



THE LIBERTY BELL

"The Voice of Freedom"

March 19, 1965

Vol. 1, No. 6

Events at Selma, Ala.

Gulfport Memorial MARCH and Service

On Sunday afternoon, March 7th, a group of marchers set out from a church in Selma for a 50 mile march on the capitol in Montgomery. They were protesting the death of Jimmie Lee Jackson and the entire system of discrimination which they had been facing as they attempted to register to vote.

Thousands of Negro citizens had been jailed in Selma during the preceding weeks. We all know what happened on this fateful day--the teargas, horses, clubs, whips aroused the conscience of the nation.

Over 400 ministers and hundred of others from the north descended on Selma. And on Tuesday, March 9th, nearly 3,000 people began to walk the same path of Sunday's disaster. This time there was no violence; the marchers were halted; they held a prayer service and then returned.

Then that evening another tragedy occurred--another sample of the hatred which has been bred into people by a system of discrimination which teaches that some men are less than human. Rev. James Reeb, a Unitarian minister from Boston, was attacked and beaten by a group of white men as he and two companions left a Negro cafe. Two days later Rev. Reeb died, leaving a wife and four children.

On Wednesday, two marches were held in Alabama. In Selma there was an attempt to march to the courthouse, but the marchers were contained within the Negro district, less than a block from the church. There they remained, through that night and into the next day.

In Montgomery a group of students from Tuskegee Institute marched on the capitol, for the purpose of presenting a petition of grievances to Governor Wallace. He refused to see representatives of the group or to send a representative to the group, so they remain. The police blocked off the area and refused to allow marchers to get food or blankets, or leave to use toilet facilities. The protest lasted 13 hours.

The NAACP is sponsoring a Memorial Procession and Service. The Procession will begin from the ILA Hall, at 29th Ave. & 23rd St. this Sunday, March 21. People should arrive at the Hall at 2:00 p.m. in order to receive instructions and be prepared to leave the Hall at 2:30 p.m.

The mourners will walk to the Federal Post Office building downtown, where they will hold a brief prayer service before returning to the ILA Hall.

People are also urged to write letters of protest to the President and to deposit these at the Post Office.

"GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN
THAN THIS, THAT HE LAY DOWN HIS
LIFE FOR HIS FRIEND."

Biloxi Memorial

Sunday, March 14th, the Federal Building in Biloxi was the scene of a Memorial Service honoring Rev. Reeb, the minister killed in Selma last week. At 3:00 pm the people gathered at the Tabernacle Baptist Church and began a procession to the Federal Building. As they marched other people lined the streets to watch and many joined the line. By the time the procession reached the Federal Building there were over 200 in the line. Rev. John Elise gave a brief sketch of Rev. Reeb's life and a scripture reading. The main address was given by Mrs. Susie Ruffin of Laurel, Miss. She spoke about her personal experiences in Selma, Alabama. When the procession started back singing "We Shall Overcome," a large crowd of hecklers had gathered and shouted at the people in the procession who marched back to the church protected by police who lined the parade route.

GULFPORT STAFF:

Jack Mogelson will be away for three more weeks. His mother has just entered the hospital and he plans to stay by her side. We all pray for her quick recovery.

Pendelton Bobby Ray has just joined our staff. He is a resident of Gulfport and worked this summer in Biloxi. He is now working on voter registration in Central Gulfport.

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Just a couple of lines to ask that anyone interested in writing for the "Liberty Bell" Please contact Eleanor Aragon at 2905 Harrison Street. All articles of community interest will be very much appreciated.

FDP WORKSHOP

The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party is planning a workshop on MARCH 22, 1965. the Workshop will begin at 10:00 a. m. and will probably last two week, in Biloxi.

All FDP members, workers, and staff members are asked to attend this workshop.

***** Sewing Center

A meeting was held at 1711 Jackson Street on March 12th.

We now have 22 members attending sewing classes, many of them have already made two garments. There are five sewing machines working, and others are to be repaired so they can be put to use.

Material is given out on Friday evening at 6:30, there are only a very few small pieces left, mostly scraps.

Mrs. Lois Thompson

Announcements

Sunday, March 21--Memorial
Procession and
March--2 P.M.

Monday, March 22--FDP Workshop in
Biloxi--10 A.M.

PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

THE LIBERTY BELL

"THE VOICE OF FREEDOM"

June 19, 1965

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CLERK RECONSIDERS PRINTING

Clerk of the House of Representatives Ralph Roberts received a letter on June 8 from Attorney McClendon, lawyer for the five Mississippi Congressmen, asking that Roberts look into the technical details of printing the depositions taken earlier this year in Mississippi to obtain evidence about why we cannot vote and how the congressmen from Mississippi do not do the things we want. Clerk Roberts is now reviewing the whole issue, because there are a few technicalities that can be objected to. For example, the documents were not properly sealed and some were not signed in the right places. The clerk agreed to review the matter after he had publicly decided he would have all the evidence printed. If the depositions are not printed, the congressmen will have no opportunity to read the evidence before voting on the issue.

It is vital that we continue to put pressure on Congressmen to have the evidence printed. Ask congressmen for copies of the evidence. A group of seven congressmen, Edwards and Hawkins of California, Vivyan, Conyers, and Diggs from Michigan, and Resnick and Dow from New York, called a press conference to discuss the clerk's refusal to print the evidence. They are organizing action around that.

