A PROUD FAMILY—The happiness that shows in the faces of the above trio is traceable to a small card bearing the number 1029. It means that James B. Rucker (right), 1428 Harlem Ave., is a master plumber. Mr. Rucker is the first man in the state to receive the prized card. Shown left to right are his daughter, Miss Delores Rucker, who acts as his secretary; his wife, Mrs. Martha E. Rucker, and Mr. Rucker. Back in 1941 and 1942 it was through the efforts of Dr. Furman L. Templeton, then industrial secretary of the Baltimore Urban League, that Mr. Rucker and other men were granted the right to take the journeyman's examination which is a requisite to becoming a master plumber. Dr. Templeton, now executive director of the League, obtained teachers for the men to help prepare them for the examination. All this was accomplished despite the fact that none of the employers of the men would give them a letter of recommendation to take the examination. This week Dr. Templeton congratulated Mr. Rucker on his success.

GETTING THEIR GOODIES—After Northwestern Police party at the Royal Theater, Monday morning, these children and hundreds of others received bags of fruits, nuts, candies and toys from St. Nick and his helpers above. Passing out the filled stockings, are (from left): Police Sgt. Violet Hill Whyte, Traffic Court Magistrate E. Everett Lane, Santa Claus (Creston Woingust), Northwestern Capt. Millard Horton, and Northwestern Magistrate Linwood Koger.

1500 kiddies thrilled by parade of talent, gifts at Xmas party

More than 1500 kiddies laughed and cheered, as only a Christmas party can make them as a parade of magicians, music - makers, story - tellers, and even "Doctor Tom," the choice of chimpanzees, followed St. Nick across the Royal Theater stage Monday morning at the fifth annual Christmas party.

Sponsored by the Northwestern Police Station, the party featured a program directed by Mrs. Margaret D. Armstrong, and included the delightful talents of Judge Linwood Koger, Northwestern magistrate, "who served as emcee; Creston "Doc" Woingust, St. Nick; and the Tracy McCleary band.

Large orange stockings, each stuffed with toys and enough goodies to make any kid's eye and tummy pop, were given the excited crowd of youngsters as they left the theater.

The first of these parties was an idea of Capt. Millard Horton of the Northwestern Police Station, and was produced by the department on the Royal stage in 1952.

Magistrate E. Everett Lane was the Northwestern magistrate at that time, and the program has been continued with Judge Koger the regular magistrate at the Northwestern Station.

Sgt. Violet Hill Whyte currently assists Captain Horton and Magistrate Rogers in sponsoring the party.

The toys for the baskets given the kids after the show are made each year by Robert Hart.

The theater, music and films for the movies are sponsored free for the project by Jack Barton, manager of the Royal theater.

Reckless driving toll heavy; no license costs youth $100

Seventeen - year - old David Henry of 12 Moores Ave., pleaded guilty to driving without a license and was fined $100 plus costs by Judge Henry Miller in traffic court Thursday morning.

Young Henry was picked up about 1:30 a.m. Thursday on the illegal driving charge.

In other traffic court proceedings, Vernon Lee of 1019 E. Forrest St., pleaded guilty and paid a $10 fine for leaving his motor running in his unattended car.

* * *

THE TRIAL of David J. Johnson, 1027 Bennett Pl., was postponed until Jan. 10. He is charged with the reckless driving that resulted in an accident at Pennsylvania Ave., and Cumberland St., Wednesday night.

Leroy Walker, 901 Pine Rd., was summoned to be a witness in the case when it comes to trial, Jan. 10.

Warrants were issued for William A. Jeffries, 1628 N. Monroe, for each of two traffic violations charged.

Jeffries, a 31-year-old chauffeur, is charged with an auto signal violation, Feb. 9, 1956, and of exceeding a 30-m.p.h. speed limit on March 2.

ALSO CHARGED with speeding is Hayes A. Barnes, 224 N. Gilmor St. Barnes, a 23-year-old railroad worker, is charged with exceeding the 25 m.p.h. limit at Franklin and Stricker Sts., shortly before midnight Christmas Eve.

His trial was set for Jan. 10.

The trial of Leroy R. James, 1318 Mosher St., was also set for Jan. 10.

James is charged with reckless driving at Gilmor and Presstman Streets Monday afternoon.

* * *

THE TRIAL of Lester Telfair, 1641 McKean Ave., is set for Jan. 24.

