

Student
Nonviolent
Coordinating
Committee

NEWSLETTER

6 Raymond Street
Atlanta 14, Georgia
686-0331

Special Issue

May 3, 1963

THE FREEDOM WALK, 1963

A chronology:

April 23, 1963: William Moore, a Baltimore, Maryland postman, was murdered near Attalla, Alabama while en route to Jackson, Mississippi to present a pro-integration letter to Mississippi Governor Ross Barnett.

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April 24: A telephone poll of the SNCC Executive Committee gives sanction to SNCC plans to continue Moore's walk.

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April 25: SNCC telegrams Alabama Governor George C. Wallace and S. President John F. Kennedy informing them that SNCC will take up the walk.

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April 26: Governor Wallace responds - twice - and warns SNCC "the laws of the state of Alabama will be enforced."

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April 28: SNCC Executive Committee meets in Norfolk, Virginia and gives Freedom Walk top priority.

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April 29: SNCC Executive Secretary James Forman announces that SNCC walkers - and walkers from the Congress of Racial Equality - will leave Chattanooga, Tennessee on May 1.

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May 1: 10 Freedom Walkers - five Negroes, five whites, five from CORE, five from SNCC - leave Chattanooga, Tennessee for Jackson, Mississippi. They spend the night in a Negro church in Wildwood, Georgia.

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May 2: The Freedom Walkers march to Rising Fawn, Georgia and find no housing available. They spend the night in Rome.

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May 3: The Freedom Walkers begin walking at Rising Fawn. They walk all day to the Alabama - Georgia state line, reaching it at about 3:30. Traffic is slowed to an estimated "five miles an hour" as groups of whites - numbering 400 at the state line - abuse the walkers by cursing, throwing soda bottles and bricks at them. Montgomery lawyer Fred Gray filed an injunction against Alabama officials, asking the court to forbid their arrest. Newsmen are halted at the line by Alabama troopers with drawn billy clubs. The freedom walkers - led by SNCC's Sam Shirah, a white native of Alabama, who had wired Wallace earlier, reminding the Governor that he had once been a Sunday School Superintendent in Sam's father's church, and asking him to uphold the United States Constitution - crossed into Alabama. The troopers let them walk 50 feet; then jailed them all. SNCC worker Bob Zellner and CORE member Eric Weinberger went limp - newsmen on the scene said four troopers held them while they shocked them with prod poles (used in urging cattle to slaughter). Also arrested were: SNCC Executive Secretary James Forman and SNCC worker Landy McNair, who were arrested while in Forman's car. They were charged with "disturbing the peace" the Freedom Walkers with "breach of the peace."

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SNCC is calling upon you now, to support the Freedom Walkers.

Please Protest their arrests to:

John F. Kennedy
President
White House
Washington, D. C.

Robert F. Kennedy
The Justice Department
Washington, D. C.

Berl I. Bernhard
Civil Rights Commission
Washington, D. C.

George C. Wallace
Governor
Governor's Mansion
Montgomery, Alabama

Al Lingo
Director of Public Safety
State Capitol
Montgomery, Alabama

your congressman and re-
presentative, newspaper,
radio and tv station

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The statute under which the marchers were arrested carries a possible sentence of 12 months and a \$500.00 fine. All of the walkers are pledged to refuse bond and serve their time. The only possible way they can be released is for YOU to petition the Federal Government to insist on their release. This is a shocking example of "democracy" in the State of Alabama - and in the United States. We appeal to you to make the Constitution of the United States a reality all across the nation.

In jail now from SNCC are:

Robert Zellner, 24 a white native of Alabama, arrested seven times in the past on charges ranging from "vagrancy" to "criminal anarchy."

Sam Shirah, 20, a white native of Alabama, who has been hounded from four colleges because of his participation in the anti-segregation struggle.

William Hansen, 23, white, from Cincinnati, Ohio, a former Freedom Rider as well as a Freedom Walker, was arrested for the 20th time today.

Jesse Harris, 21, Negro, from Jackson, Mississippi, also a Freedom Rider and was tortured by police after he was arrested for refusing to move from the "white" side of a courtroom.

Carver (Chico) Neblett, 20, Negro, Carbondale, Illinois, spent 58 days in jail last summer. He has been working with SNCC's Southwest Georgia project.

James Forman, 34, Atlanta, whose long involvement in the movement goes back to Fayette County, Tennessee.

Landy McNair, 20, Negro, Jackson, Mississippi. Also a former Freedom Rider, Landy was jailed recently in Greenwood, Mississippi.

from CORE:

Richard Haley, 46, Negro, formerly a teacher at Florida A & M University, now a CORE official in New York.

Robert Gore, 31, Negro, New York, assistant community relations director at CORE.

Zey Aelony, 25, white, a CORE task force worker in Chicago, Illinois

Winston Lockett, 21, Negro, CORE field secretary in Lebanon, Tennessee

Eric Weirberger, 31, a director of CORE handicrafts projects in Haywood, Tennessee, brutally tortured by police there.

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"I am doing it for the South, hopefully, to illustrate that the most basic of freedoms of peaceful protest is not altogether extinguished down there..."

William Moore, in a letter to President
Kennedy, 1963

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