Over 200 students are in Washington, D.C. lobbying for the Mississippi FDP Challenge. They have undergone an orientation led by Bill Higgs, Mrs. Victoria Gray, Jan Goodman, Mike Thelwell, and Willie Johnson on the legal aspects of the challenge. Now they are talking with the congressmen about the significance of the challenge and writing letters to people in their home states urging them to contact their representatives in support of the FDP challenge. A number of the congressmen have mentioned that they have had no word from the people back home about this matter.

ARRESTS IN JACKSON

Monday, June 14, the Mississippi State Legislature was scheduled to begin meeting in special session to revamp the state's voting laws. The MFDP had called for people from all across the state to come to Jackson to protest the meeting of the legislature on the grounds that it was not chosen by all the people, and therefore had no right to sit and pass laws, and also to make known their desire for free and open elections following the passage of the federal voting bill. About 500 people were gathered in Jackson to protest. They gathered in the Morning Star Baptist Church, to hear Mrs. Annie Devine say, "I'm the happiest person in Mississippi. We must start at the State Capitol. Washington is important, but we must start here at home."

Around noon, 30 picketers left the church in cars for the capitol. As soon as they got out of their cars, they were arrested. The rest of the group began marching to the Capitol. They marched ten blocks without harassment. Then one block from the Capitol, large flat-bed trailer trucks topped with wire-cage-like enclosures suddenly appeared, and the police began arresting all the marchers and putting them into the trailers. Police beat some marchers with billy clubs, so that three people, Bill Light, Emily Gordon, and Ron Weiss, had to have their heads stuck up at the University Medical Center. The marchers were arrested by the Jackson City Police and State Highway Patrolmen, and taken to the Jackson State Fairgrounds. Chuck McKeller

and Charles Wheeler were among those arrested.

They were charged with demonstrating without a permit. Police Chief Ray had told Jesse Harris before they marched that they would need a permit; but the marchers were marching under First amendment rights of peaceful assembly to protest grievances. Bond money totaled \$50,000.

ABC news Tuesday night showed the federal marshals pushing the people who demonstrated at the Post Office onto city property so that they could be arrested by the city police. Wednesday morning at a press conference a telegram was read from Dick Gregory and Al Raby. "Greetings from the Chicago Movement in the 11th Police Station to our brothers and sisters in the Jackson jail. In Chicago and in Jackson, we shall overcome." It was also reported that when the news reached those in jail in Chicago, they broke into "You've got to do what the Spirit says do." Some of the guards sang also.

SWIMMING POOL AUCTION

June 11 was the date of an auction in North Gulfport to raise funds for the new swimming pool. Held at the Christian Community Center and sponsored by the North Gulfport Good Deeds Association, the auction netted \$312. All items were donated by interested people, particularly by merchants. Lew Henderson and his staff voluntarily did the actual auctioning.

Over 150 people attended the auction. The enthusiasm was very fine. Breakdown on the proceeds was as following:

\$250	sale of auction goods
29	concessions
32	donations from merchants in lieu of goods
<u>\$312</u>	Total

All the money will be used for the swimming pool, which brings that fund to \$7600. An additional \$5,000 is needed and so other projects will be necessary to finish raising the funds.

GULFPORT COFO STAFF

Sam Walker returned Friday from New York where he has been visiting relatives and friends.

Peggy King arrived on the Project last week. Peggy is from Nebraska and will be working on the staff for one year.

Johnnie Campbell left for California where he will visit a student group which has adopted him. From there he will go to Lincoln, Nebraska to visit the FSNCC there. Then he will return to Gulfport.

Donna Leslie left for California to visit her parents. Her mother has been ill. Donna plans to return in July.

OF INTEREST:

Negroes working on plantations in the Delta are striking for higher wages. They have met with some success.

APPLICATION NEARS COMPLETION

The Anti-poverty Committee working under the North Gulfport Civic Club met Friday night to approve sixteen pages of its application for the Community Action Program and to discuss other aspects of the program. The committee hopes to have the application completed in time to be approved at their next meeting, Friday, June 25, 8:00pm at the Good Deeds Association Building. After the application is finished, it will be sent to the regional office in Atlanta, Georgia.

ATTENTION!

NORTH GULFPORT CIVIC CLUB MEETING.....Tuesday, June 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the Masonic Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.



THE LIBERTY BELL

"The Voice of Freedom"

July 17, 1965

Vol. 1, No. 12

PROTEST THE FOOD STAMPS!

If you dislike the food stamp program, then you should sign a petition at Mrs. Keyes house before this Monday at noon!

The petition says: "We protest the food stamp program. It is too expensive. We demand a return to the commodity plan."

A committee will take the petition to Mr. Harry Walker on Monday. Another copy will be sent to Washington.

We may be able to change the program. Already 97 people have signed. Are you one? **ONLY YOU CAN WIN YOUR FREEDOM.**

Come to the next meeting Friday at 8:00 p.m. at Shiloh Baptist Church to find out what happened.

BEACH OPEN TO ALL

If you ride down Highway 90, it becomes clear that Mississippi is changing. On Independence Day one could not drive two miles without seeing an integrated beach.

Business is booming on the Gulf coast----the best tourist season since 1958. It seems that our businessmen and politicians have finally gotten smart and decided not to spoil their business by causing trouble on the beach.

The beach is now open to all. If you want to swim, don't make that long trip to Pass Christian. Try a new place.

