

ARKANSAS VOICE

Vol. 1, No. 4

Little Rock, Arkansas

July 16, 1965

2 GOULD RESTAURANTS INTEGRATED

Gould, Ark. - Two restaurants here were integrated by six young Gould adults and teenagers on June 25, 1965. The two restaurants which formerly had served only whites, are Holthoff's Restaurant and Knight's Dixie Queen, both on Route 65 in Gould. There were no incidents.

The attempt was preceded by several weeks of discussions and planning by Gould Citizens for Progress a local action group.

The group chose six of its own members as representatives for this particular integration attempt. The question of non-violence was discussed at length and later adopted by the group. Training sessions in nonviolence were held for the six to prepare them for any situation which might arise.

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"Don't Cross The Picket Line," COMMITTEE SAYS

Forrest City, Ark. - Since June 30 pickets have been marching in front of a downtown department store demanding more and better jobs for Negroes.

The pickets represent the St. Francis County Achievement Committee, a local group of about 75 young people who are working for better conditions for Negroes in their community.

The St. Francis County Achievement Committee began its campaign to gain equal employment opportunities for Forrest City Negroes on the 24th of June. At that time, the Committee submitted a letter to the Forrest City Chamber of Commerce describing the discriminatory hiring situation in the downtown stores, and requesting that this grievance be redressed so that no other action would have to be taken. They received no answer.

The Committee then visited the Mayor of Forrest City to present their grievances.

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Mervin Barr leads demonstrators on the first day of picketing in Forrest City.

Police Brutality Protested

Pine Bluff, Ark. - People associated with the Pine Bluff Movement and workers for the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) began picketing the city hall and police station here at 2:30 p.m. on Monday. About 15 persons participated in the demonstration in protest against police brutality in Pine Bluff. Picketing continued until 5:30.

The demonstration protest grew out of an incident that occurred early Sunday

morning at the Pine Bluff police department. Two workers for SNCC reported that they were arrested while seeking service as an integrated group at the Creamland Cafe. Later, at the station, the two said, they were beaten by police officers under direction of the night captain. Neither SNCC worker required extensive medical treatment. Their injuries were cuts and bruises to the lips, jaw, and back. They were charged with disturbing the peace.

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PROGRAM IN THE PARK

Pine Bluff, Ark. - The Pine Bluff Movement has started its freedom program for children of all ages even though a building has still not been found.

The program, which is supervised largely by SNCC summer volunteers, is held daily in Townsend Park from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Some of the activities in the past weeks have included baseball, guessing games, dodge ball, "hot potato," reading, story telling and freedom songs.

One of the most successful activities is the art sessions for which the volun-

teers bring materials such as clay, crayons and paper.

Future plans include cookouts, campouts, more extensive art work and the use of a tape recorder. The children have also expressed an interest in establishing a permanent baseball team. This program will be continued through the winter.

The volunteers urge children who are interested to come to the park. Any persons interested in the arts, physical education and recreation are invited to join in supervising activities.



SNCC summer volunteer and West Helena children talk about Africa in the West Helena Community Center.

West Helena Center Opens

West Helena, Ark. - The West Helena Community Center, at the Greater First Baptist Church, has been operating with a full program of activities for both children and adults since June 25, 1965.

The children's program includes friendship clubs, arts and crafts, Negro history, group singing, arithmetic, Arkansas politics, library time and discussions.

Classes for adults include Negro history, Arkansas politics, reading, writing and arithmetic.

The center is open from 10 a.m. to noon and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. daily. It is also open from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Myrtle Glascoe, one of the volunteers, said, "Because of the hard work of the committee and many members of the Westside Voters League, the center is becoming a success."

The center is sponsored by the Westside Voters League. SNCC volunteers work with a special committee of the League in operating the center.

POLICE BRUTALITY

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Others in the community then came forward to relate similar circumstances when the police have beaten and abused Negroes. These incidents gave rise to the picketers' demands that the police officers responsible be suspended.

The picketers continued marching around the city hall on Tuesday with signs reading, "Stop the Brutal Cops," "We Want Equal Protection Under Law."

Twice on Tuesday Rev. Ben Grinage, Rev. A. M. Roberts, Dr. J. A. Bagsby, Mr. L. M. Yancey and the two SNCC volunteers who were beaten, met with the mayor and chief of police. They were told to make a formal complaint about the beatings to the city civil service commission.

On Wednesday, the picketing continued. A complaint was made to the commission, and as the community waits for a response, further action is being planned.

