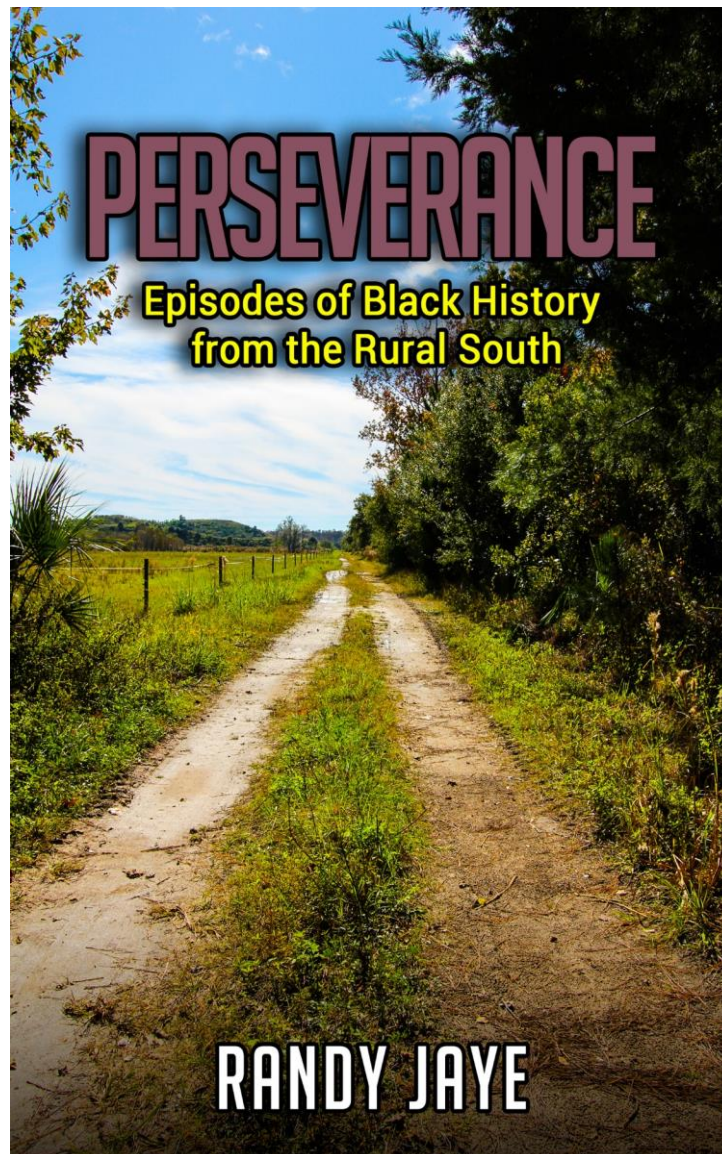


This article is an excerpt from chapter 13 - **White Southern Newspapers Prior to 1970** - in the book:

Perseverance: Episodes of Black History from the Rural South

by Randy Jaye



[The book is available for purchase on Amazon:](https://www.amazon.com/dp/1655315617)

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White Southern Newspapers Prior to 1970

Some Southern newspapers (white Southern press) played critical roles in their reporting of such events as racial violence, lynchings and racial injustice and terrorism during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. During this time, Southern newspapers were almost entirely owned and operated by whites, and Black Americans were either ignored or seldom mentioned, unless they committed a crime or died from a horrific or violent death.

In smaller rural and weekly Southern newspapers stories regarding black Americans were practically invisible as school honors, athletic accomplishments, graduations, scholarship awards, community activities and similar events were almost never reported or printed.

Occasionally, Southern newspapers did include a story about a black American if they felt that the story was worthy of mention. However, most Southern press segregated “black news” from “white news” in their newspapers.

The controlling white society accounted for most of the subscribers and advertisers, which obviously accounted for most of the income of Southern newspapers. The owners of these Southern newspapers were overly concerned with offending the white community’s biases towards race, and found it difficult to print anything that suggested Southern treatment of black Americans as wrong.

Before World War II, photographers, journalists and editors employed at Southern newspapers were instructed not to publish pictures of blacks or any minority, and were known to airbrush them out of crowd scenes. This practice is evident when looking through Southern newspapers of this era as it is rare to find a picture of any person of color in regular articles or advertisements.

