

# The Palmetto Leader

VOL. XXXII.—NO. 22

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA, SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 1957

PRICE: FIFTEEN CENTS

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APR 21 1957  
STUMPY

# Woman Loses City Bus Suit

Speculation grew this week as to what course Mrs. Sarah Mae Fleming Brown will take following a verdict against her \$25,000 suit against operators of Columbia's segregated buses.

An all-white jury took only about thirty minutes Tuesday to turn down Mrs. Brown's suit against the South Carolina Electric and Gas Company.

This was the third time the case had come up in federal district court, and the first time it had returned to court.

At press time Thursday, there was no indication from Mrs. Brown or her attorneys, Matthew J. Perry Jr. and Lincoln C. Jenkins Jr., as to whether an appeal would be made.

Mrs. Brown charged her civil rights had been violated when a local bus driver ordered her to leave her seat and refused to let her leave the front door of the bus when the incident occurred on June 22, 1954.

She contended that she took a seat in front of a white person, was ordered to leave and was struck in the pit of the stomach as she attempted to leave by the front door.

Twice before Federal District Judge George Bell Timmerman ruled she had no case, but each time a higher court reversed his decision and sent the matter back for trial.

This time he refused a motion to dismiss the case and permitted it

to be decided by the jury.

In his charge to the jury, Judge Timmerman asserted Mrs. Brown claimed:

"(a) the civil right not to sit by one of her own race on a bus;

"(b) the civil rights to sit by any person regardless of that person's wishes in the matter; and

"(c) the civil right to leave a bus by the front door if she is struck and in a condition of incapacity to get out any other way."

But the jury found in favor of the power company.

Mrs. Brown and her attorney, Mr. King, who was on the bus with her at the time.

Judge Timmerman overruled objections by her attorneys that some of the questions he put to witnesses amounted to cross-examination.

Defense Attorney Matthew J. Perry Jr. told the jury, "She is not asking more rights than anybody else. But she does say she had the right to sit anywhere."

Attorney for the power company pointed out that all buses carry signs requiring all passengers to leave by the center door. They denied that Mrs. Brown was struck and contended the driver was butting out his hand to block her departure by the front door.

The first time Timmerman dismissed the case, he held, in the light of the then recent U. S. Supreme Court ruling against segregated schools that "one's education is not obtained on a city bus.

## Says Deep South Desegregation Unlikely In Foreseeable Future

PHILADELPHIA—Desegregation in the Deep South seems unlikely in the foreseeable future, according to the current issue of The Saturday Evening Post.

The observation is made by John Bartlow Martin in the first of five articles entitled "The Deep South Says Never."

Martin, who recently won a third Benjamin Franklin Award for distinguished reporting, says that the first reaction to the Court's ruling was that desegregation seemed inevitable and not far off.

"At that time, the South was divided, perplexed, resigned," he comments. "Today the Solid South is a fact, and its resistance to desegregation is frantic."

Martin's report tells that an important factor in the change was the initiative demonstrated by Robert Patterson, of Greenwood, Mississippi, who was instrumental in calling a meeting to mobilize public opinion through "a grass-roots organization."

The outgrowth of that gathering of about 100 townfolk, July, 1954, was an organization called the Indianola Citizens' Council. This, it is reported, was the first Citizens'

Council, a movement that in a few months swept the South and gave loud voice to the Southern resistance to school desegregation.

Martin finds that this resistance movement is a remarkable achievement since it has uncompromisingly set its face against the mainstream of American thought as expressed by the Supreme Court of the land—and has thus far gotten away with it.

Elsewhere in the report, Martin explains that, to Southerners, the Court's decision seemed to do far more than break down segregation in the schools; it rent the seamless garment of apartness.

"Apartness of the races," he tells Post readers, "is a black and white thread woven into the fabric of Southern life—its social, political, sexual, cultural, economic life. Apartness is like a vine which rooted in slavery, never uprooted, but merely twisted by the Civil War, flourished and by now entangles everyone and everything in a suffocating net from which no one, white or black, knows how to extricate himself.

"Its manifestations have an infinite richness and complexity."

# Man Kills Self in Jail

FLORENCE—Arthur White, 28, maintenance worker, died of a self-inflicted wound in the city jail here early Tuesday, according to coroner W. T. O'Grady today.

White was taken to jail on charges of stealing. Presumably he was in an altercation with a guard during a game. His condition was reported as good.

White, Eddy said, cut his throat with the lower part of a broken pin bottle at 6:45 a. m. When the ambulance arrived he was dead.

## Man Gets Life IN Slaying of Woman Friend

COLUMBIA, June 14 (Special)—A 34-year-old McCormick County Negro, George Anderson, received a life sentence in county court here Monday for the fatal shooting of his girl friend, Sarah Isom, 40, on March 17.

Judge T. B. Cronker passed sentence.



BERTHEA L. BUTLER, valedictorian of Greenville's Sterling High School class of 1952, and honor graduate of the Spelman College class of 1956, received the master of arts degree in psychology on June 2 from Boston University. While at the university she became a member of Psi Chi, national honorary society in psychology. She was also a member of the university Chapel Choir. Miss Butler is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Butler, Greenville, South Carolina.

## Sweatt Earns Ph.D Degree

Edward F. Sweatt, professor of history at Clark College in Atlanta, Georgia, has been granted the doctorate degree in history by Indiana University.

A native of Columbia, S. C., where he graduated from Allen University with the bachelor of arts degree, Dr. Sweatt has been a teacher of American and European history at Clark since 1948.

His doctoral dissertation "The Free Negro in Antebellum Georgia," is a revealing study based on old documents and public records stored in courthouses throughout Georgia and source material found both in the National Archives in Washington, D. C. and the Georgia Department of Archives and History.

This study, which was partially financed through a Southern Fellowship Fund grant, sheds significant light on the status of the free Negro as a group and on the problems of adjustment and accommodation found by individual free persons of color.

Visiting such Georgia counties as Muscogee, Richmond and Chatham, Dr. Sweatt was particularly interested in contacting the descendants of free Negroes who possessed certificates of freedom, letter, tax receipts and documents showing evidence of property ownership or general culture and social status of these free persons.

While studying for his masters, which also was awarded by Indiana University, Dr. Sweatt held a graduate assistantship in the Department of History. His teaching experience includes work in the Co-



Dr. Sweatt

lumbia, S. C., Public School System prior to 1947. Since that time he has taught college courses in history at Johnson College and Hampton Institute. He is married to Mrs. Henrietta L. Sweatt of Columbia, S. C.

## Racial Powers Bill Ratified

A bill giving the Governor broad powers to meet any threat of racial violence was formally ratified yesterday by the General Assembly.

The measure, sponsored by the special state segregation committee, spells out in one law virtually unlimited powers for the Governor in such an emergency.

## NAACP MEETS SUNDAY

The Columbia Branch NAACP will hold its regular monthly meeting Sunday, 3:30 p. m., at Friendship Baptist Church, of which Rev. S. M. Young is pastor.

The meeting, termed "important" by local NAACP leader, will feature a well-known speaker following a brief business session.

## Beginning

This Week

## Shadows of the Southland

By Annie Greene Nelson

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