

benton
county

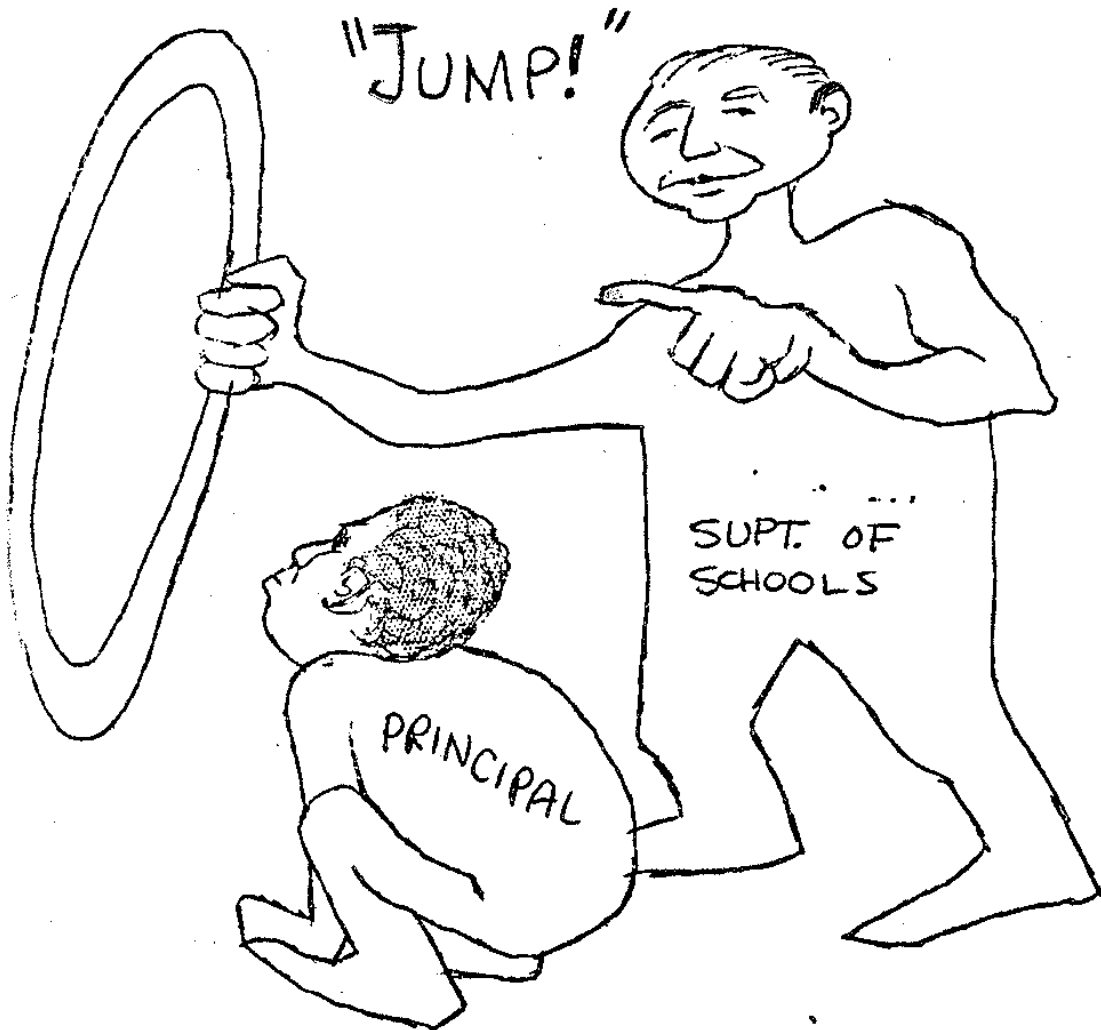
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"It's that Freedom Train a comin'; get on board, get on board."

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Beulah Mae Ayers,
Editor



Guest arrested at Old Salem!

Ashland Miss. On Friday, January 15, Aviva Futorian was arrested at the Old Salem Attendance Center while attending a basketball game at the invitation of the students in the college prep class.

Aviva entered the gym at 1 p.m. with Mary Francis Harris. She asked the price of admission, and Mrs. Foster told her it was 15¢. She paid the money and went over to the bleachers where she was joined by several students, including Lillie Roe Nunnally, Gloria Richards, Bobbie Steward, Walter Rooks, George Washington, Roy Nunnally, Earnestynne Evans, Alberta Tipler, and Loyal Thompson, Jr.

At about 1:25, Mr. Foster came over to where Aviva was sitting and told her the superintendent had instructed him to tell her to leave. The students all urged her to stay. He left and was followed shortly afterwards by Tony Farese who told her she could avoid a lot of trouble to herself if she'd just leave. The students kept telling her to stay. As soon as Mr. Farese left the gym, the sheriff came in, walked over to Aviva, told her she was under arrest for disturbing the peace, took her by the hand and led her out of the gym. As they left the gym, cheerleaders and several students began to shout, "WE WANT FREEDOM!"