IT IS NOW EASIER TO REGISTER TO VOTE

* NO INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

* NO 30 DAY WAIT

* HELP YOUR FRIENDS TO REGISTER

NO MORE CONFUSION

So many things are happening that it is difficult to keep them all straight.

There has been a lot of confusion about Head Start and the Civic Action Committee in Gulfport. Both of them are parts of President Johnson's War on Poverty, but they are completely separate.

Project Head Start consists of summer nursery schools for children about to enter the first grade. It is to give them a head start. This program will last only for the eight weeks of the summer.

Completely separate from this is the Civic Action Committee of the North Gulfport Civic Club. This is a group that is still waiting to be approved and will be able to conduct programs in the community to combat poverty. For instance, it might set up adult literacy classes, or a secretarial school, or vocational training.

These are both part of the total War on Poverty, but are separate parts. Project Head Start is here, and is now operating. The Civic Action Committee's work is something in the future.

TESTING PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Gulfport Freedom Democratic Party will be testing public accommodations on Monday, July 19. A group of FDP workers and local people will see if they will be served at several places noted for their segregation. If you are interested in testing accommodations in Gulfport, come by the FDP office in Central Gulfport or call 863-9550 and groups will be formed for testing. We must exercise our rights if these rights are to have any meaning.

CLASSES, CLASSES, AND MORE CLASSES

CENTRAL GULFPORT

There will be a Freedom School held at the ILA (Longshoremen's) hall, 2223 29th Ave. every day beginning Thursday, July 22, 1965. Students aged 9-14 at 10:00 a.m. Students aged 15-19 at 1:00 p.m. Adults at 6:30 p.m.

The possible classes to be taught include reading, writing, arithmetic, Negro history, French, Spanish, nutrition, or social science.

Supplement your public school education with knowledge that you may not be getting in Mississippi schools. The schools are sponsored by the Gulfport Freedom Democratic Party.

JUNIOR HIGH

Freedom School classes for junior high school students are now meeting everyday Monday through Friday. Students are coming between 9 and 11 a.m. to Sweet Home Baptist Church. The Deacons of the Church have kindly given their permission to let the classes meet in the church.

Mr. Kopp, a high school teacher from New York, started teaching last Monday, July 12. About 12 students began to practice measuring with rulers and to use mathematics to make writing boards. These boards will be used as desks for the students. The students seem to enjoy this work and are learning a lot from it.

Any student who has passed into the seventh, eighth, or ninth grade who would like to join the class should come to the Sweet Home Church when the students meet in the morning.

COLLEGE GROUP

Last Thursday 25 students who will enter college in September met at the East Side Community Center in Soria City to hear Mr. Lorenz Graham of Los Angeles, Calif. Mr. Graham is the author of several novels. Two of them are South Town and North Town. In these books Mr. Graham tells the feelings and hopes of a Negro family, first in the South and then later when they move North.

HEALTH

Adult health classes will be held every Tuesday from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at the housing project office.

Children's diseases, good foods, and first aid will be discussed. Mrs. Johnson, a nurse's aide, will speak this Tuesday. Mrs. Helen Harville is the chairman.

Teenage girls will have classes every Wednesday. The place and time have not yet been decided upon. For further information, contact Sammy Lee Gray who is chairman of the group.

SEWING

Sewing classes have begun again at the sewing center, 1711 Jackson Street. Two classes have been organized for adults.

1. Wednesdays from 4:30 -6:30. Mrs. Sally Simmons, teacher.
2. Thursdays from 7:00-9:00p.m. Mrs. Gaynette Flowers, teacher.

The women decided that dues would be 50¢ a week.

A class for teenagers will begin this Monday at 7:00 p.m. at the sewing center. Any interested teenage girl may attend. Dues will be 25¢ a week.

REGISTER
TO
VOTE
NOW

PREPARES

Mr. Graham spoke to the students about how he became an author and why he writes his novels. This proved to be a very interesting class.

The class for college students now plans to meet two nights each week. Mr. Kopp is also teaching this class. Any student in college or going to college in September can join the class. Call 864-3139.



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"The Voice of Freedom"

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SUCCESS AT LAST

On July 17, a group of local kids along with some of the FDP workers went to Triplett & Day Drug Store to see if they would be served at the lunch counter.

They sat down at the lunch counter but no waitress approached to serve them. Although they asked for cokes, still no attempt was made to serve them. They sat for about one hour and then left.

On Monday I joined the group and we sat there for about two hours without being served. We tried to take up as many seats as possible so that other customers that came in would have to leave. On Tuesday when we went in, there was a group of high school students (white) taking up all the empty seats so we could not sit down, but when white customers came in, they would get up and let them sit down.

On Wednesday we started to picket the drug store, carrying signs that read, "We want to eat here." We kept that up all day Wednesday, even during the hard rain, and Thursday until Mr. Day decided he had had enough and wanted to negotiate. By that time the mayor brought a city ordinance that was written in 1935 that prohibited more than three pickets at one time.

So we left three pickets out and went in to negotiate with Mr. Day. He said that if we stopped picketing until Tuesday, he would consider integrating the lunch counter, but we told him that we could not make that agreement without talking to the local peoples and seeing what they wanted to do. So we decided to give him until Monday.

Later on Thursday evening, Donna Leslie and myself were arrested while sitting on the porch of the FDP office. Two Negro polices came by and Donna called out, "Hey, Uncle Tom", and they arrested her. I said, "I thought you could not arrest white peoples." (Donna is white.) And they then arrested me, too.

