

VICKSBURG CITIZENS' APPEAL

Vol. 1 No. 4

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Church Shot Into During FDP Meeting In Beechwood

On Wednesday evening, November 4, five or six shots were fired at and around the China Grove Baptist Church on old Route 3 near Beechwood. The church was being used for a voter registration class called by the Freedom Democratic Party in Beechwood.

About 34 people were present at the meeting. The group included several small children, one baby, and an elderly woman who walked with the support of a cane.

As the meeting was drawing to a close at approximately 8:45 P. M., it was interrupted by gunfire outside. First there was a single shot described as sounding like a loud fire-cracker. About a half minute later there followed a series of four or five shots much louder than the first.

PANIC

After the first shot the people in the church all dropped to the floor seeking cover. As the series of shots followed, many panicked. There was shoving and pushing to get out of the building's front and back doors. The aged woman was knocked to the floor in the frenzy. COFO worker, Mary Jo Cronin tried to call for calm and order.

After most of the people had crawled out of the building, Jesse Smith located the master light switch and turned the lights off with a broom handle. Then he and another COFO worker, Bill Melish, helped the aged lady out of the church.

When the shooting stopped, everyone at the meeting got into their cars and went quickly home. Mr. Washington, Mr. Clarence Higgins, and one



THE CHINA GROVE Baptist Church (left) in Beechwood where a voter registration class was interrupted by gunfire on November 4. A bullet just missed the window

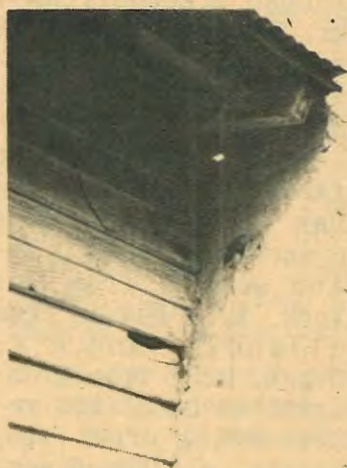


farthest to the right. The bullet hole can be seen in the upper left-hand corner of the picture at right.

(Photos by Staff Photographer)

other man from the area remained at the church until midnight to make sure that no one did any further damage to the building.

Mr. Washington, an experienced hunter, described the shots in the following way: 'The first gun that went off sounded like a .22. I'd say it might have been a signal shot. Then the big guns started up. It had to be a 33-33 or a 30-06. It was a big rifle, or a high powered rifle, and there



THE SOUTH SIDE of the church showing where the bullet came through the wall and chipped a piece of brick off the chimney.

was more than one big gun. The shots were too close together for just one gun.'

One of the bullets went through the north wall of the church in-

(Continued On Page 2)

Freedom Vote Totals Over 60,000 For LBJ

Warren County Fourth Highest

For four days before the regular presidential election on November 3, the Freedom Democratic Party held its own mock election in Mississippi on October 30-November 2. This practice election called a Freedom Vote ended with a total of 63,839 votes for President Johnson, more than he got in Mississippi's November 3 election.

The Freedom Vote was completely separate from the regular election in which President Johnson received only 52,538 votes. In the whole state, Senator Barry Goldwater defeated Johnson with 354,459 registered votes.

Dr. Aaron Henry's name also appeared on the Freedom Vote ballot, opposite that of Democratic Senator John Stennis in the local Senate race. Dr. Henry polled 58,023 votes in the mock election, compared to 139 for Stennis. Barry Goldwater received 17 Freedom votes.

The purpose of the Freedom Vote, as stated by the Freedom Democratic Party, was

Negro Youth Shot; White Man Held

A local white man has been charged with assault and battery in connection with the shooting of John Marshall, a fourteen year-old Vicksburg Negro on Sunday, November 1.

Scheduled for arraignment before the Warren County Grand Jury is Luther P. Keen of Vicksburg who, witnesses say, took aim and fired on Marshall with a shotgun because Marshall would not call him 'sir.' Keen was jailed, then released on \$1500 bond.

Marshall and his friend Albert Neal had been at work near the site on the Yazoo River where the Cairo salvage operations are in progress. Because of the heavy week-end tourist traffic to the spot, Marshall and Neal had been hired to open and close a large gate, about a mile away from the river, to admit cars.

