

## A Tribute to Rufus A. Lewis Held at Rufus Lewis Library

A tribute to Rufus A. Lewis was held at the Rufus Lewis Public Library, 3095 Mobile Hwy. Library Director Julia Rutledge presented token of appreciation to speaker, Dr. Gwen Patton, archivist at Trenholm Technical College.

On hand for the Lewis Tribute were Johnnie Anderson, Ella Mathews, Juanita Owens, Vivian White, Stanley and Sarah Griffin, Larry Armstead, Avis Lewis, Bessie Brown, Charles Davis, Jr., Herman Harris, Terry Yarborough, Frances Ward, Luc-

ille Times, George Willis, K.T. Brown, W.J. Adair, Jerome Gray, Dot Moore, Shirley Bridges, Patrice Glenn, Karen Dawkins and Eleanor Lewis Dawkins, Paul Blackmon and Zenobia Blackmon.



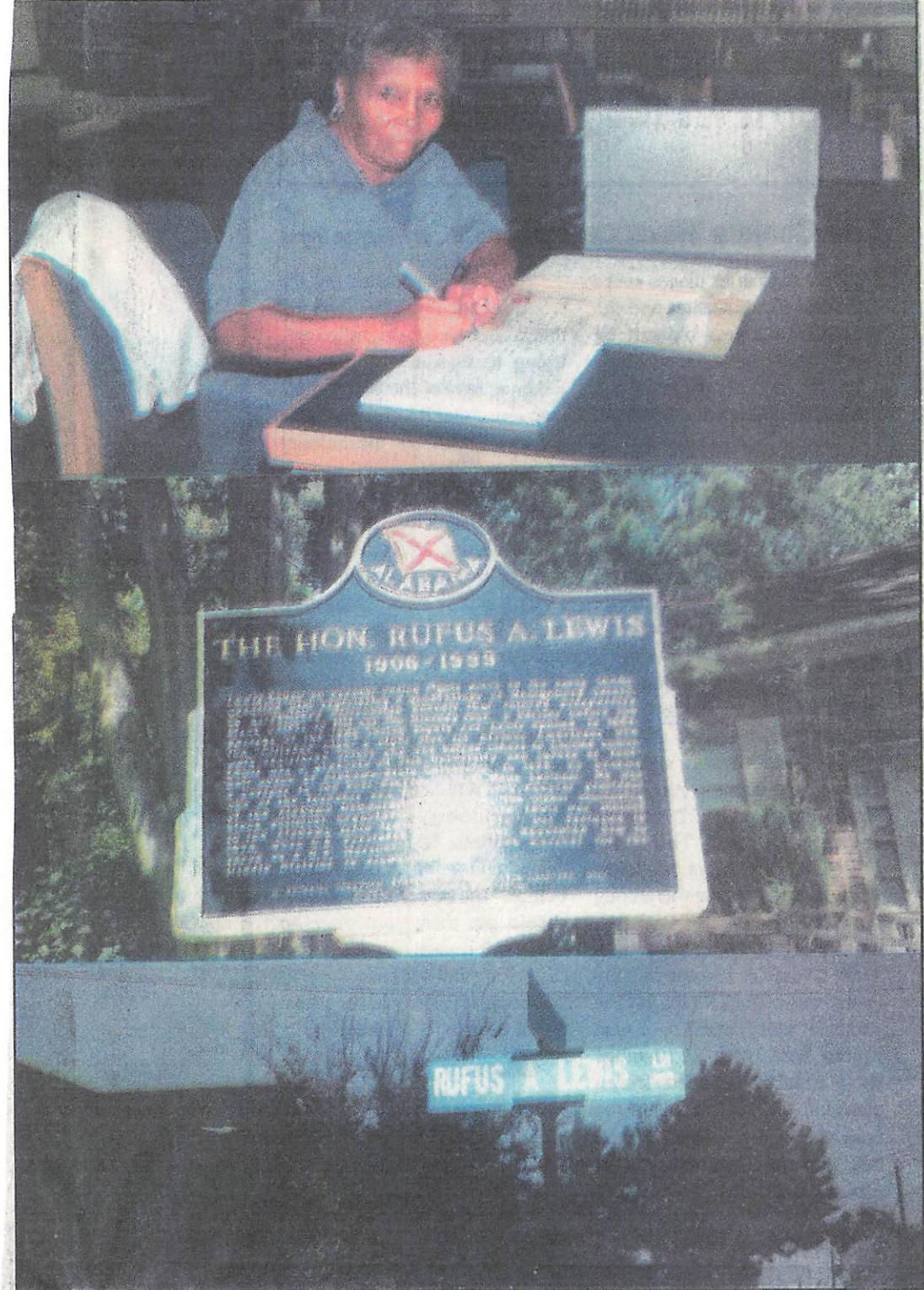
Julia Rutledge presents Dr. Gwen Patton with a token appreciation

# Montgomery-Tuskegee Times

## THE HISTORIC

KEEPING THE BLACK COMMUNITY INFORMED OF ISSUES AFFECTING ITS SURVIVAL

OCTOBER 18-24, 2001



First row, Ms. Lillian Bradford; second row, Historical Marker Honoring Rufus A. Lewis and third row, Street names honoring Rufus A. Lewis. Photos by Dr. Gwen Patton

## Trenholm Tech Archives News Briefs

Mrs. Lillian Bradford, who has donated her original "poll tax receipts" to the Archives, stopped by to peruse the Rufus A. Lewis Collection.

