



VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR WINTER SOLDIER ORGANIZATION

NEWSLETTER

827 West Newport, Chicago, Illinois, 60657; (312) 935-2129

No. 13

OCT 23

General Information

Lawton - Gardner Trial -- Immediate Action is Needed!

In the November issue, you will see in the Lawton-Gardner article that six inmates of the Blith Detention Facility overheard one of the D. A. s prime witnesses bragging about the fact that he had been offered \$5,000, a new identity and a ticket to anywhere for falsifying his testimony against Gary. These six inmates sent a letter to Gary's attorney informing him of this fact and stating that they were willing to testify in court about this police bribery. After this letter was sent, the six inmates were moved to the Riverside jail where they were interrogated. Since the article in W. S. was written, we have learned that these six brothers have been interrogated for long hours each day, beaten and threatened with long jail sentences if they insisted upon testifying against the police. Three of these inmates were intimidated to the extent that they have refused to testify, but three of the brothers have agreed to tell their story before the court.

On October 17th, Sonny Robinson became the first of these witnesses to appear on the witness stand. He testified about the police bribery, as well as the treatment that he and the other five inmates have been subjected to since they sent the letter to Gary's attorney. Because of Robinson's and the other inmates courageous acts, we have reason to believe that the lives of these people may now be at stake. It is imperative that every chapter send a telegram to the judge (and also have your friends do the same) asking that the judge insure the health and safety of these six men and make sure that due process of law is granted to all witnesses in the case. Judge Hews should also be asked to investigate any charges of police intimidation which might result from this recent act.

Telegrams and letters should immediately be sent to: Judge John Hews, Dept. #8, Superior Court, County of Riverside, 4050 Orange St., Riverside, California 92501.

Bribery of prosecution witnesses should not come as a surprise to anyone who is aware of the racism and blatant attempts by the government to frame Lawton and Gardner. The fact that these six inmates brought this to the attention of the court may be a major break-through for the defense and prove to the Judge and jury that all is not right in Riverside. We must all take the respon-

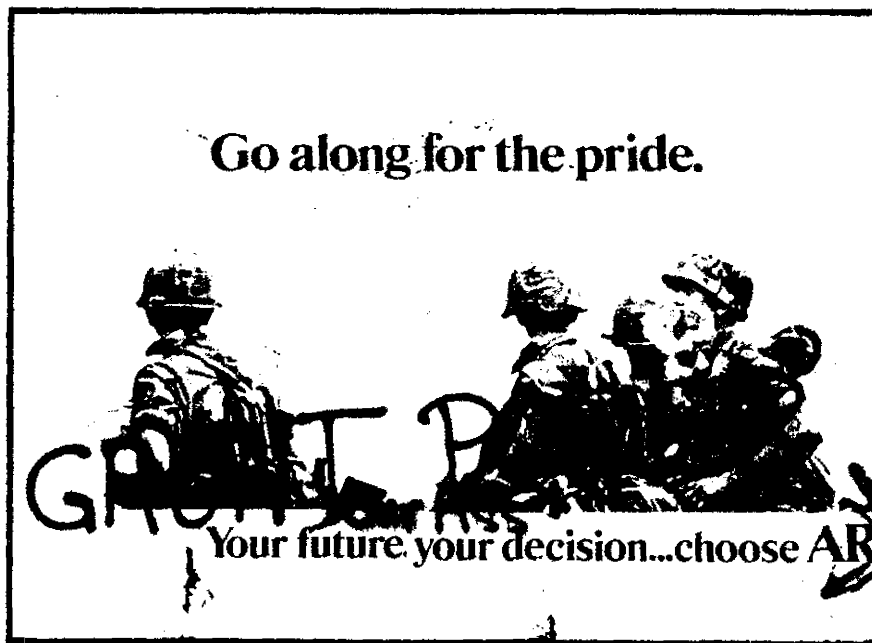
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sibility of doing everything possible to insure that these brothers are safe and free from further police harassment. One way of accomplishing this is to flood the judge with pleas for safety from people all over the country. By doing this, Judge Hews will be more likely to do his job because he will be aware that people are watching him. Send your telegrams and letters TODAY!

