

benton
county

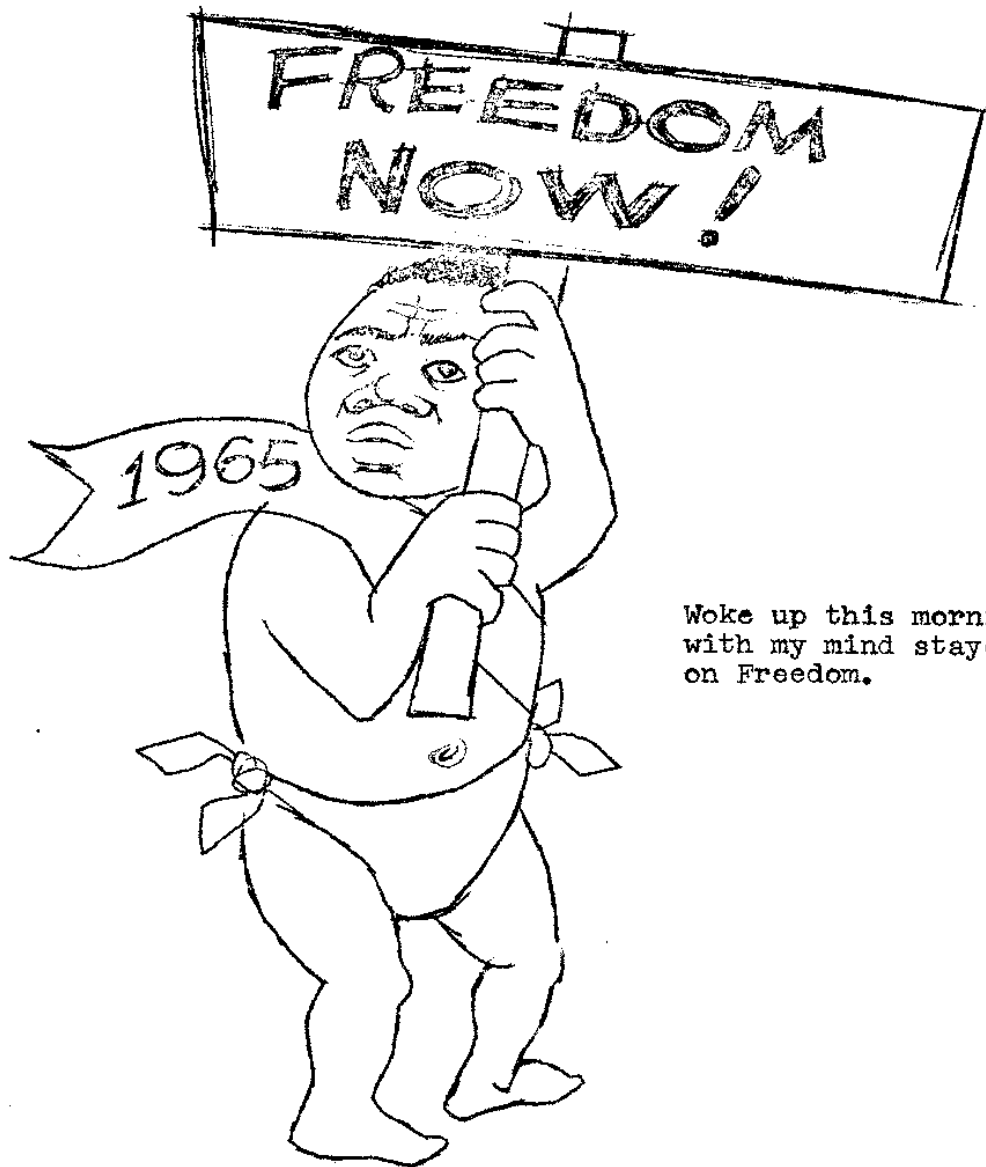


"It's that Freedom Train a comin'; get on board, get on board."

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Beulah Mae Ayers, Editor



Woke up this mornin'
with my mind stayed
on Freedom.

