

MISSISSIPPI SUMMER PROJECT  
RUNNING SUMMARY OF INCIDENTS

- JUNE 16: Philadelphia: Mt. Zion Baptist Church burns to ground. Fire starts soon after Negro mass meeting adjourns. Three Negroes beaten by whites. This was freedom school site.
- State-wide: Negroes attempt to attend Democratic Party precinct conventions for the first time in this century. Results vary. Two Negroes, two whites elected in Jackson.
- JUNE 17: Vicksburg: Summer volunteer arrested for driving while intoxicated. Not allowed phone call. Held overnight. Acquitted at trial next day.
- JUNE 20: Fayette: Police, citizens order SNCC worker out of his house. He flees, but when car recovered two days later his camera, food, and personal documents are missing.
- JUNE 21: Brandon (Rankin Co.): Molotov cocktail explodes in basement of Sweet Rest Church of Christ Holiness. Fire; minor damage.
- McComb: Homes of two civil rights workers planning to house summer volunteers bombed. One damaged extensively. Seven dynamite sticks left on lawn of third home with no CR ties.
- Meridian: Three civil rights workers missing after short trip to Philadelphia. (See separate report for more details.)
- JUNE 22: Clarksdale: Four volunteers arrested on vagrancy charges while engaged in voter registration work. Held 3½ hours, released.
- Brandon: Negro youth killed in hit-and-run accident.
- JUNE 23: Philadelphia: Missing car found burned; no sign of 3 workers. Car was on list circulated by Canton White Citizens Council.
- Jackson: Shots fired at home of Rev. R.L.T. Smith. White man escapes on foot, reportedly picked up by a city truck.
- Moss Point: Knights of Pythias Hall firebombed. Arson attempt on side of building. Damage slight. Used for voter rallies.
- Moss Point: Two summer volunteers picked up as they leave cafe, relax on private lawn. Taken by police at 85 n.p.h. without lights at night to Pascagoula jail. Held in "protective custody" overnight, then released. (Separate reports available with details.)
- Jackson: Civil rights worker held 8 hours after receiving \$5 change for a \$20 bill.
- Jackson: White car fires shot at Henderson's Cafe. Negroes pursue. Three shots fired, hitting one Negro in head twice.
- Clarksdale: Local pastor, a civil rights leader, attested for reckless and drunken driving.
- State-wide: Negroes try to attend Democratic Party county conventions. Systematically discouraged from participating.
- Ruleville: LOOK, TLE reporters cover voter rally at Williams chapel, chased out of town by car at speeds up to 85 n.p.h. Early next morning, nine Negro homes, cars hit by bottles thrown from similar car.

INCIDENT SUMMARY - PAGE TWO

JUNE 24: Meridian: Threat: "You G.D. people are going to get bombed."

Hollandale: Police, mayor tell summer volunteer he can't live in Negro section of town and register voters.

Drew: 30 volunteers, staff workers engaged in voter registration meet open hostility from whites. Weapons shown.

✓ Canton: Civil rights car hit by bullet.

Collins: 40 M-1 rifles, 1,000 rounds of ammunition stolen from National Guard armory.

JUNE 25: Ruleville: Williams Chapel firebombed. Damage slight. Eight ✓ plastic bags with gasoline found later outside building.

Jackson: Two separate arrests of volunteers on minor traffic charges. Seven questioned in one case; charges dropped in other. (Law student presented his own case.)

Philadelphia: Newsman's car deliberately rammed by local citizen. Newsman gets two tickets.

Itta Bena: Two volunteers working with local Negro, handing out literature for voter registration rally, taken to gas station-bus stop by four white men who tell them: "If you speak in town tonight, you'll never leave here."

Greenville: Federal building demonstration. No harrassment.

Durant: Civil rights worker's car stopped on highway for repairs. Driver charged with illegal parking. \$60 bond paid.

JUNE 26: Hattiesburg: Hate literature from whites: "Beware good Negro citizens. When we come to get the agitators, stay away."

Columbus: Seven voter registration workers arrested for distributing literature without a city permit. Bond: \$400 each.

Itta Bena: FBI arrests three local residents for June 25 incident. Two are released on \$2,000 bail, one on \$1,000.

✓ Clinton: Church of Holy Ghost arson. Kerosene spilled on floor, lit after local white pastor speaks to Negro Bible class. (Fifth firebombing in 10 days.)

Holmes County: Two staffers detained for illegal parking, no Mississippi permit. One arrested. Bond \$60.

