

Friday (July 3)

Dear Gang,

Wow, was I pleased to hear all you've been doing in Pburgh. At the moment all we need is money. We have to pay a combined rent (2-room office, 8-room school, -4-room Freedom House, 4 storage rooms) of around \$300 a month and since the movement is constantly on the border of being broke, we are all contributing out of our own pockets to pay for this. There is also the problem of feeding the SNCC regular staff here (about 5 workers) who haven't received wages in several months (so each of the volunteers chips in \$2 weekly for that). The biggest project is an old house we would like to buy, renovate and convert into a permanent community center. All in all the latter will probably cost at least \$4000. The hope is that people outside the state will loan SNCC the money for this and that little by little the community of Greenville will pay it back.

Just wish I could tell you how great the people are that we have met (haven't met any white Greenvillians at all) - they have literally opened their homes to us. The woman who lives next door to the Freedom House and already has 17 kids has had our whole group (25 or so) over for dinner a couple of times. The owner of one of the Negro cafes is having a barbecue for us all tonight. People often bring over bags of groceries or take a small group out to dinner or have them into their own homes. There is constantly a crowd of kids hanging around the office, school and house, all ready to run errands or help in any way. Especially at the school they've been a great help. Our 8 room school is on the second floor of a building. Early this week we received a shipment of 20,000 books which were literally dumped into the school. Thanks to the help of the neighborhood we've finally (after 4 days of sorting, repacking and lugging) gotten the place pretty well organized. Have not yet gone into downtown Greenville. We do all our shopping, etc. in the Negro community (the North and South ends of town). Since our working is restricted and we can't go any place alone, transportation is a bit of a problem. One of the women has a VW bus which takes us from the South end (where most of us live and where the Freedom House is located) up to the North End where the office and school are early in the morning, then back South in the evening. We haven't had too much in the way of threats yet, but there has been an increase in white traffic going past the House and office. Have started to get used to being stared at and now carry about a notebook to take down descriptions of suspicious looking vehicles (of which there are many - and most don't seem to have license plates). Never walk out a door without surveying the streets and sidewalks first, and always have one person who practically walks backward so as to check for "snipers" from behind.

We know the people in most of the stores. One of the other girls and I stopped in a shoe shop under the school this morning so I could get a sandal fixed. Not only did he fix it for free, but we sat there for 2 hours talking with him, two local ministers and an NAACP man - talking about the Civil Rights Act, local Greenville Civil Rights movement, etc. This is very typical. Life moves at a fairly slow pace (the heat makes it necessary) which is really pleasant - conversation is a real art, politics a prime subject. I really like it here so far. It is hot, but there's generally a breeze blowing and at night it cools considerably. Last night we had a "mass meeting". Unfortunately it wasn't too successful as it started raining early in the evening (water eventually covering even the sidewalks) and the workers got in late from the fields. Their day starts early in the

morning (4 or so) and doesn't end till 6 or 7 - and for this they earn about \$3 a day. Tonight we're having a dance at the VFW to raise money for the COFO project. Everybody in town seems to be going. There is a student group called the Miss. Student Union which has become very active here. They've helped to sponsor the dance, canvass with the voter registration volunteers and with us on the school staff. Last night right after the President signed the Bill, they integrated one of the formerly white hamburger shops (in other words, they got served). Although COFI is pledged to do no integration work such as sit-ins this summer, the Student Union is anxious to test the new Act here in Greenville. Consequently violence may break out here despite COFO's efforts. Hopefully the 4th will be relatively quiet, but all of us will stay under cover for the day.

I hope that you will have some ideas on how to raise money for the various things mentioned in the first paragraph. Perhaps some of the churches in your area could be persuaded to take a specific collection of money for the school, etc. Even \$100 would be a great help.

Am fine so far. School opens Monday.