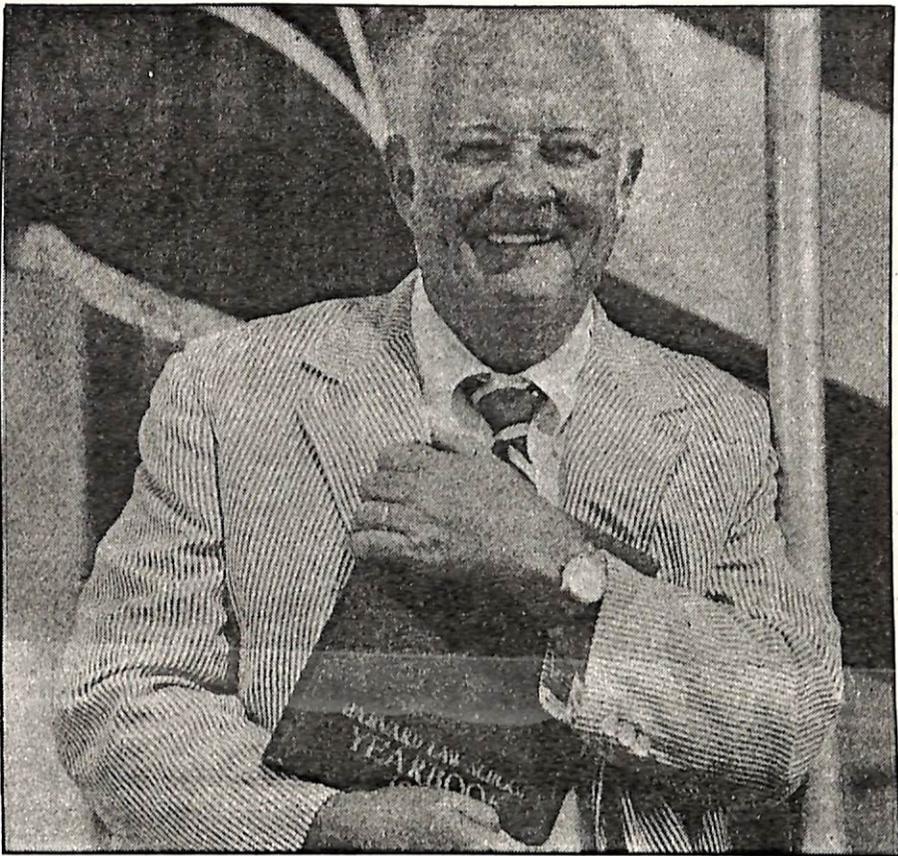


Decell, Herman

**Contents: Newspaper articles regarding the life
of Senator Herman Decell**

Location: Vertical Files at B.S. Ricks Memorial
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N. Main Street, Yazoo City, Mississippi 39194

September 14, 1986



HERMAN DeCELL

USA TODAY

Harvard Law School graduate made his mark in Mississippi

A week or so ago, when I was on vacation in London, I picked up lots of newspapers looking for some little shred of news from Mississippi.

One day I got my hands on USA TODAY and a headline on the front page about Harvard University celebrating its 350th anniversary somehow caught my eye. Looking closer, I saw to my astonishment the story carried a Yazoo City, Miss., dateline.

Immediately, I looked at the photograph above the story and there was the beaming face of former state Sen. Herman DeCell of Yazoo City. He was wearing a seersucker jacket and a Mississippi flag was displayed in the background.

Six thousand miles away from the Mississippi political scene, I became dramatically aware once again what a small world this really is.

The USA TODAY story, as many Mississippians already know, portrayed DeCell as one Harvard graduate who chose not to use his Harvard sheepskin as a ticket to big bucks in the Eastern establishment.

Instead, DeCell had come back to Yazoo City after his graduation from Harvard Law School in 1950 and made his career as a small-town lawyer, humanitarian, civic leader and, for 20 years, a distinguished member of the Mississippi Senate.

Remembering that DeCell had departed the Senate in 1979 when he was defeated for re-election by one of the lesser lights in the present Senate, I was reminded how often our political system casts aside some of the brightest, most cultured citizens who offer themselves for public service.

When I returned to Mississippi, I called DeCell to tell him how pleased I was to read the spread about him way off in London. I asked him if he plans to get back into politics.

"Not a chance," was his reply. There was no bitterness about his defeat. "That's democracy," he said. "And I have an abiding faith in the democratic system, even the right of voters to make a mistake."

But in retirement as a politician, DeCell has been quite busy the past couple of years trying to improve the governmental process in Mississippi.

He served as chairman of the Election Law Task Force created two years ago by Secretary of State Dick Molpus, whose work resulted in far-reaching reforms of state election laws in the 1986 legislative session.

The election law reforms, DeCell is convinced, will provide Mississippians far greater access to the election process.

DeCell also is a member and a committee chairman of Gov. Bill Allain's Constitution Study Commission, which is preparing the ground work for writing a new state constitution.

What DeCell obviously feels proudest about is the role he and his wife, Harriet, played in the preservation of the public schools in Yazoo City during the critical integration years, a stance that always made his



Bill Minor

Mississippi Political Columnist

Six thousand miles away from the Mississippi political scene, I became dramatically aware once again of what a small world this really is.

survival in politics quite precarious.

As a result of the sensitive handling of the racial transition in the public schools, Yazoo City has not had the massive white flight that some of the other cities around it have experienced, DeCell is quick to point out.

Considered in light of Yazoo County's reputation as "bloody Yazoo" during the Reconstruction era, and the tight grip the segregationist, white Citizens Council held over the city following the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision outlawing school segregation, this is quite an achievement.

When 63 blacks in Yazoo City had petitioned in 1955 for compliance with the court decision by the city schools, economic reprisals orchestrated by the Citizens Council forced the signers to leave town or remove their names from the petition. The New York Post observed that "with the awful spectre of Yazoo City before them, few Mississippi Negroes would sign a desegregation petition today."

DeCell came forward way back in 1965 to head up a biracial group that established a Head Start project in Yazoo City, a program that has since been hailed as a national model. He still serves as its chairman.

It is quite ironic that when DeCell was unseated in 1979 by Sen. Ollie Mohammed, a Belzoni dry goods store owner, Mohammed beat DeCell with black votes from Humphreys County, which had been added to the Senate district at the last minute.

Yet Mohammed is a foe of most social programs and public education, both of which carry the highest priorities among blacks.

In the crucial 26-25 Senate vote by which public kindergartens barely survived elimination from the 1982 Education Reform Act, Mohammed cast his vote against kindergartens.

Another native son of Yazoo City, writer Willie Morris, said of DeCell in his 1971 book, *Yazoo*: "He is a graduate of Harvard Law School, a pleasant and thoughtful man... full of life's vicissitudes as an intellectual in the tough arena."

Eventually, DeCell didn't survive in that arena. But he hasn't given up trying to make Yazoo and Mississippi a better place.

DeCell eulogized as 'talented' politician

By **KIM BOUCHILLON**
Clarion-Ledger Vicksburg Bureau

YAZOO CITY — As the waning sun shone through the stained-glass windows of the First United Methodist Church here, friends and colleagues eulogized former state Sen. Herman DeCell.

"He brought gentility to the frequently ungentle world of politics," said former Gov. William Winter.

Author Willie Morris remembered DeCell as a man who had "an immense and contagious joy of existence."

Winter praised DeCell's work as a lawyer and legislator. "He was utterly lacking in bombast and humbuggery. He relied on intelligence and common sense," Winter told the packed sanctuary.

"He was able to get things done without fanfare and without rancor and without headlines."

DeCell, who served in the state Senate from 1960 to 1980 and on Gov. Bill Allain's Constitution Study Commission, died of a heart attack at his home here Sunday.

"Herman was a very funny and exuberant man" and lived by the maxim "judge not, lest ye be judged," Morris

said. "He believed that a man should not be judged by the color of his skin," but by the quality of his heart.

In the mid-1960s, DeCell established a biracial group to set up Program Head Start, an educational program for underprivileged children.

Paul Webb, DeCell's roommate at Harvard Law School almost 40 years ago, said DeCell "furnished the discipline that got me through law school."

But while he was a serious scholar, "he laughed at himself, and he laughed at the world."

"He was a talented, brilliant, sensitive man," Webb said.

"He loved the human adventure," Morris said, adding that if DeCell were there, he would advise the audience to "be good to each other and be of good spirit."

DeCell was buried in Glenwood Cemetery.

Among those who attended the funeral were Secretary of State Dick Molpus, state Supreme Court Justices Dan Lee and James Robertson and several former and current state legislators.

• DEATHS pg 2 • RECORDS pg 3 • BUSINESS pg 6

Ex-senator's 'brilliant legal mind' remembered

By **SIDNEY CEARNAL**

JACKSON DAILY NEWS Staff Writer

Herman B. DeCell, former state senator and long-time Yazoo City attorney, was an "outstanding Mississippian with a brilliant legal mind," former Lt. Gov. Evelyn Gandy recalls.

"He was an outstanding lawyer who devoted most of his time to public service. He served this state in many capacities and we will certainly miss him," Gandy said.

DeCell, 62, died Sunday morning at his home in Yazoo City after suffering a heart attack.

Former Gov. Bill Waller remembers DeCell as an "aggressive leader for our state at a time we needed him." The former senator brought about "racial



DeCELL

tranquility" in troubled times, Waller said.

"His experience as a lawyer and experience as a legislator enabled him to bring about quick agreements. . . . He did an awful lot for racial harmony and progress," Waller said.

"He was a real amazing fellow if there ever was one. A 50-hour week was a light one for him," said Norman Mott, former editor of the Yazoo Herald.

"He was a most happy fellow, just a genuine person. His favorite music was Mozart — he played it all the time and you know that's happy music. He was just a real dynamic person," said Mott, who roomed with DeCell at the University of Mississippi and attended kindergarten with him as a child.

"It's going to leave a void in a lot of people's lives. He had an analytical mind and got to the heart of the matter very fast," Mott said.

Services were scheduled at 3 p.m. today from the First United Methodist Church in Yazoo City, with the pastor, the Rev. Harmon Tillman, officiating. In-

terment was to follow in Glenwood Cemetery in Yazoo City, with Gregory Funeral Home in charge.

DeCell, was serving as chairman of the legislative section of the Governor's Constitutional Study Commission at the time of his death. He was a member of the Mississippi Senate from 1960-80, and chaired the Judiciary B and Constitutional committees.

DeCell was a native of Yazoo City and a graduate of Yazoo City High School and the University of Mississippi. He served in the Army, and received his law degree from Harvard Law School.

DeCell was a senior partner in the Yazoo City firm of Henry, Barbour and DeCell. He was a trustee of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and chairman of the Yazoo County Community Action Committee at the time of his death. He was a member of the American, Mississippi and Yazoo County bar associations, and had been admitted to

See **DEATH**, Page 2C

DEATH

Continued from Page 1C

practice before the U.S. Supreme Court.

DeCell was a former director of New Stage Theatre, and formerly served on the board of the Yazoo Arts Council and the Yazoo Library Association.

DeCell is survived by his wife, Harriet Causey DeCell of Yazoo City; a son, Brister DeCell Jr. of Aspen, Colo.; two daughters, Alice DeCell Young of Oxford and Causey DeCell Coffield (Mrs. Michael Coffield) of Houston, Texas; and a sister, Mrs. Golda DeCell

Minor (Mrs. Longstreet Minor) of Memphis, Tenn. Four grandchildren, Laura and Charles DeCell Young of Oxford and Michele and Cynthia Coffield of Houston also survive.

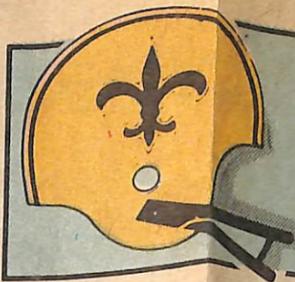
A brother, John E. "Jack" DeCell Jr., died in 1985. DeCell was the son of the late Lucile Brister and John Eldridge DeCell of Yazoo City.

Memorials may be made to the Ricks Memorial Library in Yazoo City.

Free Wheelers

Wheelchair basketball team set for exhibition in Jackson

— Southern Style, 1C



Saints win

Big plays lead New Orleans to 23-10 victory over 49ers

— Sports, 1D



Bear Wars

Teddy Bears have been hot items in some Jackson department stores

— State Metro, 1B

35¢

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MONDAY

STATE

■ Volume 150 ■ No. 216

■ 4 sections ■ 34 pages

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

November 3, 1986

Ex-state Sen. DeCell dies at 62

The Clarion-Ledger

Herman Brister DeCell, the former Mississippi senator who spurned big-city law opportunities in favor of helping his hometown, died Sunday at his Yazoo City home after suffering a heart attack.



DeCELL

The 62-year-old politician, described by friends as an intellectual and humanitarian with an insatiable curiosity for most any subject, leaves a long

list of civic accomplishments, including credit for providing a calming force during the stormy days of racial integration in Yazoo City schools.

