

# SNCC

## RUNNING INCIDENT SUMMARY FOR THE MONTH OF JULY, 1965

July 1---Laurel, Miss--The Freedom School and FDP office was bombed at about 1:30 AM. Two FDP workers from Hattiesburg were in the house asleep at the time and were able to put the fire out before the house was totally destroyed. Telephone wires to the building were cut, and after the fire was put out, the remains of a Molotov cocktail made from two beer bottles were found.

Selma, Ala.--At least two people were hospitalized as a result of a beating in Camden, Ala., last night by a group of white men. Civil rights workers were beaten with pipes on the head and shoulders. At least one shot was fired.

Gulfport, Miss--A cross was burned in front of the Mt. Olive Baptist Church, a Negro church where 15 white people went to worship the Sunday before.

Jackson, Miss.--A demonstration began today with about 70 people. When no one was arrested, others joined the demonstration.

July 2---Jackson, Miss.--200 people marched from the Morningstar Baptist Church to the state capitol. They marched around the Capitol Building for one hour. Police did not interfere with the marchers because of the recent injunction handed down by the 5th circuit Court of Appeals restraining them from interfering with the Constitutional right of peaceful assembly and peaceful protest. News reports from Jackson indicate that 40 crosses were burned in different places across the state last night.

July 3--Little Rock, Ark.--Last night in Dumas, Ark., Bob Capleton and Terry Carr were picked up by a local policeman for questioning. The Mayor called down and gave them a warning about civil rights workers in "his town." They were released in Gould, Ark., and had to hide from local police and a carload of whites who were looking for them.

Jackson, Miss.--150 people marched from the Farrish Street Baptist Church to City Hall and back again. The marchers were led by 15 Jackson ministers. There were no arrests.

July 6---Eutaw, Ala.--1,500 Negroes marched on the county courthouse; 200 remained to attempt to register to vote.

West Helena, Arkansas--About 150 people attended a mass meeting last night where Julian Bond and John Lewis spoke. The meeting kicked off a voter registration drive and today 200 people went down on their own to attempt to register. As a result of a recent election, no literacy test is required anymore.

Amite Co, Miss--The homes of Willies Hayes and Curtis Johnson were dynamited.

Pine Bluff, Ark.--The manager of the Plantation Bunch Restaurant, who a week and a half ago pulled a gun on a white SNCC worker shortly after he tested public accommodations, was arrested today on a warrant signed by the worker.

Pine Bluff, Ark.--Elijah Randolph, Pine Bluff Negro, was fired from his job after his boss found out that he was working with SNCC.

Albany, Ga.--People from Albany have been demonstrating and trying to see the sheriff, Lamar Stuart, recently to protest the beating by police last week of three Negro boys--one of whom had been arrested on a burglary charge, and two boys who were with him. At first the sheriff refused to see anyone but the parents of the boys. One Saturday, 25 people picketed the sheriff's office and presented a petition to him.

Indianola, Miss.--Five local people announced they will run for city offices during the city elections in October. They will try to qualify next week.

July 7--Montgomery, Ala.--Workers have been circulating petitions addressed to the federal, state and local governments asking that the right-to-work law be repealed, that minimum wage laws be passed to cover those occupations that employ large numbers of Negroes, petitions will be sent to Congress which is considering abolishing the right-to-work law.

McComb, Miss.--A "Speakout" was held here in the Sweet Home Baptist Church on Sunday, June 27. The purpose was to bring together white and Negro citizens to discuss their problems, and it was organized by the White-stown Precinct FDP and letters of invitation were sent out to over 600 white citizens, including a telegram to Congressman John Bell Williams. There was a total news blackout on the speakout, and none of the white people came.

Shaw, Miss.--Two truckloads of food were driven to Shaw from the people in Winston County today.