About 10 or 15 students followed them out of the building. They were told that they couldn't go along unless they wanted to be arrested also. They kept following, and Earnestynne tried to get into the sheriff's car behind Aviva. Sheriff Ward pushed her out of the way and closed the car door. The students stood around the car, telling Aviva not to worry, and Deputy Crumpton ordered her to roll up her window.

The sheriff and deputy drove Aviva to Tony Farese's office where they kept her in the car. During this time Ward decided to search her purse "for weapons", but she refused to give it to him. So they both began to putt at the purse; then Crumpton joined in and both men were able to get the purse away from her. After returning her purse, Ward went into Farese's office with Farese and Supt. Bonnett.

At 2:15, the sheriff returned to the car and took Aviva to jail, charging her with false trespass. Bond was set at \$1,000.00. After about an hour, some people from Benton County came to visit her: Mrs. Beard, James Batts, Walter Reaves, and Mrs. Henry Reaves. They asked her if she needed anything and told her they were working on raising the bond.

Tony Farese brought Aviva some writing paper, and the sheriff sent for an electrician to fix the lights. Aviva swept the floor and worked on a crossword puzzle. Ellie Steward came to visit her for a short time.

At about 7 p.m. Sheriff Ward came in and told her that bond had been raised--by Mr. Jeff Alexander and Mr. Roy Williamson. Many people had been waiting for her, but the sheriff had made them all leave. Reverend Beard drove her away from the jail, and everyone met at the Reaves' home. where Mrs. Reaves cooked a steak in honor of her release.

Our School is a disgrace to Our People

by Earnestyne Evans,
Mary F. Harris, Roy Nunnally,
Alberta Tipler, & George Wash-
ington.

The arrest of Aviva set off many unusual events at Old Salem. Chief among them was that a delegation of students went to see Mr. Foster as soon as the sheriff's car left.

When they entered his office, George Washington told Mr. Foster to make his wife "leave us alone." Alberta Tipler told him to make Mr. Williams "leave us alone." Mr. Williams had told Alberta to "stop looking at me that way and go back in the gym." Alberta had told him "I'll go back in the gym when I'm ready to go."

We then asked Mr. Foster why we can't invite our friends to public events in the gym. He said, "I didn't come in on my own. Bennett sent me in." He added, "If you have to invite somebody, why didn't you come by and ask me?"

We told him that if we had asked him, he wouldn't have let her come. Roy Nunnally pointed out that there had been white people watching at the wrestling match. Earnestyne Evans added, "You have white people telling you how to run the school, but you won't even listen to our parents' suggestions." Foster repeated that he had to do what Bennett told him. Earnestyne answered, "Well, this isn't a white school; if it were, we'd have better heat and better facilities."

We told Foster that we just wanted Aviva to come up and we feel we have a right to invite her. Walter Rooks told him, "It makes our school look bad to bring the sheriff in."

Mr. Foster kept telling us, "You have to go about this thing slow."

Earnestyne told him, "We're not

going to go slow--we're going to speed up. If we wanted to, we could have it so there wouldn't be a student in school come Monday morning."

We told him that we are going to see the Citizens Club, the FDP, and the Youth Council, and get a lot of teachers out from up there that weren't doing their job.

Mr. Foster kept saying, "I would n't have done it if Mr. Bennett hadn't made me." We finally left his office, and as we walked down the hall, we could hear him repeating, "I know they're going to blame me for it."

In other events, George "Dowey" Washington was suspended from school for speaking rudely to Mrs. Foster when she told him not to leave the gym when the sheriff arrested Aviva. He left anyway, and later was summoned to Mr. Foster's office. Mr. Foster asked him, "How long have you been knowing Aviva?" "Long enough to make friendship with her," answered Dowey.

Later that evening, Mr. Ginn brought a letter from Mr. Foster to Dowey's home. It said: "George Washington--Indefinite Suspension. Student is to report back to school when given directions from administration. Student must learn that he must accept directions from school, and not take adult situations in hand. I will let him know when to come back. He must learn to treat people correctly."

Mr. Bud Beck plans to see Mr. Foster on Monday together with some more parents who feel Dowey's suspension was unfair.

Walter Rooks stated that as he was leaving the building, Miss Gavi hit at him with a ruler--she missed him, however, and broke the ruler against the wall.