"He was a true Renaissance man" said former Gov. William Winter, who first met DeCell, a Democrat, in the 1940s. "He was a voice for reason and moderation and common sense, always a man of compassion. He and his wife Harriet were cut from the same bolt of cloth.

"Herman brought a superior level of intelligence to the solving of public problems," Winter said.

Born Sept. 24, 1926, DeCell was serving as chairman of the legislative committee of the governor's Constitution Study Commission at the time of his death. He served as state senator between 1960 and 1980, and was former chairman of the Judiciary and Constitution committees of the Legislature.

He was a senior partner in the Yazoo City law firm of Henry, Barbour and DeCell. A graduate of Harvard University, he returned to Yazoo City in 1950 and made his career as a small-town lawyer, humanitarian, civic leader and politician in the region of Mississippi where his ancestors had lived since the 18th century.

"Rather than seek the bright lights of New York City, he returned," said U.S. District Judge William Barbour Jr., a former law partner of DeCell's. "His philosophy was that he was going to make a different life for himself through his community and his state."

Among his contributions were the establishment of a biracial group in 1965 to develop a Project Head Start educational program for underprivileged youngsters in Yazoo City. Development of that program and DeCell's early interest in racial integration of schools are examples of how he stayed on "the cutting edge" of humanitarian philosophy, even if unpopular with some of his constituents, Barbour said.

DeCell

"He had a deep and penetrating mind," Barbour said. "He read the New York Times from cover to cover every day. He could discuss anything — politics, history, poetry, theology, literature."

Even DeCell's experiences during World War II, when he served in the Pacific in the U.S. Army, carried on through his later life, with a continuing interest in Japanese culture and painting, Barbour said.

Before entering Harvard, DeCell graduated from Yazoo City High School and the University of Mississippi. He was the son of the late Lucile Brister and John Eldridge DeCell. His brother, John E. "Jack" DeCell Jr., an architect, died of a heart attack in 1985.

"They came from a family of intellectuals. Herman was an unselfish, diligent lawyer," said Walter Bridgforth, a

Yazoo City lawyer who had known DeCell since they were boys. "Jack was one of the most talented architects in Mississippi — in the South. And now they're both gone."

DeCell also was a trustee of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and was chairman of the Yazoo County Community Action Committee — the group that began Head Start in 1965. He was a member of the American, Mississippi and Yazoo County bar associations and had been admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court.

His voluntary work also extended to the arts, civic organizations and the church. DeCell was a former director of the New Stage Theatre in Jackson; served on the board of the Yazoo Arts Council; and was a member of the Mississippi Historical Society, as well as

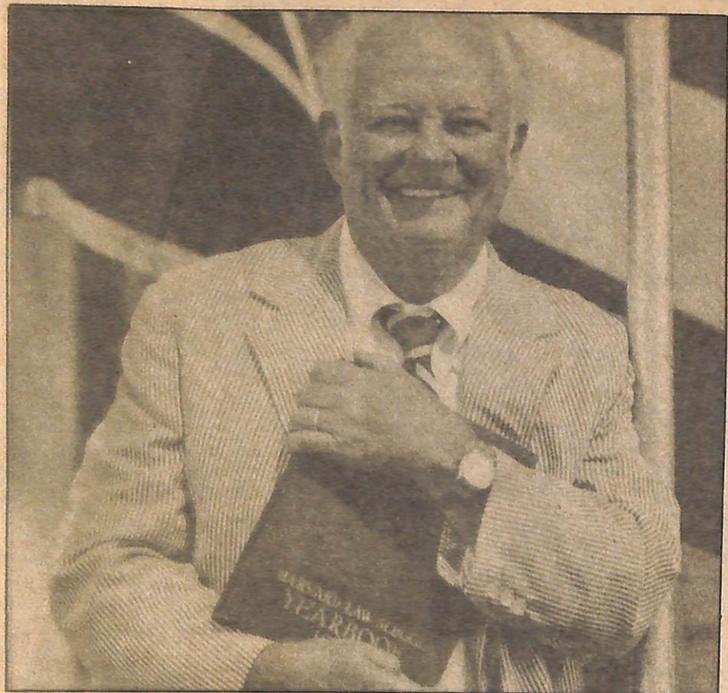
the Elks, Lions Club and the Yazoo City Chamber of Commerce.

He was a member of the administrative board of First United Methodist Church in Yazoo City, where he taught a Sunday school class for 25 years.

Services are at 3 p.m. today at First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Harmon Tillmon officiating. Burial will be in Glenwood Cemetery. Gregory Funeral Home of Yazoo City is in charge of arrangements.

Winter and author Willie Morris are scheduled to attend the funeral.

DeCell is survived by his wife, Harriet Causey DeCell of Yazoo City; son, Brister DeCell Jr. of Aspen, Colo.; daughters, Alice DeCell Young of Oxford and Causey DeCell Coffield of Houston, Texas; sister, Mrs. Golda DeCell Minor of Memphis; and four grandchildren.



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Political rhetoric in Mississippi becoming positively sugarcoated

An upbeat, accentuate-the-positive fever has struck many of Mississippi's politicians and is threatening to turn the 1987 election year into a campaign with the Mary Poppins seal of approval.

If things keep going in this have-a-nice-day direction, the campaign trail likely will be invaded by candidates wearing rose-colored glasses and sporting those sickening smiley buttons.

The political rhetoric began taking a dangerous turn for the positive during the annual Neshoba County Fair last month.

For instance, Attorney General Ed Pittman, considered a possible candidate for governor or for re-election to his current position, encouraged the election of leaders with a "we-can" attitude.

"All we've been hearing is what we can't do," he said.

Even Gov. Bill Allain seemed to be trying to shake his "Governor No" image by pointing out all the good things Mississippi has accomplished. More people are working today than ever before, he said. Tax collections are up. In the category of personal income, the state was among the nation's leaders in the first quarter of the year.

Allain, before he left for a public relations trip to New York last month, said he wanted to tell the rest of the nation "not what we can't do, or what we can do, but what is already being done."

State Sen. Emerson Singer of Columbia, rumored to be eyeing a campaign for agriculture



Dan Davis
Staff Writer
The Clarion-Ledger

If things keep going in this have-a-nice-day direction, the campaign trail likely will be invaded by candidates wearing rose-colored glasses and sporting those sickening smiley buttons.

commissioner, continued the no-negatives spirit.

"The truth is Mississippi is not on the bottom in many areas. In fact, there are many areas in which we excel," he said.

Another legislator, Rep. Mike Eakes of Philadelphia, urged voters not to support candidates who mentioned the state's last-place ranking in various economic areas.

But all this pumping of sunshine upon the Magnolia State could be dangerous if the state's leaders talk only about Mississippi's accomplishments and ignore problems.

It would be unhealthy to sweep under the rug the state's high adult illiteracy rate, the lack of economic development, the budget crisis and other woes.

Fortunately, the everything-is-beautiful syndrome hasn't afflicted all of the state's leaders.

State Treasurer Bill Cole, who plans to leave the political arena when his term expires in January 1988, said those who try to gloss over the state's problems "aren't living in the real world."

"When you say Mississippi has problems, you're not being negative about the state," Cole said.

Secretary of State Dick Molpus also recognizes the danger of sugarcoating the state's troubles. "We don't have to let the 'don't rock the boat' do-nothings run this state," he told a Monticello civic club audience last week.

Candidates, Molpus said, should do more than brag about Mississippi's "good air, clear water, strong work ethic and great natural resources."

He's right. Before this campaign degenerates any further, it needs to be put on a sugar-free diet with hefty servings of reality.

Turner's portrait of Mississippi a collection of hurried snapshots

After viewing WTBS *Portrait of America* segment featuring our beloved, beleaguered old state, I pondered the question: What's wrong with that portrait?

Was it that Bill Allain didn't like the portrait? No, for my darker impulses told me that the governor's criticisms would strike me much like a William F. Buckley book review — if he hates it, I'm reading it.

Was it that the segment featured the likes of Jerry Clower, Willie Morris, Son Thomas and Dr. Verner Holmes?

No. Not at all. Clower makes me laugh to the extreme of kidney malfunction. He's honest and sincere, a Mississippian who found a way to keep the simple joys and profound sorrows of surviving barefoot poverty alive in the hearts of those who made the journey with him — and those who are still traveling.

Willie came home. Twenty years ago, he wrote in colors so vivid that our eyes — and minds — closed in pain from his disturbing brilliance.

Today, his writing is revered for the pastels of its warmth and familiarity, and students at the University of Mississippi clamor to study the craft of writing under his tutelage.

Son Thomas' talent isn't something you hear. It's a ubiquitous thing that you feel.

B.B. King and Percy Sledge sound better singing the blues, but Thomas' out-of-tune guitar rings the moans and wails of serious trouble. He's an all-timer.

The life of Dr. Holmes should have been unremarkable in that he simply stood for decency and the color of law in the state where he lived.

But, as the television cameras reminded us, Holmes lived through a remarkable time in Mississippi when the color of law was misinterpreted by the leaderless as simply the law of color.

Yet, in spite of the homage paid these extraordinary Mississippians, the "portrait" of our state that Ted Turner's Superstation painted was little more than a collection of hurried snapshots.

The images most disturbing, and likely most memorable for those who want to picture us that way, is of a fair, hoop-skirted maiden peering incredulously through the window of her antebellum mansion at the rumbling ghosts of the Civil War and all that war implied.

In her mansion, blacks are servants to the white masters who talk of crops while swilling their juleps. There are laments to our lost "way of life," in which a paralyzing despair is portrayed as thick as Hal Holbrook's drawl.

Unlike so many presentations by outsiders who would hold Mississippi under a microscope, this portrait was one of a state that has achieved



File photo

Mississippi continues to cling to vestiges of its antebellum past



Sid Salter
Editor
Scott County Times

a large measure of success in dealing with race relations.

But if that progress is our only abiding virtue as a people, we are in a sorry condition.

It is our bewildering penchant for introspection that was portrayed by the Atlanta cable television station. In that vein, perhaps the portrait was nothing more than a mirror.

For it is that communal clinging to the vestiges of our past that threatens the future of our people. As a people, Mississippians spend too much time analyzing the motives of public policy rather than researching the effect such policies can have on making life better for us all.

Mine is the last generation of Mississippians who can remember segregated schools, separate bathrooms or burning crosses as a matter

of course in our existence.

For the future of the children of my generation, Mississippi cannot afford to peer, like the belle, through the windowpanes of our antebellum sorrows at the world around us. We have wasted time, money, talents and lives in battling the old ghosts that haunt us.

A third of my life is over, and new voices are on the horizon in Mississippi. They cry out not for the justice of the ages, but for the courage to move forward and build a new state with quality schools, an equitable political system, a viable tax base and an aggressive business climate that can help our children help themselves.

Change is not coming to Mississippi. It's already here.

Our people are awakening to the cold fact that we cannot continue this century-old period of apology and guilt for old Mississippi's decline. Young hands are picking up the brushes that will paint a new portrait of Mississippi in which men like Clower, Morris, Thomas and Holmes will not be so extraordinary.

No longer will our portrait be, as it was on WTBS' canvas, simply black and white. The portrait I see of Mississippi today is becoming rich with the rainbow colors of hope and progress.

Being a consultant would be fun, but it's not the ultimate job

About 15 years ago I decided the ultimate American mission — the absolute top of the heap, king of the hill — was to be a consultant. It



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ignored. What happened to all the campaign pledges to cut down on paperwork in this country?

A study of nursing home residents reveals

Being a consultant would be fun, but it's not the ultimate job

About 15 years ago I decided the ultimate American mission — the absolute top of the heap, king of the hill — was to be a consultant. It appeared to offer substantial financial rewards while requiring relatively little labor and no particular qualifications. And it had a good ring to it.

"I'm a consultant," I could say when encountering old chums inquisitive about my means of livelihood. Almost as impressive as representing myself as an investment banker or nuclear physicist.

I even set up an imaginary syndicate, BCCCHM&S, Unlimited, combining the first letters of the last names of a group of reporters then covering City Hall and other exotic beats in Jackson.

As founder and scribe, I issued yearly stockholders reports, the sum of the cartel's total actions. If, however, we had been retained by a client, we would have said, "Don't hire a consultant," having observed the work of a number of them then being employed in both the public and private sectors.



Billy Skelton

*Editorial Page Editor
The Clarion-Ledger*

Since that time, however, I've decided there's a better racket, uh, calling yet: surveyor. Not one of those fellows with the tripod and transit, but a person who conducts surveys. (My first project in this field is to survey all the surveys. My first conclusion, I can tell you already, is: There are too many.)

To segue to surveys from consultancies, by the way, is a natural progression, since what consultants generally do is to propose a survey.

No, seriously, surveys are where it's at, what it's all about, the in thing. Not plastics, not microchips, not music videos, not muscadines. Surveys are here and now.