Chicago, Ill.--35 kids are attending the Residential Freedom School. (Geographical breakdown: 4 from Miss., 4 from Ala., 5 from Ga., 3 from Tenn., 3 from Ark., 2 from Newark, N.J., 3 from Philadelphia, Pa., and 7 from Chicago.)

Indianola, Miss.--People continue to go down to the courthouse to attempt to register to vote. Cotton picking season has started and 50 people are on strike.

July 8--Cordale, Ga.--For the 4th time today a group tried to integrate the Town House, a restaurant which is the hangout of the local white aristocracy. They had been refused service each of the three times before. Three of the four people who went today were arrested and charged with trespassing.

Victoria, Va.--An integrated group of workers went into the Nelson Drug Store to eat; Negroes were served but the white people were refused. The Negroes then ordered food for all. The next day they went back. The owner closed down at 1 PM rather than serve the group.

Bozalusa, La.--A white man threw a rock and hit a 17-year-old who was part of a demonstration at the county court house in Bogalusa tonight. A nurse went to get the girl who had been hit on the head. A mob of whites stood outside the courthouse and when the nurse took the girl to the car, the white mob attacked the car and tried to beat them. A member of the Deacons, a Negro group organized about 6 months ago to fight the Klan in Louisiana in self-defense, shot into the mob of whites. The white man who hit the girl was critically injured. Someone from the Klan called and said that the Klan was coming into the Negro community tonight. There are mobs forming downtown.

July 9--Cordale, Va.--A mass meeting was scheduled for Wednesday night at the home of a man in Arabi, Ga. When his boss found out about this the man was fired from his job and evicted from his home. He was told that if he stayed in one place too long that his luck would change. The man was found sitting under a tree outside of town. When people heard him tell what had happened, they held a mass meeting outside under the tree.

Lowndes County, Ala.--There were approximately 104 people at the Court House yesterday and only about 75 of them were processed. They are expecting 200-300 people at the Court House today.

Amelia, Va.--A bottle filled with fire crackers was thrown on to the driveway of a local Negro girl who had been canvassing with some white workers.

West Point, Miss.--Three white volunteers were arrested as they tried to enter the Live Stock Restaurant with a local Negro youth. They were charged with disturbing the peace. Bond has not been set. The Negro was not arrested, but he was badly beaten by some local whites and left lying in the street.

York, Ala.--The Mayor of York came into the church that had been fired into and gave Alvery Williams, SNCC worker, a subpoena to appear in court. He is charged with firing into the church.

Forrest City, Ark.--52 people registered here today. SNCC is now working in the eastern and southeastern counties in Arkansas. Four Freedom centers (combination of community center and freedom school) are operating with 400-450 people taking part.

Hale County, Ala.--On Tuesday about 500 people took part in a march here (with permit).

Cordale, Ga.--Two white volunteers were beaten here as they took part in a demonstration involving 60 people who picketed in front of the Town House Restaurant. The ambulance refused to take one of the volunteers who was unconscious, to the hospital unless the driver was paid \$10. A hostile mob stood around making threats.

July 10--Eutaw, Ala.--The Zion Baptist Church, 5 miles from Eutaw in Greene County, was burned down this evening around 8 or 9 PM. The Church has no connection with the movement. 10 to 15 white men were standing around the church as it burned.

July 11--Americus, Ga.--Mrs. Mary Bell announced she will run for Justice of the Peace on July 21. She is the first Negro candidate to run for anything in Americus.

Cordale, Ga.--Today people again picketed the Town House Restaurant in shifts of five. Two large white mobs gathered on both ends of the street. A group of white people attacked one of the picketers, Rev. William Abbott, white minister from the Presbyterian Committee on Race and Religion, from California. A little while later an old white man came up and beat him with his fist. The man was arrested and beaten with a billy club by a Negro policeman. The mob was egged on by two white guys and started down the street toward the demonstrators, but the State Patrol pushed them back.

