

**Transcript of the audio taped oral history**

**of National Press Club member**

**James Stillman Free**

**Conducted by Florence Parrish St. John of the**

**NPC Oral History Committee**

**March 25, 1992**

**at his home – 4700 Jamestown Road  
Bethesda, Maryland, 20816**

**Transcriber: NPC member Peggy Roberson**

**Indexer: Anne Cipriano Venzon**

**Project Manager/Editor: NPC member Elissa Blake Free**

The original audio tape recordings of the interview are permanently deposited in the oral history collection of the National Press Club.

Quotation: No part of the transcript may be quoted for publication without the written permission of the National Press Club. The request should include identification of the user and specific passages. Requests for permission to quote for publication should be addressed to: Archivist, Eric Friedheim Library, The National Press Club, 529 14<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Wash. D.C. 20045.

## **INTERVIEW WITH JAMES FREE**

For the National Press Club Oral History Project

ST. JOHN (Florence Parrish St. John): March 25, 1992 And this is an interview with Mr. Jim Free.

ST. JOHN: We'll start out by asking you about your early life, where you were educated.

JAMES (JIM) FREE: I grew up in Alabama. My hometown was Tuscaloosa, where the University of Alabama is located. I went to grammar schools and high school down in Tuscaloosa and graduated at the University of Alabama with an AB degree in 1929.

ST. JOHN: Was that in journalism by any chance?

FREE: Well, it so happened that the following year I went to the Columbia School of Journalism, which was at that time a two-year course. But they let me in the second year because I had a degree and had also done some work for the college newspaper. And so I graduated in a year. That gave a Bachelor of Literature Degree at that time.

ST. JOHN: And that was Columbia University in New York City.

FREE: Yes. More recently they've changed that to a masters degree.

ST. JOHN: Uh-huh. Okay. And where did you then – what happened to you when you graduated?

FREE: Well, I – in addition to being on the college paper and a few other things I had been active in the drama department down there and been in some of the school plays. And it so happened that one of the fellows I'd been in a play with, a fellow by the name of Bryant Sells, had gone to New York and by luck had gotten into a leading role with Helen Hayes in a Broadway play called – I just figured as a starter – I knew I wasn't as good as Bryant, but if he could get a leading role maybe I could get something.

So I went to New York and went to a drama school run by a woman called Theodora Duncan.

ST. JOHN: Of course.

FREE: She had a career. And this was a six-weeks course. And at the conclusion of that I started pounding the pavements and seeing agents and all of that kind of business.

And I finally wound up in a vaudeville act that played the subway circuit – three men and a girl, who was a star singer and dancer. And it was called, “What Women Want.” I wasn’t it!

One of them was a straight Bill Clinton-type guy, who plays a girl, and was a sissy. And I was sort of macho. And I didn’t get the girl either.

But, anyway, had we played that for a while and it went on the road. And I didn’t want to go on the road so I stayed in town. And not long after that I got some minor parts in, over in Hoboken, in a stock company run by Throckmorton and Morley.

And we – star production over there was something and a woman called Joan Lowell, who was born on a sailing ship and wrote this story about growing up on a sailing ship. And she had married a playwright who wrote a play about it. And they had a play on this over there, set was on the deck of a sailing ship.

Anyway, after about three rehearsals in about three weeks, this show went on the road. And I was getting a little bored after all the rehearsals and repeating the lines all over again, so I decided – I wasn’t too important a person in the thing anyway. So I decided I’d stay in New York. And it so happened that over in Hoboken we didn’t have any – any mid-week matinees.

And I’d lived up close to Columbia University and I found out I could start going to school up there and it wouldn’t interfere with going over to Hoboken for the show. So that’s when I, I started journalism school there and just stayed in New York to go to journalism school.

ST. JOHN: Which school was that?

FREE: It’s the Columbia University School of Journalism.

ST. JOHN: Okay.

FREE: It was the Columbia University School of Journalism.

ST. JOHN: Uh-huh. Okay.  
And you then did get a degree in journalism.

FREE: Yes. And then that fall I worked a while on my hometown newspaper in Tuscaloosa. And \$15 a week. September, 1930.

After about three weeks I discovered that the only other staff member was making \$20 a week. And I inquired as to just what the difference was since we were doing the same sort of work, and they said, “Well, you’re living in town. You can live at home.”

And then some other problems I'd had – not with the editors, but with the publisher, who I inadvertently after one story I did about a university professor's work, I asked him –

He asked for a copy of the story. I sent him a clipping. I said, "Don't you subscribe?" And he said, "No." And I said, "Well, you ought to." So I took in his subscription. And the publisher thought I ought to do more of that.

And also he canceled one story I wrote because it was about one of these Pee Wee golf tournaments, they played up big, had several hundred people in it. It had a lot of advance stories about it. And then I wrote the story about the fella who won it and they wouldn't put in the paper because they didn't take out a big enough advertisement.

ST. JOHN: Aw, gee.

FREE: So I figured that wasn't for me.

ST. JOHN: Was that standard procedure anywhere that you knew of?

FREE: I haven't run into it as crass as that anyplace else. That paper, incidentally, has changed drastically since then. I'm sure they wouldn't do anything like that today.

I blame the publisher, really, not – no one else there.

But anyway, I was able through a friend to get a job selling group insurance, life insurance, on the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad, starting off in New Orleans and working our way north.

And we got in about the third or fourth week, we got up to Natchez. And it turned out then that this company, a Canadian insurance company, had neglected to get a license to do business in the state of Mississippi.

But I felt pretty good about it because I was getting \$50 a week, which was quite an increase in my income. So I had enough money then to take off for New York, which I did.

And I worked in various things up there. And in the spring of 1931, I had written some articles for a tennis magazine published by the United States Lawn Tennis Association. I had been captain of my tennis team in Alabama and played in a number of tournaments.

And I had written some stories about Southern tennis for this publication. And I called on them and it so happened they were expanding into a nice little magazine hoping to get a lot of advertising and so forth.

It had been a publication just sent to several hundred members of the association – tennis clubs -- decided to make a commercial magazine out of it, if you'd get up to 10,000 circulation.

So I went in – and it was the editor there who didn't like the business end of it at all. So he told me I could be associate editor and circulation manager and advertising manager.

ST. JOHN: Three good hats.

FREE: For the magazine – and the rest of the staff was a secretary he had. And we were – I was there for a year covering various things in the tennis world, including a tournament at Forest Hills and the professional tournaments and so forth. Went up to Boston to cover a tournament.

And at the end of a year it had not achieved the circulation that it looked for and saw they couldn't make a – It was a deep depression years. So they reverted back to just being a publication, small publication, not just sent out to the member clubs. So I was out of a job.

And about that time – this is the spring of '32 – and about that time I saw in the Columbia University Spectator newspaper an advertisement, advertising a Caribbean motion picture expedition, from Washington headquarters, said they were taking some people down to the Caribbean to make some motion pictures and you could have this three months cruise going to about 10 or 15 different islands down there for \$250.

So I answered the ad just to see what it was – I was curious about it. And it turned out that the fella who was running this operation was the gentleman who later founded the Scientology Church, L. Ron Hubbard, who was then 21 years old.

ST. JOHN: He started early, didn't he?

FREE: He was a student at the George Washington University. And so I, we made an agreement that I would be the New York representative and try to sell people going on this cruise.

Well, we advertised some in the Columbia Spectator and put some classified ads in the New York daily newspapers. And before it was over, by early June, I had signed up some 25 people to go on this cruise at \$250 apiece.

And that's – so impressed Hubbard that he invited me down to Washington. And he had chartered an old lumber schooner – 300 feet long –

ST. JOHN: Fascinating.

FREE: It was in Baltimore. They were going to use that for the ship. And I came down to visit with Hubbard and he made me co-director of the enterprise.

And it turned out later that one reason he did was that practically nobody else had paid cash to go. He gave people various concessions for being this and that. And he gave some students – one university cash credits for bringing along what they said was going to be a laboratory to study fauna and flora and so forth down in the Caribbean.

He made two different arrangements for photographers to come along to record the thing. He claimed that The New York Times was going to handle – to publish it. And also he was going to sign up a Pathe News cameraman, movies, and make movies down there.

He said he could make movies out of pirate haunts and even said you could make some underwater movies.

And, anyway, we finally sailed out of Baltimore with 53 people aboard on June the 24<sup>th</sup>, 1932.

And we, just this big schooner did not have a propulsion motor. The only motor on there was to pull up the sails. And we were sort of – We had a little ballast but rode it high in the water.

We had to get towed out of Baltimore into the Chesapeake Bay. The winds weren't too good. It took us four days to get out of Chesapeake Bay – [laughing] another nine days to get to Bermuda. We had a couple of storms and blew out a sail. Scared the bejesus out of some of these people aboard.

And the wireless – radio wireless we had – didn't work too well. That scared some of them, too.

So 11 of them left. We went to Bermuda, landed at Bermuda for provisions and regrouping. And 11 people left there. And by that time the money was a little low. And the food was getting low, too. It didn't have any refrigeration on it.

And Hubbard had the bright idea of getting a whole lot of sawdust, putting it down in the hold in one section -- Most of these people slept down in the hold on army cots, these folding army cots. He just built wooden stairways down to the hold, the cargo hold, for these people to sleep down there. And of course it wasn't too comfortable at that.

But anyway, the only way you could get out of Bermuda – Hubbard sold shares in the expedition, telling he was going to make a lot of money. And some of these people bought it, and bought some shares. And he also borrowed money from a few others to pay our costs and get some new supplies and water and so forth, getting out of Bermuda.

