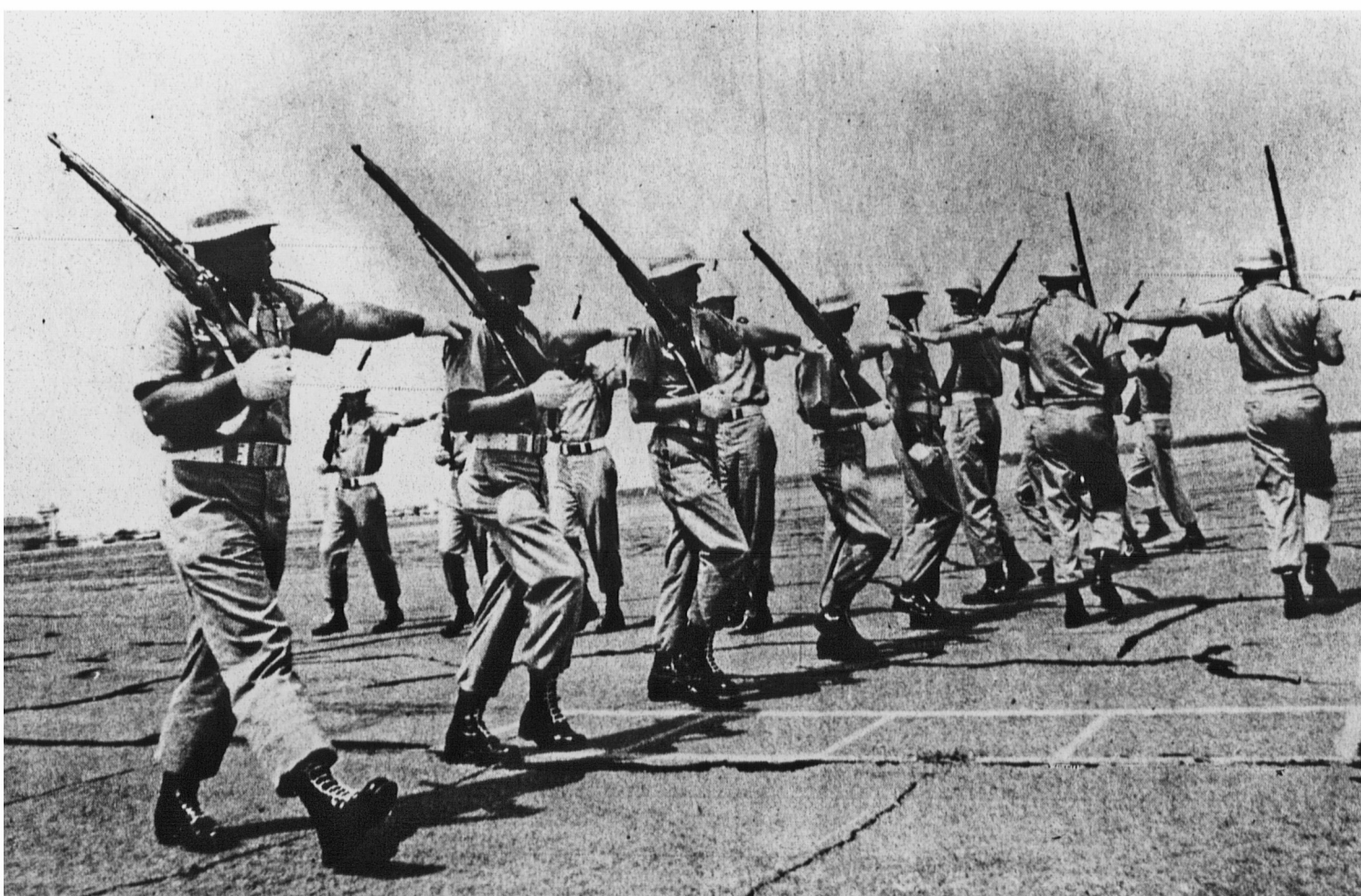


OPEN HOUSE  
AT  
MAXWELL AIR  
FORCE BASE,  
MONTGOMERY

*Now I know what the reserve chute is for*



Photos by  
Jim Pepler



*Hey, man! They're learning judo*

## PPC Runs Independent Co-Ops

# New Jobs for Poor People in Mississippi

BY GAIL FALK

JACKSON, Miss.--Every other Tuesday morning Doug Jenkins leaves Jackson with ten or 12 big burlap sacks full of cotton, hundreds of yards of cloth, several big cakes of clear wax, and supplies of felt, suede, glue, thread, and yarn.

