

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
6 Raymond St. N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia

INCIDENT SUMMARY -- March, 1965

- March 1 McCOMB--County officials served the entire SNCC staff plus local leaders with an injunction prohibiting them from demonstrating or encouraging others to demonstrate. In the afternoon 35 students and 11 staff people were arrested at the Pike County courthouse. A lawyer who went to the jail was first thrown out. When he returned, he was attacked from behind by the jailer.
CAMDEN, ALA.--Negroes seeking to register were forced to go to a building separate from the courthouse where whites were registering.
- March 2 CAMDEN, ALA.--Police stopped a march of 100 Negroes who were on their way to the courthouse. The mayor told them that they need to get a permit to march from the city council. The next council meeting was set for two weeks.
- March 3 COLUMBUS--SNCC worker was arrested for reckless driving and improper brakes. The arrest was made by a highway patrolman well-known for his harassment of rights workers.
INDIANOLA--The formerly white-only library finally integrated. However, all of the tables and chairs were removed.
MARKS--A group of thirty students attempted to test public accommodations but each restaurant closed down before they arrived. Later in the day, two workers were arrested on charges of contributing to the delinquency of minors.
- March 5 GREENWOOD--The home of Silas McGhee was fire-bombed. The fire was put out by a truck driver with a fire extinguisher who was passing at the time of the blaze. Previously the home had been shot into and Silas McGhee himself had been shot once and beaten a number of times. The family has long been active in voter registration activities.
BELZONI--A local leader was arrested and charged with interfering with the duties of an officer.
INDIANOLA--The Freedom School and SNCC office was burned to the ground. Fire also destroyed a staff car. Eight SNCC workers who tried to enter the area were arrested by police who had cordoned off the area. Police took all the files which included lists of local Negroes who belonged to the Freedom Democratic Party.
COLUMBUS--SNCC worker was fined \$12 for failing to stop at a non-existent stop sign. Arrest was made by a highway patrolman notorious for his arrests and harassments of rights workers.
CAMDEN, ALA.--Police and white citizens stopped an attempted march on the courthouse by more than 50 people.
- March 6 SELMA, ALA.--68 white Alabamans march to the county courthouse in sympathy with the Negro vote drive. They were heckled by a crowd of 200-300 whites who sang "Dixie" when the marchers began singing "America the Beautiful." Two white civil rights photographers were beaten by mobs.
NATCHITZ--Two Negroes were refused tickets to the annual "pilgrimage."
- March 7 ALBANY, GA.--SNCC worker Randy Battle was arrested for not having the proper papers for his car with him.
SELMA--State troopers and Dallas County possemen attacked a group of 600 marchers bound for Montgomery with tear gas, clubs, ropes, and whips. Among the injured was SNCC chairman John Lewis.
- March 8 HOLLY SPRINGS--The washroom in the County Courthouse was integrated by two local Negroes.
SELMA--The Medical Committee for Human Rights had 4 ambulances ready to cross the bridge (after the people had been stormed into by the State Troopers). They were stopped by Police Commissioner Baker and state troopers for 15-30 minutes.
LITTLE ROCK, ARK.--Demonstration was held at Hotel Marion, where the conference of Southern Attorney Generals was being held. This conference protested Sunday's violence in Selma.

March 9 MOULTRIE, GA.--Eight people have been arrested in connection with arson cases at Bryant HS; Herman Kitchens thinks they were arrested because they are active with the Movement.
MARKS--35 students protested jailing of SNCC staff and that they weren't being fed in the jail. They were not allowed to go to the jail by the City Marshall and Sheriff, who arrested 17 of the students.

MOSS POINT--26 students, staff and adults are picketing the Magnolia Jr-Sr HS here, as part of a boycott which has been going on for two weeks now; they were arrested. They were charged with failure to obey an officer and trespassing. Police didn't only pick up demonstrators but went across the street and took people out of stores, etc.

SELMA--1500-2000 people began an attempted march to Montgomery. At the bridge, a federal marshall read the injunction forbidding the march. The people continued across the bridge, where they were met by about 60 state troopers; the people knelt in prayer and turned around and marched back to town.

March 10 SELMA--A march on the courthouse was planned, but the marchers were stopped by Police Chief Baker; seven Negro teenagers were injured today after they had attempted to march to the courthouse. Two doctors from the Medical Committee for Human Rights were arrested and taken to the courthouse; they were told they would be arrested if they practiced in the state of Alabama. Meanwhile Rev. Reeb, one of the three white ministers beaten when coming out of dinner, is near death. 200 people left Brown's Chapel for the Courthouse at 8:45 pm; they were stopped by state and city police. People are staying out in the streets all night.

