

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
SAVE THIS

W. Rose

WATS LINE DIGEST '9 July - 11 July

9 July --

GREENWOOD: Phil Moore was slugged by a white man while canvassing. As Phil walked away, the man yelled at him to get out of town, then jumped back in his car to follow him. Further on, the man jumped out and hit Moore again several times. Phil has since sworn out a warrant against the man who proved to be a local insurance salesman.

YAZOO CITY: Folk singer Roger Johnson was arrested in Benton, Yazoo County for "reckless driving." He was given a hasty trial in Benton and fined \$124 and taken to the County jail in Yazoo City. He was released on payment of fine.

CLARKSDALE: Marie George was arrested in the City Hall for violating a city ordinance against taking pictures in the courtroom. Marie was not in the courtroom, but out in the hall having a cigarette. After a semi-comical scene in which Police Chief Ben Collins sprayed violet scented room deodorant on a couple of girls, she tried to photograph the reactions of bystanders. She was held on \$100 bond.

GULFPORT: Four volunteers were arrested because they refused to cross the street in front of the courthouse, leaving the local people they had brought down to register alone. They were held on \$500 bond for violating the Anti-Picketing Law. Another volunteer was ordered out of town by the police in front of the courthouse. As he started to walk away a group of white youths began following him and then kicking him. The police intervened and picked them all up. Gibb Kinderman, the volunteer, was released right away, however, with renewed orders to leave town. When he heard his car description and license number being broadcast, he got - to Mississippi City.

SELMA, ALABAMA: Three teenagers were arrested in a voter registration picket on the steps of the Federal Building. The FBI and Justice Department men were standing there watching...

VICKSBURG: Some of the Freedom School students were stood on their way to classes. The same students later saw the same truck which had stoned them parked in an alley where the whites were talking to a policeman and to the Mayor of Vicksburg. The Mayor called over the students and asked them where they were going. When they replied that they were coming from FS classes warned them, "You better not start any trouble. You don't know what hell is like until you get in me." When the students tried to explain themselves, the policeman told them to shut up.

MOSS POINT: Five local Negroes were fired from their jobs, all because they attended the Monday night mass meeting. Another woman was fired from her job for housing two COFO workers.

CLARKSDALE: Chief of Police Ben Collins has been harassing workers, giving tickets and warnings to "get out of town or I'll be on you till I get you." He threatens local business men not to serve workers or he'll close them down. Cursed out Project Director Lafayette Surney. Collins has also been arresting and harassing local people.

Later in the day Collins came up to the SNCC office where a white man was turning off the light meter and said of Lafayette, "one more smart word out of that nigger and he will find his ass in jail." He then asked for his stick out of his car so that the other workers gathered around would move.

10 July -

CLARKSDALE: NAACP youth were refused service at Elite and Deluxe cafes. The chairs have been removed from the desegregated library.

HATTIESBURG: Three canvassers, Rabbi Arthur Lelyveld, Larry Spears and David Owens were badly beaten by 2 white men as they were walking along a rr track in an uninhabited part of town. The Rabbi took the brunt of the attack. He



was beaten with a large metal car part and was hit on the head and forehead and bruised on his chest and abdomen. The Rabbi was hospitalized for 24 hours. Owens was hit on the head with the same instrument. Spears was beaten with a small steel rod and pushed down the railway embankment. His assailant seized Larry's notes and tried to shove them in his mouth yelling, "eat this shit, nigger lover!"

On his release, the Rabbi issued a long statement, which commended the hospital staff and praised the COFO workers and COFO project at length. He also criticized the police for not having made an arrest when so many particulars of the men and their truck were given to them. He urged Jews in Mississippi to "stand up for decency and freedom with all the risks involved." If they cannot do that, he thought it better that they leave Mississippi. The Rabbi's statement provoked statements from Police Chief Hugh Herring and Mayor Claude Pittman condemning the brutal assailants.

VICKSBURG: Andy Barnes and 3 others were chased in a car by a man with a revolver. A 2nd car tried to block his escape. The next day an unidentified police officer said he had been in the 2nd car and they were trying to protect Barnes' car. The policeman, however, had not even notice the license tags of the other car nor had he tried to inhibit the actions of the first car.

11 July -

LAUREL: Local NAACP President Dr1 Murphy received 2 death threats dated 19 July. The first came to his wife over the phone, the second was delivered him personally from a white man who claimed to have overheard a plot to kill him. Other rumors tell of whites planning to ride the white niggers out of town on a rail.

Local NAACP youths test lunch counters at Woolworth's, Kresses, and the Greyhound Bus Station. Incidents at Kresses: (1) 3 kids ages 18, 14 and 12 suffered injuries one from being hit in the back with a baseball bat another from a knife cut. (One white of 10 arrested). (2) After the initial test another was accepted. There were witnesses to the fact that cops stood by and watched; (3) The same afternoon a 14 year old girl was attacked by a white man with a knife. Cut on face, neck and arm.