Beginning in the late 1940s, with the Civil Rights Movement, newspaper reporting struggled with the changing landscape of social upheaval and their resistance to change towards black Americans. Southern press coverage of the Civil Rights Movement tended to concentrate on the crises and conflicts of events rather than the explanations of social change and its political and cultural progress.

During this time, some Southern journalists slowly began to stray away from their decades old journalistic policy of identifying blacks by race. Some even stopped printing previously used racial tag terms such as “Negro” and “colored” and changed to courtesy titles such as Mr., Mrs. or Miss in news articles.

One white Southern newspaper owner and editor, and Pulitzer Prize winner, Ira B. Harkey, Jr.,¹ of the *Pascagoula Chronicle* from Jackson County, Mississippi challenged the practices of race reporting by the Southern press starting in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Harkey believed that the press should treat blacks and whites equally in newspaper reporting. His newspaper dropped the practice of separating black news from white news, and began to report on more black community events and news stories.

In 1950, after eliminating the racial tag of “Negro” to identify blacks in the *Pascagoula Chronicle* newspaper, Harkey ran a story about a local father who was charged with beating his four-year-old stepson. This sorrowful crime story was picked up and reported on by the wire services, which prompted sympathetic phone calls and letters to the local police and the victim's home. When an Associated Press photographer published a picture of the boy, who was black, most of the public sympathy immediately stopped. Some readers were upset at Harkey and the *Pascagoula Chronicle* newspaper because they neglected to identify the victim of this crime as black. One reader told Harkey, “If you have to write about niggers...call 'em niggers right up at the top so I don't waste my time reading about 'em.”²

Harkey encouraged his Mississippi press associates to drop racial tags during the 1950s, but was mostly unsuccessful as most continued the practice well into the 1960s.

By the end of the 1960s, the Civil Rights Movement forced societal changes in race relations and Southern newspapers responded by dropping racial tags and black and white segregated news sections. More stories regarding black accomplishments, communities and events appeared in daily Southern newspapers and even in small rural Southern weekly newspapers as well.

In recent years, several Southern newspapers acknowledged their earlier wrongdoings and actually published apologies.

The “Black Press”

In addition to the white owned Southern newspapers, which dominated newspaper journalism, there was contrasting black-owned journalism published in a number of local, regional and national newspapers. This journalism and these newspapers are referred to as the “black press” and were written by blacks for black causes and communities.

Articles written in the “black press” prior and during the American Civil War featured stories about freedmen and their accomplishments in Northern states, and offered an open forum for blacks to discuss their issues. After the American Civil War, the “black press” concentrated on education, politics, economics and relocation opportunities to urban areas for newly freed blacks. Community stories related to everyday life such as marriages, births, deaths, sporting events, church news and local events shared the pages of “black press” newspapers along with the disheartening stories of racial violence, discrimination and the calls for racial justice and equality.

White mob violence sometimes targeted members of the “black press”, especially in the South.

In 1892, Ida B. Wells³ (*fig. 13.1*), the black female journalist and early civil rights leader, investigated several lynchings of blacks and concluded that they were not due to the victims' being guilty of rape or criminal activity. She blamed the lynchings on the threat to white supremacy because of the potential economic and political strength that blacks could gain since they were freed from slavery. Her articles were published in the *Memphis Free Speech and Headlight* (a "black press" newspaper). Her articles caused an uproar that incited a riot in Memphis in which a white mob burnt down her newspaper office. Fearing for her life, she fled to Chicago and never returned to Memphis.

During the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, mainstream media outlets began covering the events and hired many black journalists that were previously working within the "black press." As news from the black community became more mainstream the "black press" began losing readers and subscribers and has been in financial decline ever since.

Lynchings Reported by the White Southern Press

Many Southern newspapers during the late 19th and early 20th centuries were compliant to the enforcement of the color line in the South and racial violence and lynchings were treated with callous reporting.