Holly Springs: Harrassment: beer cans tossed, tires slashed.

Greenwood: Freedom House call: "You'd better not go to sleep or you won't get up."

Greenwood: Voter registration worker picked up by police, released after questioning.

✓ Jackson: Ed Hollander, CORE field secretary, beaten at Hinds County jail while a federal prisoner. Third beating of a civil rights worker at same jail in two months, second of federal prisoner.

Canton: Two volunteers picked up by police, told all out-of-town visitors must register with them. Registered, released.

Belzoni: Three arrested for disturbing the peace. Two released without charges, third held on \$100 bond.

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INCIDENT SUMMARY --- PAGE THREE

JUNE 27: Batesville: Local person helping voter registration gets obvious harrassment ticket for illegal parking outside courthouse

Vicksburg: Threatening call: "We're going to get you."

✓ Philadelphia: Local Negro contact has bottle thrown through window of home. Threatening note attached.

Greenwood: Several phone harrassments; bomb threat.

Doddsville: Highway patrol kills 34-year-old Negro with history of mental illness. Local deputy who knew Negro with patrol man. Mother asks to see body. Police reply: "Get that holler-ing woman away. Ruled "justifiable homicide" in 17 hours.

Jackson: Two phone threats: "We're going to kill you white SOB"

JUNE 28: Jackson: Civil rights worker held 8½ hours without charges. Stopped for no reason while driving near COFO office. (Mississippi law permits holding for 72 hours "for investigation.")

Vicksburg: High school girl tells friends COFO "going to get it

Canton: Threatening calls throughout the night.

Ruleville: Mayor tells visiting Methodist chaplain he cannot attend Methodist services. "You came here to live with Negroes, so you can go to church with them, too." He does, with 3 others

Batesville: Report local Negro man beaten, missing.

✓ Jackson: "Hospitality Month" in Mississippi: White volunteer kicked over from behind, slugged on arrival from Oxford at local train station.

JUNE 29: Hattiesburg: Two cars owned by volunteers shot by four whites in pickup truck at 1 a.m. No injuries, \$100 damage to each car. Three witnesses. (Men were sleeping two blocks away.)

✓ Columbus: Six carloads of whites drive up on lawn of Freedom House. Five flee before police arrive. Police question, release two men in sixth car.

Hattiesburg: Civil rights worker charged with reckless driving, failure to give proper signal. Held overnight, paid fine.

Biloxi: Volunteers in white project turned away from hotel.

Hattiesburg: Phone rings. Volunteer hears tape recording of last 20 seconds of his previous conversation. Someone goofed!

Columbus: Restaurants serving volunteers threatened.

JUNE 30: Vicksburg: Negro woman threatened for registering to vote.

Ruleville: Man loses job for housing white volunteers.

Jackson: Car circles office with gun, threatens teen-ager: "Want to shoot some pool, nigger?"

Jackson: Volunteer charged with reckless driving. Fine \$34. (He moved from one traffic lane to another in integrated car.)

✓ Holly Springs: White teen-agers scream profanities, throw rocks at office from passing car.

Hattiesburg: Whites in pickup truck with guns visible drive past office several times. FBI checks June 29 car shooting.

Holly Springs: SNCC staff worker jumped by local white, who threatens to shoot both him and his office with 12-gauge shotgun.

JUNE 30: Tchula: Two carloads of highway patrolmen start excessively close watch on volunteer. Ended 48 hours later.

Oakland: Police find body of white man, badly mangled by hit-run driver, no identification at all. (later found no CR tag)

Greenville: Report that on June 19 a Negro porter at Greenville General Hospital was beaten by policemen with billy club there. Porter charged with resisting arrest and disturbing the peace.

JULY 1: Holly Springs: Justice of Peace (and Mayor) has local farmer arrested on assault and battery charges in June 30 incident. Bail set at \$1,000.

Clarksdale: Pick up truck tries to run down SNCC worker and volunteer. License plates hidden.

Gulfport: Police threaten to hurt children of lady housing civil rights workers. So they plan to move elsewhere.

JULY 2: Harmony: Sheriff, school superintendent tell community abandoned buildings may not be used for freedom school. Cross burned, tacks strewn in Negro community. (On June 30, superintendent had announced Negro summer session---the first in memory of local residents---in another effort to block the freedom school)

Hattiesburg: Two vote registration canvassers followed and questioned by men describing themselves as state officials.

