Taking A Look At Freedom Now

When veterans of the civil rights movement returned to Mississippi recently, they found that there were still obstacles to be overcome.

Aaron Henry joins Martin Luther King Jr., inset, during a 1964 fight over state delegates to the Democratic convention. Above, Henry, now president of the Mississippi NAACP, welcomes an old friend to the reunion civil rights workers in Jackson.

Moss, when Freedom Summer came to his city. "Up until a course here at Millsaps and this symposium," he said, "I hadn't heard anything about Freedom Summer or SNCC or CORE.

"The house belonging to friends of my parents was bombed that year," said Miller, who is now a sophomore at Millsaps. "So they said nothing in our house about movement activities. And at the school I went in to McComb, nothing was ever said on civil rights."

White students too were learning. "My parents often had spoken about the civil rights movement," said one young woman. But another said, "When I told my mother I was looking up something about Freedom Summer, she said, 'What do you want to read about that for?'"

Denise Benesh, of Jackson, a white senior at Millsaps who served on the symposium's planning committee, said she had become interested in Freedom Summer and the civil rights movement through college reading. "We learned at the symposium the importance of working together," she said. "We saw the sympathy that still exists, but we've also seen that people worked for goals together."