

(1965)

Jan. 28 - Eighteen establishments were tested under the Public Accommodations section of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Seven refused service.

As CORE worker Steve Miller was walking back to the car with some Negroes who had just successfully tested Acme Drug Store, a large group of whites started after him. Before they could reach him, the police stopped them.

While CORE worker Bill Yates was waiting in the car outside of the Plaza Restaurant, a group of whites gathered around the car. They made insulting remarks, drew their fingers across their throats and called him a "Hebrew".

While Miller and a local resident, Robert Hicks, were waiting outside the Redwood Inn, a mob varying in size from between 17-40 gathered around the car. Several threats were made on Miller's life, as well as the usual insults. A white man, identified as member of the Ku Klux Klan, took pictures of the car and its occupants. After 40 minutes, the police came and broke up the mob.

Two days earlier, while touring the Crown-Zellerbach plant, Yates was almost run down by a fork lift driven by a white man who was identified as a member of the Klan, obviously a deliberate attempt on his life.

Jan. 30 - Tacks were discovered in the driveway of Robert Hicks, a Negro resident who had been letting the CORE workers stay in his house. Tacks were also found in the driveway of the Labor Union Hall, where mass meetings were held.

Feb. 1 - Miller and Yates returned to town for a mass meeting at 8 PM. At 12:15 AM following, Deputy Sheriff Doyle Holliday and Chief of Police Claxton Knight came to the Hicks residence and said that there was a mob of 200 whites forming downtown to come and lynch the workers. The two policemen offered to escort Miller and Yates out of town. Under Hicks' invitation, the two decided to stay. Holliday and Knight refused to protect them any further, that "We have better things to do than protect people who aren't wanted here". Phone calls from across the country to the mayor, and the threat that the Negro community would defend the CORE workers, halted any violence.

Feb. 3 - Miller and Yates returned to town by invitation of the local Negroes. They were followed from one meeting to another by two police cars; when a car filled with six whites came up, the police disappeared. The two CORE workers were chased at high speeds through the Negro community, until they came to the main intersection. Yates jumped out to run into a restaurant for help, but was set upon by two whites and beaten severely, breaking his hand in two places. Miller drove off around the block, as a shot was fired at him and a rock thrown into the car door. As Yates tried to run, a shot was also fired at him.

For the next six hours, the two were besieged in Audry's Bar by groups of whites who were continually passing by in cars. Reliable reports were made that mobs of whites were forming in the downtown area. Soon after the beating, the police came and dispersed a crowd of Negroes who had gathered. They did nothing to stop the cars of whites, and they allowed a group of whites to gather on the corner. The car that had chased the two workers circled the bar many times while the police were there. At sundown, the police withdrew; as the night wore on, the phones up and down the block were cut off. The leader of the Klan in the area was seen sitting in a police car with the deputy sheriff two blocks away. Finally, at 10:30 Yates

and Miller were given a police escort to Baton Rouge. Yates entered a hospital in New Orleans for treatment the next day.

Feb. 5 - A Negro man who was driving in Washington Parish, outside of Bogalusa, was flagged down by a white man with car trouble. When he stopped to give assistance, several whites jumped out of a nearby ditch and beat and threatened him.

Feb. 10 - A car belonging to one of the Negro men who is very active in the movement was stopped by three cars of whites. When they saw that a boy was driving it, they threatened to beat him. One man showed the boy a badge, claiming to be a policeman; he said he would like to take him down to the jail and beat him "like any common nigger". The boy was released, unharmed.

Feb. 11 - The Klan picketed Landry's with signs reading "This place peacefully integrated". One white man who was eating there at the time was slapped across the face for going in. Robert Hicks received a bomb threat at his home.

Feb. 14 - A Negro boy was hit in the eye with a bottle while walking in the Negro community; it was thrown from a car full of white youths.

Another bomb threat was received at the Hicks residence.

Feb. 15 - Five Negroes were eating dinner at Landry's when two whites with clubs came in and told them to get out. As they were leaving, one of the Negro men was assaulted by one of the whites.

Later, a lone Negro boy went to eat at Landry's; one of the white customers put a gun to his head and told him to leave.