Hattiesburg: School superintendent threatens all janitors who participate in civil rights activity. Ditto at Holiday Inn.

Hattiesburg: Local police stop ~~fixx~~ Negro girl, five white boys en route home. Policeman curses, threatens arrest, slaps one boy.

Batesville: Panola County Sheriff Carl Hubbard detains ~~several~~ persons housing civil rights workers, spends most of night in courtyard where many workers are living.

Meridian: White teen-age girl throws bottle at civil rights group outside church, cuts leg of local Negro girl.

Canton: Local police turn on sirens, play music on loudspeaker near COFO office, fail to answer phone calls or highway patrol.

Gulfport: Two voter registration workers threatened: "Things are fine around here; we don't want them to change." Man grabs volunteer's shirt: "I'm going to whip your ass." Workers run.

JULY 3: Meridian: Volunteer's car goes through green light, hits local station wagon. Volunteer charged with running light, reckless driving. Bond \$122.

So So: The "Greasy Spoon," a Negro grocery and teen spot, is bombed. Damage minor. Sheriff's deputy says there is no civil right motive for the bombing, calls it "senseless."

Greenwood: Three visiting Congressmen witness voter registration, call it discriminatory.

Tougaloo: En route to Canton, four civil rights girls are chased by two cars driven by whites. They decide to stop here for safety.

Jackson: Lots of phone harassment. WATS line goes dead, then rings---a technical impossibility.

Columbus: Police impound volunteer's car---claim it's stolen because transfer papers are not notarized.

Itta Bena: Police question two volunteers about robbery, say they were only ones in vicinity. No charges filed.

JULY 1: Greenwood: Two taxless cars drive continually past office  
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Moss Point: Police, white citizens pressure Negro cafe owners not to serve civil rights workers. Policeman says white racist in town has gun on his person, blade in a satchel.

Harmony: Sheriff, superintendent post "no trespassing" sign at abandoned school. Local citizens move books, other materials to Negro church. Police flash lights on homes.

JULY 4: Laurel: Police barely prevent large racial clash after two Negroes, two white injured in attempt to integrate drive in. Police fail to respond to calls for help from injured Negroes.

Clarksdale: Local manager says Negroes going to court house will be discharged: "I have a large contract with the head of the White Citizens Council, and I'm not going to lose thousands of dollars for one of you."

Batesville: Volunteer, local worker chased 30 miles by car.

✓ Batesville: Racist slugs Negro as he leaves court house.

JULY 5: Greenville: Local citizens test several restaurants. The eating places are closed either before or after testing.

Ruleville: Local segregationist visits COFO office, has a very friendly argument with civil rights workers. Police ask him to leave. He refuses. Charged with disorderly conduct. Fined.

Laurel: Lester McKinney, who witnessed and reported the July fourth incident, arrested by police, who say he has 4-6 months left to serve on previous sentence.

Columbus: St. Louis Negro beaten by whites who mistake him for a Freedom Rider. En route to a funeral, he's fined \$10.

Laurel: Two volunteers guest bombed by police, who stop their integrated car as it leaves Sunday school. Charges dropped against driver, but passenger arrested on vagrancy charge. She left pocketbook and car at police station. 10 days, suspended.

Jackson: NAACP integrates local hotels without major incident. Individuals integrate many other places on their own.

Jackson: Local woman's leg cut by bottle thrown at COFO office.

JULY 6: Jackson: Voter registration group harassed by police, who say "one man, one vote" sticker has been found on city car. They threaten arrest for trespassing if anyone will sign charge.

✓ Jackson: McGraven-Hill Missionary Baptist Church damaged by kerosene fire. Church has no ties to civil rights movement.

Clarksdale: Station wagon plays "chicken" with CRWs going home.

Jackson: Negro youth slugged by white, who flees in truck.

✓ Moss Point: Negro woman shot twice at voter rally, singing "We Shall Overcome" Three Negroes arrested when they pursue car from which they believe shots were fired. White car not checked.

Greenwood: Harassment call: "I just shot one of your workers..."

✓ Vicksburg: Whites chase, shoot at Negro on motorcycle. Miss. (7/4)

Itta Bena: Local police, sheriff hold civil rights worker incommunicado, trigger wide search by federal authorities, SNCC.

Hattiesburg: Owner's wife killed while protesting

JULY 7: Shaw: Stores refuse to cash volunteer's travelers check.

Shaw: Police ask all volunteers to re later. Only four do not.