Job Fairs -

Two years ago, the government and various business organizations initiated veteran job fairs in an attempt to prove that they were concerned with the lack of jobs for Vietnam-era veterans. These job fairs offered few jobs although thousands of veterans showed up looking for work. Since these shams were begun, VVAW/WSO chapters around the country have proved that they are nothing but cheap theatrics designed to placate an entire segment of the population. While giving the facade of concern for veterans, these job fairs only heightened the fact that there are no jobs available for anyone in this country. The following cities will be having job fairs in the upcoming months. It is suggested that chapters in these cities begin to prepare for them.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Organizer</u>
11/15/73	San Bernardino CA	Sgt. Allen Jakobitz, Transition Office Norton AFB, California
12/6-8/73	New York City NY Americana Hotel	Miss Jennie Henneaux, Camber of Commerce and Industry, 99 Church St. New York, New York 10007
1/18-20/74	Fort Hood TX	M/Sgt Leon Tonini, Army Education Center, Fort Hood, Texas
2/7-9/74	San Diego CA Royal Inn at the Wharf	Elmo Burns, VA Regional Office, Veterans Opportunity Days II, 11000 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, California
3/28-30/74	Washington DC	M/Sgt Jerry Barran, 1143d AB Sq. (OPMMT), The Pentagon, Wash DC 20330
May (to be announced)	Chicago IL	Samuel C. Bernstein, Mayor's Office of Manpower, 201 Wells St. Suite 1200 Chicago, Illinois 60606
6/6-8/74	Los Angeles CA Marriott Hotel	Elmo Burns - (see above)
July (to be announced)	Colorado Springs CO	Noncommissioned Officers Association William Lucas, PO Box 2268, San Antonio TX



GI's Arrested for Leafletting -

Three GI's were arrested on October 13 in Jacksonville, North Carolina as they collected signatures on a petition to Senator Fulbright to 'immediately introduce legislation forbidding the introduction of US forces in the current Mid-East hostilities.'

The three, who were out of uniform, were told they were being arrested under a military ordinance forbidding them from petitioning or demonstrating. There is no such military regulation that restricts the political activity of military people when they are off-base. The Onslow County Deputy made the arrest and then turned them over to the local MPs. They were released after a Naval JAG lawyer in Norfolk called to find out what they were being charged with.

In addition to being illegally arrested, the pamphlets on the Mid-East war they were distributing and the petitions they had signed were confiscated illegally. As of yet these have not been returned.

The GI's were part of an effort by various GI projects: The Defense Committee of Norfolk, The GI Office of Charleston, The GI Union of Ft. Bragg and the United We Stand Bookshop of Camp Lejeune/New River Air Station; to focus attention on the buildup of American troops in the Middle East. Five ships are off the island of Crete, 500 miles from Israel, including an aircraft carrier, and three destroyers. Three more ships were on their way to Crete from Barcelona, Spain. Two thousand Marines from the 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Reg. were scheduled to leave for the Mediterranean on October 16th, which would double the strength of the Marine Corps in the area. The 313th Army Security Agency from Ft. Bragg was sent to Israel. These are but some of the developments in the buildup of American forces in the Middle East. For more information write to United We Stand Bookshop, PO Box 1163, Jacksonville, NC 28540.

Middle East -

The National Office has received many calls asking what the position of VVAW/WSO is on the war in the Middle East; mostly from chapters. Since there is no definitive position of the organization on this question, we think all VVAW/WSO members should follow the position laid out in the second and tenth objectives of the organization. Basically, the objectives say that we are opposed to any and all intervention of the US military in the internal affairs of other countries. We are opposed to the sending of any US military personnel and materiel to the Middle East to participate in that war. We have seen how the war in Indochina started with just economic military aid and blossomed into a full-scale war by the US government. We see a similar danger in the Middle East.

Another aspect of the war is that it is being fought over territories that are (or were) controlled by Israel that really belong to the nations of Egypt and Syria and Jordan. The Arab countries are fighting to liberate those territories and return them to their control. The National Office believes that Israel must give up those territories if there is to be a just settlement.

We suggest that people study the objectives and determine how they apply to the Middle East. As with Indochina, the more we learn about US corporate and political involvement in other countries, the more capable we are able to deal with life and death issues that affect our lives and the lives of the people of the world. This is by no means a definitive statement about the situation on the Middle East. We think that the regions should begin immediately discussions on this question so that when we meet at the next NSCM we can deal with it.