Telfair, a 39-year-old chauffeur, is charged with reckless driving on the evening of Dec. 8, at Riggs and Fulton Avts. He is charged also with violation of a stop sign law, alleged to have occurred at the same time.

Wayman J. Stephens, 1535 Poplar Grove St., has been summoned as a witness to the Telfair incident, but he must also answer a reckless driving charge for himself in the same court session.

Stephens, 22, is charged with reckless driving at Baker and Monroe Streets, Jan. 8.

HOWARD STETSON, of Glen Burnie, pleaded guilty and was fined $10 and costs for reckless driving in the 1900 block of Wilkins Ave., Dec. 21.

Vincent R. Godwin, 226 Linden Ave., was found guilty and fined $10 and costs for an auto signal violation.

Samuel W. Lanford, 1219 Argyle Ave., was found not guilty of damaging a Gas and Electric pole at Vincent and Havale Streets on the night of Dec. 12.

Dr. Rhetta settles libel suit for $2,250

"Our contention was upheld by the court. We contended that he only owed $3,500, minus what he paid another firm for repairs."

Fred Oken, attorney for Dr. Barnett M. Rhetta Jr. in a libel action against the popular physician in Federal Court, made this statement in explaining that the case had been settled for $2,250 following a trial before Judge Roszel Thomsen.

Dr. Rhetta was sued for an amount in excess of $7,500 by a Turner Station boat repair firm, Unger and Mahon, Inc., for maintenance and repair of the physician's 47-foot yacht.

* * *

THE BOAT repair firm filed the libel suit on Sept. 4 to recover $7,600.29 plus interests for providing Dr. Rhetta's yacht "with certain necessary repairs, materials and supplies", which cost a total of $17,600.29.

Dr. Rhetta, who paid the firm $10,000, accused them of "a serious default" in living up to the terms of the contract. The physician said the original agreement called for the sum of $13,500.

Further, the physician contended that when the firm failed to complete the job within a reasonable length of time he gave them "due notice" and removed his boat from their possession because of the alleged breach of contract.

The trial of the admiralty case started before Judge Thomsen on Dec. 13 and a final settlement was agreed on a week later, on Dec. 20.

Yule trafficalities

In a Christmas Day automobile accident at 5:10 p.m. at Madison Ave. and McMechen St., three 19-year-old youths, a 41-year-old woman passenger and three children, 7, 9, and 10 were treated for minor injuries at Provident Hospital.

Treated were Linda Manning, 9, 1100 block Clendenin St., for a bump on her head; Vernether Manning, 7, sa#fre address; no visible injuries were evident at the hospital examination;

Mrs. Louise Simms, 41, 500 block W. Hamburg St., bruises on the forehead; Nancy Manning, 10, also of the Clendenin St. address, a lump on her left leg.

Also injured were Norman Brown, 19, 2000 block Druid Hill Ave., a bruised right knee; Joseph Taylo, 19, 1200 block McCulloh St., a bruised right wrist and Paul Johnson, also 19, 800 block E 20th St., a bruised right arm.

MR. TAYLOR, who was driving east on McMechen St., was charged with reckless driving. Grady Morton, 40, 300 block Fremont Ave., driver of the automobile with the Manning children and Mrs. Simms, as passengers, was charged with reckless driving and failure to yield the right of way.

A traffic court hearing has been set at 9 a.m. January 5.

Mrs. Edith Mae Sample, 46, 400 block Dukeland St. was treated for bruises in the face and Ezra F. Sample, 40, also of the Dukeland St. address was treated for left leg injuries at Lutheran Hospital, at 2 a.m. Christmas Day, following an automobile accident at Edmondson Ave. and Ashburton St.

Mr. Sample, who was driving north on Ashburton St. at the time was struck by a car driven by Herbert D. Cosby, 26, 2324 Harlem Ave., when Mr. Sample failed to obey a stop sign.

Mr. Cosby has been charged with reckless driving and Mr. Sample with failure to stop at a stop sign. A traffic court hearing has been set for January 11 at 3:30 p.m.

* * *

IN A Christmas Eve accident, Mrs. Beatrice Harrison, 31, 900 block N. Stricker St. was treated at Franklin Square Hospital for left leg injuries when she was injured by a car driven by Richard Barnes, 31, unit block Catherine St.

