

## Coleman Tried Among Friends



COLEMAN (LEFT) ARRIVES FOR TRIAL

BY ROBERT E. SMITH

HAYNEVILLE--A jury in Lowndes County Thursday found Thomas L. Coleman, one of the county's most prominent citizens, not guilty of manslaughter.

Coleman, accused of the shotgun killing of a civil rights worker, was more at home in Lowndes County this past week than anyone else at his trial.

He was more at home than the attorney general of Alabama, who discovered early in the week how things are done in that rural county.

Richmond Flowers, the attorney general, had said he was afraid the case against Coleman, 55, a part-time sheriff's deputy and prominent resident of Hayneville, would be "white-washed."

Coleman had admitted gunning down Jonathan M. Daniels, a 26-year-old theology student who had been picketing in Fort Deposit and organizing community projects among Negroes in Selma.

Flowers took over the case after the county grand jury indicted Coleman for manslaughter, not murder.

In order to change the indictment to murder, Flowers appeared early Monday before Judge T. Werth Thagard to ask for a postponement of the manslaughter trial. The judge, without explanation, said no.

Flowers' assistant, Joe Breck Gantt, said in court the next day that he did not have a chance of proving Coleman guilty without the help of the state's key witness--the Rev. Richard Morrisroe. Father Morrisroe, a Roman Catholic priest from Chicago, was still hospitalized after being seriously injured by the same gun that killed his companion, Daniels, last Aug. 20.

The judge replied that Morrisroe's absence was not reason enough for a postponement, and ordered Circuit Solicitor Arthur E. Gamble Jr. to handle the case against Coleman.

The attorney general's staff had feared that Gamble, a friend of Coleman and of many other Lowndes residents, would not press hard to put Thomas Coleman behind bars.

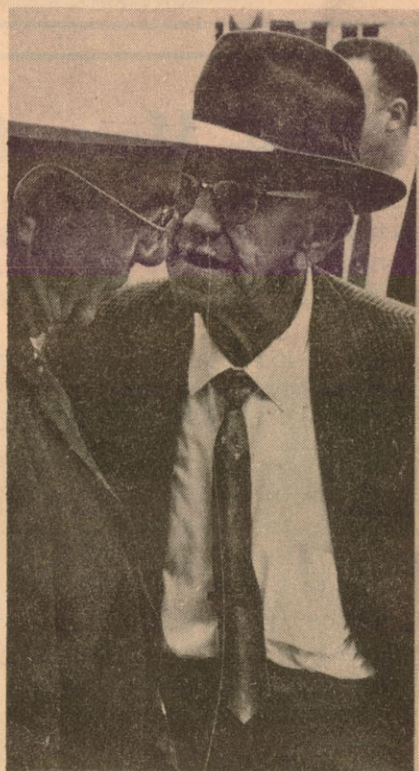
Gamble did his job in the trial--no more, no less. At times he argued the way Flowers himself might have.

"The cemeteries are filled with people killed by men of good character," he said Wednesday after ten friends told the jury of Coleman's reputation.

"In Lowndes County we are still a government of laws, not of men," said the judge, who said he was a prosecutor.

State Senator Vaughan Hill Robison defended Coleman by saying, "We got a right to protect ourselves."

"If a man says to me, 'Are you threatening me?'" said Robison, quoting what Daniels was heard to say to Coleman, "I'd say he was looking for trouble. And he found trouble."



SPECTATORS HUDDLE

It was the jurors' job to decide between conflicting accounts of what happened that summer afternoon on the steps of Varner's grocery store in Hayneville.

Miss Ruby Sales of Selma and Miss Joyce Bailey of Fort Deposit, two Negro girls with Daniels at the time, gave one account. Four white friends of Coleman told stories that differed in important details.

Lawyers on both sides agreed that the jury should hear a written statement from Father Morrisroe, who said Daniels and he carried no weapons when they went to Varner's store, and that Coleman cursed them as they approached the store door.

Witnesses told the jury that several civil rights demonstrators were released that afternoon from the county jail in Hayneville.

The group waited in front of the store for transportation out of town. Miss Sales, Miss Bailey, and the two young women filled the store with soft drinks.

Meanwhile, two white witnesses said, Coleman had gone to the Varner store to see his friend, Leon W. Crocker. Coleman knew the civil rights crowd was there, and he had with him his 12-gauge shotgun.

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## Negroes Boycott Training School

BY HENRY CLAY MOORER  
and GAIL FALK

GREENVILLE--About 29 Negro students walked out of the Greenville Training School last week because, said Sadie Mae Phifer, student leader of the boycott, "It just ain't right up at the school."

Tuesday night a group of parents met with SCLC county director R. B. Cottonreader to draw up a list of demands to the Butler County Board of Education.

The demands included the immediate appointment to the board of education of two Negroes approved by the Negro community, a full-time paid janitor, bandmaster and safety officer for the Greenville Training School, and open registration for Negroes at the white schools for the next 30 days.