We got out on twenty-five dollars bail each. The charges were interference with an officer, harrasment and intimidation. We did not appear in court Wednesday evening. We were fined \$25.00 each with sentences suspended. Triplett & Day is now fully integrated.

During all the sit-ins, picketing, and arrests not a word was printed in the newspaper about it. Why? The answer my friend is yours. Yours in the struggle, Johnnie Campbell.

Note: Some of the local young people of the community went through alot to make it possible for Negroes to eat at Triplett & Day. It is up to you to use the victory that they have won so that this will be a permanent gain for Gulfport.

GULFPORT SCHOOLS TO INTEGRATE

The Gulfport School Board announced last week that they would integrate four grades this fall. The first, second, third and ninth grades will be integrated.

The school board has chosen the "Freedom of Choice" plan. Under this system, parents may choose which school they want to send their children to.

Parents of children entering these four grades have already received letters explaining the system.

If too many children apply for one school, those who attended that school last year will have first choice. After that, those children who live closest to the school will have first choice.

DO NOT FILL OUT YOUR FREEDOM OF CHOICE FORM. The city is hoping that people will do this in a hurry. We need to take time to organize and plan together. The city is trying to use this tactic to prevent real integration to take place.

The school board will integrate eight grades by 1966 and all twelve grades by 1967.

VR CAMPAIGN

A large voter registration drive is about to begin in Gulfport.

Dr. Felix Dunn announced the idea at the July meeting of the NAACP and asked Rev. John Else of North Gulfport to help him.

A system of block captains will be set up. These block captains will get the names of all people over 21 on their block and whether or not they are already registered. This will be put on permanent records.

Then the block captains will help unregistered people to register. They will have copies of the voter registration test.

There is a new test and it is much easier to register. There are only eight questions instead of 20. And there is no "interpretation" question. Also, there is no 30 day wait; you find out if you passed right after you take the test.

There will be a meeting of all the block captains from all over the city next Tuesday night at the ILA Hall at 8 p.m.

About one out of every four Negroes is registered already in Gulfport. This makes us one of the leading cities in the state.

The voter registration drive will try to make Gulfport the first city with everyone registered.

NEGRO REGISTRATION UP!

It was reported last week in the Daily Herald that six times as many Negroes are registering to vote as whites.

In Hattiesburg, 300 Negroes have registered in the past month and only 10 whites. In Jackson, 173 Negroes have registered and only 10 whites.

The Daily Herald quoted a white official who was very concerned about the fact that whites were not registering.

He said: "We've opened the doors to Negro voters and they're coming down to register, but apparently the whites don't realize the seriousness of the situation."

"They believe in what they're doing and it's a serious matter to them, but I'm afraid the whites will do like they've always done in the past...those that are registered won't vote and the ones that aren't registered will stay that way."

THE SOUTHERN COURIER

The Southern Courier is being sold in Gulfport by John Wesley Haskin. The Southern Courier carries news about civil rights events.

The paper sells for 10¢ and comes out once a week. One of the editors of The Southern Courier is ELLEN LAKE who worked with COFO in Gulfport last summer.

The paper plans to come out all during the year and print the news that most newspapers do not print.

FOOD STAMPS

160 peoples have signed the petition against food stamps. If you want to sign too, go to Mrs. Keyes' home this week.

HEALTH CLASSES

The adult health class will discuss good foods and diets for their children. Everybody is invited this Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Project center.

The teenage class will meet again at Mt. Olive Church at 7:00 p.m. Thursday night.

FINISH HIGH SCHOOL

Do you want to finish high school? Do you know someone who wants to finish high school?

Adults in North Gulfport should be able to attend classes at night at the North Gulfport High School. They could then complete studying for a high school diploma. Over 30 people have already said that they would like to go to these classes. If you are interested, call 864-3139.

REGISTER FOR REFERENDUM

Register in time to vote in the referendum Tuesday, August 17th. This election will determine whether the voting laws are officially changed. Mainly, it would mean that the interpretation questions would be dropped and the form shortened, making it easier to register.

The old voting laws were designed to prevent Negroes from voting. The new ones will encourage Negroes to vote. As many people as possible should vote for this change in the voting laws.

HARRISON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD TO ANNOUNCE DESEGREGATION PLANS MONDAY NIGHT. SEE TUESDAY'S DAILY HERALD.



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"THE VOICE OF FREEDOM"

August 14, 1965

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BLOCK CAPTAINS

The Greater Gulfport Block Captains will hold their second meeting on TUESDAY, AUGUST 17th, at St. Paul AME Church on the corner of 21st and 32nd Avenue.

The first meeting was held on August 3rd and was very successful. A large number of the block captains were there and they reported on their work.

Since then, people have begun registering in large numbers in Gulfport. There have been at least a few people every day at the Court House.

If a strong Block Captain organization is set up, the job of registering everyone can be done.

The meeting Tuesday is open to all people and anyone interested may attend.

At this meeting, an Executive Committee will be elected to direct the Voter Registration Drive.

Remember, this Tuesday night at St. Paul AME Church on the corner of 21st St. and 32nd Ave.

KEYES ACCEPTED BY JOB CORPS

Willie Keyes, son of Mrs. Youther Lee Keyes, has been accepted in the Job Corps.

He will leave Gulfport Tuesday morning, go to New Orleans and then fly to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.

The Job Corps is part of the War on Poverty. It is for young people 16 to 21 years old who are out of school and do not have a job.

