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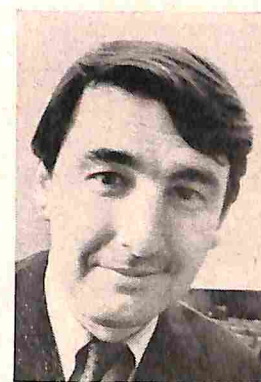
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**A cool eye among
the camellias**

Marshall Frady, the free-lance author of the article on South Carolina
Congressman Mendel Rivers, is given to long interludes between en-
counters with his barber. When he and Photographer Co. Rentmeester,
whose hair was even longer, were in Allendale, S.C. preparing the Riv-
ers story, Frady says, "I guess we just looked eminently alien and gen-
erally subversive to the motel manager." The manager grew more and
more surly until finally he laid out the problem: "Why don't y'all go
get a haircut!" Hearing about the incident, another rather long-haired
man in their party walked by the desk shaking his head sadly. "Well,"
he said huskily, "I just don't guess we'll be able to come back and stay
at this place anymore." It was Mendel Rivers.

"Mendel always seemed a little befuddled at why LIFE was all that
interested in him," Frady said last week. "He just
didn't understand why we wanted to take pic-
tures of him in his front yard. He's not an easily
manageable man for anybody. He'd oblige us for
a matter of seconds—then barge off on his own
impulses again. But he made a truly heroic effort
on our behalf, he really did."

Frady was explaining this on the phone from
his home near Atlanta, and suddenly there was a
lot of noise in the background. "Oh, that's just the
general rabble outside the door," he said, chuck-
ling. "We're used to living with it. People throw-
ing torches on the roof and swinging nooses."



MARSHALL FRADY

Even for a Baptist preacher's son born and
raised in Georgia and South Carolina, the living may not always be
easy in the South when you write from a social and political point of
view that tends to boggle local sensibilities. A South Carolina news-
paper recently called him "a carpetbagger in disguise."

The nine months he lived in Montgomery, Ala. researching his book
on George Wallace was, Frady says, "the most devastating experience
of my life. You'd be in a restaurant talking about Wallace's classic abil-
ities as a chewer of toothpicks—and folks all around would swivel in
their chairs muttering. However grim some places might be, though, I
still feel more at home in the South than anyplace else. I wouldn't want
to live in, say, New York and become part of the detached, critical 'as-
sessors from afar.' You lose voltage, connections that way. I think it
means something to be writing out of what you're living in."

Actually, of course, that last quote sounded more like "writin' what
you're livin' in"—Frady's accent, which suggests the camellias that al-
ways seem to grow in his stories, doubtless opens many verandas to
him. But it can also leave him open to bad connections in the North.
There was, for example, the New York cab driver who, hearing Frady
speak recently, immediately assumed that he had a receptive audience
and began talking about "niggers." Frady quickly interrupted. "If
they's one thing I can't stand," he said, "it's a amateur bigot."

Ralph Graves
RALPH GRAVES
Managing Editor

LIFE

GOODBY TO THE GLORY DAYS

Hollywood puts its past up for sale



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