PLAY PRESENTED IN BENTON COUNTY

On Wednesday night, December 23, a play, SEEDS OF FREEDOM, (The Death of Medgar Evers), was presented at Samuels Chapel. The play was written this summer by the students of the Holly Springs Freedom School.

It was performed by the students of the Holly Springs Freedom School and students from Benton County. The Benton County performers were Roy Munnally, Earnestyne Evans, Janieva Evans, Loyal Thompson, Jr., and Alberta Tipler.

A donation of twenty-seven dollars was given to the performers as a small share in defraying food expenses during their stay in New York. Benton Countians feel confident that this play will be a great success in New York.

MESSAGE FROM PETER

by Beulah M. Ayers

I received a Christmas greeting from Peter Cummings, one of the COFO workers who worked with us last summer, (and we are hoping he will come back in the future).

He had heard of the great victory of Mr. Paige, Mr. Jackson and Mrs. Robinson, and he is very happy about the victory. He said, "That is the best Christmas present I could ask for." He also asked me to tell all the people in Benton how happy he is.

Peter will also have one of the best New Year's presents he ever had when he hears about the new Antioch Baptist Church.

The Benton County Citizen's Club will meet at Greenwood Church, Tuesday, January 5, at 7:30.

H. E. Reaves, President

SANTA'S VISIT

by Beulah Ayers

Now that Christmas is over, I am sure everyone enjoyed themselves. Especially Benton Countians because the COFO workers and the Citizen's Club helped Santa by distributing food and toys that were sent down from the North.

I hope everyone in Benton County will join in and give them a great big thanks, and God bless them one and all.

CONGRESSIONAL CHALLENGE

On Saturday, January 2, nearly 1000 Mississippians are scheduled to leave for Washington to support the Freedom Democratic Party Congressional Challenge. They will talk to government officials about problems in this state and show the nation that the FDP has mass support when it says that Jamie Whitten and the "regular" Mississippi congressmen do not represent all the people of the state. Food and lodging will be provided by the Washington office of the FDP. If anyone can spare a week to join his fellow citizens on the trip, please contact Mr. Henry Reaves or any of the section captains immediately. They must know before Sat.

MOSES GUEST AT CITIZEN'S CLUB MEET

Bob Moses, the head of the Mississippi Project, was the guest at the meeting of the Benton County Citizen's Club which met at Skipper Springs Chapel in Grand Junction, Tennessee.

Mr. Moses conducted a thought provoking question and answer session. The adults and young folk participated with much interest and enthusiasm.

NEW CHURCH BUILT IN TIPPAAH

by Earlene Reaves

Dinner was served at Antioch New Baptist Church over in Tippah County on December 28. Lots of Benton County people were present. All had boxes of food.

Everyone enjoyed himself. The students from Ohio are doing a great job. The women are working like men. They are some happy working people. Everyone should see what they are doing.

We had enough food left over for the next day. The food was left with Mrs. Annie Rogers. White people passing by looked on. They must understand that what God does for them, He will do for us.

GEMS OF THOUGHT

...That this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln
Speech at Gettysburg
Nov. 19, 1863

This is what I call the American idea. This idea demands, as the proximate organization thereof, a democracy,--that is, a government of all the people, by all the people, for all the people; of course, a government of the principles of eternal Justice, the unchanging law of God; for shortness' sake I will call it the idea of freedom.

Theodore Parker
Speech at Anti-Slavery Convention
May 29, 1850, Boston

FREEDOM'S BATTLE BEGUN

by G.N. Reaves

Less than six months ago, the freedom workers set foot upon Marshall and Benton County soil. Since that time, they have labored day and night, for freedom's battle was begun. "He who would be free himself must also strike the blow", for every bondsman in his own hands bears the power to cancel his captivity.

We have been taught that we must work as well as pray in order to clear the thorny wrongs away; plucking up weeds of sin, seeds of hate, and letting freedom's warm sunshine in. The freedom workers have given us hope. "Hope is brightest when it dawns from fears".