Henry Grady,⁴ partial owner and editor of the *Atlanta Constitution* newspaper, allowed stories about racial violence and lynchings to be printed in his newspaper with a tone of encouragement. Examples of some of the headlines in the *Atlanta Constitution* related to lynchings were: "The Triple Trapeze: Three Negroes Hung to a Limb of a Tree", "Two Minutes to Pray Before a Rope Dislocated Their Vertebrae" and "Lynching Too Good For the Black Miscreant Who Assaulted Mrs. Bush: He Will Be Lynched."⁵ Grady was a white supremacist and is credited with coining the term "New South" (which is a slogan that called for the modernization of the South after the American Civil War by rejecting its Antebellum period attitudes towards a slavery-based plantation system, and it used the industrialized North as a model for the future).

The *Morning Herald* of Durham, North Carolina reported on July 8, 1920 that a mob lynched a black man named Ed Roach because he was accused of assaulting a 14-year old white girl. This newspaper wrote that the mob "performed its task quietly and in a well-organized manner." Three days later, the *Morning Herald* followed up on the story and reported that Ed Roach was not guilty of the charge.⁶

The 1920 Ocoee Massacre

On November 2, 1920 (Election Day) a black man named Mose Norman attempted to vote in the presidential election in Ocoee, Florida, but white officials said he failed to pay his poll tax⁷ and disallowed him from voting.

Norman was so upset at the injustice that he returned to the polling place with a shotgun in his car and several dozen friends and neighbors. Members of the Ku Klux Klan were watching over the polling place,

and when they discovered a shotgun in Norman's car, they pistol-whipped him and chased him and the others away.

That night a mob of whites, many of them Ku Klux Klan members, searched for Norman and found him at the house of another black man named July Perry. The mob began shooting at Perry's house and two white men from the mob were shot and killed in the melee. As Perry fled from the house into a nearby cane field the mob caught and shot him, then dragged him behind a car and lynched him from a tree in Orlando, FL.

Other whites from the mob torched the entire Ocoee black neighborhood called the "Northern Quarters." They burnt down 25 houses, two churches and a fraternal lodge. As black people fled the burning buildings snipers from the mob fired at them killing an undetermined number including a pregnant woman. It was also reported that the mob castrated one black man as well. All the black residents that were not killed fled to other towns, and Ocoee became a sundown town⁸ for the next several decades. The exiling of the blacks and reluctance for witnesses to tell their stories has contributed to the fact that an accurate number of blacks killed in the melee has never been established. However, estimates range from a few to more than 50.

An FBI team went to Ocoee to investigate the incident, but they could not find any witnesses willing to identify the mob members or leaders. No one was ever tried for the violence, destruction of property or the murders. A local grand jury reported that the people who lynched Perry and burned down the "Northern Quarters" which exiled all of its black citizens "admirably succeeded in the execution of their obligations as loyal American citizens."⁹

On November 3, 1920, the morning after this melee the *Orlando Morning Sentinel* published a news article with the headline, "Race trouble at Ocoee claims 2 white victims." This and other stories in local Southern newspapers described the Ocoee Massacre as "A Race Riot."

"The Groveland Four"

Four young black men named Charles Greenlee, Ernest Thomas, Walter Irvin and Samuel Shepherd were accused of raping a 17-year-old white woman named Norma Padgett and assaulting her husband on July 16, 1949 near the city of Groveland in Lake County, FL. They became known as "The Groveland Four."

Ernest Thomas fled and a sheriff's posse killed him on July 26, 1949. The other three men were arrested. While in the custody of the Lake County Sheriff's office, they were beaten and Greenlee and Shepherd were coerced into confessing to the rapes, but Irvin refused to confess.

An all-white jury convicted all three men of the crimes. Greenlee, only 16 at the time the crimes, was sentenced to life in prison, and Shepherd and Irvin were sentenced to death.

In 1951, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund led by Thurgood Marshall¹⁰ (*fig. 13.2*) was successful in getting the United States Supreme Court to order a retrial after hearing appeals by Shepherd and Irvin. The

court ruled that Shepherd and Irvin had not received a fair trial because of excessive adverse publicity and because there were no blacks on the jury. The convictions were overturned and a new trial in a lower court was ordered.