Feb. 16 - At 2 PM a Negro boy was chased from the downtown area by white men with chains.

The Bogalusa operator refused to let the Hicks leave their name with the FBI. When they tried, the operator cut them off and refused to put any more calls through.

Four Negro boys stopped to get gas in the white part of town. A mob of white teenagers jumped them and beat them all. Roosevelt Singleton, a midget of 3'2" in height, was severely kicked around the groin and had to go to the hospital. Several policemen observed the beatings and made no move to stop them.

Feb. 17 - A Negro boy was hit in the stomach with a brick while going home from school for lunch; it was thrown from a passing car full of whites.

Feb. 19 - Joshua Mundy, a militant Negro leader, was followed for eight miles by a police car at 3 AM. Finally the policemen stopped him and charged him with speeding, improper muffler and concealing a weapon. The weapon was on the seat in full view. Excessive bond of \$500.

Feb. 21 - Yates, Miller, another CORE worker Charles Fenton, and two Negroes were chased at 110 mph for 29 miles from Bogalusa to Covington as they were leaving town at 10:30 PM. The car had false license plates which fell off during the chase.

A man and his wife were driving to church in the evening when a car containing

three hooded figures in sheets pulled out of a side road and attempted to stop them. The man succeeded in driving around them and got away.

Rowan Burris (see Feb. 10) was following the car that was chasing the CORE workers to Covington. As he turned to drive back, he was stopped by a Corvette with at least two whites inside. They got out and told him, "Next time, nigger, we'll kill you".

Feb. 22 - The State Police opened up a permanent office in Bogalusa.

Feb. 23 - A Negro cab driver who is involved in the movement was chased by a car filled with six whites. After a short chase, the cab driver stopped, got out of his cab, and pulled out a gun. The other car kept driving right on past and left.

At 10 PM, a car filled with white youths, one riding on the hood, sped past the Hicks home. The youth on the hood threw something at the Hicks' front window but it hit a tree.

While buying groceries at the A&P on the main street, Columbia Avenue, a Negro man was chased to his car by a group of whites.

Feb. 25 - FBI agents Quackenbush and Sass came to the Hicks residence. Sass told him not to get involved with the Deacons for Defense and Justice (a violent self-defense Negro group which is organizing in Bogalusa). Sass made many innuendos and concealed threats including saying that if a white was shot by a Negro in self-defense, the Negro would be charged with murder. When Hicks replied that self-defense was a Constitutional right, Sass stormed out of the house very angrily. Sass has been working in the Bogalusa area for 12 years.

THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL OF INCIDENTS TO 33 IN 31 DAYS!

Additions:

Feb. 26 - A Negro man was driving home from work when a car driven by three whites sped out of a side street and blocked him. They yelled "Here's a nigger-ass we can beat" and jumped out. The man pulled out a gun and told them not to come any closer. All three fled, leaving the car.

Feb. 29 - Rowan Burris, Robert Hicks and his wife went to eat at the Redwood Hotel and were refused service. Three minutes after they left, a mob of between 20-30 whites came up to the hotel looking for them.

Testing went on daily the week of Feb. 21-28. No places, not even the ones that were integrated in January, will serve Negroes now. Each time a Negro enters an establishment, the manager says that he can neither serve nor protect them. Then he makes a phone call and within five minutes a mob comes in and forces them to leave. There is more fear now in the white community than in the Negro.

Feb. 28, 1965 - The windows in the home of a Negro minister were broken by a group of whites.

March 3 Commissioner of Public Safety Spiers, when asked by Negro members of Bi-racial Committee why city authorities did not want CORE on the scene, replied: "It is my job to protect all the citizens of Bogalusa. Now if you have radicals and extremists about you can't tell what they're going to do. Extremists can't be kept in line. That's why we can't have them here." Perhaps Spiers meant the Bogalusa Klan.

March 4 A Negro man was fired from his job for applying to the Sullivan Memorial Trade school. His employer had previously told him that he would be fired if he applied. When the employer (Hoffman Electric and Supply Co.; Bogalusa Air Conditioning and Electric Supply Co.; both owned by Hoffman and both electrical subcontractors of Crown-Zellerbach) fired Willie Dickham he said, "You brought it on yourself. I'm not going to have any picketing around my place." The "picketing" refers to the Klan's picketting of firms complying with Federal equality laws and regulations.

