

Staff Newsletter

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MOSS POINT, MISS. - WOMAN SHOT AFTER MASS MEETING - July 7

Jessie B. Stalworth, a 19 year old resident of Moss Point, was wounded when a carload of whites drove by and fired 12 shots as she was leaving a mass meeting. She was shot in the back and the side and was taken to a hospital in Pascagoula where a nurse coldly inquired if she had been shot by her father. Lamar Turnipseed pursued the unidentified car from which the shots were fired. He was able to follow them to a gas station but was then arrested, along with two other local Negroes, Earnest Hudson and E.J. Wiggins, by the Moss Point police.

ITTA BENA, MISS - LOCAL WORKER ARRESTED - July 7

James Brown was arrested for not appearing at his trial for two speeding tickets and was held incommunicado for nearly 12 hours. The sheriff was unable to be reached as his phone was off the hook and the jails said he was not their prisoner. He was thus listed as missing for an entire night.

HELENA, ARK. - ATTEMPTED INTEGRATION OF PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL - July 7

Ellis Ford, local Negro resident of Helena, and Thomas Allen, SNCC worker from Pine Bluff, were arrested while waiting for a pool to open so they could attempt to enter. They were taken to the police station and beaten. Both have been released and are in satisfactory condition.

PINE BLUFF, ARK. - INTEGRATION ATTEMPTS AT TRUCK STOPS - July 7

Larry Segal of New York City, a member of a group trying to integrate the Wonderland Truckstop, was seized and pushed several times by a white man working behind the counter. At the same establishment, a white professor from Yale University was thrown bodily out the door.

At Ray's Truckstop, Larry Segal was hit in the mouth and had to be carried out by his companions.

SELMA, ALA. - NEW ARRESTS DURING VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE - July 7

Nine people, all local Negroes, were arrested outside the courthouse in Selma.

LAUREL, MISS. - SNCC WORKER ARRESTED AND MISTREATED - July 7

Lester McKenney was arrested and taken to the work house at the county farm. He was held there for two days with minimal protection and no food.

MOCCOME, MISS. - FREEDOM HOUSE BOMBED - July 8,9

The Freedom House of the local project was bombed in the early morning hours while ten SNCC workers were sleeping within. The entire front of the house was smashed. Curtis Hayes and Dennis Sweeney were slightly injured by the force of the explosion and flying glass. At a mass meeting the next day, at which 15 FBI agents were stationed, SNCC leaders told the crowd of 175 that the bombing attempt to deter them would not work. The crowd was reassured that the SNCC workers were not to be frightened away and that the project would continue.

SELMA, ALA. - FREEDOM HOUSE APPROACHED BY WHITE MAN - July 8

A white man approached the Freedom House at 1:00 am and tried to break in. He kicked the door and did other slight property damage, threatening that he was "going to get the Freedom Fighters."

SELMA, ALA. - SIXTEEN ARRESTED WHILE PICKETING - July 8

Fifteen local people and one member of SNCC staff, Ernest MacMillan, 19 year old resident of Dallas County, were arrested while picketing the federal building. Later in the afternoon Rev. Reese, President of Dallas County Voters' League was also arrested.

ASHLAND, MISS. - SNCC STAFF WORKER ARRESTED - July 8

Cleve Sellers, Negro SNCC staff worker and a student from Howard University, was arrested for reckless driving. Bond was set at \$250.

COLUMBUS, MISS. - THREE VOLUNTEERS ARRESTED - July 8

Joel Bernard, 18, from NYC, a junior at Cornell; Steven Fraser, 18, of Great Neck, New York, a sophomore at the Univ. of Wisconsin; and Warren Galloway, 21, from Detroit, a Negro student at Virginia Union, were arrested after stopping for a coke while canvassing for voter registration.

RULEVILLE, MISS. - VR ATTEMPTS BLOCKED - July 8

James Dann, 23, of Venice, Calif., attempted to take Mrs. Maybell Campbell to register at the Sunflower County courthouse. Four white men, including the Deputy Registrar, stopped the pair and forcefully threw Dann out of the office. Mrs. Campbell was told she could come in to register, but not "with these scalavags." There have been several threats by employers in this area to fire any Negroes who participate in vr work.

HATTIESBURG, MISS. - NCC WORKER ARRESTED - July 8

Rev. Robert Beach, NCC affiliated, was arrested on charges of false pretenses stemming from the refusal of a Hattiesburg bank to honor his check. Cash bond was set at \$2,500.