At around 10:30 Sunday morning, Marshall says, he opened the gate to let out a white Ford pickup truck carrying two men; the truck had come through earlier on its

way to the Cairo site. As he was closing the gate, Marshall heard the driver mumble something, too low for him to understand.

'Huh?' Marshall responded.

'I told you not to say that to me, boy,' the driver answered, 'I told you to say 'sir!''

Then according to Marshall, the man riding in the truck, Keen, stepped out holding a single barrel shotgun, aimed, and shot Marshall in the leg.

Bucs Edge Greenwood For Big 8 Championship

The Buccaneers of Temple High beat the Broad Street Tigers, 13-12, in Greenwood on Friday night, November 6.

This game clinched the Bucs hold on the North Division Big 8 championship, bringing Temple's conference record to 7-0.

To start the game, Temple kicked to the Tiger 11-yard line. The Tigers took

over, and on the second play a Tiger halfback sprinted 50 yards. The halfback appeared to be on his way to a score, but defensive end Alfred Prince made a touchdown-saving tackle on the Bucs' 35-yard line. The Bucs tightened up, forcing Greenwood to give up the ball on downs.

Temple took over, but (Continued On Page 6)

Freedom Vote Church Shot Into...

(Continued From Page 1)

Democratic Party, was to show that there would be wide-spread support for colored candidates if the state of Mississippi were to allow their names to be placed on the regular election ballot.

It was also held to show that Mississippi Negroes, many of them members of the Freedom Democratic Party, support the National Democratic Party more avidly than do white Mississippians, most of whom have traditionally been Democrats.

Of the 56 counties in which polling places were set up, Warren County had the fourth highest Freedom Vote tally with 3,102 votes counted. Hinds County had the highest with 8,100, followed by Leflore County and Panola County.

Between October 18 and November 2, FDP workers reported 119 arrests and 63 other incidents of harassment while carrying on the vote drive. Laurence Guyot, FDP State Chairman, sent a telegram to John Baily, Chairman of the National Democratic Party, protesting the treatment of Johnson supporters by local opponents, and requesting an investigation of these instances of harassment.

ches away from a window, crossed the room over the heads of the crouching people, and exited near an opposite window beside the chimney. The bullet was powerful enough to take a chip out of the brick in the chimney.

It is also believed that this same bullet struck the shattered rear window of a pickup truck. No other bullet holes were found in either the church or other vehicles. All the shots were described as coming from the north side of the building.

CAR HEARD

When Mr. Washington got outside, he and two other men who were in the yard during the shooting heard the squeal of tires as a car took off rapidly into the night. The sound came from below a bend in the road on the north side of the church. About one minute elapsed between the last shot and the time the men heard the car squeal away.

Approximately one half hour before the shooting occurred, a couple coming late to the meeting passed a car parked on the wrong side of the road just below the bend on the north side of the church. As they ap-

(Continued From Page 1)

proached the car, it swerved out in front of them and sped away from the area. They noticed white people in the car.

Minutes before the shooting started three young men saw a car parked in the same place, which they said was a light gray 1955 Ford. They reported that the men inside the car were white.

It is believed that three or more snipers left their cars just below the bend and entered the field to make their way up into the belt of woods north of the church. The first shot, made by a small rifle, may have been a signal for the other men to open fire.

1955 FORD

Most people believe that except for the one bullet, the men did not intend to hit the building. Firing from close range at a well illuminated building, they could easily have riddled the church with bullets.

It was learned that a 1955 white Ford had followed COFO workers on Sunday, October 25; there was no license plate on the car at the time. Anyone who has information on a white or light gray 1955 Ford should be sure to report it to the FBI, the police, or the Citizens' Appeal.

NAACP Elects Its Officers

The Vicksburg branch NAACP held its regular meeting on Sunday, November 7. At the meeting, the past year's officers were reelected for 1965.

Rev. Hosie Phillips was reelected President of the branch; Mr. Alfonso Brown, Vice-President; Mrs. M.A. Phelps, Secretary; and Mr. D.W. Simmons, Treasurer.