And we did that. And we finally got out of there, three or four days. And after four days going south we ran into the Sargasso Sea where's no wind and a lot of seaweed. A lot of sailing ships get stuck in there for days. We were only stuck in there for four days.

And after we finally got out of there, 10 more days it took us, and we got to Martinique –

ST. JOHN: Still going south?

FREE: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. We had some problems -- people – pretty green crew and all – but, anyway, the basic thing was when we got to Martinique we were practically flat broke. And although he had paid this Pathe cameraman fifteen hundred dollars to come on the trip – which is half of what he paid to get the schooner – he'd paid \$3,000 to lease the schooner.

Well, we were broke about that time. So he sent a cable back to the company in Baltimore, "Send money and let us get out of here if you want the ship back." It was called the Doris Hamlin. It was an old lumber schooner.

About two years after -- Had no propulsion at all. About two years after that it went out to sea with a load of coal and after being missing for 10 days became permanently missing. And they never heard of the ship or the crew anymore. This was 1934.

Anyway, the owner of the schooner sent money down and we, brought us back, ones that wanted to come back. We tried to come back by way of St. Thomas. And going into St. Thomas we blew out a mainsail. And they couldn't go – And having no motor we couldn't – We had a headwind. We couldn't go into St. Thomas. So we turned around and went to Ponce Puerto Rico. And Ponce was not a free port. Customs was going to seize our liquor.

ST. JOHN: Such an adventure.

FREE: Anyway, so we cracked quite a bit of liquor before we got into Ponce. As it was the Customs sealed 55 quarts.

But, anyway, Hubbard and I got off the schooner, and some others did at Ponce, and it came back to Baltimore with only 37 of the original people on it. And we, we got a trip back from Puerto Rico on a freighter. We went to New Orleans.

And I was, wanted to go back to Alabama. And I don't know where Hubbard wanted to go to, but he came in, we came in together on a freighter into New Orleans.

And that's the last I've seen of L. Ronald. I'm not surprised that he turned out to be an imaginative, a fellow with enough imagination to found a church and make a lot of

money out of it because he had a very vivid imagination. He told us, among other things, that he was an airplane pilot and I later discovered he just had a glider's license.

And he had a lot of stories that his father was a naval lieutenant in the supply corps. And he had had duty in the Philippines and during vacations he went to China and other places, and took his wife, and young Ronald, and they just doted on Ron.

And Ron had all sorts of stories about pirates and different things that happened to him in China. He just went impenetrable places –

ST. JOHN: Great exaggerator, huh?

FREE: He could go downtown to a drugstore two blocks away and come back and have adventures to tell you about on the way back.

ANN FREE: Talk about your newspaper career, Jim.

ST. JOHN: We're moving into it.

JIM FREE: Anyway, anyway –

ANN FREE: You've had a marvelous, interesting career. Get to it.

JIM FREE: I got back to Tuscaloosa, my hometown, and it soon developed that a weekly newspaper was available and I could get a third interest in it for \$500.

ST. JOHN: In Tuscaloosa.

FREE: In Tuscaloosa. It's was called The Tuscaloosa Warrior. And I later, I soon discovered, that the only reason he brought me in for \$500 was because he was getting in the hole and he was going to be bailed out by publishing the University of Alabama newspaper in his little small plant there and needed enough money to tide him over until he could get to that contract in the latter part, middle of September.

And, anyway, one thing led to another. And it turned out that he had – the only reason he got the contract, he had a kickback arrangement with the student business manager. And I was so disgusted in him – The business manager had a – get \$10 a page he was supposed to pay this guy.

Anyway, he hadn't told me anything about it. And so I threatened to take it up with the university authorities, the dean of men, who oversaw the publication. And he backed out and left me the newspaper to run, which I did through most of the school year until later in – that February. The fellow, he had a rented printing plant, a Linotype machine, an old cylinder press, and some other type equipment and one thing –

We had to stay up all Thursday night to get out our own weekly paper. And then all day Friday and into Friday night to get out the student newspaper. We had quite a time.

Well, anyway, the fellow who's renting our equipment thought I was making a lot of money and he kept jacking up the price on me. I saw I'd be working for him.

So I got a chance to unload the paper in late February of 1933. And I did.

And a fellow who'd been working with me and I bought an old Dodge automobile and took off for Central America. We wound up down in Honduras. We didn't get all the way in the car. We – part of it by mule back and then we took to the train after we got to the end of –

Anyway, spent some time down in Honduras and came back by steamer to San Francisco and got my way back down home late that fall.

And did a lot of other odd jobs until January of 1935 when I got a job on The Birmingham News. And I worked there doing various things for about two years and three or four months.

And I'd started at \$20 a week and everybody on the staff was under a 37 ½ percent cut during the Depression from what they'd been getting before. And if they gave any raises – I got two raises each of two dollars and a half a week. And I, at the end, going into my third year, I was getting \$27.50 a week.

And I figured at that rate it'd take quite a while to get anywhere. And I'd – on vacations I'd gone to New York and stopped by the Richmond Times-Dispatch and talked to the people there.

And I was so very much interested. He had started – it was the first paper in the United States to classify news, like Time Magazine – national and local and science and all that kind of business.

ST. JOHN: That was in Richmond?

FREE: And I went to work up there and that spring of '37, doing general assignments and all that. They put me on the governor's office and the state offices, state government office building, which I covered while I was there.

And during that coverage I discovered the value of developing news sources below the top. The top people would know sometimes but they won't talk to you.

For example, I was covering the governor's office when the – a new governor named James Price, who was the first of the Virginia governors in a long chain to break with the Byrd machine, which he had belonged to as lieutenant governor. And he got

impatient because he thought his time had come to be promoted to governor from lieutenant governor and then they chose somebody else, the machine took somebody else.

And Price didn't like it so he ran anyway. And got elected. And so he wanted to nominate his own people to run the major departments of the government there. And he thought he should send the nominations at noon to the state senate. That was the procedure.

And we were a morning paper, so that meant that the afternoon paper would get all the breaks – his nominations go over there at noon.

And I was yelling and screaming about it and not getting anywhere. He was very conscientious about this, his purpose in this. And I screamed at all the people that I ever talked to in the state office building. And finally a fellow who was the executive secretary of Virginia Sheriffs Association, a rather – I never considered him an insider by any means – he'd been editor at one time of the Virginia Literary Magazine, however, a very intellectual guy – and his name was Russell B. Devine.

Well, I was complaining to him about not getting these appointments. And he said, "Oh, it isn't so hard to predict these things. I can tell you who the next one is going to be."

Well, and so he gave me a name. And I paid no attention to it whatsoever. Next day, turned out he was right. Well, I, I took it up with my managing editor and he said, "Well, next time he gives you a name we'll just write it as speculation. We'll play it safe and write it as speculation."

So next time it came around he gave me the name. Bingo. He hit it again. Well, he gave me seven straight and the competition was just screaming for mercy.

And the governor wanted to split 'em, give me half. And, of course, we wouldn't take it then. We wanted 'em all. So we got 'em.

And I didn't find out until a number of years later, after I'd come to Washington, how Mr. Devine got his news. He was really small fry in the state government operation. I got an invitation, announcement through the mail, about the wedding of Mr. Devine to a maiden lady called Miss Jeanne Elipsly. And it turned out that Miss Jeanne Elipsly had been the governor's private secretary. Personal secretary. Had also been a personal secretary to the governor before him.

And that was, he was, she had told him these things. I never did find whether she found out that he was the source or not. But he did. And ever since that time I've resolved that I'll try to look to as many unexpected sources as possible before I'd give up on anything.

ST. JOHN: And it paid off for you, I take it.

FREE: That's right.

And, anyway, after working in Richmond a little over two years, I had done some series of stories about state hospitals and other series of stories on different things in Virginia, including new manufacturing plants and things of that sort.

And I sent some clips on this stuff up to the Washington Star, which I'd applied to for a job. And they seemed to impress Ben McElway, the editor, and so he offered me a job on the Washington Star. And I came back to work for the Washington Star beginning in the spring of 1939.

And I worked on the Washington Star covering the preparation for the end of World War II, the War Production Board and that sort of thing. Of course it dominated the town at that time.

And I came up to get the job and my cousin, one of my cousins, a lady who worked for the Navy Department, ran a boarding house on 1620 I Street, which is of course the heart of the business district down there now. And I stayed – being unmarried at the time – I stayed in her boarding house.

It's easy parking my car on the street. I could take – Usually at the Star I went to work at 7:30 in the morning and for a while I was on rewrite going at 6:30. And at that time of day I could park – If I couldn't park my car on the street fairly close to the Star I could park it in the mall just a couple of blocks from there, as long as I got out -- without any problem whatsoever.

And the Star at that time had a dentist that took care of the staff people. And if you were ill and called in and couldn't report to work, they'd send a nurse out to check on your health. It was a two-way proposition. You might need some medicine. And also it prevented anybody faking anything.

The Star was a very fine place to work. But there again I was up against the business of slow promotions. Very few people ever left the Star once they got a job there. And I started at \$45 a week and at the end of both years they gave me a \$5 raise and I got up to \$55.

And I asked for a bigger raise and I was told that they just didn't give them at that time, that, in 1941, my wife and several other people, newspaper people that I knew in town, had received – what's considered a fabulous offer to join the Washington bureau of the Chicago Sun, which Marshall Field was just starting in Chicago in competition with the Chicago Tribune there.

And the custom was to offer people at least 50 cents more than they were making. They got Turner Catledge, who was one of the top correspondents for The New York Times, as a chief correspondent, national, international. They picked Cecil Dixon who had been covering the Congress for the AP for years.

They got Tom Reynolds who was covering the White House for United Press. And my wife, Ann, worked for the New York Herald Tribune. They offered her money to come over to Mrs. Roosevelt, various things like that. That was the pattern they were following.