Reverend Shepherd, white Episcopal minister, was halted on the highway by whites. A car of Negroes coming onto the scene dispersed the assailants. Rev. Shepherd has been told to leave town or be killed. (Two white ministers have lost their churches for their moderate stands on racial discrimination.)

March 12 Radio station WBOX is being boycotted by segregationists. The owner has repeatedly broadcast editorials criticizing the Klan's terrorism and the lack of resistance from the white community.

Landry's Restaurant is issuing cards proclaiming it to be a private club. The cards confer membership.

March 13 In March 4 Arthur Ray Mingo was arrested by Deputy Sheriff for K-9 Patrol on a speeding charge. Mingo protested to Sheriff Crowe that the charge was false. Sheriff cleared Mingo of charge. On March 13 the K-9 Deputy again stopped Mingo on the highway. He called Mingo to his car. There were passengers in the car with the K-9 Deputy. Deputy told Mingo to put his hands into the car. Mingo obeyed. The Deputy put handcuffs on him. The Deputy and his passengers got out of the car and beat Mingo about the head. Deputy told Mingo he'd "better not say a damn thing about it." Mingo reported the incident to Sheriff Crowe. Crowe called in the Deputy and asked Mingo to identify him. Mingo did. Crowe told Deputy to behave better.

March 14 Bogalusa Chief of Police Knight called Royan Burris to his office. Burris asked him why he was always outside the Labor Hall when the Negroes had civil rights meetings. Chief said he was there to keep off white trouble-makers. (It is suspected that the Chief bugs the meeting with a listening device in his car.) Chief then

asked Burris when were more public facilities tests scheduled. Burris answered that the Chief would be informed about a half hour before tests took place and then asked how it was that segregationists always knew where testing was to take place. The Chief answered that the Klan had 50 to 60 radios and listened in on police calls (on first day of testing - permitted by city authorities and guarded by them - Chief says the police used color code, e.g., red, green, blue, etc.; though since the route and places of testing were well known to police in advance, and insisted upon by them, color codes weren't of much use). Chief said radios weren't illegal because they weren't used for transmitting. Chief pressed Burris for testing dates, telling Burris that the testing was raising hell with his fishing-time.

March 17 Royan Burris, Negro businessman, was returning home from his shop at 1 am and was stopped by the Parish K-9 Deputies and 3 city police, acting in concert. They handcuffed his hands behind his back and drove him to the city police station. When Burris got out of the car to enter the station the police slapped and tripped him. Inside the station they circled Burris and punched and pushed him from one policeman to the next. Burris fell to the floor and one said; "What are you doing down there, nigger?" When the beating ended, Burris asked to be allowed a phone call. The police let the phone ring twice, then snatched it from his hand, saying, "That's your phone call, nigger." His family learned that he was in jail only through an anonymous phone tip. The Community Medical Center refused him service when they learned the cause of his wounds.

March 25 A Negro worker in Crown-Zellerbach narrowly avoided injury in a trap set for him by white workers.

The transmitter building of radio station WFOX was fired into during the night. The attackers apparently used hollow-nosed bullets because the bullets tore large holes in the wooden walls.

CONSTANT The Hicks receive a call at 1:30 AM every night. The phone rings once and once only.

Albert L. Davis receives calls sporadically at 4:30 AM. No one responds to his answer.

Sidney Earl Magee, Darnell Graves, and Willie Hartly - all in the "white line of progression" at Crown-Zellerbach have been victims of numerous and continuing harassments, e.g., articles of clothing stolen, lunches stolen, etc. Each has found pinned ~~out~~ to his time-card a card reading "you have been patronized by a Knight of the Klu Klux Klan."

March 25: Sidney Magee narrowly missed death in a trap set by white workers. A load of scrap iron was rigged overhead to be triggered to fall on him when he entered the toilet. He leaped quickly to one side and the iron missed him by inches. When management after long delay investigated, all evidence had been removed. (Complaint of the incident was made by Robert Hicks at Magee's request. Management refused at first to discuss it with Hicks, calling him a CORE worker and saying they would not discuss anything with a CORE person). Management did later release a statement asking employees to keep troubles originating outside the plant from disturbing the peace inside the plant.)