The accident occurred at Lafayette Ave. and Stricker St. at 9:30 p.m. Mr. Barnes has been charged with reckless driving and will appear in traffic court at 9 a.m. January 10.

Dr. Schley Brown's conviction upheld

WASHINGTON

Dr. Schley Brown was denied a rehearing Thursday on his conviction for performing a criminal operation. He was sentenced to from two to eight years on the charges last March 29.

The U.S. Court of Appeals confirmed the U.S. District Court Nov. 29 conviction of the physician.

The court granted a three-day stay of the order to give defense counsel time to appeal to the Supreme Court.

IN SURGEONS COLLEGE

BROOKLYN — **Dr. Clyde E. St. Hill** of this city was recently elected to the American College of Surgeons.

Funeral held on Monday for Mrs. Davis

"She had been very sick for three months but this is always a shock whenever it happens."

Mrs. Emma Lee Davis was relating the details of the death of her mother to the AFRO.

Funeral services were held for Mrs. Clara R. Smith, 53, of 1515 West Saratoga St., from the Clarence and Katie Williams Funeral Home Monday in Mt. Auburn Cemetery. The Rev. J. B. Butler officiated.

Mrs. Smith was a native of Rocky Mount, N.C. but had lived in Baltimore for 31 years.

SHE IS survived by her husband, William L. Smith; three daughters, Mesdames Cornelia Harris, Emma Lee Davis and Harriet Glass;

Also, one son, Theodore Smith; four sisters, Mesdames Lena Hines, Armissie Higgs, Mary Wise and Bertha Knight, and two brothers, Augusta and Lester Pompey.

GOING TO ITALY

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — **Sgt. Chester C. Starks,** former non - commissioned officer in charge of the rifle range of the ROTC unit at Lincoln University here, recently relinquished his duties to **Sgt. Curtis L. Wren,** before his transfer to Italy for a tour of duty. **Lt. Col. Wilbert D. Fisher** is commander of the ROTC unit at Lincoln.

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Clinton action held 'big story'

By CLIFF W. MACKAY
(Editor, AFRO - AMERICAN Newspapers)

The biggest news stories of 1956, just as did those of 1955, continued to revolve around the burning issue of freedom and equality.

And unquestionably the biggest was the development and use in Montgomery of a brand new weapon against segregation.

A mixture of economic resistance and religious fervor, the passive resistance movement fashioned by the Rev. M. L. King Jr., and his young coterie of leaders in Alabama, not only for the first time welded 50,000 colored persons into one solid, cohesive unit, it also confounded and frustrated the dominant group which was accustomed to playing the old divide and rule game.

Just as 1956 saw the birth of this new tool against second - class citizenship, it also saw the sometimes dramatic, and occasionally violent, last dying gasp of segregation.

THIS WAS best illustrated in the second biggest news story of 1956, the shocking Autherine Lucy incident at the University of Alabama.

And it was also seen in the affair at Clinton High School, where for the first time a Southern governor ordered out the National Guard to help a school board carry out a Federal court integration decree.

This story had a later, and possibly even more significant chapter, when agents of the FBI, on orders of the U.S. attorney general, rounded up the hard core of segregationists and hailed them into a Federal court on criminal contempt charges.

* * *

I THINK it significant because this Federal action might well set the precedent by which other communities can serve to protect themselves from segregationists once the decision has been made to comply with the law.

Almost of equal importance was the dramatic decision of Democratic Rep. Adam Clayton Powell to support Republican President Eisenhower, in preference to his own party's nominee, Adlai Stevenson.

Mr. Powell's action heralded a wholesale disenchantment on the part of colored voters with the Democratic Party, certainly one of the big news stories of 1956.

* * *

MY SELECTION of the ten biggest stories of the year in the order of their importance is as follows:

1. **FBI roundup on criminal contempt charges of segregationist troublemakers at Clinton.**

2. **The Montgomery and Tallahassee bus boycotts.**

3. **Adam Clayton Powell's support of Eisenhower and wholesale switch of colored voters from Democratic to Republican ranks.**

4. **Enrollment of Autherine Lucy Foster in University of Alabama and subsequent mob violence and expulsion.**

5. **Use of Tennessee and Kentucky National Guard units during school uprisings at Clinton and Sturgis.**

* * *

6. **SUPREME COURT decision outlaw segregation on intrastate public transportation vehicles.**

7. **Kidnaping, beating of Jesse Wood and acquittal of seven suspects in Florida.**