During the interview in the mayor's office, the Police Chief asked why one

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WHAT WE SHALL OVERCOME MEANS TO ME

It mean that Negro can do
what the White People do

We can own a Bank like White People
We can own a store like White People

And if we were in slave time we shall
overcome mean we shall be free one day.

And it mean that one day we shall have
color Negro salesmen

And we can go to the White Movie

We shall overcome mean that
White men can't kill color men anymore.

That we shall have best jobs as White
People.

And we shall overcome mean the color
children have good book in school like
White children

And the people who chop in the field
shall have more money

And it mean the policemen won't bother
us anymore And we shall overcome mean
the color police can arrest White People

It mean we shall have color teachers
teaching white children too
It mean that all children will go to
the same school
And we shall learn and play together.

White people have repaired street
and colored have dirt roads.

When we shall overcome our street
will be the same

And Negro have houses the same as White
people and we shall have bathroom on the
inside and color people have the right
to eat where White people do

Vote will be secret and fair for Negro.



The Negro of today want to have equal rights.

We shall overcome mean that we shall be treated
the same way.

---Geraldine Smith, Age 11
Forrest City Community Center

West Helena Teens Attempt Pool Integration

On Tuesday we went to the Helena pool to have a test demonstration. Do you know what a test demonstration is. Well a test demonstration is a demonstration to find the facts. Now that you know what a test demonstration means we can get on with the story.

Well we plan the demonstration before we went there. The way we plan it is when we sent two white freedom workers to the pool first to see if it was a private pool. The two white guys told us it wasn't a private pool so we sent two Negroes over to get in the pool which was not private. And they told the Negro men that the pool was private.

Then nine Negro children went over to the pool and while the white lady was telling them that the pool was private, the white freedom worker said he got in and he didn't have a membership card. And then the Negro man said, "The Negroes just can't come in?"

Then the white lady said, go talk to the owner of the pool and she said that the owner didn't tell her anything he just left his address.

Then one of the Negro children ask the lady this, "Did the owner tell you not to let Negro people in?" She said, He didn't tell me anything he just left his address.

She told one of her standbys to go blow the whistle and all the people got out of the pool and started running and got in there cars and drove off.

Then somebody call the police when he got there he ask the white lady if she ask us to go. Then the white lady said she didn't think of it. So the police ask us to leave so we left.

Frank Williams
West Helena

Negro Congressman
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In all his appearances, John Lewis of SNCC stressed that "When a people make up their mind to be free, they're going to be free." To those who hesitate to take up the struggle because it would lead to trouble, Lewis remarked, "We're already in trouble, because we're Negroes." Lewis stressed that people must work together. "If any one

Tuesday July 6, the teenage group of the West Helena Community Center decided to go to Helena's swimming pool to try to swim.

When we got in Helena we parked the cars a few blocks from the pool. We had plan what we was going to do ahead of time, we sent three white workers to the pool first and two Negro workers were behind and the group of us were behind them.

When we reached the pool we seen a majority of white people swimming. When we walked in the two Negro workers were already inside the building at the counter. The white

of us is wronged or beaten, it must be as if all of us are wronged and beaten," said Lewis.

At least in one instance the feelings sparked by the speeches of Bond and Lewis led to action. The day after they spoke in West Helena, over 150 people went to the county clerk's office to register to vote. All of these people were successful in becoming Arkansas voters.

lady had told that they couldn't swim. One of the white workers said "You let me swim" and a Negro worker said, "because we are Negroes we can't swim?" and the white lady said, "I had to turn down some white people yesterday" but they kept on asking her questions. But she told them to consult the manager, she wrote down the address. Everytime they asked her a question she would show them on piece of paper with the manager address. She told the workers she was just following orders.

She picked up the phone and call someone and three minutes after she hung up, a police step in the door. He come up to the counter, he ask the white lady did we refused to leave, one worker said she didn't ask us to leave which was the truth.

The police ask would we peacefully leave so we left. When we left their wasn't anyone in the pool. We walked back to the cars and came back to the center.

Alfred L. Barrow
West Helena

Negro Congressman, SNCC Official Visit Arkansas



Julian Bond (left) and John Lewis (right)

On July 5, 6, and 7 Julian Bond of the Georgia House of Representatives and John Lewis, chairman of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee, toured Arkansas to kick-off voter registration drives.

It was fitting that Julian Bond should give a push to voter registration in Arkansas since he is a living example of the power of the vote.