Gulfport: Tires of volunteer's car slashed after she's seen taking people to register at the courthouse.

Clarksdale: Sheriff asks minister, driving interstate car: "Are you married to them niggers? You ain't no minister, you're a SOB troublemaker....I'm gonna stay on your back until I get you."

Vicksburg: White boys throw bottle, break windshield of car waiting to pick up freedom school student.

Greenwood: Six young students picketing jailhouse ("Stop Police Brutality," "One Man, One Vote") arrested. So are three others with them are, too.

JULY 8: McComb: SNCC Freedom House bombed; two injured. Des the numerous requests by Congressmen, attorneys, passers (on a personal visit with the mayor---who also heads the White Citizens Council), no local police were seen in the area prior to the bombing. 15 FBI agents, several walking pistols, show up during day. 150 attend rally same night.

Hattiesburg: Rev. Robert Beahm of National Council of Churches arrested on false pretense charge after allegedly overdrawing his bank account \$70. Bail set at \$2000.

Ruleville: Volunteer bodily ejected from county circuit clerk's office for accompanying local woman to voter registration.

Columbus: Three volunteers arrested on trespass charges after stopping at a gas station for a soft drink. Friendly conversation there until attendant says, "You boys should be on the road." They leave immediately. No fines or fines. Bail \$500 to \$1000 each.

Clarksdale: Bomb threat.

Hattiesburg: Bottle thrown at picnic by passing car. No plates.

Holly Springs: Civil rights worker arrested. Accused driving. \$250.

Clarksdale: Police chief in Lafayette tells Negro cafes not to serve volunteers.

Vicksburg: Bomb threat.

JULY 9: Greenwood: Local insurance salesman slugs volunteer during voter canvass. Follows in car and re enters.

Yazoo City: Feltzinger arrested for reckless driving. Court fine.

Clarksdale: Volunteer arrested for taking pictures in courtroom. Photos taken in hall after police chief's bedroom decedent on two girls.

Gulfport: For ~~sixxxxx~~ arrested for refusing to leave local people and cross street on police orders as they near court house. Held on \$500 bond for violating anti-picketing law.

Vicksburg: Freedom school students stopped en route to class.

Moss Point: Five Negroes fired from jobs for attending mass rally. Woman fired from work for housing two volunteers.

Clarksdale: Police chief visits office when another white man comes to turn off electricity.

Gulfport: Police urge volunteer to leave for his own protection, of five ~~xxxxx~~ inciting to riot.

JULY 10: Clarksdale: Churches removed from libraries. NAACP youths refused service at two restaurants.

Hattiesburg: David Arthur Delvell, two volunteers, two local teenagers attacked by two men as they walked in uninhabited area. Assaults end after attacking three men. One ending from hospital, rabid says Jews in Mississippi could "end" for decency and freedom with all the risks involved in leaving the state.

Vicksburg: Four civil rights workers chased by two cars, one of

JULY 10: Jackson: J. Edgar Hoover heads Jackson FBI office, first of its kind in state since 1946. Says 135 agents now in state. Cites efficiency as reason for new office.

. Says FBI can give CHWs "no protection" (boy and reports based on complaints and directions for investigation from civil rights division of Justice Department).

Greenwood: SNCC staff member arrested on public profanity charge. Police can overheard him say, "We've got to get some damn organization." Bail: \$15.

Moss Point: Mr. M. Kirschenbaum, only volunteer to leave the MSP because of threats in Hattiesburg, returns with \$2000 from New York.

JULY 11: Shaw: Local Negro offered \$400 by five whites to be SNCC Freedom House, \$40 for list of residents' home addresses.

Laurel: Four young Negroes injured during and after attempts to interrupt Kresses lunch counter, where Negroes had eaten earlier.

Canton: Small firebomb thrown at Freedom House lawn.

Vicksburg: Amateur bomb thrown through window of Negro cafe.

Canton: Volunteer arrested on traffic charges while delivering freedom school books.

Browning: Pleasant Plains Missionary Baptist Church burns to ground. Whites sought to buy it, Negroes would not sell.

Laurel: Local NAACP president received two July 19 death threats.

Molly Springs: Integrated staff picnic broken up by police.

Clarksdale: NAACP member testing barber shop driven out at gun point.

Harmony: Police visit local Negroes who have had contact with CORE volunteers, staff, forcing them to sign peace bonds. Police come armed with a warrant to search for liquor.

Greenwood: Local Negro woman hit in chest by white man, while accompanied by two volunteers. No police cooperation in stopping assailants.