Regional Reports

Operation County Fair

The VVAW/WSO chapter in Bogue Chitto is no longer entertaining drifters. Anyone wishing to work or visit the chapter there must be cleared through the National Office, as per their request. There are now five dedicated sisters and brothers living collectively there who are rapidly developing a respectable position in the community.

Electrical wiring is in; when the outhouse is finished and everything Ok'd by the county, the power will be on. Septic still needs to be finished.

As of October 17th, the Clinic had \$13.00 on hand. They would appreciate any small donations (or big ones). A food-clothes-medical supplies drive for Bogue Chitto would be a good project to organize around. Remember, this is a National Project. For a list of supplies needed, write: Diane Schmidt and Linda Regnier, Rt. #1, Box 85, Browns, Alabama 36724. They request that ALL MAIL BE SENT UNIDENTIFIED -- that means use only personal names' in both the return and regular addresses.

North Carolina -

We received reports from two chapters in North Carolina: Jacksonville and Raleigh. The following are their reports.

Jacksonville - Have found a few inactive members of VVAW/WSO that want to reorganize the chapter. Have also contacted Onslow County Library and Coastal Carolina Community College about subscriptions to Winter Soldier. I have left copies at each and am getting good reactions, but nothing definite. There will be a meeting, the first week of October to reorganize and begin projects, which seems to be working with United We Stand Book Store in the GI movement and upgrading discharges. Hope to have something more definite in the next report.

Raleigh - This has been a short operating month for us. However, we managed to get copies of WS into three universities in the area, University of N. C. at Chapel Hill, NC State University (Raleigh) and Duke University (Durham). The copies were old issues, which may explain the lack of response. Those that did respond expressed interest in the organization and its goals. Being a new office, we are experiencing all the problems of birth - we hope to have our 'house' settled within the week.

Air War/1984 Record Available -

The New England VVAW/WSO Media Project has printed a record of testimony from the Air War Winter Soldier Investigation held in Boston in the Fall of 1971. It runs for 16 minutes and is excellent. The cost of the record is \$1.00 to individual members of VVAW/WSO and 50¢ in bulk orders to VVAW/WSO chapters only. We recommend that you buy one copy to see if you could use it in your work. For more information contact: Jim Alt, 34 Beacon, Somerville, Massachusetts 02143.

Milwaukee VVAW/WSO Makes Incursion Into V. A. Building

On October 11th, about 30 members of the Milwaukee VVAW/WSO chapter made a "limited incursion" into the Veterans Administration building demanding full benefits for less than honorably discharged vets and a new GI bill of rights.

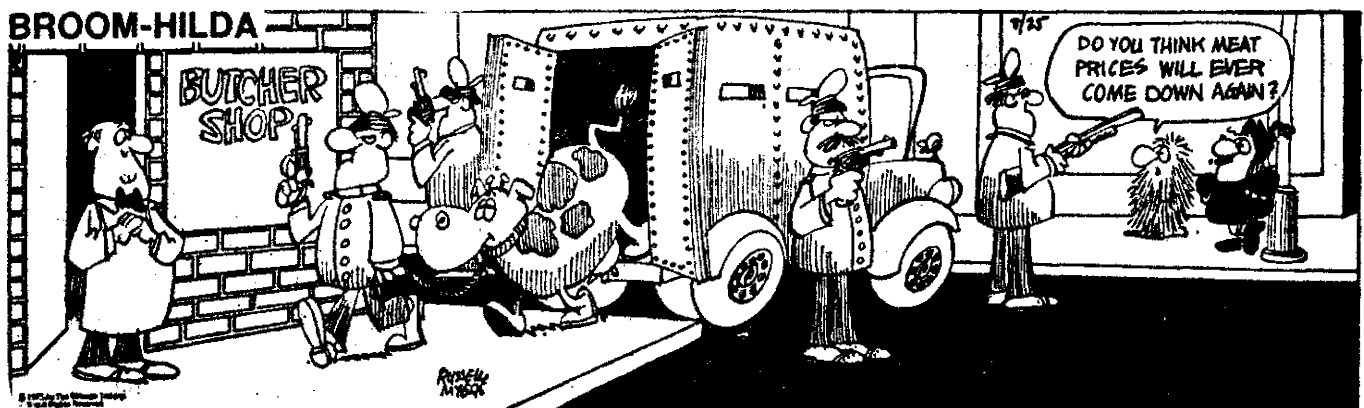
The specific demands that the chapter put forth to the VA Regional Director were: full benefits for all discharged GIs, a new GI bill of rights, that would provide adequate funds for education and medical treatment, the restoration of funding cuts for VA hospitals and the firing of Donald Johnson (national VA director).

