

July 23: Tchula: SNCC staff member followed out of Jackson; arrested by police on speeding charge -- out on bond; trial continued from this afternoon to next, week.

Canton: White volunteer Doug Baty, 18, of Bozeman, Montana, and Negro CORE staff member, Joe Lee Watts, were harrassed by a group of white men while canvassing for voter registration today, and Watts was struck five times with a wooden cane by one of the whites. The workers were on the porch of some potential Negro registrants when the whites drove up. Watts, who reported he suffered several bad bruises, filed a complaint with local police.

Moss Point: Roger Barnhill, a 23 year old St. Louis, Missouri, white summer volunteer, was arrested today for improper turning. Police followed him as he returned from voter registration canvassing and after approximately three miles placed him under arrest. He has been released on \$40 bond.

Durant: (from Tchula SNCC office) White summer volunteer and Yale student, Steve Bingham, 22, of Colchester, Connecticut, was assailed today while canvassing for voter registration. Two white men approached him and asked what it would take to get him out of town; Bingham replied he was not quite ready to leave. After approximately 10 minutes of talk, one man began to punch him, and left after several minutes of blows. Bingham has the license of the car, and local Negroes have indicated that they know the man who did the attacking, that he works in Durant.

Granada: (out of Greenwood SNCC office) SNCC staff member Willie Blue arrested for speeding.

Moss Point: At a mass meeting last night, \$33 was collected for a woman who lost her job for housing COFO volunteers; the job was lost two weeks ago. Several people are pledged to give 50¢ a week indefinitely to help pay the hospital expenses here of Miss Jessie May Stallworth who received back and side wounds when shots were fired into a July 6 voter registration mass meeting by a carload of whites. Miss Stallworth is 17.

Shaw: A local white man stated to a Shaw Negro woman that she was going to watch what mail was coming in, and those Negroes who get mail from the "freedom riders" (presumably the Mississippi Summer Project volunteers) would "get hell after they leave." Mail is picked up at a post office box.

Jackson: Summer Project spokesmen consider police court acquittal of three local Jackson youths on public drunk charges a "victory in Mississippi." Henry Denson, 18; Robert Denson, 17 (no relation); and James L. Wormack, 19; were arrested July 21 in the Club 400 while in the company of a white summer volunteer who was pick'ed up for "improper tags" later that afternoon. The youths were defended by Lawyers.. Constitutional Defense Committee (LCDC) attorney, A. W. Richenaker.

Carthage: Residents of ell-Negro Harmony community near here will begin tomorrow, July 24, to construct a wooden frame building for use as a permanent Community Center to be staffed by Mississippi Project volunteers, Summer Project spokesmen state "most of the community will work on the building."

A three-man board of trustees has obtained land and financing for the center, purchased lumber and hired a carpenter to direct the work of local residents.

Original plans called for use of an abandoned school building. Local school and law enforcement officials maintained the school was county property and could not be used. Negroes claim the property, which was set aside for a school at the Negro land

July 23 (continued):

Meridian: The hearing for the omnibus suit filed against the Ku Klux Klan, Sheriff Rainey, Deputy Sheriff Price, the White Citizens Council, and others in an attempt to enjoin acts of violence on the part of the defendants and the classes of officials and citizens they represent has been continued to Thursday, July 30. Summer Project spokesmen note that the hearing is the first of its kind in Mississippi, and may prove to be a major step in the history of civil rights activities in the state.

July 24: Holly Springs: A voter registration worker was arrested for "disturbing the public peace" at a Holly Springs Freedom Day today, and is being held on \$500 bond, Elwood Berry, a 20 year old Dayton, Ohio, student at New York's Colgate University, was charged with "using profanity in front of more than two people" after he repeated over a two-way radio to his office the words of a policeman to him. The police officer's statements were made as Berry led potential Negro registrants to the courthouse steps. Berry is currently in the Marshall County jail.

Police insisted that the 40-50 potential registrants a) walk to the courthouse steps one-by-one, eight feet apart; and b) that they have a police escort from the steps to the registrar's office. According to a SNCC spokesman, the officers verbally intimidated the Negro citizens as they accompanied them to the office.

Approximately 55 helmeted Highway patrolmen and 35 helmeted local police were stationed at the courthouse for the Freedom Day. Their presence in such numbers prompted cancellation of planned integrated picketing of the courthouse,

McComb: 1) Amite County's Rose Hill Church, on Route 24, five miles away from the last two churches burned in this area, reported burned last night. 2) Owner of a local Negro club, the Macombo Club, was arrested and beaten last night. The club is within three blocks of the McComb Freedom House, and is frequented by Project workers. The officer reportedly remarked to the Negro owner, "Now that you've got white folks in here, you're getting uppity."

Ruleville: All but two passengers got off a bus near here today when a Negro woman was ordered off the bus and handled roughly by the driver when she sat down next to a white man,

Ruleville: Rabbi Allen Levine of Temple Emanuel, Rochester, New York, and Summer Project volunteer Jeff Thatcher, a Reed College (Portland, Oregon) student from New York, were "forcibly ejected" from the office of the Drew City attorney where they had gone to attend a meeting of the parents of the children arrested (detained) and then released July 15. The two were threatened by Drew City police with arrest. The parents' meeting was called by the mayor for a reason not yet made clear. The children were picked up by police after a July 15 rally was ordered off its site by the owner of the property, reportedly in response to police urging. Twenty-three people were arrested as they were forced into the street.

Jackson, Meridian: Freedom Democratic Party precinct meetings held tonight.