In November 1951, Sheriff Willis V. McCall¹¹ of Lake County, Florida, and a deputy transported Shepherd and Irvin from Raiford State Prison back to the county seat of Tavares, Florida, for the new trial. During the trip, Sheriff McCall shot Shepherd and Irvin while in custody as he alleged they tried to escape. Shepherd died and Irvin was seriously injured. During an FBI investigation, Irvin said that Sheriff McCall shot Shepherd and him unprovoked and in cold blood. Irvin also said that Deputy Yates shot him as well in an attempt to kill him.

During the second trial, Irvin was represented by Thurgood Marshall, special counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, but was convicted by another all-white jury and sentenced to death yet again.

In 1955, Florida Governor LeRoy Collins commuted Irvin's death sentence to life.

In 1962, Greenlee was paroled and moved to Nashville, Tennessee where he died in 2012.

In 1968, Irvin was paroled and died the following year in Lake County of natural causes.

In 2016, the City of Groveland and Lake County each apologized to survivors of the four men for the injustice against them and their families.

On April 18, 2017, the four men were posthumously exonerated by a resolution of the Florida House of Representatives.

The Orlando Sentinel Apologizes

In recent years, several Southern newspapers have apologized for their biased reporting and editorials, as they admitted to their contributions to racist Southern history. The *Orlando Sentinel* published an apology on January 10, 2019 with the headline "To the community and the families of the Groveland Four: We're sorry". A summary of this article follows:

"Two years ago, the Florida Legislature issued a "heartfelt apology" to the four black men wrongly accused of raping a Lake County woman in 1949. On Friday, the Florida Cabinet pardoned them.

Now it's our turn.

We're sorry for the *Orlando Sentinel's* role in this injustice. We're sorry that the newspaper at the time did between little and nothing to seek the truth. We're sorry that our coverage of the event and its aftermath lent credibility to the cover-up and the official, racist narrative.

We're sorry that reporters and editors failed in our duty to readers, to the community and to the Groveland Four and their families.

The newspaper, then called the *Orlando Morning Sentinel*, published many stories about the incident and the aftermath.

The story had many more ugly twists and turns marked by lies, cover-ups and injustice.

You wouldn't know it from reading the *Orlando Morning Sentinel* in the years immediately following the incident.

Instead, the paper inflamed the public several days later, publishing on the front page a cartoon that showed four empty electric chairs and labeled "The Lake County Tragedy" and "The Supreme Penalty." Above the cartoon, a title read, "No Compromise!" The cartoon ran just as a grand jury was convening. It quickly returned murder indictments against the men.

According to Gilbert King's Pulitzer Prize-winning book "Devil in the Grove," a *Morning Sentinel* editorial warned that attempts to use "legal technicalities" in defending the men "may bring suffering to many innocent Negroes."

After a federal grand jury was impaneled in 1950 to consider civil rights violations in the case, longtime Lake County reporter Ormund Powers responded with a lengthy article. Powers, who covered the incident from the start, wrote, "The case is closed, but angry and malicious words still come from a radical Northern Negro press and certain Negro writers."

Powers wrote fondly of McCall, one of the genuine villains in Central Florida's history. In a November 1951 column, Powers had this to say: "Knowing McCall as long as we have, and watching his face as he testified about the Shepherd-Irvin matter before the coroner's jury, we have no doubt he was telling the truth when he said the Negroes attacked him and he shot in self-defense."

Many more examples are in the archives, and the coverage had consequences. In a U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning the convictions of Shepherd and Irvin, the *Sentinel's* electric chairs cartoon was cited as one of the factors that should have led to a change of venue in the men's original trial.

The Groveland Four coverage then would not happen today. Reporters and editors at the *Sentinel* are expected to question official versions of events, not to blindly accept them.

However, that does not excuse us from taking responsibility for past coverage, even if it was nearly 70 years ago.

Gov. Ron DeSantis spoke eloquently about injustice at Friday's Cabinet meeting. He quoted former Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson, who called the case "one of the best examples of one of the worst menaces to American justice."

Then DeSantis and the Cabinet, in a moving moment, distinguished themselves by giving pardons to the Groveland Four.

Today, we ask the public's pardon for a period when our coverage fell short."