SELMA, ALA. - MORE ARRESTS; TWO BEATEN - July 9

Three Negro residents of Selma were arrested while picketing on the steps of the federal building. Willie James Reynolds, 13, was beaten in jail as was Alvery Williams, SNCC staff. Williams required stitches in his head.

GULFPORT, MISS. - THREE VOLUNTEERS ARRESTED - July 9

When volunteers attempted to take ten Negroes to register at the county courthouse, a group of hostile whites had gathered. Police told the volunteers to leave. Steve Miller, 18, San Francisco, Barry Goldstein, 21, New York, and David Cleverdon, 22, Chicago, asked why they had to leave and the police immediately arrested them.

GREENWOOD, MISS. - BEATING - July 9

Phil Moore was accosted on the street by Prewitt, a white who works for the Interstate Insurance Co. Prewitt hit Moore in the head, told him to get out of town, and threatened him with a club. Moore was finally able to escape. He filed a complaint with the local police.

ALBANY, GA. - WHITE RESTAURANT OWNER POSTS BOND FOR NEGRO PASTOR-July 10

Rev. Wells and five girls, while testing the civil rights bill, were served at the Victory Club. As they were driving away, they were stopped by a policeman who searched the car, found a jar of moonshine, and arrested Rev. Wells. The owner of the Victory Club appeared the same night at the jail and posted the \$1,250 for Rev. Wells, saying he had discovered that a white patron had planted the liquor.

GREENWOOD, MISS. - SNCC WORKER ARRESTED - July 10

Fred Mangrum, a Negro from New York City, was arrested for public profanity after police had stopped him and searched him. Bond was set at \$15.

BESSEMER, ALA. - TWO NEGROES BADLY BEATEN OUTSIDE RESTAURANT - July 10

Two unidentified Negroes tried to integrate a restaurant and were beaten by a large number of local white men with baseball bats. One of the Negroes was hit around the head and chest and was admitted to the hospital in serious condition.

SELMA, ALA. - INJUNCTION ISSUED AGAINST CIVIL RIGHTS GROUPS - July 10

An injunction has been issued which prohibits any assembly of three or more persons in a public place. It was served against all civil rights leaders and groups in the area as well as against the segregationist groups. When police served Terry Shaw, SNCC worker, with the injunction, they arrested him and placed him in solitary confinement. Another SNCC worker, Willie C. Robertson, was beaten in jail the same night.

BROWNING, MISS. - ANOTHER CHURCH BURNING - July 10

The Pleasant Plan Missionary Baptist church, located in a predominantly white community, burned to the ground while a fire truck was parked within 100 feet of the building but not attempting to control the fire. The church has no record of civil rights meetings. A member of the white community had tried to buy the church but the pastor would not sell.

CANTON, MISS. - ATTEMPTED BOMBING - July 11

2

A small fire bomb was thrown on the lawn of the Freedom House, ignited briefly, and was extinguished.

LAUREL, MISS. - NEGROES BEATEN DURING ATTEMPTED INTEGRATION - July 11

An NAACP Youth Group attempting to integrate Kresses dime store were attacked by whites while police were onlooking. Baseball bats and knives were used as weapons and two Negroes sustained injuries. A complaint is being filed on the nonaction of the police at the scene of the beatings.

HATTIESBURG, MISS. - THREE WORKERS BEATEN - July 10

Rabbi Lelyveld, an NCC worker from Cleveland, Ohio, David Owen, 19 year old student at Oberlin College from Pasadena, Calif., and Lawrence Spears, a student at Stanford U. from Palo Alto, Calif., were walking along the street with two local Negro girls when they were accosted and beaten with iron bars by two white men who had been riding in an unlicensed truck. The three were admitted to the hospital with contusions, abrasions, and lacerations.

GREENWOOD, MISS. - WORKERS ATTACKED - July 11

Two Negroes in separate incidences were attacked while walking down the street. Floyd McGlaughan was accosted by whites driving by in a car, but he escaped injury. Maeola Anderson, walking with two other people, was shoved and hit in the chest. Though contacted, the local police took no action.

DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GA. - TWO WHITES ARRESTED IN NEGRO CLUB - July 12

Two SNCC workers, John Perdew, of Denver, Colorado, and Pete Deyssivoy, were singled out by police and arrested at a Negro club, Cabin in the Pines, as they sat in an integrated group. The two were charged with public drunkenness, disorderly conduct, and trespassing.