On September 20, 2001, the Archives hosted an auspicious ceremony, "Unveiling the

soldiers who worked with Coach Lewis, and family attended the ceremony. Bolivar Street was changed to "Rufus A. Lewis Lane," thanks to the support of Lewis family's neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. John Patrick, and Councilman Tracy Larkin.

Ilor of Postsecondary Education, St. Sen. Charles Langford, St. Rep. Thad McClammy, State and County School Board Members Ella Bell and Herman Harris, City Councilman James Nuckles, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor Larry Armstead and ADC

# The Montgomery-Tuskegee Times

VOLUME 20 NO. 10

KEEPING THE BLACK COMMUNITY INFORMED OF ISSUES AFFECTING ITS SURVIVAL

JAN 30-FEB 5, 1997

## Trenholm State Technical College (TSTC) Hosts 90th Birthday Party for the Honorable Rufus Lewis



From left to right: Daughter Eleanor Dawkins, Honorable Rufus Lewis and Granddaughter Karen Dawkins. Standing Left to right are: Dr. Leroy Bell, (TSTC Interim President) and V.P. Peggy Tatum of Trenholm State Technical College. Photos By Diane Ward. See other photo page 10.

Family, friends and colleagues were on hand to wish Hon. Lewis "Happy Birthday."

Affectionately called "Coach," Rufus Lewis was born November 30.

1906, in Montgomery County. Coach Lewis began an earnest, consistent and persistent voting rights drive in the early 1940s.

A graduate of Fisk University, and

Alabama State College football coach and partner in Ross-Clayton Funeral Home, he opened the Citizens Club (a night club for Blacks) in 1952. The primary purpose of the night club was

to motivate Black citizens in a social setting to register to vote. The club was also a "citizenship school" where patrons learned how to fill out the literacy test, the prerequisite for be-

coming registered voter.

In 1960, Mr. Lewis was one of the founders and the first county president of the Alabama Democratic conference, the Black caucus of the State Democratic Party. In 1976, President Jimmy Carter appointed Mr. Lewis as a United States Marshal, the first Black marshal ever in Alabama.

"This is the first in our archival collection to be preserved for public access," said TSTC archivist Gwen Patton. "It is a joy processing the Lewis papers because much is already categorized. Coach Lewis drew up his library science skills in maintaining a prodigious voting rights record of struggle."

Dr. Leroy Bell, TSTC interim president, said, "We are delighted that Hon. Lewis has entrusted his invaluable papers within our College. They will be housed in our state-of-the-art Library/Learning-Resource Tower. His collection, to be shared SEE LEWIS PAGE 11

# Trenholm State Technical College (TSTC) Hosts 90th Birthday Party for the Honorable Rufus Lewis



From left to right are: Library Staff, Dr. Nina Beauchamp and Ms. Yvonne Williams, sitting with Hon. Lewis, Dr. Gwen Patton. Photo by Diane Ward

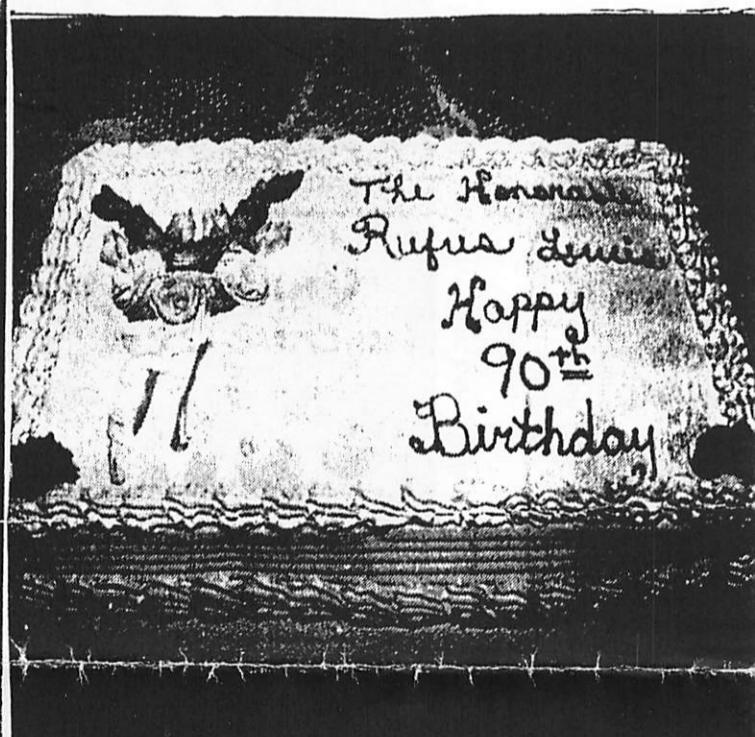


Enjoying Honorable Lewis' birthday celebration from left to right back row, Vice President, Peggy Tatum, Ms. Yvonne Williams, Dr. Gwen Patton and Dr. Nina Beauchamp. Sitting with Hon. Lewis, Dr. Leroy Bell, (TSTC Interim President)-Photo by Diane Ward

## LEWIS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1  
with students, scholars and the general public, is considered one of our most precious resources."

