

Where Did Poor Kids' Money Go in Henry?

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

ABBEVILLE, Ala. -- Four months ago, the Alabama NAACP complained that the Henry County Board of Education was discriminating against Negro children in the use of federal money for the education of low-income students.

On the basis of information gathered by a group of Negro parents, the NAACP charged that Henry County officials misused last year's grant of \$296,000 under Title I of the federal elementary

and secondary education act.

"Everyone knows that there are more poor Negro families than poor white families in Henry County," explained one of the Negro parents. "But the school board told the federal government there were more poor white children in the public schools."

As a result, the parent said, thousands of dollars that should have gone to improve Negro schools "went to the white schools that already had more of everything."

The state NAACP sent its complaint last April 27 to the U. S. Office of Education and the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights.

"The Civil Rights Commission acknowledged receiving our letter," said

the Rev. K. L. Buford, Alabama field director of the NAACP. "There was no reply at all from the Office of Education."

And now, Buford said last week, he has learned that the Office of Education has approved Henry County's application for 1967-68 Title I funds.

Buford said he is sending another letter to the Office of Education and the Civil Rights Commission, "expressing my deep concern over the approval of an additional grant under Title I in view of our original complaint."

What was wrong with last year's Title I application?

The NAACP complaint said, "It seems rather strange that Abbeville Elementary, Abbeville High, and Newville

(schools), whose student body is composed of the children from the most affluent white families, claim a percentage of 57.5, 58.6, and 53.9 from low-income families."

The application said the county's four Negro schools--Abbeville Junior High, Henry County Training, Newville Rosenwald, and Northside--all drew less than 53% of their students from poor families, the NAACP pointed out.

And according to the application, just one white school--Headland--had a smaller percentage of low-income students than the four Negro schools.

Last year, the NAACP noted, Henry County had 2,045 Negro students with 65 Negro teachers, and 1,830 white students with 85 white teachers--or 20 ex-

tra white teachers for 200 fewer children.

The white children were offered a greater choice of subjects than the Negro children, according to a Negro parent. For instance, he said, foreign languages were taught in some of the white schools, but in none of the Negro schools.

The 1966-67 Title I grant included money to hire seven physical education teachers, and to build or equip classrooms for remedial reading, the parent continued. But, he said, no Negro school got a physical education teacher or a remedial-reading classroom last year.

The Negro parents also said they suspected that a new gymnasium at predominantly-white Abbeville High was

built with Title I money--although the school board didn't mention the gym in its application.

"We can't prove it," a spokesman admitted, "but we think they juggled the money. If not, where did they get it?"

The parents also charged that the school board hires fewer cooks and janitors for Negro schools than for white schools, and pays lower salaries to the Negro employees.

Henry County Schools Superintendent W. J. McLain refused to talk about how he spent last year's Title I money, or how he plans to spend this year's grant.

"It's none of your business," he snapped. "It's no one's business but ours."

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TEN CENTS



KLANSMAN WATCHES AS MARCH PROCEEDS UNDER HEAVY GUARD

Special Report: Louisiana March

Negroes, Klansmen Rally

BY MERTIS RUBIN

BATON ROUGE, La.--A thousand people--mostly Negroes--gathered on the steps of the Louisiana state Capitol last Sunday, chanting "We want Big John (Governor John McKeithen)," and "Black power."

But although some of the people had marched 106 miles from Bogalusa under heavy guard, the governor wouldn't see them.

A. Z. Young, president of the Bogalusa Voters' League and leader of the

march, told the crowd, "God Almighty brought me here to hell's harbor. I know Governor McKeithen said I wouldn't make it. This proves to the governor he didn't know what the hell he was talking about."

Local police, state troopers, and National Guardsmen were assigned to guard the marchers. A Ku Klux Klan rally took place the same day the marchers arrived in Baton Rouge.

The purpose of the march was to present a list of grievances to Governor

McKeithen. Young said the list had already been mailed to the governor and to the state's bi-racial committee.

The grievance statement demanded employment of black people in state agencies, including the state police.

"Until it is no longer necessary for you to provide 800 troopers to protect 80 black people from missile-hurling, fist-swinging whites, and until you pledge and act to employ blacks in responsible positions in state agencies, your sincerity in promoting racial harmony... will remain highly suspect," said the Negroes' statement.

SNCC chairman Rap Brown, a native of Baton Rouge, was to be the guest speaker Sunday, but he spent the day in a New York jail after being arrested on a federal gun charge. (He was released on bail last Tuesday.)

When McKeithen was asked later about the grievances, he said he had not received them. If the Negro leaders would make an appointment with him and his bi-racial committee, he said, he would meet them--but not at a march.

SCLC Talks About Riots, Viet Nam

King: 'I'm Sticking With Love'

BY BARBARA H. FLOWERS

ATLANTA, Ga.--At the tenth anniversary convention of SCLC, two of the biggest things on people's minds were winning the war on poverty and ending the war in Viet Nam.

One student from Alabama said he was at the convention because "they're rioting in other cities, and I am sure that eventually we will be faced with the same problem at home. And we need guidance."

Because people felt like this, Ben Clarke, executive director of SCLC's voters league, called upon the convention to adopt a resolution saying:

"We call for an active department within SCLC that would address itself directly to the problems of youth in our nation. We call for active work within SCLC, developing a program towards ending the war in Viet Nam."

Miss Barbara Jordan, a Texas state senator, said "there has been no massive Negro violence" so far. And there won't be, she said, as long as there are "alternatives" to violence. She said one alternative would be "basic, radical changes in the quality of life."

Toward that end, the convention adopted a resolution on Afro-American Unity, saying SCLC will "work toward true community by the development of economic power and political power, and by constant emphasis on Negroes and their owning and controlling their communities."