Example of a Rural South Newspaper: *The Flagler Tribune*

The *Flagler Tribune* of Bunnell, Florida is an excellent example of a small rural Southern newspaper. It was a weekly publication in business from 1917 to 1981. The scarce reporting of any black person or

black community event and the derogatory terms (racial tags) that were used in this rural Southern newspaper are textbook examples of how the white Southern press treated blacks prior to 1970.

Many rural Southern newspapers, including *The Flagler Tribune*, did not even report on events such as the *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision or the Civil Rights Act of 1964 until weeks, months or years afterwards when compliance issues began to challenge their local controlling white residents.

Derogatory Terms used in *The Flagler Tribune*

The *Flagler Tribune* commonly used racial slurs (tags) when they rarely reported a story that included a black American. This practice continued from 1917 to around the end of the 1960s.

Darkey Bootlegger

In an April 28, 1921 article “Comments of Contemporaries” the *Flagler Tribune* printed:

“Darkey bootlegger, with a 100-gallon still, had a regular route in Miami, and peddled the stuff every day from a wagon. How was he caught? That’s a mystery. Probably tried to sell a bottle to a cop in front of a church at 10 o’clock Sunday morning. – *Titusville Star-Advocate*.”

High Toned Coons

In a July 13, 1922 article titled, “Capture Car Thieves and Lodge ‘em in Jail” the *Flagler Tribune* reported:

“Sheriff E. W. Johnson and Deputy Gus Pellicer received word Tuesday morning that a car had been stolen at Daytona by a couple of high toned coons, and that they were heading in the direction of Bunnell.

They proceeded eastward along the brick highway to head the pair off, thinking it possible they would try Kings Highway and avoid Bunnell, but met the pair about the four-mile post and by cutting their car in front of the Ford they had swiped and by drawing their forty some odd soon had the saddle on the colored gents in limbo at the town hoosegow and wired the authorities of Daytona to come hither and take charge of their prey.

The Ford was nose down in the ditch when the Negroes left it and it looked for a time as if they were going to get away, being in line with the front of a residence, the officers were afraid to shoot, but the men were soon halted and filed back, wet to the skin. The car was easily rescued and bought into town.”

Negro Boy Accidently Killed

In a January 29, 1925 article titled, “Negro Boy Accidently Killed” the *Flagler Tribune* reported:

“Saturday afternoon, a colored boy about eight years old, living in the Bunnell Quarters, while playing with his father’s shot gun, accidently discharged the gun and instantly killed his younger brother. The entire discharge took effect in the head and blew off the whole top of his skull.

This is another instance of carelessness with firearms. They should at all times be kept out of reach of children, and in most cases, out of the hands of grown people.”

A Knife Cutting in the Negro Quarters

In a June 11, 1925 article titled, “Negro Woman Gets Severe Cut After Beating Young Boy” the *Flagler Tribune* reported:

“A knife cutting in the Negro Quarters last Monday resulted in the serious wounding of Ola Filer by Minnie Golden, both Negroes.

According to reports, two sons of the women, were fighting and the Filer woman gave both boys a whipping. Upon her return Minnie Golden asked her son what he was crying about and when told the cause, whipped out a knife, which it is reported, she had up her sleeve, and attacked the Filer woman.

The latter sustained a severe cut in the chest, from which she is still suffering, although her condition is said to be improved.

A search for the Golden woman was immediately made by Sheriff Perry Hall and deputies, but no trace of her could be found and yesterday the wounded woman stated that she would not prosecute the other.”

Negros Brought From Georgia for Stealing Car Tag

In an August 26, 1926 article titled, “Negros Brought From Georgia for Stealing Car Tag” the *Flagler Tribune* reported:

“Two Negroes, Rufus Wilkerson and Jesse Reed, being in possession of an old automobile, realizing that it is a violation of the law to drive without a license tag, and being refused one because of inability to produce title certificate, and very much desirous of going to Georgia, did not let a little thing like the absence of a license tag interfere with their trip, and accordingly, conceived the idea of appropriating one without having to pay for it. With this end in view, they lifted the tag from a car belonging to J. E. Wilson, of Haw Creek, it is charged, attached it to their own car, and proceeded merrily on their way to Georgia, and immediately after arriving in Glenville, GA, their plans were upset by the appearance of a Georgia officer, who had been instructed to arrest the pair for stealing the tag. Sheriff Hall was notified, and he went to the Georgia city and brought the prisoners back on the train, where they were registered at the Hotel de Hall, to face Judge W. Lee Bartlett, of the county court, who gave them a fine of \$25 and costs. “Nip” Reid, Negro, was also mixed up in the affair and also given the same fine and sentence.”