ENDERSON, NORTH CAROLINA - RACE RIOT - July 12

A group of Negroes attempting to be served at a truck stop were attacked by whites with bottles and tire irons. In the melee that ensued, 300 people were involved. Two Negroes were hospitalized, one in serious condition. Thirteen Negroes and four whites were arrested.

NATCHEZ & ADAMS COUNTY, MISS. - TWO CHURCHES BURNED - July 13

The Jerusalem Baptist Church and the Bethel Methodist Church were both burned to the ground in the early morning hours. Neither minister has a record of civil rights activity.

DREW, MISS. - TWENTY-TWO PEOPLE ARRESTED - July 15

Twenty-two people, including SNCC staff workers, summer volunteers, and children, were arrested at an outdoor mass meeting. They were tried and found guilty of blocking a public street. Total bond was set at \$3980.

JACKSON, MISS - TWO VOLUNTEERS ARRESTED - July 16

Eric Morton, Steve Smith, both summer volunteers, and Robert Ellis and Melvin McDavia, both Jackson residents, were driving to Greenwood when they were stopped by the Highway Patrol. The Negro youth were ordered to walk back to Jackson which they did. The two white summer volunteers were arrested on charges of interfering with an officer and resisting arrest.

GREENWOOD, MISS. - 111 PEOPLE ARRESTED ON FREEDOM DAY - July 16

Seventy-seven local residents and 34 SNCC staffers and volunteers were arrested while picketing the courthouse on Freedom Day. The cases were removed to federal court. Bond was set at \$100 for "insiders" and \$200 for "outsiders."

SELMA, ALA. - SHERIFF KICKS WORKER - July 16

Charles Johnson, 17, of Selma, was kicked by Sheriff Jim Clark because he drank from a water fountain at the jail. There is only one fountain but Negroes are expected to use paper cups to drink.

GREENWOOD, MISS. - NEGRO BADLY BEATEN BY THREE WHITES - July 16

As Silas McGee was walking to the SNCC Office he was accosted by three white men who forced him into a car at gunpoint and beat him with a 2x4 board. He was badly bruised and bloodied and his condition is satisfactory.

HENDERSON, N.C. - WHITE INSTIGATOR OF RACE RIOT INDICTED - July 16

In what is believed to be the first case of its type, a judge indicted a white man for starting a riot at a truck stop on July 12 when a group of local Negroes asked for service at the truck stop.

SELMA, ALA. - WHITE SNCC FIELD SECRETARY BEATEN - July 16

Eric Farnum, white SNCC field secretary from North Carolina, was beaten by two whites as he walked down the street alone. He was not seriously injured but was badly shaken up.

MCCOMB, MISS. - ANOTHER UNSOLVED CHURCH BURNING - July 17

The Zion Hill Baptist Church was burned to the ground in the early morning hours. The church has no record of civil rights activity. Observers reported that a chemical smell of explosives pervaded the air. The police reported that they have no indication of who is responsible.

PHILADELPHIA, MISS. - TWO ATTACKED BY CHAIN-SWINGING WHITES - July 17

Daniel Perlman, 23 year old Columbia Law student, and David Welsh, of Detroit, a freelance reporter for JET, were attacked by four white men as they left the office of a local white attorney. Perlman was hit with a chain several times and both were repeatedly struck about the face and head and kicked. Local authorities who were aware of the incident while it was taking place took no action.

ITTA BENA, MISS. - LOCAL YOUTH ARRESTED - July 18

Clinton Loggins, 16 year old local resident, was arrested after a white boy on a motor scooter bearing a Confederate flag had tried to run Loggins down. Loggin's mother asked the deputy sheriff why the white boy was not arrested. She received no answer and the deputy refused to state to her the charges under which her son had been arrested.

CANTON, MISS. - NAACP ACCUSED OF CHURCH BURNING - July 19

The Christian Union Baptist Church was burned to the ground in the early morning hours. After the burning, a COFO photographer was told by the sheriff at the church site that he thought the NAACP burned the church, otherwise how would the photographer have received the news so quickly.

BILOXI, MISS. - WHITE COMMUNITY PROJECT WORKER ARRESTED - July 20

Palmer Bruce Maxwell of Corsicana, Texas was arrested on a trespassing charge in a white restaurant. Maxwell is a worker in the white community project. He had been hired and had worked in the restaurant for one day. The owner discovered he was a civil rights worker and turned him over to the police when he reported for work the second day.