(This is an elaboration of the beforementioned item on March 25)

March 26: Joel Rubenstein (CORE worker stationed in Bogalusa) saw a car of whites pass and repass several times the front of the building housing the CORE office. The car had no license plates. Joel called the police to report the car's passing. On March 30th Royan Burris was told by Deputy Sheriff Holliday that the car Joel reported belonged to him and that Burris should tell Joel for him "tell that fat-assed Jew that's my car and I'll send it by as many times as I want."

March 28: The windshield of a truck belonging to Royan Burris was smashed by a large stone. The perpetrator thoughtfully left the stone lying on the hood. The police had been near the truck just before the broken window was discovered. The police have been following Burris' truck and car since he was beaten by them on March 20.

A young Negro, Jones Radcliff, was jumped and beaten by four white men after attending a Freedom Rally. He struck one of his attackers and now is being given around the clock protection by his friends to prevent the whites "revengeing" his blow.

L. C. Magee's car was forced off the road and into a ditch by a car of whites. Magee's car was overturned. He was on his way home from the Freedom Rally.

When Ronnie Moore, Bill Yates, and Kimme Johnson - all CORE workers - were leaving Bogalusa after the Freedom Rally their car was followed by City Police car #10, the Sheriff's K-9 car, and several unmarked, unlicensed cars carrying white men (presumably Klansmen). Immediately behind the CORE car were two cars of armed Negroes -- thus the "peacefulness" of the procession.

March 29: A teargas bomb was thrown into the Labor Union Hall of Local 189-A where the Bogalusa Voters League (a militant Negro organization) had just finished a meeting. (A second meeting of much less militant Negroes, "Toms" in fact, was in session: an error in timing no doubt, but then the Klan has never shown itself as bright.)

Royan Burris arrested on charge of complicity in a crime that occurred in the summer of 1964. Burris is innocent of the crime and is clearly being "framed". FBI agent Frank Sass (of whom CORE and the people of Bogalusa have before complained to Washington) when asked to see that Burris was not again beat by the police said "I don't want this bullshit of calling the FBI everytime somebody is arrested." Burris released 12 hours later on \$1000 bond.

car and I'll send it by as many times as I want.

March 28: The windshield of a truck belonging to Royan Burris was smashed by a large stone. The perpetrator thoughtfully left the stone lying on the hood. The police had been near the truck just before the broken window was discovered. The police have been following Burris' truck and car since he was beaten by them on March 20. (5)

A young Negro, Jones Radcliff, was jumped and beaten by four white men after attending a Freedom Rally. He struck one of his attackers and now is being given around the clock protection by his friends to prevent the whites "revengeing" his blow.

L. C. Magee's car was forced off the road and into a ditch by a car of whites. Magee's car was overturned. He was on his way home from the Freedom Rally.

When Ronnie Moore, Bill Yates, and Kimme Johnson - all CORE workers - were leaving Bogalusa after the Freedom Rally their car was followed by City Police car #10, the Sheriff's K-9 car, and several unmarked, unlicensed cars carrying white men (presumably Klansmen). Immediately behind the CORE car were two cars of armed Negroes -- thus the "peacefulness" of the procession.

March 29: A teargas bomb was thrown into the Labor Union Hall of Local 189-A where the Bogalusa Voters League (a militant Negro organization) had just finished a meeting. (A second meeting of much less militant Negroes, "Toms" in fact, was in session: an error in timing no doubt, but then the Klan has never shown itself as bright.)

Royan Burris arrested on charge of complicity in a crime that occurred in the summer of 1964. Burris is innocent of the crime and is clearly being "framed". FBI agent Frank Sass (of whom CORE and the people of Bogalusa have before complained to Washington) when asked to see that Burris was not again beat by the police said "I don't want this bullshit of calling the FBI everytime somebody is arrested." Burris released 12 hours later on \$1000 bond.

March 30: Newsmen calling Bogalusa police to check story of the teargas bomb were told the police knew nothing of it. The police were seen at the hall checking the occurrence and interviewing the victims just after the bombing.