In 1961 Bond was thrown out of the spectators' section of the Georgia House of Representatives for sitting in the white section. Bond told of how one of the men who was supposed to be representing him looked up and said, "Get those niggers out of there!" Four years later, Mr. Bond ran for the office of

state representative in the very same legislature and won by a landslide. "This time there isn't anybody who'll be able to kick me out," said Bond.

Bond told of how the trouble with politics was that few of the representatives of the people actually represent the people. This was why so few people voted or expressed real interest in political happenings. Bond saw himself as a new kind of politician, constantly in touch with the people. Part of the platform on which he ran for office stated that he would visit every block in his district to find out from the people what they thought was important to their lives.

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Pickers Demand Protection

Little Rock - About forty pickets demonstrated in front of the federal building here on June 28. They were demanding federal protection for the numerous demonstrators jailed recently in Jackson, Mississippi.

The picketers were from local churches, youth groups, and the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee. They marched in front of the federal building during the lunch hour and continued picketing later that afternoon.

They carried signs protesting the brutal treatment which the Jackson demonstrators have suffered, and handed out leaflets asking sympathetic persons to write their Congressmen and President Johnson to stop this police brutality.

The jailed Jackson demonstrators were representatives of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP), a predominately Negro political party formed last year in Mississippi because the regular Democratic Party did not allow Negroes to participate in party affairs.

The MFDP has been protesting a special session of the Miss-

issippi state legislature which was called in order to try to get around the new federal voting rights bill. As a result of their peaceful protest, MFDP demonstrators have been thrown into temporary jail quarters which have been described as a "concentration camp." In all, about 900 persons were arrested.

The MFDP asked the federal court to prevent local police from arresting them while exercising their right to seek redress of grievances and to assemble peaceably. Within the last week the court has acted. The MFDP can now hold its demonstrations in Jackson without fearing arrest and harassment by the police.

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"Gould Citizens for Progress recognize," said one member, that to gain entrance to a restaurant is meaningless, if one hadn't the money to enter." "On this basis," he continued, "the organization will work toward improving the economic situation of Gould Negroes."

"DON'T CROSS PICKET LINE"

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He offered no aid or cooperation.

Picketing then began as a result of this silence from Forrest City business and civic leaders. Demonstrations will continue until a favorable solution can be achieved. Mervin Barr, president of the Achievement Committee, said, "We will picket the stores all day every day, until we get some kind of cooperation."

The pickets walked in groups of ten, each group picketing for two hours. They carried signs which said, "We want Negro Salesmen in Forrest City!", "Don't Buy Where You Can't Earn", "Equal Jobs Equal Pay", and "One, Two, Three, Hire Me."

700 WEST 9th STREET
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

Few incidents were reported as a result of this direct action. Fire crackers were thrown at the picketers, but they continued their marching without once hesitating. The picketers had practiced so that they would be ready for such incidents. They were able to react calmly and nonviolently in this very tense situation. One girl was also kicked while in line, but she too was able to ignore this incident and not let it disrupt the picket line.

The St. Francis County Achievement Committee asks that people not cross their picket line and that people are invited to join them in the line.

White With Gun Arrested

Pine Bluff, Ark. - Carl Purnell, owner of the Plantation Embers Restaurant, was arrested here recently after an integration attempt at his place of business on June 26. Purnell was charged with assault with a deadly weapon. A warrant for his arrest was signed by Vincent O'Connor, 23, volunteer working with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

O'Connor was present at the restaurant to observe the integration attempt by a group of Negroes. As O'Connor waited in a nearby car for the Negroes to return, he noticed several nuns leaving the restaurant. He began a conversation with the nuns, only to be accosted by Mr. Purnell.

O'Connor expressed regret that Purnell should feel that way, but declined to put the matter to an actual test.

A few days later, O'Connor swore out a warrant against the restaurant owner. Purnell was arrested shortly thereafter, and had his lawyer post bond. On July 14, Purnell pleaded not guilty at a hearing in the Pine Bluff municipal court. His trial has been set for July 28. At the hearing, Judge Steed expressed amazement at having to place such a prominent citizen on trial. The prosecution will probably ask for testimony from the nuns in whose presence the incident occurred.

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white SNCC worker had left his home in Indianapolis. The Chief reportedly said "You mean you don't have any problems up there?" Mr. Yancey replied, "What difference does that make, when you send troops overseas to do all that fighting do you send the Negroes home because it's not their problem."

O'Connor expressed doubt that the Negroes had been turned away because the restaurant was being cleaned up, as Purnell had claimed. Purnell then drew a revolver and pointed it at the SNCC volunteer. Purnell threatened to shoot O'Connor unless he left immediately.