At the Job Corps Center, they will receive special education and be trained for a job.

Willie Keyes hopes to learn Electronics Engineering or Masonry.

Anyone interested in the Job Corps should go to the Mississippi State Employment Office, 1605 23rd Avenue in Gulfport.

SCHOOL INTEGRATION

Parents of first and second graders have a choice to make this week about whether their children will attend integrated schools. While this is a difficult decision, more than initial convenience needs to be considered. Integration of the schools will depend heavily on Negroes being willing to participate. This time the choice is ours.

WASHINGTON TRIP

Plans are being made for people from Gulfport to go to Washington next week to lobby for the Freedom Democratic Party Congressional Challenge.

State FDP officials are urging that 1000 Mississippi Negroes be in Washington to show their support of the challenge. They will talk with congressmen and tell them about how things are in Mississippi.

If you are interested in going to Washington, contact Mrs. Youther Lee Keyes in North Gulfport or Rev. W.D. Young in Gaston Point.

People will leave Gulfport on Friday, August 27th so that they can get to Washington by Sunday the 29th.

Transportation plans are still not definite. If a large number of people are going, a bus will be used. If just a few people are going, cars will be used.

While traveling, people will have a chance to learn more about the challenge and discuss its significance.

If the MFDP Challenge is successful, the present Mississippi representatives will be kicked out of Congress. The FDP holds that these men were illegally elected because large numbers of Negroes were not allowed to vote in the election.

Over 80,000 Mississippi Negroes voted in the Freedom Vote taken last November, which means that the people are interested in voting.

The purpose of the Washington trip is so that Mississippi Negroes can tell their story directly.

The Challenge will be decided by the Congressmen from the rest of the country. The FDP needs people in Washington to tell these other Congressmen what conditions are like here and how Negroes have been prevented from voting.

In long range effect, the Challenge may be just as important as the new voting act in proving the seriousness of the government's desire to permit and encourage Negro registration and voting in Mississippi. If you can go or are interested in going, contact your FDP representative IMMEDIATELY.

THE INSIDE STORY ON SCHOOL BOARD

Do you want street lights by the North Gulfport School? Is your child's class way overcrowded? Does your son or daughter need extra help in reading?

Tell the Board of Education and the superintendent what your children need. Some people say in democracy the people get the kind of government they deserve. If you don't ask for anything, you won't get anything.

Here are the names of the members of the Harrison County Board of Education:

Beat 1 Mr. Emile Tiblier
312 Byrd Avenue, Biloxi
432-7395
elected in 1962; next election 1968

Beat 2 Mr. Wayne Turan
Lyman 832-2301
elected in 1962; next election 1968

Beat 3 Mr. Chester Collins
Woodland Way, Pass Christian
452-2078
elected in 1964; next election 1970

Beat 4 Mr. Vircle Cucvas
Lizana 832-1910
elected in 1964; next election 1970

Beat 5 Mr. Clark Johnson
elected in 1960; next election 1966

Two board members are elected every other year at the time of the general elections. Each board member serves a term of six years.

The Superintendent of Education is also elected. He is elected for a four-year term along with all of the other county officials. The last county election was held in 1963 and the next will be in 1967. Now the superintendent is Mr. Esco Smith over what happens in your schools. If you have some complaint or request, you should call him at his office: 864-1001; or write him: P.O. Box 1137; or see him at the County Courthouse; his office is on the second floor. Remember he is your superintendent.

The Board of Education has public meetings beginning on the first Monday of every month. These meetings start at 7:30 p.m. and are held in the superintendent's office. It seems that almost no one---Negro or white---goes to these meetings. At the meetings, you can ask what you want.

The schools in the city of Gulfport are in a separate municipal school district. That school district has a different board of education and a different superintendent.

FDP SEEKS ADULT HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES

The Freedom Democratic Party is helping to organize a class for adults to complete high school. These adults would attend classes at night.

Mr. Esco Smith, Superintendent of Education, was asked how a class could be started. He said that a list of names should be given to the Principal of the North Gulfport School, Mr. Allen. Specific information is needed: name, address, telephone number, type of subject, and grade that was completed when the student finished school.

Mr. Smith also said that the people who attend the class would have to pay a fee to pay for a teacher. It is estimated that the fee would be about \$15.

A committee is now talking to the people who are interested in these classes so that they can get the specific information.

While Mr. Smith said that it is possible to have adult classes, the board of education, Mr. Allen, and Mr. Smith are doing nothing to organize these classes. Mr. Allen was given a list of names several months ago, but he said he couldn't find a teacher.

The people must get these classes for themselves. Their elected representatives are doing nothing. The FDP wants to help the people who want a high school education.

At the next meeting of the Orange Grove Precinct (North Gulfport) of the FDP, the people will discuss and vote on the following resolutions:
1. Harrison County Bd. of Education should provide high school classes for adults. 2. High school classes for adults should be given regularly during the school year provided that a minimum of fifteen people enroll in the class. 3. The principal of the North Gulfport School, or other school selected by the board, should be responsible for organizing these classes and registering the people who want to attend them. 4. Announcements of the classes should be made in the newspaper just before the time of registration. 5. Adult high school classes should be free of all charges except for a five dollar registration fee and the cost of books and materials.

All people who want to attend adult high school classes should call 864-3139.

