

STUDENT NON-VIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE -- Sunflower-Bolivar Counties
Ruleville Community Center
820 Highway 8, Ruleville, Mississippi
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RULEVILLE FREEDOM SCHOOL OPENS

Ruleville, Mississippi. July 4. Thirty-five Ruleville Negroes enrolled in the first day of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) sponsored freedom school here yesterday. The freedom schools are designed to help remedy the inadequacies of Mississippi's Negro education and to provide a realistic education to challenge the myths of our society.

Eight adult Negroes attended the morning session and worked on their writing with freedom school instructions. In the afternoon, over twenty-five youths had an orientation session, worked on reading and writing, enjoyed a recreational period, and were given fruit juice.

The classes were held in the newly-opened Ruleville Community Center. SNCC summer project volunteers have shelved some 3,000 books in the past week; the books were donated from the North. (The Ruleville Public Library is for whites only.)

Mrs. Elizabeth Fusco, 27, white teacher at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington, is coordinator of the school. She works with an integrated staff of eleven teachers: Jean Konzen, Marion, Iowa; Christopher Hexter, New Haven, Conn.; Linda Davis, Winnetka, Illinois; Heidi Dole, Gaviota, California; Lucia Guest, Greensboro, North Carolina; Lynn Hulse, Reaton, Washington; Parrish Kelly, Dallas, Texas; Fred Miller, Prichard, Alabama; Mrs. Christine Powell, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Linda Seese, Akron, Ohio; and Ellen Siegal, Boston, Massachusetts.

During the first day of instruction, the teacher-student ratio ranged from 1-1 to 1-6. More students are expected to enroll on Monday, July 6.

Mrs. Fusco said of the first day "The ladies were anxious to learn everything we could teach them, including biology, citizenship, and Negro History. The young students seemed especially interested in science, arts and crafts, citizenship, Negro History, and reading improvement."

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