You may think you're reading a lot of survey reports in *The Clarion-Ledger*, but they're only about 1 percent of the torrent pouring in from our news services. The following examples are indicative:

■ Dewar's Scotch recently asked 40,000 people to name the best things in life. More than a third said, "family and friends." (What did you think they'd say, *Chivas Regal*?) Family and friends received twice as many votes as "health and happiness," three times as many as "money" and six times as many as "love and sex." Which invokes the cardinal rule in survey analysis: Don't depend on surveyees telling the truth. (Other weaknesses include making a poor choice of subject, relying on too narrow a sample, drawing erroneous conclusions and belaboring the obvious.)

■ The Conference Board asked a lot of people how they would rate various occupational performances as to managerial efficiency. High marks were given to grocers, bankers, department stores and credit card companies. The Pentagon was next to last, members of Congress

last. I don't know what can be done about the brass but we vote on our lawmakers Nov. 4.

■ A study of nursing home residents reveals that you may be able to grump your way to long life, according to *Modern Maturity* magazine. The psychologists who performed the study found that persons who complained when they were upset lived longer than those who tried to be understanding and cheerful. This finding falls into the category of "Clearly Obvious Without a Survey." It's not so much that complainers live longer but that sympathetic listeners are worn out and die sooner.

■ Unnecessary photocopies cost U.S. businesses \$23.6 billion a year, according to a survey of 100 personnel directors and vice presidents. Accountemps, the temporary personnel service, concluded from its study that businesses will make 350 billion copies this year and throw away 130 billion of them, the equivalent of discarding a paper roll 22 million miles long. Another 29 percent of photocopies will be filed and

ignored. What happened to all the campaign pledges to cut down on paperwork in this country?

■ Based on studies conducted by state medical licensing groups across the country, as many as 10 percent of medical professionals work drug- or alcohol-impaired, the drugs of choice being morphine and Demerol. What a downer for patients.

■ Finally (not really finally), friendship is medicinal, in case you ever doubted it. Evidence that good friends are a good tonic comes from a 17-year, 7,000-person survey conducted by epidemiologists at the California Department of Health Services. Researchers found that women who had few or no social contacts were more than twice as likely to die of cancer as those who had many social contacts. Never mind influencing people, win friends.

A survey here, a survey there, everywhere a survey. Is there anything left to survey? (Just a minute while I take another one.)

C L O S E D

on account of death of

HERMAN BRISTER DeCELL

Services: Monday November 3, 1986 3:00 P.M.

First United Methodist Church

Interment: Glenwood Cemetery - Yazoo City, Miss.

Funeral Arrangements By GREGORY Funeral Home
SINCE 1894

Library will be closed 2:30 PM to 4:00 P.M.

USA TODAY

Harvard celebrates 350

Not all grads move into elite fast lane



By Acey Harper, USA TODAY

IN YAZOO CITY, MISS.: Herman Decell took his Ivy League law degree home to the delta.



By Jym Wilson, USA TODAY

IN TUNBRIDGE, VT.: Cornelia Swayze earned her sheepskin at Radcliffe — and now tends sheep.

Some alumni take degrees back home

By Gregory Katz
USA TODAY

Small-town lawyer from Class of '50: 'I felt some deep ties' in hometown

YAZOO CITY, Miss. — When Herman Decell graduated from Harvard Law School in 1950, he could have joined his classmates in a predictable march to the major law firms of New York and Washington, D.C.

After all, Wall Street and Capitol Hill always embraced

Harvard grads with fervor. Their station among the nation's elite was expected.

But when the time came to decide his future, Decell did something different, destined to carry him far from Cambridge and the Harvard mold. He simply went home.

For Decell, 61, home is this small, quiet town on the edge of the Mississippi delta. The lure of neon and the big city faded beside the powerful pull of his roots.

Harvard celebrates its 350th anniversary this week with the help of Prince Charles and other luminaries. (Story, 2D) It's being touted as the school of poets and presidents, but it's also turned out thousands of talented people, like Decell, who took its teachings back to their own home towns.

"I felt some deep ties here," says Decell, a big, hearty country lawyer whose office door is kept open so passersby on Jefferson Street can stroll in without knocking. "I felt I ought to leave the world a better place and I felt I could do that more effectively here than in other places."

Degrees from Harvard and Radcliffe — the 107-year-old sister school that confers a jointly signed diploma — are seen as passports to riches in banking, business, medicine or law. But in truth they can be a prelude to just about anything: ranching, raising sheep or processing insurance claims.

Take Rodney Jabs, 25, a Montana rancher. He left the family spread in the foothills near Billings for the glamor of Cambridge, spent four years getting a degree, then went home.

Now, he's up with the sun each morning, working irrigation canals, carting manure into the fields and tinkering with busted tractors. "Harvard taught me you have to do things you enjoy and are good at," he says. "And I never found anything I liked more."

Jabs has a soulmate in Cornelia Swayze.

In the tiny town of Tunbridge, in central Vermont, Swayze, 46, tends to her sheep farm. At Radcliffe, she majored in international relations and government, studying with Henry Kissinger and Zbigniew Brzezinski. She turned down offers from the CIA — which wanted her expertise in Russian culture — and Saks Fifth Avenue, which wanted her to pick hot fashions.

But she kept her plans a secret from Harvard boys she dated: "The idea that they would be a surgeon in Boston and I would want to move to Vermont sort of scared them off, so I stopped telling people."

For its part, Radcliffe will send Rep. Patricia Scott Schroeder, D-Colo., poets Adrienne Rich and Pulitzer Prize-winner Maxine Winokur Kumin to Harvard's birthday party. All hold Harvard-Radcliffe degrees.

As for Swayze, whose ambitions were different, she remembers her college years as a marketplace of ideas.

So does Jonathan Richards, who returned to Red Oak, Iowa, to become an insurance adjuster.

"Most of my classmates are executives and here I am on the bottom of the heap, but I love it," says Richards, 50.

Once the graduates are back home, the Harvard degree becomes something of a curiosity. For some, it can even be a problem. When Decell first ran for the state senate from his small Mississippi town, he treated the diploma like a skeleton rattling around an otherwise empty closet.

"I did not feel it was wise to mention Harvard," says Decell, who won the first of five elections in 1960, the peak of Southern resentment of outsiders. "Most people would have been unfavorably impressed. There's a certain chauvinism here and people would have asked why I didn't go to law school in Mississippi."

He's comfortable in Yazoo City — everyone knows his name and, for 20 years, he's been chairman of a community action group that runs Operation Head Start and other programs for the needy — but he sometimes wonders about what life would be like if he hadn't come home.

"I've discussed with my wife where we'd live in Manhattan: midtown, the Upper East Side or the suburbs," he says, laughing gently at himself. "I like New York. I've read the *New York Times* for 40 years." When he's done with the Sunday paper, he gives it to the library.

Richards has a less bucolic view: "I came back to Red Oak because of my family ties, but it's a cultural and intellectual desert. The prejudices, the lack of tolerance, they're really here. To think of a Midwestern small town as idyllic is to fool yourself."

He remembers graduation day as an uneasy passage and sounds quite un-Harvard when describing it: "I was sitting in the hot sun with 1,000 others and realizing I wasn't ready for the rest of my life, wondering, where the hell do I go from here."

Rancher Jabs experienced no such confusion. He knew he was going home. Four years was plenty.

"Some of the academic areas I really didn't get," he admits. "I'd get too bogged down and then I'd be trying to catch up. That's a hell I wouldn't wish on anybody."

After growing up in a small town on the sparsely settled Crow Indian Reservation, he immediately fell for the social side of Harvard. He believes the friendships he made there will last.

He finds meaning in farming that he never found in class: "I get to do the whole thing, fix a baling machine, take it to the field, use it. It's a continuous cycle. I enjoy working with animals and nature, it's better than arguing with your boss, trying to get your point across."

For sheepraiser Swayze in Vermont, working with animals was always her goal. She was determined to have a "house cow" like the one that provided milk, cheese and butter to her grandmother's family.

Now she has her cow, Duchess, providing those staples, and also has enough room for a Samoyed named Augusta, a border collie, Bess, and more cats than she cares to count — or reveal. "I don't want to sound like an eccentric old lady."

Yet she's made the farm work. "My friends at Radcliffe tell me I used to boil sap in my dorm room to make maple syrup. I don't remember that, but I do remember playing sheep for days on end when I was little. I had these large flocks of imaginary sheep that I moved around from one section of our lawn to the other. I could do that for hours on end."

Now the sheep are real.

A tribute to the late Herman DeCell

Editor's Note: The following tribute was written by Dr. Ann Pinkston Smith, assistant professor of Eastern, New Mexico University in Portales, N.M. A native of Yazoo City, Dr. Smith graduated from Yazoo City High School.

Last week the city of Yazoo and the state of Mississippi lost a great humanitarian. Attorney Herman DeCell spent his life contributing to the lives of others. While serving in numerous roles, he contributed to his fellowman in a responsive manner on all levels.

Attorney DeCell impacted on my life in his role as a philanthropist. In 1963 he and Mrs. DeCell contributed funds to Yazoo City Training School for the sole purpose of establishing a scholarship fund for a needy and academically talented student. A faculty committee was established by the late Mr. John L. Palmer, Principal, for selecting a graduating senior recipient for the scholarship. The faculty committee consisted of Mrs. Sarah King, Mrs. Louise Miller, the late Mrs. Thelma Owens and the late Mrs. Henrine Wilburn. I was selected by the committee as the recipient of this scholarship.

Attorney DeCell's scholarship strongly augmented the funds needed for pursuing my collegiate endeavors. Without his contribution to my life, I doubt that my educational aspirations would have been fully realized.

Not only did Attorney and Mrs. DeCell give of their

financial resources. They willingly shared with me another precious commodity, their time. They took time out of their busy schedules to attend activities at Mississippi Valley State College, where I was enrolled as an undergraduate. It was delightful and very rewarding to have them in attendance during my first performance of Handel's Messiah as a member of Mississippi Valley State University's Concert Choir.

Attorney DeCell's contribution to my professional development was not in isolation. This was a typical behavior designed to contribute to the overall betterment of his immediate and world community.

While there has been closure to his tenure on earth; he as other Great Americans will live forever through the many lives he truly touched as a humanitarian.

An appropriate ending of my tribute can best be expressed through this concise, but powerful quote. In my judgment, this passage is representative of Attorney Herman DeCell:

"I expect to pass through this world but once,
Any good therefore that I can do,
Or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature,
Let me do it now...
For I shall not pass this way again."

The Yazoo Herald

"Continuing A Tradition Of Excellence And Community Service Since 1872"

•Our 115th Year, No. 52

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Yazoo Publishing Co

•Yazoo City, Mississippi, Wednesday, November 5, 1986

•Eight Sections •56 Pages •25 Cents

Services held Monday

DeCell's contributions will be remembered in county and state

Herman DeCell "believed that a man should not be judged by the color of his skin," but by the quality of his heart, said Yazoo City author Willie Morris of his friend. Morris was among the six friends and colleagues giving eulogies at the former senator's funeral Monday afternoon at First United Methodist Church.

DeCell died suddenly of a heart attack at his home Sunday morning.

Morris remembered DeCell as a man who has "an immense and contagious joy of existence. Herman was a very funny and exuberant man. He believed that one should 'judge not, lest ye be judged.' "

Former Governor William Winter pointed out DeCell's contributions to the state in the '60s. Decell established a biracial group to set up Program Head Start, an educational

program for underprivileged children. Winter said, "He brought gentility to the frequently ungentle world of politics. He was utterly lacking in bombast and humbuggery. He relied on intelligence and common sense. He was able to get things done without fanfare and without rancor and without headlines."

DeCell's roommate at Harvard Law School, Paul Webb, spoke of the lawyer's friendship which begun almost 40 years ago. DeCell attended Harvard's 100th year celebration this summer and was featured on the front page of USA Today for spurning opportunities to practice law in New York City and other big cities and instead opting for his hometown. "Rather than seek the bright lights of New York City, he returned to Yazoo," said U.S. District Judge William Barbour Jr. "His philosophy was that he was going to make a different life for himself through his community and his state.

And that he did, beginning with his winning a senate seat in 1960, and serving as chairman of the Judiciary and Constitution committees of the Legislature until 1980. At the time of his death, DeCell was serving as chairman of the legislative committee of Governor Bill Allain's Constitution Study Commission.

The son of the late Lucile Brister and John Eldridge DeCell, he was born Sept. 26, 1924. A graduate of Yazoo City High School and the University of Mississippi, DeCell returned to Yazoo City in 1950 upon receiving his law degree from Harvard University Law School. He served in the Pacific in the U.S. Army during World War II.

DeCell was also a trustee of the Mississippi Department of Archives

and History and was chairman of the Yazoo County Community Action Committee—the group that began Head Start in 1965. He was a member of the American, Mississippi and Yazoo County bar associations and had been admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court.

He was a member of the Yazoo Arts Council, former member of the board of the Yazoo Library Association and a member of the administrative board of the First United Methodist Church where he taught Sunday School for 25 years. DeCell was a former director of the

New Stage Theatre in Jackson and an active member of the Mississippi Historical Society as well as the Lions Club, Elks and the Yazoo City Chamber of Commerce.

