


Staff Newsletter



Vol. 1, No. 1 6 Raymond St. NW, Atlanta Ga. 30314 July 7, 1964

UNOFFICIAL REPORTSTRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL***NOT FOR PUBLIC USE***

ATLANTA, GA. - PRESSES RUN ON SNCC STAFF NEWSLETTER -

A staff newsletter, for staff use only will be published by the Atlanta office. The newsletter, with its modern design and format will carry WATS line information. The newsletter will come out as needed, most probably every other day. The first edition will attempt to compile the news of the last week. Future newsletters will be more current.

SASSER, GA. - CHURCHS REDEDICATED -June 28,

Mt. Olive Babtist Church, burned to the ground in 1961, was re-dedicated. On hand was SNCC's Julian Bond, Jackie Robinson, ML King, Wyatt Walker and the whole SCLC crew.

JACKSON, MISS. - NEW VOLUNTEER BEATEN -June 28,

Steven L. Smith, 19, Marion, Iowa, was kicked down on the street and hit on the head by local residents as he prepared to join the summer project. He was knocked to the ground after leaving the Oxford, Ohio - Jackson, Miss. train.

HATTIESBURG, MISS. - CARS SHOT INTO - June 29,

Two cars belonging to volunteers John Catlin and Barry Clemson were shot into last night. The attackers were in a red car and shot at the radiators. They also shot at a teenage witness. No one injured.

HATTIESBURG, MISS. - PETE STONER ARRESTED - June 29,

Pete Stoner picked up in Hattiesburg at 3:00 PM by Constable Humphrey. Taken to Forrest County Jail. Charged with reckless driving and failing to signal.

COLUMBUS, MISS. - CARLOADS OF WHITES AT FREEDOM HOUSE - June 29,

Six carloads of whites at the Freedom House. Police called, and they arrived and dispersed the whites.

HOLLY SPRINGS, MISS. - WORKER ROUGHED - June 30,

Larry Rubin and six others were accosted by whites. The white started at the group with a coke bottle, grabbed rubin, and cursed at the group. The group left successfully.

SELMA, ALA. - SHERIFF AND MEN INTIMIDATE MEETING - June 30,

Sheriff Jim Clark came to the Selma Freedom House and just asked questions to the workers. Later a posse of 25 men came to the mass meeting. Two plainclothesmen were inside taking pictures.

CHICAGO, ILL. - RIGHTS LEADERS ARRESTED - June 30,

A rally to pressure the Federal Gov. in the Phila. Miss. case was held here. The crowd numbered 100. Arrested: Larry Landry, Stanley Branch, Marion Barry.

NEW YORK CITY AND WASHINGTON, DC - FORMAN ATTENDS RIGHTS LAW SIGNING - July 2,

Forman left Jackson in the morning to attend Council of United Civil Rights Leadership in N.Y.C. The Council recieved an invitation to attend the signing of the bill. They all flew to D.C. Present at the signing were: Randolph, King, Young, Wilkins, Dorthy Height (NCC), Burke Marshall, Katzenbach, Bobby Kennedy, Lee White, Louis Martin and Forman. After the ceremony the group met with the President-topic-general discussion of the bill.

ALBANY, GA. - NINE ESTABLISHMENT INTEGRATED - July 2,

Restaurants in Albany, Americus, and Thomasville, all in S.W. Georgia served integrated groups within an hour of the bills signing.

GULFPORT, MISS. - WORKERS INTIMIDATED - July 3- were

George Johnson, 17, COFO and Gibbs Von Kinderman/stopped while canvassing. A man grabbed the boys by the shirt and cursed them. He chased them for a short distance. John Doar called in D.C.-said he would

(over)

investigate. New Orleans FBI was called (Agent Walker). Jackson Office asked for arrests under the new rights law.