Ala. Legislature Approves Teacher-Choice Measure

BY PATRICIA M. GORENCE

MONTGOMERY, Ala. --Both houses of the state Legislature this week passed bills allowing parents of public-school students to decide the race of their children's teachers.

According to State Senator Roland Cooper of Wilcox County, this measure "would allow parents of children to determine what color teacher would teach their children, under majority rule."

"It would provide for freedom of choice," added Senator Walter Givhan of Dallas County. "If a majority of students wanted a white teacher, they would get it. If a majority wanted a colored teacher, they would get it. It's as fair to one side as it is to the other."

"There's no discrimination in this bill," said Givhan.

Governor Lurleen B. Wallace had twice sent messages asking the Senate to pass the bill. One message read, "This bill is, in my opinion, the most important proposal which you have been called upon to consider during this session of the Legislature."

But Senator Bob Harris of Morgan

County said the proposal would only cause confusion, since "students already elect schools to which they want

playing "Dixie" and flying the Confederate flag just at home-coming games. But Mrs. Wallace wanted it to cover all games.

Speaking in opposition to her executive amendment, Senator Stewart O'Bannon of Lauderdale County said, "I'm sick and tired of resolutions to fly flags. I thought my grandfather fought in the Civil War so people could do what they wanted to do."

"It's not my desire to say a critical word about our administration," he continued. "Our governor is a fine lady, but she has some hellacious advisors."

O'Bannon's motion not to consider the resolution was defeated.

In other school business, the House appropriated \$470,000 for Tuskegee Institute--\$200,000 less than the Senate had authorized. The difference will have to be worked out in a conference committee.

State Representative Tommy Watkins of Jefferson County, opposing any appropriation, said Tuskegee had invited Stokely Carmichael of SNCC and Miss Bettina Aptheker, an admitted Communist, to speak on campus.

"I don't see how the House can vote to support this institution," he argued. "We don't know but that tomorrow, another Communist speaker may be invited."

But, said Ira Pruitt of Sumter County, "racial issues are not involved. Rather it (the issue) is whether Alabama will carry out its agreement with Tuskegee." The state has made substantial appropriations to the mostly-Negro private school since 1943.

The House also approved a Senate measure providing tuition grants for students attending private schools in the state. The bill provides a maximum of \$181.50 per year for each child attending private school.

At the end of this stretch of school legislation, the Senate finally passed a \$279,000,000 absolute appropriation for education, and a \$26,000,000 conditional appropriation.

Delay Charged in Mobile

MOBILE, Ala.--The Mobile County board of education has made only "token" efforts to desegregate its school system, U. S. District Judge Daniel H. Thomas was told last week.

Charles Jones, an attorney for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, was making his final argument in a trial that had already seen eight days of testimony.

He charged that the Mobile County board had closed certain schools to avoid integrating them, and was still planning new schools on a segregated basis.

Abe Phillips, attorney for the

school board, said the county is doing all it can to promote integration.

He said that next year, one-third of the students in grades one, six, and nine will be able to choose between a mostly-Negro school and a mostly-white one. And, he said, all extra-curricular activities will be desegregated next year.

In a written argument, attorneys for the plaintiffs said progress in desegregation "has been discouragingly slow." In the coming school year, they said, 648 of the system's 31,000 Negro students--about 2%--will be attending classes with whites.

What to Do With Hens That Can't Lay Eggs?

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

TUSKEGEE, Ala.--What can you do with half a million hens when their egg-laying days are over?

For years, said Montgomery Allison of the Farmers Home Administration (FHA), farmers have been selling their old hens for 25¢--or just giving them away.

"We reckon there's 500,000 laying hens within a 50-mile radius of Union Springs," said Allison, the FHA's Macon - Bullock county supervisor.

Miss. Family Loses Home

BY KERRY GRUSON

MARKS, Miss.--There is a one-room building just off Cotton St., with a lot of benches outside. The building was originally put up to house adult education and citizenship classes.

But two weeks ago, the benches were moved out, and five beds were moved in--for the 11-member Staten family to sleep on.

The Statens used to farm on Posey Mound Plantation. But not long ago, they got a letter telling them to leave their house by Aug. 15.

"It was a personality conflict," William A. Crabill, agent for the plantation owner, explained this week. "They (the Statens) seemed to be of the opinion that they could run the place." Crabill said several managers had had trouble with the Staten family, because the Statens "just didn't want to work."

But Mrs. Bonnie Staten charged, "He (Crabill) started pickin' and pickin' on us when we started going to those meetings." She was referring to citizenship classes sponsored by the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.

Crabill said this week that he didn't know the Statens were attending the

"Somebody got the idea we ought to do something with them."

And so, he continued, the idea came up before the Technical Action Panel, a group made up of the local heads of four federal agricultural agencies--the FHA, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, the Soil Conservation Service, and the Agricultural Extension Service.

One agency's representative thought the hens might be good for eating, if they were processed properly, Allison said. Another man had heard that a firm in Panama City, Fla., was trying to market frozen dumplings.

"We asked ourselves, 'Why couldn't you quick-freeze chicken and dumplings and sell them together in one package?'" said Allison.

The Technical Action Panel (TAP) didn't have the answer to the question. But the TAP members knew whom to call. They got in touch with Auburn University's rural research project.

Now, said Allison, the people from Auburn are contacting big firms that sell frozen soups and dinners, to see if any company would be interested in paying for an experimental chicken-and-dumpling processing plant.

It's too soon to know whether the idea will come to anything, Allison said. But if there's a market for frozen chicken-and-dumplings, the farmers in Macon and Bullock counties may some day be able to sell their old hens for a lot more than 25¢.