The VVAW/WSO contingent entered the VA building and teams of three scattered throughout the building distributing leaflets and rapping with employees. At the same time, one of the members remained in the lobby to read a statement to the press. The group then headed to Director Bunger's office and occupied it for about 20 minutes before Bunger agreed to meet with the chapter's representatives and hear the demands. While the representatives met with Bunger, the remainder of the contingent threw a picket line around the building. Before leaving, everyone informed the VA that they would be back and continue to confront the VA until the demands are met.

The Milwaukee action came off without a hitch. The "incursion" was the chapter's response to what they feel is the need and the time for chapters throughout the country to take direct action against the VA and force them into accepting demands. The Wisconsin region would like to see regional and local actions at the VA nationwide so that feedback can be obtained. The results of all regional actions should be brought to the next NSCM and discussed so that national coordination of activity directed at the VA can be determined and planned. Milwaukee would like to see actions directed at the VA become a long-range VVAW/WSO project. Chapters should report all VA actions to the National Office.

St. Louis Military Law Project Backlogged -

Due to the summer recess at Washington University in St. Louis and the fact that the Director, Toby Hollander, was in Gainesville working on the defense team, the Military Law Project has a backlog of well over one hundred cases to research. If you know of anyone waiting for information from the Project or anyone who is intending to write them, please inform them of the situation. If the information is urgently needed, an explanation should accompany the request. The Military Law Project is located at: Military Law Project, Washington University School of Law, Lindell and Skinker, St. Louis, MO 63130. Telephone number - (314) 863-0100 X 4902.



National Reports

Now More Than Ever -

President Nixon has once again proven that he no longer considers himself subject to the laws of this country. In his latest attack on America he has purged his regime of an Attorney General, an Assistant Attorney General and the Special Watergate Prosecutor.

On Saturday, October 20, Nixon ordered Elliott Richardson to fire Archibald Cox. Richardson refused and resigned. His successor, William Ruckelshaus refused the order also and was fired. The third attempt to fire Cox was successful when the solicitor general, ultra-conservative, Robert Bork, (or Dork?), assumed the post of Attorney General and carried out the order. In addition to firing Cox, Nixon abolished the office of special Watergate prosecutor, in direct opposition to the Senate resolution establishing the office.

The repercussions of this latest action by Nixon are far reaching. In a blatant attempt to force the will of the Presidency over that of the Congress, Nixon has put Congress into a position which will ultimately dwindle down to two choices. Either they will have to impeach him or they will once again kowtow to the President's office, thereby allowing Nixon to continue his consolidation of power. If they back down Nixon will continue his policies of repression of the American people, and in fact, all the people of the world.

We must remember that two of Nixon's closest aides in the White House are Alexander Haig and Melvin Laird, both Pentagon employees. We must also remember that the heads of all the military forces are Nixon appointees. As Nixon continues to disregard even a vague semblance of democracy, and as the weak-kneed Congress consistently backs down when faced with a Constitutional crisis, we the people of this country move one step closer to Fascism. It happened in Chile; it can happen here.

There will be many demonstrations aimed at impeaching Nixon in the next few weeks. We feel that it is vitally important that all chapters of VVAW/WSO participate in these attempts to make the will of the people enforced. To do nothing at this time would be to help Nixon put the nooses around our necks.

Amnesty Poster and Pamphlet -

The long wait is over!! Both the pamphlet and the poster are ready for distribution. They are enclosed for your inspection. Each poster is 10¢ and each pamphlet is 10¢. Remember that there are only 5,000 pamphlets for the entire country, so order prudently and promptly before they are all gone. Since we are flat broke, we ask that you send the money in advance of shipment. Orders with checks will have first preference.

Not For Women Only

We received a brochure from New Day Films, a group of independent filmmakers who have formed a distribution cooperative for films about women. If chapters are interested in doing educational work on the oppression facing women in this society, you might be interested in obtaining and renting these films. Following are the names and rental fees of the seven films which are available.