Negro is Killed at Asphalt Plant

In a March 27, 1947 article titled, “Negro is Killed at Asphalt Plant” the *Flagler Tribune* reported:

“Willie J. Green, Negro, workman at the asphalt plant operated by the contractor repairing U.S. One Highway, lost his life in the machinery Monday.

The man was removing an accumulation of rags in the return chute, it was stated, without the knowledge of any other person, and when the machinery was started up his body was dragged through the chute.

He was carried to the East Coast Hospital in St. Augustine but died shortly after arrival.”

First Black Person Pictured in *The Flagler Tribune*

The first black person to be pictured in the *Flagler Tribune* was Mack Robinson,¹² the older brother of baseball Hall of Famer Jackie Robinson. He was featured in a June 23, 1938 article titled, “Champ Broad Jumper - Oregon's Negro Star” (fig. 13.3). This was 21 years after the *Flagler Tribune* was established.

First Local Black Persons Pictured in *The Flagler Tribune*

The first local black persons to be pictured in the *Flagler Tribune* were Pauline Phillips and Juanita Williams of the Carver High School girls’ basketball team. They were posing with the 1954 Florida Class B State Basketball runner up trophy in a March 11, 1954 article titled, “Carver High Runner-up Trophy” (fig. 13.4). This was 37 years after the *Flagler Tribune* was established.

Southern Newspapers Stop Racial Tag Policies

Although there is still a taint of racist reporting in Southern newspapers almost all stories since the 1970s have no racial tags, or white and black segregated sections. Black community reporting has increased, and weddings, graduations and awards earned by black Americans are commonly reported in all Southern newspapers.

It took U.S. Supreme Court decisions and the Civil Rights Movement to bring about major changes in order to squelch racism in Southern journalism.

Since 1970, Southern states such as Florida have had a significant increase in population from people relocating from Northern states, so this factor has also helped in reducing segregationist ideology in Southern journalism.

Figures

13 – White Southern Newspapers Prior to 1970



Fig. 13.1. Ida B. Wells - Black Heritage – USPS 25-cent Postage Stamp (released in 1990).
Source: Author's Collection.



Fig. 13.2. Thurgood Marshall – Black Heritage – USPS 37-cent Postage Stamp (released in 2003).
Source: Author's Collection.



Fig. 13.3. Champ Broad Jumper – Mack Robinson from the University of Oregon wins the Pacific Coast Conference's broad jump event in 1938. This photograph appeared in the *Flagler Tribune* on June 23, 1938.

