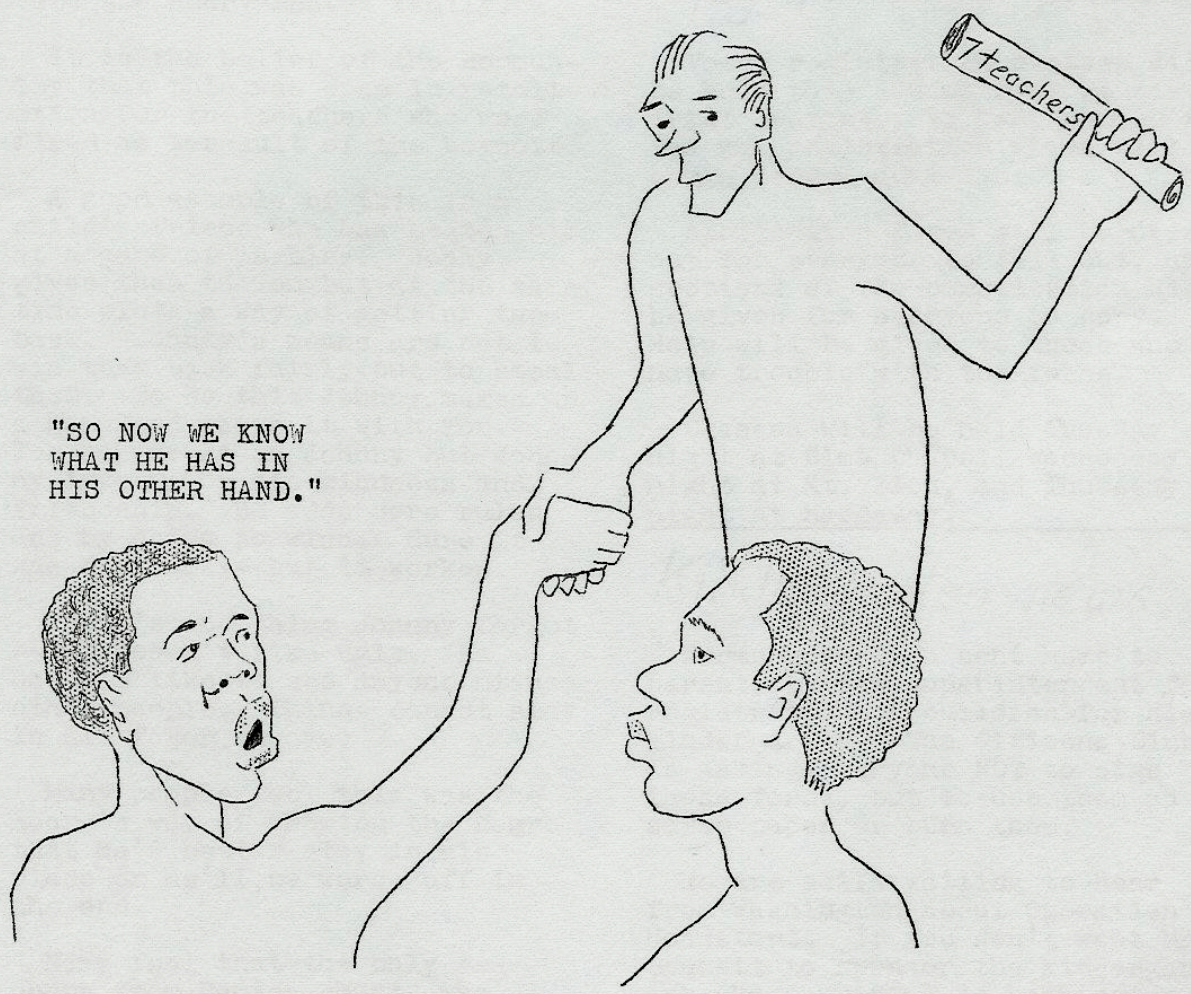


benton
county



"It's that freedom train a comin'; get on board, bet on board."
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of Benton County, Mississippi Evans, Janevial Evans, Alberta
Tipler, Mary Peterson.

"SO NOW WE KNOW
WHAT HE HAS IN
HIS OTHER HAND."



Seven more teachers to go!