Jackson: Some state senators are "worrying" that the regular Democratic Party delegates will not be seated in Atlantic City. "They're almost as badly confused as you are...." (said with a smile).

Browning (near Greenwood): A Negro church was burned to the ground in the early morning hours. It was located in the white community and whites had been pressuring the Church to sell its property.

Holly Springs: A staff picnic held just southwest of HS was broken up by the police, who said the group of 12 was on private property and that local people were objecting to the mixed group. They were threatened with arrest. No picnic.

Clarksdale: An NAACP member testing a barber shop was driven from the shop at gun point b the pistol packing owner.

Carthage: The police have begun visiting local Negroes who have had contact with COFO workers, forcing them to sign peace bonds. The police come armed with a warrant to search for liquor.

Vicksburg: The "Open House", a Negro Cafe was bombed with an amateur explosive device. No one was hurt. The police made only a feeble effort to follow the attacking car.

Earlier the same day, [redacted] Theodore L. [redacted]  
with a revolver from [redacted] the way  
and ran it into car. [redacted] street.



CANTON: Harry Malm arrested on charges of improper parking and improper license while in the process. of backing and turning a truck loaded with books for Freedom Schools. He was held for \$200.00 bond which was reduced for \$50.00 after a discussion between a lawyer and the judge. Released July 12.

SHAW: Volunteers and one staff member were in the Community Center when news came from a local Negro that he had been offered \$40.00 to give out addresses of where workers were staying and \$400.00 to blow up the Community Center. Unmarked cars circled the Center for several hours. Some of the men wore helmets.

CANTON: A fire-bomb was thrown on the front lawn of the Canton Freedom House. No damage to building or persons. License number of the car was obtained. The same car was later seen at the Valley View Freedom House near Canton.

GREENWOOD: A local Negro girl in the company of 2 white voter registration workers was hit in the chest by the elbow of a white man. Another white man had a lead pipe so the 3 workers walked away quickly. No police cooperation in repremending the assilants.

CANTON: Two summer volunteers, Nancy Cooper and Michael Piore, and the Co-Head of the Parents Committee for Mississippi Volunteers, Dave Finkelstein, all white, were refused admittance to the First Methodist Church in Canton where they had been welcomed by the minister's assistant before the congregation the previous week.

JACKSON: White teenagers slashed 2 tires of a local Negro woman's car and spat in the face of Karen Pate, volunteer, after they ate lunch with 4 others at an already-tested- downtown restaurant. Treatment from management of the restaurant, however, was very good.

JACKSON: A local Negro woman was attacked by an elderly white man in the Greyhound Station receiving cuts on her head and hand. She was charged with disturbing the peace and a bail of \$50.00 was set.

BILOXI: Barry Clemson, volunteer, picked up while canvassing. Told that 3 people in the community complained about him. Released after 25 minutes. Had an interview with 5 men from the Justice Department afterwards.

#### COMMUNITY CENTER & Freedom School Report:

The greatest physical need in several areas is for adequate housing for the Center's activities. The greatest program demand is for citizenship training. A Citizenship Program is complemented in most centers by a basic schedule including: literacy, art, music, recreation, day care, library facilities, and health consultation.

The following towns have both community centers and Freedom Schools.  
(The first number is the number of FS, the second the number of FS students).

4 - Clarksdale - 50	1 - Vicksburg - 60
3 - Mileston - 35	3 - Canton - 75
1 - Holly Springs - 35	1 - Meridian - 200
1 - Greenville - ?	5 - Hattiesburg - 500
1 - Greenwood - 85	
1 - Ruleville - 50	
1 - Shaw - opens soon	

The following areas have Freedom Schools, but no community centers:

- |                                      |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 - Mt. Olive, Holmes Cty. - 35      |                                 |
| 1 - Pilgrim's Rest, Holmes Cty. - 25 | 1 - Leake County - ?            |
| 1 - Carthage - 60                    | 1 - Laurel - 65                 |
| 3 - Rural Madison - 125              | 1 - Moss Point, 2 sessions - 80 |
| 1 - Columbus - ?                     | 1 - Biloxi - 30                 |

At the present time, Batesville has a community center, but no FS.

The only major difficulty reported from Freedom School teachers is in Leake County, where a property dispute is raging between the Negro landowners and the County Board of Supervisors who claim the school property. The FS may have to find a new location.

THEATER GROUP:

Within a week, the Theater Group will begin tour of the Freedom Schools performing "In White America" by Martin Duberman. Aro

Around August first a c nvention of students from the Freedom Schools will be held to discuss what can be done to improve education for young peo le in Mississippi. Pending for the future is establishment of a Sc olarship Fund for Freedom School students to study at inte-grated schools in the North.

FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY ACTIVITY:

Precinct meetings in general are falling in the 3rd week of this month (July 19-25) and county meetings during the 4th week.

There are no totals no numbers of Freedom registration forms signed to date, but a tremendous among remains to be done.