

benton
county

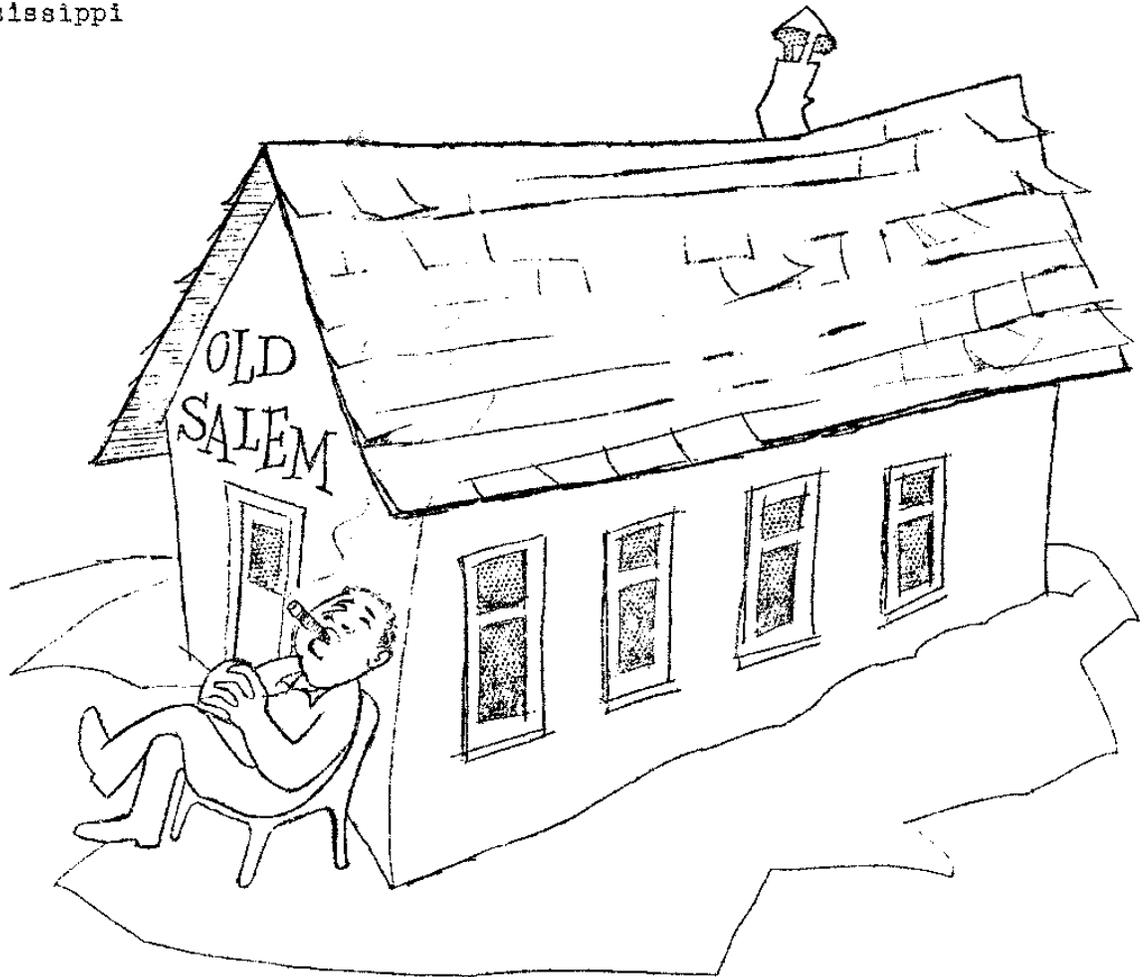
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"It's that Freedom Train a comin'; get on board, get on board."

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Beulah Mae Ayers,
Editor



UNCLE TOM'S CABIN

Meeting to discuss Old Salem

The main topic that will be discussed at this coming Tuesday night's meeting of the Citizens Club at Palestine Chapel will be the problem of Old Salem School, its teachers, and its administrators.

All citizens are invited to attend this meeting and bring suggestions on what to do about the poor education our children are receiving in Benton County.

Poll tax deadline

Pay your poll tax before January 31st--even if you are not a registered voter! We are still waiting to hear from the Justice Department on the outcome of its suit against Mr. Mathis. When the suit is finished, we expect to be able to register to vote without any trouble. So, be ready to vote--poll tax must be paid by January 31st in order to be eligible to vote in state and county elections when you become a registered voter.

Who can attend games?

Who has the right to attend public events at our public school? Who has the right to decide who shall attend? The only way to find out is to attend these events, and, if you are a taxpayer bring your friends as guests.

Then perhaps those who think they are in charge and who have others arrested for trespassing will in the end be thrown out by the taxpayers themselves.

Attend the next basketball game at Old Salem!

Homes for sharecroppers

Sharecroppers and tenants who have been told to move should contact Mr. Henry Reaves for available places to move to.

Thanks!

The Benton-York project is still in operation, as many happy Benton County residents can see from Christmas packages which arrived during the holidays.

Mrs. Mattie Smith writes: "I received a letter from a family in Pennsylvania--Mrs. Helen L. Whisler. I was more than glad to know that somebody is thinking about the struggle we are having in the South.

