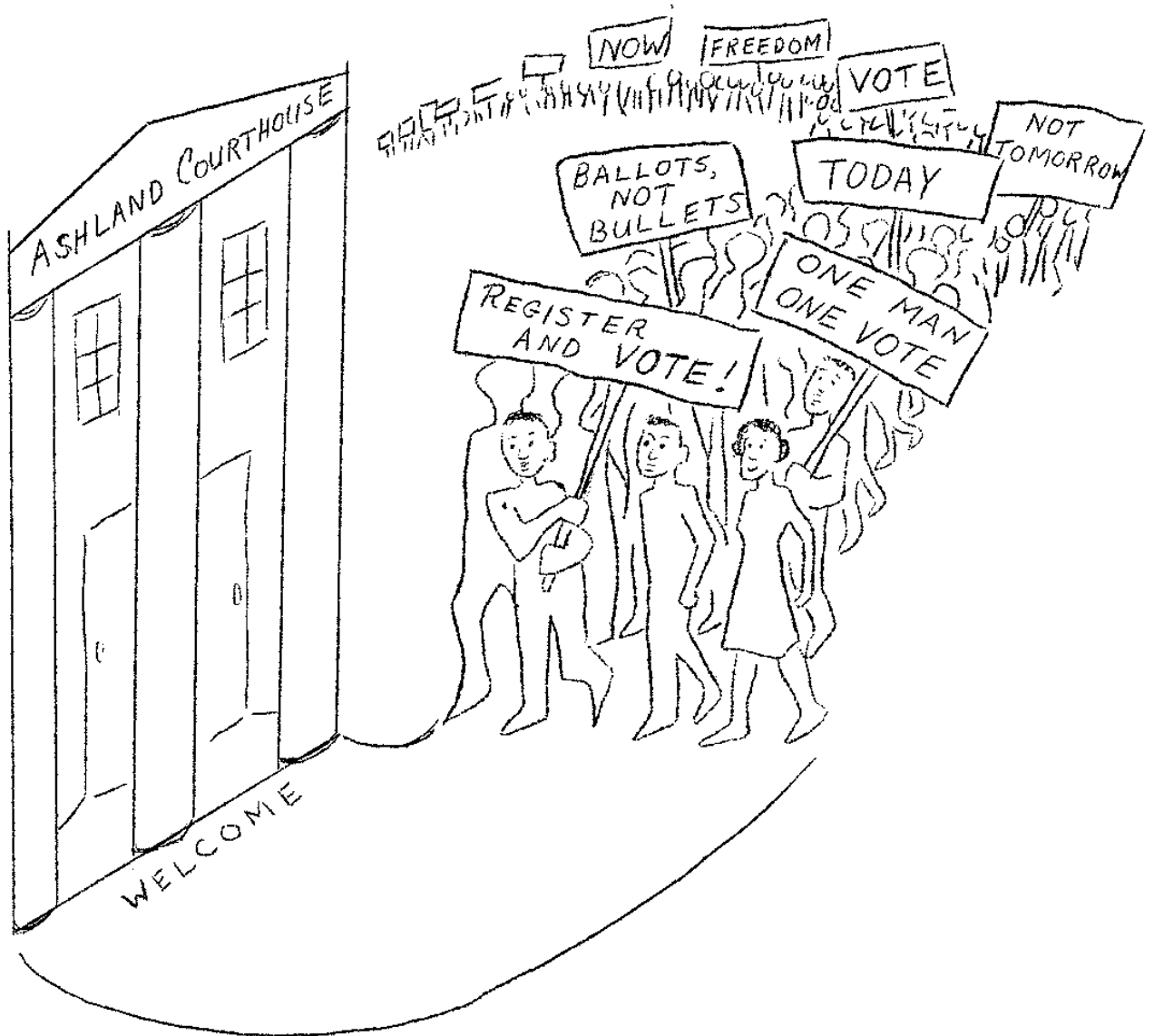


benton  
county



"It's that freedom train a'comin'; get on board, get on board."  
VOLUME II, NUMBER 29 MAY 30, 1965

"Y'all Come!"



# VOTER REGISTRATION BEGINS!

According to the Southern Advocate, "Notice is given that the Registration books of Benton County, Miss. have been opened to applicants to register to vote from and after Friday, May 27, 1965.