8. **Charles Dumas high jump of 7 feet ½ inch and Arlor Johnson's breaking of decathlon record.**

9. **Persecution of NAACP by Louisiana, Alabama, Texas, Georgia, Virginia, North and South Carolina.**

10. **Floyd Patterson's winning world's heavyweight championship at age of 21.**

Civil rights fight believed paramount

By JOSEPH A. SHEPHARD
(Assistant Managing Editor)

1. - Montgomery bus boycott.
2. - Clinton fights integration.
3. - Southern war against NAACP.
4. - Powell defection.
5. - Rejection of Democrats by colored electorate.
6 - Death of Dr. Charles S. Johnson.
7 - Supreme Court Parks decision.
8 - Don Newcombe story.
9 - Althea Gibson embraces tournament tour on Wimbledon Center Court.
10 - Four athletes capture 14 gold medals in Olympics.

* * *

SELECTION of the ten top stories for this year, or any other year, involves a question of perspective—that of the individual reporter or editor making the selection.

This may be the result of the newsman's own particular and peculiar interests and aspirations or on the scene experiences.

It may be affected also by public reaction to, and interest in, the event at the time of its occurrence or by his judgment of the effect of the events chronicled upon the "Big Story" — that of all mankind.

This selection attempts to take all of these factors into consideration.

If it seems top-heavy on the side of race relations and civil rights, that is intended, for those two issues wrap up what I believe will prove to be the major domestic story of the current quarter century.

Intensify struggle for full citizenship

By ARTHUR RANDALL
(Assistant Managing Editor)

The year 1956 will go down in American history as one in which colored citizens more and more intensified their struggle for full citizenship in the United States.

All through the Deep South, the masses, conscious that the law of the land was behind their actions as well as morality and justice, began fearing down the walls of prejudice which had retarded their progress since Reconstruction Days.

* * *

IN ALABAMA, led by the Montgomery Improvement Association, the bus protest movement, now entering its second year, has brought to the attention of the Supreme Court the fact that segregation on buses —intrastate as well as interstate — is unconstitutional.

* * *

THE WELDING together of 50,000 colored people, most of whom had been going along with the traditions of the Old South in a segregated society, has been a phenomenal accomplishment, the significance of which is yet to be realized by those who look backward instead of forward toward America's future.

That this spirit has caught fire in colored people in another state capital, Tallahassee, Fla., is another sign of the times.

The Inter - Civic Council fanned into flames the smoldering resentment of the minority group against their unjust treatment, and — in the words of one of the leaders there, "We're only crossing the bay — the ocean lies ahead of us."

* * *

THE AUTHERINE LUCY school admission fight and the struggle of colored youths all through the South for integrated schools provided scores of stories of heroism and the determination to reach the status of first - class citizenship.

Parents in Sturgis and Clay, Ky., carrying their children to school through taunting mobs and under the protection of National Guardsmen, provided background for one of the big stories of the year.

Children in Clinton, Tenn., going to school in the teeth of cowardly hoodlums until the school had to be closed Dec. 7 to prevent violence, was a comparable situation.

* * *

THAT THE full majesty of the United States Department of Justice, including a Federal district judge, was thrown in the path of the lawless element who defied the Supreme Court, caused the whole nation to sigh a sigh of relief at hope for eminent solution of the desegregation problem.

The White Citizens Councils at last were roundly condemned as subversive groups by Attorney General Brownell's aide in Clinton and in Louisiana the Ku Klux Klan was cracked down upon by the state under the subterfuge of failing to register.

* * *

BECAUSE THE majesty of the law asserted itself, in Hoxie, Ark., children of both races attend school together without incident now that hate groups have exhausted their legal redress to prevent the school's integration.

College students at South Carolina State University resisted the machinations of White Citizens Councils in the city of Orangeburg so fiercely that they hanged in effigy officials who knuckled in to such subjugation.

Fred Moore, student council leader, was ousted from the school, but the struggle to be democratically treated still goes on there.

* * *

ON THE political front, colored voters proved that they were not lackeys to any one party and contributed to the defeat of the Democrats who wooed the South with a "soft platform" on civil rights and a wing which openly opposed such rights.

Democratic Congressman Adam C. Powell even repudiated the leadership of his own party to vote for President Eisenhower, as did thousands of other colored Americans who, won over to the Democrats by Roosevelt, were revolted by portentof seeing such men as Sen. Eastland leading important Congress committees.