Among those paying respects were Governor Bill Allain, Secretary of State Dick Molpus, state Supreme Court Justices Dan Lee and James Robertson as well as several former and current state legislators.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Harriet Causey DeCell of Yazoo City; one son, Brister DeCell Jr. of Aspen, Colo.; two daughters, Alice DeCell

Young of Oxford and Causey DeCell Coffield of Houston, Texas; sister, Golda DeCell Minor of Memphis, Tenn.; one grandson and three granddaughters.

His brother, renowned Southern architect John E. "Jack" DeCell died of a heart attack last year.

The family requests that memorials be sent to Ricks Memorial Library.

Gregory Funeral home handled arrangements.



Herman B. DeCell

MEMPHIS, MONDAY, NOV. 3, 1986

D7

Herman DeCell dies at age 62

Special to The Commercial Appeal

YAZOO CITY, Miss — Former state Sen. Herman Brister DeCell, the chairman of a commission making recommendations on overhauling Mississippi's constitution, died yesterday at his home here. He was 62.

Mr. DeCell, who from 1960 to 1980 represented Yazoo City and the surrounding area just north of Jackson, was chairman of the Legislative Branch Committee, a part of the Constitution Commission appointed by Gov. Bill Allain to make recommendations on changing the state's 1890 constitution. The Legislative committee is studying possible changes pertaining to the Mississippi Legislature.

Additionally, Mr. DeCell was a senior partner in the law firm of Henry, Barbour & DeCell and was trustee of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. He had served as chairman of two organizations, the Yazoo Community Action Agency and the Yazoo City Democratic Party.

He was also a member of the Yazoo Arts Council; the administrative board of First United Methodist Church, where he also had been a Sunday school teacher for 25 years; the Yazoo City Lions Club; the Elks Club;

the Chamber of Commerce, and the national, state and local bar associations.

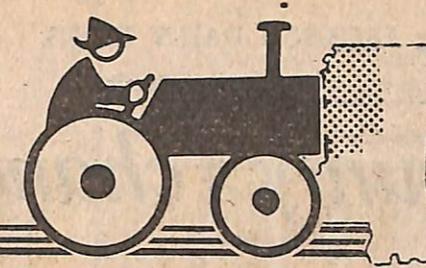
A World War II veteran, Mr. DeCell graduated from Yazoo City High School, the University of Mississippi and Harvard Law School.

Services will be at 3 p.m. today at First United Methodist Church with burial in Greenwood Cemetery. Gregory Funeral Home has charge.

He leaves his wife, Mrs. Harriet Causey DeCell; two daughters, Mrs. Alice DeCell Young of Oxford and Mrs. Causey Coffield of Houston, Texas; a son, Brister DeCell Jr. of Aspen, Colo.; a sister, Mrs. Golda DeCell Minor of Memphis, and four grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be made to Ricks Memorial Library.

Metro *Delta South*



Presidential issues probed at political forum

By JIM EWING
Daily News Yazoo City Bureau

This Tuesday, voters will be asked to make an important decision, one that has frequently been termed "too close to call." President Jimmy Carter, apparently seeking to make a distinction between himself and his opponent Ronald Reagan, has said of the election that "our nation's entire future hinges" on what each individual voter decides in the solitary confines of the voting booth Nov. 4.

Without the political — and frightening — overtones Carter was apparently attempting to interject, his statement holds true whichever lever is pulled. Ours is the most technologically advanced country in the world. It is the richest. The most free. Our elected president is called "the leader of the free world." And his daily decisions have a far-reaching impact throughout the world.

Yet ours is also a country in doubt. Though in peace, the prospect of war time involvement looms in the shadows over supplies crucial to our standard of living — most notably, oil. Our standard of living seems to be teetering on the brink of an uncertain economy, marked by inflation and recession, joblessness, and an even more uncertain future as to whether our sons and daughters can enjoy the benefits of prosperity that we have enjoyed and believe we have earned.

WEDNESDAY, a discussion about many of the issues facing the country, brought to a head during this election and, indeed, the very nature of our political system, was held at Ricks Memorial Library. Dr. John Quincy Adams, head of the political science department of Millsaps College, was the featured speaker.

Responding to his remarks were: Owen Cooper, past president of the Mississippi Chemical Corp., who is currently serving on the General Advisory Committee on Arms and Disarmament appointed by President Carter; and Haley Barbour, past executive director and now vice chairman of the Mississippi Republican Party. Herman DeCell, formerly the state senator for our area for the past 20 years, was the moderator and Mrs. Betty Crout, outreach director for the library, coordinated the talk and videotaped it with the library's equipment.

The discussion was the first in a series of Ricks Potpourri programs called "Changing Lifestyles: Yazoo Looks Toward the Year 2000," sponsored by the Mississippi Committee for the Humanities and funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Dr. Adams led the discussion. "We are becoming more and more democratic in our processes, in theory, as we go further into the 20th century," he told the group of about 50 people.

"WE HAVE CHANGES that have taken place in both major political parties to give more opportunity for citizens to have a choice in the selection of a party nominee."

These changes, basically, in both parties, have been made to "open up" the selection process in the local, regional and state caucuses either by quota, affirmative action or other means, to "democratize" the selection of candidates.

But for most citizens, he said, the local precinct caucus is the only real vote a citizen has other than the popular election. Concerning the former, there is less popular participation despite greater availability; and for the latter, turnouts have been "very, very low."

A number of people have said they don't like the choices available to them in this election, he said. "But this is the fault not of the system, but of the people themselves."

Adams noted that a Louisiana candidate, after taking a poll of his potential constituency, sought to have his name legally changed to "none of the above" in hopes of capturing the mood of the electorate. And the state of Nevada actually has such a category listed on its ballot, in response to the public's malaise.

YET ADAMS contended "I say to you those people who are unhappy with



Barbour, Adams, DeCell and Cooper discuss issues confronting the nation

Daily News/JIM EWING

This may have been convenient in an agrarian, rural society, with the population divided far from the seat of power in Washington. But with mega-states like New York and California and instant returns to voters as far away as Hawaii, the electoral college is more of an encumbrance and possible stumbling block to the actual electing of a president.

THIS IS COMPOUNDED by the various rules the states have in selecting electors to the college, Adams said, noting that Mississippi's is "a serious problem" that, if uncorrected, could lead to "a constitutional calamity."

Adams' remarks were in contrast with those of Cooper and Barbour. Cooper agreed with Adams in the changes that have taken place since the founding fathers outlined this noble experiment we call a democracy.

"It seems to me," Cooper said, "we've come a long way from a town meeting where presumably, the general weal or the general interest were paramount in trying to arrive at a consensus or a decision. So that, now in most areas we are dominated by self-interest."

The former president of MCC, and well-known friend of the incumbent president, said many years ago he asked a congressman for a list of farm organizations who are represented by lobbyists in Washington and the Congressman said, "I'll send you the book," which listed 5,600 of them.

"We are dominated by self-interest, right or wrong," he said. "And few of us rise above that."

could have the motivation to be a good president and not be trying to be re-elected the day he gets in office."

BARBOUR AGREED that special interest groups probably affect an election more than any other factor. But, he noted, traditionally, special interests are entrenched in each political party, the Democrats usually drawing support from blacks, labor, government-related industries and large industry; the Republican party has attracting mid-west farmers, small and large businessmen and a portion of the middle-class.

But Barbour disagreed with Cooper about the ability of a president to control inflation. He asserted that Gerald Ford brought the inflation rate down during his term from 14 percent to less than five percent. But, when Carter came to office, he adjusted the economy to serve the traditional Democratic interest groups, which raised inflation to 7 percent the first year, 9 percent the second, 12 the third, and now in excess of 13 percent.

Barbour also disputed Cooper's contention that energy is an unmanageable problem, brought from the outside. Three industrialized countries — Japan, West Germany, and Switzerland — import more than 97 percent of their domestic needs of oil and yet have half the inflation rate we do, he said. Although, during the arab oil embargo they had runaway inflation, they have brought theirs under control since then.

Reagan would rely less on conservation, as the president has done, but

Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan, the two major choices, have no one to blame but themselves, because, I'll lay you odds that 80 percent did not participate and thus allowed the choice of a nominee to be determined by others who were committed and do not find any problem with one of the candidates."

Adams urged citizens to watch public television to find the real issues, to make an informed decision, to become aware what the matters are that are facing our nation and not be caught up in the sloganeering of a full-blown campaign. And he scored commercial television for its coverage of the primaries.

"The media give us a serious disservice by concentrating on the procedures, concentrating on the activity, concentrating on motion, if you will," he said. "And they don't take the time to discuss the issues. And consequently all we're interested in is delegate counts, whether you can appeal to this group of voters, or whether you can be in two states at once in one day in order to win both primaries across the continent."

Comments on the nightly news concerning such topics as gun control, abortion, the equal rights amendment, are referred to in one sentence, he said. "But if a candidate puts his foot in his mouth then we'll hear more."

BY THE TIME issues are discussed, as to which candidate supports which position, he said, it's too late — after the candidate has been nominated and our choices are pretty much limited to the two major parties. And that is another concern.

"Can there be a two party system if the GOP wins only twice in 25 elections?" he asked. The Republican party has captured control of the Congress only twice in 50 years. Admitting that he is a Democrat, Adams, nonetheless, said, "as a political scientist this bothers me."

Can this really be a two party system? he asked. Are we really seeing the policies effectuated that we vote for when we elect a Republican as president under this system? — Although, he noted, democratic incumbents may not have an easy time with a Democratic Congress, either, "as Jimmy Carter has found out, much to his surprise."

The process of elections, he said, is further complicated by the imposition of an electoral college to elect a president, what he called "an antiquated system," where the electorate doesn't actually vote for the candidate, but for the electors of the candidate.

COOPER SAID he doubted that a president could make the decisions necessary to control inflation and that Congress, as a result of its self-interest, would not pass the laws necessary to limit our energy or force us to conserve or make credit tight, or whatever measures are necessary, or they would lose their jobs.

Foremost, however, Cooper said his self-interest was the hope that his grandchildren would survive. And to him, he said, that meant passage of the second agreement on the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty, or SALT II.

To give an idea of the military might the U.S. and Soviet Union have at their command, Cooper noted that it was a 17 kiloton nuclear bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima during WW II. That means, it was equal to 17,000 tons of TNT.

It would take 60 of those Hiroshima equivalent bombs to make one megaton bomb and we have the equivalent of 60,000 megaton bombs, he said, or 360,000 of the type that was dropped on that Japanese city and annihilated its inhabitants.

THE RUSSIANS ONLY have the equivalent of 45,000 of those bombs. But, to further illustrate, and he admitted he didn't know how many we have, one Poseidon submarine carries 16 missiles, each with 10 independently targeted warheads, so that only one submarine can do "Hiroshima damage" to every city in Russia with a population of 50,000 and above. And now, plans are underway for the creation of a Trident submarine that will be "three times larger" and cost \$2 billion each.

He likened the "arms race" between the two superpowers to Yazoo City and Canton deciding to see who could equip its police force the best, eventually issuing each officer four pistols, a machine gun, a bazooka and a Sherman tank.

Already, he said, the limitations on SALT II, when given the massive destructive power of nuclear armament in each camp is "peanuts, just peanuts."

Although Cooper said he was in favor of a two-party system, the alternative being a parliamentary form of government where the prime minister always sides with the majority, he said he would favor a change from the present four-year presidential term to a six-year term, "since, at least ostensibly, he

credit for lessening our imported oil needs by 2 million barrels per day through his conservation program, it actually was the recession that caused the decrease, coupled with higher fuel prices.

SALT II, HE SAID, he said, "is not in the best interests of our country." Barbour charged that it was "poorly negotiated" and that its provisions are not verifiable. In two instances, he claimed, the Soviets have not lived up to the SALT I agreement. And since 1962, the USSR has undertaken "the largest arms buildup in the history of the world."

That arms build-up, he said, stemmed from the Cuban missile crisis when the U.S. and the USSR faced each other in a potential conflict "and the Russians blinked first."

Next time, such a challenge to our military superiority could take place in the Persian Gulf and it could be us that blinks first, he said. Repudiating SALT II, Barbour quoted Reagan as saying "no bully picks on the toughest kid on the block," and that he would be fearful of maintaining the peace through parity rather than strength.

Barbour also said Reagan would rely on nuclear energy, along with domestic oil, natural gas and coal, in supplying the country with energy. Observing that Japan has had nuclear plants in operation for 15 years with not one shut-down other than for routine maintenance, he noted that the biggest dampener to building nuclear plants in the U.S. is the rate of interest, the cost of money. Often, a wait of more than six years from design to construction is required to meet regulatory policies.

FOLLOWING THE discussion, each of the participants answered some questions from the audience. In summing up, Dr. Adams noted that the U.S. is becoming a "narcissistic nation," where "Monday night football" becomes more important than taking the time to become aware of the problems affecting our nation. The young are worse than the adults, he said. And the impact of television as a medium for obtaining most of our information about the problems of this nation, possible solutions and even the selection of our leaders, has been "insidious."

"When the history of the United States is written 250 years from now," Adams said, "I think television is going to get a lot more coverage than will Governor Reagan or President Carter."