When he returns, late at night, all these things are gone. In their place, he has hundreds of stuffed dolls and as many sets of doll clothes, about 400 brightly-colored candles, shoe boxes full of wooden and suede jewelry, and a menagerie of stuffed lions, owls, and rabbits.

Jenkins works for the Poor Peoples Corporation (PPC). Tuesday is his day to deliver supplies to the six PPC co-ops in Clay and Monroe counties, and to pick up the work they have produced during the past two weeks. On other days of the week he visits the six other PPC cooperatives now operating around Mississippi and brings back quilts; leather belts, hats, and handbags; cotton dresses, and hand puppets.

He delivers his loads to a big Jackson warehouse called Liberty House, where they are checked for quality and mailed to fill orders from all over the country. On an average week, Jenkins picks up and delivers \$4,000 to \$5,000 worth of goods.

Jenkins' truck is the practical link that joins all the parts of PPC. But what really holds them together is an idea shared by PPC's 125 workers.

PPC staff member Willie Blue put it this way: "There are thousands of black people all over Mississippi who can't get jobs, and who don't like being on welfare. The idea behind PPC is to have them earn their daily bread with their own ingenuity."

Jenkins had a simpler explanation: "PPC is black power--it's showing people how to do something for themselves."

Jesse Morris had the idea two years ago when he was a SNCC worker. Since poverty was the most serious problem faced by black people in Mississippi, he reasoned, employment was what they needed most. And he believed that the only jobs Mississippi poor people would be able to depend on were ones they created by and for themselves.

His answer was to start the Poor Peoples Corporation, a group of cooperatives owned and run by Mississippi poor people. The PPC co-ops are groups of six to 20 people that manufacture craft items--the products Jenkins picks up. In the co-ops, each worker does an equal share of the labor and gets an equal share of the pay. Each member has one vote.

Early in 1965, Morris gathered a staff and raised a few thousand dollars in loans and donations from sympathetic Northerners. This money was divided into loans to help new co-ops get on their feet. The loans were small--just enough to buy one or two sewing machines, pay the first month's rent, or purchase a month's supplies.

The most important things PPC could offer new groups were advice, moral support, and the chance to work very hard doing something for themselves.

For many people, that was enough. So far PPC has helped start 17 co-ops all over Mississippi. The co-ops operating now are in Holmes, Pike, Clay, Bolivar, and Monroe counties.

Some of the people who joined PPC had lost jobs because of civil rights activity. John Brown, now president of the West Point Woodworking Co-op, used to work at a stockyard. But he quit his job after Negroes who tried to integrate a cafe at the stockyard were met with cattle prods. Brown, who had worked with the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party for three years, couldn't get another job because "they (white people) considered me as a civil rights worker. They wouldn't hire me for nothing."

Many others who now work with PPC never had jobs before. Mrs. Mary Chandler and several of her friends in Mt. Nebo community near Prairie had been trying to find work at the factories in the area before they got together to start the Mt. Nebo Sewing Co-op. The factories "told us they weren't hiring anyone over 50, and many others under 50 weren't getting jobs either," Mrs. Chandler said.

And some people quit their old jobs when they heard about PPC. Mrs. Mary Diggs, now secretary of the Athens Community Co-op, used to work in a white lady's house. "Well, you gets tired of going out there working in another person's home," she said. "We heard about this and we discussed how we could start something of our own so we wouldn't have to go out and be maids all the time."

"We Negroes never had the opportunity to do something like this on our own. Now we're coming out from under the white people."