On the second Sunday in December the installation of all officers will be held at Bingham Memorial Baptist Church. Refreshments will be served by the Entertainment Committee. All members are invited to attend.

Result Of Registration Drive: Negroes Elected In North, South

In the South as well as in the North, several Negro candidates were victorious on election day, November 3. In Georgia, two Negroes were elected to the state legislature, while four Alabama Negroes won positions in the Macon County government.

Attorney General Edward W. Brooke of Massachusetts, the nation's highest-ranking Negro elected to office, won by more than 900,000 votes in a state which gave President Johnson 70 per cent of its votes. Mr. Brooke is a Republican; he won along with two

can opponent by a tally of 21,035 to 3,135.

A second Negro, 37-year-old Horace Ward defeated his white Republican opponent by a 2-1 margin in Georgia's 39th District; he will join Senator Johnson in next year's General Assembly.

FOUR ALABAMANS

In what the Associated Press called "an historic racial breakthrough," four Alabama Negroes were elected in Macon County where the number of voting Negroes outnumbers the number of whites. Macon County was one of the few Alabama counties to give a majority to Lyndon Johnson in the Presidential election. All of the 82 counties in Mississippi gave Senator Goldwater a margin of victory.

Three of the Macon County Negroes were elected without opposition: one a Tuskegee Institute professor, won a position on the county school board, while two others became justices of the peace. In the contested election, Rev. V.A. Edwards defeated Herbert Ruff, an independent, for a position on the board of revenue which is the county governing body.

Macon County is especially significant in that it appears to be the only county in Alabama or Mississippi where the Negro voter registration drive has had an appreciable effect.

In other areas of the South, however, the number of Negro voters is too large for politicians to ignore. The NAACP said recently that there are over two million Negro voters in the Southern states now representing an increase of 700,000 since the beginning of the year.

Tennessee has an estimated 200,000 Negro voters; Georgia, has 270,000; and Florida, 314,000. One county in Florida, Gadsden, had 355 Negroes registered to vote in 1960; in this year's election there were 4,447 Negro voters.

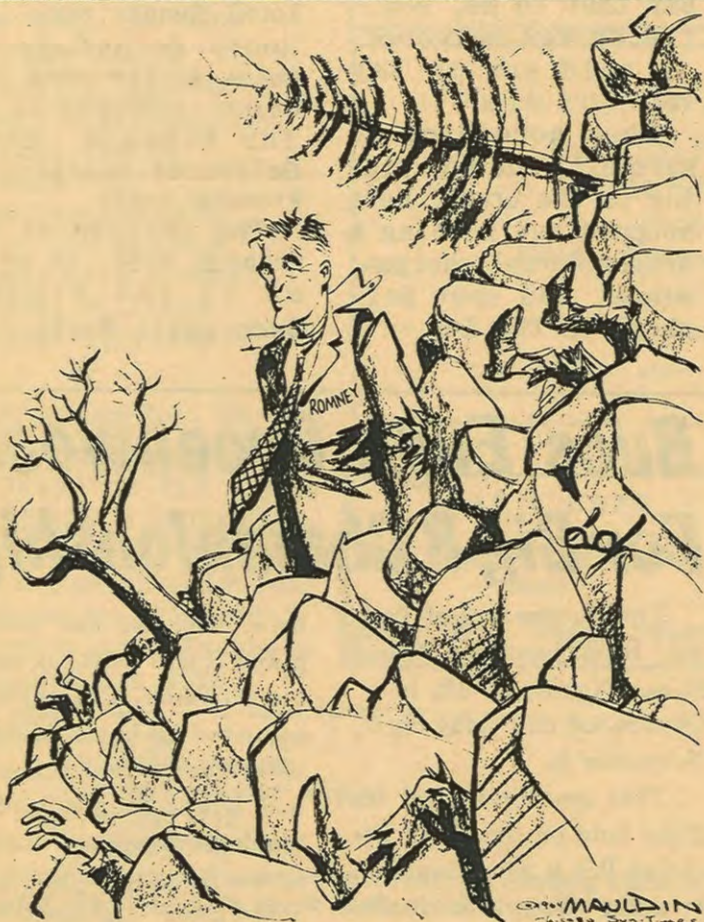


ATTORNEY GENERAL Edward Brooke thanking his campaign workers

other Republicans--the candidate for Governor and Lieutenant Governor--in yet another striking example of ticket splitting. Although a Republican, Mr. Brooke publicly repudiated Senator Goldwater during his campaign.