On hand to celebrate with Coach Lewis were family members Mr. and Mrs. James Hall, The Hon. and Mrs. Joseph Dickerson, LaRue Pringle, Maxine Kimbrough, elected officials, Hons. Charles Conley, Herman (Barbara) Harris, John Knight, Mark Gilmore, Leu Hammonds, Sidney Williams James Brown; community activists Idessa Redden, Zecozie Williams, Johnnie Carr, Dot Moore, Ella Bell, Diane Ward, Jerome Gray, Darryl Sinkfield, Richard Bailey, Michael King; and Joseph Knight, Peurel Johnson, Lulander King, Ross-Clayton Funeral Home staff, Janice Franklin, Juanita Owes, Mary Wilhite and Edwin Bridges with the State Aches.



FRIDAY

Sept. 21, 2001

Montgomery

Edition

50 cents

# Alabama

## MARKING HISTORY



Karen S. Doerr Staff

Eleanor Lewis Dawkins, daughter of Rufus A. Lewis, unveils a new historical marker in his honor Thursday at 801 Bolivar St., which has been renamed Rufus A. Lewis Place.

## Monument honors activist

By Jannell McGrew  
Montgomery Advertiser

Everybody called him "Coach," and he was known the state over for ensuring blacks registered to vote at a time when they were denied the right.

Rufus A. "Coach" Lewis received a recognition Thursday that many who honored the late civil rights pioneer believe was long overdue. About 50 people applauded as his daughter, Eleanor Lewis Dawkins, unveiled a marker in honor of her father.

Gwendolyn Patton, archivist at H. Councill Trenholm State Technical College, and others have led the effort in getting the marker, which stands in front of Lewis' home. The college's archives holds a collection of more than 20,000 documents provided by Lewis. He died in 1999.

"He saved everything because he knew we were going to continue his dream and his work," Patton said. She called Lewis "the father of Montgomery's and central Alabama's voting rights movement."

Dawkins said although her father did not brag about his work and is not

as well-known as other civil rights icons, "he worked very, very hard to make sure that we had rights."

"Having this historic monument erected ... is truly, truly an honor," she said.

Lewis began his voting rights drive in the early 1940s and is credited with registering

more than four generations of voters, Patton said. He later established "citizenship schools," which tutored potential black voters. Students learned how to fill out literacy tests, which were often designed to keep blacks from voting.

Various community and political leaders attended the outdoor ceremony.

Rep. Thad McClammy, D-Montgomery, said one of the first role models he sought as a young man was Lewis.

"He was a person who didn't do a lot of bragging and boasting about what he did," McClammy said. "But he was a person who was

### RUFUS A. LEWIS

Civil rights pioneer Rufus A. Lewis (1906-1999) was born in Montgomery County. Lewis was a graduate of Fisk University and served as football coach at Alabama State University. Lewis was a partner with the Ross-Clayton Funeral Home. He was one of the founders and the first Montgomery County Chapter president for the Alabama Democratic Conference, the oldest black political organization in the state. Lewis was elected to the Alabama Legislature in 1974 but resigned in 1976 when U.S. President Jimmy Carter appointed him to serve as a U.S. Marshal, the first black marshal for the Middle District in Alabama.

Lewis' home has also been named after Lewis. The house contains many original items, including Lewis' old office space. Lewis also served as football coach at Alabama State University.

Larry Armstead, administrative assistant to Mayor Bobby Bright, paid tribute to Lewis on a personal note.

"I am here as a proud black man thanking Mr. Lewis for what he has contributed," he said. "He was a positive thinking individual who saw darkness and tried to shed light."

Sen. Charles Langford, D-Montgomery, said he will never forget the coach's ability to get blacks in the military registered. Lewis would know before anyone else when black troops were coming home, he said.

"He contacted everybody who had returned to get them to register to vote," said Langford. "He has had a great influence on my life."

**Jannell McGrew**, who covers religion and race relations for the Montgomery Advertiser, can be reached at 240-0121 or by fax at 261-1521 or by e-mail at [jmcgrew@montgomeryadvertiser.com](mailto:jmcgrew@montgomeryadvertiser.com).



Lewis

respected throughout this community, throughout this state and throughout this nation."

Jerome Gray, state field coordinator for the Alabama Democratic Conference, said he owes his success and career to Lewis.

"You can't go anywhere in this state ... where old-timers don't know and respect Mr. Lewis and his work," he said.