ASHLAND, MISS. - VOLUNTEER ARRESTED ON TRAFFIC CHARGE - July 20

Peter Cummins of New York was arrested for not having a traffic inspection sticker on his car. There were two local Negroes in the car with Cummins at the time of his arrest.

HERNANDO, MISS. - WORKER ARRESTED AND CAR IMPOUNDED - July 20

Dave Kendall of Sheridan, Indiana was arrested while driving with two summer volunteers and two local Negroes. His car was impounded and he was placed in DeSoto County jail, outside of which a crowd of hostile whites immediately began to gather.

GREENWOOD, MISS. - STAFF WORKER JAILED ON TRAFFIC CHARGES - July 20

Jesse Harrison, SNCC staff worker, was arrested on charges of running a stop sign and not having a drivers license. Harrison was stopped by police and given one minute to produce the car registration and his driver's license. When he exceeded one minute, he was arrested and jailed.

CLARKSDALE, MISS. - CALIFORNIAN ARRESTED - July 21

Les Johnson, 20, was arrested on the charge of running a traffic light. Johnson denies the charge.

HATTIESBURG, MISS. - UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN STUDENT BEATEN - July 21

Peter Werner, 24, a student at the Univ. of Michigan and a teacher at a Freedom School, was accosted by a local white man in the downtown area. Werner's assailant, Huston Hartfield, hit him from behind and kicked and pummeled him. Both Werner and Hartfield were arrested and charged with assault and battery.

MCCOMB, MISSISSIPPI - CHURCH BURNED TO THE GROUND - July 22

Mount Vernon Missionary Baptist Church was bombed and totally destroyed by fire. The church is located four blocks from the Mt. Baptist Church which was burned a week earlier.

GREENWOOD, MISS. - FOUR GIRLS ARRESTED - July 22

Dorothy Wathers, Arance Brooks and Bernice Cole were arrested on charges of assault and battery against police officers. The fourth, Berty Barnes, was arrested on charges of public profanity. All four had participated in demonstrations.

LELAND, MISS. - FIRST SNCC WORK IN LELAND REBUFFED - July 22

A group of SNCC workers entered Leland for the first time and were distributing leaflets. Willie Rollins, one of the group, was arrested on charges of forging a check. He was taken to the police station and released after being questioned about COFO. The group moved from the cafe where they were living as the manager feared that he would lose his business.

JACKSON, MISS. - NEW YORK VOLUNTEER BEATEN - July 22

Robert Osman, 19, of Brooklyn, NY was beaten by two white men with billy sticks while walking with another volunteer.

LEXINGTON, MISS. - CONNECTICUT VOLUNTEER BEATEN - July 22

Robert Garofolo, 19, East Haven, Connecticut, was beaten in front of the courthouse by a white man.

NATCHEZ, MISS. - MAYOR PORTRAYS HIMSELF AS 'LIBERAL' - July 22

George Greene and Chuck McDew met with Mayor Norssey of Natchez. They discussed the program of voter registration and freedom schools in Natchez. The mayor admitted that large numbers of whites in the county have guns and that Natchez police had been guilty of harrassment and intimidation; he further stated that he would speak with the chief of police about it. Norssey added that he recognized the difficulty of the voter registration test for Negroes and whites and thought citizenship schools a good thing. He also mentioned that the Negro vote may have put him into office.

GREENWOOD, MISS. - WHITES ARRESTED BY FEDS UNDER CIVIL RIGHTS BILL - July 23

The federal government arrested Willie Belk, 57, Jimmy Belk, 19, and Sam Shaffer, Jr., 40, all of Greenwood, under Title II of the CR Bill of 1964 for interfering with the rights of Silas McGee of Greenwood who attempting to enter a theatre. This is the first arrest of this kind.

GREENWOOD, MISS. - STAFF WORKER ARRESTED - July 23

Willie Blue was arrested for speeding and bonded out for \$29. Blue states that he was only going 30 mph.

JACKSON, MISS. - FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY - July 23

The Secretary of State of Mississippi has denied certification to the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.

INDIANOLA, MISS. - NEGRO POLICEMAN DRAWS GUN AT VR RALLY - July 23

During a voter registration rally attended by more than 200 people, Nathaniel Jack, a local policeman, drew a pistol on Rabbi Levine of Rochester, New York. The leaders of the rally had been told that no police would attend the rally. Charles McLaurin, SNCC director of the Ruleville project, asked the crowd if they wanted the police there and then asked Jack to leave. Jack was waving his pistol and shouting, "I'll kill someone." Later he returned with more policemen but there was no further trouble.

