

BENTON
COUNTY



"It's that Freedom Train a comin'; get on board, get on board."

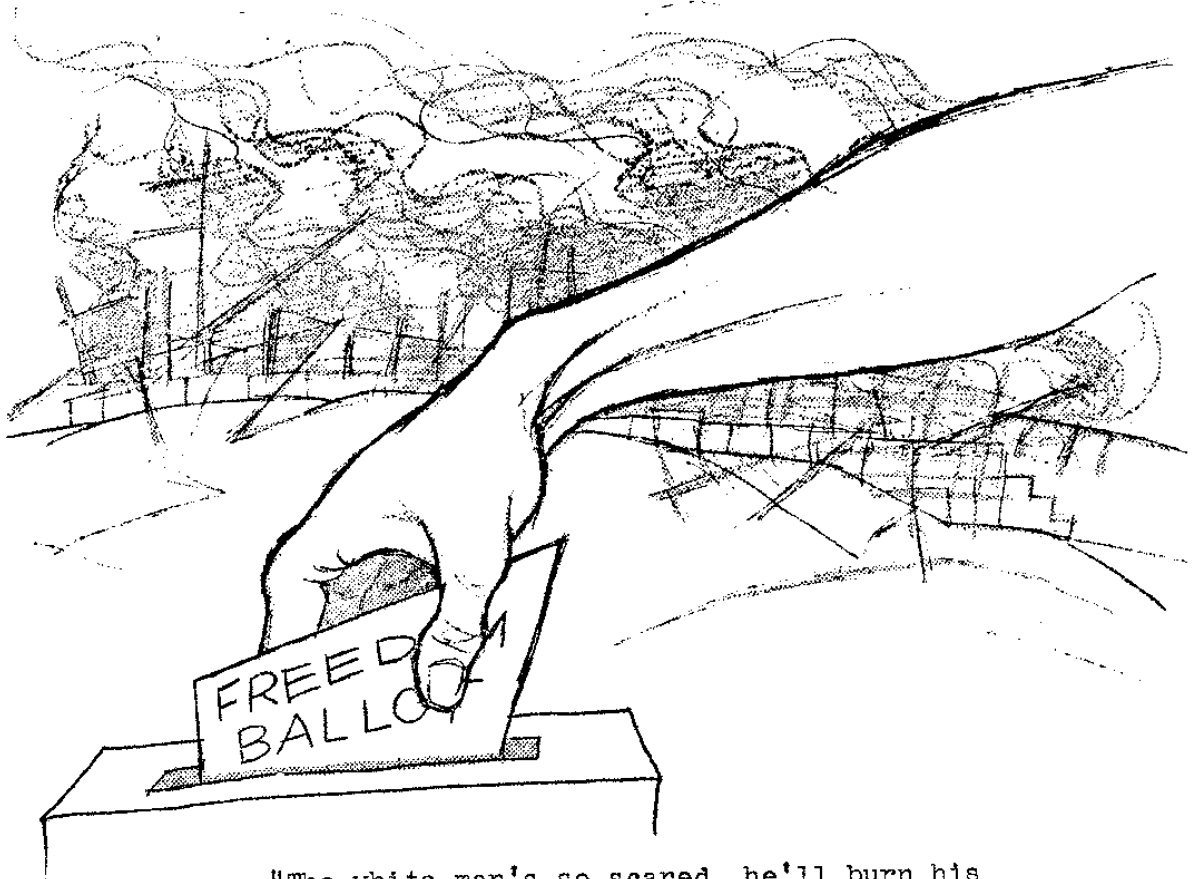
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Beulah Mae Ayers, editor

AIN'T GONNA LET NOBODY TURN ME 'ROUND



"The white man's so scared, he'll burn his
churches at night, and he'll outrun the word
of God to keep you from knowing who he is."

--Fannie Lou Hamer.

Freedom election held in Mississippi

Election news in Benton County

The Freedom Election has been progressing smoothly in Benton County with ballot boxes at Sims, Royston, Mt. Bethel, Hebron, Greenwood, and Macedonia Chapels.

Over 150 volunteers have come in to Mississippi to help out with the Freedom Election. The election is open to all people in Mississippi and contains candidates for President and Vice-President, Senator, and Congressman from the 2nd District. Three parties are represented on the ballot: the Freedom Democratic, the Democratic and the Republican Parties.