PRINCIPAL SETS POOR EXAMPLE

by Linda Fay Rutherford

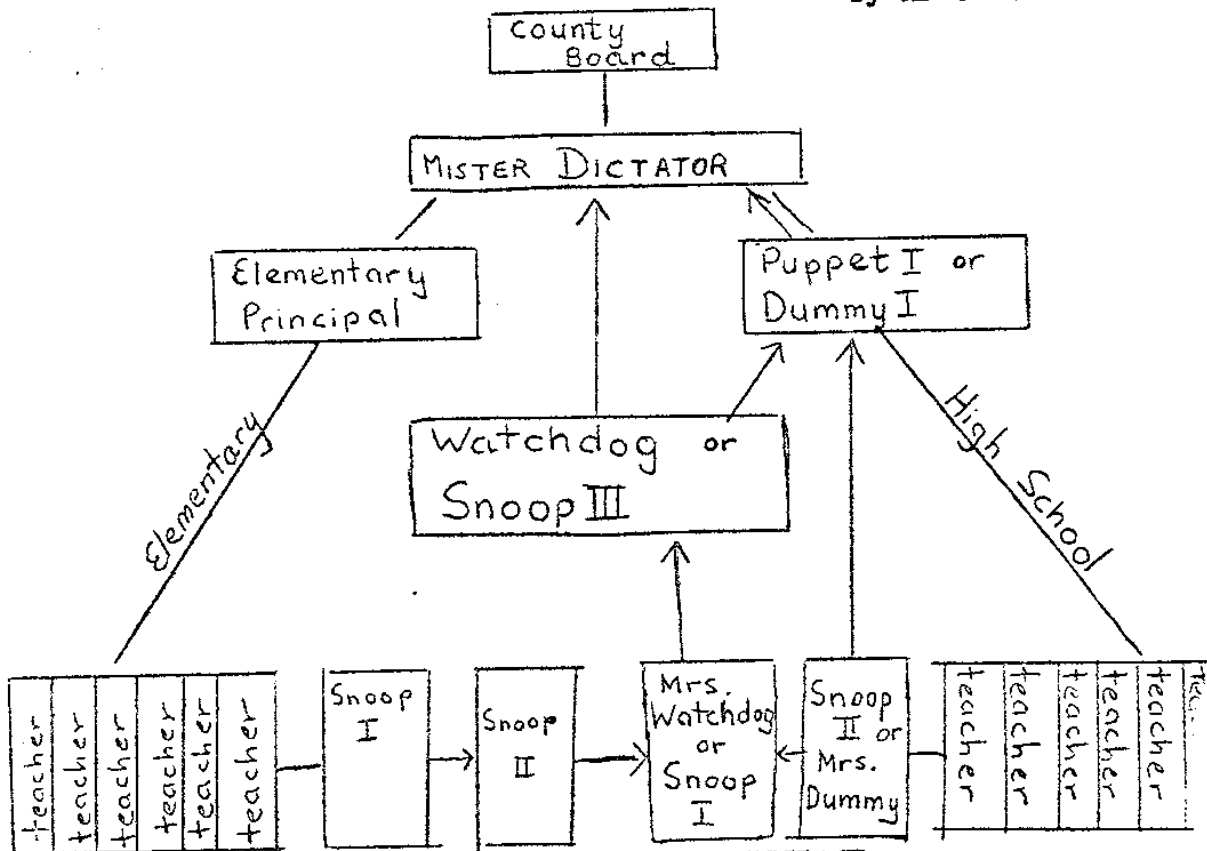
Mr. Foster knows he was wrong, for having Aviva arrested. She was not disturbing peace and no one liked to see her being arrested. Mr. Bennett called the sheriff for nothing at all. He had the sheriff to pull her out.

The laws and Mr. Foster HATE her because she's a COFO worker. To the ones who hate her: You will be sorry of it. Everyone says that you're stupid. Everyone would like to hit Mr. Foster--2 times or more--but we are non-violent--still.

EDITOR'S NOTE: ANY AND ALL COMMENTS ABOUT THE RECENT EVENTS AT OLD SALEM ATTENDANCE CENTER WILL BE PRINTED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE FREEDOM TRAIN. SEND ALL ARTICLES TO ME AT 100 RUST AVE., NO LATER THAN THURSDAY.

OUR PUBLIC SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

by Mrs. G. N. Roaves



RESULT: A FRUSTRATED DISGRACE

- Terms defined:
- DICTATOR--A ruler who has absolute power.
 - PUPPET--A person whose actions, ideas, etc. are controlled by another.
 - DUMMY--A person secretly acting for another while apparently representing his own interests: a traitor of another.
 - WATCHDOG--One who is kept to guard the school and faculty, as by "barking," I mean by calling the dictator in case a freedom or COFO worker shows up.

Benton People Travel to Washington, D. C.

by Mrs. Sarah Robinson
On Saturday, Jan. 2, 1965, ten delegates from the MFDP went to Washington to protest the seating of the five Mississippi Congressmen. We pulled out from the COFO office in a bus at about 3:30 p.m.