MERIDIAN, MISS. - CAR RAMMED - July 3,

Walton Hackman, 26, Lansdale, Pa. (Eastern Mennonite College) was driving with Ronnie de Sousa, 24, from Switzerland, (grad student at Princeton), Larry Martin, 11, local, and Ben Chaney, 11, brother of James Chaney. They pulled up at an intersection and stopped for a red light. When it turned green they started to go, a car facing them accross the road started up despite the red light. It rammed them and cause Hackman to ram a third car. Ben Chaney's arm was broken as a result, others scrated. At first witness said it was the other cars fault. After the witnesses found out the were VR workers they changed their story to the opposite. Hickman was arrested for running a red light and reckless driving. He has been bonded out.

SELMA, ALA. - WORKER ARRESTED - July 3,

Eric Farnum, 19, white student from Raleigh, N.C., SNCC worker, was arrested for disturbing the peace. Farnum had been talking to Mary Varela (Selma Literacy Project Director) . He left her and was picked up while walking down the street. When Julian Bond called the sheriffs office he was told that the bail was \$500 and that a white women had allegedly sworn out a warrant against him for making a pass at her.

AMERICUS, GA. - SNCC WORKER JOHN PERDEW BEATEN AFTER INTEGRATING RESTAURANT - July 4,

An integrated group ate at the Hasty House (Americus). When they left the restaurant a mob of about 25-30 who had been slowly gathering as they were eating started to attack the car the SNCC workers were climbing into. Everyone got into the car but Perdeu. The driver panicked after a white broke a window and started reaching in to hit them. The car drove of leaving Perdeu to face the mob.

As he can out of the door he was met by a white who slugged him and knocked him to the ground and comensed to kick him in the head. Others joined.

He started wkling away and stopped when the police called. Perdeu asked for protection and a ride to saftey. The cop said, "Well, we can't give you a ride in the police car." Both police cars then drove away.

He started walking into to town when a black compact car drove up and two whites got out and started beating him. He was knocked to the ground and kicked and hit. After that car left, the white 63 Plymouth or Chrysler (license Ga. 31-1450) which played an important part in gathering the thugs together in the first place and circled while he was being beaten, pulled up and started beating him all over again.

The people in the black Comet accosted him again accross from the bus staion. The police finally arrived and allowed Perdeu to get into the car and drove him to the police station. Cops would not allow him to press charges until the morning. Some of his assailants stopped at the station to see the damage they had done. Perdeu was finally picked up by Willey Ricks. He notified FBI.

GREENWOOD, MISS. - CONGRESSMAN VISIT - July 3,

United States Congressman William Fitts Ryan (D.-N.Y.C.), Augustus f. Hawkins (D.- Cal. -LA), Phillip Burton (D- Cal.- San Fran.) and Don Edwards (D- Cal.-San Jose) visited Mississippi. They visited the regitrar in Greenwood to see the voter registration process first hand They saw Miss Mary Lane attempt to register for the tenth time. She returned to the Registrar to find out the results of the ninth test. She failed the ninth test and took it again. Congressman asked to see the ninth test to see what was wrong. They all agreed that procedure was discriminatory.

Later they visited the SNCC national office. They also went to a mass meeting. Cong. Edwards son is on the project named Len Edwards.

SELMA, ALA. - ERIC FARNUM STILL HELD - July 4,

John Love (Selma project director) contacted Attorney Chestnut to try to get Eric Farnum out of jail. When the two went to the jail the jailor attempted to hit Love, but missed. Chestnut was unable to get Farnum out. Later in the evening Attny Bruce Boynton drew up a writ of habeas corpus but the two judges he called would not speak to him.

When Farnum was arrested he was not allowed to see anybody, but later he saw a lawyer. He is a cell with Negroes.

NEW YORK CIT, N.Y., - NINE ARRESTED - July 4,

Ten people were arrested outside the subway station. The group incl cluded Julia Prettyman (SNCC Administrative Director of N.Y.Office). They were distributing leaflets calling for a boycott of the Greenwood Miss. band playing at the Miss. pavillion of the worlds fair.

Albany. Two white SNCC workers had gone to the pool first, entered, and reported back by telephone that there were white men armed with ball peen hammers, sticks and clubs and that the life guards had baseball bats. An integrated group of 25 went (including those arrested) and tried to get in. The ticket seller, after alot of discussion, admitted that the pool was private for white people and that Negroes were not admitted. The group left, half went home, and the thirteen were arrested for loitering and held on \$102 bail.