AMITE COUNTY, MISS. - THREE CHURCHES WITHIN FIVE MILES BURNED - July 24

The Rose Hill Church was burned to the ground. This church is no more than five miles from the two other churches which were burned within the last week.

MCCOMB, MISS. - NEGRO CLUB OWNER BEATEN - July 24

Mr. Brock, owner of the Nocombo Club, was beaten by the police in his club and then taken to jail. The police made a statement to Brock to the effect that he was "getting uppity" since he now had white customers. The police were referring to white civil rights workers who had patronized the Nocombo Club.

HOLLY SPRINGS, MISS. - OHIOAN VOLUNTEER ARRESTED - July 24

Elwood Berry of Dayton, Ohio was arrested for public profanity. The police told Berry to "move on, goddamn it." Berry repeated the phrase over the citizens band radio in his car and was immediately arrested.

MAYERSVILLE, MISS. - VIOLENCE THREATENED BY LOCAL WHITE - July 24

Local Negroes told Charlie Cobb, SNCC staffer, that their employer, A.E. Scott, had threatened to burn the Moon Lake Baptist Church if more civil rights meetings were held there. He also threatened to murder any of his Negro employees who tried to register to vote.

AMERICUS, GA. - WORKER BEATEN WHEN ATTEMPTING TO REGISTER - July 24

John Perdew, SNCC field secretary, was beaten when he went to take his literacy test to register to vote as a resident of Sumter County. After he had passed his test, he was beaten by a man with brass knuckles in the hallway of the Sumter County Courthouse.

CLARKSDALE, MISS. - HARASSMENT AT FREEDOM HOUSE - July 25

A beer bottle was thrown through a front window of the Freedom House. The bottle was recovered and is being examined by the FBI for fingerprints.

GREENWOOD, MISS. - NEGRO PURSUED BY GANG OF WHITE BOYS - July 25

Tom Harris, 32, of Greenwood, was returning from the hospital and was chased five blocks by a gang of white boys. He escaped injury.

RULEVILLE, MISS. - HARASSMENT CONTINUES - July 25

A rock was thrown through the window of a car owned by Mr. Joe Townsend, a local Negro housing summer workers and the brother of Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer.

DAWSON, GA. - WORKER ARRESTED - July 25

Herman Kitchen of Dawson was arrested after being in a group which tested the Town & Kitchen Restaurant.

BATESVILLE, MISS. - HOUSE TEARGASSED - July 26

A tear gas bomb was thrown onto the house of Mr. Robert Miles. Sleeping in the house were summer volunteers Kathy Amatnick and Tim Morrison, Claude Weaver, SNCC staff, Mr. Miles and his wife and three children. All escaped unharmed. The sheriff and deputy investigated the bombing.

MCCOMB, MISS. - HOUSE TWICE BOMBED - July 26

The house of Charles Bryant, scene of voter registration meetings, was twice bombed in the early morning hours. A car passed the house one time, returned and threw a small dynamite bomb which did no damage. Mrs. Bryant defended her home by returning the attack with a shotgun blast. The car returned a third time and threw a larger dynamite bomb which did damage the house. Leaflets announcing a freedom registration picnic had been passed out indicating the lawn of Mr. Bryant's house as the location of the picnic.

MILESTONE, MISS. - SNCC CAR BURNED OUT - July 26

A SNCC-owned car parked in a residential area in front of the house of Mr. Dave Howard, who houses summer volunteers, was burned out by unknown persons. The interior of the car was completely gutted and a jug was discovered in the car.

PINE BLUFF, ARK. - FIVE WORKERS ARRESTED - July 26

Jim Jones, SNCC staffer, and four other workers, three of whom were local high students, were arrested while canvassing and selling poll tax. When the sheriff who stopped the car questioned the group and was told what they were doing, he placed the entire group under arrest. After a lecture, he released the students but held the two older workers.

GREENWOOD, MISS. - MOB ATTACKS NEGROES OUTSIDE THEATRE - July 27

While two local Negroes, Silas and Jake McGee, were in the Leflore Theatre, a mob of whites formed outside the theatre. The SNCC office sent two cars to the theatre. The police escorted the McGees out of the theatre but left them unprotected on the sidewalk. The mob surged forward, throwing bottles and damaging the car. As the car was en route to the hospital taking the injured people, it was fired upon. Whites again gathered outside the hospital. The FBI agents on the scene refused protection to the workers. Sheriff Smith of Leflore County escorted them from the hospital.