

TRAFFIC HARASSMENTS AND ARRESTS, Page 1

- Oct. 29, 1962: James Jones and Charles McLaurin arrested on unspecified traffic charges after taking two people to the ~~magistrate~~ Coahoma County Courthouse in Clarksdale to register. Posted bond amounting to \$103 and had to pay \$10 to the wrecker for removing their car. This incident characterized by much abusive and obscene language on part of police officers--one of whom was Clarksdale Chief of Police Ben Collins.
- Spring, 1963: Rev. J.D. Rayford of Clarksdale, Chaplain for the NAACP in that city, was given a total of five traffic tickets. He had been active in the registration campaign, carrying would-be registrants in his car.
- May 4, 1964: Attorney John Due, on a trip through southwestern Mississippi to gather affidavits for a meeting of an advisory committee of the Civil Rights Commission, was stopped in Liberty and arrested for failing to stop for an emergency vehicle and reckless driving. The police confiscated his affidavits and a list of addresses he was carrying. Hoping to retrieve the material taken from him, Mr. Due pleaded guilty and paid \$25 fine for each charge.
- May 8, 1964: An article in the Jackson Daily News: "Keeping in stride with a statewide movement to erect a bulwark against anticipated racial demonstrations in Mississippi this coming summer, the Oxford City Council has passed an ordinance increasing the penalties that may be levied by the city court."
- May 5, 1964: Will Henry Rodgers, Clinton Douglas Smith, Alvin Packer, Richard Frey, Larry Rubin and John Papworth were driving a car pulling a trailer loaded with books from Greenwood to Holly Springs. When they pulled into a garage at Oxford for gas, they were interrogated by officers in three patrol cars who opened the door of the trailer and examined the books. They were then taken to the local jail. Some ten hours later, they were each given a copy of a search warrant obtained on the grounds that they were engaged in a conspiracy to overthrow the government of the state of Mississippi. All personal possessions were examined as well as the books in the trailer. They were then told they were free to go, but were followed and at the outskirts of Holly Springs were arrested. The magistrate imposed a fine of \$119 for reckless driving. A number of other fines and charges were made during the next 24 hours, the total coming to \$356.72.