They offered me \$75 a week, which was enough of an increase to interest me. We went to work for the Washington bureau of the Chicago Sun, which did not have an Associated Press service at that time so it had to have a lot of people there – had 22 people in the Washington bureau.

And I had been doing defense and war production stuff for the Star. I was going to start off doing that for them. And they put out some dummy editions, the last few days of November and early December.

And as you may remember, on December the 7<sup>th</sup> we had a little fracas at Pearl Harbor. That changed things quite a bit.

Interesting note: Two or three days before Pearl Harbor, at the War Department, I got an interview with a colonel over there about what a terrible farce the Japanese Air Force was. And they ran it in the dummy edition of the Chicago Sun. And I tried to get them to run it later after December 7<sup>th</sup>, but they wouldn't do it. They said it would be unpatriotic [laughing] in view of what happened at Pearl Harbor.

Anyway, I covered the War and Navy departments and all the war communiqués and so forth, at the Chicago Sun. And it was a very active beat of course. And it so happened at that time I had earlier, much earlier, about two years before as a matter of fact, when things began to get tough on the Star, I had applied for a commission in the Navy and they had turned me down because I was partly color blind. And the Marines had turned me down because I had a perforation in the septum of my nose.

And so I wasn't too anxious to go in otherwise, but along in April of '42 I got a notice from the Draft Board. And of course the Draft Board thought I was a very good specimen. And I was inducted into the Army in that April and sent down for basic training at Drew Field, Florida, just outside of Tampa.

And I was finishing up my basic training down there, at which time, I wasn't eligible because of my color-blindness for the officers candidate school. But because I had taken ROTC in college and had been in the National Guard, and also had an Army commission for the first five years after I got out of the university but wouldn't do anything about it, I'd had some military training.

And I was a company clerk and did the drilling for the people on there. Anyway, an order came in one day from the Navy Department. They had been to two obsolete addresses; they finally caught up with me from the Navy Department saying they had changed their regulations and would I be interested in being a lieutenant j.g. in the Navy?

So it turned out that on the Articles of War, an enlisted person in the Army or Navy can get an honorable discharge to accept a commission in the other services.

So I came back to Washington after three days as a civilian and joined the Navy as a lieutenant j.g. I got sent down to San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Anyway, so then, in the Caribbean, Puerto Rico and Trinidad until –

ST. JOHN: So you went into the Navy. Did you go overseas?

FREE: Yes. After I was in Trinidad in 1944 and I got transferred to the Pacific area, as sort of something new – a Japanese underwater swimmer had put, tried to attach a torpedo to one of our transports, attach a mine to one of the transports in one of the landings. So they decided to have a program they called training Transport Scouts, they called them. It's at San Diego, the Naval Air Station there in San Diego.

And Lieutenant Colonel James Roosevelt was the officer that ran this school. And his physical training guy was the fellow who played Tarzan in the movies.

ST. JOHN: Was that Johnny Weissmuller?

FREE: No, there were three or four different versions of it. It wasn't Buster Crabb. I – at the moment I can't recall this fellow's name. But anyway, he was a pretty rough, tough guy and he really put us through it.

Anyway, they did a lot of training and underwater swimming and explosives and rubber boats with electric motors and taking boats through the surf, in and out, and also operating a landing craft, LCVP, coming through the waves, putting up on the beach and let the troops out, and a lot of stuff like that.

As far as I know, it turned out. All 20 some odd of us were sent out to board the transports – attack transports. I never heard of any of them having to put to particular use the sort of thing we were trained for there in California.

We had other duties. I was assistant communications officer and assistant beach master and intelligence officer on an attack transport.

ST. JOHN: Did you do writing at that time? Were you getting into that at all?

FREE: I had done some writing in Trinidad. I wrote a piece on calypsos down there, which were very popular at the time. And a lot of them were devoted to the American people being in Trinidad and how so many – rum and Coca Cola, you remember, working for the Yankee dollar.

ST. JOHN: Where were they published?

FREE: And I wrote this piece, Life Magazine was very much interested in it. And we got some pictures and I sent them up a text of about 2,000 words, recorded a lot of the songs and everything.

We were going along fine until it turned out that there was a big lawsuit pending on "Rum and Coca Cola." Morrie Amsterdam, entertainer, at that time, had been down to Trinidad entertaining troops earlier, claimed that he had written the words to this song. And the fellow who got credit for it had stolen the words. And although they had quite a bit of evidence that the Navy man did write the song, Life Magazine didn't want to get stuck with a suit and they paid me \$500 and never ran the thing.

And had one other occasion of a seaman who was brought into Trinidad practically dead, who had been at sea some 64 days. And he's a Dutchman – I wrote a story about his long siege at sea and had something going with Life Magazine on that. And then it turned out that someone else had been at sea for 70-some odd days, and came into a port where Life had a correspondent, and that killed me dead.

I didn't get a chance to do it a lot. I had collateral duties as public information officer at, down in Trinidad. Had some work with magazine people coming through and also with a local paper. But my duties were not very heavy there.

The rest of the time I went, we went to Pearl Harbor, and I was aboard an attack transport, landings in the Palau Islands and two in the Philippines, Leyte and Lingayen in the gulf.

And in late January of '45, I was transferred back to Pearl Harbor where they had just been in operation there for a few months when a magazine that went to all the Navy submarines and fighting ships, weekly intelligence reports, had – the main thing it did was give them confidential information, as much as was available, on where Japanese submarines were operating. And any other kinds of things that they had that might be of use to the Navy units and the Army units there.

And I was – it was at Pearl Harbor – and I worked on that until VJ Day came, and because I had been out of the country most of the time during the war I got an early discharge, arranged one and so on. I came back to the United States and went back to work for the Chicago Sun in September of 1945 and –

ST. JOHN: Was that in Washington?

FREE: In Washington, the Washington bureau. Yeah. And they, very, very shortly thereafter, put me on the labor relations beat covering negotiations between unions and management.

And particularly starting in '45 you had a series of strikes, national strikes, steel strike, and John L. Lewis struck a couple of times, and it just seemed to be a big body of strikes. And that, they kept me pretty busy through that period.

And at the end of '46, Marshall Field who'd been financing the Chicago Sun to be the New York Times of the Midwest, was informed by his auditors and lawyers that \$22 million was enough to lose in his contest against the Chicago Tribune. And he was prevailed upon to buy the Chicago Times, which is a tabloid. He could have bought it for about half the price he later paid for it – he could have bought it during the war but he was too proud to go to a tabloid, during the war. But then in later – late '46 they prevailed on him to preserve his fortune and cut down on the Chicago Sun expenditures, which he did, and that meant that they cut the Chicago Sun bureau from a total of some 25 people down to about four. And I was one of those included in the, in the reduction of the staff.

And I had been – the fellow who ran our bureau was named Bascom Timmons. And Bascom Timmons had represented a whole lot of other papers. He had a total of some 20 papers and most of them were in Texas, but he had had them in various other states – the New Orleans papers and had some papers in Pennsylvania and all over the place, really – most of them in the South and Southeast. And he did have the Philadelphia tabloid at that time.

And he offered me a job covering for the Raleigh News and Observer in North Carolina. And there was some prospect of getting The Birmingham News represented up there because their correspondent, a fellow named Carroll Kilpatrick, who later covered the White House for The Washington Post, was going to the San Francisco Chronicle.

And so I went with Timmons writing for Raleigh and Birmingham. And this was in early 1947, and not too long after that, the editor – North Carolina coverage – the Winston-Salem papers, morning Journal and afternoon Sentinel – I got that mainly because the fellow who was the publisher there, a fellow named Leon Dure, had been a managing editor of the Richmond Times-Dispatch when I worked there.

And that got to be a fair load. And then it was a time when the time, the Richmond Times-Dispatch, also came in, wanted me cover for them. And Timmons let me, assigned me to do it. And that all went on for some months. I was – tried to get 'em to get somebody to help me with that coverage.

ST. JOHN: A heavy load.

FREE: Yeah. And it was just too much and I wasn't at all surprised when the Richmond papers [unintelligible] dropped out after about six or eight months. And the Winston-Salem papers dropped out after about a little over a year and a half.

But, anyway, I did the Raleigh paper and The Birmingham News until long till about 1952 when The Birmingham News wanted me just to represent them exclusively up here. And then, in early '52 that's what I did.

And I represented The Birmingham News exclusively until I retired in the early 1980s here – And –

ST. JOHN: You mentioned when we were talking –

FREE: As their Washington correspondent for 32 years, as sole – my wife helped me part of the time in the early years – but she went on to do different things. She writes magazine pieces and books and things of that sort.

ST. JOHN: When we were talking on the phone you mentioned the Civil Rights Era.

FREE: Oh, yes. Well, of course –

ST. JOHN: Where you and what were you covering at that time?

FREE: Well, I was here in Washington. But quite obviously when they had anything up involving Alabama or even indirectly – a lot of it was direct, as you know – the trouble in Birmingham and also in Montgomery and, later, Selma.

I spent a lot of time down at the Justice Department, a good many days and actually up into the night a good many times. And The Birmingham News at that time was trying to follow a balanced policy of trying to urge the local people against any kind of violence and to obey the laws. And they also calling on the blacks to – not to resort to any violence and not to be too provocative of the people who were resisting segregation and so forth.

And, as a matter of fact, during that early parts of the civil rights contest down there, that's exactly what the Kennedy brothers were trying to do. They were trying to encourage the blacks not to be too provocative and get themselves beat up unnecessarily and so forth. And also trying to get the locals to give some grounds and keep things on an even keel and not have any outbreaks of people getting injured and what not.