"Thank you for the Christmas food and clothes. They were real nice and we all appreciated them."

Talent show planned

The Mount Zion Voters League and the Youth League of Benton County are sponsoring a talent show spotlighting Negro History Week at Old Salem High School, February 7, 1965 in order to raise funds for the Wayne Yancey Community Center.

Negro History Week is February 7 to the 11th. A Negro History coloring book is being prepared to give out to all the young people of the county.

Freedom School!

The Mount Zion Voters League decided to resume Freedom School beginning this Wednesday at 5:30 PM. All those interested in attending are invited to come to the first session which will be held at Mt. Zion Chapel on January 27, at 5:30.

Courses to be taught will be decided at this meeting. All ages are welcome. Diana Roberson will be working with the little children.

Students comment on Old Salem

(Editor's note: Because of the overwhelming response to last week's paper, we have only been able to publish a portion of the articles written.)

Betrayal by teachers

by Alberta Tipler

After what happened at Old Salem, I began to wonder about the people there. I began to wonder about our school and the future.

It made me so angry to see that teachers I once respected could be so narrow-minded and blind--so blind that they fail to see that the white man, like any man, cares less for people whom he's able to push around.

We used to look to our teachers for leadership. But they failed to provide it. This was bad enough, but to think that the very leaders of our school could deceive us so! Many of them twist the truth or twist the rules to satisfy a few white people.

All of this, these teachers do without ever stopping to think what will happen to them when this struggle is over.

To you all: when this struggle is over, the white man won't want you, you will have no power, and your people won't want you because you betrayed our trust.

Who disturbed peace?

by Minnie Washington

The teachers at Old Salem are making fools of themselves. Mr. Foster had no right at all to have Aviva arrested. She wasn't disturbing the peace. Mr. Bennett, the deputy, and Tony Farese were the ones disturbing the peace. Aviva happens to be a very nice person.

Principal is not a man

by Katie Reeves

I think every student is hurt over what happened on Friday, January 15, at our school.

We feel that our superintendent isn't much of a man, because he wouldn't come in the gym for himself and ask Aviva out. Instead, he had our principal, Mr. Foster, do it for him. And I think that if Mr. Foster had been man enough, he would have told Bennett to go in and ask her out himself. But we feel that Mr. Foster was afraid of losing his job, so he's just as bad as Bennett.

Who will leave Old Salem?

by Walter Rooks

Someone needs to run Mr. W.B. Foster away from Old Salem. Mr. Foster is afraid of losing his job. That's why he wouldn't let Aviva look at the game.

Aviva wasn't doing any harm to anyone at school. If Mr. Foster doesn't let Aviva come and see the game all 1200 students should go to another school, and Mr. Foster won't have anyone to teach.

Principal or doormat?

BY Carolyn Baird

Mr. Foster is a doormat for Mr. Bennett. He does everything Bennett says. I believe he would jump from a tree if Bennett told him to.

Not the last time...

by Lloyd S. Dorse

Aviva, I felt very good seeing two COFO workers at our basketball game and in our school. This time you got inside, but though this is the first time, it will not be the last time, I hope.

Some of our teachers don't think about other people, only themselves and their jobs.

About our teachers

by Lecarrie Reaves

Some of our teachers sit back and do nothing but wait for their pay. Their is a female "gang" that stays in the hall all day. Everybody knows they can't do thier jobs and be in the hall.

Our so-called librarian seems to be a leader of this gang. If you go in the library to use a book, if she doesn't like you, she won't

let you use it. But as long as you are selling something for her or telling her something that is none of her business, she's your friend.

To you teachers who aren't doing your jobs: it's too late to try to improve now. Just work and try for the betterment of your next job, because I'm afraid you won't be at Old Salem very long.

Parents add their comments:

Look at the Bible

by Sarah Robinson

There is so much conflict between our teachers and parents. It is clear that some of the teachers and our principal are not doing their jobs. We have some people that squabble about our freedom workers, say ugly things of them. I wonder what God these unfit people serve. Perhaps they have never read the passage in the Scriptures that says:

Soft words turn away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger.

I hope that these people will read their Bibles and turn some of their unkind attitudes into prayer. The work of the freedom workers is the handiwork of God. Read your Bibles and you'll find out for yourselves.

Teachers should help

by Mattie Lou Smith

Teachers, we need your help! A little while ago, I heard a student say that one of his teachers told him that he was too uneducated to talk about and work for civil rights.

Well, teachers, you won't do anything. If we so-called dumb people don't fight, we never will get anywhere. It is a hard struggle, but when it is over the educators can enjoy it more than we who are struggling, because they will have more opportunities with their bet-

ter education. Yet they are the ones who close doors in our faces.

What you teachers don't understand is that this is a world-wide struggle. Everybody is fighting for right all over the world. Why won't you? It is time you woke up instead of making light of us.

Teachers should leave

BY B. B. Reaves

The march on freedom hasn't just begun, and we won't stop now just because Foster and so many more won't do their part. We want freedom and we will work for our goal. Thanks to God--He's on our side. Foster can't stop us, Bennett can't, Crumpton can't, Tony can't, and Ward can't.