Word is out that the new principal recommended to the Board of Education the names of next year's teachers, and instead of getting all the names approved, a black pen went down the line marking across seven Benton county teachers: Mr. Jake McAfee, Mrs. Minnie Moore, Mr. W.H. Webber, Mrs. Sadie Avant, Mrs. Annie Jefferies, Mrs. Mary Crawford, and Miss Daisy Redd. All are residents of Benton county except for Miss Redd, who lives with the Henry Reaves family.

It is the belief of the community that this was done in retaliation for the teachers who were fired as a result of the boycott.

A good example of this is a child's friend who has beaten him at a game of marbles. Johnny gives them to Tom but at the same time plots a way of getting them back. Johnny's means are not to win them back fairly but to steal them. To do this Johnny makes up a game and plays it with Tom. Tom has trust in Johnny but Johnny imposes on his kindness and friendship. He adds more rules and by doing so wins. Sure it was dishonest--but it worked.

There's one thing Johnny forgot --God doesn't like ugly. He doesn't like to see anyone misuse other people. Things cannot stay in his favor always.

Many people feel this was the Board's way of showing the Negro that he'd better stay in his place or he'll be worse off in the end.

Many feel that the only teachers from Benton county who weren't fired were Toms or children or relatives of Toms.

And whose place is it to hire

and fire teachers? A few months ago, the Board proclaimed that they didn't have the power to fire the four teachers--only the principal could do it. It appears that someone is being inconsistent --or perhaps we just don't understand.

The situation will be discussed at the district meetings this coming week.

Registration practice

Voter registration classes will be held this coming week at district meetings, in preparation for the new registration which will begin around June 1.

Application forms will be passed out for everyone to fill out, and sections of the constitution will be given for everyone to copy. Help will be given to those who have trouble with the forms.

Classes will be held Tuesday night at Sims Chapel, Wednesday night at Mt. Zion, and Thursday night at Hardaway.

Kindergarten news

Forms have been sent home to parents by the superintendent for registration of children for his kindergarten. The Citizens Club is asking everyone NOT to sign these forms, but to use them as scrap paper or burn them.

We are still waiting to hear from Washington about Operation Headstart. If you don't want Mr. Bennett to sponsor the kindergarten, keep writing to Washington and say why, and ask that Mr. Bennett's kindergarten be investigated by the federal government.

Youth arrested at Cotton Patch

Last Sunday night Fred Richard Jr. put his best foot forward and stepped into the Cotton Patch Cafe with some friends of his. It was about 9 p.m.

He ordered two hotdogs and soft drinks. The waitress told him that the drinks were on the outside. Fred went over to play the juke box, and the waitress quickly walked over and unplugged it.

His bill for the two hotdogs was \$1.00. He was charged 10¢ for a pack of gum.

As Fred left the cafe in his car, a state highway patrolman stopped him and told him his muffler was too loud. Fred had driven by this same patrolman earlier that night but the patrolman had not thought his muffler was too loud at that time.

Fred was carried to the Justice of the Peace, Johnny Duncan. A "trial" was held, and Fred was charged \$17.00. It had to be paid at once or go to jail, said Duncan. Duncan then sent Fred's friends to get Fred's father to come to the jail and pay the fine.

When Fred asked how long he would have to stay in jail, Mr. Duncan replied, "I don't care if you stay a month. That'll be three more dollars." Fred asked why, and Mr. Duncan replied, "It makes no difference."

The Citizens Club raised the money to repay Fred for the fine. They felt that the cause was for all the Negroes of Benton county. Thus it was a debt we all must pay.

Seniors enjoy party

Graduation ceremonies Thursday night were a disappointment to many seniors. The community felt that the seniors were not given the recognition that they deserved, so last night, the P.T.A. and the Citizens Club gave a party for the graduating seniors in the Old Salem gymnasium.

There was music, played by a combo from Rust College, the "Playboys," who generously donated their talents free, in honor of the graduates. Refreshments, prepared by the ladies of the county, headed by Mrs. Annie B. Evans, were served.

A program honoring the seniors was presented. The class history was given by Alberta Tipler, valedictorian, and Earnestyne Evans gave the class prophecy. Aviva Futorian spoke of academic challenge, and Mrs. G.N. Reaves gave a talk on performance challenge. The senior class will was presented by Georgia Patterson, and Clay Batts, president of the junior class, gave a tribute to the senior class.