And our readers didn't like our sort of middle position, editorially and particularly stories I was writing here and ones locally, too. Several hundred of them would cancel their subscriptions. And the publisher and editor got threats of violence and at times had to have guards around their homes.

I got a whole bunch of nasty letters because I wasn't defending the White Citizens Council position – and

ST. JOHN: Were these letters from readers?

FREE: -- and they thought I was too harsh and while I was reporting about the Governor John Patterson and later Governor George Wallace, what they were doing. And –

ST. JOHN: What position did you take about what they were doing?

FREE: Of course, what I was doing really was reporting what the justice [unintelligible] –

(Ann Cottrell Free): I've got to turn this one over now.

Well, give that a lot of emphasis, Jim, because people in the future will really be listening. What about the night that you were the only link between Alabama, the Department of Justice –

FREE: Well, I'm getting to that.

(Discussion of setting up tape recording equipment)

ST. JOHN: Let's see what we were talking about. We were talking about your being the representative for the Birmingham paper during the highlights of that civil rights stuff that's up here – what your role was. I had just asked you what position you were writing about, of the governors of Alabama. And you said you had angered people very much.

FREE: Well, I was just reporting on what the Alabama authorities were doing and, at one point there, went with Robert Kennedy down to Montgomery, Alabama, where he talked to Governor Wallace, trying to prevail on him to let the students into the University of Alabama.

And Wallace -- of course there were no reporters in the meeting – But [Edwin] Guthman who was in there for part, he was the press man for Kennedy, the government, told us that all, periodically, Wallace would say to him, "I'm going to block them but you will send in the troops? Send in the troops?" In other words, he wanted to be forced. He wanted the local people to see he was being forced.

And of course Patterson, before him, had been very adamant about all the different things and I was, of course, reporting there. And I was also reporting what the Justice Department was trying to accomplish and why they were doing some of the things they were doing.

And I must say that Robert Kennedy himself, since he had the same ideas about a middle course and prevention of injuries and bloodshed, was favorably impressed with what I was doing and gave me access to quite a number of things he was doing. Sometimes he would ask me if I could come over to Hickory Hill and ride in with him if I wanted to get the lowdown on what was coming up.

And because of the importance of getting the details of what he was doing out in Alabama, and we also had Mississippi editions, that if he had a story say they're going to break at 11 o'clock, either Guthman, the top press associate, or Jack Rosenthal, the number two man, would give me the press release of the documents about half hour or 45

minutes before that, and give me a room upstairs with a typewriter. And let me write up my story and dictate it to my paper for release at that time.

He didn't give me an exclusive story but he gave me a break on the time. We could get a balanced story, a complete story, in the paper, without having to dictate it hurriedly. And that was a big help to us as well as to him.

And while I was pleased with – later and David Garrow's book, his biography of Martin Luther King, "Parting of the Waters," mentioned in there at one point that I was one of Robert Kennedy's favorite reporters. And he was much more cooperative to me than George Wallace ever was. I'll say that.

And it was gratifying to be able – I think – Birmingham, you know, did elect – got rid of Bull Connor and elected a moderate mayor and negotiated with King on a lot of things – pretty much under pressure, of course, from the Justice Department.

But they – that turned Birmingham around in fairly short order there. Of course none of those places are perfect, nor is Washington, D.C., but it's a big improvement over anything else that's happened.

ST. JOHN: Were you in Birmingham and back and forth to Washington during that time?

FREE: I was down there just on some short trips. Went down with Kennedy. And I went with him again when I went down to investigate some [unintelligible] situations particularly among blacks in Mississippi. And he made a speech at Oxford, at the university. Went on to Selma after that, [unintelligible]cooperative venture down there for blacks.

ST. JOHN: Did you all fly down there and fly back?

FREE: Yeah. We flew down there and back.

Well, and I was able to help the Justice Department one night in Montgomery. King was addressing a gathering in a church there in Montgomery and a lot of the white objectors gathered outside and there was a pretty threatening situation. And the local police were supposed to be guarding the people in the church from the possible, people outside.

And it so happened – We had reporters down there, of course, from The Birmingham News on the situation. And I was in constant – I was in touch with my state desk there by telephone periodically keeping up with what was going on. And they told me one time when I called up down there that the local police had been withdrawn from around the church.

And I reported that to Guthman and Kennedy and it turned out that the FBI was there, they had some unmarked police cars, cars that were watching the thing. But same way or other the Montgomery police got away from there, unobserved by these FBI people.

And, anyway, they were able to alert – they had a whole bunch of federal agents at the Montgomery Air Force base down there, at Maxwell Field. And down there under Whizzer [Byron] White, who was then undersecretary to Bobby. And they got the – sent several truckloads of marshals over to this church.

And a lot of these people – they were not trained marshals. They had people from the alcohol-tax unit and even had some, few other federal agencies. And a lot of them were from the Southern states and were not too sympathetic to what they'd been sent down there to do. And there had been some discussion among the higher ups at the Justice Department about how these people would react when they were called in to provide guards, to be a shield against the possible violent demonstrators.

And I was told later that when they reported to the Justice Department that the marshals had arrived at the church, that some of the Department people up here said, "On which side?" [Laughing] Of course they were all loyal federals – no question about that. But what all I'm saying is there were a lot of moments there when they weren't too sure how things were going to go.

And, of course, you had a lot of civil rights litigation problems up here, too, and the pressures of the civil rights bills.

ST. JOHN: Being a Southerner, did you yourself – you were a Southerner – did have any problem with your own feelings when you were writing about this? Were you sympathetic in some way or other?

FREE: It wasn't much of a problem to me. As a matter of fact, I found faults with both sides there. I thought on several occasions that the freedom riders were unnecessarily reckless in exposing themselves in some cases...continued – beat up our News photographers when they tried to cover the freedom marches, freedom riders, being attacked, into Birmingham. And they did the same things to the newspaper people in Montgomery when the freedom riders were attacked down there.

ST. JOHN: The newspeople were attacked also?

FREE: Well, they beat up the photographers. And they would have beat up the reporters if they'd been close enough to get to them. Yeah, they were just violent about it.

ANN FREE: The cops.

FREE: Yeah.

ANN FREE: Yeah. And they burned a cross on his managing editor's lawn.

FREE: And I told them if -- they'd put guards there -- but I guess it was the Klan and burned a cross at the editor's house.

ST. JOHN: And this was in Birmingham or Washington?

ANN FREE: Birmingham.

FREE: Birmingham. All I got was nasty letters from Klan people or the White Citizens Council people. I should be fired. I wasn't loyal to the state -- that sort of stuff.

ST. JOHN: Did you write about the White Citizens Council at all? That was an enormous group of people.

FREE: Yes, I had an interesting --

ST. JOHN: A lot of pressure.

FREE: I had an interesting incident one time with John F. Kennedy when he was a senator.

ANN FREE: Who?

FREE: Yes.

ANN FREE: Who?

FREE: John F. Kennedy.

ANN FREE: Oh, Unh-huh.

FREE: The United States senator. He was going -- He was running for president, of course. And he had a lot of supporters in Alabama. And he knew he could get some of the delegates from Alabama if he wanted them. And he invited the head of the White Citizens Council in Alabama to come to see him in his office in the Senate Office Building.

And I got a tip that the fella was over there. And I had covered Kennedy on a couple of the trips that he had made in North Carolina and some other places. And I wasn't intimate with him, but we knew each other, talked to each other.

Anyway, I was waiting outside his office when the door opened after they had finished their conference in there and the segregationist started to walk out and Kennedy just behind him. He looked out there and saw me. And jokingly he says, 'Don't talk to that SOB.' [Laughing].

But of course the fella did and Kennedy knew I would.

And later, at the convention, he didn't take all the delegates he could get from Alabama because he thought it would hurt him in other states. He just took part of the vote. He said, 'I don't want it all. Just give me part of it.'

And that was what was doing when they divided the vote up in Los Angeles at the convention. They gave part to LBJ on the early ballots and they all switched to Kennedy.

ST. JOHN: Did you cover conventions at all?

FREE: I covered all the conventions from 1948 through 1976, with one sole exception – the Eisenhower second term deal when he was – it was repeated on practically everything and they knew it was going to repeat in everything. And we figured it was just as well, other things I could do in the political arena that was more productive than going all the way out to Los Angeles, I think, was where that convention was.

ST. JOHN: What differences have you noticed from the conventions over the years? What has changed? What trends?

FREE: Well, the basic things has changed is they don't really select people at the conventions anymore. The first conventions I went to, the first one, in Philadelphia in 1948, on both sides you had situations where governors or the heads of big city machines; people in Congress, or there were certain people that you could negotiate for delegates.

And, of course, back in those days, the Republican conventions, places like South Carolina and Mississippi, they had the what we refer to as telephone booth Republican parties down there.

ST. JOHN: What is that?

FREE: I don't know if you remember Perry Howard or not, of Mississippi. But he was a Mississippi Republican leader.

ST. JOHN: For the record, let's describe the telephone Republicans. Will you?

FREE: Yeah. [Laughing] Well, the head of the South Carolina Republicans lived in Washington, D.C. And we'd always consult him when we wanted to find out about Republican affairs in South Carolina. And they were – If you couldn't get Perry Howard on the telephone you could get some of the people at the Republican National Convention who talked with Perry and find out what was going on with most of the Republicans down in Mississippi. I remember that.

And that prevailed to some extent actually until the Eisenhower nomination in '52. That was the first time that they really had some delegates could speak for the people in Mississippi.

Alabama was pretty much a matter of just negotiation. They didn't have very much actual representation until fairly recent years. And even to this day don't have many people in the primaries, or anything like that.