JULY 12: Canton: Two summer volunteers, visitor refused admission to First Methodist Church. Volunteers had been welcomed a week earlier. Greenwood: Bomb threat.

Jackson: Body found in Mississippi identified as Charles Moore, former Alcorn A&M student. Second body found in river.

Jackson: White teen-agers slash Negro woman's tires, spit in face of volunteer co-ed after interrupted group eats at drive-in.

Jackson: Elderly Negro woman at Greyhound coffee shop. She is treated for cut head, hand, then charged with disturbing the peace. Out on \$50 bond. Assailant escapes.

Biloxi: Volunteer picked up while canvassing, informed of complaints by local residents, released.

Itta Bena: Local woman attacked by two white boys while sitting on her porch.

Hatchez: Jerusalem Baptist and Bethel Methodist Churches burned to ground. Home of Negro contractor in Hatchez firebombed.

JULY 13: Clarksdale: Negro volunteer chased out of white laundromat, picked up by police for failure to sign I turn, taken to jail and beaten. Sheriff Collins: "You're a nigger and you're going to stay a nigger." Charged with resisting arrest, out on \$64 bond.

Clarksdale: Chief voter registrar closes courthouse for next few days. Stated reason: court in session, no time for registration.

Clarksdale: Owner of electric company has project leader pointed out to him, then fingers knife in his presence.

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JULY 14: Canton: Man threatened with job loss if youngster continues in freedom school. Youngster stays.

Drew: ~~xxxx~~ Police chief, led 1 citizens protest Albuquerque Journal article based on volunteer's letter home. Volunteer says letter was edited.

Hattiesburg: State Sovereignty Commission visits office

Vicksburg: Hillman's assistant loses job because he attends the freedom school.

Vicksburg: SNCC town confirms burning of Bolivar Church 7/7

Drew: Police pick up James Dunn for distributing literature without permit. (Later) Seven people arrested for distributing literature without a permit and blocking the sidewalk. 100-3200 bond.

Holly Springs: Oxford Police Chief told civil rights worker he should not come back to town. Threatened to hit Negro over head, especially if he did not speak to others with proper respect. (No further charges.)

Laurel: Gas bomb thrown at local Negro's home

Batesville: Movie which had upstairs for Negroes, now offers admission only to whites.

Canton: Three white men pursue five CRMs in car en route home.

JULY 15: Biloxi: Two ~~xxxx~~ arrested in traffic harassment case

Clarendale: Another traffic arrest. Improper turn.

McComb: Freedom school enrolls 35 here.

Drew: 23 arrested for willfully and unlawfully using the sidewalks and the streets during voter registration rally. Citizens Council met at 9 p.m.

Gulfport: Civil rights worker arrested for putting posters on telephone pole. City ordinance. Bond \$50.00

JULY 15: Canton: Volunteers report they were beaten by police last night following arrest with truck carrying freedom registration supplies, books, miscellany. Bond set at \$150 each

Greenwood: Freedom Day---111 arrests, including 15 juveniles. Group includes 98 adults, of whom nine were SNCC staff and 13 volunteers.

Vicksburg: White man goes to door of home where volunteer staying. Has pistol showing in holster. Aims to see owner of house.

At another home housing workers, car circles block 10-15 minutes.

Greenwood: Silvia McGhee, local resident, picked up by three whites, forced to enter cab of their pickup truck at unpoint, then beaten with pipe and plank. Incident occurs just after he leaves FBI office. He got into there, a white told him to hospital. He has been active in attempts to integrate theatre.

Greenville: Freedom Day: 101 people took test, ~~xxxx~~ 100 more came too late. No arrests.

Hattiesburg: Two voter canvassers stopped by police.

Hattiesburg: Police question those who civil in about inadequate protection for those going to freedom school; may charge them with threatening mayor.

Ruleville: Total arrested in Drew yesterday 25, not 23. This includes 10 women at county jail and 15 men at county farm near Indianola. Superintendent of farm tells lawyer he can't guarantee safety of those at the farm. FBI advised.

Laurel: Volunteer canvassing accosted by two white boys, who accuse him of not being from Mississippi, knock materials from him and run.

Cleveland: Freedom Day: 25 to 30 picket without incident. About 20 of 25 from Shaw group. Shaw register. More than 30 from other communities came, of whom 30 registered. Process slow but polite. Ten registered. 45 auxiliary police allow only those registering on picketing on courthouse grounds.