According to Cottonreader, County Superintendent of Schools H. L. Terrell refused to meet with parents Wednesday morning, because they were accompanied by Cottonreader and a lawyer.

"I don't know why they're demonstrating," Terrell said last Monday. "They have the best physical facilities anywhere in the county."

"They have 20 teachers for the 497 enrolled students. That's more teachers than the one per 31 students the state pays us for," Terrell said.

"The school is accredited," Terrell said, pointing to the listing of the Greenville Training School in the Alabama Education Directory.

"And any of the nigger parents who want to file applications for their children to go to the previously all-white school, we'll accept them," he added.

On Monday, students tried to explain why they were not in school:

"You just learn two trades up there; how to pick cotton and how to clean up white folks babies," said Miss Margaret Fountain.

"The football equipment is bad... The library has only 100 books... There are 45 students in a classroom..."

"It's not accredited," said Charles Cheatham, "All the students know that."

A number of students mentioned a boy who had graduated last year. When he applied at Colorado State University, they said, he was told that he was not well enough prepared to do college work.

A pretty senior, Jill Moorer, walked into the SCOPE office and sat down in front of a typewriter. "I want to be a secretary," she said, "but I haven't anybody to teach me how to type."

## This Month Is State Fair Time

October is state fair time in Birmingham, Montgomery and Mobile.

The Alabama State Fair runs next week, starting Monday, at the fairgrounds in Birmingham. Several TV stars will be on hand, and one of the astronauts' space capsules will be on display.

The 12th Annual South Alabama Fair opens for six days Oct. 11 at the Garrett Coliseum in Montgomery. Free entertainment begins at 4:30 p. m. (except Monday) and at 7:30 p. m. on the Coliseum stage.

Well-known television and recording entertainers will be at the Greater Gulf State Fair, which will run Oct. 18-23 at the Hartwell Field Fairgrounds in Mobile.

At all three fairs, of course, will be the familiar farm, home and industrial exhibits.

"The first day (Sept. 21) I didn't walk out," she went on, "and the second day I went to school, because I'm a senior, you know, and my conscience said I should be going to school."

"But something inside me just told me I ought to walk out. The last period the teacher asked me a question and I didn't even hear, I was thinking so hard about whether I should walk out."

On Sept. 23, 15 boycotting students crossed a newly-erected barricade at the entrance to the campus. They walked down the halls singing freedom songs, and talked to students still in class, trying to persuade them to walk out.

"A few more kids walked out," said Miss Phifer, "but most of them just looked bored or else they laughed at us."

Then the group came out and sat in front of the school, where they were

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BOYCOTTING STUDENTS TAKE A BREAK

## Concert Tickets Hard to Sell

BY CLAY MUSSELMAN

BIRMINGHAM--Dr. Doris Mitchell, daughter of a legendary Macon County physician, came to Birmingham ten days ago with a car full of posters, 10,000 tickets and no experience in concert promotion.

She also came with faith--inherited from her late father, Dr. Joseph Mitchell--that a good idea combined with hard work was bound to succeed.

Now she's not so sure. Dr. Mitchell is sponsoring a benefit concert by Odetta, the internationally known folksinger, this Saturday at 8:30 p. m. in Municipal Auditorium here.

Proceeds from the concert will go to the Joseph Mitchell Memorial Foundation, established in memory of the Negro doctor who practiced medicine in rural Macon County for 25 years.

The foundation is building the Alabama Academy of Arts in Macon County.



ODETTA

The academy will provide a program in the creative arts for the county's underprivileged children.

But it does not seem very likely that the concert will produce much money for the foundation. Dr. Mitchell has run into a stone wall in Birmingham, and has not sold many tickets.

Some people told her that Birmingham was not the place for Odetta to sing, even though this is where she was born.

"Negroes here have never heard of her," said a local merchant. "You've got to remember this is a mining town, and most of the people don't go for cultural stuff."

Odetta Gordon has traveled all over

the world singing work songs, spirituals and blues. But this will be her first performance in Birmingham.

Jesse Lewis, a prominent Negro advertising executive, said he was willing to bet there would be fewer than 150 Negroes at the concert.

"I had to cut out promoting cultural programs in this city," said Lewis, "because we lost money every time." "This is a show for white people," he said.

Bill Barcliff, a white student at Birmingham-Southern College, bought a ticket to the concert, and then sold it to someone else. He said he planned to go to a fraternity party Saturday night. He said Odetta was not well known around his campus:

"Folksinging is a fad in the North that hasn't reached here yet. All the fads

trickle down here eventually, but it is sort of like the Great Lakes--they will get down here some time, but it will take a while because that Mississippi flows slow."

Dr. Mitchell said, "The establishment people think this is over the heads of the working men. They think they are out drinking wine."

"I hope they are wrong."