The street just outside

-OVER-

Montgomery Advertiser

# Lifestyle

**G**

**Sunday**  
*April 18, 1999*

Elizabeth Via Brown **4G**  
Weddings **5-6G**  
Coffee Break **7G**

## **Civil rights activist honored at luncheon**

Maverick Roberts, Tamela Zeigler, Deloris Gamble, Jerome Gray and Gwen Patton were among the people attending when members of the Young Democrats had lunch recently with Rufus Lewis. Now 92 years old, Lewis was one of the co-founders of the Alabama Democratic Conference and was instrumental in the affirmation of the Voting Rights Act in 1965.

In thanking him for his involvement, the Young Democrats promised to carry on his legacy.

## Today's Voting Rights Activists Lunch With The Father of the Voting Rights Movement

When the Young Democrats, affiliated with the Alabama Democratic Conference, lunched with the Honorable Rufus A. Lewis, an historical promise was codified: "We will continue the Lewis' legacy by registering everybody we see and getting them to the polls to vote," said Maverick Roberts.

An organizational genius, Lewis with the support of others who had confidence in his leadership skills, made it possible for a generation (1945-65) of Black Montgomerians become registered voters. He was one of the co-founders of the Alabama Democratic Conference (ADC) in

1960, and was instrumental in promulgating the 1965 Voting Rights Act. In 1976, President Jimmy Carter appointed him to serve as the first-ever Black Alabamian to serve as a U.S. Marshal.

The Young Democrats can be considered the great-great-grandchildren of Lewis in the Voting Rights Movement. Lewis, now 92 years old, spent more than 70 years of his life, fighting for 1st -class citizenship for all Alabamians and Americans.

"It was because of Lewis' undaunted motivation and encouragement that my grandparents became registered

and opened up their home as a 'citizenship school' in 1950," said TSTC Archivist Gwen Patton. "It is so fitting that these Young Democrats make this promise to Coach Lewis to continue his legacy."

"It's important for people to vote, especially young people," said Coach Lewis. "Their vote enmasse can have influence that will effect necessary changes in our country."

You can study the Hon. Rufus A. Lewis Special Collection at the archives in the H. Council Trenholm State Technical College Learning Resource Center, located on the Historical Voting Rights Trail.



Seated l-r Dr. Gwen Patton, Coach Lewis, Maverick Roberts, ADC State Coordinator Jerom Gray. Standing l-R: Ms. Deloris Gamble and Ms. Tamela Zeigler. Photo: TSTC Archives

KEEPING THE BLACK COMMUNITY INFORMED OF ISSUES AFFECTING ITS SURVIVAL

APRIL 15-21, 1999

# Montgomery-Tuskegee Times

# Montgomery Advertiser

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Executive editor Managing editor

Kenneth M. Hare  
Editorial page editor

A GANNETT NEWSPAPER  
Incorporating the Alabama Journal, 1993

## Lewis collection open for study

Thank you for your wonderful coverage of the late Rufus A. Lewis. More importantly, thank you for the many articles, including a front-page story you published about him while he was still with us. When we

would show him the articles with his picture, he would smile and state his appreciation that people still remember his service to make democracy work for all of us.

We invite the public to vis-

it the archives at H. Councill Trenholm State Technical College. The Lewis Collection has more than 10,000 documents and small artifacts. It is my hope that a graduate student will write a dissertation about this remarkable

man, who almost single-handedly encouraged and assisted an entire African-American generation to register to vote.

**Gwendolyn M. Patton**  
Archivist  
Trenholm State  
Technical College  
Montgomery

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# The Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Women Who Started It

*The Memoir of  
Jo Ann Gibson Robinson*

Edited, with a Foreword,  
by David J. Garrow

The University of Tennessee Press

sure out of helping people, especially those who could not help themselves.

Mr. Rufus Lewis, president of the Citizens' Steering Committee, fought in an entirely different way. His organization saw to it that people registered to vote as soon as their age level permitted.

Mr. Lewis was a businessman with experience in many fields of endeavor. There was nothing in the business world that he was not familiar with, and he always answered questions of those persons who were trying to get ahead in the world. He created his own jobs, for he had a number of business projects. He, his lovely wife Jewell, and their children were well known, well educated, and highly respected in Montgomery. The Lewises were believed to be quite wealthy, but they never flaunted their wealth. Many times Mr. Lewis drove an old rusty automobile that looked like it might collapse any time, but everybody knew that he had better cars.

Mr. Lewis' greatest joy was getting people registered to vote. For years he had worked faithfully with his race, encouraging every person twenty-one years old and older to become registered voters. His philosophy on voting was often expressed as: "A voteless people is a hopeless people." He often said that if enough black voters had been registered, the present city administrators, who were strong segregationists, would never have been elected. Any man who did not have a voter registration card Mr. Lewis considered not worthy of his time. For a man was not a man, he felt, until he became a registered voter. "Your power is at the ballot-box," Mr. Lewis used to tell young people, and some of them listened while others smiled and kept on their way.