The prospect of Justice Department action against individuals — not only law enforcing officers — who deprive anyone of their civil rights increased with investigations being made by the FBI of illegal vote disqualification in several Deep South states.

* * *

ON THE SPORTS front, the achievements of Miss Althea Gibson, seeded No. 2 U.S. women's player in the tennis world have been noteworthy, and those of the tan thinclads on the Olympic team were stories played up around the globe.

Here recently at home, the "capture of the world's heavyweight boxing title by 21-year-old Floyd Patterson provided inspiration to many young hopefuls in the fistic profession.

The biggest story in the ecclesiastical world was the bombshell dropped at the AME General Conference last spring when laymen took away the money power of the bishops and shifted them to different districts.

Second to that, with a romantic tang, was the Dec. 6 weddings of 71-year-old Bishop Walls to 25 - year - old Miss Dorothy Jordon—truly a spring and autumn marriage.

These are general observations on the year just passed. They bear grist for 10 most interesting stories but for 1956 and the AFRO has been on the spots to give those 1,000 stories to its readers.

'NAACP in fight for its life' rated No. 2

By JOSEPHUS SIMPSON
(Assistant Managing Editor)

The best story of the year, in my book, was the ending of the year - old Montgomery bus boycott through a decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in November outlawing the practice of segregation on intrastate buses.

My primary reason for giving this story top priority is the fact that the principles underlying the boycott strike at the very heart of life in these United States principles that I have advocated and followed for 30 years.

Here was the majority — approximately 95 percent — of the colored population of a great southern city abstaining from using the city's transportation system — accepting willingly discomfort and inconvenience—all for principle.

* * *

I CONSIDER THE feat accomplished by the people of Montgomery one of the greatest demonstrations of raw courage, perseverance and willingness to sacrifice for principle that we have witnessed in this modern day.

Second on my list is the NAACP's fight for its life in the South.

Here is a story that bares to world view the fact that southern government officials are still living, in fancy, in the "good, old antebellum days." They will go to any lengths to stifle any attempts of the masses to be free.

Contrary to popular belief, this repression and suppression practiced by Dixie government officials is aimed not only at colored citizens but at white citizens as well. Neither the poor white, the liberal nor the colored man may aspire to freedom.

* * *

MY OTHER EIGHT STORIES in order of their importance follow:

1. "U.S. Joins Fight Against Council," in which — for the first time — the Department of Justice intervened in the Hoxie, Ark., school desegregation suit.

2. **"Judge Gets Tough With Agitators"** in which a **Federal Court judge Robert L. Taylor slapped a one-year prison sentence on John Kasper for interfering with the orderly integration of Clinton High School, Clinton, Tenn.**

3. "FBI Probes Wholesale Purge of Dixie Voters," in which Warren Olney 3rd, assistant U.S. attorney general, opened a drive on the part of the Federal Government to punish Dixie registrars who deny the vote to colored citizens.

* * *

4. **"FOURTEEN** To Join Lucy," in which at least 14 persons made applications to enter the University of Alabama on information given by the wife of Miss Autherine Lucy, driven from the campus by her mob, but still fighting to go back.

5. **"AME's Shift 13 Bishops, Take Away Money Powers," a bloodless revolution in the AME Church which centered not only its ecceesiastical but its financial structure.**

6. "Use Wins In Landslide," in which the majority of colored voters throughout the nation jilted the Democratic party and went into the GOP column after a "courtship" of more than 20 years.

7. **POWELL** To Campaign For Ike," in which Rep. A. Clayton Powell, Democratic congressman from New York, choked up on Eastland, Talmadge, et als., bolted the Democratic Party to back Mr. Eisenhower, putting principle above party.

8. "High Court Reverses Kans. Property Case," a story that would hardly make Page One but an important one in which the Supreme Court knocked out a city's confiscation of a colored citizen's property through a "trick" notice of condemnation proceedings.

Stories indicative of struggle for freedom

By RUFUS WELLS
(Editor, Richmond AFRO)

1. Montgomery bus boycott.
2. Supreme Court outlaws bus segregation (intrastate).
3. Jackie Robinson - Spingarn Medal, sold to Giants.
4. Anglo-French invasion of Egypt.
5. Death of Dr. Charles S. Johnson.
6. U.S. cracks down on segregationists (Clinton, Tenn.).
7. Dixie counterattacks NAACP in court.
8. Colored vote goes Republican.
9. Tan Yanks star in Olympics.
10. Supreme Court Parks decision.

