

"BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS CHARITY"

There is, in our town, a young woman who is suffering an experience that few people could ever know. . . She is bewildered by the shocking news that her 27-year-old husband, father of her six children (ranging from age 10 to 18 months) has been arrested and held for investigation for a monstrous crime. . . She is frightened to near insensibility from the terrifying experience of having a cross burned in front of her home. . . She is even more terrified of what the future holds for her and her family.

When the VOICE reporter called on young, pretty Verneal Riley to check out the story of the cross burning, all the rudiments of news reporting went out the window with the confrontation of the plight of the hapless, helpless young woman whose whole world had just crumbled beneath her. She had not, at the time, seen or talked with her husband. She had been told she

could see him on Wednesday (yesterday), a regular visiting day. Because her husband had no legal counsel, and she is totally unworldly, she was relying completely on the advice of police officers as to what her, or his, rights are.

With her youngest baby clutched tightly in her arms, Mrs. Riley told of the harrowing experience of the cross-burning, and the even greater fear of future reprisals against her and her children. She spoke of the careless reporting that allowed her address to be printed in the newspapers, and how she had torn the number off her house upon realization of the danger and embarrassment exposure of the address would bring.

Understandably, Mrs. Riley was gravely concerned about the future of her children. She had, she told the VOICE Reporter, been working days while her husband was home with the children,

and he, in turn, worked nights while she was at home. Now, she has had to give up her job to attend the children, and there is absolutely no income for any of their needs.

Here at the VOICE, we share Mrs. Riley's concern, and we bring this story to you, our readers, because we know that you, too, care. Mrs. Riley has confessed that she needs help. She does, and a great deal of help and perhaps for a long, long time.

We are arranging an open Benefit affair for the Rileys of which we will pass along the details to you in our next issue after we keep our appointment with Mrs. Riley, today, to determine the most need. In the meanwhile, all you wonderful mothers who know how it is, get in touch with us at the VOICE. The Rileys need friends.

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Profile of a MAN

DR. CHARLES I. WEST, familiarly known as "Buck" to many friends and countless acquaintances throughout the country and in portions of other countries where he has lived or visited, is a singularly rare individual.

One of the relatively few Negroes of his generation to be born on the "right side of the tracks", economically and socially, Dr. West has ever had the common touch and he is now, as he has always been, impressively and blessedly free from the hauteur and distasteful supercilious attitude that so often characterizes the professional and/or Middle Class Negro.

Nor has Dr. West ever felt removed from the Negro struggle for recognition, social justice and economic equality, as have many Negroes who, like the Doctor, have achieved personal recognition and economic security.

MY ACQUAINTANCESHIP with Charles West goes back more years than I like to admit, and I have been privileged to enjoy his friendship for some 20 years or so.

In my kind of work (first show business, then the newspaper field) one meets a great number of people over the years, and one of the all too few compensations of middle age is the privilege of choosing, from among one's acquaintances through the years, those persons with whom you most desire to maintain relationships.

I am inordinately proud of my friendship with Buck because it is based on my unqualified admiration and utmost respect for the man. He is one of the most knowledgeable persons I've ever encountered; he is tops in his chosen profession; he has incredible zest and enthusiasm for a variety of interests and hobbies; he is genuinely interested in people; he is unselfishly civic and community minded with no thought of self-aggrandizement; he is possessed of a fierce pride in his Negro heritage and is totally and irrevocably committed to the whole broad spectrum of the civil rights movement. Long before Rosa Parks, on that fateful day in December of 1954, refused to give up her bus seat to a white man and was arrested for her "insolence" (this is the incident that most authorities credit as the date of the beginning of the Negro Revolt), Dr. West, wherever he was, was waging the good fight of the then seemingly hopeless struggle of "a man all black in a world all white".

I KNOW THIS MAN, Charles West, M.D. and Publisher-Editor of the Las Vegas VOICE Newspaper. He is, as they say in certain circles, "something different", and all of it admirable.