And that, Allison told the Macon County Community Action Program (CAP) board last week, is what TAP is all about.

"The purpose of TAP is the same as the purpose of CAP," he said. "It's to fight poverty and to help Macon County reach its full potential."

Every county has a TAP, to help its rural residents take advantage of federal programs, Allison said. "TAP's job is to pass the idea or the need along until it gets to the right place."



DR. KING DELIVERS ANNUAL REPORT

"We believe that black spiritual power is needed to save the nation," the resolution said. "We believe that black economic power strengthens the fabric of the whole economic order. And we know that black political power perfects our democracy."

For many speakers, the issues of

Viet Nam and poverty could not be separated.

The Rev. James Bevel, a one-time SCLC staff member now working full-time in the peace movement, said "the security of mankind depends on love and truth--not bombs or missiles." A resolution drawn up by the SCLC

board of directors said people who oppose the war should say so with their votes.

"If the will of the people continues to be unheeded, all men of good will must create a situation in which the 1967-68 elections are made a referendum on the war," said the resolution. "The American people must have an opportunity to vote into oblivion those who cannot detach themselves from militarism--those who lead us not to a new world, but drag us to the brink of a dead world."

Throughout the convention, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and others continued to voice their dedication to the non-violent philosophy.

"I decided to stick with love, I'm going to talk about it everywhere I go," said Dr. King. "I've seen too much hate, and hate is too great a burden to bear."

"America, you must be born again," Dr. King said as he delivered his stirring annual report.

As he ended his message--which the Rev. Ralph Abernathy said was the "best annual report you've given us in a decade"--the delegates in Ebenezer Baptist Church surged toward their leader.

"Let us be dissatisfied," said Dr. King, "until we can sing, 'We have overcome, we have overcome. Deep in my heart, I did believe we would overcome.'"

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Editorial Opinion

Will Things Be Different?

In about three weeks, Alabama will begin its first year under the state-wide school-desegregation order. It remains to be seen whether things will be any different.

George Wallace is still cooking up ways to foil the federal court order. His state Legislature is considering one bill that would allow parents to choose the race of their children's teacher, and another that would once again give state support to "private" schools.

And one way or another, the Legislature is determined to build a new four-year college in Montgomery, for white students too squeamish to attend all-Negro Alabama State.

All these measures are clearly in violation of the court order. But they still can end hopes for large-scale desegregation this fall, if plans are not made to deal with them.

There are other potential problems, too. Negro parents in Henry County, for instance, complained last week that when two inadequate schools were closed, the Negro students were assigned to another Negro school and the white students to another white school.

According to published reports, several school superintendents are already using the lack of "volunteers" as an excuse for their failure to achieve meaningful faculty desegregation.

Much remains to be done before the state-wide desegregation order brings about state-wide desegregation. And the three-judge federal court can not act on its own. We hope the U. S. Justice Department, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, and other interested parties have something in mind.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

As I understand it, every day federal funds are being denied by the governor, and every day people who supported the governor in every way possible--mothers, fathers, sons, and daughters--are dying all over the state of Alabama.

Why are not there authenticated medical centers within this state? Yes, the governor flew to another state for help, with many tax-paid dollars ather disposal. If those same people who believed in the governor was stricken with the same illness, would they have money enough to fly to Texas and afford the treatment she was given?

I imagine there are people who need medical care at this very moment, WHERE are the Wallaces? Are the Wallaces for Alabama, or are the Wallaces for the Wallaces?

"Stand up for Alabama." Can you imagine a man confined to a wheel-chair hearing this but receiving no help! We need authenticated medical hospitals, and we need them NOW--not next month or next year, but NOW.

(Name withheld) Prichard, Ala.

To the Editor:

I am a subscriber to The Southern Courier. I believe in the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights for everyone. I believe that the American dream was a narrow and mean design for a few people to gain advantage for themselves. Now that we have grown up, I believe it is time to correct the errors of our ancestors and live justly and honestly.

My parents came from Russia, and the tales of Jewish suffering at the hands of the Russians and other demagogues in Eastern Europe can only bring out a chord of sympathy for anyone who doesn't have an equal chance as a human being in this country, or any place in the world.

When we lived in California just two years ago, my wife and I worked for equal rights and equal housing, because we didn't believe that we could be comfortable with ourselves while others did not have the same opportunities we enjoyed.

I write the above, because I want to protest the injustice which read in a photo on Page One showing the Rev. J. C. Killingsworth, and a photo below his showing a picket bearing a home-made sign reading "Boycott the Town." The issue was dated Aug. 5-6. In the upper right-hand corner of the sign was a note "Jew Deal."

I cannot tell you how to conduct your campaign against injustice, because I have never conducted a campaign like that. Your cause for equal rights and equal employment opportunities is my fight, because I want to live in a just country. But I don't believe that attacking the Jewishness of an employer or store owner is fair or just. Do you attack the Baptist, Episcopal, or Catholic employer or opponent, or do you identify them by their own names and the injustice you wish to attack?

I believe the cause of improving the lot of one group is not served by attacking another group, particularly since the Jewish group more than any other religious denomination has been outspoken and unwavering in its support for equal rights and equal opportunities. The few or the many who have denied opportunities to Negroes did not do it as Jews. They are victims also. They are subject to the whims of the majority white population as much as the Negro population. Economic boycott will force them to come to terms with the Negro group as readily as economic forces created the apparent prejudice of the past 300 years.

Please, forgive the length of my letter. I can only remember that the history of hatred in the West, whether for capitalism or communism or Christianity--good causes in the minds of their supporters--always resulted in bloodshed and the exploitation of the weakest members of the community.

Zvi Edelson Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Mobile Lady Wins Battle for Aid

\$60 Check for Mrs. Pruitt

MOBILE, Ala.--Mrs. Inez Pruitt, the lady who went to ask for welfare and wound up in a mental institution, has finally been approved for aid.

Mrs. Pruitt recently received a letter from the welfare department, saying she will get \$60 per month for being 83% disabled.

"I appreciate it," she said this week. "It's not too much, but I'll try to make out."

Mrs. Pruitt has a crippled left hand and leg, and a history of other illnesses. Last May 15, she got into an argument with the case-worker who was handling her application for welfare. Ten days later, she was confined to Searcy State Mental Hospital.

In Macon County

Who Gets CAP Job?

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

TUSKEGEE, Ala.--"If you put me out the door, I'm going to say it," shouted Charles G. Stokes. "Your trouble is you're protecting a person who has failed."

"If that person is not going to do the job, get someone who IS qualified!" About half the 60 people at the Aug. 17 meeting of the Macon County Community Action Program (CAP) burst in to loud applause.

Over the noise of the clapping, board chairman B. D. Mayberry tried to tell the group that "it is not OEO (Office of Economic Opportunity) policy to hire or fire in a public meeting."

Eventually, the CAP board members agreed to select a new paid director and assistant director at a later, private meeting.

But before the turbulent, 2 1/2-hour session was over, plenty of people had had their say about the way the Macon County CAP office is being run by its present director, Mrs. Beulah C. Johnson. And all of the speakers said they didn't like it.

The meeting suddenly erupted into argument after Mayberry told the group he was "shocked" to learn that there were poor people in the city of Tuskegee who didn't know about their right to welfare payments.

If the Macon County CAP office was doing its job properly, Stokes told Mayberry, "the people would know."

Someone asked whether many poor people had found their way to the CAP office to ask for assistance.

"Some of those people used to come to the office," responded Mrs. Lottie Esau, a CAP employee. "But they've stopped coming. They don't get anything."

"We have too many blooming guidelines to community action--and too little community action," observed the Rev. Robert Smith, a CAP board member.

"The (CAP) office is not functioning," called out Otis Pinkard.

But Mayberry said the CAP board members and the local citizens should blame themselves: "Each of us should assume it is our fault more people don't know about the program," he began.

Then Mrs. Jeannetta S. Branche, a former director of Macon County Head Start, broke in. "Something concrete should come out of this," she said. "We should write a statement and make a conclusion. Otherwise we're like ladies sipping tea--talk and do nothing till it makes you sick."

But Mrs. Branche's suggestion was lost when the meeting began arguing over whether to pick a new director right away. The group finally voted to act late this month on several applications--including one from Mrs. Johnson.

Ladies Get on Welfare By Asking for Hearing

BY GAIL FALK

GRENADA, Miss.--Two Grenada women recently were put on welfare even though the local office turned down their applications for aid. They got on welfare by asking for a "fair hearing" on their applications.

Last January, Mrs. Mattie Bell Watt went to the Grenada welfare office to ask for Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) for her two youngest children.

The welfare interviewer found out that three of Mrs. Watt's children went to Lizzie Horn--the previously all-white elementary school in Grenada. Then, said Mrs. Watt, the interviewer started asking some unusual questions.

"She asked what church did I belong to--Bell Flower?--and burst out laughing," Mrs. Watt recalled. Bell Flower Missionary Baptist Church is headquarters for the Grenada County Freedom Movement.

"Sometime in February," Mrs. Watt continued, "I got a letter that I was rejected." She said February was also the month when she had to take two of her children out of school, because "I didn't have enough money for food or clothing for them."

So with the help of a friend, Mrs. Watt

While she was in Searcy, Mrs. Pruitt said, she was given shock treatments without her consent.

Three of Mrs. Pruitt's friends, including Mrs. Dorothy DaPonte, got the 44-year-old Negro lady out of Searcy about three weeks later. Then Mrs. DaPonte, a Mobile housewife, and Robert Feinstein, a law student from New York, set about getting Mrs. Pruitt on welfare.

"Mr. Feinstein did a lot of work," said Mrs. DaPonte this week. "He contacted all the places that were necessary to see if Mrs. Pruitt could receive welfare on the basis of her condition, and he called the welfare department and told them the condition of Mrs. Pruitt."

'All Blood and Dirt From When They Stomped Him'

BY MARY ELLEN GALE

PHENIX CITY, Ala. -- "I wouldn't have known who he was if I hadn't known already," said William Nickerson. "He was all over blood, dirt, and water from where they stomped him down in that mud."

Nickerson was talking about what happened to his son, 22-year-old Johnny Nickerson, last July 8.

Johnny Nickerson said he was leaving a night club in Columbus, Ga., early that Saturday morning when "the police jumped me and hollered for me to stop."

"I refused to pull over," Nickerson said. "I didn't want to go to jail. I knew I hadn't done anything."

So, the young Negro continued, he drove on across the bridge into Phenix City, with two cars of Columbus city policemen racing along behind him.

In one car, he said, there were two white policemen, and in the other, two Negro policemen.

"I run them to Phenix City," Nickerson said, "but then I got stuck in a mudhole. They came up and told me to get out."

The young man said he obeyed the order: "I had surrendered. I put my hands up on the car, and turned my back. That was when one of the white officers hit me in the back of the head."

Nickerson said the blow knocked him to the ground. "I was laying there when the two Negro officers jumped me. One of them said, 'Nigger, what in the hell



JOHNNY NICKERSON

you tryin' to prove?" and kicked me about two inches above my right ear. "The other (Negro officer) was beating me in the right side with a pair of handcuffs."

Then, Nickerson recalled, a Negro policeman from Phenix City, John Allen, "walked up and said, 'Don't hit him no more.'"

Nickerson said the two Negro policemen from Columbus drove him to the

Columbus Medical Center, where a doctor "sewed up my head."

Then, he said, he was put in the Columbus jail. At a trial a few hours later, he was found guilty of reckless driving, and fined \$152.

Instead of paying, Nickerson put up an appeal bond. "I might be guilty of speeding," he explained this week, "but I didn't hit anything. And I shouldn't have had to go back to Columbus."

He charged that the Georgia officers had no authority in Alabama: "The Alabama police were supposed to hold me all the way around. I should have been charged in Phenix City--if anywhere."

When asked about the incident this week, Columbus Police Chief C. R. Adair said, "That's preposterous. We don't arrest people in Phenix City."

After a check of the records showed that Nickerson was arrested in Phenix City, Adair suggested that "he was arrested by Phenix City officers."

But the Phenix City police department had no record of Nickerson's arrest. And Officer Allen said that although he and another Negro policeman from Phenix City, Jimmy Lee Long, were there, "we weren't involved."

"It was all over when we got there," Allen explained. "I didn't stop anybody beating anybody." Officer Long said, "I don't know nothin' about it."

Chief Adair refused to give the names of the Columbus officers who arrested Nickerson. "I don't want to expose them to anything without a formal complaint," the police chief said. "If the man will come over and make a complaint, I will be glad to hear it. I have nothing to hide."

Why didn't Nickerson talk about the incident sooner? His father explained that the family was trying to get attorney Fred D. Gray of Montgomery to take the case.

"He put us off for three weeks, and then said it would cost \$1,500 to \$2,000," said William Nickerson. Now, the father said, he is hoping to get help from a local civil rights organization that will pay for legal assistance.

Family Evicted

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

classes. But according to Mrs. Staten, he told the family, "You all know enough. You don't need to know no more."

In April, Mrs. Staten and her husband, Arthur, went down to Jackson for a meeting. Staten said Crabill mentioned this to Henry Self, owner of Posey Mound and four other plantations. "The boss man asked me why I was going down there," Staten said. "I told him I figured I was a grown man."

Also this spring, Mrs. Staten signed a freedom-of-choice slip, to send her children to Marks High School, the white school in Quitman County.

"The letter (telling the Statens to move) didn't say it was because of school, but I know it was," said Mrs. Staten.

The Statens said they had to leave behind a garden thick with the peas and beans they had planted. "Some neighbors have promised to go and get us some," Mrs. Staten said.

But at present, the family has no income and Staten has not been able to find another job.

A Patriotic Quilt



TYSONVILLE, Ala.--"It's patriotic, don't you think?" said Mrs. Consuello J. Harper, tilting her head to look closely at the big, eight-pointed red and blue stars on the red, white, and blue quilt in front of her.

"Is that thread strong enough?" asked one of the ladies who was busily sewing away on the quilt. "Do we sew it top and bottom?" asked another lady, plunging her needle into the cloth.

Mrs. Louise Lowe of Hardaway, the lady who laid out the pattern for the quilt, looked up. "I don't think it's quilted unless it's bottom and top," she said firmly.

And with that, a dozen members of the Macon County Chapter of the National Council for Negro Women (NCNW) settled down to do some serious quilting. The ladies were among 30 women from Shorter, Hardaway, Tysonville, Milstead, Chesson, and Fitzpatrick who gave their time and money to make the quilt.

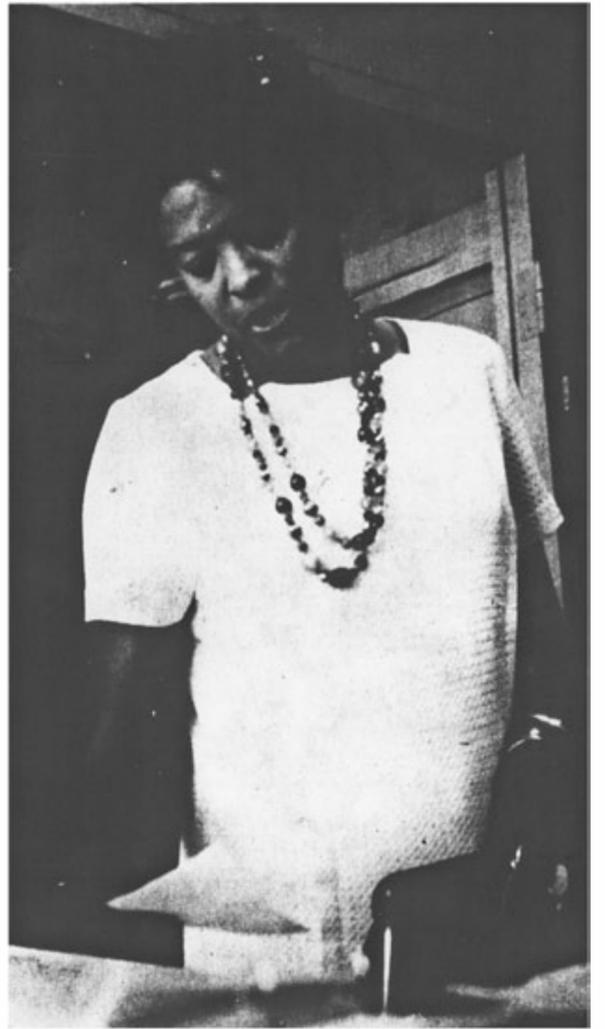
When it's finished, Mrs. Harper said, the ladies will send it to the NCNW office in Washington. Later, it will be raffled off to help raise money for the NCNW's planned Mary Bethune Memorial, to be built in Washington's Lincoln Park.