MONTGOMERY--Over 900 people marched to the state capitol; they planned to stay all night. Their permit to demonstrate expired at midnight, however at 2 am 150 people were still in front of the capitol. They are surrounded by state troopers and city police, but they have been left alone.

MOULTRIE, GA.--Two churches 18 miles apart from Moultrie were burned Sunday morning less than an hour apart. Roy Shields feels that the burning is a form of intimidation.

March 11 SELMA--100 people are still camped out in the street. The people decided to hold an all-night vigil outside in recognition of Rev. Reeb's death.

LITTLE ROCK--In the morning 35 people attempted to integrate the cafe in the basement of the State Capitol, which calls itself a private club but has served two white staff members without membership cards. They stood outside the door of the cafe and asked to be served; the police shoved and pushed the demonstrators down the hall. Bill Hansen, SNCC Arkansas project director, was beaten by state troopers. That evening 170 people marched from the SNCC office to the Capitol, where they protested the morning's beatings.

MONTGOMERY--Jim Forman attempted to lead a march from the Dexter Ave. Baptist Church to the capitol. On the way seven of the marchers were beaten and arrested for disorderly conduct; the rest were forced back into the church.

BENTON CO.--The boycott of the Old Salem Attendance Center was over 90% effective in its second day; the five Freedom Schools had an attendance of 200.

MOULTRIE--Over 200 people registered this past week. The registrar has begun to purge names of registered Negro voters from the voting lists without explanation.

March 12 MONTGOMERY--The Dexter Avenue Baptist Church was surrounded this by city police and state troopers who refused to allow anyone in or out. There are 70 students inside, who are without food, phone or lights.

SELMA--Around midnight, two people were shot while standing on the line in front of the Brown's Chapel Church. The Selma Wall, a clothes line strung up across the street in the Negro ghetto 200 yards from Brown's Chapel, had become a symbol of protest. In the afternoon, the rope was cut by Baker. Mayor Smitherman announced that the Selma City Council had decided to ban further marches.

March Incident Summary (page 2)

- March 13 HOLLY SPRINGS—600-700 marched to the court house in the first demonstration since 1961. They presented a petition, which listed several grievances and demands of the Negro community.
- NATCHEZ—Six people had gone to buy tickets for a visit to an antebellum house; they were refused and began to picket in front of an auditorium. After one minute all six were arrested for disorderly conduct.
- MONTGOMERY—The people in the Dexter Ave. Baptist Church finally were allowed to leave.
- March 14 SELMA—The Brown's Chapel church is surrounded by about 500-600 state troopers. There are 300 people standing in vigil a few yards from the church. Baker has put up a wooden wall, two feet high, which extends the width of the street.
- March 15 JACKSON—13 people were arrested in a Freedom Day sponsored by the Jackson Youth Movement.
- SELMA—About 1,000 people attempted a march on the courthouse at 11 am. They were stopped and turned around a few blocks from the church by Baker. At 7 pm about 3,000 people marched from Brown's Chapel to the courthouse; they stayed five minutes, prayed, sang and then returned to the church.
- BATESVILLE—Students in Panola County began a boycott of the schools today; 3,000 stayed out, 200 attended classes.
- MONTGOMERY—Police tried to raid the Ben Moore Hotel, which is serving as SNCC headquarters. 300 students from Alabama State College began marching to the capitol; they were stopped by the police. The students sat in the street; 11 policemen on horses rode right into the middle of them.
- March 16 MONTGOMERY—600-700 students attempted to march to the capitol; five blocks from the capitol the demonstrators were trapped by police, who tried to disperse the crowd with horses and chains. About 1000 Alabama State College students marched to the capitol, presented a petition to the Governor's aide and left.
- March 17 MONTGOMERY—About 2,000 people marched to the County Courthouse.
- SELMA—35 Northern ministers picketing at Mayor Smitherman's house were arrested.
- ISSAQUENA CO.—Local students are running a Freedom School for those who are boycotting their regular schools; these schools are six weeks old.
- ITTA BENA—In the fall, local FDP people presented the mayor with a petition calling for improved streets, paving, etc. He didn't act so the people began a call-in, visited his office, and stopped him on the street. The harrassment of the mayor is having results. He is now having the streets paved and putting in sewers.
- LAUREL—Last night the bowling alley was visited for the first time by an integrated group of people. They also ate at two places, which had never been integrated before.
- March 18 BATESVILLE—The Panola County school boycott was 95% effective.
- LITTLE ROCK—Fifteen people went back to the segregated Capitol Cafe. State troopers, with billy clubs and cattle prods, attacked the demonstrators; everyone was badly beaten.
- MONTGOMERY—84 students (half northern, half from Alabama) began picketing the capitol without a permit. They were arrested after refusing to leave. 300 additional people set out to the courthouse to protest the arrests of the 84; they were turned back by the police.
- VICKSBURG—There was a fire-bombing of the Anderson Cafe, where COFO people eat.
- March 19 SELMA—300 people attempted to picket Mayor Smitherman's house; they were arrested. 410 people were taken into custody by the City Police and taken to the Negro Community Center.
- MONTGOMERY—36 people, picketing the city hall to protest yesterday's arrests, were arrested for loitering. 70 more were arrested for picketing the capitol building. Everyone arrested since yesterday afternoon, about 200 people, are in the Montgomery City Jail on a hunger strike. They will not eat until the Federal Government has them released under the 1960 Civil Rights Act and initiates a suit to restrain the police here from making further arrests.
- LITTLE ROCK—35 people returned to the Capitol Cafe, while they were going down the steps mustard gas was thrown on them by a local citizen. Forty state troopers attacked the demonstrators; eight people had to be hospitalized.
- GREENWOOD—SNCC is planning to organize an elementary school for local kids, who for various reasons can not attend the regular school.
- March 20 MONTGOMERY—For the first time, SNCC is instigating a suit in its own name in the federal court; it is seeking to get an injunction against the police for arresting people the last two nights while they were exercising their first amendment constitutional rights.