The co-ops are all different because it is up to the members of each group to set their own rules and manage their own affairs.

At Mt. Nebo, for example, the members decided they would work better if they set strict hours for themselves. They work an eight-hour day, five days a week. Anyone who is ten minutes late gets a half-hour's pay deducted from his check.

But at Athens Mrs. Cordelia McFarland said she liked the co-op because "we can work out here as long as we want and stop when we get ready. If we work for somebody else, we work under them and they be telling us when to start and when to stop."

The workers at West Point also come and go as they please. "I don't push no time clock for nobody," explained John Brown, "and I don't want to make anybody else do that. As long as everybody does their share of the work, it doesn't matter what time they do it."

The pay checks Jenkins delivers to the co-ops are different sizes. Some co-ops are paid on a piece rate--which means, a PPC worker said, "if you don't make it, you don't get it." The price is set so that each worker should be able



MELTING WAX AT THE WHITE STATION CANDLE CO-OP

to earn \$1.25 an hour, but few co-ops are able to reach this level.

Some of the co-ops say they could earn \$1.25 an hour per worker if they could buy more sewing machines or had better lighting. At the Shelby co-op some of the workers sew slowly because they need eyeglasses, but don't have enough money to buy them.

Members of the White Station candle co-op, near West Point, said their weekly pay this winter was sometimes as low as \$8 and seldom more than \$15. They work in a dark, crowded building where it's hard to produce candles efficiently. In the winter it often was so cold that the wax got stiff and many candles had to be made over.

But at least one co-op has solved this kind of problem. The Prairie Sewing Co-op near Una was originally housed in a similar shack, but the members raised enough money for a new building

by holding socials, selling plates, and getting local people to contribute the cost of one cinder block. Now the co-op members have room to spread out and light to see by--and their wages have gone up. At the Una co-op, members take turns checking the finished products. Mrs. Eula Williams works full-time at Liberty House in Jackson, checking the stitching and the neatness of each item that comes in. Occasionally she sends back a stuffed owl without a nose or a pillow that isn't plump enough.

Why is there such an emphasis on quality? "We don't want people to buy our work just because they dig buying black. We want them to buy it because it's good," said Willie Blue.

And PPC wants to make itself an independent business. "We don't want to depend on a sympathy market," said Jesse Morris at a recent PPC meeting

in Jackson. "We're trying to be a business that is a business, so that if people get tired of civil rights--which they are--this thing can still go on."

To show what he meant, Morris told about a white-owned store in Florida. "The owner tells us to send the stuff down without the labels. They're just interested in the quality."

This determination to be independent has made PPC different from similar co-operative efforts around the South. From the start, its members realized there was more to becoming a successful business than producing a good product. They set up Liberty House in Jackson to take charge of buying the supplies and selling the finished goods.

Over the last year, the Liberty House staff has tried to make PPC a large-scale operation that does not depend on one person or one group.

Now Liberty House has a big mail-order department that sends out 10,000 brochures every month. PPC puts ads in newspapers around the country and has contracts with several anti-poverty groups.

PPC goods are sold across the nation in 70 stores with names like Xanadu, The Moppet Shop, and Toast and Strawberries. Recently, Liberty House opened three outlet stores of its own in Yellow Springs, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; and New York City.

But PPC still needs money. The corporation has not received any large foundation grants, and none of its applications for federal aid have been approved. The staff estimates that it would take \$95,000 to expand PPC and make it really competitive. The money would be used to build up stock, buy supplies in quantity, and do more sales promotion.

Whether or not PPC is able to grow larger, it has built itself a solid foundation. The idea--at first called an idealistic dream by many civil rights groups--has become a reality that may outlast them all.



