THE SOUTHERN COURIER

Vol. IV, No. 28
Weekend Edition: July 13-14, 1968
Ten Cents

Judges in Miss. Ala. Asked To Throw Out Choice Plans

By Perry Walker

Holly Springs, Miss. — G. O. Scull, a Negro, was refused the right to vote in the general election in the Mount Zion Church area on the ground that he did not have a residence within the tax district. Scull, who lives in a mobile home on the outskirts of the community, had obtained a court order but no residence was listed in the tax records. He had a bill for taxes sent to him in the name of his landlord, but the post office failed to deliver it.

A Negro woman was also refused the right to vote. She had obtained a court order but no residence was listed in the tax records. She had a bill for taxes sent to her in the name of her landlord, but the post office failed to deliver it.

The suit had been filed by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which is lobbying for Negroes to vote in all parts of the country.

The case was heard by Judge J. W. Cotton, who is considering the matter.

By Mary Ellen Gile

Montgomery, Ala. — The state has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to throw out a plan that would give Negroes the right to vote for the first time in Alabama.

The state has asked the court to throw out the plan because it would give Negroes the right to vote in all parts of the state, not just in the areas where they have been denied the right to vote in the past.

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By John Singleton

Hattiesburg, Miss. — For the past five years, the city has been without a mayor because of a judge's refusal to certify the election.

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By Bynum Moore

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ROOM 110, FRANK LIVINGSTON MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104

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The Southern Courier is published weekly by a non-profit corporation, the Alabama Farm Bureau and others interested in agriculture and rural life. The views expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the official position of the American Farm Bureau Federation. The Southern Courier is sold on street corners and subscriptions are available.

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New Stamp Vote Denied

By PERCY WALKER

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.--Governor George C. Wallace has scuttled his own Marshall County board of supervisors has turned down a challenge to the election in which a postage stamp program was put up to vote.

The challenge, filed by a law firm of Mobile, was supported by the state board of supervisors who have voted to remain with the present system.

Governor Wallace's legislation, passed by the legislature earlier this year, allowed the state's 67 counties to choose whether or not to use the new postcard system for mailing stamps.

The new system allows the state to collect a maximum of $400,000 annually in postage stamp taxes, while the present system would result in a loss of revenue.

Editorial Opinion

The Real Damage

Alabamians Governor Albert P. Brewster has told a Fourth of July audience last week that people who “make progress and pride the world great” have been struck by the “saddest picture of America.” From the tone of his remarks, it is clear that Brewster has the ideas of the critics of the war in Vietnam damaging America.

The real injury to the United States’ image is being done by the war itself—particularly being opposed by others, it seems to cut off the way you want to go. And still further damage has been inflicted, not by any ideological opposition to the war, but by the very few supporters of U.S. policies, who have been alienated by the war in Vietnam.

There are other revolutions going on in America today. They have to do with the right of black people and poor people to go to school and to be treated as equals in the eyes of the law. There is growing concern about the growing private violence as a means of settling differences. Except for that, they seem to be isolated "poor people," and peace in Vietnam has actually solidified and strengthened the Communists.

Governor Brewster would haveascertainedthe best if he had told Alabamians that it is still too late to acquire a decent respect for the opinions of mankind. He would not have deserved high praise if he had had the courage to point out that most of the “marchers and protesters” are honest people searching for a better way to live.

Awarded to Tenant Farmers

$50,000 in Back Wages

By MARK DUNSTON

MATHISON, Tenn.—Tenant farmers in the central Tennessee area have received $50,000 in back wages they were due.

U. S. Deputy Director William J. Henry of the Department of Labor’s Wage and Hour Division, traveled to Mathison Wednesday to present a check to the families. The families were represented by the Southern Tenant Farmers Union.

This is the first time that tenant farmers have received the approximately $250,000 that was due them. The families were represented by the Southern Tenant Farmers Union.

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'Fourth Day' on the Farm

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-grands 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.

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 in the cotton country of Mississippi. When he was six months old, the family moved to a log cabin in the Gatewood community.

From the age of five until he was 19, 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 an 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 trained up to a better place than I could give them. That was the big thing I continued from there.

All but three of the 15 Gipson children have been college-educated. Three of them—Grace Lenora, Frances ala, and Naomi Ruth—now teach in Shelby County, Tenn. Knowledge, a former teacher, is assistant 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 seen what needed to be done,” he says, “and we did all we could to make it happen.”

Text and Photos

By Perry Walker
the most segregated city in New Jersey.

The NAACP's national board of directors

At the convention, two emergency

One motion to table was made by

Robert Francis Kennedy

SAYS:

The veteran must also agree to take—at

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED—The Mont­

You are willing to accept your personal

There are presently welfare rights scribes. But they cannot keep an accident

There are presently welfare rights scribes. But they cannot keep an accident

The NAACP's income rose from $2,228,127

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did pass an emergency resolution urg­

The NAACP—especially in its Southern

(Though national membership had not increased significantly, more than 3000 new

appointed to serve as an official deputy.

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Remove Bad Luck and Evil Inflation of All Kind. I Overcome Obstacles and Hidden Fears. I Wid...

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