* * *

BY ANY yardstick, the celebrated bus boycott at Montgomery, Ala., and its solidifying influence on colored Americans generally, ranks as the top news story of 1956.

The continuing breakdown of racial barriers on intrastate busses and in state - owned parks marks a newsworthy forward trend in democracy.

The nationalization of the Suez Canal by Nasser deserves honorable mention, but the infamous invasion of Egypt by Anglo - French forces ranks higher in my opinion, because it touched off a spark that may still result in global war.

ALSO SIGNIFICANT is the get - tough attitude adopted by the United States Justice Department in dealing with southern race baiters who would forestall school desegregation.

You will note that seven of the ten selected stories deal with human rights. This is indicative of a world-wide struggle of men for freedom and a decline of imperialism.

1956: Headline review of big news of the year

Autherine's our darling Carter says

Gray's draft case being investigated

U.S backs Hoxie suit

Bus Boycott Ends

Beaten vet found in Ala. town

2nd home bombed in Alabama

Catholics Integrate Dixie Schools Without Trouble

Buses roll, folk walk

Integration works in Texas

Like wildfire

School Hearing Backfires

On Dixiecratic Probers

Civil Rights Fight Called Biggest Hoax In History

Written complaints

Autherine Lucy

The Afro-American

Fla. Kasper convicted, jailed, fined fine of $22,000

42,000 WALK

Fla. U. told to admit student

No Room For Belafonte

White Man Took My Seat

GO BACK

Bus boycott trial set

Virginia schools ordered open to all citizens

14 new students plan to enroll at Alabama U.

Long Live King, Shout Boycotters Vs. Catholic school integration success

Bus protest Atty. freed

High court upholds NAACP

ANOTHER A-BOMBING

U.S. warns Dixiecrats

Town sick and tired of Jim Crow

I can stand whatever comes up

Democrats work hard on U.S. funds

I MUST GO BACK

RIGHT TO ENTER

Bus boycott trial set

Back

FBI enters school fight

Sick And Tired Of Jim Crow, Bus Riders Say

The Whole Town's Walking

No mistake about meaning of high court's bus rule

Bright is all your walk

Brooks wins tournament

They can beat us and our prayers, too, can they son?

AMEs Shift 13 Bishops, Take Away Money Powers

NAACP Appeals $100,000 Fine Levied By Alabama

LUCY SUES FOR $3,000

Fla. boycotters sued by police

Board ordered to mix schools

Ala. U. ignores court's order: Ala. Coed Hits Miss Lucy

Fries to enter W. of Georgia

U. S. Judge has broad authority in change of venue, Supreme Court rules

Attack puzzles Nat (King) Cole

98% In Clinton Would Obey Law, Survey Finds

Bus jim crow is outlawed, S.C. appeal called 'frivolous'

Dixie Business

Dumas jumps 7 feet, ½ inch for new world mark

Ala. Bus Segregation Outlawed By Supreme Court

Alabama Officials Admit Boycott Cost $750,000

Ready to move ahead on school—Thurgood

2nd manhole

Fine school

Time runs out for Va

Mixed buses safer, Ala. court told

NAACP Back In Business

Jim crow signs coming down in waiting rooms

Lehman says Eastland delays civil rights action

Fla. Fines 21 Boycotters $500 Each

Coed sues to eat, sleep

Don't scare any longer say riders

Hodges back in fight

Rick injunction

Nashville schools to mix first grade

New NAACP Sues In Ala.

Cities Comply With 'Sit Anywhere' Edict

February 1st to mix schools

Rights bill out

Blast racks Atlanta home

U. S. Warns Dixie Racists

No fear, says Ala. U. applicant

Whites now aid boycott

They can't beat us and our

Mackey Mrs. Phillips

Randolf Simpson

Murder of Va. teacher recalled

By B. M. PHILLIPS
(Administrative assistant to President)

The inspiring story of Montgomery, Ala., residents who walked for a whole year rather than ride jim crow buses and face insults from impolite drivers ranks as number 1 on my list of ten best stories.

And action by the U.S. Supreme Court, which upheld their rights to refuse to ride the buses and outlawed Montgomery's ancient segregation laws, further marks this the most dramatic story of the year 1956.