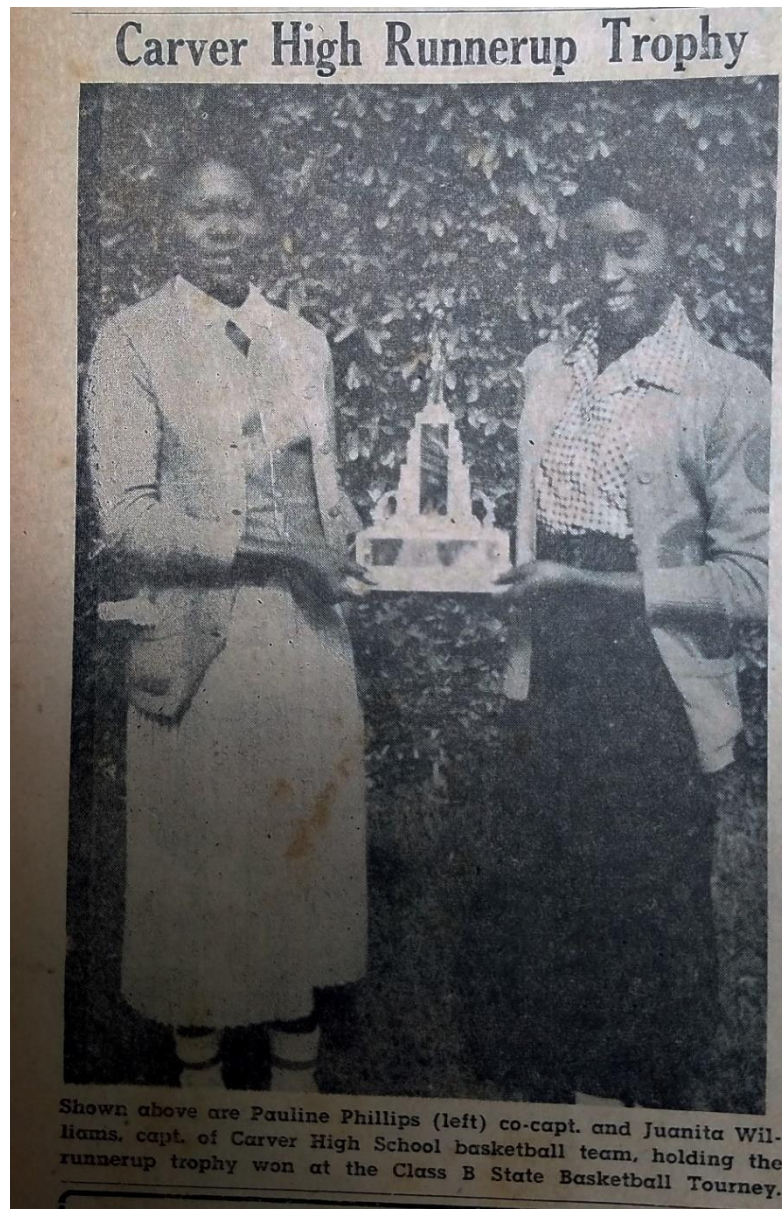


Fig. 13.4. Pauline Phillips and Juanita Williams of the Carver High School basketball team pose with the 1954 Florida Class B State Basketball Runner up Trophy. This photograph appeared in the *Flagler Tribune* on March 11, 1954.

Notes

13 – White Southern Newspapers Prior to 1970

¹ **Ira B. Harkey Jr.** (1918-2006) was a graduate of Tulane University, World War II veteran, author, publisher, editor and professor of journalism. In 1945, he began a journalism career at the New Orleans *Time-Picayune* newspaper. In 1949, he purchased the *Chronicle-Star* newspaper of Jackson County, Mississippi and immediately stopped the way the paper used derogatory terms when referring to blacks. He only used race when it was important to a news story such as a fugitive's physical description. This change to local news reporting was controversial and caused an uproar among many in the white community. In 1963, Harkey was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Writing for his anti-segregation editorials during the civil rights crisis surrounding the 1962 admission of James Meredith, a black man, to the University of Mississippi. While Harkey owned the *Chronicle-Star* a burning cross was placed on the lawn of his home, and a shot was fired at the newspaper's office building. He titled his autobiography, The Smell of Burning Crosses: An Autobiography of a Mississippi Newspaperman, after the incident of the burning cross at his home.

² Ira B. Harkey, Jr. *The Smell of Burning Crosses: An Autobiography of a Mississippi Newspaperman*. Jacksonville, Ill.: Harris-Wolfe & Company, 1967, pp. 54-55, 60-61, 65.

³ **Ida B. Wells** (1862-1931) was born into slavery in Holly Springs, Mississippi. She became an investigative journalist, educator and one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). She used her skills as a writer to combat racial discrimination and violence against blacks, and to promote racial equality and women's rights. In 1895, she married attorney Ferdinand L. Barnett, founder of *The Chicago Conservator*, the first black newspaper in Chicago. During her lifetime, she was one of the most influential and famous black women in the United States.