MRS. MARY SINGLETON AND MAYOR HANS TANZLER



MRS. SALLYE B. MATHIS



MRS. SINGLETON AT WORK

Two Negro Women Elected To Jacksonville City Council

BY PATRICIA M. GORENCE

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. -- "Open your hearts, unlock your minds, and give me a chance."

That was the campaign slogan Mrs. Mary Singleton used to win election to the nine-member Jacksonville City Council last June.

Mrs. Singleton was one of the first two Negroes elected to the council since 1907. The other was Mrs. Sallye B. Mathis.

Although Jacksonville is only 44% Negro, both women won in at-large elections.

Like many Southern cities, Jacksonville used to elect council members by wards. Last June the candidates ran from the wards they lived in, but were voted on by all the people in the city. "Some people were never so shocked as when Mrs. Mathis and I were elected," Mrs. Singleton said.

How did they do it? The councilwomen said their success was partly due to the failures of the past city council.

A number of the former members had been accused of misusing funds, so many people "thought it was time for a change," said Mrs. Singleton. Only one former council member was re-elected.

Mrs. Singleton represents ward 2, which is mostly Negro. Mrs. Mathis was elected from ward 3, which is about half white and half Negro.

But both women ran on a platform of

"representation for all the people."

"I just wanted to do something," said Mrs. Singleton, speaking of her decision to run for the council. "Nothing had been done in our ward for years--possibly since it became a ward--and I decided to do something about it."

"I'm not really a politician," she added. "I've heard all my life that decent people never fooled with politics. But I'm decent and I do."

"I really don't know what it was that caused me to be elected. People respected me and that's all I can say," said Mrs. Singleton, a widow with two children. "Also I have lived in Jacksonville all my life, and my husband was well-respected here. I never could have made it without the white vote."

Mrs. Mathis, a Jacksonville civil rights leader, called the election "the biggest fight of my life. And I've been in many fights," she added.

"The biggest struggle was the first Democratic primary," said Mrs. Mathis, who ran against six other candidates, including two Negroes. "I shudder to think about it now."

"I hadn't planned on running for office," she explained, "but a couple of people came to me a few days before the qualifications were due. They asked me to run because no other Negro had qualified for the race. I told them if nobody else would run, I would."

According to Mrs. Mathis, no Negroes had qualified from her ward by 2 p.m. of the last day candidates could qualify for the election. So she decided to run.

"As I walked up the steps to the courthouse," she said, "another Negro walked out. I had talked to him a few days before, and he had assured me that he was not going to run for the city

council. So I figured he had come to qualify for another office.

"I qualified at 3:45 p.m. and another Negro qualified at ten minutes to five," she said. "There were now three Negroes in the race."

Mrs. Mathis said she expected to lose the first primary. She thought the Negro vote "would probably be split and no Negro would get elected." Instead, she won enough votes to face the white incumbent, Barney Cobb, in the run-off.

"The run-off was easy," said Mrs. Mathis. "I knew I could defeat him because I had the Negro vote." She did beat him, by over 3,000 votes.

"Out of the almost 20,000 votes I got," she said, "7,000 were white votes. I guess a lot of people were fed up with him. We spoke at rallies together and he would talk about white supremacy. He used the word 'nigger' openly--for publication."

Mrs. Singleton received 21,000 votes in the run-off. "I was the biggest vote-getter in the city," she said, "except for maybe the new mayor, Hans Tanzler."

Mrs. Singleton had no Republican opponent in the general election. Mrs. Mathis defeated ward 3's Republican candidate by almost 5,000 votes.

Both women worked hard for their victory. They handed out pamphlets, spoke before groups and rallies, and advertised on television and radio.

"I went from one side of town to the other to speak to groups," said Mrs. Singleton. "Union support also helped quite a bit."

"I used a lot of TV time," she added. "My TV spots were good. I knew what I wanted to say and didn't need any notes. I didn't make a lot of promises, just offered my services. You can't make a lot of promises and keep them all."

Having friends in all areas of the city also helped, Mrs. Singleton said: "There was only one rally that I was sort of afraid to go to. There were no Negroes present other than those that were with me. I was speaking to lower-income whites."

But, she said, "It was the best reception I ever got. In fact, it was my biggest rally in the whole city."

"I went everywhere to get the vote," said Mrs. Mathis. "I spoke before Negro organizations and white organizations. Wherever there was a meeting, I asked for an invitation. I talked to insurance men, dock workers, beauticians, churches.

"I covered the blocks shaking hands,

I talked to everybody I could. I would talk to them about our problems: jobs, education, and things like that. These are not only Negro problems. They are everybody's problems."

Both women knew a lot of white people in the city from doing community work. "I did know quite a number from my work in the women's voters league," said Mrs. Mathis. She also met white people while she was directing a voter registration project among the city's Negroes last year.

In addition, Mrs. Mathis, a widowed school teacher, knew the whites who served with her on the local human relations council and the executive boards of the NAACP and the Urban League.

Mrs. Singleton has been active in the March of Dimes and the YMCA. She



COUNCILMAN LOREN BROADUS

also served on the city's Local Government Study Commission and is presently a member of the Jacksonville Housing Board of Adjustments and Appeals.

Both councilwomen relied on volunteers to run their campaigns. "I had over 100 people working for me--including 64 women who helped to staff my two campaign headquarters from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.," said Mrs. Mathis.

Now that they are in office, both women find the work "very interesting and challenging." But soon they will begin campaigning all over again.

Under a consolidation plan adopted by Jacksonville residents on Aug. 8, county and city governments will merge.

Jacksonville will become the largest city in Florida, with nearly half a million people. The present city council will be abolished, and a mayor and 19-

member council will run the Jacksonville metropolitan area.