Some perceptions on a changing political process

By JIM EWING

Daily News Yazoo City Bureau

This week, just about everyone I ran into was talking about the presidential debate. "Did you see the debate?" "What did you think about the debate?" people were asking. Some remarked that the debate seemed to confirm their allegiance to a particular candidate. Some remarked that Ronald Reagan didn't seem the ogre that they thought he was. Still others, agreed with my own perception.

Reagan would speak. I'd say to myself, "boy, I really agree with what he's saying. I think I'll vote for him." Then, Carter would respond. I'd say, "Yeah, yeah. I'd better vote for Carter."

After 90 minutes of this, I just about decided to just close my eyes on election day and pull whichever lever my hand hit.

And that's a sad state of affairs.

The debate actually wasn't a real debate. It was more like a very tense "Meet the Press," with carefully prepared answers and pre-selected questions. I noted Dan Rather wasn't invited to ask any questions. But "Baba Wawa" was.

The remark by Dr. John Quincy Adams at the Ricks potpourri session this week that recent elections, and particularly this one, have been marked by the absence of humor seemed particularly appropriate concerning "the debate." (I'm going to put that in quotes, since it really wasn't a debate.)

Gone are the days of careful and skilled real debaters who could make a joke at the expense of the opponent without being insulting. And the victim could respond in kind without being insulting either, or have been insulted.

I'm afraid the days of personal oratory are gone. Maybe it has something to do with television, that speakers accustomed to entertaining a live audience, keeping its attention, could use

the device of making "off the cuff" remarks — were used to keeping a lively discussion lively, knowing that they wouldn't be interrupted every few minutes by a commercial.

"Commercial, indeed!" one can almost imagine William Jennings Bryan, American statesman, orator and three times unsuccessful candidate for president, saying in amazement and disgust. And what of Abraham Lincoln

and Stephen Douglas. Can one imagine their incredulity that the color of one of their suits, how closely one had shaved, would influence the course of an election?

But, then again, our country has changed, as Dr. Adams, Owen Cooper and Haley Barbour all pointed out. No longer do we seem to have the "country lawyers" that dominated our court-houses and rose to fame in years gone

Coming events

The Yazoo County Chamber of Commerce will hold a "merchants luncheon" from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wed. at Ricks Memorial Library. The luncheon will be an information session about upcoming promotions of interest to Yazoo merchants, according to merchants committee chairman Kathryn Barfield.

The Playhouse '75 production of the hit musical *The Sound of Music* will open at 8 p.m., Nov. 14, at the Triangle Cultural Center. Season tickets are \$15 and may be obtained from Playhouse '75, P.O. Box 664, Yazoo City, Miss. 39194.

The "Gateway to the Delta Yazoo City Run," a 10,000 meter race, will be held Dec. 6 and will begin at the Triangle Cultural Center. Applications for the 6.2 mile race and a one mile "fun run" are available at the city's three banks and at the Mississippi Chemical Corp. offices. A \$5 registration fee will be charged with the first 150 registering to receive a free T-shirt.

The Yazoo Originals Arts and Crafts Guild will hold its Sixth Annual Crafts Fair from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sat., Dec. 6, at the L.T. Miller

Community Center. For more information, contact H. Dan Lehman, 1624 Swayze St., Yazoo City, Miss. 39194 (phone: 746-4564).

Admission to the Yazoo Historical Museum is free with a membership to the Yazoo Historical Society. Dues are \$1 for students, \$5 for individuals, \$50 for patrons and \$100 for benefactors. Checks should be sent to the society at P.O. Box 575, Yazoo City, Miss. 39194. For more information, call 746-2273.

(Clubs, churches and civic organizations with activities open to the public may have their events listed in the "coming events" column by sending notices to the *Jackson Daily News*, Yazoo City Bureau, P.O. Box 305, Yazoo City, Miss. 39194, or by calling 746-8555. The office is located in the Williams Building, 120 E. Jefferson St. Notices must be received the Wednesday prior to the Sunday date of publication.)

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by — the humble, folksy, sliver-tongued devils that could hang a judge in laughter as easily as the most skeptical juror on the back bench, could swap tales in the square, and equally, court ladies of high stature as easily as judge the merits of a haltered mule.

No, that's not the stuff of our leaders now. Now we have "qualified candidates," whatever that is. Administra-

tors, managers, tight-lipped facts and figures men accustomed to relating to figures on a page or so calculatingly in the public's eye, with all the carefully regulated style, hair-dressing, manicures, speech-writers, poll-watchers and media advisors to create a public "image," that they wouldn't know how to relate to most of us in the flesh except on television.

What we have is a "Charlie's Angels" view of government — lots of bounce and jiggle, toothsome grins and appeal, but no substance. Enticing, yes. Entertaining, yes. But, unreal.

I would tend to disagree with Dr. Adams that the people have failed concerning the choice between the two candidates. I think the changes that have beset this country — a "democratization" of government, away from the Democratic Republic our forefathers envisioned, has further eroded our choices, has cheapened the "product" (candidates rather than leaders), and television has simply "sold us" on these products and confirmed the trend toward more democratization.

In other words, more participation in government — through special interest lobbying, single-issue candidates and voting blocks — in my view, actually works to the disadvantage of democracy. We elect leaders to represent us, to make decisions to guarantee and protect our rights, not to be us. It is not supposed to be a popularity contest.

The Yazoo Herald

12/01/86
JOHN BULL
RT 1

BENTON, MS

39039

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•Our 115th Year, No. 52

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Yazoo Publishing Co.

•Yazoo City, Mississippi, Wednesday, November 5, 1986

•Eight Sections •56 Pages •25 Cents

Services held Monday

DeCell's contributions will be remembered in county and state

Herman DeCell "believed that a man should not be judged by the color of his skin," but by the quality of his heart, said Yazoo City author Willie Morris of his friend. Morris was among the six friends and colleagues giving eulogies at the former senator's funeral Monday afternoon at First United Methodist Church.

DeCell died suddenly of a heart attack at his home Sunday morning.

Morris remembered DeCell as a man who has "an immense and contagious joy of existence. Herman was a very funny and exuberant man. He believed that one should 'judge not, lest ye be judged.'"

Former Governor William Winter pointed out DeCell's contributions to the state in the '60s. DeCell established a biracial group to set up

Program Head Start, an educational

program for underprivileged children. Winter said, "He brought gentility to the frequently ungentle world of politics. He was utterly lacking in bombast and humbuggery. He relied on intelligence and common sense. He was able to get things done without fanfare and without rancor and without headlines."

DeCell's roommate at Harvard Law School, Paul Webb, spoke of the lawyer's friendship which begun almost 40 years ago. DeCell attended Harvard's 100th year celebration this summer and was featured on the front page of USA Today for spurning opportunities to practice law in New York City and other big cities and instead opting for his hometown. "Rather than seek the bright lights of New York City, he returned to Yazoo," said U.S. District Judge William Barbour Jr. "His philosophy was that he was going to make a different life for himself through his community and his state.

And that he did, beginning with his winning a senate seat in 1960, and serving as chairman of the Judiciary and Constitution committees of the Legislature until 1980. At the time of his death, DeCell was serving as chairman of the legislative committee of Governor Bill Allain's Constitution Study Commission.

The son of the late Lucile Brister and John Eldridge DeCell, he was born Sept. 26, 1924. A graduate of Yazoo City High School and the University of Mississippi, DeCell returned to Yazoo City in 1950 upon receiving his law degree from Harvard University Law School. He served in the Pacific in the U.S. Army during World War II.

DeCell was also a trustee of the Mississippi Department of Archives

and History and was chairman of the Yazoo County Community Action Committee—the group that began Head Start in 1965. He was a member of the American, Mississippi and Yazoo County bar associations and had been admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court.

He was a member of the Yazoo Arts Council, former member of the board of the Yazoo Library Association and a member of the administrative board of the First United Methodist Church where he taught Sunday School for 25 years. DeCell was a former director of the

New Stage Theatre in Jackson and an active member of the Mississippi Historical Society as well as the Lions Club, Elks and the Yazoo City Chamber of Commerce.

Among those paying respects were Governor Bill Allain, Secretary of State Dick Molpus, state Supreme Court Justices Dan Lee and James Robertson as well as several former and current state legislators.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Harriet Causey DeCell of Yazoo City; one son, Brister DeCell Jr. of Aspen, Colo.; two daughters, Alice DeCell

Young of Oxford and Causey DeCell Coffield of Houston, Texas; sister, Golda DeCell Minor of Memphis, Tenn.; one grandson and three granddaughters.

His brother, renowned Southern architect John E. "Jack" DeCell died of a heart attack last year.

The family requests that memorials be sent to Ricks Memorial Library.

Gregory Funeral home handled arrangements.



Herman B. DeCell



CASTING HIS VOTE—Yazoo City lawyer and 2nd Congressional District Candidate Mike Espy cast his vote early Tuesday morning at the L.T. Miller Community

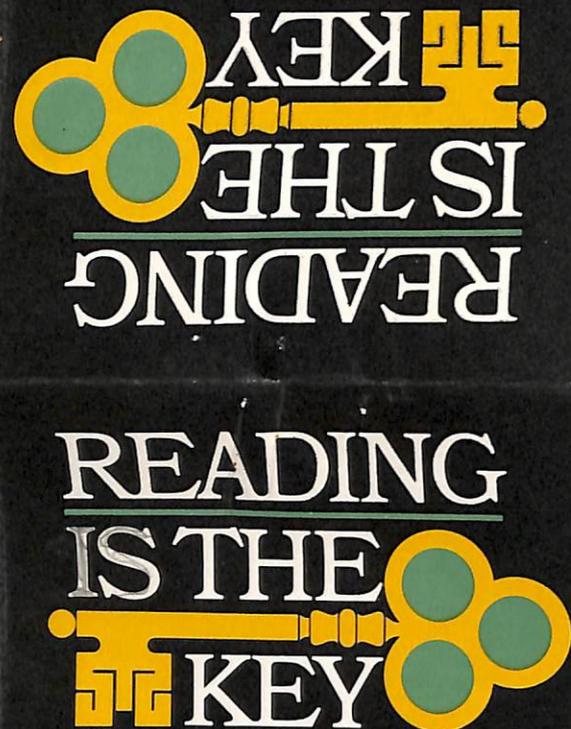
Center. Despite overcast skies and light rains, poll workers reported a 'respectable' turnout early in the day. Espy is hoping to defeat incumbent Webb Franklin.

MISSISSIPPI STATE
National Library Week

State Chairman—William Winter, Jackson
1964

STATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Dr. Joe Abrams, Jackson
- Otis Allen, Greenwood
- Honorable Roy Black, Nettleton
- Ernest Bowton, Philadelphia
- Dr. S. A. Brasfield, Columbus
- Joe Bullock, Brandon
- Mrs. M. J. Burson, Long Beach
- C. C. Eason, Tupelo
- D. H. Echols, Jackson
- Lee Fisher, Carthage
- W. D. Gardner, Greenville
- Don Gray, Jackson
- Dr. J. J. Head, Whitfield
- Purser Hewitt, Jackson
- Mrs. Milton B. E. Hill, Gulfport
- Bryant Horne, Jackson
- J. B. Howell, Jr., Clinton
- Mrs. Paul Johnson, Jackson
- Senator W. M. Jones, Brookhaven
- The Reverend Joseph Koury, Jackson
- Clarence Lott, Jackson
- Miss Mary Mobberly, Laurel
- Senator Ollie Mohamed, Belzoni
- Norman Mott, Yazoo City
- Mrs. James Packer, Jackson
- Mrs. Sam A. Peebles, Vicksburg
- Paul Pittman, Tylertown
- Mayor C. E. Sampson, Greenwood
- Mayor John Scafide, Bay St. Louis
- Alan Skelton, Vicksburg
- Fred Smith, Ripley
- Senator Marion Smith, Natchez
- Travis Staton, Jackson
- Mrs. H. L. Thompson, Louisville
- Miss Mary Sherard, Vicksburg
Executive Director
- Miss Eleanor Drake, Jackson
Assistant Executive Director



Herman B. DeCell

Senator
Yazoo County



Courtesy of
SOUTHERN BELL OF MISSISSIPPI

LIBRARIES ARE ...
AS IMPORTANT AS THE USE WE MAKE OF THEM

DOES YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

	YES	NO
Invite, entice, excite you to read?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furnish what you want to read?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Enjoy you as a regular reader?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mean something to you personally?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stay open hours when you can get there?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Look nice? Appear friendly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cover the gamut of human knowledge in an up-to-date book collection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meet state standards?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have enough money to do a good job?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grow with your community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Know that you care about it?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

IF NOT, WHY NOT?

DOES YOUR READING

	YES	NO**
Get its share of your time?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Holds its own with TV, sports?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consist of books as well as magazines and newspapers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keep you up-to-date?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Equip you with facts, not rumors?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stimulate your mental activity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide occupational upgrading?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reach into the past?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Give quality through classics?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Afford some pure enjoyment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prove inspirational?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reflect all sides of controversial issues, even those with which you disagree?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**When the Answer is "No", Go to the Library.

