

VALLEY VIEW. 2:50 am. Keith Lampe has report from Atlanta on Church burning here. This was the first church ever used in rural Madison county for voter registration and housed a Freedom School this summer. It had burned to the ground by 11:30 pm (Sept. 16, 1964). The cause is as yet unknown. The Fire Department was informed about 11:30 pm. A man answering the phone asked, "Is it a colored church or a white church?" The response was "colored" which was followed by a long silence, a few words, and a goodbye. As of 1:45am no fire equipment had arrived on the scene. The sheriff did not arrive until after 2: am. Between the hours on 11:30 and approximately 1:15 there existed a danger of explosion of the Butane gas tank feeding the church and a forest fire. James Bond (COFO) has made a tape recording of COFO worker Charles Prickett who has an eye witness account of the burning. Prickett is located at 859-4361 and Raymond at 859-4161 (Canton). ~~Raymond~~ in Valley View ~~was~~ reported that the Sheriff and 4-6 of his party questioned witnesses and were told of a '59 Ford and a '64 Plymouth seen in the area, however, ~~Raymond~~ decided NOT to tell the Sheriff of a '64 Blue Pontiac containing two (2) deputy sheriffs of Madison County, seen arriving furtively 10 minutes before the fire and leaving approximately 10 minutes after it had begun. These men were identified by a third party not mentioned on the phone as HERVEY EVANS and BILLY NOBLE. ~~Raymond~~ reported that the Sheriff asked "five or six" times what "vehicles" were seen in the area. Keith Lampe has not released this information to the news media, and is awaiting advise from our legal department.

CANTON. 3:15am. George Raymond reports: George Washington, Jr. has been arrested by Sheriff for carrying a concealed weapon. George Washington had no weapon on his person, but did have one in his car, which was on his property as was he. Jackson FBI notified.

JACKSON. 2:30am-3:20 am. Negro in late '50 model Dodge makes U-turn on Lynch and parks across from office. Questioned by worker, claims to be out of gas. Routinely patrolling paddy-wagon stops to question man, and procures gas for him. He leaves. Car has Texas plates and man identified by Stew House as having stopped by COFO office earlier looking for "cup of coffee."

BILZONI

BILZONI. 2:00am. Joe Stigler and Mathew Hagis arrive safely from Jackson.

JACKSON. 4:30 am. Lampe calls again from Atlanta. Prickett has informed FBI of all facts pertinent in Valley View church burning, but still has not revealed knowledge of suspicious action of two deputy sheriffs to local officials or news media.

JACKSON. 7:17 am. Office phone (352-9788) rings twice. Each time a white male voice is heard in the background, perhaps in conversation with another. The caller does not speak. The first time I hang up; the second time he does.

Tchula 8:30 a.m. They want to know where is the lawyer, Frank Jones, about their cases-they would like to know the status of them. The budget requested is on its way. Please call the FBI (Mr. McGready in Jackson) to find out when someone is coming to Tchula about a confiscated briefcase.

Itta Bona 8:45 am Willie McGhee and Rev. Lawrence Young are going to work in Hound Bayou until Sunday on the petition- there will be no one in the office til Sunday then.

Greenwood 8:40 Stokely wants to know when are Silas and Jake McGhee supposed to be in Jackson for the work study program.

CANTON 9:25 am Cedar Grove Baptist church burned at approx. 3 am. All that's left now are the steps. It was used as a Freedom School - ~~last~~ <sup>as</sup> this summer. (by Eric Orr) W There was to be a farmer's league meeting there this Wednesday. FBI, Sheriff, police have been called. May Schupenko's personal contacts have been made. Fire dept. has not been called. no indication of how the fire started.

Gulfport 9:35 am They would like to have Sandy Leigh speak there on Sept. 22.

Canton: 11 am Hunter call George Raymond about Mr. George Washington, Jr. being in jail; call immediately.

Batesville 11:15 am The court will not accept the credentials of Mary Ann Ghendon, <sup>as counsel</sup> Cynthia Washington has been tried and given 90 days and 250 dollars. Bruce Palmer is now being tried. They lawyer would like advice on what to do.

Batesville 11:45 am Cynthia Washington has been charged with contempt and <sup>3</sup> ~~4~~ other charges.

Holly Springs 12:15 They need a lawyer for a trial tomorrow. It's not certain wheter the trial is of Fred ~~Dill~~ Meely of Lee Dillworth. Call them, Hunter!

Tupelo 12:30 pm Emmy Schrader wants someone to get maps of Ittawamba and Lee Counties for her before Sunday. She'll be here then; she can't get them up there. There was a phone call for Emmy last night, about midnight; the person identified himself as a loyal democrat and complained about the FDP supporting Johnson in Ittawamba - she thinks that he was drunk but that his complaint will come from other people in the area too. Last Sunday Ike Coleman, Yvonne Klein, and Emmy Schrader went to Ole Miss and went into the cafeteria to make a phone call. While they were there the campus police stopped Ike and told him to leave. Later their contact explained that 3 days prior to that Sunday the Board of Trustees met and decided that no Negroes would be allowed on the campus except students (so ~~his~~ his parents couldn't come to see him if a student were a Negro).

Batesville 1:30 pm Cynthia Washington has been given 90 days and \$250 for each of the 4 charges (speeding, reckless driving, running a stop sign, contempt of court). Her appeal bond is 2400 dollars. Bruce Palmer has the same 90 days and \$250 for each of the first 3 charges. His appeal bond is \$2200. Benjamin Graham was arrested for contempt of court when he sneered during one of the trials. He was tried immediately and sentenced to 60 days and \$300. Morton Thomas was arrested for investigation and refusal to cooperate when he went to the jail ~~4~~ to ask about appeal bond for Graham. They had begun to question him about COFO and he refused to answer the questions.