⁴ **Henry Woodfin Grady** (1850-1889) was an American journalist and orator. He encouraged Northern investments into the South during the Reconstruction era, and preached white supremacy as he stated that it was necessary for whites to remain in social control over the newly freed blacks. During his leadership of the *Atlanta Constitution* newspaper (1879-89), it became the largest circulation in the South. Many places are named in his honor including Grady County in Georgia and Oklahoma, the Grady Memorial Hospital and the Henry W. Grady High School in Atlanta, GA, and the Henry W. Grady College of Journalism and Communications at the University of Georgia. The Liberty ship *SS Henry W. Grady* was built during World War II in Brunswick, GA.

⁵ **Pinsky**, Mark I. Maligned in black and white: Southern newspapers played a major role in racial violence. Do they owe their communities an apology? Poynter Institute. 2019. <https://www.poynter.org/maligned-in-black-white/> Accessed September 30, 2019.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ **Poll Tax** is a tax that was levied as a fixed sum on every liable individual by state laws. Payment of a poll tax was a prerequisite to the registration for voting in the states that enforced these taxes. After the American Civil War, these taxes emerged as part of Jim Crow laws, and restricted voting rights to blacks, poor whites and other minorities. These laws often included a grandfather clause, which allowed any adult male whose father or grandfather had voted in a specific year prior to the abolition of slavery to vote without paying the tax. Poll taxes, unfairly implemented literacy tests and legal intimidation achieved the desired effect of disenfranchising blacks, Native Americans and poor whites especially in the South. In 1966, federal courts declared poll taxes unconstitutional.

⁸ **Sundown Town** (also known as **sunset towns** or **gray towns**) were all-white municipalities or neighborhoods that practiced racial segregation (exclusion of non-whites during nighttime hours) by intimidation, enforcement of discriminatory local laws and perpetrating violence. Many sundown towns erected signs that stated that "colored people" could only enter the town after sunset and they had to leave the town before sundown. In municipalities or neighborhoods where signs were not posted the word-of-mouth communication was just as effective as non-whites knew they could be arrested, intimidated, physically attacked and driven out of the town by force if they were seen during nighttime hours.

⁹ Maraniss, Andrew, Legacy of bloody election day lingers in Florida town. *The Undeclared*. November 4, 2016. <https://theundefeated.com/features/legacy-of-bloody-election-day-lingers-in-ocooee-florida/> Accessed November 14, 2019.

¹⁰ **Thurgood Marshall** (July 2, 1908 – January 24, 1993) was a 1933 graduate of Howard University Law School. He was the founder and executive director of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund and argued several important cases before the U.S. Supreme Court including *Brown v. Board of Education*, *Shelley v. Kraemer* and *Smith v. Allwright*. From October 1967 until October 1991, Marshall served as the first black justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

¹¹ **Willis Virgil McCall** (July 21, 1909 – April 28, 1994) was elected sheriff of Lake County, Florida for seven consecutive terms from 1944 to 1972. In 1949, during the Groveland Four case he infamously gained national attention. In 1951, he shot two defendants in the case while transporting them from a state prison back to Lake County for a new trial, killing one on the spot. Claiming self-defense, he was not indicted for this action. He was a white supremacist and enforced miscegenation laws (a term given to the mixing of different racial groups through marriage, cohabitation, sexual relations, or procreation, particularly mixing that is perceived to negatively impact the purity of a particular race or culture). In 1972, he lost his bid for an eighth term as sheriff of Lake County after being acquitted for the murder of a mentally disabled black prisoner, named Tommy J. Vickers, who died while in his custody. In 2007, the Lake County Commission said McCall was a "bully lawman whose notorious tenure was marked by charges of racial intolerance, brutality and murder." They then voted unanimously to change a road that was named in his honor 20 years before. During his 28-year tenure as the Sheriff of Lake County, McCall was investigated multiple times for civil rights violations and inmate abuse, and tried for murder, but was never jailed or convicted. McCall was such the example of a corrupt rural South sheriff that the *Orlando Sentinel* newspaper described him as the "caricature of a white racist Southern sheriff."

¹² **Matthew MacKenzie "Mack" Robinson** (1914-2000) was an American track and field athlete who won the silver medal in the 1936 Olympics in the 200 meter run finishing 0.4 seconds behind Jesse Owens. He is a distinguished graduate of the University of Oregon and is a member of the University of Oregon Hall of Fame and the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame. He was the older brother of Baseball Hall of Famer Jackie Robinson.

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