ST. JOHN: But when did you first become involved with the National Press Club?

FREE: I joined the National Press Club late in 1938 or 1939 when I was working for the Washington Star. And I didn't go there too often. And in those days, at the beginning, we moved in with the Chicago Sun in late November of '41. Of course we had offices there –

ST. JOHN: In the building –

FREE: In the building. And quite frequently had lunch and dinner there. And you'd see the regulars, the same people there right along. The Herald Tribune was, we were right on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor and the Herald-Tribune around the corner. And the Philadelphia News – Daily News – was on that same floor as was the Philadelphia Bulletin.

And a little later, after the Gannet papers moved in next to us. And there were some people, particularly the desk people, up there all the time, a fellow named (phonetic) Clement Jones on the Herald-Tribune desk – you'd see him down at the Press Club all the time. You're taking meals in the bar. Frank Holman was a regular at that time and the – It was John O'Donnell, the controversial columnist for the New York Daily News that Franklin Roosevelt told to stand in the corner, was one of them.

And, of course, Timmons had his offices on the 12<sup>th</sup> Floor and had had them there for years with the Chicago Sun and various other papers that he represented. And of course he was at one time president of the National Press Club.

I spent a good deal of time there. I didn't take any very active part in Press Club politics, although there was one fellow who practically lived in the Press Club at that time – a gentleman by the name of Homer Dodge. He was running all over the place. He did some work but nobody could ever quite figure sometime what the work was.

Well, anyway, Homer was a well-known character in the club. And one time when Paul Wooten was a shoo-in to be president of the National Press Club; it looked like a very dull election. So we got up a petition endorsing Homer Dodge for president on the theme of “food with meals.” Food with meals. [Laughing]

Paul Wooten took a dim view of that, interfering with his unanimous election. But we had a little fun with it anyway.

And the only other time I got dabbled in Press Club politics, I kept the voter list for Bill Lawrence of the New York Times when he ran and was elected president of the Press Club. That means of course, having the rundown on the big bureaus and how many votes they got and people he could count on, and then being on hand to check them when they come in to vote and if they hadn't come in, call them up and – I don't think Bill did it, but quite a number of them provided taxi and bus transportation – whatever kind of transportation it takes to get them from their offices at the Capitol down to vote.

ST. JOHN: Was your paper eager for you to be a member of the Press Club? How did they feel about that?

FREE: Well, they – I put it on the expense account. They thought it was worthwhile to that extent. And of course when any of them would be up here for business purposes or to attend an editor's meeting or whatever kind of meeting they had come to, they were always pleased to have the facilities of the Press Club available to them. And a lot of them used it.

And you could get temporary guest cards, you know.

FREE: You could either take them down yourself or if they were here only a short time you could get them a guest card good for certain periods.

ST. JOHN: This was for meals in the bar?

FREE: Yes.

ST. JOHN: Uh-huh. Okay. Well, the bar seems to have been quite a gathering place for a lot of people.

FREE: Oh, yeah. They --- This –

ST. JOHN: What was your experience with that?

FREE: They served food in there. And I suppose they're still fairly clubby. I don't know, like the old days before there were women members, that, that's long gone. I haven't been in there enough in recent years to know whether they still have the same –

At a given time at lunch, for example, you could go in and recognize practically everybody that was there. Once in awhile somebody would come in, who didn't come in very often. But it wasn't too often then.

And then, of course, there in the main dining room they had what they called the singles' roundtable that people coming in alone could go on and sit down and converse with other people and a lot of regulars showed up there.

Of course they had the tickers in there that people could use. And in one part they had the library – wasn't as nice as it is today – but then they had a workroom with

typewriters. And of course all of the bureaus, after you finish your stories, they had things on the wall where you could twist and summon a Western Union messenger, at times even get a postal union messenger, to come and pick up your copy.

ST. JOHN: Oh. Uh-huh.

FREE: I know when I worked for the Star, once in a while I'd have to cover a hearing up at the Capitol and most of the time you had to cover them by yourself, which meant if you got up to go out and do any long dictation that you missed quite a bit of the hearing that you were covering.

The technique I developed was just to stay put and write out in longhand add copy and new leads and so forth on the story and stay in there. And the signal -- for the Western Union boys who would hang around -- and people would signal for them. They covered for the wire service and otherwise didn't want to leave the hearing room. And they'd send the copy from the Capitol down to the Star by telegram.

ST. JOHN: So you would write on there a draft of what you wanted them to do and they would just whiz it on down there.

FREE: Yeah. And new lead or first add, second add, that sort of thing.

ST. JOHN: A very good thing to do.

FREE: Well, it was. It was sort of distracting sometimes but, while you're writing try to listen to what's being said at that particular time also. But --

ST. JOHN: You get used to it.

FREE: And that was a --

ST. JOHN: Well, tell me, I want to ask you about two more things particularly. One is the awards that you have received and your experience with the Gridiron Club.

FREE: Yeah. Well, I was very pleased in 1954 the Raymond Clapper Award people cited me, the only honorable mention that was given that year -- Doris Fleson won the top prize for a column. But they cited me -- they gave the only honorable mention.

I'll tell you what they said on the citation. It said, "Given in view of the fact that .. "My coverage was, "exceptional and the type of reportage which American newspapers could use more of, that is, coverage of national affairs in time for the specific community served by the reporter."

And it's pretty hard for an individual regional reporters to spend a lot of time developing stories that could win big prizes, and so it was pleasing to get that recognition for coverage of that kind of story.

ST. JOHN: Well, sure it was. And obviously well deserved.

FREE: It was appreciated anyway.

And then in 1989, the Sigma Delta Chi, the Society of Professional Journalists, every year they name some people to their Hall of Fame. And almost from the start, one of the categories of people inducted, they select one for each year, is so-called “regional coverage.” And although I was retired, they cited me that year and elected me to the Hall of Fame for regional reporting – It wasn’t considered for anybody hadn’t been here 25 years.

ST. JOHN: That’s really your peers, isn’t it?

FREE: Yeah. And then –

ST. JOHN: When did you first join Sigma Delta Chi? In college or later?

FREE: No, they didn’t have Sigma Delta Chi in college at that time, either at Alabama or at Columbia, that I knew anything about. I joined, I guess, in the late 1950s. And I was president of it in ’77 and ’78, the Washington, D.C., chapter. And I was very happy that the national organization cited us as a, for superior performance, that year. We increased the membership by 10 percent and they also liked the innovative programs that we started, invited the college journalism students to participate in. And we had the first such program ever given over at the CIA, for example. We took them over to the Pentagon. And also the House and Senate at night and the senators and congressmen to come in and talk to them about the – and also the reporters – about the coverage.

ST. JOHN: Well, this is a very influential group from what I understand.

FREE: Yeah. This – and the University of Alabama –

ANN FREE: Read the citations – out loud.

ST. JOHN: Read that for the record there. That’ll be fine.

FREE: This was the Alabama Alumni Association; this was an award to me in 1967 “for his conspicuous services in journalism to promote better understanding in the Southern Region. And to advance the constructive development of Alabama and the South.”

ST. JOHN: That’s a very strong statement there. Well, those are very impressive I must say.

FREE: It’s nice to have people, know that somebody reads your stuff.

ST. JOHN: Have you written any books?

FREE: Well, the only book I have written was the anniversary book for the Gridiron Club on the occasion of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

ST. JOHN: Um-hum.

FREE: It's called "The Press 100 Years, a Casual Chronicle of the Gridiron Club." It covers a period from the inception in 1885 through 1985.

ST. JOHN: Well, now, let's talk a little bit about you and the Gridiron Club.

FREE: And I was elected to the Gridiron Club in 1969 and, of course at that time it was all male, and really run by a very few of the senior people. And it took until about 1973 before they elected the first black – that was Carl Rowan – and the first woman reporter was Helen Thomas of United Press. And she was elected in 1975.

It was a gradual process. There was quite a bit of pressure being put on the club, of course, by the women who – quite logically – take it as discriminatory, and there's no doubt that it was.

Members of course knew it was, particularly the more senior members, felt like it would just change the nature of the club and all of that kind of business.

ST. JOHN: Um-hum.

FREE: And it was a number of them that we pretty much had to wait until they got out of there. It took two-thirds vote of the active members to change the constitution. And it took that long, actually, to swing them around.

ST. JOHN: What was the purpose of the Gridiron Club when you joined it? Why did you join? What did it offer you?

FREE: Well, the only stated purpose in the constitution is to promote good fellowship. And it has regular monthly meetings in addition to the dinner, the big Spring dinner it has, and also a Winter dinner for members only.

I think the Gridiron Club really is a positive force in sorta keeping the peace between the journalists and the people that they write – cover – elected politicians. It's easy for them to get at cross-purposes. And at the time the Gridiron Club was founded and – back in 1885 – it, from the beginning, after the Civil War through the early seventies and even from the early eighties, there was so much hostility between the people who were covered – and had been absolutely no rules up there. The editors and newspaper people were lobbyists and a lot of members of Congress wrote columns and various stories for papers back home.

ST. JOHN: Well, could anyone go in there?

FREE: Well, there's no organization about it.

ANN FREE: In the Gridiron Club. No, no. That's still very strictly [unintelligible].

FREE: No, I'm talking about the reporters' covering the Congress.

ST. JOHN: Um-hum. You want to talk about –

ANN FREE: Tell her how do you get in?

FREE: Well, let me finish this, I started -- Several of the people who organized and supported this organization to get the Standing Committee of Correspondents up in Congress to get rules for covering the Congress were prominent members of the Gridiron Club.