DOES YOUR SCHOOL LIBRARY

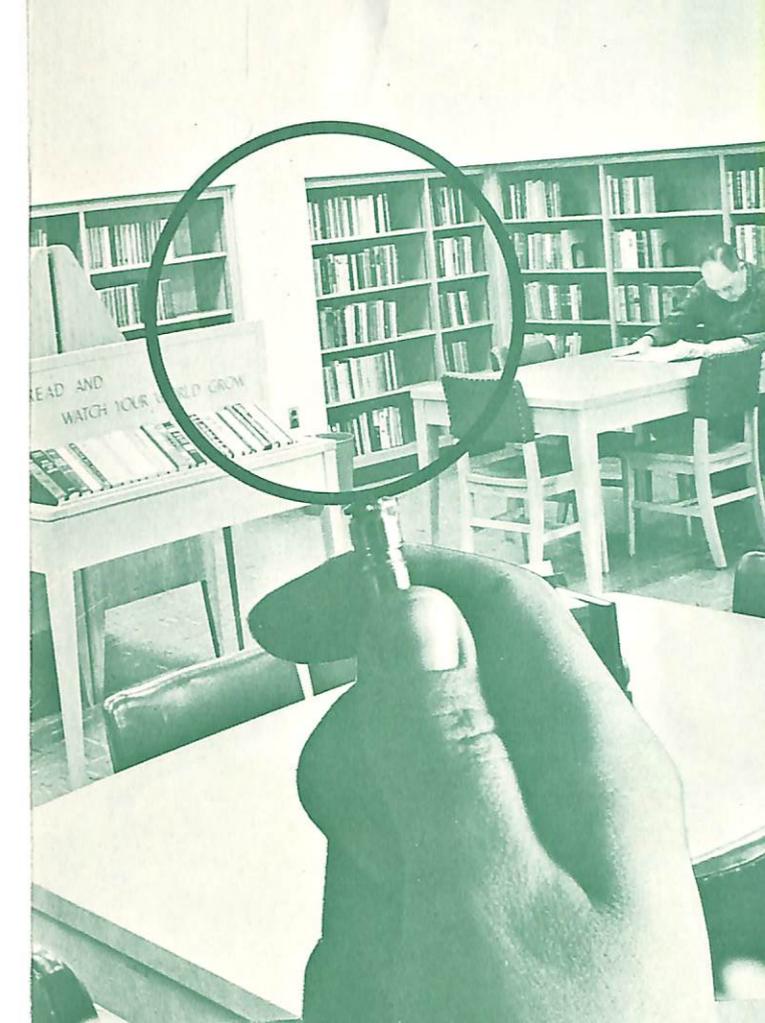
	YES	NO
Have what students need?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have what teachers assign?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Enjoy administrative respect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Get its share of school funds?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Appeal to young people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Appear to be a happy place?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have a good librarian?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Operate free of study hall involvements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meet accreditation standards?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stay open enough for all to use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Know that you care about it?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

IF NOT, WHY NOT?

DOES YOUR CHILDREN'S READING ...

	YES	NO***
Reflect their parents' reading?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Make a balanced mental diet?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Challenge them mentally?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultivate judicious evaluation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reject bland, trashy series?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prepare for living in a free world?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Build appreciation of the past?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Instill confidence in the future?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furnish background for learning?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Help meet economic competition?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide wholesome recreation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Create appreciation for beauty and truth?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

***When the Answer is "No", Take Your Child to the Library.



Let's look
at **READING**
and
LIBRARIES
in Mississippi

The Mississippi Library Association is a professional organization composed of librarians from college, university, public, school, and special libraries, library trustees, and other persons interested in libraries.

Library Association
Officers

President.....	Mrs. Etta Eckle Pace MSCW, Columbus
Vice-President.....	Mrs. Maxyne Grimes University Medical Center Jackson
Secretary.....	Mrs. Frances Hardy Meridian Junior College Meridian
Treasurer.....	Alberta Edmondson Jackson Public Schools Jackson
Past President	Maria Person Gulfport-Harrison County Library, Gulfport

A 1964
NATIONAL
LIBRARY WEEK
MESSAGE

To: Mississippi
State
Legislature

From: Mississippi
Library
Association

READING IS
THE KEY



NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK
APRIL 12-18, 1964

It is the responsibility of the Mississippi Library Association to encourage reading; to create a greater appreciation and more wide-spread use of all the library facilities and resources available to all of the people of Mississippi; to give librarians and trustees an opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills and to increase their abilities to render higher standards of service.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE MISSISSIPPI STATE LEGISLATURE

Exciting developments in library service have taken place in Mississippi in the past few years. You, the members of the State Legislature, have played an important role in most of them.

- ...new library buildings have been erected at most of the senior and junior colleges
- ...attractive and efficient libraries have been included in most of the new high school buildings
- ...unprecedented public library development has taken place under the leadership of the Mississippi Library Commission
- ...significant increases have been made in local library support by city and county officials

... but ...

- there is a definite lack of centralized elementary school libraries to provide children with the "climate which encourages reading" in their most formative years
- serious is the lack of funds for the necessary books and other reading materials, adequate staff, and equipment for libraries in the institutions of higher learning
- high school libraries must be stocked with more books, separated from study halls, and kept open longer hours

We share your concern over the duplication of state services. In fact, it worries librarians to the extent that we have only recently had another statewide meeting of college, university, school, special and public librarians to continue our many years of work on eliminating duplication and planning for stepped-up cooperation among ourselves. This thinking has been spurred on and encouraged by the exciting possibilities for library service in the new legislation you are now considering in the creation of the Research and Development Center, which must, of course have a first rate Reference Library.

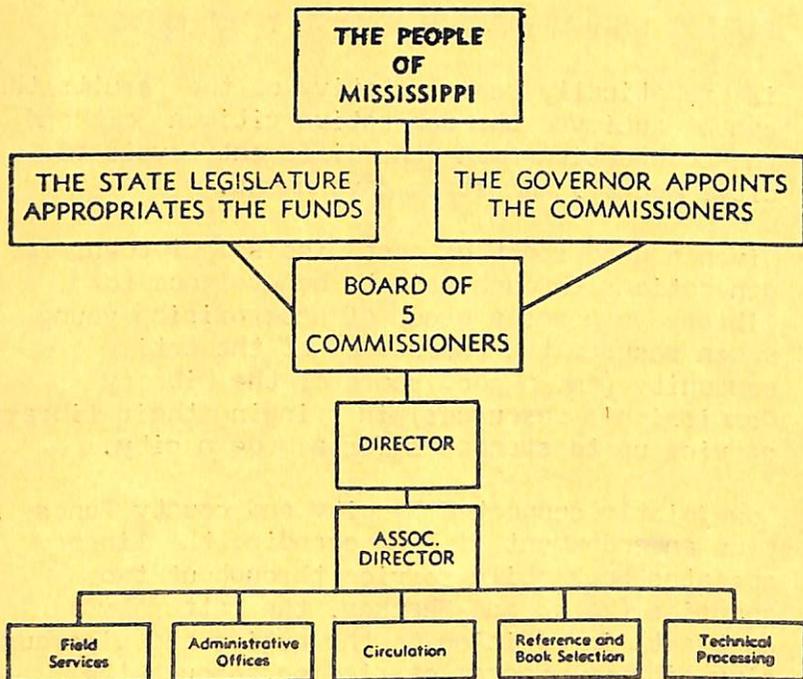
We hope you will visit your school, college and public libraries during National Library Week or soon thereafter. A study of the attached brochure issued by the State Committee should be very interesting to you.

Thank you again for your interest and support. We pledge anew our resolve to improve ourselves as librarians and to continue to work with you to help make Mississippi an even better State than it is.

Signed: Mrs. Etta Eckles Pace, President
MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

ORGANIZATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY COMMISSION

The Mississippi Library Commission is created by the state Legislature under Sections 6210-01 through 6210-10, Mississippi Code, 1942. These legal provisions, when reduced to an organizational chart, appear as follows:



A 1964
NATIONAL
LIBRARY WEEK
MESSAGE

To: Mississippi
State
Legislature
From: Mississippi
Library
Commission



NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK
APRIL 12-18, 1964

"It is hereby declared to be the policy of this State to allow and promote the establishment and development of free public library service throughout this State as a part of its provisions for public education."

Mississippi Code, 1942

To: Members of the State Legislature

From: The Library Commission

This week (April 12 - 18) is National Library Week. All over the country people are thinking about the value of books and reading in our society.

During this week your Library Commission wishes to thank you for your support and interest in our efforts to bring books and reading to the people of our State. We want, also, to report to you, as an individual Legislator, what the public library situation is in your own county. Some of these reports we are proud to make; some of them we regret. We welcome your comments or questions.

BOOKS

THE WORLD OF BOOKS - IS THE MOST
REMARKABLE CREATION OF MAN -
NOTHING ELSE THAT HE BUILDS EVER
LASTS - MONUMENTS FALL - NATIONS
PERISH - CIVILIZATIONS GROW OLD
AND DIE OUT - AFTER AN ERA OF
DARKNESS NEW RACES BUILD OTHERS -
BUT IN THE WORLD OF BOOKS ARE
VOLUMES THAT LIVE ON - STILL AS
YOUNG AND FRESH AS THE DAY THEY
WERE WRITTEN - STILL TELLING MEN'S
HEARTS OF THE HEARTS OF MEN
CENTURIES DEAD.

CLARENCE DAY, JR.
FROM THE "STORY OF THE YALE
UNIVERSITY PRESS"

PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE IN YAZOO COUNTY

is dramatically representative of the results that can be achieved through active citizen work and the cooperation among the different levels of city, county, and state government.

Given a head start of most Mississippi towns for generations through private benevolence for library purposes a group of enterprising young women secured the assistance of the entire community (and a good share of the Library Commission's resources) in bringing their library service up to standards for a modern city.

Now jointly supported by city and county funds plus an endowment of long standing the library operates bookmobile service throughout two counties (Yazoo and Sharkey, the latter by contract) in addition to the active and vigorous city library program carried on through the renovated and refurbished Ricks Memorial Library and gives professional guidance to Sharkey County's service at Rolling Fork.



DeCELLS HONORED BY JSU ALUMNI—Sen. and Mrs. Herman DeCell were the honorees at a dinner given by Jackson State Alumni, Yazoo County chapter, Saturday night. With the DeCells are Edward Neal (left), president of the Yazoo chapter; Dr. John A. Peebles, president of the university; and

Joseph Thomas. (Daily Herald photo by Joe Dier

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Opinion

The Yazoo Herald

Successor to the Yazoo Daily Herald

Founded 1872

(USPS 695 600)

Published by Yazoo Publishing Company

1035 Grand Avenue, Post Office Box 720, Yazoo City, Mississippi 39194

Telephone 601-746-4911

Charles E. Martin, general manager

Debbie C. Montgomery, news editor

Entered as second-class matter at the U.S. Post Office in Yazoo City, Miss.

The Yazoo Herald is published on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Subscription rates by mail in Mississippi: \$16.00 per twelve months.

\$8.00 per six months, \$4.00 per three months.

Outside Mississippi, \$27.00 per twelve months.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE YAZOO HERALD P.O. Box 720 Yazoo City, MS 39194

The time is NOW!

Editor:

"I CAN'T AFFORD TO BELONG"—when it comes to supporting the community through investment in the Chamber of Commerce, I'm sorry, but I just don't agree with that statement. You cannot afford to not belong. If there is ever a time that businesses and interested individuals should make a point to join your Chamber of Commerce, it is now. Face the facts. Business is off. Our economy is down and unemployment is too high. Somebody has to do something!

That someone is the Chamber. But remember, the Chamber is nothing more than the volunteers who get in there, roll up their sleeves and get busy. For the Chamber to do something, you must do something. And that can be the hard part.

It's sometimes difficult to break away from your busy daily routine to meet and work on a Chamber committee. But is not your community worth it? Working together we are a team, and when a team works together look at all that can happen.

In II Corinthians 9:6, Paul states, "But this I say, he which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully also shall reap bountifully."

For Yazoo County the time has come to sow and sow heavily. Our county is crying for a bountiful harvest. And it is through the Chamber of Commerce that the seeds can get planted.

Your Chamber of Commerce is involved in improving education, retail business, health services, tourism—a total of fourteen different areas of work. All of these combined will present a cornucopia of a quality of life that can catch the interest of new industry, new businesses and new residents.

But to work these "crops" takes people. You know yourself if one or two people work a huge field, the weeds can get away from you, the plants suffer neglect and the harvest is small. So it is with the areas of work in your Chamber. If only a few people get involved, the results are a lot less.

Together we are a team working for the future of Yazoo County. If you can't afford to belong to your Chamber, ask yourself if you can afford to cut short the future harvest of our county's potential.

You can't afford not to belong to the Yazoo County Chamber of Commerce.

Sincerely,
Frank Thompson

Executive Vice President Yazoo County Chamber of Commerce

Y-PAL needs volunteers

Editor:

Illiteracy is a serious problem in Yazoo County. More than 54 percent of the adults age 25 and older have less than a high school education. Another 28 percent have less than an 8th grade education. These statistics are based on the 1980 Census and compiled by the State Department of Education.