RUMMAGE SALE AUGUST 27

Friday, 2-7 p.m. at Mary's Variety Store at the corner of John Quincy Adams and Ohio avenue. CLOTHING. Proceeds to the Mississippi Challenge

VOTE AUGUST 17th



THE LIBERTY BELL

"The Voice of Freedom"

August 28, 1965

Vol. 1, No. 14

GULFPORT F.D.P. GOES TO WASHINGTON

On September 16 a group of people from Gulfport and all over the State of Mississippi will be leaving for Washington, DC for the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party Challenge.

If the Challenge is successful, it would unseat Mississippi's five Congressmen.

The FDP Challenge is based on the fact that the election was illegal because most of the state's Negroes were not allowed to vote. Therefore, the Negroes of Mississippi are saying that the five representatives have no right holding the seats because we did not vote for them.

The Challenge is now in the hands of the House Administration Subcommittee. It is expected to be voted on around the 21st of Sept. The FDP wants 1,000 Negroes from Mississippi to be there to show the peoples of the United States that we mean business.

Peoples planning on going should be ready to go at any time after August 30th. There is a rumor that the House might try to move the date of the vote up from the 21st to avoid having Mississippi Negroes in Washington when the vote comes up. Therefore, you should be ready to go at a day's notice; stay alert.

We still need a lot of money and people who want to go and who are willing to drive their cars. Taking cars would be cheaper than renting buses, but if we have enough peoples to go, we will try to rent a bus. If you are interested or know of someone who would like to go, please contact Rev Young in Gaston Point, 864-4766; Johnnie Campbell, 864-2236 or 863-9550; Rev Pete Magee, 864-4759, or Mrs Youther Lee Keyes, 864-3616. Your help is badly needed.

-Johnnie Campbell

RUMMAGE SALE
AIDS
WASHINGTON TRIP →

SWIMMING POOL OPENS

The Dedication Program for the new swimming pool in North Gulfport, the Krehbiel Memorial Swimming Pool, will be held at 5 pm on Sunday August 29th, on the basketball court of the Christian Community Center, corner of Madison and Louisiana Avenues.

The Speaker will be T.B. Brown, former pastor of Mt. Bethel Baptist Church in Gulfport who is now pastor of Mt. Helm Baptist Church in Jackson.

After the dedication program there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony beside the pool and a swimming exhibition in the pool.

This occasion marks the near-completion of the main goal of the North Gulfport Good Deeds Association, which was chartered in 1963 as a community service organization. The Good Deeds Association still has \$5,000 to raise to complete the payment for this \$12,000 pool. Gulfport business men contributed \$1200, the community auction netted \$300, and another \$5,500 has been raised through projects, pledges and contributions from Churches outside our community.

Construction began in May and the completion of the pool fulfills the slogan of the Good Deeds Association:

"SWIM AND DIVE IN '65"

The FDP held a rummage sale last Friday. Everything was sold in just two hours and \$45 was raised. The money will help send people to Washington to lobby for the Challenge. Mrs Youther Lee Keyes, local chairman of the FDP would like to thank every one who helped.

CREDIT UNION for NORTH GULFPORT

The Civic Action Committee of the North Gulfport Civic Club is presently developing plans to begin a credit union in North Gulfport.

What is a Credit Union and how would it help North Gulfport?

A credit union is like a bank except that it is a "cooperative" bank. The people of the community learn to save money. They put it in the credit union and it draws interest. Those who have money in the credit union are the owners and make policies for the credit union.

Then when someone in the community needs to borrow money, he gets a loan from the savings of his neighbors. The interest rate on the loan is also lower because this is your neighbors loaning you money and not some loan shark who wants to get as much money out of you as he can.

So the credit union can help the community learn to work together to benefit each other.

Besides the credit union, there will be an educational program to help people learn how to buy the best for the least money.

On Thursday, August 26, the Civic Action Committee received a visit from Mr Bob Dolen, a representative of the Credit Union National Association (CUNA). Mr Dolen helped the committee understand credit unions and helped in the work of developing an application. Along with Mr Dolen was Mr Don Slaton of the Mississippi Credit Union League in Jackson, who will be able to give some continuing help in creating and developing the credit union.

Credit Unions are operated under a Federal Charter and all investments are completely guaranteed against loss by any means.

It only costs 25¢ to become a member. This 25¢ fee is the only cost to anyone.

When a person gets \$5 in his savings account, he automatically becomes a voting member. The voting members elect their own Board of Directors, Loan Committee, and Auditing Committee, as well as set the policies for the credit union.

The Civic Action Committee is making an application to the Office of Economic Opportunity for funds to help get the credit union started.

BLOCK CAPTAINS FORM

The Greater Gulfport Block Captains held their second meeting on Tuesday, August 17th. Officers were elected.

Rev W. D. Young	Chairman
Willie Roy Lock	Vice-Chairman
Willie Mae Merrill	Co-Secretary
Eddie Clark	Co-Secretary
Rev. W. T. Guice	Treasurer

It was decided to invite Webb Lee, Harrison County Registrar to attend a meeting of the Block Captains. It is still uncertain whether or not he will be able to attend the next meeting this Tuesday.

BLOCK CAPTAINS
NEXT MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 31st
MOUNT BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

N. E. CIVIC CLUB MEETS

The North Gulfport Civic Club held its August meeting last Tuesday night.

The main topic of discussion was the relationship of the Civic Action Committee to the Civic Club.

It was finally cleared up that the Civic Action Committee is a part of the Civic Club. The Civic Club is the official sponsor of the Civic Action Committee and all members of the Committee are members of the Civic Club itself.

