

504 So. Madison Street  
Albany, Georgia  
Saturday, November 3, 1962

Hi Folks,

I'm sitting in a rocking chair (I love this rocking chair; it seems to be conducive to thinking) in the SNCC house here in Albany. It makes me feel like the President. Well, not quite, it's too cold. We have only an electric reflector type heater, you know, the bathroom type job. Of course, we are not freezing, but oh! are the nights getting chilly and the days still hot as Hades.

Penny and Faith are in the kitchen of our three room house with bath, even if we do have to warm our water to bathe. They are typing away at his news thing. I do hope you will like it. If you do and want another one next week, let us know by sending an airmail stamp for your envelope, which we will graciously donate by selling pop bottles. No, maybe not pop bottles, but things have been known to get pretty tough as some of you know.

Say, maybe it would please you to know who else is reading or to whom -- else? -- This release is being sent. They follow:

Kathleen Conwell; SNCC office in Atlanta of course; Doris Derby who raised about three hundred dollars for Mama Dollie; Kathleen raised some too along with other who also are receiving this -- Shai Holsaert; Si Dresner, the Rabbi, etc; Bob Moses; Donald Harris; Miss Ella Baker who is giving a few months to work with us, raising money in New York; Forest Johnson, a minister, the minister who set up our contacts for that bus we'll get soon; Reggie Robinson who is in Cambridge; Charles Jones, who is resting in Mexico; Bernice Johnson, who is still wearing proudly her natural at Spellman; Ralph Allen; Charles McDew, who is slated to take over the project in Alabama; Did I say Peggy Dammond? Then there is Mrs. Andre Simon, a lady who really impressed me when I went up for the bus, she reminds me of what I think Mrs. Baker was like at twenty-five. Now, now, we're all in the family so we can gossip about each other.

Finally, there are: Boldand Sherrod, my brother and Herbert Peters, Va; Ronald Diamond and Frederick Boldie, neat guys.

There goes "Chico" for a cigarette. Larry Rubin just came in with the Koinonia people, red faced -- like I said; it gets cool now. Two ladies gave us quilts so we'll sleep warm.

Next week Mama Dollie will write something. Jack Chatfield is in Lee with Mama along with Prince Turner and Hillmon Heard. The number at the meetings is picking up. We are moving. Well, I hope that creatively we can make this newsletter something of a tie between us. We can't afford to send it everywhere and the nature of its contents, in some cases, is only for "us." Use your own creativity, what do you think?

In the city of Albany, where 4,400 Negroes are registered voters, a Negro, E. C. Chatham ran in the Democratic Primary for City Commissioner on October 24. Mr. Chatham was running against two white men, a Mr. Cable, and a Mr. Willis. Mr. Chatham came in second and is elected to run against Mr. Cable in the run-off on November 29.

Surprised by the small number of Negroes who reportedly voted for Mr. Chatham, (his tally was 2,033 votes, including approximately 300 votes from white districts) Punny and I went to Goldie Jackson in the Albany Movement office. She told us:

1. 1,000 people who were allowed to register in the city of Albany were told on Primary day that they could not vote because they lived outside the city limits.
2. Many registered Negroes were told that their names weren't on the registration books, or that they had already voted, which they hadn't. Others were told that they were on the book as having changed their addresses to outside the city of Albany.
3. Mr. Chatham was allowed no pollwatchers and the press was barred from two of the precincts.

We also noticed that the unofficial tallies on the radio the night of October 24 gave Mr. Chatham 3,000 votes. The newspapers on the morning of October 25 gave him 2,033 votes.

Many people were unable to vote because the polls were closed an hour earlier than they were supposed to.

Although the polls themselves were supposedly integrated, there were two irregularities: First, the men and the women in the predominantly Negro ward voted separately. The men voted in the City Auditorium; the women in the Court House. Second, a distinction was made between Negro and white in the lists of voters. Asterisks were placed beside the names of Negro men; no such distinction was made for white men. The words Miss or Mrs. appeared before each white woman's name; no such distinction before the name of Negro women.