"All new applicants will be required to answer the questions on the standard form including the requirement that each applicant be able to copy a section of the Miss. Constitution. Each person who desires to vote in future elections in this county is requested to immediately apply to Mr. J. Lawson Mathis, clerk of the Circuit Court and Registrar, as soon as possible.

"All citizens of Benton County who have previously registered to vote will not be required to re-register."

"No person will be permitted to vote in any future election unless he is registered as a voter of Benton County, Mississippi."

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Instructions in filling out the applications will be given at all Citizens Club meetings, early before the meetings begin. Practice applications can be gotten from section captains.

All those who become registered voters should send their names in to the Freedom Train, Rt. 2, Box 100, Holly Springs. We will print the names of new voters each week.

Those who try to register but fail should request the registrar to tell them why they failed and to give them a copy of their application, so that they may study their mistakes.

## Officials to speak

Mr. James Miskelly, county extension agent, and Mr. Raymond Shields, FHA supervisor, have accepted invitations to speak before the Citizens Club on Tuesday night at Samuels Chapel. They will speak and answer questions concerning farm problems.

Mr. Gordon Stone, ASCS Office Manager, was unable to accept the invitation due to his heavy work load at this time of year.

The two officials are scheduled to speak at 9 p.m. Citizens are asked to be at the meeting on time, so that the regular meeting can begin at 7:30 and business will be over by 9 p.m.

## District meetings discuss problems

At the district meetings last week, it was decided that the chairmen of the School Committee and of the Bi-racial committee, Mr. Walter Reaves, and Mr. Loyal Thompson, should contact the Board of Education in order to get answers to questions concerning the firing of seven teachers and the manner in which Operation Headstart is being planned. The two men will report back to the Citizens Club on the meeting.

The 2nd and 3rd districts decided they want their summer volunteers to concentrate mainly on helping out with freedom schools, voter registration, obtaining jobs, and job retraining. The 1st district has not yet decided what they want the volunteers to help them with.

REGISTER TO VOTE TODAY -- NOT TOMORROW!

## *Cafe integration brings insults*

by Earnestyne Evans

On Saturday night some citizens of Benton county went to the Cotton Patch Cafe after leaving the party at school.

Mrs. Rebecca Dorse and two girls, Mrs. Onie Lee Williams and her two children, Roy Nunnally and Clay Batts went inside, took a seat, and waited for food.

The white waitress refused to serve them. Later an elderly white lady came over and accepted their order.

At the time of their entering the cafe, the white men had left to take their dates home and were now returning. But instead of coming inside the cafe, they stayed outside and went to the window and peeked in.

The men at the window told an old man who worked there to turn off the ventilator. At this time the profane language they were using was coming through loud and clear.

The Negroes stayed about 30 minutes longer. The profane language continued.

When the Negroes went to pay their bills, one of the whites yelled, "Go ahead, niggers. Y'all ain't no good for nothing but picking and chopping cotton."

Mrs. Dorse said she felt sorry for the men because they had such little understanding of their fellow man.

Upon leaving, the Negroes were called niggers and blacks, as if to be black is something to be ashamed of. Whenever I hear that I am reminded of a poem by Angela Grimke:

"I have just seen a beautiful thing:  
Slim and still,  
Against a gold, gold sky,  
A straight cypress  
sensitive  
exquisite,  
A black finger  
Pointing upward.  
Why, beautiful, still finger  
are you black?  
And why are you pointing upward?"

We are proud of our black skin.

### *Show to be presented*

Mr. Reed Lawton, a Hollywood entertainer, will put on a dog show with his famous dog, "Toto", for the citizens of Benton county on Monday, at 5 p.m. outside of New Salem Church. Admission is free.

Mr. Lawton entertained over the weekend at the Holly Theater, and he agreed to do a show for the people in the county, many of whom are unable to get into Holly Springs to see his show and many of whom do not wish to go to a segregated theater.

Everyone is invited to see the show. A special door prize will be given away by Mr. Lawton.

### *Some more questions*

Why is it that the ASCS office has had to go outside the county to find Negro cotton measurers?

This question is being asked by many people, especially since several qualified Negroes from Benton county applied for these jobs. Many applicants never received answers.

Many wonder if the white folks plan to hire only Negroes "who know their place." There aren't many of those kind here.

## Another libel suit announced

The past principal of Old Salem apparently has not yet finished his business in Benton county.