Consolidation goes into effect Oct. 1, 1968, but the first primary election for the new council will be held in less than two months--on Oct. 24. The general election will be Dec. 5.

Some of the present council members will be running against each other in the elections because the metropolitan area will be divided into voting districts.

Mrs. Singleton opposed consolidation. "There is nothing in that set-up that will help the little people, the Negro," she said. "Under consolidation, according to the original districts that were drawn up, I can't find but one in which a Negro could get elected." There are "some possibilities in others," she added.

But both Mrs. Singleton and Mrs. Mathis say they plan to run for the new city council in October.

As vice president of the present council, Mrs. Singleton thinks it has done a good job in the last two months. "Government is no better than the people who run it," she said. "What we have now is the new look in government. So far, I think, the people have been impressed with what we're trying to do."

Because all but one of the council members is new, "we have had to play it by ear," she said. "But things will get smoother when we get the procedure down."

Both Negro councilwomen say the city needs to find more jobs for its Negro citizens. Mrs. Singleton pointed out that Mayor Tanzler promised to boost Negro employment.

"The mayor can't go back on his word now," she said, adding that he "has a Negro secretary now and that's the first time that ever happened around here."

While many Northern cities had racial riots this summer, there has been very little trouble in Jacksonville.

Mrs. Mathis, who attended a local government workshop in Atlanta, Ga.,

last month, left early because of rumors of racial disturbance in Jacksonville.

"I don't know how far I can go in taking the leadership in this thing," she said as she left the convention. "But I was the people's candidate. That's why I have to go back. There is a lot I can do. But I need help. I can't just go to these groups and promise them things and then nothing ever happens."

As it turned out, however, there was no riot in Jacksonville.

Mrs. Singleton believes that riots in Northern cities often result because "people can't find homes and have to live in slums of the worst kind." Many people from the South go North "looking for something and don't ever find it. They are getting less than what they bargained for," she said.

Former SNCC chairman Stokely Carmichael "is telling the truth about a lot of things," Mrs. Singleton said. "I don't go along with all of his methods, though. I just can't buy violence." Mrs. Mathis and Mrs. Singleton have kept busy doing their jobs as councilwomen. "We often put in a lot of hours," Mrs. Singleton said.

Besides attending council and committee meetings, council members try to help the people in their wards find jobs, get streets paved, and solve other problems. Recently the council members visited the city's low-income areas on a tour arranged by Greater Jacksonville Economic Opportunity, Inc., the local anti-poverty agency.

But although they work hard, both women are glad they decided to run for office. "I think it's an experience everyone should have, for one day at least," said Mrs. Singleton.

There is no friction between white and Negro council members, she added. "The relationship has been superb."

Loren Broadus, a white councilman, said, "Mrs. Mathis and Mrs. Singleton are very nice people and I like them very much. I think their election to the council might have been the best thing that ever happened to the city of Jacksonville."



MRS. MATHIS ON ANTI-POVERTY TOUR



JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING



'Newtown'--A Community

BY JIM PEPLER

MONTGOMERY, Ala.--"Newtown" is an area isolated by both geography and reputation from the rest of Montgomery. Take a trip through Newtown, and listen to the people talk about their life.

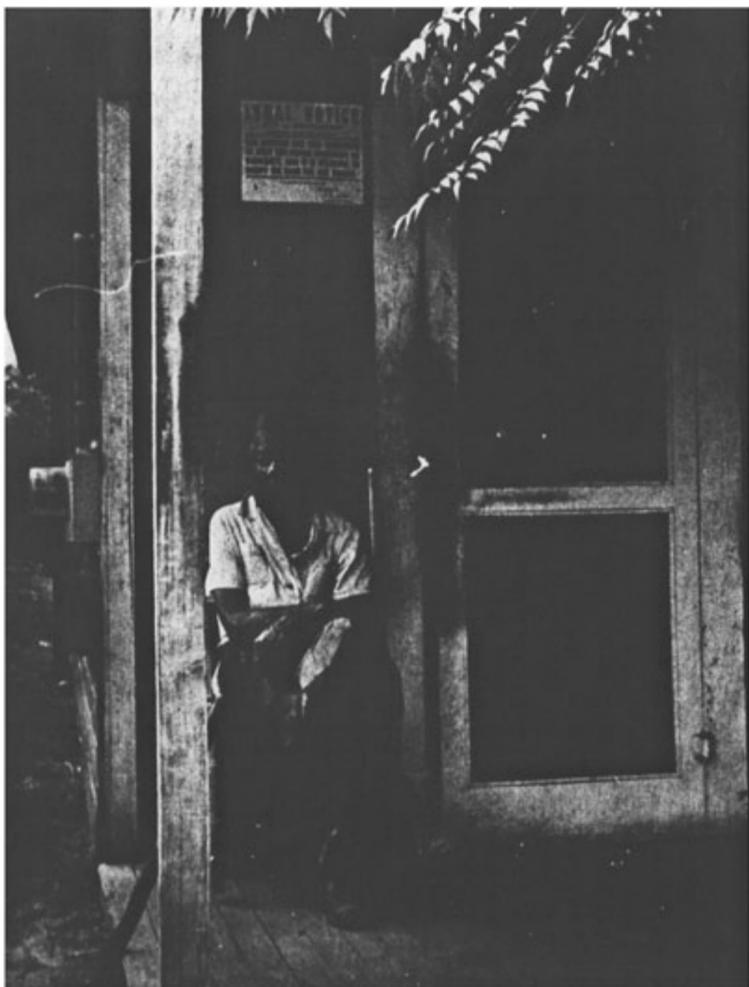
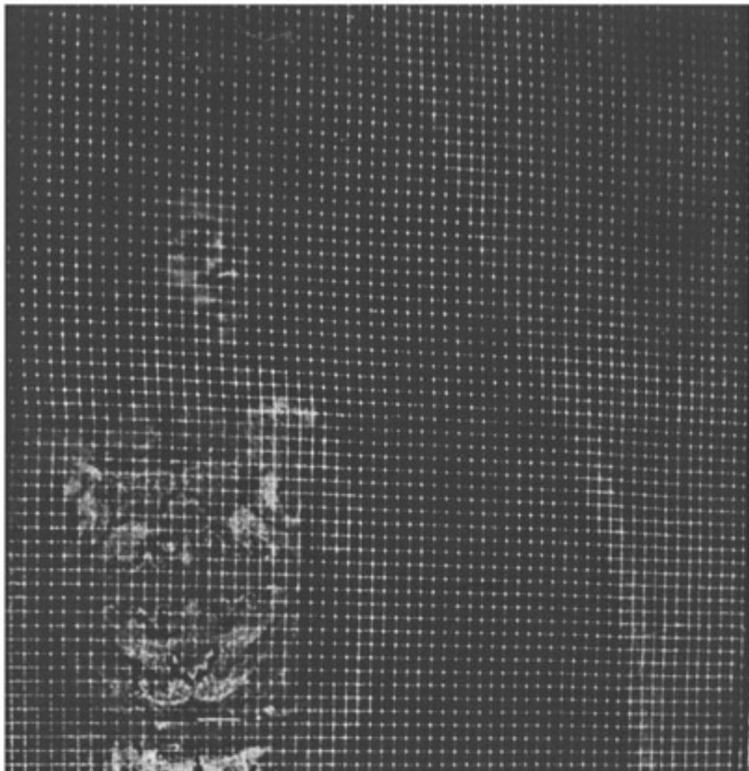
Follow N. Decatur St. When it crosses the railroad tracks, the asphalt ends and Newtown begins. There are no paved streets in Newtown. "The streets is dusty, with big holes. It's impossible to keep your house or car clean."

