

# 'Twas an Elegant Affair



**TOM THUMB WEDDING**--A mock marriage ceremony featuring local youngsters was sponsored by Mrs. Calantha Walker at Zion Methodist Church recently. Participants included Rosemary Blackwell, bride; Guy Madison, groom; Raymond McIntosh, minister; Vicki Chisum, Gwen Blackwell and Regina Sharp, bride's attendants; Charles Morris, best man; Donald Sikes, ring bearer; Carla Evans, Ruby Mathews, Vicki Tyler and Denise Jones, flower girls; Walter Wilson, Jeffrey Blackwell, Tommy Chisum, George and Michael Wilson, Dolores, Valera Denise and Anthony Bush, Anna Raye Evans and Evelyn Bland, ushers; Celesis and Angeline Tatum, veil bearers; and Michael Sharp, bride's father. The Mickey Mouzers entertained.

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## Role of Stevenson in Rights Cause Recalled

BY ROY WILKINS

The death news brought a flashback to 1952. The thing that impressed me at once about Gov. Adlai Stevenson was his willingness to add to his knowledge on the civil rights issue. This was a refreshing and intriguing rarity in politics.

It was hot that August day in Springfield, but the newly drafted Democratic candidate for President of the United States was busy speaking, writing, conferring and planning in connection with his campaign.

From his base in the Illinois capital he had been issuing informal comments on public questions which would be expanded later into full scale campaign speeches. An interview on civil rights had been arranged.

In 1952 the civil rights issue had grown in importance since Harry S. Truman had thrust it boldly into the national political picture in 1948. What would Mr. Stevenson do four years later? If that August day set a pattern (and it did) Stevenson was to carry the human rights crusade forward on the highest intellectual and moral plane.

He unbuttoned his collar, took off his tie, pulled out a drawer of his desk on which to rest his feet comfortably, cut off all phone calls except two (one about campaign funds and one on his developing travel plans) and talked and listened for two hours.

### Responsive Dialogue

I suppose it was the listening and the responsive dialogue, including the quick perception and the famous wit, that won me and never let me go. As a newspaperman and civil rights worker I had heard candidates volunteering their personal or political opinions on Negro rights.

They had a formula for the Negro. They offered political dogmatism or expediency. They knew vaguely about "down South" and they had little pat expressions for the Negro problems in their home towns or states.

Adlai Stevenson had little of this. He listened attentively and appreciatively to the expounding of an idea. Then he explained in the inimitable Stevenson logic and language his agreement or disagreement or made further inquiry on the aspect under discussion.

He had a grasp of the agonizing American problem of promise and practice on the Negro question. He was outraged by the cruder forms of physical and spiritual

oppression of Negro Americans. But, in true Stevensonian fashion, he was outraged even more by the dishonoring by America itself of its pledge to "all men" within its citizenship.

### Always Questioning

He could not submerge his clear intellect and his moral convictions in politics. He did not agree that America was all wrong and the Negro all right. He inquired about the race's exercise of responsibility, about its evidences of maturity in a struggle that often left it, he agreed, little opportunity to remain sober, objective and responsible.

He was deeply concerned that America remove racial  
(See WILKINS, page 4)

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