A movie, "We'll Never Turn Back" was shown, and a door prize of a transistor radio was given away.

Officials send regrets

Mr. Raymond Shields, Mr. James Miskelly, and Mr. Gordon Stone all sent their regrets that they were unable to attend the last all-county meeting of the Citizens Club, to which they had been invited. They have been invited to speak at the next all-county meeting, to be held June 1 at Samuels.

Some questions about our school...

We would like to ask some questions, and we would like some answers.

Seven teachers have been dismissed from Old Salem, six of whom are Benton countians. We feel that our own people should be able to work in the county and not have to go miles away from home.

There are many working here from other counties. This we do not regret. However, we do feel that it is unfair for our people to have to leave just because----

Was this done for the betterment of the county, of the people dismissed, of the Toms, or-----?

Why should we stand by and look on as our own people leave their homes and families to find other jobs? Isn't there something we can do?

Eat where you are welcome

by Jemmie L. Crawford

I think it is awful that our people will go to a place like the Cotton Patch and stand at the back window, when you can come just 5 miles east of the Cotton Patch.

I know it's not up to date, but at least you can come in and eat.

I wonder if these people enjoy supporting the families of those who own the Cotton Patch?

If I had to go to the back window to get what I wanted and couldn't listen to music while eating, I would rather help them go out of business.

You are welcome to come to my place anytime you want, and to listen to music.

Some day...

by Mrs. Sarah E. Robinson

I am hopeful that our school system will show some improvement before too long. Under this present system so many of our children have gotten completely out of control. But we do pray, hope, and trust that with the cooperation of parents and teachers that good school systems will be restored.

This movement that's going on now may continue for the balance of some of our lives. Those who are participating are making this sacrifice for the betterment of your children, our churches, homes, and communities. How we do hope that someday we will come to understand our fellow whites and they'll understand us.

If we come to understand each other, then we can live, work, play, and pray together in love, peace and harmony.

Together

by Mrs. Sarah Washington

We have had some wonderful people with us almost a year. They have spent time away from their families trying to lead us out to the bright side of life.

We know all right what we want in life, and the law has passed for us to have our rights. Let us do all we can to get our own kindergarten.

We can achieve only by working together. As a united group we can achieve almost anything we try to do.

Editorial:*Stay South*

by Earnestyne Evans

Every May when school is out, the new graduates leave Benton county and head North.

In the past I could very well have seen why they would leave. To find a so-called better living--better than the life they were living in Mississippi. If any of them were asked, "Why don't you stay here in Mississippi?" their answer would be, "There is nothing for me to do here." They were right. There will never be anything as long as everyone leaves. The only way to make Mississippi and Benton county a decent place to live is by staying here and doing your part.

If you plan to go to college, that's fine. But bring your acquired knowledge back home and put it to good use. People should know by now just from visiting the North or hearing about it that, in a sense, it's worse than Mississippi, because here in Mississippi you are not fooled. You know what's what because you are told and shown where you stand with the white man. And then you know how to change this stand. But in the North it is hidden to a great extent, and sometimes it's hard to tell your friends from your enemies.

The North will remain under the cover until Mississippi is put in a better condition, and Mississippi will never be in better condition until we stop leaving as soon as we finish school. Your world is as big as you make it, and it is my hope that this class will stay in Mississippi and help to build a new world together.

Benton poetry:*Time*

by Mary Peterson

You can eat and eat enough---but
 There will come the time you will want more.
 You can drink and drink enough---but
 There will be the time you will want more.

There is a lot of talk done mostly by the Southerners,
 That Negroes walked away from their freedom.
 We will walk, talk, sing, and fight up to freedom.
 But that's not so.
 And we won't turn away.

Too many lives have been destroyed.
 Life holds something for me.
 There will come the time I will get it.
 We are lost in the dark.
 There will come the time we will be brought to the light.

There is a lot of talk done mostly by the Southerners,
 That a lie never hurts---only the truth.
 So when the truth has been admitted,
 darkness all over,
 and the wicked grows stronger,
 You will love your country and your people.