Dr. Mitchell said she could not tell people about how Odetta sings her songs. But, she said, once Negroes heard Odetta, they would know she was singing their music.

Late in the week, Mayor Albert Boutwell sent a letter to Dr. Mitchell, extending the official welcome of the city. He said he recognized "the singular contribution of Odetta to the arts and culture of America."

## Ala. Draft Boards Call 1,089 Men for October

Alabama will supply about three per cent of the 35,000 young men that Uncle Sam will draft into the armed services this month.

Draft boards are currently calling men between the ages of 20 and 26, married or unmarried, for involuntary two years service.

A few older 19-year-olds will be drafted in the coming months, according to Glen Curlee, state Selective Service director.

Curlee said that he expects Alabama's draft calls for November and December to be less than the 1,089 for October.

Of the 1,089 called this month, about 725 will be drafted. The rest will join one of the active services or a reserve unit, or come up with an air-tight excuse.

One out of every eight men drafted will go into the Navy. The rest will go into the Army, and will be shipped to basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C. or Fort Polk, La.

Draftees are sent to the Army or Navy by chance selection. They have no choice in the matter.

Curlee said that any young man who has been called for an induction physical examination can expect to get a

draft notice within one month, if he passes.

As many as six out of every ten young men who take the exam do not pass. They flunk either the mental or physical tests.

The draft board will not touch boys who stay in school and keep a passing average. But the board will take young men who are not passing or are out of school, whether they have jobs or not.

Draft-age men were advised to decide now among the choices they have:

1. They can take their chances on two years' service if they get drafted.
2. They can sign up for three or more years as an enlisted man or officer.
3. Or they can join a reserve unit. This requires up to six months' active duty and up to six years as a reservist attending regular meetings.

Local draft boards and recruiting offices can give more information about these alternatives.

These are the numbers of men that will be called this month in some Alabama counties:

Autauga 2, Dallas 25, Jefferson 204, Lee 15, Lowndes 3, Marengo 4, Mobile 120, Montgomery 45, Perry 4, Tuscaloosa 20 and Wilcox 4.

## Still No Payment For Mobile's Head Start

BY DAVID R. UNDERHILL

MOBILE--The Head Start program is over for the hundreds of underprivileged children who participated in it this summer.

But it isn't over for the Mobile school administration or for the federal Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) in Washington, which directs Head Start.

Since July, the OEO and Mobile school officials have been disagreeing about integration and about who should pay the \$143,000 that Head Start cost here.

The OEO feels that Mobile did not keep its agreement to run an integrated program, and should not receive federal funds for it.

School officials here think they did about the best they could under the circumstances.

So far, no one has paid any bills, and the complaints from unpaid teachers, food distributors, and businessmen are getting louder.

Unless the school administration and OEO can settle their argument soon, Head Start may be finished indefinitely in Mobile. Neither side is anxious to go through all this again.

"We've just about had enough," said one exasperated official at the school administration building.

And James Heller, the chief OEO official working on the Mobile problem, told the SOUTHERN COURIER from Washington that "Mobile has a long road ahead of it before it gets any more Head Start money from us."

Mobile's is the largest of eight Head Start programs in the country that have not received full payment from Washington. All eight are in the South, and three of them are in Alabama--in Mobile, Huntsville and Limestone County.

Mobile and Limestone County are the only ones out of the eight that have not gotten any money yet.

Heller said the OEO will make a final decision soon about the payments.

Mobile's public schools ran 17 Head Start centers, but only one had both Ne-

gro and white children.

Heller said the OEO "permitted segregation if it were totally voluntary, and if freedom of choice had been adequately publicized." He called Mobile's publicity "completely inadequate."

But the OEO's main complaint all along has been that 13 of the centers did not have integrated staffs. These 13 were all in integrated neighborhoods.

Cranford Burns, superintendent of schools in Mobile, says the school district tried unsuccessfully to find white teachers willing to work in Negro centers. The school board declared that it would not force teachers to take assignments they did not want.

Heller said, "If that was the only way to do it, that's what we wanted done."

But Heller said he didn't believe that this school district, which "still has segregated rest rooms in its central administration building," really tried its best to persuade white teachers to take assignments in Negro centers.

"ONE OF THE WORST"

He called the Mobile Head Start program "one of the worst" in the country on compliance with the Civil Rights Act, and said the OEO seriously considered closing it early in the summer.

But when Burns took over Head Start from his assistant C. L. Scarborough, "we began to believe that we might get some results," Heller said.

Burns says he made all the adjustments he could in the short time allowed him, and that Heller then assured him by phone that Mobile would get its money.

Heller said, "I did talk pretty hopefully about the money... but I gave no flat assurance."

An employee at the school administration building said she hoped they could settle it somehow and have Head Start back next summer.

"Everybody really liked Head Start," she said. "Their eyes just lit up when they talked about it this summer."