Mississippi ETV will broadcast the program "Lost in a Readers' World—Illiteracy in Mississippi" tonight at 7:30 and again at noon on Nov. 16. The program offers an overall picture of illiteracy in Mississippi. I hope everyone will make an effort to watch either broadcast.

In October, the Yazoo Program for Adult Literacy, Y-PAL, was organized. Sponsored by the Ricks Library, Y-PAL offers a free service to those adults 18 and over who need to improve their reading skills. The program needs adult learners and volunteer tutors.

For information on illiteracy in Yazoo County and the Y-PAL program, call Ricks Library, 746-5560 or 746-2144.

Marilyn Lewis, coordinator Yazoo Program for Adult Literacy

A tribute to the late Owen Cooper

Editor's Note: The following article is a reprint from "The Vista," a publication of the Bay Vista Baptist Church in Biloxi. The author, and pastor of the Bay Vista Baptist Church, is Dr. William L. Jenkins, Jr., a native of Yazoo City and graduate of Yazoo City High School. Dr. Jenkins wrote the tribute to Mr. Owen Cooper upon learning of his critical illness. Since this was written, of course, Mr. Cooper has died. Some family and friends felt that our hometown would be interested in these heartfelt sentiments of a young man who was deeply influenced by Mr. Cooper.

I was deeply saddened last week to learn of the serious illness of Owen Cooper of Yazoo City. I hope you will understand why I pause to share these reflections.

Owen Cooper—layman, deacon, industrialist, past president of the Mississippi and Southern Baptist Conventions—has deeply influenced my life and concept of ministry.

He taught me personal ministry by his involvement. In 1957, my family (all eight of us!) lived in a four-room shack just outside Yazoo City. I'm sure many people looked on us as "poor white folks" (which we were). Owen Cooper looked upon us as people for whom Christ died. He enabled us to have more adequate housing. I can still remember the first bath I ever had in an indoor bathroom.

He encouraged us to become all that God intended us to be. Today, six children from that family include two registered nurses, two who have engineering degrees and who are deacons, one who has served as secretary at First Baptist Church, Yazoo City, for twenty-nine years, and one who serves as a Southern Baptist minister. All of us, with our

families, are actively involved in our churches.

He broadened my vision of the scope of ministry. When I was in the old "Junior Department," Owen Cooper was my Sunday School teacher. I recall his emphasis upon "going where the people are" to fulfill the Great Commission. He led First Baptist Church in establishing 30 new congregations in just 10 years, from Ohio to India. This influenced me to work for three years in Wisconsin upon graduation from seminary.

Owen Cooper taught me what religious convictions mean. His life demonstrated that believing nice things means nothing if we do not incorporate our beliefs into actions. I witnessed him taking firm stands on controversial issues, always on the side of justice for the downtrodden and truth. Time has shown that his stands were the correct ones, in spite of popular opinion and, I'm sure, criticism.

I've never known of Owen Cooper taking a stand for popularity, nor have I known of his backing down due to pressure.

When Owen Cooper was elected President of the Southern Baptist Convention, (the last layman to hold that position), I was justly proud of the influence he had upon my life at that time. I continue to be proud of the influence of his example.

These are my own personal thoughts that cry out for an expression of gratitude to an uncommon Christian gentleman and statesman. Mr. Cooper, along with many in the unusually blessed First Baptist Church of Yazoo City, have provided the noblest examples of Christian discipleship that I shall strive to emulate in my life.

Thank you, Owen Cooper, from a grateful Christian brother.

A tribute to the late Herman DeCell

Editor's Note: The following tribute was written by Dr. Ann Pinkston Smith, assistant professor of Eastern, New Mexico University in Portales, N.M. A native of Yazoo City, Dr. Smith graduated from Yazoo City High School.

Last week the city of Yazoo and the state of Mississippi lost a great humanitarian. Attorney Herman DeCell spent his life contributing to the lives of others. While serving in numerous roles, he contributed to his fellowman in a responsive manner on all levels.

Attorney DeCell impacted on my life in his role as a philanthropist. In 1963 he and Mrs. DeCell contributed funds to Yazoo City Training School for the sole purpose of establishing a scholarship fund for a needy and academically talented student. A faculty committee was established by the late Mr. John L. Palmer, Principal, for selecting a graduating senior recipient for the scholarship. The faculty committee consisted of Mrs. Sarah King, Mrs. Louise Miller, the late Mrs. Thelma Owens and the late Mrs. Henrine Wilburn. I was selected by the committee as the recipient of this scholarship.

Attorney DeCell's scholarship strongly augmented the funds needed for pursuing my collegiate endeavors. Without his contribution to my life, I doubt that my educational aspirations would have been fully realized.

Not only did Attorney and Mrs. DeCell give of their

financial resources. They willingly shared with me another precious commodity, their time. They took time out of their busy schedules to attend activities at Mississippi Valley State College, where I was enrolled as an undergraduate. It was delightful and very rewarding to have them in attendance during my first performance of Handel's Messiah as a member of Mississippi Valley State University's Concert Choir.

Attorney DeCell's contribution to my professional development was not in isolation. This was a typical behavior designed to contribute to the overall betterment of his immediate and world community.

While there has been closure to his tenure on earth; he as other Great Americans will live forever through the many lives he truly touched as a humanitarian.

An appropriate ending of my tribute can best be expressed through this concise, but powerful quote. In my judgment, this passage is representative of Attorney Herman DeCell:

"I expect to pass through this world but once,
Any good therefore that I can do,
Or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature,
Let me do it now...
For I shall not pass this way again."

The Yazoo Herald

12/01/86
JOHN BULL
RT 1

BENTON, MS

39039

"Continuing Intelligence And Community Service Since 1872"

•Our 115th Year, No. 52

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Morris remembered DeCell as a man who has "an immense and contagious joy of existence. Herman was a very funny and exuberant man. He believed that one should 'judge not, lest ye be judged.'" Former Governor William Winter pointed out DeCell's contributions to the state in the '60s. Decell established a biracial group to set up Program Head Start, an educational

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DeCell's roommate at Harvard Law School, Paul Webb, spoke of the lawyer's friendship which begun almost 40 years ago. DeCell attended Harvard's 100th year celebration this summer and was featured on the front page of USA Today for spurning opportunities to practice law in New York City and other big cities and instead opting for his hometown. "Rather than seek the bright lights of New York City, he returned to Yazoo," said U.S. District Judge William Barbour Jr. "His philosophy was that he was going to make a different life for himself through his community and his state.

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He was a member of the Yazoo Arts Council, former member of the board of the Yazoo Library Association and a member of the administrative board of the First United Methodist Church where he taught Sunday School for 25 years. DeCell was a former director of the

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Among those paying respects were Governor Bill Allain, Secretary of State Dick Molpus, state Supreme Court Justices Dan Lee and James Robertson as well as several former and current state legislators.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Harriet Causey DeCell of Yazoo City; one son, Brister DeCell Jr. of Aspen, Colo.; two daughters, Alice DeCell

Young of Oxford and Causey DeCell Coffield of Houston, Texas; sister, Golda DeCell Minor of Memphis, Tenn.; one grandson and three granddaughters.

His brother, renowned Southern architect John E. "Jack" DeCell died of a heart attack last year.

The family requests that memorials be sent to Ricks Memorial Library.

Gregory Funeral home handled arrangements.



Herman B. DeCell



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ember 30.
ola. Colonial Chapel
agee handled arrange-

ns Moore

ore, 88, a retired sec-
aturday, November 29,
sha County General Hos-
e 2 p.m. today at Seven
me in Water Valley with
emetery in Bruce.

bley

Simmons Cooley, 73, a
died Saturday, November
me. Services are today at
ark Missionary Baptist
ial in Grantham Cemetery.
Home of Hattiesburg is in
ngements.

rtis Triplett

rtis "Jimmy" Triplett, 85,
y, November 29, 2003, at
eral Hospital in Macon. Visi-
m. today at Cockrell Funer-
acon. Services are 1 p.m.
e funeral home with burial in
tery near Brooksville.

anita Brumfield

anita Brumfield, 77, died Sat-
mber 29, 2003, at Central
Medical Center in Jackson.
4-7 p.m. today at Baldwin-
Home in Jackson. Services
Tuesday at the funeral home
Lakewood South Cemetery.
of Charleston, Mrs. Brumfield
Jackson for the past 53 years.
member of Daniel Memorial
urch and loved flowers and
ime with friends and loved to

rumfield is survived by her
Peggy Sue Miller and husband
Jackson and Pamela Ann Cum-
Jackson; brothers, Tommy J.
reenwood and Paul Jack Ellett of
e, Texas; sister, Margaret
of Byram; grandchildren, Robbie
all and Eddie Dean Cumberland,
o great-grandchildren.
rials may be made to the Ameri-
er Society.

t W. Murray

t W. Murray, 84, died Saturday,
er 29, 2003, at Select Speciality
l in Jackson. Visitation is 12-2
ay at Baldwin-Lee Funeral Home
on. Services are 2 p.m. today at
ral home with burial in Lakewood
al Park.
Murray had lived in Jackson for the
8 years and was the owner and
tor of Murray Auto Parts. He
d hunting and fishing and was a
gardener who took great pride in
d. Mr. Murray was a member of
y Woods Baptist Church. He is pre-
in death by his daughter, Charlotte

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Church
Visit after 1 pm Mon.

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**OTT & LEE
FUNERAL HOME**
1934
Brandon 824-6018

al Hospital in Amory. Services are 2:30
p.m. today at E.E. Pickle Funeral Home in
Amory with burial in Hatley Cemetery.

Mary Ann Powell Yazoo City

Mary Ann "Marie" Powell, 72, a home-
maker, died Saturday, November 29,
2003, at Yazoo Health and Rehabilitation
Center. Visitation is 1-3 p.m. Tuesday at
Stricklin-King Funeral Home in Yazoo City.
Services are 3 p.m. Tuesday at the fune-
ral home with burial in Short Creek Ceme-
tery.

Jay T. Keehley Starkville

Jay T. Keehley, 60, attorney at law in
Starkville and professor of Philosophy at
Mississippi State University, died Satur-
day, November 29, 2003, at Oktibbeha
County Hospital. Services are 2 p.m.
today at Friendship Baptist Church. Junior
Davis and Amos Branson are officiating
with Welch Funeral Home handling the
services.

Mr. Keehley was born in St. Cloud,
Minn. He received his Juris Doctorate and
Ph.D.

Survivors include: wife, Lisa Dawn
Briser Keehley of Starkville; daughters,
Courtney Coreene Keehley of Starkville and
Mollikate Keehley of Starkville; sons,
Maison Davis Keehley of Starkville,
Thomas Holder of Cedar Bluff; brother,
Michael Spencer Keehley of Dalton, Ga.;
sisters, Dianne M. DiDio of Atlanta, Ga.,
Patricia Keehley of Cedar City, Utah,
Susan Keehley of Las Vegas, Nev., and
mother, Coreene T. Flax of Cedar City,
Utah. He was preceded in death by his
father, Leo James Keehley, Jr.

In lieu of flowers, please make memor-
ials to Friendship Baptist Church for the
encouragement of Lisa Keehley and chil-
dren. Sign and on-line guestbook at
www.welchfuneralhome.com.

Linda Wright Watson Jackson

Linda Wright Watson, 64, died Friday,
November 28, 2003, at St. Dominic-
Jackson Memorial Hospital. Services are
12:30 p.m. today at the funeral home with
burial 3 p.m. in Enon Cemetery in Acke-
rman.

Mrs. Watson was a native of Ackerman
and a longtime resident of Jackson.

She was a graduate of Ackerman High
School and MSCW. She was a retired
Commercial Artist having worked for Ken-
nington's Department Store and Mississip-
pi State Cooperative Extension Service.

Mrs. Watson was a member of First
Baptist Church in Jackson.

Survivors include her son, Jason Wat-
son of Jackson; mother, Christine Lewis
Wright of Ridgeland; and sister, Sue
Wright of Atlanta, Ga.

Memorials may be made to
Alzheimer's Association Mid-Chapter,
1900 Durbarton Driver, Jackson, MS
39218.

Alvin Adams Eupora

Alvin Adams, 85, a retired sawmiller,
died Saturday, November 29, 2003, at
Beverly Health Care in Eupora. Services
are 11 a.m. today at Oliver Funeral Home
in Eupora with burial in Friendship Ceme-
tery in Choctaw County.

Basil W. Hluhanich Clarksdale

Basil W. Hluhanich, 84, died Saturday,
November 29, 2003, at Northwest Mis-
sissippi Regional Medical Center in
Clarksdale. Visitation is 2-6 p.m. today at
Nowell Funeral Home in Clarksdale. Ser-
vices are 10 a.m. Tuesday at the funeral
home with burial in Oakridge Cemetery.