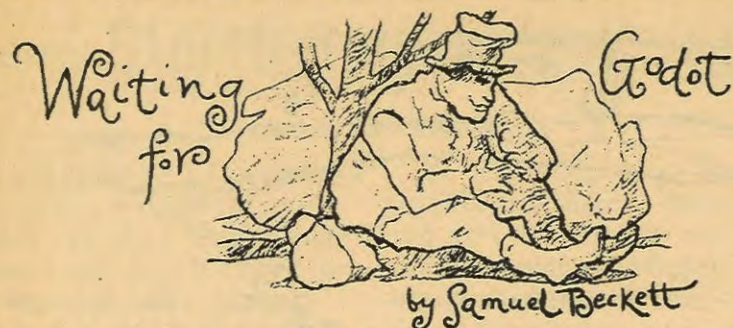
Other Negroes who fared well on election day in the North were Congressmen Adam Clayton Powell from New York, W.L. Dawson from Illinois, and C.C. Diggs, Jr., from Michigan. As Democrats representing urban districts, all three were re-elected on November 3.

In the South, Georgia now has two Negro Senators. Senator Leroy Johnson was re-elected to the seat he won two years ago when he became the first Negro to sit in the the Georgia General Assembly in over 50 years. Senator Johnson defeated his Republi-



SURVIVOR

Governor George Romney of Michigan stood out on election day as a leading Republican who survived LBJ's landslide victory.



THE FREE SOUTHERN THEATER PRESENTS two plays, "Pulie Victorious" and "Waiting for Godot," at Pleasant Green Baptist Church on November 23 and 24, 7:30 P.M. "Pulie Victorious," written by playwright-actor Ossie Davis, is a comedy about life on a Mississippi Plantation. "Waiting for Godot," by Frenchman Samuel Beckett, is an avant-garde play about boredom and despair: two people sit and wait for Godot who never comes. Admission Free.

Harris Beaten By City Policeman; FBI Told

Reginald Harris, a Vicksburg laborer, has filed a complaint with the FBI, charging an officer of the Vicksburg Police Department with a beating he received early Monday morning, November 2.

Mr. Harris, according to his own account of the incident, was on his way home at about 3:30 Monday morning when he was stopped on the corner of Jackson and Cherry Streets by officer George Higgs. Higgs asked to see Harris' drivers' license, but before he could find it, Harris was ordered to get into the police car which Higgs was driving.

HIT SIX TIMES

After he parked Harris' car on Cherry Street, Higgs joined Harris in the police car, and drove him to the Warren County Jail, one block away.

In the jail's reception room, Harris relates, he was asked to take off his necktie, glasses, belt, and ring. Fitted very tightly on his finger, the ring Mr. Harris found impossible to remove. He told officer Higgs of this difficulty.

Harris was denied his request to make a telephone call; and after Harris had mentioned that his ring would not come off, officer Higgs reportedly stepped around from behind the desk and struck him in the face with his fist.

Then, Harris reports, two trustees of

the jail pushed him back against the wall, holding him by his arms and necktie. Higgs continued to beat Harris while he was held in this position. He was hit a total of about six times, by his own estimation, before Higgs stopped and the trustees threw Harris, badly bruised in the face, into a cell.

FINED \$150

Harris was tried at 9:00 the same morning for driving while in - toxicated and 'resisting arrest.' He had not, he says, been told before the trial on what charges he was being held.

Pleading guilty to the first charge, Harris admitted that he had been drinking the night before. On the second count, however, Harris entered a plea of not guilty. He was given the chance to tell his version of the arrest; officer Higgs, who spoke after he had concluded his defense, claimed that Harris had not been 'co-operative.' Higgs also, according to Harris, told the court that Harris had 'not moved fast enough' at the time he was taken into jail.