Bogalusa, La.--Yesterday picketers tried to picket downtown stores and were beaten by whites. A CORE worker took the nonviolent position, but a Negro soldier on the picket line fought back. Last night when they came back from the rally, whites were running up and down the street, blowing horns with confederate flags, and later shooting guns. When the Negroes shot back, two were arrested, but no whites were arrested. Nobody was hit. Today 700 people took part in a silent march. State troopers threw up a roadblock around the town to keep outsiders who wanted to come in and help, out.

July 12--West Tennessee Voters Project--A cross was burned at midnight last night at the home of the leader of the Tifton (Tenn.) movement.

Starkville, Miss.--49 people successfully integrated the Hinh Wayia State Park in Starkville. The group included 3 whites and 4 Negroes from Starkville and 42 people from Winston County. There were no incidents.

Tuskegee, Ala.--A group of people attempted to integrate three churches in downtown Tuskegee. Doors of all the three churches, the First Baptist, The First Presbyterian and The First Methodist, were locked and the people were refused entrance. A cameraman was attacked at the First Methodist Church, as he was trying to take pictures, by the former mayor and another man. The sheriff passed by but did not take any type of action.

Indianola, Miss.--Thirteen families went on strike on the Reed Plantation.

July 14--Ocilla, Ga.--The SNCC Freedom House was fired upon last night about midnight. Five minutes later the SCOPE Freedom House was fired upon. There were no injuries.

Pine Bluff, Ark.--At 1 PM two white volunteers and three Negroes went to the Cream Land Restaurant. The Negroes were served, but the whites were refused service. The manager asked the whites to leave and when they refused she called the police and they were arrested. At the police station they were beaten and charged with disturbing the peace and fined \$16.50 each.

Shaw, Miss.--100 people are on strike.

Greenwood, Miss.--300 people attended a concert by the SNCC Freedom Voices and Malcolm Boyd. While the people were there they signed petitions protesting segregation in the city hospital and the appointment of JP Coleman. (Circuit Court Judge)

Denton, Md.--Migrant workers are considering going on strike. Most of the workers are Negroes and Puerto Ricans and come from Florida. Mr. Hawkins of the AFLU and Marion Barry of SNCC spoke at a mass rally last night.

July 15--Tehula, Miss.--Saul Sutton, local Negro, was arrested on bad check charge. He was housing two summer volunteers.

Jackson, Miss.--James Johnson was beaten by police after refusing to tell them his name. He was driving some people home from a meeting, was arrested and charged with driving without a license.

Lincoln Co nty, Ark.--A branch of the registration office was opened up in Gould. In 2 days, 300 Negroes and 17 whites were registered. The office was closed after the second day. The Negroes in Gould are going to petition the Registrar to re-open the office.

July 16--Greenwood, Miss.--The Holiday Inn was successfully integrated today. It was the first successful integration of the Holiday Inn in Greenwood since the Civil Rights bill was passed last summer. This time they were treated courteously.

Greensboro, Ala.--Two demonstrations were held here today to protest hiring discrimination and difficulty in voting. In the morning 24 students took part. In the afternoon as the group picketed the courthouse, two known members of the Klan tried to take a camera away from staff member Roy Lee. The rest of the demonstrators went over to see what was happening. Then the police told the group to leave. The crowd started to leave and then turned back and then police, armed with billy clubs, began to beat the crowd back. People began to run back to the church from which they had marched. Five policemen began firing into the air. One of the bullets ricocheted and hit Jesse Bregans. 16 people who took part in the demonstrations were treated at Good Samaritan Hospital in Selma for head injuries.

July 17--Greensboro, Ala.--People demonstrated again today to protest job discrimination and police brutality. Several demonstrators were pushed around by local whites but none were injured.

West Memphis, Ark.--Six Negroes swam in the West Memphis swimming pool today. Two white volunteers and a Negro worker were standing outside watching. Ryan Rybolt, one of the volunteers, was taking pictures. A local white guy slugged Brian, stomped him. Two policemen were sitting in a car across the street watching. When the Negro worker asked the police to do something, they arrested Brian (attacker had left by then), charging him with "disturbing the peace by fighting."