Each balloting place is supervised by a registrar and a poll-watcher. Balloting is secret.

The purpose of this Freedom Election is:

1. to show that the claim of many white people that Negroes in this state are lazy and don't want to vote is untrue; that when given a chance, almost all Negroes will vote.
2. to challenge the right of the official candidates of the state of Mississippi to be seated in the government, since they don't represent almost half of the citizens of Mississippi.
3. as practice for future elections when Negroes in large numbers will have the right to vote in Mississippi.

Everyone is urged to vote--balloting will continue until 2 p.m. on Monday, November 2 at the above-mentioned polling places.

It is expected that Benton County will have one of the highest percentages of voters in this election, since it had the highest percentage of F.D.P. members in Mississippi this summer.

Church burned in Tippah following freedom rally

by Gloria Xifaras &
Marjorie Merrill

While many of us were asleep and not thinking of the dangers in Mississippi, a church was burning on Friday night--not a church in McComb or Natchez, but a church we all knew--a church many had been in

Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in Blue Mountain burned to its foundations at 3 a.m. Saturday morning, only four hours after the Fannie Lou Hamer Rally was over, and only 5 hours before the opening of the Freedom vote there.

After the burning, the courageous men and women of the community opened their polling place on the burned grass. Over 50 people came to vote and stand by as the FBI, sheriff, etc. quietly asked questions.

Today, Sunday, with the leadership of the Rogers family, Sunday School is being held next to the emptiness of that 100 year-old church.

Commenting on the fire, Mrs. Hamer noted, "This type of thing they do, but you really can't burn down a church by burning down the building."

NEWS BRIEFS AND CALENDAR:

*The next all-county Benton County Citizens Club meeting will be held Tuesday, 7:30 at Mt. Bethel.

*Tonight there will be a Youth League Rally, "This I Believe," at Samuels Chapel.

*A children's library has been set up at the home of Mrs. Lillie B. Shaw.

*The location of the next Rainy Day Freedom Day will be announced at the next Citizens Club meeting.

A.S.C.S. candidates chosen by Citizens Club

Candidates for A.S.C.S. committee-men have been chosen by the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd districts of the Citizens Club, at their district meetings held last week.

The candidates elected are:

- A): 1st District (ASCS Community):
 A.Z. Smith
 Cater Poplar
 Willie Poplar.
- 2nd District (Community B):
 L. B. Paige
 Clayborn Jackson
 Jake McAfee
- 3rd District (Community C):
 Loyal Thompson
 Walter Weber

When these men turn in petitions signed by six men requesting that they be put on the ballot, they will be official candidates for these committees. Community (district) elections will be held at the beginning of December. Voting procedure in these elections will be discussed at future Citizens Club meetings. Eligibility to vote will also be discussed.

Rally for Community Center held in Chicago, Illinois

A rally given by the sisters of Wayne Yancey in Chicago on October 25 raised \$900.00 for the Benton County Wayne Yancey Community Center.

Speakers at the rally included Aviva Futorian who spoke on progress in Benton County, and Mr. Henry Reaves who spoke about his involvement in the freedom movement. He said, "I've lived in Mississippi all my life. If things get better, I'll be there--if things get worse, I'll be there." He further stated, "I've been a freedom fighter all my life, and I'll be one until they bulldoze us and bury us 20 feet under. Until then, we'll be waiting for them." "My relatives," he stated, "say they're worried about me being in Mississippi. I tell them, 'You should worry about yourselves here in Chicago.'" He also said that when his wife was fired, it drove him further into the movement.

NEGRO SLAVERY: PAST AND PRESENT:

Slavery in the past

by Arine Hullom

In 1793 a young New Englander invented the cotton gin, which meant that slavery was here for a long time.

Negro slaves were sold by the white men for the price of \$500.00 and more. Negroes picked cotton all day and received no pay at all.

In 1850 a Negro slave named Henry Box Brown got into a box and was shipped from Richmond, Va., to Philadelphia, and was freed from slavery.

In 1845, an able-bodied field hand cost \$700. By 1860, it had reached \$1,800. So costly had the slave become that planters often neglected their families in anxiety over the slaves.

