

CHRONOLOGY ON JONESBORO

SR 0 2/4

Jackson Parish

1127

July 7, 1964 - Ronnie Moore and Mike Lesser were driving from Jonesboro to Monroe when three cars of whites tried to detain them on the highway. Moore was driving and was able to get away from the three cars by making a u-turn and slightly knocked against one of the other cars. Then there was a chase back to Jonesboro at 105 mph. Moore and Lesser got to where the CORE workers were staying at Jonesboro. The three cars passed back and forth in front of the house. The Chief of Police was called along with the Sheriff but they did not respond until the FBI was contacted through Marvin Rich in New York. Then the Sheriff's deputies arrived along with the Chief of Police. The next day in Monroe, James O. Smith filed a warrant for Moore's arrest on the charge of reckless driving and hit-and-run. Moore later filed the same against James O. Smith.

July 10, 1964 - While canvassing Talbot Street in Jonesboro, threats of intimidation from the Sheriff's deputy and construction workers who told CORE workers to abandon work on voter registration in that area.

July 11, 1964 - Cathy Patterson, Robert Weaver, Bill Yates, Calvin Williams, Fred Brooks, and a local worker Doris Davis were apprehended by three Jackson Parish Deputies, one Lincoln Parish Chief Deputy, and one Louisiana State Trooper on U.S. Highway 167 and held for approximately two hours. They were made to pose for pictures taken by one of the officers, while standing outside of their car which was impounded by Jackson Parish Sheriff, although the incidents occurred in Lincoln Parish. The group received threats from these authorities when they refused to cooperate. Workers, Yates and Miss Davis were held under arrest by Jackson Parish authorities, pending investigation of their identification, but were released without charge.

July 13, 1964 - Three white youths stopped at the Freedom House and engaged in a conversation with CORE workers and policemen. Upon becoming rude they were asked to leave, but only after they had made threats on the lives of the occupants of the Freedom House and Robert Weaver in particular.

over date

July 30, 1964 - The KKK members burned crosses throughout Jackson Parish and nearly 50 or more Klansmen marched through the Negro section of Jonesboro, Louisiana holding burning torches in their hands lead by a sheriff's patrol car. The Negro section witnessed this and organized a group called the Deacons of the Defense of Justice.

Deacons

Com. KKK  
KKK

November 15, 1964 - A cross was burned about two blocks from the Freedom House Saturday morning at 2 o'clock and five shots were fired around the House. Reports were made to the FBI. An investigation was made by the FBI and the Justice Department, Thursday evening.

In Early December - Jackson Parish library system was desegregated.

January 4, 1965 - Talking plans were made to desegregate public accommodations in Jonesbor, and three ministers agreed to allow their churches to be used for voter registration purposes.

X January 17, 1965 - Sunday morning at 1 a.m. two of these three churches were burned. These churches are Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Pleasant, Louisiana and Bethany Baptist Church in Bethany, Louisiana.

Activities in Jonesboro, Louisiana

Submitted by  
C. W. Castle

Monday, March 8, 1965

Heard rumor that coach Kilpatrick, athletic coach at Negro Jackson High School, would be fired; Students tore up pic- of Wilson, school principal, and Knooce, superintendent, broke bottles, etc.; No class after lunch

Tuesday, March 9, 1965

Students, approximately 250-300 strong, picketed the Negro high school from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 10, 1965

Students continued picketing; same number, same time

Thursday, March 11, 1965

Students continued picketing; same time, same number; City police blockaded the entire Negro community; police arrested E. Thomas, F. Spence, and O. Satcher, teacher at Jackson High

Friday, March 12, 1965

Students continue picketing

Saturday, March 13, 1965

Students continue picketing

Sunday, March 14, 1965

Students and parents held mass rally, then marched to the school to pray

Monday, March 15, 1965

Students picketed, then marched through the Negro community; O. Stacher, teacher at Jackson high, was fired

Tuesday, March 16, 1965

Students continued picketing and marched through the community again; Superintendent requested a meeting with the school board and 15 persons from the Negro community; Parents and students rejected proposal, sent letter requesting school board to meet with them on March 22, 1965 at Jackson High.

Wednesday, March 17, 1965

Students continued picketing and marching; Superintendent issued statement saying that the school board would not meet at Jackson High on the requested date unless the students returned to classes on the following day, March 18.

Thursday, March 18, 1965

Students refused to return to school; Continued to pickett on campus and march through the community

Activities in Jonesboro (con)

Friday, March 19, 1965

Students continued marching and picketing; Students and parents sent list of grievances to the Jackson Parish School Board, by certified mail; Students issued statement to the community and officials as follows:

"With all intentions of maintaining law and order, we are returning to school through Monday. However, our protest will continue through the observance and of prayer and studying of Negro History. We hope that this demonstration of good faith on our part will cause the members of the school board to present definite plans by which we can satisfactorily resolve our grievances at our meeting on Monday."; This statement was prepared with the help of the Community Relations Service.