Baker County (Newton) Ga.--As people were going to the Courthouse in Newton to register, police arrested two civil rights workers and a law student. The law student was trying to photograph a police officer. He was charged with interfering with a police officer. Roy Shields, Georgia Project Director for SNCC, was also arrested for driving without tail lights, a false charge.

Tuskegee, Ala.--A Freedom Rally was held here in front of the courthouse, attended by 250-300 people. People gathered to hear freedom songs and speeches by students on the movement. A petition concerning 13 grievances was presented to the Mayor.

Bogalusa, La.--Several people from Mississippi have come to help. Today at the march white people threw eggs and tomatoes at the marchers.

Greenwood, Miss.--About 100 people were picketing the grocery store owned by Mrs. JoDabbs, to protest unsanitary conditions and rude treatment of customers. White Volunteer Carol Watson went into the store to ask for a soda. Mrs. Dabbs said: "We don't serve sons-of-bitches in here,"

and ordered Carol out of the store. As Carol went out the door, Mrs. Dabbs smashed an empty coke bottle over her head. This was done in full view of Chief of Police Curtis Lary and two other policemen. Carol was taken to Greenwood Leflore Hospital and received 3 stitches. The people picketing began to throw bottles at Mrs. Dabbs. She went back into the store, came out with a shotgun and fired twice in the air. Police did nothing. Later they came by with riot guns, shotguns, and tear gas and patrolled the street.

Hale County, Ala.--Two churches were burned here last night. One church was pastored by Rev. Day, leader of the Hale Co. Movement, the other didn't have any mass meetings.

July 18--Greenwood, Miss.--65 people picketed the store owned by Mrs. Dabbs again today. Police (city and county) came armed with tear gas, and ordered the people to disperse.

Olive Branch, Miss. --Yesterday morning, a summer volunteer, Ray Gozzi, from Amherst, Mass., was dragged out of the car and beaten by white men. He suffered fractured ribs. The beating took place after an integrated group attempted to be served at the Pine Acres Motel Restaurant. The "egrees were served, whites were refused. This was the first integration attempt in Olive Branch.

Danton, Md.--Four people were arrested for trespassing in a migrant workers camp by Dorchester County police when they went to the camp to take part in a meeting to organize a strike. As soon as they set foot on the place they were arrested by police, who knew that they were coming. This is the fifth camp SNCC workers have been chased out of. The meeting was held anyway with the staff and Andrew Hawkins from Shaw, Miss., MFLU on one side of the road and the migrant workers on the other side.

Tuskegee, Ala.--This morning an integrated group of 25 students was attacked by a small group of whites as they attempted to integrate the Tuskegee Methodist Church. Shortly after the integrated group arrived at the church, two students were immediately forced out of the church and the doors locked. At 11:30 A.M. the police cars which had been cruising the streets, mysteriously disappeared and about 15 whites gathered opposite the front entrance of the church and began to heckle the students. The white group began attacking the students with blunt instruments and the butts of guns. Several threatened to shoot. Two of the students were taken to the John Andrews Hospital and one guy had to have 4 stitches in his head. The incident took less than five minutes after which time the police reappeared on the scene. Throughout the incident, the doors of the church remained closed. This was the fourth week they attempted to worship at the church.

July 21---Ocilla, Ga.--The Freedom House was firebombed last night. No serious damage was done. Another molotov cocktail was thrown at the house of a woman who is letting civil rights workers stay in her home.

Americus, Ga.--Mrs. Mary Bell who ran for justice of the Peace, received 332 votes according to the official count. The winner, JW Southwell, received 2,000 votes. SNCC workers believe at least 500 people actually voted for Mrs. Bell. 40 people picketed the courthouse today demanding a recount. While they were picketing whites sprayed them with water, waved guns and threw bottles at them. Police just stood by and watched.