The court ruled to fine Harris \$100 for driving while intoxicated, and \$15 for resisting arrest.

Since his release, Harris has made statements concerning his treatment in jail to representatives of COFO and to the local FBI agent.

RIGHTS GROUP MEETS BEFORE ELECTION DAY

About 100 citizens of Vicksburg attended a pre-election meeting at Shiloh Baptist Church on Meadow Street Monday, November 2. The meeting was called by the Warren County Improvement League, primarily for the purpose of explaining the ballot.

After the opening freedom songs led by Alfred Chiplin with Charles Chiplin playing the piano, Rev. R. F. Vernon led a Dr. Watts, followed by the opening prayer by Rev. Hosie Phillips. These were two of the eight ministers on the rostrum.

Mr. Frank Summers, President of the Warren County Improvement League, conducted the meeting and explained the system of marking seven electors on the ballot. He and Mr. Eddie Thomas answered questions on the ballot, explaining that it was not necessary to vote for Senator and Congressman in order to have your vote for President and Vice-President count.

Mr. Thomas also explained the Freedom Democratic Party's

(Continued on page 8)

Marshall, who had turned and run as soon as Keen raised his gun, fell wounded about 22 feet from where Keen was standing. The gate which stood between the two took most of the shot, but Marshall was struck by seven pellets in the outside of his right leg. The gate was hit about fifty pieces of shot.



JOHN MARSHALL... with six pellets still in his leg.

Keen next turned the gun on Neal, who dove for cover in the grass bordering the road. Keen got back into the truck, and the two men drove away. The two boys began to walk in opposite direction, looking for help.

The sheriff's car passed, and the boys flagged the car down and got in. Neal stayed by the gate, but Marshall and the deputy driving the car kept on down the road until they caught up with the truck at the old Redwood bridge.

DENIES SHOOTING

According to Marshall, the deputy stopped the truck and asked Keen, 'Why did you shoot this boy?' Keen reportedly answered that he knew nothing about the shooting.

The deputy took both men, with the four rifles they had been carrying with them, into the car. Upon reaching highway 61, Marshall says, he was transferred to another car, which took him to Kuhn Memorial Hospital in Vicksburg.

Only one pellet of the seven was removed from Marshall's leg that day. He had to wait until Monday to receive an x-ray, when six more pieces of shot were discovered imbedded in his leg. On Monday, he was hospitalized for four days, at the end of which time, the pellets had not yet been taken out of his leg.

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VICKSBURG CITIZENS' APPEAL

Mrs. Aaron Shirley Editor

P. O. Box 1112
636-7601

Vicksburg, Mississippi

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Mr. Eddie Thomas President

Who Did It?

'Well, we did it, we sure did....'

This is a refrain that we often heard just after the election last November 3. Warren County Negroes certainly were glad to see President Johnson win by such a landslide; they were glad to take credit for it too.

We were glad to see President Johnson win by so much also, but we don't see how we as Warren County Negroes can take the credit for it. About six million Negroes voted throughout America in the election, and since 90 per cent of them voted for President Johnson, Negroes did play an important role in the election of the President.

But in Warren County it was a different story. About 2500 Negroes are registered to vote in Warren County, which is about 2500 more than are registered in most other Mississippi counties. (The total number of Negroes registered in the state is estimated at 26,000.)

The final totals in the national election for Warren County were 7409 for Goldwater, 1631 for Johnson. It is no surprise that Warren County and every county in Mississippi went for Goldwater; nor is it really our fault. But it is a surprise, and it is our fault, that Warren County, with 2500 registered Negro voters, could only muster 1631 votes for LBJ, the man who, with the help of his running mate, got the civil rights bill through Congress.

If we really were interested in defeating Senator Goldwater, why is it that we did not vote? If we are really interested in citizenship, why is it that more of us are not registered? Why is it that more of those who are registered did not vote? Out of the 2500 registered Negro voters, probably about 100 voted on election day (allowing for about 600 white votes for Johnson). These are just the kind of statistics the segregationists cling to. We are only giving them ammunition with that kind of performance.