SELMA, ALA - REPORTERS BEATEN - July 5,

David Prince and Jerry Demuth, reporters on assignment from Black Star News Agency were injured by presumed members of Sherriff Jim Clark's posse. The reporters were attacked following a mass meeting at the AME Zion Church.

As they left the church were law enforcement personel had been present part of the time, they saw about 60 helmeted policeman. Some had brown shirts, some plainclothes, all were in helmets. Prince took some pictures and then tear gas exploded.

Prince called Demuth to get between the buildings, but when he turned Demuth was missing. A spotlight was shone in Prince's eyes and then a shot rang out and a bullet lodged in the building next to him. Prince's camera was thrown against the building and later smashed. He fell to the ground and rolled up into a ball and was hit on the neck and back and legs. The two reporters left Selma to the hospital in Montgomery.

Demuth was pretty badly injured with a gash across his neck which was bleeding badly. He also had a gash across his forehead and a bad cut on the top of his head. His glasses had been smashed. Prince had injuries of the back.

When the reporters arrived in Selma the same afternoon they notified the FBI of their presence. Theywere told that he wasn't sure what kind of protection they could recieve from the Sheriff. They introduced themselves at the sheriff's office shortly after noon. They were on a Black Star assignment. Demuth also had an Esquire card, Prince a Macmillian Publishing Co. Both had City of Atlanta Police Press cards.

Three local Negroes were also hospitalized as a result of baetings.

- John Lewis, Chairman of SNCC and Francis Mitchell, SNCC publicity director for the Miss. Summer Project arrived safely in Selma.

AMERICUS, GA. - BOMB SCARE IN MOVIE- July 5,

Several Negroes were in the Martin theater when it was emptied because of a bomb threat at about 9:00 PM. A mob of about 200-300 whites had gatered outside the theater. About a 100 Negroes gatehered in the same area. SNCC worker Robert Mants called the Americus police and FBI agent Cheek in Albany. Mants, Willie Ricks and Sammy Malone saw people running and heard shots. The police had fired shots into the air. There was a fire truck on the scene with a hose in postion to be used. A riot seemed impending.

At this time the SNCC workers got the Negroes to come to an impromtu mass meeting. During the mass meeting the white mob was still throwing stones at passing cars driven by Negroes.

LAUREL, MISS. - TWO SUMMER VOLUNTEERS PICKED UP BY POLICE - July 5,

Two white summer volunteers, Thomas Watts, 35, Berkely, Calf. and Marcia Ann Moore, 21, Fort Dodge, Iowa were picked up and questioned by police. SNCC worker Gwen Robinson, 19, Negro, Memphis, Tenn., went to the jail to bring Moore's identification and was held for a short time. Charles Spinks, 14, Negro, Laurel, was detained for an hour in connection with the two volunteers. Watts was released. Moore was charged with vagrancy and will be arraigned tomorrow..

AMERICUS, GA. - WHITES SHOOTING INTO NEGRO SECTION - July 5,

White mobs formed at the Martin Theater, site of a near riot last night. Negroes who group to oppose the whites are being dispersed by the police.

Carloads of whites have been going through Seaboard Side (the Negro section) shooting at Negro residences. No one was reported injured.

SELMA, ALA. - MASS MEETING HELD - July 6,

Ralph Abernathy spoke to a crowd of 350 people at a mass meeting at Shiloh Babtist Church. At least 150 policemen were on the scene.

A 10:00 PM curfew was announce after the rally. Police and posse went on to the peoples porches and clubbed them into the house. They also beat the doors with their sticks to make the people lock them.

Chairs were thrown through the door and windows of the house next to the church where the mass meeting was held. Under the curfew the p people must turn of their lights at 10:00 PM also. After the rally tear gas was sprayed inside the church building.

HATTIESBURG, MISS. - OVER 500 SIGN UP FOR FREEDOM SCHOOLS - July 4,
SNCC office in Hattiesburg reports that by Thursday, July 2, 575
prospective students registered for the five Freedom Schools in the
area. Their ages range from 8 - 82.