The most vital movement one feels is hope; the balm and lifeblood of the soul. "Where there is no hope, there can be no endeavor", for hope is but the dream of those that wake. We are awake. We are headed for that freedom train, get on board, get on board.

Dear freedom workers, your labor will not be in vain. There will be others riding this freedom train.

GEMS OF THOUGHT

All your strength is in your union,
All your danger is in discord.

Longfellow
The Song of Hiawatha

A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free.

Abraham Lincoln
June 17, 1858

LITTLE TALK

MORNING

by Pearlene Reaves
I get up at 6 o'clock, and I wash my face. I help fix my bed. I brush my teeth. I put on my clothes. I eat my breakfast.

THE CHURCH BUILDING

by Emma Jean Reaves
Mr. Walter Reaves and his helpers Mr. James W. Ross and Mr. Charlie Reaves was present and others. They went to Tippah County on Monday, December 28, 1964, to help the students from Ohio to work on the new Antioch Baptist Church.

ABOUT THE BUS

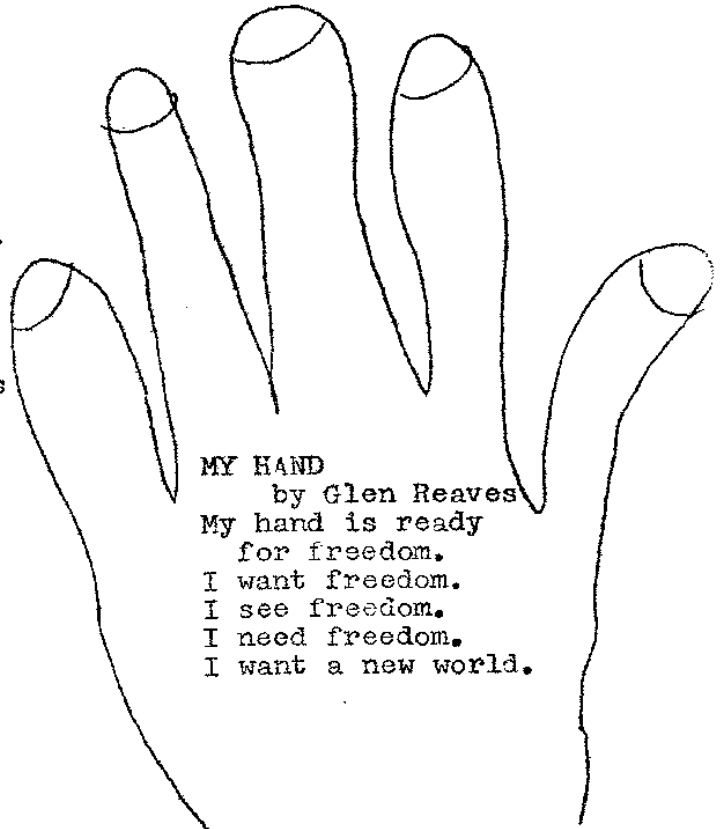
by Murray Reaves
Our bus driver is Mr. Earl Price. Our bus is no good. Everytime something be wrong with our bus, I think it is a wagon. Sometimes if I was Mr. Earl Price, I would ask for another bus.

ABOUT THE FREEDOM SCHOOL

by Mary J. Reaves
I like to go to the Freedom School; my Freedom School teacher's name is Gloria. I like her very much. She is a very good teacher. I like to write. I like to play games. I like to draw pictures. I like to paint pictures.

IN THE MORNING

by Maxine Reaves
In the morning I get up, fix my bed, put on my clothes, wash my face and hands, eat breakfast, help clean up the house, and brush my teeth.



MY HAND

by Glen Reaves
My hand is ready for freedom.
I want freedom.
I see freedom.
I need freedom.
I want a new world.

AVIVA, AVIVA

by Sonny & Naomi Reaves
Aviva Aviva Dear
We miss you from around here
But we know you've had a Merry Christmas
And are looking forward to a happy new year.

We are expecting the Committee that was appointed by the Citizen's Club to meet the County Board of Education on January 4, 1965.

H. J. Reaves