Adell Smith Sontag

Adell Smith, 75, a homemaker, died
Saturday, November 29, 2003, at St.
Dominic/Jackson Memorial Hospital.
Services are 2 p.m. Tuesday at Shiloh
Baptist Church with burial in the church
cemetery. Wilson Funeral Home of Mont-
cello is in charge of arrangements.

Cherle Quinn Crawford of Flora; a son,
Tracy Crawford and his wife, Allison of
Flora; a daughter, Gena Brent and her
husband, James of La Porte, Texas; three
grandchildren, Abbie, Zoe, and Morgan
Crawford of Flora; three sisters, Melanie
Nance and husband, Woody of Flora,
Wanda Shepard and her husband, George
of Flora, and Bonnie Hollingsworth and
her husband, Jimmy of Hollandale; and a
brother, C.S. "Spike" Crawford and his
wife Nancy of Flora.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude's
Children's Hospital, Memphis, Tenn.

Alice Howry DeCell Wise Madison

Alice Howry DeCell Wise, 51, beloved
mother, wife, spiritual leader, and an
Assistant Attorney General for 16 years,
died of a cerebral aneurysm on Thanks-
giving Day, Thursday, November 27,
2003, at the University of Mississippi
Medical Center. Alice's final earthly
arrangements will involve several events,
to which all of Alice's friends and family
are invited. On Monday, December 1, a
visitation will occur at Christ United
Methodist Church on Old Canton Road at
1 p.m. After the visitation there will be
the main Memorial Service for Alice at 2 p.m.
at Christ United Methodist Church the
same day. At 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Decem-
ber 2 we will have a Committal Service for
Alice's ashes at Chapel of the Cross, on
Highway 463 in Madison County.

Alice was born May 9, 1952, in Yazoo City,
Mississippi, the daughter of Harriet Causey
DeCell and Herman Brister DeCell. Alice
graduated from Yazoo City High School,
where she was drum major of the Sr. YHS
band, then completed her B.A. degree at
Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA. Alice
undertook graduate school studies at
University of Mississippi where she earned
a Master of Arts degree in English and was
also awarded her Juris Doctor degree from
the University of Mississippi Law School,
and was admitted to the Bar to practice law
in the State of Mississippi. Alice placed
high value on faith, family and work. She
taught the gifted classes in Tylectown, MS
and Kosciusko, MS. Alice practiced law as
an assistant Attorney General in the office
of the Attorney General of the State of
Mississippi, and was a member of the Miss-
issippi Bar Association. Alice was a gifted
researcher and writer, providing expert
legal advice to the Attorney General and
to City Attorneys throughout the State.
She was on the Law Review at the Univer-
sity of Mississippi Law School, and editor
of the school newspaper in Yazoo City that
won the 1970 Commercial Appeal Award
for Best High School Newspaper.

Alice married Robert Powell Wise of
Jackson on December 30, 1988. Three
children blessed Alice's life: Laura Mary
Young, Charles DeCell Young, and
Andrew Sherwood Wise. Family mem-
bers include her mother, Harriet Causey
DeCell Kuykendall, brother Herman Bris-
ter DeCell, Jr., sister Harriet Causey
DeCell Coffield, and numerous aunts,
uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins, all
of whom were cherished by Alice and
loved her deeply. Her father, Herman
Briser DeCell, preceded Alice in death.

Alice's family was the center of her life,
second only to her faith. Alice was an
intensely spiritual person, and an inspi-
ration to many family members and friends
through her belief in, and understanding of
the Grace of God as manifested in our
Lord Jesus Christ. Alice was an expert in
scriptural learning and teaching, attended
Christ United Methodist Church in Jack-
son, MS and was a life member of the
Daughters of the King.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests
that memorials be directed to St.
Andrews Episcopal Day School, 370 Old
Agency Road, Ridgeland, MS 39157, or
to Christ United Methodist Church, 5301
Old Canton Road, Jackson, MS 39211.
Receive Alice O'Lord, for she returns to
you. Wise



Wise

cult as possible.

"They have an expert who
believes he is retarded and we have
an expert who says he's not," said
Addison, who will argue for keep-
ing Atkins on death row at a trial
beginning March 29.

David Bruck with the Federal
Death Penalty Resource Counsel
Project in South Carolina said he
isn't surprised Atkins is having so
much trouble.

While the high court's ruling
protected the severely mentally
retarded, it provided little guid-
ance for the majority of inmates
like Atkins who are borderline cas-
es, Bruck said.

"Virtually every mentally retard-
ed person who has enough capaci-
ty to get in serious legal trouble is
going to be at the upper end of the
(IQ) scale," he said.

"It's going to be the cases in
which people's disability has been
overlooked all their lives. That's
part of the reason why they're in
this situation."

Atkins, 26, was sentenced to
death for shooting a Langley Air
Force Base enlisted man for beer
money in August 1996.

Atkins and William A. Jones
abducted Airman 1st Class Eric
Nesbitt, 21, outside a convenience
store and forced him to withdraw
money from a teller machine
before shooting him eight times.
Jones, who is serving a life prison
sentence, testified against Atkins.

In its June 19, 2002 ruling, the
Supreme Court left it to the states
to define mental retardation and
returned Atkins' case to the Vir-
ginia Supreme Court, which then

Samuel G. Wilson, ho
denied Walton's claim two
later. Virginia's definition
tal retardation requires
cantly subaverage inte-
functioning" at the onset
hood, and earlier IQ tests
show that.

"He may well be retard-
doesn't fall in line with th
decision," said Walton's
Nash Bilisoly.

Richard Bonnie, direc-
University of Virginia's In-
Law, Psychiatry and Pub-
said borderline cases
Atkins and Walton will
provide the guidance n
the court's decision.

"What is going to
emerge are standards
practice — the kinds
people will have to obtai
of tests they have to e
prove that someone i
retarded.

Meanwhile, Atkins
remain on death row
State Prison in Waverly

Walton's lawyers are
to keep him from the
ber, arguing now that h
incompetent to be exec
1986 Supreme Court r

Two experts have
they found him incor-
suffering from a degen-
tal disorder. A govern-
who examined Walto
him "floridly psychot

The case remains
because the two sid
agreed on the qual
mental health expert

Program in Va., Te offers racing for G

The Associated Press

BRISTOL, Tenn. — Education
officials in Virginia and Tennessee
are offering racing tickets to
encourage more adults in the
mountain border region to earn
high school equivalency diplomas.

Nearly 32 percent of the adult
population of the region does not
have a high school diploma.

A luxury suite overlooking Bris-
tol Motor Speedway was the loca-
tion of a recent "Race to GED"
announcement

Adults in the program who earn
their GED in 2004 will get a ticket
package that will enable them to
attend either Busch or Craftsman
Truck Series racing at the speedway
in the spring or fall or a NHRA Drag

Racing event at Bris

Jeff Byrd, gene-
the Bristol Motor
this week that the
provide tickets valu

Adult students i
and Norton and
Dickenson, Lee,
Grayson, Bland, B
Washington, and S
Virginia and S
Tennessee are elig

"We are espec
this partnership s
have firsthand ex
the speedway of
do to a person's
their marketabi
place," Byrd said

Columnist, University of Ar PR official William Hughes,

The Associated Press

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. —
William Hughes, a columnist and a
longtime public relations official for
the University of Arkansas at Fayette-
ville, died Wednesday. He was 85.

Hughes wrote a weekly column,
Hughes Views the News, for the
Post Newspaper Group based in
Oakland, Calif. He also wrote

Archibald Yel
Arkansas' seco
lished in 1988.

Hughes wa
director of info
86. Earlier he
Arkansas Gaz
Press Internat
Survivors in
daughters and

Clarice Hodges AB
Dec 1, 2003

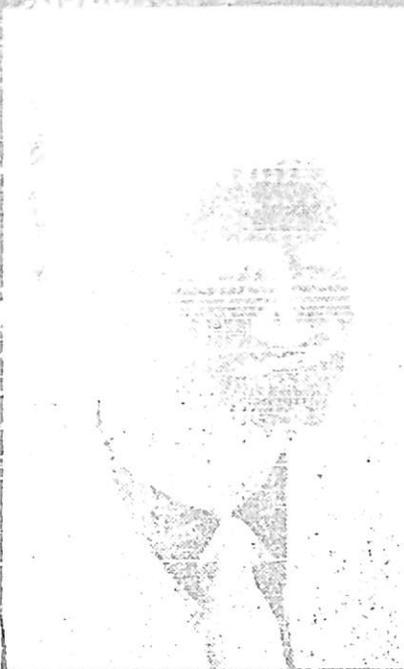
FAMU financial woes prompt invest



**VOTE for
RE-ELECTION
OF
SENATOR
HERMAN B. DeCELL!!**

*Yazoo Daily Herald
Aug 1 1979 P.A-9*

im!"



DR. PAUL M. STEVENS

Revival Services Begin Sunday at First Baptist

Fall revival services at the First Baptist church, Grand and Fourth get underway Sunday, Oct. 24. The series of evangelistic services will continue through Sunday, Oct. 31, with services daily at 7 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. The early morning services will be followed by hot chocolate and doughnuts served in the fellowship hall of the church. The pastor, the Rev. James P.

Mrs. DeCell Named President of Library Assn.

Mrs. Herman B. DeCell was named president of the Yazoo Library Association at the annual meeting Tuesday night. Mrs. DeCell succeeds Nick B. Roberts. Other officers elected were Mrs. Ethel Noah, secretary and Glenn Montgomery, treasurer. Three new members named to the board of control: Tommy Campbell III, Harry Griffith and Mrs. Nathan Swayze. Other members of the board include Dr. Stevens, the chairman; Mrs. DeCell, secretary, and Owen Cooper. Trustees of the association are Judge C. D. Williams, H. M. Love and Mr. Montgomery, who was named a trustee following the vacancy created by the death of Clifton Livingston. The Yazoo Library Association always welcomes new members' dues Mrs. B. Frank Williams said. Dues are \$5.00 a year.



Cub Scout Troop Is Aim of Benton Church

An invitation is being extended to all boys 8, 9 and 10 years old

MAJOR GIFTS HAS GOOD RECORD—Dale Harve to wear the silver crown as United Officers Queen, sponsor for the major gifts division which raised 32 per cent of its goal. That's her father, Oscar Harve, chairman, doing the crowning. Charles Jackson, who was not present for the ceremony.

Grassy Mall for Main

with about 20,000 sq. ft. of the city.



HARRIET DeCELL, DIRECTOR
YAZOO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION / B. S. RICKS MEMORIAL LIBRARY
310 North Main Street
YAZOO CITY, MISSISSIPPI 39194
601-746-5560

**SOUTH DELTA
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Cooperating counties :

Humphreys County

Humphreys County Library
105 South Hayden
Belzoni, MS 39038
Betty Lamkin, Librarian
601-247-3606

Isola Branch Library
Isola, MS 38754
Paulette Roberts, Librarian
601-962-3606

Sharkey-Issaquena Counties

Sharkey-Issaquena County
Library
300 East China Street
Mildred Ashley, Librarian
601-873-4076

Yazoo County

B. S. Ricks Memorial Library
310 North Main Street
Yazoo City, MS 39194
Susie Bull, Assistant Director
601-746-5557

Yazoo Herald July 1, 2007 p.

Kuykendall reappointed to Historical Records Board

By JASON PATTERSON
Managing Editor

Former Yazoo City resident Harriet Causey DeCell Kuykendall has been reappointed to the Mississippi Historical Records Advisory Board.

Gov. Haley Barbour announced the reappointment this week. The board maintains and administers government records, manuscripts, and archives.

"Harriet's background in historical preservation makes her a great selection for this

important board," Barbour said. "She has a passion for Mississippi's history, and I am excited that she will use this interest to help promote and preserve the state's past."

Kuykendall said serving this board is a labor of love.

"I'm delighted to serve on this board," she said.

As a history buff, Kuykendall has seen firsthand the importance of preserving historical records. She is the co-author of *Yazoo: Its Legends*

See Kuykendall, Page 8

what we

Kuykendall (from page 1): *Board helps local government protect historical records*

and Legacies, which earned awards from the Mississippi Historical Society and the National Association of State and Local History.

"While working on that book I was looking for pre-Civil War court records," she said. "They were fascinating to read, but I found that a lot of Yazoo County's early court records were just stacked on the floor. There was no real order to it."

One of the board's responsibilities is to help local agencies properly preserve records and set their own guidelines for record keeping.

Kuykendall is a former teacher at Yazoo City High School, where she taught from 1949 to 1979. She also served as Trustee of Ricks Memorial Library System and worked as director of the Yazoo, Sharkey, Issaquena, and Humphreys County Libraries.

In 1994, Kuykendall was interim director of the Jackson-Hinds Library System and is currently serving as its Trustee.

Kuykendall graduated from Rhodes College in 1948. She moved to Yazoo City and married the late Herman Brister DeCell, with whom she had three children.

Following DeCell's death in 1986, Kuykendall married John M. Kuykendall, Jr., and moved to Jackson.



Jason Nichols, Floyd Griffing,
, Harriet Kexell



*Photographs by
Sue Lott*

Harriet Secell



Harriet Deell