Who did it? Well, we didn't, we sure didn't.

Forward And Back

It is indeed a sad--and not very unusual--state of affairs when one feels like complimenting someone who does a great deal less than he should do. But as Mississippi shows signs of moving--ever so slowly--toward sanity, this is the position we feel ourselves in.

Throughout the state there have been signs of progress:

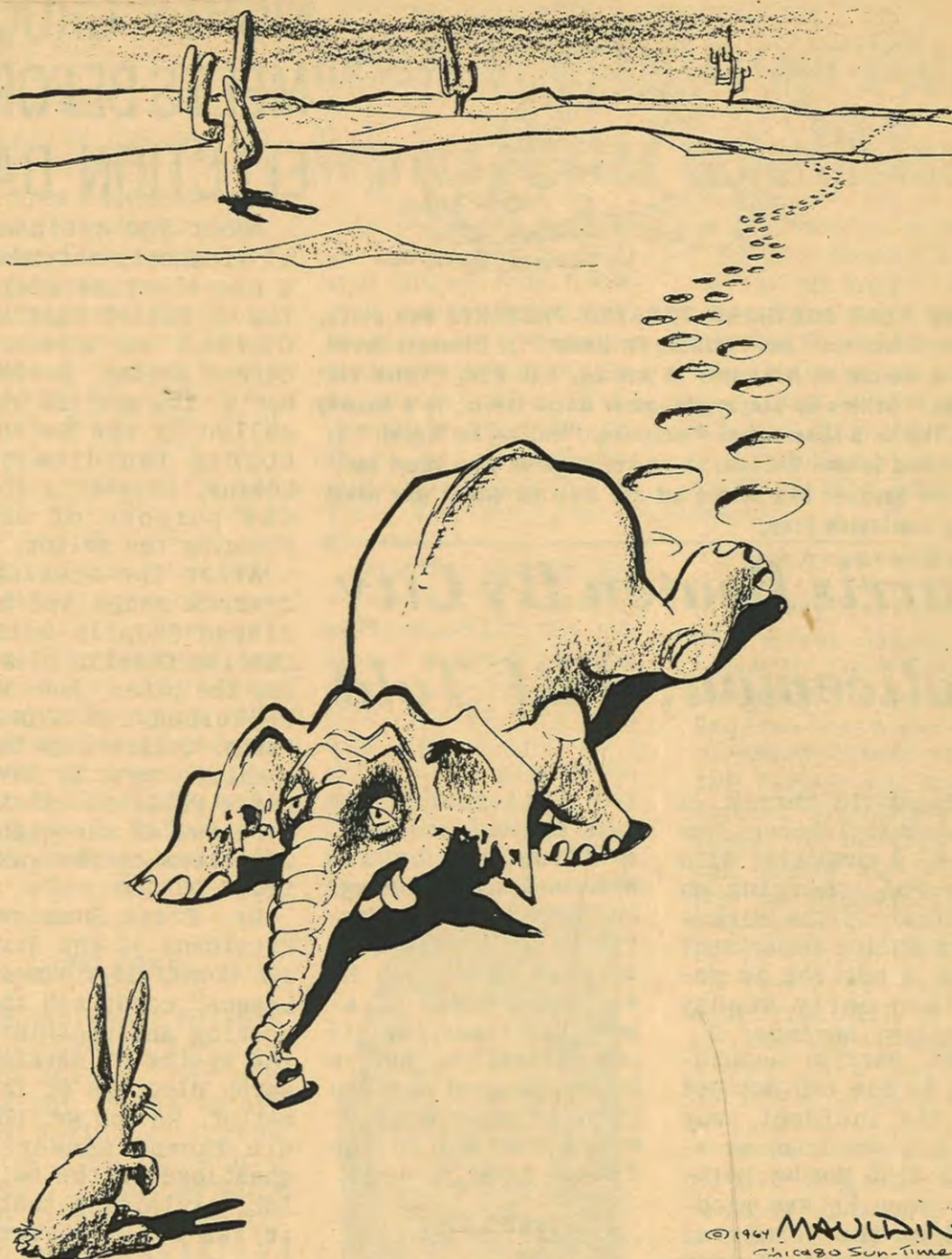
There were grand jury indictments in connection with the murder of the three civil rights workers in Neshoba County. There were numerous arrests in McComb and in Magnolia for the bombing there.