* * *

OTHER STORIES on my list of ten best are:

The brutal murder of Mrs. Lucille Overby, 62, a school teacher by two former pupils, Russell and Samuel Thomas.

The political conventions culminating in the re-election of President Eisenhower and the role played by colored voters who shifted party allegiance.

The Emmett Till case — the bold kidnapping of Jesse Woods, 39, and his subsequent flogging and disappearance.

Performance of American athletes at the U.S. Olympics where colored stars took 14 of the gold (first place) prizes.

The Clinton, Tenn., school battle and the action by Federal authorities to punish those agitating against desegregation as ordered by the U.S. District Court.

Performance of Tennis Star Althea Gibson, now ranked the Number 2 tennis player in the nation.

Switch of minority voters to Eisenhower of significance

By LOUIS LAUTIER

WASHINGTON. (NNPA) — The year 1956 had no big story which stood out clearly over all others in its drama and wide impact, but it certainly produced a number of stories to which the description "big" must be given.

In a number of instances, the big stories were a series of related events. For example, the Montgomery (Ala.) bus boycott.

This story had its beginning in 1955, but this year there were a number of events, including the indictment of the boycott leaders culminating in the Supreme Court decision outlaying racial segregation of passengers on buses operating within a state, which makes that story one of the big ones of 1956.

* * *

AS THE BIG stories of 1956, the NNPA picks the following:

1. The switch of colored voters from the Democrats to the Republicans in the Presidential and Congressional elections of Nov. 6.

2. **Reprisals against the NAACP in southern states for its successful fight against segregation, discrimination and disfranchisement, by means of contempt proceedings for failure to permit state officers to inspect its records, injunction suits to stop its activities, and legislative acts to curb its activities.**

3. The progress in desegregation of public schools in the South, despite outbreaks of violence in five Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas school districts, including the Clinton outbreak, with more than 120 southern school districts having mixed classes for the first time this year.

* * *

4. THE DECISION of the Eighth United States Circuit Court of Appeals at St. Louis upholding an order issued by the Federal District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas permanently enjoining White America, Inc., the White Citizens Council of Arkansas, and the Hoxie Committee for Segregation from interfering with desegregation of the Hoxie, Ark., schools.

The Justice Department intervened in the case as a friend of the court chiefly because the Federal government considered that a basic issue was presented, namely, whether state officials can be protected in federal courts from purposeful and formidable obstruction to the performance of a duty imposed upon them by the Federal Constitution.

This case appears to have determined the government's course of action in other school integration trouble spots.

* * *

5. INVESTIGATION of the District of Columbia public schools by a House District of Columbia subcommittee (run chiefly by Representatives James C. Davis of Georgia and John Bell Williams of Mississippi, Democrats).

6. THE SUITS to outlaw the NAACP.

5. The Tallahassee bus boycott.

6. The outster of Lt. Titus Saunders from the Air Force.

7. Adam Powell's switch to the.

8. The rise and fall of Prophet Jones.

9. The orderly desegregation of Louisville schools.

10. Floyd Patterson becomes the youngest heavyweight champion in history.

1956 WAS the year of the colored people of the world. It was the year of emergence of the colored citizen in American political and economic affairs. These minority group people have risen to the focal point of the world concern.

The peace of the world for the next generation may turn upon the restlessness of the colored man. The future of democracy and communism hangs in the balance as the colored races make up their minds.

Should the colored citizen continue to desert the Democratic Party it will be banished to defeat for many years to come. Positive action in Republican congressional circles will complete the switch that has already begun.

THE MONTGOMERY and Tallahassee bus boycotts have proved that economic reprisals and legal decisions can melt the hearts of southern whites.

Most of all, 1956 was the year of prophecy. Its message is plain: school and bus desegregation will take many years.

There will be conflicts and loud noises, but the colored citizen will win. He will win because his cause is just.

'Top' is like 'best'

By SAMUEL HOSKINS
(Editor, Washington AFRO)

Apologies are in order.

For trying to pick the top story of 1956 is like trying to plumb the depths of eternity, or scale the heights of the infinite.

"Top" is like "Best." Neither leaves margin for error.

* * *

BUT 1956 was pregnant with big news stories, most of which had their roots in 1955.

Likewise, they will flop forward into the days and months of next year and, perhaps, into the tomorrows of the future.