As a matter of fact, the main one was a Civil War veteran who had won the medal of honor. Fellow named Henry Van Ness Boynton. And he was a prime factor in organizing the press, getting the Standing Committee of Correspondents to go up on the Hill. And even jailed some reporters up there for violating the Senate rule of secrecy.

And over in the House gallery, there was so much disrespect for the press that quite often they'd fill up the press gallery with visitors' passes so the press couldn't get in.

But at least they got them on peaceful cooperation anyway. They worked to mutual advantage and both of them up there.

I was elected historian of the Gridiron Club and I was historian from 1979 through 1991, for 13 years.

ST. JOHN: What format have you used to write that history?

FREE: Of the Gridiron Club?

ST. JOHN: Um-hum.

FREE: Well, we had a history of details of the dinners and what the president said at the dinners, written back in the late 1976 or so by a fellow named Harold Brayman, a member of the club and former newspaper man. And it was a big long book with a whole lot of detail in it about the dinners of the club, in particular.

But we wanted something more informal, covering a of episodes when, in the little history, some had nothing to with the presidents. And some of the strange things

that happened and funny things that happened at some of the dinners. And between some of the dinners.

And that, we tried to keep it to short sections. And none of them were more than – The section on, the front one, a key founder of the club, a fellow named Ben:Perley Poore, was fairly long, ran several pages. Most of it is one or two pages. And we had a lot of illustrations in there. And Ann was very helpful to me in getting them all together and laying out the thing.

And it was fun getting it done. And they – It's still the custom and have all the new members, when they get a new member, and they pick one in, they don't take in more than once a month so they can build up the seniority system, which officers are picked as president. The club has always picked on seniority.

ST. JOHN: Now are you still active with them? No, I'm an associate member. They have 60 active members and then, oh, two or three times that number of former members who are called associate members.

And then they have some performing members who are very good at presenting the songs in words that people can understand, with the songs. They got a, sometimes you get up to about 15 – we have a some, a little short of that number now.

ST. JOHN: Go back a little bit. About the people along the way who have been, who have influenced you in your career.

FREE: Well, getting started – even back as far as high school – I had an English teacher named Mrs. Thames. She was very challenging and made you appreciate the English language. And if – if she thought you didn't she'd get really tough on you.

And then in college I had a couple of professors that had a good deal of influence. One was Carl Carmer, who wrote the popular book called "Stars Fell on Alabama", taught and advanced writing course that was very helpful.

And a fellow who taught Shakespeare called Hudson Strode, who wrote a biography of Jefferson Davis. Some other books, that was the most – best book he did. He would perform in class. He had, as a young man, taken part in some theatricals himself, including –

ST. JOHN: As you did.

FREE: -- and, yeah. And then he would – to dramatize different parts of Shakespeare, he would assign different people in the class to take different parts. And he didn't always take one himself. And if the thing wasn't delivered with the proper emphasis, if he thought you weren't doing the thing right, weren't getting over the proper emotion, he'd come back and go over it again with you.

And he kept people on their toes. And among other things, you know, he always had a dramatic entrance of some sort. And most of the time when he came into class, flinging a cloak around himself or intentionally stumble, or [laughing] something like that –

ST. JOHN: It got your attention, didn't it?

FREE: [Laughing] Got the attention of the class.

And then, of course, I guess all these paper people influenced by Henry L. Mencken.

I remember my operation with Hubbard. He was a great word specialist, I'd write flamboyant letters. So I'd try to imitate the Mencken style and give him a little rundown on what was happening around the world around me ala Mencken. And I think that was one reason he took me over as co-director – other than the fact I raised the money for it.

And, of course, you've got, you've had top people here like Scotty Reston, who probably – he and Joe Alsop were about the best of developing sources of anybody in town.

And I know when Turner Catledge, worked for the Chicago Sun, I used to go – once in a while I'd make some rounds with him up at the Capitol. And I was impressed by the fact he knew practically all the employees around the place. In addition to knowing the top people who ran the House and Senate, he knew people who were running all the different offices around there. And in the sergeant at arms office, in the architect's office. He was one of these fellows who went around and got things, and impressed on me again how important it is to get to know staff people and other related people who can tell you things that sometimes their bosses wouldn't, although the boss might not object to them telling you –

ST. JOHN: You got a better story.

FREE: Yeah. That's right. That's right.

ST. JOHN: My husband found out that same thing.

FREE: Yeah, that's right. That's right.

ST. JOHN: You were going to mention something?

ANN FREE: No, it was just back there on the Gridiron. He continued on the board although he was the first associated member who served on the board, which was unusual. They changed that rule.

FREE: One thing I wanted to tell you about the Press Club that I'm sorta proud of. When the issue came up about the first black being nominated to the Press Club, this fellow happened to be a black named Louis Lautier, who represented a black newspaper

association. And Louie and I had swapped information on various civil rights matters with the Justice Department and on the Hill for quite a long time. And I was very much in favor of Louie getting in. And the primary obstacles were – I’m not going to name them, but there was one correspondent for some Southern newspapers – he was very adamant about it, and he was threatening to do this that and the other thing.

And although I think they could have finally put Louie in over this fellow’s objections I took it on myself to see if I couldn’t convince them to refrain from objecting, convince this gentleman to just maintain his silence and voice his objections privately, which he did. And I think that was helpful in getting Louie elected to the club.

ST. JOHN: How long was it before other black members came in?

FREE: It was a matter of a few months, mainly because they just weren’t many black newspaper people covering Washington. And I think even today you won’t find a large number.

Well, for instance, the Gridiron Club, although they took in Rowan, 17- 18 years ago, we only have two black members now, Rowan and William Raspberry, of The Post, and it would be – at anytime anybody wanted to they can nominate someone else. But they just aren’t very many blacks covering national affairs in Washington. There’s no barrier to nominating them.

ANN FREE: A lot more on TV.

FREE: And I think you’ll find that –

ANN FREE: The blacks have gone more to television than [crosstalk, unintelligible]. And they can’t qualify for – they can for the club but not the Gridiron.

ST. JOHN: Well, let me go back to the press club and I’ll ask you this also when I interview you. When the women were allowed to become members. Tell me what you remember about that.

FREE: Well, of course it’s just – this new book by Nan Robertson of the New York Times has a title, “The Girls in the Balcony,” which is based on the fact that that’s how they had to cover things up there. I never had any really, really strong feeling about keeping the women out.

ANN FREE: Your best friend was the enemy of the women. You might as well tell it.

FREE: Who was?

ANN FREE: Bill Lawrence.

FREE: Yeah. Well, Bill – Bill, that was one of his –

ANN FREE: He was president of the Press Club.

ST. JOHN: Tell the story.

FREE: Well, he was sorta anti-women reporters regardless. I guess you could just call it sorta a macho type kind of a guy. He liked them, ala Clinton. But he didn't necessarily consider them at the profession. They just sorta got in the way. He was sorta of a hell for leather coverage kind of a guy. And if anybody wanted to talk to him, he'd be very confrontational about it.

He barged in on a social occasion, that Arthur Krock the New York Times bureau chief, was having at his home one night because there was somebody there that he wanted to ask some questions of. And he telephoned and asked to speak to this guy. And Krock wouldn't let him speak to him on the telephone. So Bill went over there in person demanding to speak to him.

ST. JOHN: That's really running down a story, isn't it?

FREE: That's right.

ST. JOHN: Well, how about your family? Did they encourage you, and your parents and your siblings encourage you in going into the field you went in?

FREE: Well, I just – No one in my family had had ever been in any kind of journalism that I knew anything about it. My father was a businessman, a lumberman.

ST. JOHN: Oh. My father was, too.

FREE: As a matter of fact, I don't even have any relatives in the newspaper business. I – it appealed to me because it has a variety to it. And, and I think it's an educational process if done properly, not only for the newspaper people but for the readers – if it's not it ought to be.

ST. JOHN: Anyway. And once I got into it I sorta liked the fact that I was 750 miles away from the headquarters of my newspaper. That means that they couldn't latch onto me to field various and sundry things that came along.

I know I used to try to make it a practice to go down to the home office at least twice a year. But I found out quite often when I went down there, instead of allowing me to do what I wanted to do – which was get around and meet all the local officials, people that I thought would be valuable for me to know as news sources or otherwise – it, quite often, I'd be there and something would come up and I'd get called on to go cover a

Rotary Club luncheon or this, that and the other thing down there, which I had no objection to doing as such. But it sorta defeated the purpose for which I went down.

ST. JOHN: Was your family still there for a long time?

FREE: My mother lived there in Tuscaloosa until she died in 1966. I used to go down fairly often to see her.

ST. JOHN: Did you have brothers and sisters down there?

FREE: No, I'm an only child. Mother had problems with stillbirths [unintelligible] anything. And I was the sole survivor. So happens that my wife is an only child. And, so far, our daughter is an only child. So –

ST. JOHN: So it works out that way. I'm going to stop you here a minute. The only thing that I think would be, that I would want to ask you about, unless there's some things you want to say – in the Washington area, relates – What was I talking about? I'll just decline it.

FREE: Well, I, even which I worked in Richmond, I used to come up to Washington to visit friends and see football games, sometimes baseball games of interest to me.

And it was so easy to get around, you'd take your—

Later I lived on Connecticut Avenue and also off Wisconsin Avenue. It wasn't convenient sometimes to drive down, and you'd catch a streetcar without any particular problems. Twenty-five or 30 minutes to get down. Very seldom that they'd have much of a traffic problem.

And you'd go to the Capitol from the National Press Building the same way. Just walk down to Pennsylvania Avenue, catch a streetcar, and go there. And the times at the Washington Star, when I'd fill in on the so-called suburban beat, Virginia and Maryland counties nearby, no traffic problem to go out, to drive out to Upper Marlboro and 15-20-30 minutes to, at the outside, I'd go over to Arlington County Courthouse. Get around – it's very seldom you had parking problems.

