New Zoning Law Has Rough Going

BY MARY ELLEN GLEE

"The new zoning law is a wonderful thing," a white man said to the Negro editor last week. "If you live in a residential district and someone wants to put a gasoline station or the like, he has to go to a hell of a lot of trouble to try and have that thing permitted.

There are about the only favorable comments on the new proposed zoning ordinance at Tuskegee City Commission meetings. The meeting is held weekly, and the public turns out in large numbers to hear what is going on. The meetings are not always the best attended, but there are always a lot of people in the audience who listen carefully to what is being said.

"It's rather a defensive attitude," the man said. "You can't make a lot of changes, you have to do what you are supposed to do.

The ordinance, which was passed by the city commission, is designed to control land uses in residential, commercial, and industrial areas of the city. It is hoped that the new law will help to prevent the overdevelopment of the city and to promote the welfare of its citizens.

However, there are those who oppose the new zoning law. They believe that it will prevent the growth of the city and that it will limit the freedom of the residents to use their property as they see fit.

"The zoning law is a big mistake," a Negro woman said. "I don't see how it is going to help anybody.

But many Washington observers said they were happy with the new zoning law. They said that it was a step in the right direction and that it would help to prevent the overdevelopment of the city.

"I think it's a good law," one observer said. "I hope it will work.

The new zoning law is not yet in effect, and it will be some time before it can be determined whether it will be successful or not.
Wallace May Be President

By HENRY CLAY MOORE
The Southern Courier

This is a Marine from Alabama

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AKRON, Ala.--Remember how "Fourth Day" used to be? You know—barbecue, soda pop, beer, music, and laughter. The day when your "big shot" kinfolks from "up the road" came down to visit.

Now if you can recall, the meat was barbecued over an open pit, and stew was made in Grandma's old wash-pot. And there was home-made ice cream, the kind you ate until your head ached. If you think days like this are gone, you're wrong. In Alabama and most of the South, "the way it used to be" is re-enacted every Fourth of July.

Down in Akron, "Papa" Coot Collins, his children, grandchildren, and great-grand children celebrate July 4 "the way it used to be." During the day, the family sits around telling jokes, singing, dancing, and of course, eating. When evening comes, everybody goes down to the Black Warrior River—the old folks to talk about old times, and the children to swim and dance.

The Collins Family

'Fourth Day' on the Farm

Photos by Melvin I. Todd
Farmer Sends 12 Kids to College

‘Saw What Was Needed’

GATEWOOD, Miss. — Sam Percy Gipson was born to share-cropper parents on a small cotton plantation called Old Twenty-four. When he was six months old, he moved with his family into a log cabin in the Gatewood community near Holly Springs.

From the age of five until he was 16, Gipson regularly attended all sessions of Gatewood’s one-room Henry Elementary School. In 1923, when Gipson was 19, he married Miss Versie Ree Jones. They moved into a small white frame house located only a quarter-mile from the cabin of his boyhood. Here the first ten of their 15 children were born—Grace Lenora, Naomi Ruth, Knowledge, Quentell, Sam Percy Jr., Frances Ala, Alva, Gloria Jean, Cliff Jefferson, and Shelby Gene.

In 1938, while Gipson was working as a laborer on the construction of Mississippi Highway 78 to Memphis, Tenn., he bought 160 acres of land and a rambling, two-story, verandahed house built by a former plantation overseer. In this house—located too within a half-mile of his boyhood home—the last five Gipson children were born. They are: Lou Ree, Elisha, twins Revelyn and Evelyn, and Clinton.

“There was only one thing I stressed on them,” says Gipson of his children, “and that was to try and get training for a better job than what I could give them. That was the big thing I cautioned them about.”

All but three of the 15 Gipson children have gone to college—attended, Three were teachers, Frances Ala, and Howard Davis—now are teachers in Shelby County, Tenn. Knowledge, a former teacher, is associate director of the Head Start program in Marshall and Lafayette counties. Gipson is now 64 years old, but he works from dawn to dusk on his farm near Gatewood. There is always something to be done—plowing, repairing his tractor, feeding the hogs. He gets help from the children who are still at home.

He doesn’t boast about his accomplishment in educating his children. “We sort of saw what needed to be done,” he says, “and we did all we could to make it happen.”

Text and Photos
By Perry Walker
converted to text
Talladega Negro Cops--What Do They Do?

BY FRANCES STUBBS

During a recent three-year period in the Talladega Negro community, the city police department was under the command of a Negro employed on a full-time, full-fringe pay basis.

In the past few years, according to people who have kept count, about 30 murders have been committed in Talladega. All the accused killers were Negroes, and all were all the victims.

In the past few years, Negroes have been murdered with white oil, or vice versa,

One citizen said this proves that "Negroes don't respect Negro lives." He blamed the lack of respect for Negro lives on neglect by law enforcement agencies.

Negroes--Walter Baker and Edie McCollin--were employed by the city police department two years ago.

The men said they were never told about any terms or restrictions--such as not being allowed to arrest Negroes--what officers are supposed to do or 'Don't do that ...' Baker said he likes the job but he was passed over for a white man for a better job.

Baker and McCollin worked full-time on the force--their work hours vary by the week. The reason given for this by both men says that Chief John Farriss is that the men aren't needed because there's so much work that Negroes are allowed to work.

The people--about 60 to 70%--of the work was sufficient to make police departments for Negro neighborhoods.

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