In other business, the Civic Club decided to see the Health Dept about an overflowing septic tank on the Old Highway. Mr Herbert Clark was appointed to see the Health Dept.

Someone also asked about the election of officers in the Civic Club. President J R Davis said that officers had been elected last November for a term of four years.

CROCHETING CLASS

A beginners class in crocheting will start in September. Mrs. Anna Belle Smith will be the instructor. If you are interested in joining the class, call Mrs Smith at 864-6134. A time will be arranged for the class that will be convenient for those who wish to participate.



THE LIBERTY BELL

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REGISTRAR SPEAKS TO BLOCK CAPTAINS

Harrison County Registrar spoke to the block captains last Tuesday night at Mt. Bethel Baptist Church.

Webb Lee told the group that he would not register people who cannot read and write.

He said that he was bound by oath to uphold state law which requires that voters be able to read and write.

He said that the new Federal Voting Rights Bill did not apply to Harrison County. The law says that he may register illiterates if he wants, but that he does not have to, he said.

According to Mr Lee, depositions have been filed in Washington proving that there has been no discrimination in Harrison County registration. Therefore, the new Voting Bill will not apply here.

Mr Lee answered several questions which the group had prepared. The first question was about registering people who cannot read and write.

The second question was about bringing the registration books into the Negro communities. Mr Lee said that he could not do this because state law prohibited taking the books out of the office except in certain cases.

Another question was whether he would open his office on Saturdays and during the lunch hour to make it easier for working people to register. He said that this would be very difficult and that he probably would not do it.

Mr Lee spoke for about 45 minutes and then had to leave because he had another engagement.

After he left, the group voted not to accept his decisions. The executive committee was directed to write a letter to the Attorney General in Washington asking for a Federal Registrar in Harrison County.

In other business, the group finally chose an official name for itself. It is now the Greater Gulfport Action Committee.

Someone asked Mr Lee how many people had been registered since the new and easy 6-question form has been used.

He said that he could not say how many Negroes had been registered because the voting records do not indicate a persons race any more.

He did say that only seven people had failed to qualify under the new laws. All the others had passed.

Someone asked if more Negroes had been registering than whites. He said that he thought it was about equal. But he wasn't sure because he doesn't count them.

HOWEVER, later that evening Mr Lee spoke to the Lions Club of Gulfport and told them that Negroes had been outregistering whites by 20 to 1 in Harrison County this summer.

This was reported in the Daily Herald of last Wednesday and is there for anyone to check.

Mr Lee said two different things on the same night. He told the Negroes one thing and then told the whites something else.

Either he told the block captains a story or he told the Lions Club a story. Both cannot be true.

Maybe Mr Lee should be invited back so that he could straighten this out. Until it is straightened out it is hard to believe anything he said. Maybe it isn't true that he can't bring the books out into the Negro community. Maybe it isn't true that he can't open his office on Saturdays.

In his speech to the Lions Club Mr Lee mentioned the block captains group. He warned the whites that they were lazy and that the Negroes were well organized and had a captain for every block.

There will be another meeting in two weeks on Tuesday Sept 14 at Mt Bethel Baptist Church.

CIVIC ACTION

COMMITTEE

Mr Vernon Jordan of the Atlanta division of the Office of Economic Opportunity came to Gulfport last Thursday and spoke to the North Gulfport Civic Action Committee.

Mr Jordan explained very honestly what the situation was. He said that the committee would not be approved as it now stands.

He said that Washington wants an "umbrella" committee to cover the entire county.

Therefore, he was going to do something to expand and improve the other applicant from this area, the Harrison County Civic Action Committee.

There are a lot of things wrong with this other group that have to be changed. They have no poor people on it and they have only three Negroes.

Mr Jordan said that he wanted to expand that committee from 12 to 18 members by adding three poor Negroes and three poor whites.

He said that North Gulfport would have at least one and maybe two members on that committee.

He did explain that the North Gulfport Civic Action Committee should continue to exist as a subsidiary of the County Committee.

The North Gulfport Committee could operate programs in this community with the approval of the County Committee.

At the moment the North Gulfport Civic Action Committee is already working on establishing a Credit Union in North Gulfport.

They will continue to work on this even though no Civic Action Committee has been approved yet.

Mr Jordan said that he would be back in Gulfport in a few weeks and that he hoped a final committee could be set up within a month or two.

* * * * *

ATTENTION

If you know of anyone who has not been able to register because he could not read or write please contact Johnnie Campbell at 863-9550 or 864-2236.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE ABLE TO READ AND WRITE TO REGISTER

PROGRESS IN FDP CHALLENGE

The FDP Challenge is nearing a showdown. In the past week there have been several articles in the Daily Herald about the Challenge.

Up till now the Mississippi newspapers have not had many articles about the Challenge. They have been trying to kill the Challenge by ignoring it. But they cannot ignore it anymore.

Another good sign is that the five Congressmen themselves have finally done something. They too have been trying to kill the Challenge by ignoring it and pretending it doesn't exist.

But earlier this week they filed a report with the Clerk of the House saying that the FDP had no right to Challenge their seating.

What this means is that the five Congressmen are getting so worried that they have to do something.

According to present plans, the Challenge should come up to a vote on September 21st. A group of liberal Congressmen will offer a "privileged motion." This will bring the whole thing to the floor of the House.

