Pelagia's Best Freedom News

A Story About Slavery

On a clear morning, my great-great-grandmother told me a story about slavery. The day that she was sold into slavery, she was at work in the fields. A man from Texas came by and asked her boss what he would take for that "old nigger woman. She cooks like a good cook." The boss said, "She is." The men that wanted to buy her said, "I want to set a few young men from her." Before the day came to auction her off, her mother tried to be good and that God would keep her. When the day came for the auction, she was the third one to be sold. She was sold to a slave owner from North Carolina. Later she was sold again to a man from Mississippi.

Buy Alice Jean
Age 18

The struggle for freedom involves great risks. One of these risks for students is expulsion from school. The students were asked to defend their participation in a FS if they were dismissed for that reason from public school.

Dear Sir,

When school started back for another session, you read a message out saying that you wanted me at the office. When we arrived there, you told me that you heard that we had been attending a FS. You said that...
we didn't know what we were doing. You said that you were going to punish us. Why would you want to punish us for something that we haven't done at the school which you are a principal at? If you were the principal of this school, I feel that you would have had a right to punish us. You said that we were getting enough learning. I wouldn't think so. The children will not learn more about the children in the South because they have better textbooks. It couldn't be possible that we learn enough, because we don't have good enough textbooks.

I feel that you treated us wrong.

Z.C., Age 15

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Dear Principal,

I am writing you to let you know how disappointed I am in your expelled me from school and for the reason you expelled me.

This is not a question of what I learned, it is a question of what I am taught. You and I both know that Negroes in the South are not being taught what they should be taught. We know that they are only being taught what the white man want them to learn.

To a N.W.T.S. South cannot get a good education. I am still a student. So, you see, I went to the N.W.T.S. to learn more about myself and the world so I can prepare myself.
Pilgrim's Rest Freedom News (cont.)

got my future life. I think you would agree where I am
had gone.

By Oscar, Age 17

Copied from a newsletter put out by
civil rights workers and people
from the community of Pilgrim's
Rest, a town?) near Ridiculous,
Mississippi, 1964.