He had a paid group of helpers, whose responsibility was getting eligible people registered. Working with him was Miss Idessa Williams, one of his faithful employees. Through the efforts of Mr. Lewis and Miss Williams, many young people became registered voters when they reached the legal age, and they encouraged others to do the same. She organized youth groups to make door-to-door, block-by-block investigations. Among the young people working in these groups were Mrs. Ethel Alexander, Ms. Viola Bradford, Mrs. Hattie Carter, Mrs. Gloria Jean German, Ms. Delores Glover,

Mr. Leon Hall (later of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference), Mrs. Bertha Howard and family, Ms. Yvonne Jenkins, Ms. Gwendolyn Patton, Ms. Bertha Smith, and Ms. Barbara Williams.

Mr. Lewis provided a Voter Registration Service booth near the college, conveniently located for student service. Those students who did not register had no excuse. His voter-education program was well known. Anywhere he met or came in contact with an unregistered adult, the verbal teaching began. Many voters said that they registered to "get Mr. Lewis off their backs."

He was persistent and never gave up. His work in the voting arena was in progress when I went to Alabama State College in 1949, and it was just as forceful, if not more so, when I left in 1960, eleven years later. Even when the bus boycott proved effective and black people were finally working together as one operative group, Mr. Lewis was not satisfied. He was impatient; black peers were too slow in getting themselves registered as voters. Some of them had children over twenty years old, but they were not registered yet, nor were their children. He could not understand what these unregistered "grown-ups" were waiting for. He and his group had registered many, but not enough, and even after integration of the buses, he continued to push his voter registration team to work harder to get all walking people to register and become eligible to vote. These efforts slowly began to become effective, for the black registered voters grew in numbers, and the power of more black voters began to take effect. Slowly, Mr. Lewis' dream began to be realized.

Since the Progressive Democratic Association and the Citizens' Steering Committee had failed to make contact with the bus company officials, the WPC leaders decided to seek an audience with the bus company. At the same time, Dr. Martin Luther King and a few other ministers of local churches had obtained a conference with city hall officials. I called Dr. King, and he invited three of us from the WPC to attend the conference.

We presented written and signed reports to the City Commission, pointing out drivers, bus numbers, hours, and routes when certain incidents occurred. Mrs. Thelma Glass and, if memory serves, Mrs. Jewell Lewis accompanied me. Both ladies were sharp, asked a



*Rufus Lewis Home*

tended the meeting to form a permanent organization to run the boycott. Lewis nominated Martin Luther King Jr. to head the organization, both because he wanted to get rid of the man who presided at the December 2 boycott meeting, L. Roy Bennett, and also perhaps because he wanted to make sure that Nixon was not chosen to lead the movement. King became Lewis's nominee simply because of the accidental fact that King was the pastor of Lewis's church.

Lewis was then chosen to organize the carpool operation on which blacks would depend to replace the buses. Lewis's efforts in finding drivers, coordinating pickup and delivery schedules, arranging for gasoline and repairs, and many thousands of other details, were essential to the long-term success of the boycott. Without the efficient carpool to get the mass of black participants to and from work, the boycott would likely have soon begun to weaken. It was the ability of blacks to create and administer the carpool operation that most confounded the expectations of their white segregationist opponents. Lewis continued to direct the carpool until May of 1956, when he was succeeded by the Rev. B. J. Simms.

In later years, Lewis went on to even further service to the black community. He was both Montgomery and state president of the Alabama Democratic Conference, the voice of black Democrats in the period. He represented Montgomery County in the Alabama House of Representatives. And he was appointed by President Jimmy Carter as Alabama's first black U.S. marshal.

Turn left onto Deracote and proceed to Grove Street. Turn left and drive one block to South Jackson. There take a right to Alabama State University.

tioned the white candidates for election to the Montgomery City Commission about their positions on issues of concern to blacks. The anger which many white voters felt about this meeting, which they considered presumptuous, was a principal factor in leading to the election of an extreme segregationist as police commissioner; and his election was one of the chief elements that convinced black leaders the following December to agree to launch the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Go one block and turn left on Bolivar Street. Bolivar dead-ends into Deracote, and the next site is at this corner.

## 9. 801 Bolivar Street

This is the home of Rufus A. Lewis (1907 – ). Lewis came to Montgomery in 1935 to become the coach of the Alabama State University football team, and served as the coach and the assistant librarian of the University from 1935 to 1945. In 1940 he married Jewel Clayton, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William M. Clayton, well-to-do owners of the Ross-Clayton Funeral Home. Mr. and Mrs. Clayton moved into this house in 1940, and after Mr. Clayton's death, the Lewises, in 1945, moved into the house also, to care for Mrs. Clayton. When Mrs. Clayton died in 1947, the Lewises inherited the house, and Lewis has lived here ever since. In addition to inheriting the Claytons' home, Lewis also inherited their interest in the mortuary, and he soon became one of black Montgomery's most prominent businessmen.