Slavery in the present

by Beulah Mae Ayers

I was born in Benton County, and I have lived here all of my life. My foreparents lived here; in fact, my great grandfather lived here. He was living here when he died. He lived to reach the age of 98 years old, and he died knowing nothing of "freedom". Ninety-eight years is a long time to spend your life under the control of another man.

But the last few years of his life he thought he was free, because he would tell us when we were children, "You are blessed you should have come along when I did." But he wasn't free, just as some of the whites and all of the Negroes are not free. And as long as they

(continued on next page)

do what the white man says, I don't care how many Civil Rights bills are signed, we won't be free until we do what we, the Negroes, want: equal rights and justice.

My great grandfather thought he was free because he no longer had to ask the master permission to leave the place; because he got a small amount of pay for his work, which he thought was good compared with getting nothing for his work in the previous years of his life.

My greatgrandfather thought freedom was just the absence of physical chains. Do you?

by Arine Hullom

My father sent me to the gin to get some compress receipts and samples on October 23, 1964. When I went into the office, I saw Flush Akin talking to a Negro man.

The white man was running him crazy because he owed him \$4. The Negro man had some cotton at the gin and the white man was waiting for the seed check. While he was waiting for the check, he sat down beside the Negro and talked about him awful.

I haven't ever seen a Negro man as afraid of a white man as he was. The white man told him, "You better sit here and don't get up until I get my money."

The white man took his cigarettes out of his packet. He told the Negro man he wanted the check no matter what its amount. And he did.

The whites treat us Negroes pretty well until they get among their other white friends. I believe that's the reason he treated the Negro man so badly.

Some of our color still won't stand up for their rights.

Justice and the F.D.P.

by Mrs. Bobie L. Harris

We as citizens of Benton County are very proud of our leaders of the Freedom Democratic Party. They are here speaking and acting for the cause of justice.

Any of you who haven't been to any of the meetings should go. I've been to several of them. Our leaders don't speak for color or creed but for the cause of justice.

Children's Section

Being a girl scout

BY Emma J. Reave

I'm a girl scout. We have to obey the girl scout laws. We have to be clean and help other people in everything.

We have to help in the house and be friendly and make clothes and have cookouts and parties.

DO YOU LIKE TO JUMP ROPE?



by Linda Fay Rutherford

BE SURE TO VOTE IN THE FREEDOM ELECTION: OCTOBER 30-NOVEMBER 2 !

NEGRO POETRY SECTION

MONEY, MISSISSIPPI, BLUES

by Langston Hughes

To the memory of 14 year-old Emmett
Till lynched there in 1955:

I don't want to go
to Money, honey,
MONEY, MISSISSIPPI!
No, I wouldn't want to go
to Money, honey,
DOWN IN MISSISSIPPI.

Sorrow, pity, pain
IN MISSISSIPPI!
Tears and blood like rain
IN MISSISSIPPI!
Little old boy,
fourteen years old,
Shot, kicked, and beaten
Cause they said he was so bold
As to whistle at a woman
Who was white,
Threwed in the river,
In the dead of night.

Oh, I wouldn't want to go to Money,
MONEY, MISSISSIPPI!
Tears and blood like rain!
IN MONEY, MISSISSIPPI.
For no money, honey,
I wouldn't go to Money,
NOT MONEY, MISSISSIPPI!

AND FROM OUR BENTON COUNTY POETS:

STAND UP AND FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

by Glossie Clardy (11 years old)

Stand up and fight for freedom,
Stand as close as close can be.
If we vote for our salvation
We will evermore be free.

Stand up and vote for freedom.
Be counted in the human race.
If we win, we will be able
To talk to all men face to face.

Stand up and fight for freedom,
Do it with all of your might.
We will surely win this battle
If it takes us every day and night.

ME AND MY SONG

by Langston Hughes

Black
As the gentle night
Black
As the kind and quiet night
Black
As the deep productive earth
Body
Out of Africa
Strong and black
As iron
First smelted in Africa
Song
Out of Africa
Deep and mellow song
Rich
As the black earth
Strong
As black iron
Kind
As the black night
My song
From the dark lips
Of Africa
Deep
As the rich earth
Beautiful
As the black night
Strong
As the first iron
Black
Out of my Africa
Me and my
Song