"Anything You Want To Be" -- 16mm b/w, 8 minutes, rental: \$15. The film deals with the pain, humor, hysteria and sadness of being a teenage girl while being bombarded with "female" stereotypes.

"It Happens To Us" - 16mm color, 30 minutes, rental: \$30. This film is a series of comments from women who have had abortions. The brutality of illegal abortions is contrasted with the safety of early, legal abortions.

"Joyce At 34" -- 16mm color, 28 minutes, rental \$35. Joyce is any woman at any time who faces the conflict of work versus family. The film depicts the need for cooperation inside a family in order to achieve equality without guilt.

"Betty Tells Her Story" -- 16mm b/w; 20 minutes, rental: \$25. This film deals with the fact that our society puts undue emphasis on a certain standard of outward physical appearance and what this can mean to those who don't conform.

"Growing Up Female" -- 16mm b/w, 50 minutes, rental: \$30 (to movement groups). This is a major documentary about the experience of being a woman in America. The film is a series of encounters with six women who are looking for self-definition.

"Sometimes I Wonder Who I Am" -- 16mm b/w, 5 minutes, rental: \$12. This film is a brief study of the conflict felt by a young housewife as she contemplates the career she could have had.

"Woo Who? May Wilson" -- 16mm color, 33 minutes, rental: \$35. In this film, May Wilson shares her painful readjustment from her role as wife-mother-grandmother on a farm in Maryland to life alone in a large city.

If chapters are interested in renting any of these films or receiving more information about them, you should contact: New Day Films, P.O. Box 315, Franklin Lakes, New Jersey 07417. (201) 891-8240.

For Women Only

We are very interested in finding out what the women in VVAW/WSO are up to. Women should inform the national collective as to women's groups that they are working with, the activities of these groups, women's projects that are being conducted inside VVAW/WSO, and ideas for future women's projects that you would like to see developed. This request is so that we can find out if and what the women are involved in and this information will be passed along to other women who might be interested.

Bart Savage's Resignation from National Collective

The following letter was written by Bart Savage and is the announcement of his resignation from the National Collective. The letter should be self-explanatory. We are very sorry to be losing Bart because his work in the N. O. has been excellent, but we are pleased that he will continue working with the organization.

Brothers and Sisters,

With deepest regrets, I submit my resignation from the National Collective effective immediately for reasons of health. The issue of my health was brought up in St. Louis prior to my reelection. I stated that I felt I was in good condition and I was re-elected on the basis of my answer. However, the trip back to Gainesville (5 days of thumbing in 100 degree weather) resulted in the rapid deterioration of my health. Criticism for my running for reelection is mine, and mine alone.

Since my return from Florida, I have been on a leave of absence, recuperating in Chicago. I have now begun working again with the Chicago chapter and will continue to support and actively work for the objectives of VVAW/WSO. I hope to see you all again soon.

Love and Solidarity in Struggle,

Bart Savage

P. S. There is no truth to the rumor that my resignation is connected with the Watergate Tapes.

Who Does What in the National Collective

With the arrival of Rich Bangert to the National Office, the collective held a lengthy meeting discussing the work of the office. Analysis, criticism, and self-criticism of our jobs was done and work was re-distributed. Following is the list of areas that each member of the collective is responsible for. This is just to let you know who is doing what and if you need specific information, you should contact the appropriate person.

Brian Adams -- Amnesty, External Liaison, Security
 Rich Bangert -- Veterans Affairs, Research, Operation County Fair,
 Fund-raising, Press contacts, Speaking gigs
 Ed Damato -- Internal Liaison, Amnesty, G.I. s, Press Clipping file
 Barry Romo -- Winter Soldier editor, External Liaison, G.I. s
 Sam Schorr -- Fund-raising, Financial Books, Office Machines, Books/
 Buttons/Pamphlets/Posters
 Marla Watson -- Internal Liaison, Political Prisoners, Prisons, Financial Books, Women, Office Manager

Mary Ann James Declines -

The following letter was received by the National Collective from Mary Ann James, who was nominated as National Coordinator.