Mr. W. B. Foster is suing a COFO worker and ten residents of Benton county for the amount of \$677,980.00, charging them with libel, slander, and damages. Those whom he is suing are: Beulah Mae Ayers, Henry Reaves, G. N. Reaves, Walter Reaves, Jessie Jones, Sarah Robinson, Rebecca Dorse, Odie Rose, Gladis Glass, Loyal Thompson, and Aviva Futorian.

The case is scheduled to go to court on August 9. The other people of the county are wondering if they should not be summoned to court also.

Their reason is simply that they feel that if the slander and libel pertains to statements made during our effort to get Mr. Foster out of office, then we all should be included in the suit.

For together we stand and divided we fall. "What thou do to my brother, thou also do it to me."

### Someday they'll change

by Lloyd Dorse

We went to the Cotton Patch cafe last Saturday night, and it seems to be making most whites very very angry. We were cursed, called niggers and blacks. Peanuts were thrown at the co-called monkeys. The name cotton-chopper was given.

But I hope soon the Southern whites' minds will be changed, because the Negro is flesh and blood just like the white man is.

ONE MAN --- ONE VOTE

### Keep on pushing

by William Smith

I want to be ready to vote when the time comes for it. I hope that we can make Benton county one of the best in the state of Mississippi.

I trust that will show our opposers that we Negroes are citizens of Mississippi too.

So why don't we ask for what we want and then make an effort to get it? I feel this is the Negroes' chance now, because never before has the federal government intervened in our case as it is doing now.

So if we don't stick together, stand together, and fight together for what we want, the nice things the federal government is trying to do for us might as well be considered futile and stopped right now.

### The time is now

by Nelma Tipler

Now that the books are open, we urge everyone from the age of 20 up to go up to the courthouse beginning this week to register.

By registering and voting, you will show that you want to be a qualified citizen and have a part in the running of your government.

<p><b>BENTON COUNTY FREEDOM TRAIN</b>          Published weekly by the citizens          of Benton county, Mississippi  <b>EDITORIAL BOARD:</b>          Freddie M. Washington          Earnestyne Evans          Janevial Evans          Mary Peterson</p>
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# Black or white? Bi-racial news

by Carmen Webber

An Uncle Tom is a person who tattles to whites, carrying them freedom papers. I hope Uncle Tom (or Uncle Toms) are reading this article.

All right, you've been working for the whites, telling them things about your own people, letting them use you against your own people. But as soon as this is over and they have done their dirty work, they're going to say, "Get out. We don't want you around here," as if you had never worked for them.

If you don't want to work for them, don't. If you do, the best thing you can do is color yourself white--then stay out of the Jim Crow busses and cafes, and keep your children out of Old Salem.

## In appreciation

by Sarah Robinson

I must say a word about the northern white people whom we appreciate so much for their kindness shown toward our people in the very dark hours of need.

Had it not been for them sending food and clothing into the state of Mississippi, and especially into Benton county, it's beyond my comprehension what would have become of our poverty-stricken people.

But, where there is a will, there's always a way, and good things come to those who wait. We all are looking forward to a brighter day. When the time does come, when this dreadful disease (poverty) is wiped out, I pray that no one will take a step backward into a world of stagnation.

by Loyal Thompson  
(Chairman, Bi-racial Committee)

The following article, reprinted from a UPI story of May 16 in the Commercial Appeal, may be of interest to Benton county citizens:

"The office of Education said Sunday it had accepted the Mississippi Board of Education statement of compliance with the civil rights act of 1964.

"The commissioner of Education, Francis Keppel, said the Mississippi Board was the 42nd state education agency to file an acceptable statement of compliance with the act. Mr. Keppel announced at the same time that desegregation plans of 36 more southern school districts, including Selma, Ala., had been accepted. He said none of the plans submitted by local school districts in Mississippi had been approved to date (May 16).

"He said the Mississippi Board of Education agreed to assign its staff without regard to race and assured the office of Education it will not distribute funds under federally assisted programs to any school district not in compliance with Title VI of the civil rights act.

"A recent disclosure by Keppel of stiffer desegregation requirements for schools receiving federal funds drew criticism from 9 southern governors, including Gov. Paul Johnson of Mississippi.

"Mr. Keppel said schools which expect to receive federal funds must have at least four grades desegregated by this fall and all 12 grades by 1967. School buses and faculties must also be desegregated.