Because this is a City primary, run by a committee of the Democratic party, the rules governing the election procedures can be changed by that committee when it wishes the change then. The Federal Government does not have jurisdiction over City elections.

IN THE CITY OF ALBANY, GEORGIA, I, THE CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL FILED IN MY OFFICE ON THIS 25th DAY OF OCTOBER, 1964.

A few days after the I Hope Church was burned, Carl Roundtree (Mayor of Dawson and Editor and Publisher of the Dawson News) announced in his paper that the good white people would build back the church of their own unlimited free will. They would not, he wrote, accept any outside help.

Roundtree never contacted Rev. McClain, pastor of I Hope Church, nor any of the congregation. Rev. McClain drew up a letter to Mayor Roundtree thanking him for his Christian in ~~the~~ <sup>of</sup> a good white person and told a small committee of I Hope deacons, "As far as your pastor is concerned he's out of the picture." Since then Rev. McClain has been out of the picture. So has the self-determination of Mayor Roundtree's fellow men.

A deacon (Gibson) told us that the good white people had all the money in their hands, including two thousand dollars insurance money. He told us that all requests for enlargements of the previous church had been turned down by the white people.

We passed I Hope Church on Saturday, Oct. 27 and saw a crew of Negroes working. There was one white present. Deacon Gibson told us that men from the County Prison Farm (black) had cleared away the rubbish.

We have not spoken to any members of the congregation of I Hope Church, but we hope to in the future.

In my opinion we should form a committee for the reconstruction of I Hope Church, except that Roundtree has already founded one under another name.

Sunday, 10/21/62 -- Around 12:00 midnight bottle broken outside SNCC ~~ma~~ house in Albany, at 504 South Madison Street, Faith Holsaert and Penny Patch were only occupants of house that night. Heard footsteps around back yard. Called MS Page and Goldie Jackson. Faith heard breathing directly outside window beside bed. Bo Jackson arrived in truck, took Faith and Penny to Jackson residence at 214 Hobson Street, where they spent the night.

Monday, 10/22/62 -- Attended mass meeting in Albany at 8:00 PM. Came back about 10:30 PM to find back (bedroom) and front doors wide open. Typewriters and desk drawers on floor in kitchen. \$107 belonging to Kathy Cannon, which had been in a registered mail envelope in the desk had been taken. Called police and FBI. No answer at FBI. Police showed up four phone calls and one hour later. Matching footprints were found at back and front doors. Screen door in back pried open. Inner door here has no lock, so entry was easy. House untouched except for couch cover and office. Larry Rubin, Carver Neblett, Jack Chatfield, and Nathaniel Beach spent night in house with Faith and Penny.

Tuesday, 10/23/62 -- Article carried in Albany Herald telling burglary, giving our address, describing burglar's method of entry, and describing SNCC as a group "known for its race-mixing" activities. Faith and Penny alone in house that night.

Wednesday 10/24/62 and Thursday 10/25/62 -- Boys as well as Faith and Penny in SNCC house these nights.

Friday, 10/26/62 -- Faith and Penny alone in house at night.

Saturday, 10/27/62 -- Got in late from Lee County mass meeting (Carver Neblett, Jack Chatfield and Larry Rubin arrested in Bronwood, Terrell County). All electricity except light in back room went out about 1:30 AM, shortly after we got in. Faith and Penny alone. About fifteen minutes later after Faith and Penny got into bed in back room, next to window, heard footsteps on front porch. Penny looked out window, saw man with dark clothes on going on to back porch. Faith stayed in bed, near phone. Penny checked front room window, and saw shadow move across front porch. Faith heard footsteps as Penny ~~xxxxxx~~ returned to back room. Penny turned out light and Faith looked out window. Faith saw head not further than 12" from window. Faith got out of bed. Penny turned on light and called Page and Jackson. While on phone with Goldie Jackson window was smashed. Unable to see hand because of curtain. Penny called police (Page and Jackson did same). While on phone with police, hand reached back through window, felt around (hand wrapped in curtain, couldn't see it), and withdrew when Penny said police were on the way. Police arrived within minutes., glanced around, one rode off to check the block. Rev. Wells (called by Jackson) arrived minutes later to drive Faith and Penny to Jackson's, where they spent the night.