The bus stopped in Bolivar, Tenn. where the gas station attendant told us that one of the attendants had gone off with the restroom key in his pocket. So we continued on further. When we did stop again, we didn't have any more trouble in Tennessee.

After going through North Carolina and Virginia, we arrived in Washington on Sunday and were greeted with the warmest of welcomes.

We had a big meeting about what we planned to say to the Congressmen the next day, and then we were all put up at different people's houses. Miss Mary Hullom and I stayed at the home of Mrs. Kathryn Smith where we were treated royally.

The next day, we went to see the Congressmen, to ask them to support us in our attempt to unseat the Mississippi congressmen. My group saw two Congressmen both of whom said they would help us.

On Tuesday night we left by bus for Mississippi. When we got to Tennessee, Mr. Conley became sick. Later he said, "The reason I was sick was because we were in Tennessee and I knew that we were only one state away from Mississippi."

MY TRIP TO WASHINGTON

by L. B. Paige

It was a wonderful trip and I enjoyed it. It gave me an opportunity to talk with some of the leading people of our nation.

I had a chance to visit the ASCS department along with a few more of

the FDP members. I talked with two congressmen--one from California and one from New York. It was a great honor to talk to these men.

Tuesday night Dick Gregory made a great talk. He told us to keep our heads up and continue to fight for freedom.

Then I had a little time to go on a sightseeing trip. I visited the Lincoln Memorial and it was a great sight.

CHALLENGE GOING ON AT PRESENT

The attempt to unseat the Mississippi Congressmen did not end with the trip to Washington. It will go on until the summer xx at which time Congress will vote on the issue. Meanwhile, lawyers will be going around taking testimony on voter discrimination from all who will testify.

Those in Benton County who were witnesses for Mr. Flannery will be asked to testify again in order to unseat the Mississippi Congressmen.

NEWS IN BRIEF

PAY YOUR POLL TAX NOW! We are all hoping that soon the courthouse will be open for all to register without discrimination. But first you must pay your poll tax in order to vote in state and county elections. The deadline for this is Feb. 1. So go to Ashland and pay your poll tax **IMMEDIATELY!**

* * * *

The next meeting of the Citizens Club will be at Palestine Chapel on Tuesday, Jan. 26, at 7:30 PM.

* * * *

Do you want to measure cotton for the ASCS? Now is the time to apply--all you have to do is be able to read and write. Apply at the ASCS office in Ashland.

Benton Youths take trip also

by Janovial Evans

On December 26th, 18 boys and girls from Holly Springs and Benton County boarded a bus in Memphis for New York City, in order to present the play, "Seeds of Freedom."

The Benton County participants were Alberta Tipler, Roy Nunnally, Loyal Thompson, Jr., Earnestynce Svans, and Janevial Evans.

For much of the trip, we sang freedom songs. At Nashville, the bus changed drivers, and as our first driver was leaving, he said to the new one, "You better be careful. There are freedom riders on this bus."

We arrived in New York City on Sunday afternoon and were taken to the apartment of Mrs. Deborah Flynn, a freedom school teacher from the summer. Here we were introduced to our "parents" for a week. Some of them were white and some were Negro.

Our schedule was very heavy. We gave three performances in three different churches.

On January 4th, we taped the play at radio station WBAI. During our trip, we were united with many of the summer COFO workers, including Peter Cummings, Mike Clurman, and Fern Gelford.

Monday afternoon we once again boarded a bus, but this time the bus would carry us to Washington. In Washington, we joined our 10 Benton County FDP delegates, went to meetings, and toured Washington. We visited the capitol, the Library of Congress, the White House, and we saw Dean Rusk talking to the Ambassador to Viet Nam.

We returned to Benton County on Thursday night.

News of our white folks

by Mrs. Mattie Beard

On December 23, I was at home cooking food for the Freedom House. I heard a big noise, and I came running to the door. Some boys had thrown something at the car, but they missed it. I opened the door, and they threw at me.

I am not afraid because God is on my side. I told the law uptown what if it had been a white woman, they would have done something about it. But, no--I was a Negro woman, and Negro women don't have protection.

On the next night, these three rednecks came back and hit the car and broke the glass in the back window. We went to the Freedom House to carry some food on Christmas Day, and my good friend Cathy came out to look at it, and Cleve came out to look at it.

I know that they did it because my husband and I are working with the freedom movement. But we love freedom and we are going to have freedom. It's my freedom, and I want it, even if it takes fighting to have it. I just want what's mine--Can't I have it?

THE FREEDOM TRAIN

The Freedom Train is on its way,
Let us join and don't delay.

We should not be sad,

We should be glad.

So, come on, get on board!
The freedom train is coming.

The freedom train is on its way,
And I'm so glad that I can say
I am going to stand up and fight
Both day and night
With all my might.

Come on, get on board!

The freedom train is coming.

by Christine Smith