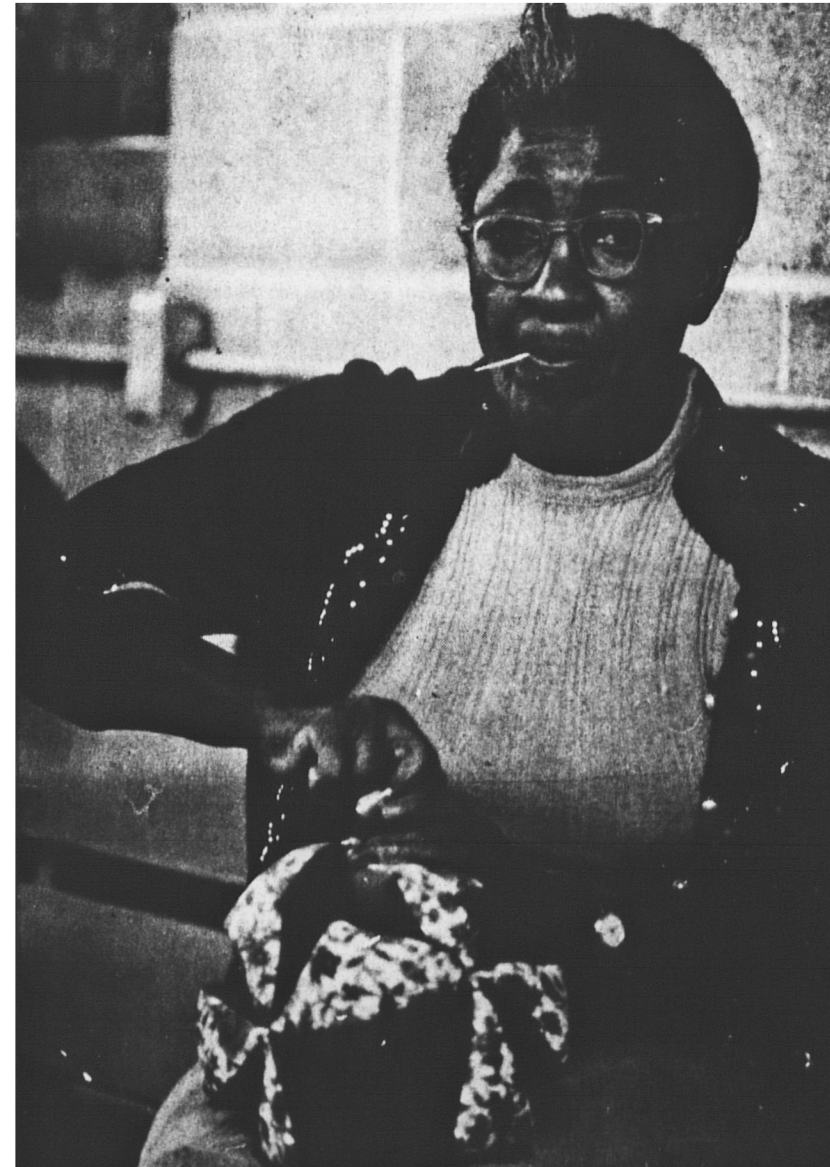
MRS. CORDELIA MCFARLAND (REAR) AT THE ATHENS CO-OP



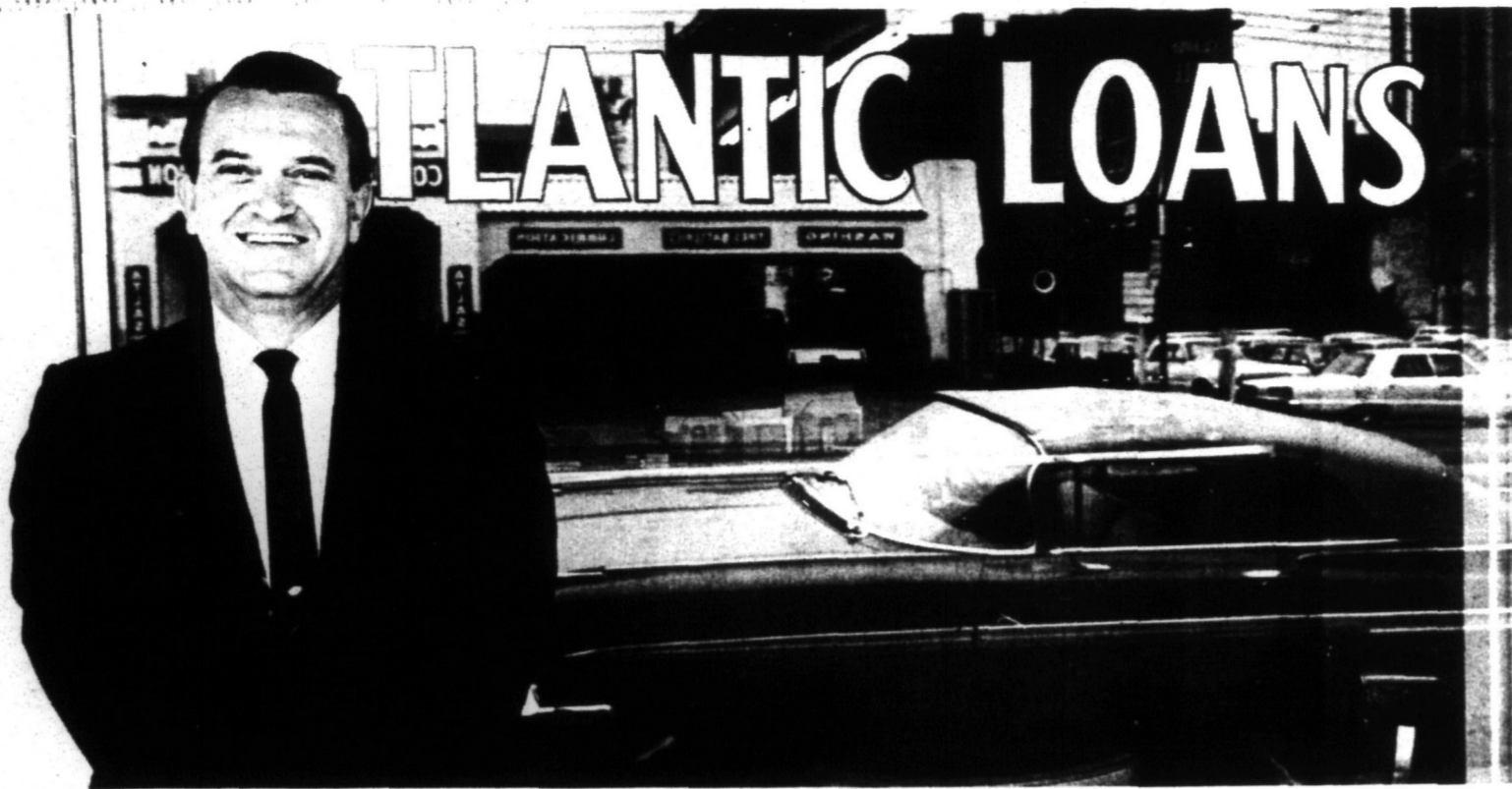
PPC PRODUCTS ON SALE IN WEST POINT



AT THE WEST POINT WOODWORKING CO-OP



AT THE PRAIRIE SEWING CO-OP



*W.H. (Bill) Dennis*

**TO  
ALL  
MY  
FRIENDS**



*W.H. (Bill) Dennis*

**W.H. (BILL) DENNIS** *is now Manager of*

# **Atlantic Finance Co.**

**236 Bibb St., Montgomery, Ala.**

**269-1246**

**ATLANTIC** *is: Ready, willing and able to take care of your financial needs.*

*Drop in and see us at* **ATLANTIC FINANCE NOW**

*There will be no waiting for your money.*

See **W.H. (BILL) DENNIS** at **ATLANTIC FINANCE**

**Game of the Week**

**These Girls Play Rough!**

BY MICHAEL S. LOTTMAN  
MONTGOMERY--You may not believe this, but the Magnificent Nine of North Montgomery outlasted the Maxwell Air Force Base Ladybirds, 11 to 8, last Friday in a girls' softball game. It was the sixth win against no losses for the all-Negro outfit from North Montgomery. The Ladybirds were playing their season opener on their home diamond.