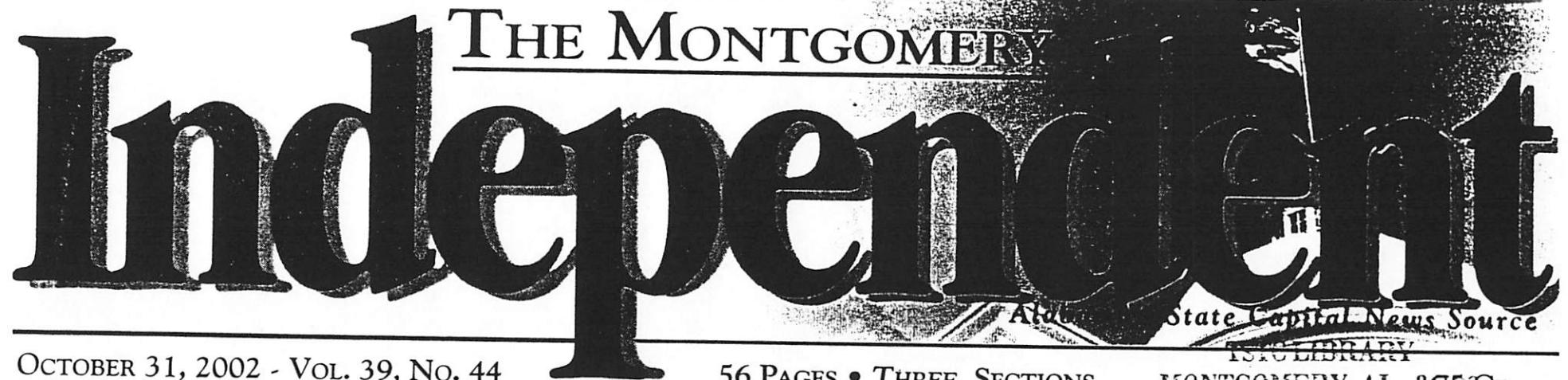
Shortly after the end of World War II, Montgomery's public schools, in cooperation with the U.S. Veterans Administration, established a program to permit returning veterans to obtain training in job skills. In 1949 Lewis was hired to administer the part of the program for blacks. The outbreak of the Korean War in 1950 and the racial integration of the armed forces at the same time, soon created a substantial pool of black veterans who wished to take advantage of this training. Without abandoning his ownership of the funeral home, Lewis directed the veterans' education effort from 1949 through 1954. He incorporated into the program a strong emphasis on black pride and community participation. He organized the Citizens' Steering Committee to help the black veterans become registered voters, and he encouraged their sense, derived in part from their experiences in the newly integrated armed services, that they were entitled to full citizenship in Montgomery. When, in February 1951, a teenaged black babysitter accused a white grocer of having raped her as he was driving her home after she had sat with his children, Lewis and his veterans organized demonstrations against the man's business which compelled the grocery to close and which forced white authorities to bring the man to trial. Though an all-white jury took only five minutes to acquit him, the mere fact that a white man had been indicted and tried for the rape of a Negro was itself a triumph in 1951.

These activities gained for Lewis a reputation as one of Montgomery's most vigorous civil rights leaders. He was generally regarded as the principal spokesman within the leadership for the middle-class elements associated with Alabama State University, as opposed to the leaders, particularly E. D. Nixon, who were associated with the poorer blacks of west Montgomery. Though the two black communities were often rivals, they were, however, united in their hostility to racial segregation. On the afternoon of the first day of the bus boycott, both Lewis and Nixon at-



Rufus Lewis

# THE MONTGOMERY Independent



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OCTOBER 31, 2002 - VOL. 39, NO. 44

56 PAGES • THREE SECTIONS

## *Public is invited to view exhibit* **Artifacts from Rufus A. Lewis Collection on loan to Trenholm**

Trenholm State Technical College Archives has on loan to the Rufus A. Lewis Regional Library an exhibit of artifacts from the Rufus A. Lewis Collection.

Lewis (1906-1999), the father of Montgomery and Central Alabama's Voting Rights Movement, began an earnest and consistent voting rights drive in the early 1940s. He is credited with registering over 4 generations of voters. He established Citizenship Schools that tutored prospective Black voters on how to fill out the literacy test, the pre-requisite barrier before the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Lewis was a graduate of Fisk University and served as football coach at Alabama State University. Lewis was an associate with Ross-Clayton Funeral Home.

He opened the "Citizens' Club," a social club for African-Americans who were registered voters and who helped others to become registered voters.

Lewis was one of the founders and the first Montgomery County Chapter President for the Alabama Democratic Conference (ADC), the oldest Black political organization in the state.

Lewis was elected to the Alabama State Legislature, but resigned in 1976, when U.S. President Jimmy Carter appointed him to serve as an U.S. Marshal, the first Black to serve in the Middle District.

The public is invited to view the exhibit at the Rufus A. Lewis Regional Library, 3095 Mobile Highway.