Indianola 1:50 pm they need their radio serviced, Martin Schiff

Canton 2:00 They are holding a mass meeting on the grounds of St. John Baptist ~~ch~~ church which was burned last night.... also planning to have a Freedom day tomorrow. <sup>tonight</sup>  
down

Ruleville There might be a real place in the future ~~in~~ here.

Moss Point 3:15 pm They would like to know the status of the 6 picketing cases - is the trial really Monday? People on the project now (both Pascapula & Moss Point): Tillman McKeller, Eddie ~~Stevenson~~, Jimmie Jones, John Henry Stevenson, Billy McDonald, Mary Larsen (til Jan.), Marion Ingram (til Christmas), Mary Ellikson

Noss Point also would like to know about the Freedom Study Day.

McComb 3:45 pm Jesse Harris would like to talk to the lawyer who handled the cases of Roy Lee, Mr. Dillon, the two boys (about the telephone calls), and some others.

Gulfport 3:50 pm They need money. Among their bills are a \$50 gas bill, \$62 for board, \$20 light bill, and the rent's due shortly.

Hattiesburg 4: 5:20 They are convinced that someone here knows what went on in the election of delegates to the FDP in the 5th District and can give them this information, which is vital to their district meeting coming up.

Tobala 5:25 pm Patrolman Moody is still harassing them- today he stopped the radio service truck and asked the people in how long they had been there- yesterday he gave one of the local people an undeserved ticket as he was driving one of the COFO workers. They have a witness to his rifling of the papers which were confiscated from their car after their last encounter with him. Has the Justice Dept. been informed of the papers having been taken? (They had peoples names on them - Hamer and Stevens feel that this is a serious form of intimidation).

Bolton All mail should be sent to Box 191

Tobala Highway patrol got license number of the COFO staff worker who came down to fix short wave radio. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Meridian Principle of high school announced today that any student who continues to wear SWCC and CORE buttons will be kicked out of school. MSU is deciding what to do. May walk out.

Ruleville: 9:30 p.m. (Kuensli, Dr.)

Sidney Livingstone, plantation owner in Ruleville, said that he would prefer to have Dr. K. talk to the mayor about matters here. He didn't talk to Charles Durrugh, mayor of Ruleville; they talked for an hour and a half about the economic situation. Mayor has lived in R. for 45 years and he says that the migration of people out of the delta has been mostly of productive people and this has left the old people and the young who are working in the cotton fields. Many of the old people are on welfare and the wel. checks are not large. (His general attitude is that Negroes tend to be shiftless by nature--had discussion about whether in nature or environment). Wages for picking cotton are about 30¢ an hour. Dr. K. suggested that Negroes may not want to continue picking at that rate. How do the plantations owners feel about giving the Negroes a larger share of the pct.. Mayor reminded him that he himself was not a plantation owner, but they say they cannot pay more. They have large investments in machines which deteriorate rapidly. A machine to pick cotton costs \$20,000; it can be financed for three years by the time it is paid for it is pretty well worn out. Plantation operators make use of a lot of borrowed money, they have to pay interest, they have all kinds of pickers and machines for the VARIOUS crops.

Mayor said that the largest plantation in Miss. is in "Scott, operated by a British firm, Delta Pine Land Company. There are 38,000 acres (Canadian newspaper man, Chris McCormick and he are going to this plantation tomorrow; they will return by nightfall.

Mayor says that they are trying to get a new factory in R. within the next year that will employ 100 to 200 men, largely Negro. Right now in R. we need 40 to 50 trained people in R. industries. Some could be Negro (colored) Possibilities of collective bargaining approach are GOOD, similarly to automobile industry.

Batesville 9:50p.m.: Louis Grant

Indianapolis: Marshal Kevinsky 10:30: radio needs repairing, and they need a new antenna for the mobile unit.

Tupelo: White mechanic worker found out that the white folk's project people were only getting \$9.74 a week instead of expenses as he had thought. So he bought \$4.50 worth of groceries for them.

Ridgely: Kinsley and Mc Cormack going to the largest plantation in Mississippi which is owned by Great Britain they were told by the Mayor.

Hatchers: Person willing to sign affidavit against Armstrong Rubber company is for segregated lunch room and rest rooms. Need legal advice about further direction. Person in Hatchers accused of bombing the Blue Room believed to be innocent. Believed he was forced to sign a confession. Looking into it. FBI came to talk to Janet about her letting ~~xxxxxx~~ thrown out of bus station two weeks ago.

beginning of

Canton 11 p.m.: Two children that saw the fire, Honor Williams, 17, and Tiny were told by mother to disappear for the night. Haven't returned and noone knows where they are. Don't know whether safe or whether in hostile hands. Wants us to know about situation and keep in touch

Hattiesburg 11:20 p.m.: Well attended mass meeting at Mt. Zion Bap ist Church. Meeting called by p ecinct club FDP, discussed Mrs. Gray's candidacy - she was keynote speaker. Also discussed local leadership, role of welfare/relief committee of COFO . Issues resolved. Guyot should get report. C.C. Collins in Laurel has been contacted and he will be there on schedule Sunday with his delegation. Everyone has been contacted and is committed to attend district caucus. It is 2 o'clock Su. at S. Paul's Baptist Church. James Peacock left project and returned to Atlanta.

Holly Springs 11:30: Will Rogers is back; Jam~~bo~~cooler should get in touch with Stokely and get any messages for Eugene Rouse

Meridian 11:40 p.m.: Alvin wants to speak to Jesse Morris to ask about night school for David McClenton and Sam Brown