One one of the ways the Challenge is being fought is by keeping it buried in Committee. The privileged motion will bring it out of Committee to the floor where everyone can vote on it.

The vote may come up sooner than the 21st if the opposition tries some other trick to stop it.

The FDP plans now to have people in Washington on the 16th of September to lobby for the Challenge.

It is especially important for the people of Mississippi to go to Washington to tell the real story about this state.

Reports are that Clay County will send at least one busload to Washington and will send a second if they can find the money to pay for it. They have more people ready to go than they can afford to send.

The same is true of Issaquena County which is going to send two busloads of people.

THE LIBERTY BELL

"The Voice of Freedom"

September 18, 1965

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FDP CHALLENGE DEFEATED

The House of Representatives rejected the FDP Congressional Challenge Friday afternoon.

Members of the House voted 228 to 143 to dismiss the Challenge. The reason given was that the Challengers had not been candidates in the 1964 elections.

Several hundred Negroes from Mississippi were in Washington to lobby and demonstrate for the Challenge. No one from Gulfport was there, but money collected in Gulfport helped pay transportation costs for those who did go.

Mrs Devine, Mrs Hamer and Mrs Gray were on the floor of the House during the debate and voting.

The others from Mississippi were in the gallery listening.

What is the FDP going to do now that the Challenge has been defeated?

The FDP is going to Challenge again only in a different way. Congressmen are elected again next year in November of 1966.

The FDP is going to run candidates in those elections.

There is a whole year until those elections and in this time the FDP will concentrate on registering as many people as possible so they can vote in that election.

SCHOOL TUITION

Children who are not living with their parents must no pay to go to school.

The state passed a new law this summer that says children must be living with their parents or else pay up to \$30 a month to go to school.

Children must be living with their parents and not their grandparents or aunts and uncles.

This law is going to hurt over 7,000 children in Mississippi. Most of them are Negro and most will not be able to go to school.

Lawyers are trying to have the law struck down. But they need the names of all children who are affected. If you know of anyone, call 863-9550 or 864-3139.

This is a very unjust law, since it punishes those children who need help the most.

The law was probably passed in retaliation for integration and civil rights activity in Mississippi. Over 85% of the children affected are Negro.

BLOCK CAPTAINS

The block captains held their 4th meeting last tuesday night. A letter was written demanding a Federal Registrar for Harrison County.

Copies of the letter have been sent to Attorney General Katzenbach, John Doar, head of the Civil Rights Division, and Webb Lee, Harrison County Registrar.

In a few weeks, the letter will be followed by a petition, signed by all 200 of the block captains. Along with the petition will be sent evidence of discrimination in Harrison County.

The block captains hear a first-hand report of discrimination from a Pass Christian man who came to the meeting. He can read and write, but did not understand the form. The registrar would not explain it to him.

The next meeting of the block captains will be in three weeks instead of the usual two weeks.

It will be held on Tuesday October 5th.

The location will be announced in the next Liberty Bell.

SCHOOLS

SPECIAL REPORT

Integration of schools has finally come to Mississippi and to Gulfport. What does this mean? Does this mean that everything is all right and that nothing more needs to be done?

No, it does not. The integration that has taken place has been only token integration. Only a few children are getting a good education. The majority are still getting a second-rate segregated education.

More important, token integration has exposed just how bad segregated schools are.

A boy integrated the ninth grade in Gulfport this fall and was issued text books he would not have gotten until the 11th grade if he had stayed at 33rd.

This means that 33rd is a full two years behind the white schools.

Another incident this past week exposed the poor quality of segregated schools. A girl had trouble getting into Jeff Davis Junior College because she could not do well enough on her college tests, even though she had done well at 33rd.

What good is a new junior college if segregated schools do not prepare Negroes well enough to enter them?

HOW THE SYSTEM WORKS

Segregation is a system, a complete system that covers everything. This is how it works in education.

As long as school systems are separate, most people do not realize that one is much inferior to the other one. For many years people have been told that the Negro schools in Gulfport are good ones.

But this year it has come out into the open just how far behind they are. Segregation made them inferior in the first place and keeps them that way. But integration exposes how serious the problem is.

Segregation keeps the Negro schools inferior in another way.

The teachers in segregated schools went to inferior segregated schools themselves.

How can they teach well if they

were not taught well? How can they teach subjects that they were not taught?

This is the way segregation works. It prepares students poorly so that they can teach the next generation poorly. It is a system of the blind leading the blind. Segregation not only puts people down, but works to keep them down.

WHAT MUST BE DONE?

A lot needs to be done. The integration that has taken place so far has been token integration. Only a few are getting a good education. The majority are still getting an inferior education in segregated schools.

1) THERE MUST BE FULL INTEGRATION... IMMEDIATELY

But what about the Negro teachers? Are they going to lose their jobs?

The answer is no. They should be retrained so that they can give their students a good education.

And this should be paid for by the state. After all, the state provided them an inferior education in the first place. The second proposal is:

2) GOVERNMENT SPONSORED RETRAINING FOR TEACHERS

But suppose the schools are integrated? Will they still be the best schools possible?

Will there be enough teachers? enough classrooms? enough text books?

Probably not. Unless something big is done. Something big like:

3) HEAD START- 12 MONTHS, 12 YEARS

This summer everyone saw how a good school system could be set up if there was enough money to pay for it.

What we need is a Head Start program that runs all year and which continues through all 12 years of high school.

It is no good to give a five year old a "Head Start" and then send him into an inferior school system.