# Lifestyle

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Sunday  
March 14, 1999

Elizabeth Via Brown	3G
Weddings	5-6G
Coffee Break	7G



Special to the Advertiser

Eleanor Dawkins, right, the daughter of Rufus Lewis, and her daughter, Karen, listen to the reading of Lewis' letters.

## *Voting rights activist's letters tell story of hope, desire for equality*

Rufus A. Lewis, who was known as the father of Montgomery's voting rights movement, corresponded with many other players in the movement during the 1950s and 1960s. Filled with encouragement and strategy for achieving the right to vote, his correspondence told a story of hope and his desire for blacks to be equal citizens in the community.

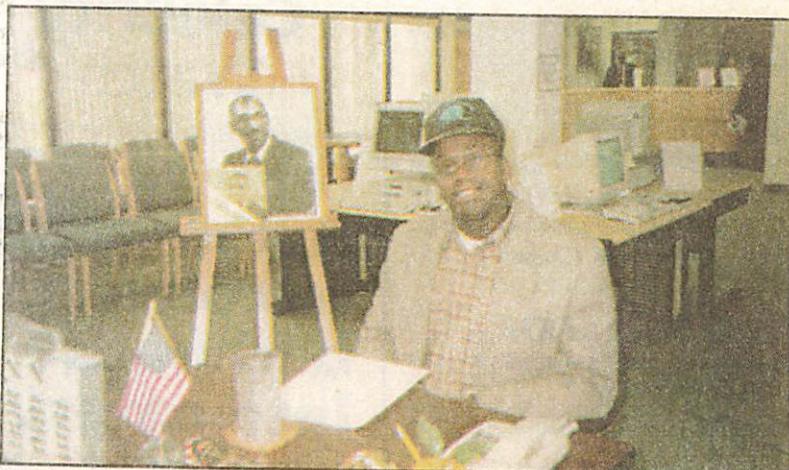
Among his papers are letters from the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., A. Phillip Randolph, W.C. Patton, and attorneys Arthur Shores and Ozell Billingsley.

This week, some of his correspondence was read to a whole new generation of blacks who now have voting rights as a result of Lewis' involvement, commitment and

knack for organizing. The program took place in the Library Tower of Learning at Trenholm State Technical College, which is located on the Historic Voting Rights Trail.

Among those gathered to hear the correspondence read by Adama Bennett, Lonnie Greene, Stinson Holmes and Gwen Patton, who are students and members of the faculty at the college, was Eleanor Dawkins, the daughter of Rufus Lewis. With her was her daughter, Karen Dawkins.

Some others attending were among the people who worked with Lewis in the 1950s, including Joe Dickerson, Idessa Redden, James Hall, Carrie Peavy, Andre Bolling, Pearl Gray Daniels and Johnnie Carr.



Special to the Advertiser

Lonnie Greene reads some of Lewis' letters in front of a portrait of the activist.

## Hon. Rufus A. Lewis Celebrates 92nd Birthday

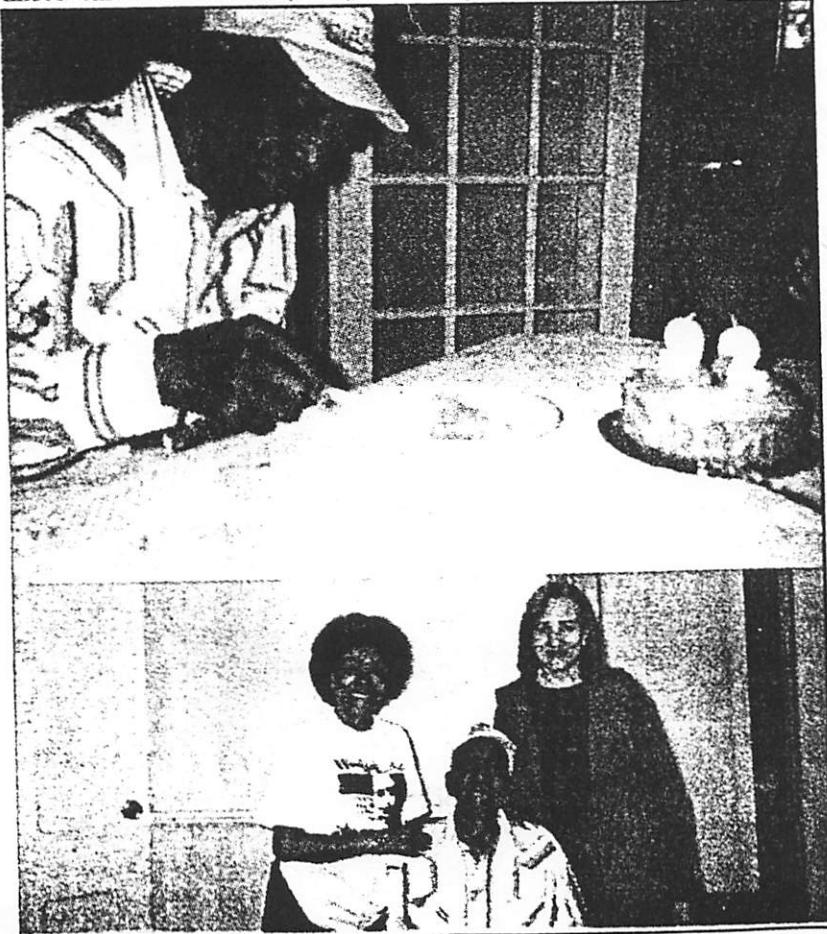
Affectionately called Coach Lewis (b. 11-30-1906), a Montgomery native, is known as the "Father of Montgomery's Voting Rights Movement." He was owner of the Citizens' Club (1952) and Chair of the Citizens' Steering Committee during the late 1940s and onward. He, along with the late Dr. E.D. Nixon, was instrumental in selecting Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to serve as Chair of the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA).