"Dear Folks,

I have decided to decline the nomination to the National Office. I feel that I am needed more in my own region at this time, but the main reason is that I would like to see the present National people remain in office. The only exception being that I think Marla should be a national coordinator instead of a staff member. I believe this is necessary for the Winter Soldier concept to really take hold. Perhaps Brian, Sam and Eddie could draw straws as to which one would be a staff member. This would not alter the present collective in any effective way.

Things are looking up in our region. There are chapters starting up in Boulder, Greeley and Colorado Springs. We are planning a regional meeting and party for Saturday October 6th and perhaps some kind of action for the end of Indochina Solidarity Week. Hopefully a Hoa Binh will be put out by the end of this month. We are working on articles now.

I just got back from the first real vacation I have had in 2 1/2 years. It took me almost the whole week to get used to not doing any VVAW/WSO work. Now I am adjusting to working and going to meetings every night.

Well, its time to get back to Pa Bell, so I will write more later.

In Solidarity,

Mary Ann James"

Winter Soldier Newspaper -

There are several items involving the Winter Soldier that bear your attention. First, we ask again that the chapters work at getting subscriptions from institutions and libraries, at the cost of \$15 per sub. Our chapter in Rochester, New York reports that on one try they got one subscription and have come to realize that it is an easy thing to do. They will be getting more soon, which will help us finance the paper each month. We quote an excerpt from a letter from the Rochester Chapter. "Seriously folks, let's get behind the Winter Soldier subscription drive. National needs the bread, and the people need to confront reality." Thank you Rochester.

The other item deals with picking up the paper from the delivery company. Every month we are confronted with one or two chapters who refuse

shipment or who do not respond to the notifications of either REA or Greyhound. When this happens, the papers are invariably sent back to Chicago and we get stuck paying for shipment to and from a destination. This mounts up and we just CANNOT afford it. As a consequence, and after being unable to contact the chapter who refuses shipment, we will no longer send the paper. The lack of interest in receiving the paper by these chapters is unfortunate. We understand that certain chapters cannot afford large shipments and we have made arrangements to help them, but for chapters to order shipments and then refuse, we see no alternative to stopping shipment of papers. \$50 a month can be put to better use.

We would also like all regions to look into rates for shipping. One region has requested that we send all chapters in that region the papers. The extra cost for the regions in choosing this means of distribution is astronomical compared to shipping the papers to one office, whereupon, the chapters can drive to the central office once a month and get them. This would also allow for closer coordination between regions and chapters.

Information Requests

Contributions From Chapters -

In response to our last request for chapters who could help send us some money because we are broke, we would like to thank those that did. The chapters that responded are: Rochester, New York; Dayton, Columbus and the Ohio Regional Office; and San Francisco, California. We sincerely thank you from the bottom of our collective piggy bank. The situation with money is still bad and if there are any other chapters that could help us out in our time of need, please do so.

Photos, Details of Actions, etc. -

We are toying with the idea of devoting our December issue of Winter Soldier to a year of struggle for VVAW/WSO. If we are to do this we will need photos and synopses of actions that your chapter has undertaken during the year 1973. We would like photos of marches, demonstrations, assorted actions and members wearing buttons. Hopefully, you will respond. We would like to have pictures and details from all chapters as we want to show that VVAW/WSO was active in all areas during the past year.

Chapter Lists -

Once again, we ask if your chapter address is wrong or not listed, let us know of the change. Include phone number changes also.

Chapter List Update - 10/23/73

Address Change

VVAW/WSO
1217 Illinois
Joplin, MO 64801

VVAW/WSO
223 Belmont
Redwood City, CA 94061
(415) 366-1893

Phone Change

St. Louis - (314) 621-2648

Columbia, MO - (314) 449-5271

New Chapters

VVAW/WSO
3356 Neosho Place
San Diego, CA 92117
(714) 488-8975

VVAW/WSO
3860 Ocean Drive
Oxnard, CA 93030

Address Change

New York State Regional Office
Steve Hassett
21 Marigold
Buffalo, NY 14215
(716) 836-7967

Steve Piotrowski
535 Division St
Stevens Point, Wisc. 54481

Delete

Jim Thompson - Whittier California
Jim Hale - Homestead, Florida

Operation County Fair-New Address

Diane Schmidt
People's Farm
RR #1, Box 85
Browns, Alabama 36724
(205) 996-8205