The FBI has arrested two men in Meadville for their role in the death of the two Negroes, Alcorn students, found in the Old River last summer.

And here in Warren County a white man was arrested for shooting a Negro youth at the site of the Cairo.

The trouble is that each step forward seems

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"WHICH WAY TO THE MAINSTREAM?"

Senator Goldwater was often accused of being outside the mainstream of American political thought. Now that President Johnson has won by such a landslide many leaders of the Republican Party will be looking for the mainstream again.

Letters To The Editor

Absent

To the Editor:

I am a student at Rosa A. Temple High School. The reason I am writing is to inform you readers of an observation that I have made at each football game.

As you know, the Buccaneers of Temple High have had a very successful season this year. I have attended every home game and every away game.

At one of the home games, the mayor of Vicksburg was present, but I have yet to see Dr. M.M. Hawkins, Superintendent of Schools, attend one of our games. I have also learned that he makes it a point to be at all of H.V. Cooper's football games. He is supposed to be Super-

(Continued On Page 6)

Ralph McGill

Five States Lonely In A Progressing South

A towering tidal wave of votes in the nation's presidential election swept away all the accumulated garbage of smear books and pamphlets, all the sick propaganda and falsehood. The result was a rejection of Barry M. Goldwater that gave a mighty answer to the 'choice, not an echo' slogan of the curious clique of extremist groups that had supported him.

Only in the areas of the old cotton and sugarcane South, where much of the archaic plantation culture and prejudices still have deep roots, was there sullen and blindly irrational support of the Goldwater program of racist prejudice, of the klans and birth-

type mentality. The Senator from Arizona had spoken to them from beneath Confederate flags. He had promised to cast out the Supreme Court and to restore the old concept of states' rights. Georgia provided the one surprise. The south areas of Savannah, Augusta, and Columbus, which had gone Republican for Eisenhower and Nixon, repeated. But rural counties, traditionally Democratic and faithful even to Kennedy, vented their resentment over civil rights to go for Goldwater. They were enough to place Georgia with the anticipated defections of

(Continued On Page 5)

Five States Lonely...

(Continued From Page 4)

and failed. North Georgia responded well. But in the Southern half of the state, a campaign that distorted and falsified the Civil Rights Act won enough adherents to put Georgia in the Goldwater-Republican column, the first time in its history that the state had so voted.



MR. MC GILL

There were other contributing factors. The state's senior senator, Richard B. Russell, who had led and lost the filibuster against the rights bill, refused to speak or work for the party's nominees. He contented himself with saying he would vote the ticket. Only the vigorous and consistent work of the state's young governor, Carl Sanders, prevented a larger margin of defeat.

LEFT MAINSTREAM

The five states of the Old South should have provided the small hard core of Goldwater support is a melancholy commentary on the values of those so voting and on their awareness of the nation's commitment to a future of unity and advancement. In producing a somewhat slender margin for prejudice and for withdrawal from the mainstream of national decision, those who made up the area of victory for the senator revealed once more how separate they are from reality and the national course. In Georgia, at least, they have not won a true victory. They have, at best, succeeded in delaying the state's progress and temporarily blurring its image.

In retrospect, the triumph of anger, hate and prejudice in the small group of Southern states may prove, in a long run, to be a necessary therapy. They are so very much alone. Their position is untenable for any long period of time. They are still part of the union and bound by its constitutional laws. They have, by their action, so isolated themselves that they cannot fail to see how terribly and irrevocably alone they are. They are surrounded by sister states that have committed themselves to progress in education and industry. The Goldwater victory in the South is a pyrrhic one in the full sense of the word.

Nationally, the Johnson victory was awesome in its massive size and in the fact that it carried governors, senators, and congressmen to triumph. The Democratic party is stronger than at any time since the peak Roosevelt years. This is the real story.

