THE SOUTHERN COUNTER VOL. 11, NO. 14 WEDNESDAY EDITION: APRIL 16-17, 1966

TEN CENT

The People Tell the Candidates

Negro Interviewers Press Politicians on $9 Problems

By Robert E. Smith

MONTGOMERY—Congressmen who failed to appear, about nine out of ten Negro state troopers, the right to vote, civil rights—are less concerned than men about the federal government and civil rights. They are more concerned than men about social demonstrations and violence and about civil rights. Among the issues were less concerned men about race in government and civil rights.
First They Listened, Then They Danced

A W. Todd Campaigning

A Half Hour of Soup, Crackers, and Politics

BY MARY ELEANOR GALE

The program is a series of radio and television presentations, and it will be

aired on most local radio and television stations throughout the

year. The series will continue until the end of May.

The series is sponsored by the National Education Association

and is coordinated by the National Council of Teachers of English.

The program is designed to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas on

current educational issues.

In this half hour program, A W. Todd, an African-American

activist, will discuss the importance of education in the struggle

for civil rights.

The program will be broadcast on Monday evenings at

7:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

The series will conclude with a panel discussion on the future of

education in the United States.

Letters to the Editor

The Southern Courier

April 16-17, 1966

To the Editor:

We, the people here in

this area, are concerned

about the lack of education

for our children. We

feel that they need to

learn more about the

world around them and

about their own heritage.

We believe that education

is crucial to our future.

Sincerely,

Walter Jones

W e are a small town

and we need to

work together to

make it a better place.

Walter Jones

Editorial Opinion

Have a Seat, Hosea

The thousands of newly registered voters in the area have the opportunity to make a difference in the political arena.

We encourage all eligible voters to register and participate in the democratic process.

S. J. Ewing

The Southern Courier

April 16-17, 1966

To the Editor:

We are very excited

about the upcoming

elections in the area.

We believe that it is

important to have a

representative

who understands

the needs of the

community.

Sincerely,

Mary Johnson
A Rally In Selma

TEXT BY LARRY FREUDIGER
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAMES H. PEPPLER

SELMA—By the time Samson Crum, an independent candidate for sheriff, rose to address the crowd gathered to mark one year since the Selma to Montgomery march, people were beginning to get a little tired of standing in the hot sun.

The all-day event had attracted some 600 people at different times, and at times it seemed that what was being said on the platform was very nice but had little to do with the people of Selma who had showed up.

When Crum began to talk, there was little doubt that the people remembered well the ordeals of last year.

He wanted the people to know that they now held the power to determine their own future, and that the same men who beat them and tried to hold them back last year were now trying to get their votes.

Few in the crowd had been aware that Samson Crum was going to run for sheriff, but the response was immediate and enthusiastic.

He told them that the Democratic Party was out to swallow up the Negro vote and make it meaningless.

"If we have to answer to those politicians, scheming day and night, we'll be no better off than we were in 1964," Crum said.

The folks in the audience stopped talking to one another and began to respond.

He told of the battles of last year, and every time he mentioned the parts played by Jim Clark or Wilson Baker, the present Democratic sheriff candidates, he would look out at the crowd and say:

"You're going to forget all that on May third."

"No we won't," they shouted, "never!

"Jim Clark hasn't changed," he continued, "and Wilson Baker's just a little bit smarter. That's the only difference.

Crum is the sheriff candidate of the Dallas County Independent Free Voters Organization, which sponsored the rally.

The organization was formed about six weeks ago by Dallas County SNCC and SCLC to run Negroes for public office independent of the Democratic Party.

The group will hold a mass meeting on May 3 to nominate candidates who will appear on the November ballot against whoever wins the Democratic primary.

Crum was followed by the Rev. Ernest M. Bradford, chairman of Dallas County SHAPE (Self-Help Against Poverty for Everyone).

He said that SHAPE had been formed by the Negro people themselves, in order that they might have representation in the war on poverty when federal money came to Dallas County.

But the white community had set up a interracial committee, with Negro members who, SHAPE says, were handpicked to be responsive to the whites.

They told some of us to move back in December, but we didn't move and we ain't moved yet and we don't intend to move," she said.

"We're gonna march right into town, and ain't no Jim Clark gonna turn us around," she said.

At this point comedian Dick Gregory arrived from Chicago and joked about the Dallas County Voters League and ministers who are now urging Negroes to vote for Wilson Baker.

He glanced over at Brown's Chapel and said, "Someone just asked me if I was going to Easter services, but I'm not going to Easter services because I don't know which church to go to."
A FEW MILES FROM MONTGOMERY, OUR LADY OF FATIMA CHAPEL AND SCHOOL IS THE ONLY ORPHANAGE IN ALABAMA THAT CARES FOR NEGRO TEEN-AGERS—AND IT ACCEPTS ONLY BOYS.