Consequently, I nominate these as being among the top news stories of 1956:

1. THE BUS STRIKES IN MONTGOMERY, dramatized in Montgomery, Ala., and Tallahassee, Fla. (2) **THE SUPREME COURT** ruling, which ended a decade of systematic oppression of an entire people.

2. The rebellion of Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser. His defiance of the power bloc of the West required courage and/or desperation. In a real sense, he was motivated by the same forces which set off the revolution in our own Southland.

Colonel Nasser, like the Revs. Martin Luther King, in Montgomery, and Charles Kinzie Steele in Tallahassee, are symbols (or rallying points) for millions.

3. THE MEETING between President Dwight D. Eisenhower and India's Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

What did Nehru say? "Peace and freedom have become inseparable, and the former cannot continue for long to be partly free and partly subject."

Indeed, recent tragedies (Egypt, Hungary and the things the Eisenhower Doctrine represents) have doomed colonialism.

4. Miss Autherine Lucy versus the University of Alabama. Here again, her fight was part of the same worldwide pattern.

5. THE NAACP's valiant struggle against the forces of reaction in Alabama, Texas, Georgia, Virginia and a number of other states of the South. Ditto the reason for selection.

6. President Eisenhower's comeback from his bout with ileitis. Here was an "old soldier's" personal triumph over both mind and matter.

Horatio Alger stories almost always are good copy.

7. Rep. Adam Clayton Powell's bolt of the Democratic Party. For sheer political dramatics this ranks high on the list.

8. THE DEMCCRATIC and Republican national conventions. Barnum and Bailey and Barnum and Bailey proved long ago that there is nothing like a parade.

9. The national campaign and the Nov. 6 election. Both were footnotes to the great social and economic upheaval of our times.

10. The triumphs of Miss Althea Gibson on the tennis court and Floyd Patterson in the boxing ring.

One signified an old group overcoming her most doubts and the other proved anew the age-old axiom that youth must be served.

Trial reset for man

HOUSTON, Tex. — The trial of a 23-year-old man, accused of biting a two-year-old boy who ignored his orders, has been rescheduled for Jan. 31.

Davis was originally scheduled to be tried this week before Judge Byron Johnson on charges of biting the arm of the son of Mrs. Catherine Williams, an occupant of the same house.

Impact of Ala. 'mutiny' stuns Sports Editor Lacy

By SAM LACY
(AFRO Sports Editor)

Months ago I paint a sports writer to admit there are stories more important than those in his own field, this agent is compelled to go along with the bus boycott activity in Montgomery, Ala., as the most forceful development in the sports world.

Nothing in all my years on sports has struck me with greater impact than the deeds of Alabama's colored citizens in their heroic break with tradition.

Their story rates No. 1.

FOLLOWING THE Montgomery mutiny, the news items are in order of importance were:

(2) The no-hit, no-run game pitched by Don Larsen for the Yankees in the World Series;

(3) Floyd Patterson's 5th round knockout of Archie Moore to win the world heavyweight championship;

(4) Attainment of the 7-foot level in the high jump, by Charley Dumas (UCLA);

(5) The 27 - game winning season of pitcher Don Newcombe, which led to assembling of two top baseball awards;

(6) THE FINAL entrance by the FBI into the anti-racial happenings over integration at Clinton, Tenn.

(7) Acquisition of 14 gold medals by tan American athletes in the 1956 Olympic Games;

(8) Althea Gibson's tennis exploits in all corners of the world;

(9) The landslide by President Eisenhower in the national elections, — and

(10) Selection of Jackie Robinson as the latest recipient of the Spingarn Award.

HOSKINS LACY

LAUTIER WELLS

Supreme Court decision no city bus JC hailed

By LOUIS E. LOMAX

1. The school desegregation rows of Clinton, Sturgis and Clay.

2. The U.S. Supreme Court decision outlawing intrastate bus segregation.

3. The civil rights compromise of the Democratic Party's platform committee and the subsequent desertion of the party by colored persons.

4. THE STATE SUITS to outlaw the NAACP.

5. The Tallahassee bus boycott.

6. The outster of Lt. Titus Saunders from the Air Force.

7. Adam Powell's switch to the.

8. The rise and fall of Prophet Jones.

9. The orderly desegregation of Louisville schools.

10. Floyd Patterson becomes the youngest heavyweight champion in history.

1956 WAS the year of the colored people of the world. It was the year of emergence of the colored citizen in American

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