"Buck" is the youngest of the four children of the late Dr. Charles I. West, Sr., and Rebekah West, "The Duchess" as Buck's 97-year-old Dowager mother is known--far and wide. His father was a celebrated physician who taught Surgical Anatomy at Howard University School



MARK MY WORDS--Dr. Charles I. West, Publisher-Editor of VOICE could be saying to Percy Villa, local businessman, former fighter, and confidante of Vice-President Hubert Humphrey, who could be listening as he watches the Birdie--Not marking any words nor caring about the Birdie are Doc West's son, John, rear left and Attorney Robert Reid. Foursome were caught off guard at the Sands Hotel on the occasion of the recent Ebony Fashion Fair.

of Medicine from 1895 to 1935. His mother was principal of three separate public schools in Washington, D.C. His brother, Dr. John B. West, also a Doctor of Medicine was physician to the Emperor of Ethiopia in 1930, and spent the last 18 years of his life in Liberia, West Africa. He was killed in an automobile accident at Kumasi, Ghana in 1960. His twin sisters attended Wellesley and Pembroke schools and taught in Washington D.C. High Schools. One of the twins, Elizabeth West Smith, was the first Negro teacher to be assigned to a previously all "White" high school. Elizabeth died from a Coronary attack in 1963 while on a visit with her twin sister Charlotte who is the wife of Dr. Wilbur Strickland, a Philadelphia physician.

AS THE "BABY of the family", our Charles easily could have become the spoiled darling of this eminent Washington D.C. family. Not our man. Buck was educated in Washington, D.C. public schools, at Williston Academy in Easthampton, Mass., Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, and at Howard University School of Medicine where he earned his M.D. degree.

Dr. West spent four and one half years in the (See DR. WEST, page 3)

Southern Negroes Still Showing Us The Way

JACKSON, MISS.--Forced through necessity --because of starvation pay scales--Negro cooperatives are on a growing trend in the civil rights movement in the South.

This grew out of the revelation recently that 10 Negro women were taking home \$5 a week for work from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in a small manufacturing plant in nearby Canton.

They are now cooperative policy-makers in the Madison County Sewing firm, a dressmaking cooperative organized last summer to provide jobs for unemployed Negroes.

The cooperatives, civil rights organizations proscribe, are means to free Negroes from segregationist economic pressure in many areas.

NEGROES NOW are on the job in newly-created "self-help" business in McComb, Mileston and Jackson, Miss., in Selma and Forkland, Ala., and in a surplus army tent in an open field near Greenville, Miss.

The most ambitious of the self-help programs was launched by Jesse Morris, a SNCC field secretary.

Morris came to Mississippi from Jacksonville, Fla. with the idea of a chain of cooperatives known as the Poor People's Corporation.

Aided by other Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee members, he mailed brochures to northern civil rights supporters, received contributions and sent the donors "freedom bonds."

Negro "stockholders" join for a 25 cents annual membership fee and vote quarterly on what projects, if any, should be aided with "bond money."

PPC GROUPS, have provided \$1,000 for the Madison County Sewing firm; \$400 for an eight-employee suede handbag company in McComb; \$400 for an eight-employee Mileston concern manufacturing leather belts and repairing shoes and \$400 for a mail order and retail outlet in Jackson.

Looking ahead hopefully to the success of the cooperatives, Morris said "We plan to raise salaries to \$1.25 an hour, then use any surplus to improve facilities, start new businesses and provide more employment.

"The whole idea is to provide work at the minimum wage and give Negroes economic independence."

HE DESCRIBED as one of the paradoxes of the civil rights movement the fact that many Negroes do not feel free to take advantage of integrated public facilities in some areas until they have integrated themselves economically.

Meanwhile, the ministry is trying to market handicrafts produced by farm strikers in a tent workshop near Greenville, Miss., and is es-

(See SOUTHERN NEGROES, page 10)