McIntyre Honor Roll

FIRST SIX WEEKS

8th Grade

Jacqueline Adams
C. Faye Austin
Delores Beck
Evelyn Burns
Sharron Brown
Vincent Brown
Thrasher Chamberlain
Larry Chisley
J. B. Edwards
Jean Ethel Fowlkes
Mary Hill
Carl Jackson
Isabella James
Andrew Lee
Jeanette Lee
Willie Moore
Alice Myles
Essie Springs
Connie Taylor
Denise Williams
Carolyn Wilson

7th Grade

Sylvester Adams
Ella Bessie Banks
John Brown
Arthur Chambers
Janice Dorsey
Mila Draper
Hattie Holmes
Horatio Jones
Sharlyn Kennedy
Robert Sims

6th Grade

Anthony Adams
Robert Brown
Carole Burton
Marion Ellis
Gloria Fisher
Grace Jefferson
Reginold Johnson
Joyce Kennedy
Gloria Phillips
Harry Smith
Myron Taylor
Arlene White
Audrey Wilson

5th Grade

Jacquelyn Barnes
Ray Cosby
Wanda Crayton
Marilyn Fields
Diane Fisher
Annie Johnson
Valerie Jordon
Shirlene Miller
Wanda Mitchell
Jacquelyn Perkins
Janice Ramsey
Patsy Smith
Euphytee Williams
Theo Williams
Licia Wilson

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Temple High-lights

MOCK ELECTION

The students of Rosa A. Temple High School voted on November 2 in a mock election sponsored by the Social Science Department. Voting at Temple gave President Lyndon Johnson a greater landslide victory than did the nation-wide election.

The Department Chairman, Mrs. Barbara F. Banks, organized the election held at Temple. The polls were located on the school's patio; they were open from 8:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. The names appearing on the ballot were Democratic candidates for President and Vice-President: President Johnson and Senator Hubert Humphrey; and Republican candidates for President and Vice-President: Senator Goldwater and Representative William Miller.

The students waited in long lines for their chance to vote. There were 984 votes cast; 933 of them were cast for President Johnson and seven for Senator Goldwater.

STUDENT STRIKE

Since October 30 the students of Rosa A. Temple High School have been on strike against the cafeteria. The strike is in protest of the preparation and the amount of food served at lunch which costs students 30 cents and teachers 35 cents.

A letter was sent to the cafeteria head asking that changes be made by Thursday, October 29, or the students would strike. The 70 per cent of the body, according to one estimate.

Some students have said that they would continue to bring lunch from home and remain on strike as long as necessary for changes to be made.

The Medical Adviser

(All questions concerning medical advice should be addressed to the Medical Adviser, Vicksburg Citizens' Appeal, P.O. Box 1112.)

Q. What is a pinworm?

A. The pinworm is a white thread-like parasite that lives in the intestine. It is found in people of all ages but is more commonly found in children.

Q. Is the infection of pinworm more common in women than in men?

A. Yes, probably because women spend more time caring for children than men and are exposed to the parasite more.

Q. How are pinworms spread?

A. The young worm lives in the small intestines and the adult lives in the large intestines. The female worm wanders out of the anus, causing considerable itching. When the person scratches, the female worm is crushed and the eggs are deposited on the fingers. Naturally, when the fingers are carried to the mouth the eggs are in-

College Exam Schedule Set

UNCF Colleges will require the Scholastic Aptitude Test of the College Entrance Board for admission and scholarships for student applicants for the 1965 school year. These tests will be administered in lieu of the CIEP Tests previously required.

The schedule is as follows for 1964-65: Saturday, December 5, January 9, March 6, May 1, and Wednesday, July 14.

Most students who plan to apply for admission or scholarship for the fall of 1965 should take the test in December or January. The fee for the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) is \$4.50. Temple High students should see the counselor for further information.

Testing centers near Vicksburg are Greenville, December 5, January 9, March 6, May 1; Jackson, December 5, January 9, March 6, May 1; and Tougaloo College, December 5, March 6, May 1.

For a bulletin of information, or the Test Registration Card, write to the College Entrance Examination Board, Box 592, Princeton, New Jersey 08540, or to Dean A.A. Branch, Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, Mississippi.

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