The first to register was a man 82 who has taught himself to read
and write and now wants to pass the voter registration test.

The Freedom Schools will be staffed by 33 volunteer teachers. Local
teachers will help out.

SELMA, ALA. - LITERACY PROJECT WORKERS ARRESTED - July 4,

Four workers on the Selma Literacy Project were arrested here today.
They were all arrested near the Thirsty Boy restaurant. Names, charges,
etc:

Karen House- Trespassing and carrying a concealed weapon-\$1000
bond; She is 21, Washington D.C., graduate of Howard U.

Jim Wiley - Trespassing and resisting arrest - \$1000; 21,
born Selma, lives Gary, Indiana, Harvard U.

Carol Lawson - Trespassing - \$500; 19, Bronx, Howard U.

Silas Norman - Trespassing - \$500; 23, Augusta Ga., grad stud-
ent at Wisconsin.

All are Negroes.

ATLANTA, GA. - WORKERS PUMMELED AT WHITE RALLY - July 4,

Four SNCC workers, Matthew Jones, Charles Neblett, Wilson Brown,
all Negro and Karen Haberman, white went to a rally sponsored by the
American Patriots at Atlanta's Lakewood Park. Featured speakers were
local small time racists and Wallace and Barmett. The four entered the
stadium and took seats. They were met with a barrage of heavy steel
folding chairs, thrown and swung. Haberman was escorted away from
the scene by a friendly white man. The three were severely beaten, and
treated at the hospital. Four whites were arrested and charged with
disorderly conduct.

LAUREL, MISS. - ACCOMADATIONS TESTED IN MISS. - July 4,

About 7:30 a group of well dressed Negro teenagers decided to test
public accomadations by attempting to get service at the Burger-Chef
a drive in, in a borderline area. They were met outside by a group
of whites who asked, "Where are you going?" The youths answered,
"Inside to get a hamburger." The whites asked "Do you want to fight",
the youths left. They came back a second time at about 8:00PM. Twelve
whites met them at the entrance and a similar exchange occurred. They
were again barred from entering.

The drive-in has one side marked color the other unmarked. The
youths headed for the unmarked side. They were on foot. There was
apparently no managment involved.

After being blocked again the Negroes left. A group of about 20
other Negroes had formed in the area and threatened to start throwing
bottles in the others were not let in. The original group of seven
returned at about 8:30 and were surrounded by about 25 - 30 whites
when they tried to enter again. The whites said, "Go home Yankee."
A general melee ensued in which Willie Roy Gilliam was cut across the
chest with a razor blade, while his brother Terry was cut on the face.
By that time there were about 40-50 whites and 20 Negroes. The police
appeared, closed off the section to traffic and kept the two groups
apart.

The Gillum brothers were taken to Southeastern Benevolent Hospital.

SELMA, ALA.- VIOLENCE REIGNS IN ALA. TOWN - July 5, -10:30 am

Negro students travelling in the downtown area were beaten. People
in the commercial section of the city were also beaten. One man com-
ing out of a Negro restaurant was beaten by 6-12 policemen.

At 11:00 PM a rally of whites was held at the downtown A&P. During
the evening a cross was burnt on Highway 41 about one mile from the
heart of town.

SELMA, ALA. - SNCC WORKER ARRESTED - July 5,

Benny Tucker, SNCC field sec. was arrested in downtown Selma. He
was driving a SNCC car. He and John Love had been going downtown to
pick up leaflets for a mass meetin, and voter registration. The pol-
ice took the car when they arrested Tucker. The car had a Calif.
license on the front, and a Ga. on the back. The registration was
in the glove compartment.

ALBANY, GA. - SNCC WORKERS, NINE OTHERS ARRESTED - July 5,

Donald Harris (S.W. Ga. Project Director), Randy Battle, Roy Shields
and Dale Smith and nine others were arrested for loitering after they
tried entering all white Tift Park Pool (formerly a public pool) in

(Over)