The girls kept the fans awake with 11 errors, 12 bases on balls, 11 stolen bases, one hit batswoman, four wild pitches, and four passed balls.

The fans also got a laugh out of the umpire who yelled, "He's out!" as the lead-off batter, Miss Lorraine Jackson of North Montgomery, was thrown out at first.

After two innings of play, the Magnificent Nine hadn't managed to hit the ball out of the infield--but they still had three runs. The Ladybirds, hitting the long ball, led at this point, 4 to 3.

When the visitors rallied for three runs in the top of the third, the Ladybirds rallied right back for three of their own, making it 7 to 6 going into the fourth.

But the hand-writing was already on the wall for the Ladybirds. They were hitting some tremendous clouts to the outfield, but most of the balls were being hauled in by Miss Arwilda Griggs and Miss Beatrice Turner, left-fielder and center-fielder for North Montgomery.

The Ladybird defense, on the other hand, disintegrated completely in the fourth inning. The Magnificent Nine scored four runs on just one real hit.

The visitors got their 11th run in the fifth inning, when Mrs. Barbara Moses stole home while the Maxwell pitcher wasn't looking.

Then the game got serious. Even in girls' softball, there are times when a game suddenly becomes a test of nerve.

The first such time was in the Maxwell sixth. One run was in, and the Magnificent Nine's 11-8 lead didn't look



MISS CHERYL ARMISTEAD PITCHES TO MISS CISSIE COOPER very healthy. With Miss Nancy Kramer on first, the batter--Miss Carolyn Barnes--hit a shot out over second base. But Mrs. Mattie Powell, the North Montgomery second basewoman, flung herself through the air, caught the ball, and threw it first for a double play.

In the seventh and last inning, there was another tense moment. With two out, the Ladybirds loaded the bases, and Miss Helen Combs--who had two RBIs already--came to the plate.

To become a member of the  
**WORLD PRAYER CONGRESS**

Write in your prayers. Pray for health, love, business success, or whatever your problem may be. Your prayer will be given special blessings and returned to you. Send as many prayers as you wish, as often as you wish. To obtain membership card, send \$5.00 to:

N. GREEN, Treasurer (NGFP)  
W.P.C. Dept. 86  
P.O. Box 72332  
Watts, Calif. 90002

**Troy Program**

Little Miss Brenda Richardson, nine years old, of Bessemer, will speak at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 28, in the Bethel Baptist Church in Troy. She will speak on citizenship. You must hear her--she is the best at her age in Alabama. The public is invited. The Rev. L. C. McMillian, pastor; Mrs. Eva Daniels, secretary.

**Radio Station WAPX**

HAS INSTITUTED **The Pastor's Study**  
BROADCAST DAILY  
MONDAY THRU FRIDAY, 9:00 to 9:15 AM

THE PASTOR'S STUDY is a daily devotional prepared under the auspices of and in conjunction with the Montgomery Ministerial Alliance. Listen to your favorite minister in our Pastor's Study.

Also, for your continuing listening, our GOSPEL PROGRAMS, 4:00 to 6:00 AM and 9:15 to 11:00 AM, and with Gretchen Jenkins from 11:00 AM to 12 Noon, Monday thru Friday.

**WAPX Radio**  
1600 k.c. in Montgomery

Patronize  
**Courier**  
Advertisers

**Blessings Blessings**

The man with the gift--Rev. Roosevelt Franklin of Macon, Georgia. Some questions you may wish to know:

- Is my sickness natural?
- Can my husband stop drinking?
- Can my wife stop drinking?
- Can my loved ones be returned?
- Where can I get money?

They call me the Rootman. But I am only a servant of God. Because God is the answer to all life's problems. I am the king of all modern-day prophets. Send for my special selected Bible verses--to be read on special days.