Saturday, March 20, 1965

School Board said it would not meet at Jackson High on Monday, March 22, but a representative committee from the Jackson High School could attend the meeting at the school board office on that same day, to present in writing a formal statement of grievances

Sunday, March 21, 1965

The parents and students of the community sent a letter to the school board stating that a formal list of grievances had already been submitted by certified mail, and that they therefore hoped that the scheduled meeting would take place and the school board would have some workable solutions to their problems at such time.

Monday, March 22, 1965

Students continued to protest through prayer and the studying of Negro History; the school board met at 4:00 p.m. at the school board office; Negroes were waiting for their scheduled meeting at the high school, but the school board did not show up; James Farmer, National Director of CORE spoke at a mass rally at the skating rink this evening

Tuesday, March 23, 1965

Students marched from Jackson High to school board office to present a letter requesting the parish school officials to meet with the student body and parents that afternoon at 4:00; The request was denied; Students returned and marched on the school campus until 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 24, 1965

Students marched to school board office from the high school and picketed the office until it closed at 5:30 p.m.; Testors of public accommodations sought service at the Blue Grill Cafe, M and D Restaurant, Nomey's Inn, Barlow's Cafe, and Brook's Motel and Cafe, service was denied at all places; Committee representing the Deacons for Defense and Justice visited the mayor's office requesting city postal service for those in the Ne-community

Activities in Jonesboro (con)

Thursday, March 25, 1965

Students picketed school board office until it closed

Friday, March 26, 1965

Approximately 375 students and parents marched to the school board office at 6:30 a.m., the demonstrators surrounded the school board office and blocked all entrances; Superintendent Knooce and all other employers did not report to work

Saturday, March 27, 1965

150-200 students and parents surrounded the school board office; ~~Governor John Mc Keithen~~ visited Jonesboro, met with the Negro "school committee" and then with the body of Negroes from the community, with the "school committee" acting as spokesmen.

Sunday, March 28, 1965

Mass meeting held at 3:00 p.m.; ~~Att. William Baker~~, special liason for Mc Keithen, called a meeting of about 40 persons at Jackson High School; a Bi-racial committee was formed - consisting of 7 whites and 7 Negroes; Mass memorial March for Jimmie Lee Jackson, Rev. James Reeb, and Mrs. Luiezzo; 23 students arrived from Syracuse University to help rebuild the churches.

Monday, March 28, 1965

Students returned to classes; Petition for across the board desegregation sent to mayor and police jury

Tuesday, March 30, 1965

No demonstrations; students continue to work on church

Wednesday, March 31, 1965 and Thursday, ~~March~~ April 1, 1965

No demonstrations, students continue to work on church.

Friday, April 2, 1965

Students continued work on church and left early in the evening to return to New York

Saturday, April 3, 1965

Testors attempted to be served at the Blue Grill Cafe, M and D Restaurant, Barlow's Cafe, and Nomey's Inn, they were served at Nomey's Inn and refused at all others; Downtown merchants received letters asking that Negroes be hired in to other jobs than menial tasks; Demonstration at the cour house protesting police brutality and intimidation; 11 students from the University of Kansas arrived to help rebuild the churches.

Sunday, April 4, 1965

Mass meeting was held

Monday, April 5, 1965

Testing was done at local eating places, Nomey's Inn served the testors, the other places refused them services

Tuesday, April 6, 1965

Picketing began at the school board office for the rehiring of O.Satcher; K.U. students and the local students continued testing

Wednesday, April 7, 1965  
same as Tuesday

Thursday, April 8, 1965

Demonstration at school board office caese; Mike Jennison, K.U. student, was attacked while trying to test one of the local eating places

Friday, April 9, 1965

Mass meeting, decision made not to begin picketting downtown stores on a promise that local businessmen would employ Negroes in the stores by the following Wednesday; Elmo Jacobs' car was shot into after going to a white filling station for gas, four of the K.U. students and E. Scott were in the car with Mr. Jacobs; he returned the fire and later discovered 14 bullet holes in his car door

Saturday, April 10, 1965

No demonstrations; Kansas students left

Sunday, April 11, 1965

Mass meeting

Monday, April 12, 1965 and Tuesday, April 13, 1965

No demonstrations

Wednesday, April 14, 1965

No demonstrations; No Negroes hired for jobs in the downtown area

Thursday, April 15, 1965

Picketting of downtown stores began; Mass meeting, again a promise that businessmen would hire if picketting was called off; students from L.S.U. and S.U. arrived to work on churches

Friday, April 16, 1965 and Saturday, April 17, 1965

Picketting continued

Sunday, April 18, 1965

Prayer caravan, by car, to Bethany and Pleasant Groves Baptist churches and to court house; mass meeting with Richard Haley, as guest speaker; approximately 50 vehicles with about 500 persons took part in the caravan; students from L.S.U. leave

Monday, April 19, 1965

Picketting resumed at downtown stores, bottle was thrown at one of the picketers - Glen Johnson; and a poster was taken from the hands of a 13 yr. old Jerry Cowan who was later arrested on a signed warrant by the man who attacked him

Tuesday, April 20, 1965

Picketting of the stores continued

Wednesday, April 21, 1965

Picketting halted because downtown stores were closed today