It's hard for our children to study under teachers who get mad at them because they want freedom. Some teachers are there just to get their checks. We don't want them; our children don't want them. If they had common sense, they would move out before they are put out.

Who's in a jam?

by Mamie Jeffries

Aviva, dear, I can't find words to say how sorry I am.

Those devils tried in vain to make you scam,

Only to get themselves in a jam!

A New Year's wish I want freedom too

by Burne L. Alexander
We, the Negroes of Benton County, are very grateful that the good Lord has taken care of us all through the 12 months of 1964, and has enabled us to make a start on 1965. We are praying for Him to take care of us in this New Year.

We are also thankful for His taking care of our wonderful white friends. They have returned from their Christmas vacations in different places, now ready to continue the same fight--for freedom. And we Negroes are also ready to continue the freedom fight, too.

It is really something for us to have to say about our place of birth--Mississippi: that white people from other places had to come to Mississippi in order for us Negroes to have white friends. Yet we have lived around white people all our lives.

So, wake up, Negroes, and join this fight. We shall win this victory, and freedom will be ours as well as the white man's. We have always had to do just what the white man has told us to do--those days are almost gone.

The Freedom Train

by Imogene Reeves
The Freedom Train is still rolling.
If we ride it we must be free.
It don't carry no jokies,
No uncle Toms,
No backsliders,
No liars.

The Freedom Train is a clean train.
If we ride it we must be clean,
Full of grace,
Full of face,
We must win this freedom race.

BY Christine Smith
I want freedom because the white man will no longer be able to make fun of us. Some of them call us black niggers with no sense. They never say Negro; it's always nigger. They think because their skin is white, they are so much better than we are.

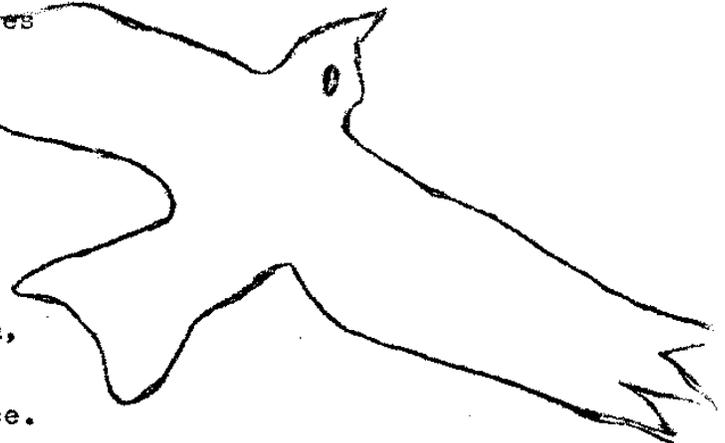
They get better jobs, the right to vote, and they can do almost anything they want to do. I want freedom so that we can get better jobs, a decent education, places for meetings, for study, and for fun. We need medical care badly, but it is hardly ever available to us.

Someday maybe when we have our freedom, they will know we are just as much as they are.

So, let us all stand up and fight. I am with Elsie Brown and Glossie Clardy--I want my freedom, too. Let's stand up and fight for freedom, because that's the only way to get it.

BIRDS

by Glenn Reeves
I like to see a bird carry food to its baby. And I like to see a bird eat. And I like to see birds fly.



Negro Poetry Section

AND WHAT SHALL YOU SAY?
by Joseph Cotter, Jr.

Brother, come!
And let us go unto our God.
And when we stand before Him
I shall say--
"Lord, I do not hate,
I am hated.
I scourge no one,
I am scourged.
I covet no lands,
My lands are coveted.
I mock no peoples,
My people are mocked."
and, brother, what shall you say?

DREAM VARIATION
by Langston Hughes

To fling my arms wide
In some place of the sun,
To whirl and to dance
Till the white day is done.

Then rest at cool evening
Beneath a tall tree
While night comes on gently,
Dark like me--
That is my dream!

To fling my arms wide
In the face of the sun,
Dance! Whirl! Whirl!
Till the quick day is done.
Rest at pale evening. . . .
A tall, slim tree. . . .
Night coming tenderly
Black like me.

.. from benton county!

I'M TIRED
by Mary Peterson

I'm tired of being wrong and never right,
I'm tired of holding myself back, when freedom is
coming my way.
I'm tired of hoping, tired of wanting, and never
tired of singing.
I'm tired of being held back from my freedom,
when men suffered and died for my freedom.
I'm tired of doubting myself and I'm tired of
suffering myself.
I'm tired of keeping silent when it is time to
speak.
I'm tired of loving when it is now time to
hate.
I'm tired of weeping when it is a time to
laugh.
And I'm tired of losing when it is now time to
win my freedom.

The Freedom Train is happy to announce the forthcoming marriage of Frank Cieciorka and Bobbi Dearborn, two COFO workers. Frank and Bobbi will be leaving for California on February 3. They plan to be married on the 12th and return to Mississippi about a week later to continue their work here. Their many friends in Benton County offer them the very best of wishes for a happy life together.