Send self-addressed envelope and \$3.00 for Bible verses and spiritual message. You will receive Bible verses by return mail. Send to:

Rev. Roosevelt Franklin  
830 Morrow Avenue  
Macon, Georgia 31201  
Phone (Area Code 912) 745-6475  
I SPECIALIZE IN ALL CASE WORK

**County Gets 'One Man, One Vote'**

BY GAIL FALK

BAY ST. LOUIS, Miss.--"One man, one vote" is for counties as well as states.

That was the opinion of federal judges Claude Clayton, J. P. Coleman, and Harold Cox, who ruled last Friday that every supervisor's beat in Hancock County must have about the same number of people.

Until now, 68% of the people in the county lived in one district. These people paid 73% of the taxes, but had just one of the five supervisors, said Hancock County newspaper editor Powell Glass Jr.

Glass--who brought the suit asking for equal districts--said that under the new plan, the Gulf Coast county will have no beat with more than 3,600 people or less than 3,000.

The case was decided last week so that new districts can be set up in time

for the August primary elections. In his opinion, Judge Cox said he believed the U. S. Supreme Court would extend the one man, one vote rule to local governments.

Last Monday, however, the Supreme Court refused to apply the rule to a number of local governing bodies--including the Houston County (Ala.) board of supervisors.

Many one man, one vote suits have claimed that unequal districts were used to keep Negroes from holding office. But Glass said race was not a factor in the Hancock suit.

What difference will new districts make? "This will affect the problem of where you spend the money in the county," predicted Glass, who is editor of the Sea Coast Echo in Bay St. Louis.

**Female Help Wanted**

Maids to \$55--Cooks to \$65  
Housekeepers to \$75 weekly  
(Ages 18 to 60)  
FREE ROOM & MEALS IN N.Y. & BOSTON  
All expenses advanced--Tickets sent  
Write or call collect:  
**ABC Maids**  
934 W. College Street, Florence, Ala.  
766-6493

**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.

100% IMPORTED HUMAN HAIR

**WIGS**  
'ready-to-wear'  
**\$19.<sup>95</sup>**

AVAILABLE COLORS  
Black Dark brown  
Off black Auburn

**PROMPT DELIVERY**

Send \$5 deposit on each item (money order), and pay mail-man balance plus COD and postage charges. Or send full price and we will ship post-paid.

**VARIG Imports**

253 W. 49th St.  
New York City, N.Y. 10036  
Phone (212) 586-6564



In Montgomery, Ala.

**You Can Depend on WRMA**

WRMA News airs racial, civic, and social information.

Do you have adequate street lights? Proper police protection? For a public complaint or a note of praise--call Norman Lumpkin, WRMA News, at 264-6440.

**WRMA--950 on Your Dial**

**WJLD**

1400 on Your Dial

**Program Schedule**

**Monday through Friday**

ALL-NIGHT SHOW  
Midnight-6 AM "Little Walter" Anglin  
(Friday--Johnny Jackson)

BIG D WAKE-UP SHOW  
6-8 AM Sam Double "OO" Moore  
OLE GOSPEL SHIP  
8-11 AM Willie McKinstry  
SAM MOORE SHOW  
11 AM-3:30 PM Sam Double "OO" Moore

LARRY HARGROVE SHOW  
3:30-8 PM Larry Hargrove  
OLE GOSPEL SHIP  
8-10 PM Willie McKinstry  
LATE DATE  
10 PM-Midnight Johnny "Jive" McClure

**Saturday**

ALL-NIGHT SHOW  
Midnight-6 AM Lewis White  
WEEKEND SPECIAL  
6 AM-Noon Larry Hargrove  
SATURDAY SESSION  
Noon-6 PM Johnny "Jive" McClure  
SATURDAY EXPRESS  
6 PM-Midnight "Little Walter" Anglin



**Sunday**

ALL-NIGHT SHOW  
Midnight-10 AM Johnny Jackson  
FAVORITE CHURCHES  
10 AM-4 PM "Little Walter" Anglin  
SONGS OF THE CHURCH  
4-6 PM Willie McKinstry  
JOHNNY JACKSON  
6 PM-Midnight

News at Twenty-Five and Fifty-Five Past the Hour

**BIG D RADIO**  
Birmingham



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.**