ST. JOHN: There weren't many cars here, or – there weren't many people?

FREE: Well, they weren't – somehow more people ride on the streetcars. Well this senator, old Senator Clyde Hoey, that Ann and I wrote a magazine piece about for Colliers, used to ride the street car from his hotel downtown up to the Capitol.

ANN FREE: Raleigh Hotel.

FREE: And also, one time, had an Alabama congressman named Frank Boykin that got on a streetcar one time, objected because he saw somebody was being impolite to

a woman on the streetcar and he told the guy to stop and the guy wouldn't, and he pulled out a switchblade knife on a streetcar. [Laughing]

And old Boykin did the same thing up at the House one time. Congressman Frank Boykin. He is the only member of Congress that I've had a part in contributing to his leaving the Congress. He got to making a little bit too much money on the side through tips he would get on location of various federal facilities, military, where they're going to put military bases, do this, that and the other thing.

And I was one of several reporters who was reporting on some of that. And he did one piece of real estate he bought down here in Upper Marlboro – most of the time he covered his tracks with phony names and all. But he used the name of a Tenesaw Lumber Company, which I knew he owned. But some of the people up here didn't know he owned it. And he purchased it under the name of Tenesaw Lumber Company.

Occasionally, when I worked with the Star on people's days off or what not –

[ANN FREE: Excuse me, can you turn it off for a second? I'll keep going if I forget to give you this because you might want to have a little background.

[St. John: Oh, great.]

JIM FREE: They'd send me over to the District Building to cover in the absence of some regulars over there. Of course in those days it was run by three appointed commissioners -- D.C. commissioners, all of whom were white, of course.

ST. JOHN: What year approximately was this?

FREE: Oh, this would be 1930's – '39 and early '40, '41.

ST. JOHN: Forties. Okay.

FREE: And then of course the town was totally segregated as far as the restaurants and theaters and things of that sort were concerned. It's just hard to imagine now.

ST. JOHN: It surely is.

FREE: But certain areas you'd just never see any blacks. And of course Georgetown, there were certain areas of Southeast and you've got the fashionable Southwest now, all east of -- A whole lot of blacks lived over there. And it was a good thing, I suppose, to put new housing in a lot of places but it certainly displaced a lot of neighborhoods of people who weren't too dissatisfied with the homes that they had. But they got pushed out of them and a lot of them really couldn't afford the new housing, or even to live in the same general areas where they did before. And to that extent, it was always it was always to the advantage of people to get moved out.

And, of course, in the District Building in those days you saw very few black faces. And –

ST. JOHN: The District commissioners were all white in that time?

FREE: Oh, sure. Sure. Sure.

ST. JOHN: I guess it was when Walter Washington was elected mayor that – Was he the first black official to head Washington?

FREE: He certainly was the first black elected official. I think you might have had some in the lower – it was a gradual sort of thing, they were coming in. And, of course, you had a lot of both blacks and whites coming in from the South.

ST. JOHN: Now Georgetown was quite different in those early years than it is now?

FREE: Well, you had a few sections that were, had not switched over yet. But most of them, gradually, the houses would be bought out, they offered them prices that they thought were just, couldn't turn down. And to get the money, but where are you going to buy something after that?

ST. JOHN: But there were a lot of black families in Georgetown?

FREE: Oh, yeah. Quite a few. And of course the black population proportionately has increased a lot. But the numbers of black neighborhoods, of course, have been pushed out.

ST. JOHN: Do you all have children who are in the journalism field?

FREE: Yes, our daughter, Elissa Free – she's married, but she's one of those girls who kept her name. The children use the married name. But she is, Elissa Free is one of the original employees of the Cable News Network here in Washington.

She previously worked for CBS on "Face the Nation." And she does the weekend so-called public affairs programs, the executive producer of Newsmaker Saturday and Newsmaker Sunday and the Evans & Novak show, which is done on weekends also.

And in connection with producing those shows she's, of course, goes to the national conventions where they produce them. And she's also been to Poland and to Hungary, several places in Europe that is, was, all the CNN people were going and it would be best to produce the programs from there sometime. For instance, when sometimes when the president is away and they know a lot of press and the big shots are going to be with him doing something, she goes there and produces the shows from there.

ST. JOHN: Is her husband involved in a similar type work?

FREE: No, he is an attorney, William Nooter – N double-o-t-e-r. He is in private practice now. He was on – the attorney for -- the District of Columbia attorneys down there.

ST. JOHN: Well, I know that's a source of pleasure for you all to have her involved like that.

FREE: Yeah, they have – We now have a five-month old grandchild, daughter, granddaughter.

ST. JOHN: How exciting.

FREE: Which we are very proud of her.

ST. JOHN: Of course. Of course.

Well, to sort of wind this up, if you'd just like to make comments about the Press Club or about your associations in Washington or about your life as a journalist, anything that you would care to just say –

FREE: Well, I think a career in journalism is very satisfying. I don't know that – I think young people going into it ought to realize that the opportunities are not what they have been in the past, although if one is determined enough and aggressive enough I don't doubt that they could succeed.

But broadcast journalism has largely taken over now as far as expansion of the thing is concerned. I know a number of my colleagues are rather depressed about what they consider the future of journalism, daily journalism and weekly journalism.

Strangely enough, you've got the suburban journalism that's picked up quite a bit in recent years. And you've got a lot more people employed in that than I think we ever have in the past.

You've got a good many areas where one company will publish a number of suburban papers. For some reason or other the suburban papers around Washington have had quite a turnover lately as, I suppose, it's just due to the economic downturn. But quite a number of places it's been quite productive.

And of course a lot of the people get started that way, I think. Bob Woodward on The Washington Post got his start on one of the suburban papers here.

ST. JOHN: Really? I didn't realize that.

FREE: And, of course, the broadcast journalism is a little different, although they do give considerable weight to newspaper wire service experience reporting. They think that's a good background for radio and television reporting. And I think it probably is,

over and above the showmanship of being able to speak with considerable authority as though you know what you're talking about.

Sometimes you wonder if they do. [Laughing]

ST. JOHN: Well, it does make a difference and something comes through, don't you think?

FREE: That's right. But that seems to be one of the requirements, is to be very positive about these things.

ST. JOHN: Yes. Well, I have certainly enjoyed interviewing you. This is – Is there anything else that you would want for the record, just to have on there that's significant for people who might be listening to this at some later time?

FREE: Well, it is certainly one way of continuing your education. Anybody enters this business will find that there's no way that they can avoid studying what's going on and learning more about what's going on and reading and learning. Otherwise, you not only can't get ahead but you won't even hold your ground in a competitive field of newspapering journalism.

And it – when it's at its best – the newspapers help people determine what's best not only for themselves but for the government and for business. You get a lot of specialized newspaper coverage that helps people in practically any field that you can name, these days.

And that's one reason why the young people considering journalism are well advised to get education and training in various other things besides journalism. And not just think that by learning how to compose a lead and put all the facts in a story -- that you have to get the background to help you understand the stories and to project the stories.

ST. JOHN: I think that's a very profound statement.

FREE: It's certainly true. You – No matter how long you've been in the business one of the stimulating things about it is things come up from time to time that are utterly new to you and unexpected to you, although you think you've seen it all you find out you really haven't.

And you used to read about these jaded newspaper people. And, of course, occasionally you may see one. But it's rarer and rarer. It's not a common sight by any means.

ST. JOHN: You develop a lot of curiosity, intellectual curiosity, don't you?

FREE: Well, if you don't you get left standing at the gate, particularly if you come to a place like Washington, which is – Really it's very rare that you get into a

situation where it's not competitive in some way or other. Usually on a day-to-day, week-to-week basis, if not hour-by-hour. That's what keeps people on their toes.

ST. JOHN: Interesting.

Well, I certainly do thank you. This has been a most interesting interview.

FREE: Well, you're certainly welcome.

Alabama, 1, 6  
 Alsop, Joseph, 28  
 Amsterdam, Morrie, 13  
 Associated Press, 10, 11

Baltimore, Maryland, 5, 6  
 Bermuda: and Hubbard Caribbean expedition, 5  
 Birmingham, Alabama, 17; and freedom riders, 18  
*Birmingham News*, 14, 17; and civil rights movement, 15, 16; Free works for, 8  
 Boykin, Frank, 31, 32  
 Boynton, Henry Van Ness: and Standing Committee of Correspondents, 26  
 Brayman, Harold, 26

Cable News Network (CNN), 33  
 Carmer, Carl, 27  
 Catledge, Turner, 10, 28  
 Central Intelligence Agency, 24  
*Chicago Sun*, 14, 28; Free joins, 10, 21; Free covers strikes for, 13; Washington Bureau, 11  
*Chicago Times*, 14  
*Chicago Tribune*, 10, 14  
 CIA: *see* Central Intelligence Agency  
 Civil rights: bills, 18; litigation, 18; movement, 15-20  
 CNN: *see* Cable News Network  
*Colliers Magazine*, 31  
 Columbia University, 2; Free attends School of Journalism, 1, 2, 24; Free works for Spectator newspaper, 4  
 Columbia University School of Journalism: *see* Columbia University  
 Connor, Eugene (Bull), 17  
 Conventions (political), 20; Los Angeles, 20; Philadelphia, 20

Democratic National Convention, 20  
 Devine, Russell B.: source for Free, 9  
 Dixon, Cecil, 10  
 Dodge, Homer, 21  
*Doris Hamlin*, S.S., 6  
 Drew Field, Florida, 11  
 Duncan, Theodora, 1  
 Dure, Leon, 14