... rived. Jack asked Mr. West where his property ended. The ... in. He said that it was none of Jack's business where the p ... and told us to move the car or be arrested. Jack then turns ... and said I just wanted to know how far to move the car. Th ... got into the car. Larry got in from the driver's side and ... Jack got in from the opposite side and sat in front. I, Chic ... the wheel. We went to Mr. Henderson's home and parked the c

Jack and I walked toward town while Larry stayed at th ... (Negro). Jack and I walked across a portion of Mr. Henry's ... party operated by Mr. West. Jack and I were singing "Ain't ... body turn me 'round." When we got to town Deputy Dunaway wa ... station owned by Mr. Calvin Lee(white). Calvin Lee also own ... Supply Co. in Bronwood. Jack and I went into a grocery store ... a small box of asperin. The clerk refused to serve us. Jack ... another grocery store and ordered a small box of asperin. A ... Calvin Lee walked in and persuaded the proprietor to refuse ... The two of us went to another store and bought a box of aspe ... way out of the store we met Mr. Calvin Lee. Mr. Lee went in ... Jack and I started back to Mr. Henderson's(Negro) home. We ... puty Dunaway's observation at all times.

Jack and I went back to Mr. Henderson's house to get L ... said that Deputy Dunaway had passed the house several times ... and I went back to the Negro neighborhood to do some more ca ... were about two blocks from the Henderson's when Deputy Dunc ... Lee drove up. Dunaway said, "Which one of you is John Chatfi ... "No." Dunaway said, "Which one is Larry Rubin?" Larry said, ... Dunaway said, "Which one is Carver Noblett?" I said, "I am C ... Dunaway then said that Mr. Henry(white), the owner of the pro ... Mr. Sam West(Negro)operates, had issued a warrent for our ar ... then proceeded to put handcuffs on Jack Chatfield, Larry Rubi ... he put the cuffs on me he put them on extra/ tight , so tight ... ceived severe pain. Jack said, "You sure won't get away." Du ... "You wouldn't give me that pleasure." We proceeded to Dawson ... to downtown Bronwood Dunaway let Calvin Lee but at his servi ... Calvin Lee said, "Anytime I can help you just let me know!" ... in severe pain and I asked Dunaway several times to stop and ... cuffs. Dunaway just said, "Stop putting on acts. We'll be in ... a few minutes. When we arrived at Dawson, Terrell County Jail ... was completely numb. We got out of the Squad Car. Larry aske ... naway if he could see the warrent. Dunaway showed Larry the ... way carried us to the Sheriff's office. He then proceeded to ... off. Jack first, then Larry. When he got to me he seemed to b ... tant; he unlocked the cuff from my left hand and then pulled ... up and twisted the cuffs off and the pain became became more ... way said, "Better be still or I can't get it off. He finally p

cuffs and made me stand up and be searched. He called a guy named Jim to lock us up. That was the first time that I met Z.F. Mathews. Z.F. said, "This is my jail and as long as you treat me right I'll treat you right. I don't want no singing nor praying. I don't want no hollerin across the building 'cause me and my wife live here." Sheriff Mathews went on to tell me that his colored people (at no time did he say "Niggers") were satisfied with the situation down here. He told me that they don't need any<sup>2</sup> one coming down here trying to tell them what to do. The Sheriff told me, "I've got to protect my colored folks. I'd be a poor law officer if I didn't." I explained that a law official here, was a symbol of fear instead of safety. The Sheriff said, "Aw now the colored people do what they want here. It's just that they don't care." I asked the Sheriff whether there was any reason for police brutality, holding out my hand. The Sheriff immediately arranged for the examination of my hand by a doctor. Dr. Ward was there in about 10 minutes. He examined my hand and then said, "I don't see any signs of police brutality." I was returned to my cell to stay for four days. I was released on bond Wednesday October 31, 1962.