MIA was the organizing vehicle for the 1955 Bus Boycott. Coach Lewis served as Chair of the crucial Transportation Committee during the Bus Boycott. Coach Lewis was one of the two African-Americans, the other is James Hall, to serve on the Parks and Recreation Board (1971). In 1976, U.S. President Jimmy Carter appointed Mr. Lewis to serve as a U.S. Marshal, the first Black marshal ever in Alabama.

Upon celebrating his 92 birthday,

Coach Lewis said, "I have at least 8 more years to go before I retire."

On hand to celebrate his birthday were his daughter, Mrs. Eleanor L. Dawkins, Trenholm State Technical College (TSTC) Library Director, Mrs. Zenobia Blackmon and Archivist, Dr. Gwen Patton. TSTC is the repository for the Lewis' papers and small artifacts.



Coach Lewis celebrates 92nd birthday in his home on 11/30/98.  
Left to right; Dr. Gwen Patton, Coach Lewis, Mrs. Zenobia Blackmon

KEEPING THE BLACK COMMUNITY INFORMED OF ISSUES AFFECTING ITS SURVIVAL

DECEMBER 3-9, 1998

# Montgomery-Tuskegee Times

## MONTH CALENDAR



Special to the Advertiser

A national symposium entitled "The Amistad Education Legacy" takes place Feb. 21 at the Leila Barlow Theatre at Alabama State University.



Special to the Advertiser

Angela Bassett, left, and Tonea Stewart star in "The Rosa Parks Story," which airs Feb. 24 on CBS.

**Records in Researching Your African-American Family History Records'** 9:30 a.m.- 1 p.m. Feb. 16. Alabama Department of Archives and History, 624 Washington Ave. \$15, includes materials and lunch. Register by Feb. 11. 242-4363, Ext. 272. Frazine Taylor will lead the workshop.

**"An Afternoon in Centennial Hill"** 2 p.m. Feb. 17. Church of the Good Shepherd, 487 S. Jackson St. Free. 240-4500. Event is sponsored by the Landmarks Foundation and Centennial Hill Neighborhood Association. Dr. Richard Bailey will speak.

**Musical tribute to Donnie Hathaway, Luther Vandross and Diana Ross** 7 p.m. Feb. 17. Lulu's

a.m. Feb. 19. Leila Barlow Theatre, Alabama State University. 229-4286. Speaker will be Dr. Richard Bailey, historian and author from Maxwell Air Force Base.

**"The Amistad Education Legacy"** 3rd annual national symposium 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Feb. 21. Leila Barlow Theatre, Alabama State University. 229-4286. Howard Jones, professor of history at the University of Alabama, will lead the program. Amistad was a Spanish slave ship. In 1839, a group of African slaves led a revolt aboard the ship. Patrick Pich also will take part in the program. He is a descendant of Joseph Cinque who

Falcon Nest at Gunter Annex. \$7.50. 953-4300. Speaker will be Col. Darrell Sims, commander of the Officer Training School.

**"Poetry Slam: Free Expressions of Poetry on the Black Experience"** 7:30 p.m. Feb. 23. Warren/Britt Art Gallery, Alabama State University. Free. 229-4286.

**Gospel Fest** 4-7 p.m. Feb. 24. Maxwell Air Force Base Theatre. Free. 953-4300. Six tri-county choirs are scheduled to perform.

**"The Rosa Parks Story"** airs 8-10 p.m. Feb. 24 on CBS Television Network. This TV movie was filmed in Montgomery last year and tells the story of the Montgomery seamstress who helped start the Bus Boycott by refusing to give up her seat to a white man on Dec. 1, 1955. Angela Bassett plays the lead role.

**"A Tribute to Rufus Lewis"** 11 a.m. Feb. 26. Rufus A. Lewis Regional Library, 3095 Mobile Highway. Free. 240-4848. Dr. Gwendolyn Patton, archivist from H. Council Trenholm State Technical College, will lead the discussion.

**ASU's Black History Month community program** 7 p.m. Feb. 26. Joe L. Reed Acadome, Alabama State University. 229-4286.

**Alabama State University drama presentation** 6:30 p.m. Feb. 27. Montgomery City-County Public Library, 245 High St. Free. 240-4991. ASU students under Dr. Anthony Sweeting bring his-