Eisenhower, Dwight D., 20

Elipsly, Jeanne (Mrs. Russell Devine), 9  
 “Evans and Novak” (television program), 33

“Face the Nation” (television program), 33  
 FBI: *see* Federal Bureau of Investigation  
 Federal Bureau of Investigation, 18  
 Field, Marshall: and *Chicago Sun*, 10, 14  
*First 100 Years, a Casual Chronicle of the Gridiron Club*, *The* (Free), 25  
 Fleeson, Doris, 23  
 Forest Hills, NY: Free covers tennis tournament at, 4  
 Free, Ann Cottrell, 11, 27; on impact of television, 29  
 Free, Elissa, 33  
 Free, James: works for *Birmingham News*, 8, 14, 15, 16; visits Central America, 8; works for *Chicago Sun*, 10, 11, 13, 21; childhood, 1; and civil rights movement, 15-20; works on college newspaper, 1; attends Columbia University School of Journalism, 1; works for Columbia University Spectator newspaper, 4; drafted, 11; family background, 30, 31; on freedom riders, 18; works on golf magazine, 3; and Gridiron Club, 23, 25, 26; in Honduras, 8; and L. Ron Hubbard, 4-6; writes intelligence reports, 13; on journalism, 34; and Justice Dept. 14, 16, 17-18, 29; and John Kennedy, 19; works and Robert Kennedy, 16, 17; covers labor relations, 13; and L. Lautier, 29; as life insurance salesman, 3; and *Life Magazine*, 13; articles on manufacturing plants, 10; holds commission in National Guard, 11; and National Press Club, 21, 22-23, 29; serves in Navy, 12, 13; covers Navy Dept., 10; on news sources, 8-9; stationed in Pacific, 13; and political conventions, 20, 21; and *Raleigh News and Observer*, 14; works for *Richmond Times Dispatch*, 8-10; receives Raymond Clapper honorable mention, 23; takes ROTC, 11; articles on rum and Coco Cola, 12-13; and Sigma Delta Chi, 24; article on state hospitals, 10; works for tennis magazine, 3-4; theatrical career of, 1-2; works in Tuscaloosa, 2-3; runs *Tuscaloosa Warrior*, 7-8; covers

- War Production Board, 10; and  
*Washington Star*, 10, 21, 23; on Western  
 Union messengers, 23; and White  
 Citizens Council, 15; attends University  
 of Alabama, 1; receives University of  
 Alabama Alumni Association Award, 24
- Gannet papers, 21  
 Garrow, David, 17; on Free, 17  
 George Washington University, 4  
 Georgetown: *see* Washington, D.C.  
*Girls in the Balcony, The* (Robertson), 29  
 Great Depression, 8  
 Gridiron Club, 23, 28; Free and, 25; 26;  
 membership of, 27; origins of, 25-  
 26; and W. Raspberry 29; and C.  
 Rowan, 25, 29; and H. Thomas, 25  
 Guthman, Edwin, 16, 18
- Hayes, Helen, 1  
*Herald Tribune*: *see* New York *Herald*  
*Tribune*  
 Hickory Hill, 16  
 Hoboken, New Jersey, 2  
 Hoey, Clyde, 31  
 Holman, Frank, 21  
 Honduras, 8  
 Howard, Perry, 20  
 Hubbard, L. Ron, 7, 28; and Caribbean mo-  
 tion picture expedition, 4-6
- Johnson, Lyndon B., 20  
 Jones, Clement: and New York *Herald*  
*Tribune*, 21
- Kennedy, John F.: and civil rights move-  
 ment, 15; meets with head of White  
 Citizens Council, 19  
 Kennedy, Robert: and civil rights move-  
 ment, 15, 16; speech at Oxford, Missis-  
 sippi, 17  
 Kilpatrick, Carroll, 14  
 King, Martin Luther, Jr., 17-18  
 Krock, Arthur, 30  
 Ku Klux Klan, 19
- Lautier, Louis, 28  
 Lawrence, William, 22; and women mem-  
 bers of National Press Club, 29, 30  
 Leyte Gulf, Philippines, 13  
 Lingayen Gulf, Philippines, 13  
 Los Angeles: Democratic convention at, 20
- Lowell, Joan, 2
- Martinique: and Hubbard Caribbean expedi-  
 tion, 6  
 Maxwell Air Force Base, 18  
 McElway, Ben, 10  
 Mencken, Henry L., 28  
 Mississippi, 3; and Republican convention,  
 20  
 Montgomery, Alabama: and civil rights  
 movement, 16; and freedom riders, 18;  
 police and civil rights movement, 18  
 Morley, Christopher, 2
- Natchez, Mississippi, 3  
 National Guard: Free commissioned in, 11  
 National Press Building, 21, 31  
 National Press Club: bar at, 22; facilities of,  
 22-23; Free joins, 21; and Gannet pa-  
 pers, 21; guest members, 22; Lawrence  
 and women member, 30; L. Lautier first  
 black member, 28; and New York *Her-  
 ald Tribune*, 21; and Philadelphia *Bulle-  
 tin*, 21; and Philadelphia *Daily News*,  
 21; politics of, 21; “singles” roundtable,  
 22; women members, 22
- New Orleans, Louisiana, 3, 6, 14  
 New York City, 3, 8  
 New York *Daily News*, 21  
 New York *Herald Tribune*, 11, 21  
 New York *Times*, 5, 10, 22, 29  
 “Newsmaker Saturday” (television pro-  
 gram), 33  
 “Newsmaker Sunday” (television program),  
 33
- Nooter, William, 34
- O’Donnell, John, 21
- Palau Islands, 13  
*Parting of the Waters* (Garrow), 17  
 Pathé News: and Hubbard Caribbean Expe-  
 dition, 5, 6  
 Patterson, John, 15, 16  
 Pearl Harbor: attack on, 11  
 Pentagon, 24  
 Philadelphia: political conventions, 20  
 Philadelphia *Bulletin*, 21  
 Philadelphia *Daily News*, 21  
 Ponce, Puerto Rico: and Hubbard Caribbean  
 expedition, 6  
 Poore, Ben Perley, 27

Price, James, 8-9

Raleigh Hotel, Washington, D.C., 31  
*Raleigh News and Observer*, 14  
 Raspberry, William, 29  
 Raymond Clapper Honorable Mention: Free receives, 23  
 Republican National Convention, 20  
 Reston, James (Scotty), 28  
 Reynolds, Thomas, 11  
 Richmond, Virginia, 10, 31  
*Richmond Times Dispatch*, 8, 14  
 Robertson, Nan, 29  
 Roosevelt, Eleanor, 11  
 Roosevelt, Franklin, 21  
 Roosevelt, Lt. Col. James, USMC, 12  
 Rosenthal, Jack, 16  
 Rowan, Carl, 25  
 “Rum and Coco Cola” (song), 13

San Diego Naval Air Station, 12  
 San Francisco, California, 8  
 San Francisco *Chronicle*, 14  
 San Juan, Puerto Rico, 12  
 Sargasso Sea: and Hubbard Caribbean expedition, 6  
 Sells, Bryant, 1  
 Selma, Alabama, 14, 17  
 Shakespeare, William, 27  
 Sigma Delta Chi (Society of Professional Journalists), 24  
 South Carolina: and Republican convention, 20  
 St. Thomas: and Hubbard Caribbean expedition, 6  
 Standing Committee of Correspondents: and U.S. Congress, 26  
*Stars Fell on Alabama* (Carmer), 27  
 Strode, Hudson, 27-28

Television, 29  
 Tenesaw Lumber Company, 32  
 Thames, Mrs., 27  
 Thomas, Helen, 25  
 Throckmorton, Cleon, 2  
*Time Magazine*, 8  
 Timmons, Bascom, 14  
 Transport Scouts (U.S. Navy), 12  
 Trinidad, 12  
 Tuscaloosa, Alabama, 7, 31; Free’s youth in, 1; works at newspaper in, 2-3  
*Tuscaloosa Warrior*: Free runs, 7-8; and University of Alabama, 7

U.S. Capital: sergeant-at-arms, 28; architect’s office, 28  
 U.S. Congress, 10  
 U.S. Department of Justice, 17, 29; and civil rights movement, 15, 16; and federal agents, 18  
 U. S. Department of the Navy, 10, 11  
 U.S. House of Representatives, 24; and Standing Committee of Correspondents, 26  
 U.S. Marine Corps, 11  
 U.S. Navy, 11  
 U.S. Senate, 24  
 U.S. War Department, 11  
 United Press International, 11, 25  
 United States Lawn Tennis Association: Free works for magazine of, 3-4  
 University of Alabama, 24; and desegregation, 16; Free and, 1, 3; Free receives Alumni Association Award, 24; and *Tuscaloosa Warrior*, 7

Virginia: Byrd political machine, 8  
*Virginia Literary Magazine*, 9  
 Virginia Sheriff’s Association, 9

Wallace, George, 15, 17; and desegregation of University of Alabama, 16  
 War Production Board: Free covers, 10  
 Washington, Walter, 33  
 Washington, D.C., 9; civil rights in, 17, 32; Commissioners, 33; District Building, 32, 33; Georgetown, 32, 33; Southeast, 32; Southwest, 32  
*Washington Post*, 14, 29, 34  
*Washington Star*, 31; Free works for, 10, 21, 23, 32  
 “What Women Want” (play), 2  
 White Citizens Council, 15; meeting with JFK 19  
 White, Byron (Whizzer), 18  
*Winston-Salem Journal*, 14  
*Winston-Salem Sentinel*, 14  
 Wire services, 34  
 Woodward, Robert, 34  
 Wooten, Paul, 21

Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad, 3