Mrs. Bell and two other ladies were arrested and charged with blocking the entrance to the polls as they attempted to use the voting booth reserved for white women. The polls are segregated--white men, white women, and colored.

Baker County (Newton) Ga.--People have been picketing the courthouse here to get the registration office open every day instead of only one day a week. During the picketing today, a group of white boys and girls blocked the picket line. Project director Charles Sherrod was severely beaten and another worker, Jack Holt, was hit on the head by a man standing right next to the Chief of Police. Sherrod had notified the FBI that a demonstration was going to take place but no agents arrived.

Liberty, Miss.--22 people went to the courthouse and 22 people were registered. There were no incidents. This is the first time people have tried to register here since 1961.

Gould, Ark.--Homes and business places of five members of the Gould Citizens for Progress were raided on Saturday after they had taken part in a demonstration at the County seat. The purpose of the demonstration was to protest the closing of a voter registration office that had just been open in Gould for three days. During those three days, 300 Negroes and 16 whites were registered. City, County and State police made the raids. In some cases they had warrants authorizing them to search for illegal liquor, and in other cases they made the raids without warrants.

West Tennessee--Two churches were burned last night--one in Fayette County and one in Hardaman County. Neither had any connection with the movement.

Miss.

July 23--McComb--Several of the 9 maids who work at the Holiday Inn Motel have walked off their job to protest their 39¢ an hour wage and their poor working conditions.

West Tennessee--Last night the Tennessee Freedom Labor Union was formed here. Its members come from four counties--Fayette, Haywood, Hardaman, Tipton. Members are mostly farm workers and tractor drivers.

Newton, Ga.--James Barry, one of the white men who had taken part in the beating yesterday swore out a warrant for the arrest of Charles Sherrod, charging him with disturbing the peace and fighting. Later in the day the people picketed the courthouse. About 60 whites, armed with sticks, guns and knives, lined up so that the picketers had to go around them in order to get to the other picketers. Several incidents occurred. One boy was beaten by 12 white boys. When his mother went to the police office to swear out a warrant, the police refused to swear it out, and while she was standing in the office she was hit in the back of the neck by a local white man. Sherrod was bailed out.

Americus, Ga.--About 300 people marched from the Friendship Chapel to the Courthouse to protest segregation at the polls, a fixed election and beatings and arrests at the polls on Tuesday.

July 24--West Tennessee--1,000 people marched in Covington yesterday in 103<sup>rd</sup> heat. There were no incidents.

Baker County (Newton) Ga.--Yesterday at the courthouse 200 whites counter picketed 5 Negro demonstrators. Later, the 5 were jumped, seriously injuring both Charles Sherrod and Isaac Simpkins.

Tuskegee, Ala.--For a fifth week, people tried to integrate all white churches here. An integrated group of 120 tried to worship at the First Methodist Church here. A deacon read the Negroes a proclamation which said that the church belonged to the congregation and they had decided through their board not to be integrated. There were no arrests.

July 27--Greensboro, Ala.--About 250 people marched again to demand that the registrar's office be opened more frequently. A barricade was put up again. There were about 15 carloads of state troopers there.

McComb, Miss.--About 30 people, including the 5 maids from the Holiday Inn, picketed two entrances of the Inn today.

Americus, Ga.--1,000 people marched to the courthouse earlier today. This evening 350 people began an all night vigil on the courthouse lawn.

July 28--Greensboro, Alabama--200 people were arrested on Main Street. They were singing near the barricade that had been set up on Main St. to keep them from marching.

Hernando, Miss.--About 100 people went down to the courthouse to take the test to register to vote and about 60 passed.

July 29--Newton(Baker Co.) Ga--Charles Sherrod was arrested again today and charged with assault with intent to kill. The warrant for his arrest was sworn out by the man who beat him up last week.