Nor are there any stop signs--at intersections, it's everyone for himself. "They're using this place as a dragstrip."

It's the railroad that isolates Newtown physically. Decatur St. is the only through street, and the railroad crosses it at both ends. "Sometimes cars are held up as long as 30 minutes." During the day, a flag-man is on duty to direct traffic, but "he'll tell you to come on when a train is coming, or sometimes he won't say anything when it's clear."

In addition to the unpaved streets and railroad, Newtown people

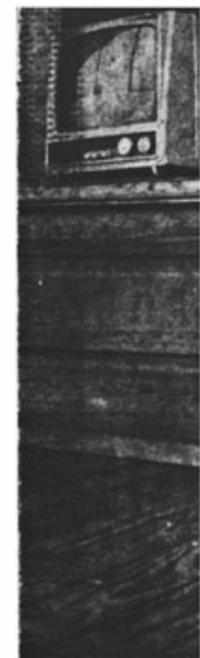
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y Apart

in about "The Big Ditch"--a gravelquarry, full of water, that
 rves as the community swimming pool. People recall four chil-
 'owning in the ditch in the past two years. "Children--all they
 i that they're hot and want to cool off."
 is it like to grow up in Newtown? "It was a challenge, always
 ing rugged." "You can't raise no kids out here with all this
 e always seem to be a couple of crap games going on in an al-
 i." "who knows what goes on in these houses?"
 ever it is that goes on, Newtown is as isolated by its reputa-
 it is by the railroad. "People ask where you live. You tell
 and they say, 'Oh, you're one of them Newtown people.'"
 es, the community itself is divided into "them folks" and
 is "them folks" that cause the trouble, and "us" that suf-
 so Newtown remains. "All my life I've lived here. It hasn't
 much. Newtown will never change."



Photos by
Jim Pepler



Montgomery Shopping & Service Guide

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

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

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Ashland People Ask for Lights

BY ALAN BOLES

ASHLAND, Ala.--The Better Citizens Club (BCC) of Ashland is trying to throw some light on one of the town's problems.

Robert Street, a BCC advisor, said the club asked the mayor and the town council three years ago to install lights at certain places in the Negro section of Ashland.

"They (town officials) said they didn't have enough money," Street recalled. So, he said, various Negro groups and individuals later installed four special, high-powered lights on private property near Highway 77.

"We asked for street lights at least two times since then," Street said. "They said they'd look into it, but nothing has happened."

But Mayor E. L. Wynn said, "We have many sections of town that don't have street lights. We don't have funds to light all the streets we would like to."

BCC members have also complained because several streets in the Negro section remain unpaved. Garbage trucks won't go on the unpaved roads, they said.

Mayor Wynn said he hadn't heard about the garbage problem: "Our personnel are instructed to pick up garbage every place within town limits."

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

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

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Says Reporter After Beating

'I Do Not Feel Well at All'

BY RUBEN PATES
CLEVELAND, Miss.--I am writing this article because I do not feel well at all. I have been in bed for almost a week, feeling bad.

the hospital to see my grandmother. Just as we were leaving the hospital, we noticed white men standing around our car.

Two men jumped Dodge, but he didn't hit back. So they knocked him down. I ran back to the hospital and asked for the police. The nurse sent me to a deputy sheriff on the second floor.

So far, the police haven't been able to find our attackers.

Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights
The weekly meeting will be at 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 28, in the New Hope Baptist Church, 1154 Tenth Ave. S., the Rev. H. Stone, pastor.

The white men who beat me up were unknown to me. The first time I saw them was Aug. 13, as I was driving along Highway 31 with Lowell Dodge, a white law student from Harvard, and his wife, a social worker from Boston University.

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.

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