FATHER MICHAEL CASWELL, A CATHOLIC PRIEST, FOUNDED OUR LADY OF FATIMA 16 YEARS AGO WITH LOTS OF FAITH BUT NOT MUCH MONEY. THE HOME STARTED SMALL AND GREW SLOWLY.

They All Live at 'Our Lady'

A Family of 40 Young Boys

BY LARRY FREUDIGER

MONTGOMERY -- A small clump of buildings stands a little way back from the Atlanta Highway several miles out of Montgomery.

The cars whiz by, The drivers don't know there's anything unusual to see, but the little clump of buildings is the only orphanage in the state for teen-aged Negro boys. Our Lady of Fatima Chapel and School is home for some 40 youngsters, aged about 10 to 18. It is also the life-work of Father Michael Caswell.

"There just wasn't any place for these boys," he said, SO, in 1949, he set about raising funds. The following year he opened a small building, and the home was on its way.

Although that was 16 years ago, there still is no center in Alabama where orphaned, teen-aged Negro girls can find a home. Our Lady of Fatima Chapel and School receives no federal or state funds. Father Caswell is not supported by any particular Catholic order. As a result, the home has to send financial appeals all over the United States every year.

The boys now live in a college-type dormitory which was built a place at a time over four years as money slowly trickled in. The home is building a gymnasium, Father Caswell hopes it will be finished in another year.

Although our Lady of Fatima Chapel and School has been a success, Catholic schools have been quite eager to give their old books to the home. Father Caswell said that Montgomery's military people have been very helpful in donating books to the school.

The staff has grown to ten, but Father Caswell is the only one who lives there full time. The boys' come from all over the state, and from many different backgrounds. Many are referred there through charities, but most are sent by welfare workers from the Department of Pensions and Securities.

Father Caswell said he tries to take only boys who need a home, but don't need special help. The school has no facilities to deal with juvenile delinquents or retarded children.

"Occasionally we do get boys who are retarded, and it's a real problem, as we aren't equipped to help them," he said.

The boys' daily life is as informal and homelike as possible. They have few formal programs to attend, other than school. On a free afternoon, they often pile into a car and drive to Montgomery for a movie or a baseball game. Or they stay home and organize a game of doubles on a patch of dirt.

The boys also have learned carpentry, plumbing, painting, and other job skills from having to maintain the home.

The boys also raise some farm animals for sale. It's not unusual for a couple of youngsters to keep the boys company while they do the chores or play games.

In the early years of Lady Fatima, the boys were sent to school at St. Jude's, way out on the opposite end of Montgomery. But classrooms were eventually added to the original small building. The boys now attend all their classes right there.

Father Caswell expects the school to become accredited soon, although it is not graded before the seventh grade, and is very short on teachers.

Since the boys arrive with many different backgrounds, they are placed in classes grouped by ability until they are ready to enter the seventh grade.

To make the most of the few teachers, the school gives classes like algebra and geometry only every other year. Two or three grades take the same class at once.

Two volunteers now tutor students who need special help on certain subjects. Father Caswell said he is always on the lookout for more teachers and volunteers.
Troy, Ala. — “I don’t ever intend to dodge our issue—no matter what my past may be,” said Judge C.G. Whitehead, Circuit Court Judge for Macon County, on the eve of the county elections.

“Since I have a better record than mine, I’ve always believed in law and order,” he added. “I’m the same man with a better record than mine for integrity, love, trust, etc.”

“Do I plan to do things in one place to win in another? Where?” Whitehead replied. “Not in politics, doctor.”

“Sure, I know that much about him,” said Mr. Wilson after the meeting. “I do not know him very well, but there is a difference between being honest and being wise.

Only one of the candidates came to the Negro voters meeting, Baker. Wilson, who said he had been hurt, also said that he probably wanted the ticket again.

“My name was our issue, they would call us and not when they got ready,” he explained. “We got other work to do, we were organized.”

“I can’t see that our issue, they would call us and not when they got ready,” he explained. “We got other work to do, we were organized.”

“I do not see the utility of the Negro as a political candidate,” Mr. Whitehead said, “but if he is successful, I’ll do my best to help him.”
WASHINGTON - The deadline for people over 65 to enroll in Medicare is Oct. 15, but the federal government's officials believe many people are not aware of the opportunity to correct the mistakes they have made in the past.

"There are not a ton of people who are coming forward," said Thomas Holman, head of the Office of Continuing Education, at the National Institutes of Health. "But when they do come forward, it's a great opportunity to correct the errors they have made in the past."