- March 21 SELMA--6-7,000 marchers left here around 12:35 pm. Federalized National Guardsmen, State Troopers, and city police lined the route of the march.
JACKSON FDP--The State's 40 days to hold deposition hearings is almost over; they have never called any witnesses. Soon the FDP will have ten days to hold final hearings. They plan to hold them on April 2 and 3.
- March 22 LITTLE ROCK--Several months ago, the Inc. Fund filed suit against the Capitol Club. The suit has not yet been acted upon. According to a TV report, the Board of Directors of the Club closed the club until the suit comes into the court and is heard.
VICKSBURG--There was a bombing of the Vicksburg Cafe, which was integrated during the winter.
SELMA--300 people are marching today; they plan to go 17 miles. Whites are jeering at the marchers. There are lots of Federalized troops around.
MONTGOMERY--12-15 people picketed the capitol and 5 were arrested. People in jail are still on a hunger strike.
- March 23 MARKS--Some of the kids arrested in Marks around March 9 were served with warrants; there are rumors that they may be sent to reform school.
BILOXI--FDP people are driving from Biloxi, where they are having a political education workshop, to Montgomery, to support the demonstration and to speak about the FDP Challenge in order to gain support from Alabama people for it.
LITTLE ROCK--50 clergymen marched to Gov. Faubus' office and presented him with a petition requesting him to reopen the Capitol Cafe immediately--to people of all races.
- March 24 VICKSBURG--18 young people from the area began work yesterday as part of the National Council of Churches' Freedom Corps Project. The purpose of the program is to help Negro youths on the fringes of the Movement to develop leadership skills in their communities.
- March 25 GREENVILLE--During the past three days, 25 people have been arrested while walking through a white neighborhood on their way to picket the Greenville Mills. John Cotto, a white worker, was arrested on Nelson Street in the Negro neighborhood while passing out leaflets.
MONTGOMERY--10,000 people were gathered at the State Capitol for a mass meeting, celebrating the end of the march.
SELMA--A woman on the March Transportation Committee, Viola Greg Lusio, was shot on the road between Montgomery and Selma and killed.
- March 29 LITTLE ROCK--Bill Hansen, Arkansas project director, was stopped by the police in Hazen, Ark. and asked if all the people in his car were married; Bill said no. He was then taken to the station and arrested for passing over a yellow line.
BENTON CO.--The community is planning a demonstration to protest the Board of Education's lack of action on the parents' demands that they fire the principal and four teachers and hire a new principal that the parents want.
- March 31 GREENWOOD--This morning about 21 people demonstrated at the courthouse to protest the arrest of the 15-year old Negro boy who was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, breach of the peace, and carrying a concealed weapon (a stick) after he lay down in the back of three white ladies' car.