

On the afternoon of Saturday, Oct. 27, we were canvassing in Bronwood. We entered the store of Sam West, a Negro, and all ordered drinks. We were served drinks but before we had finished them Sam West told us to get out of his store. He said something to the effect that the white folks didn't want us around and that we would get him into trouble. We left the store without a word. Chico asked for and got the 35 cents that he had put in the jukebox returned.

Our car was parked just outside Sam West's store, in the ~~dark~~ open square in front of the store. The three of us began walking into town. We had gotten half way there when Deputy Dunaway pulled up in his car, from the ~~dark~~ direction of West's store, and told us that Mr West had asked us to remove our car from his property. We turned around and started back to the store and Dunaway continued into town.

We arrived at the store and went straight to Mr West, who was standing outside. Chatfield asked Mr West exactly where his property ended (it must be understood that the area outside West's store is a dirt square and is surrounded by houses on two sides. There is an apparently public road running past the store and another almost perpendicular to that that runs in front of the store, or behind the area where our car and other cars were parked.); Mr West had begun to explain where his property began and ended when Mr Dunaway walked up and said, "You don't have to tell 'em a thing, Sam."

Chatfield told Mr Dunaway that we were just trying to establish how far we had to move our car. Dunaway interrupted and told Sam West, "It's up to you Sam." Sam West said that he didn't want us around. We left immediately and did not ~~find~~ find out ~~where~~ what belonged to Sam West and what did not.

We drove our car to the Henderson's house (Wilbert Henderson). Then Chatfield and Neblett started to walk back down toward the town. Our car was then parked on private property. Rubin remained with the car.

Neblett and Chatfield walked down the road from the Henderson's house and saw that Dunaway's car was still parked outside the store. We decided to walk ~~past~~ past the police car on our way to town. We walked down the road and ~~through~~ through the dirt ~~square~~ square. I believe Mr Dunaway saw us pass and if he did, he must have seen that there were only two of us.

We walked into town and went into a store to buy aspirins. We were told we would not be served. We left. We went into another store and the man was in the middle of selling us aspirins when Mr Calvin Lee, white, owner of Lee's Farm Service in Bronwood, walked into the store and stopped the man from selling to us. We then went to a third store and got the aspirin, just in time. Mr Calvin Lee passed on the way out. He was going in.

Mr Dunaway was parked in the yard of a gas station which Mr Calvin Lee, I believe, has a hand in running. We had been kicked off the premises of the gas station a couple of days before by Calvin Lee.

Neblett and Chatfield then started to walk from town back to the Negro section. Any number of people in Bronwood saw that there were only two of us.

Neblett and Chatfield arrived at the square and saw that Mr Dunaway's car was again parked beside Sam West's store. This time there were two other men in the car, One of the men was Calvin Lee, and the other we could not identify. We again crossed the square and walked a ~~few~~ past the parked police car. There could be no mistaking that they saw us pass, and that there were two of us.

We walked back to the Henderson's house and then the three of us started back down to the Negro section. We did not go back through the square again. We were picked up by Mr Dunaway and told that we were under arrest for trespassing. Mr Calvin Lee was in the car at the time. The third gentleman was not. The warrant was signed by A B Henry, who, we were told, was the owner of the property. We were told that the three of us had been picked up on trespassing charges.

At the time of our arrest, we had completed approximately four days of canvassing. The second day we were there, Mr Dunaway stopped us and asked us if we had business. We told him we were working on voter registration. He took all three of our names.

(Over)

Neblett says that he recalls Sam West saying where his property ended. He says Mr West pointed to the cultivated area to the right of his ~~store~~ store and said it belonged to him. Neblett also says that West pointed to the land behind his store. Chatfield remembers the mention of a "hedge". But Dunaway walked up before Mr West had finished talking.

Diagram of area:

