

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
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INCIDENT SUMMARY -- NOVEMBER 1964

November 1:

CANTON, MISS. - Martha Wright, white, San Jose, Calif., arrested and charged with "distributing leaflets without a permit". Bond set at \$500.

WEST POINT, MISS. - Joel Bernard, white, Ithaca, N.Y., and Gavin Lewis, white, London, England, jailed for "distributing leaflets without a permit". Bond is \$300 each. Carl Rice, local Negro high school student, expelled for Freedom Vote activity in school.

BOONVILLE, MISS. - White SNCC worker Emma Schrader jailed while driving to Columbus for "running a red light, improper tags and improper signature". Released on \$50 cash, she was followed to Baldwin and took refuge in the City Hall with the Constable, Mayor, and FBI agent. The FBI agent said the three white girls in the party have no worries but Negro SNCC worker Ike Coleman might have trouble since he is "just a nigger". A highway patrolman escorted the group to Tupelo.

COLUMBUS, MISS. - Gordon Williamson, white, New York, and Roy Robinson, Negro, Berkeley, Calif., jailed for having "improper tags" and "interfering with an officer".

RIPLEY, MISS. - Antioch Baptist Church destroyed by fire. Church was site of Freedom Vote balloting.

November 2:

JACKSON, MISS. - Madeline McHugh, white, jailed for "distributing leaflets without a permit".

MOSS POINT, MISS. - Tillmon McKeller, Negro SNCC worker from Hattiesburg, Miss., arrested for "reckless driving".

November 3:

LAUREL, MISS. - Peter Neminy, 35, white, New York, standing near a voting place, was hit by two white men who threatened his life.

GOULD, ARKANSAS - Frank Ciecioroka, 25, white SNCC worker from San Jose, Calif., beaten and arrested here after taking Negroes to the polls. Charged with "failing to yield" and his attackers with "assault and battery". Released on \$25 bond.

BELZONI, MISS. - SNCC worker, Bill Ware of Minnesota, was beaten by the sheriff in jail. He was taken to a hospital in Memphis.

HATTIESBURG, MISS. - Two registered Negroes, when they went to vote, were told they were not registered.

(November 4 - 13, most SNCC staff not in field, but attending meeting

November 6:

TYLERTOWN, MISS. - The home of Negro farmer Johnny O. Garner, 20 miles southeast of McComb, was completely demolished in a bombing.

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November 7:

BELZONI, MISS. - SNCC workers Willie Shaw and Richard Simpron jailed for receiving stolen goods after they opened a railroad boxcar containing food and clothes for local people.

November 13:

COLUMBUS, MISS. - Allen Edwards and Miki Kashiwaga arrested for "reckless driving, improper tag, and failure to yield". Kashiwaga charged with vagrancy also.

November 16:

SUNFLOWER COUNTY, MISS. - Mrs. Lela Mae Burks was fired from her job as maid for a white woman which paid \$3 a day. She was told that Deputy Sheriff J. S. Parker had complained to her employer that she attended the Freedom School.

McCOMB, MISS. - Car returning from Biloxi was stopped by Highway Patrol, ticketed for "improper lights".

November 17:

SUNFLOWER COUNTY, MISS. - Two children, ages 10 and 12, who were handing out leaflets for a mass meeting, were held briefly and questioned by the police. About an hour after the mass meeting, a car with three white men drove by the church used for meetings throwing out Klan leaflets. On a second trip past the church, they shot into the church breaking a window and damaging panelling.

HATTIESBURG, MISS. - SNCC worker Doug Smith arrested for speeding.

CANTON, MISS. - Fred Hamberg arrested for improper driver's license.

November 18:

MERIDIAN, MISS. - The COFO Freedom House, empty for three days, was burned down. The back door, which had been locked, was found open.

BOLIVAR COUNTY, MISS. - Eight people arrested for driving an overloaded station wagon.

GUNNERSON, MISS. - Bob Analavage and Morton Thomas were stopped by police after being seen talking to a local Negro, Rev. London. Police chief warned them, "You've been around three times, talking to niggers. Once more and that's it." After leaving the police station they were stopped again and Thomas was arrested and charged with illegal backing-up. Analavage paid \$9.50 bail and Thomas was released.

November 19:

INDIANOLA, MISS. - SNCC worker Fred Winn was sentenced to 30 days and \$100 fine for insulting an officer. He was released the next day on \$500 appeal bond.

MILESTON, MISS. - SNCC Project Director Stokeley Carmichael, Negro, and John Allen, white, Kingston, R. I., arrested while walking near the community center here.

MERIDIAN, MISS. - Gunther France arrested for speeding and having no brakes. Bail was \$24.

JACKSON, MISS. - Jack Minnis and Morty Shiff, both white, arrested for public drunkenness in a Negro cafe.

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November 21:

INDIANOLA, MISS. - Two Negro children, ages 8 and 9, were arrested by Indianola policeman, W. T. Walker, while passing out leaflets door to door. Walker made them get into his car, cursed and threatened them, and took the frightened children to the police station. They were shortly released.

Indianola authorities finally granted workmen a permit to repair the burned out freedom school. The school building had been set afire on Oct. 27. Damage was confined only to the office. Indianola authorities cut off the electricity and gas, and refused to allow SNCC to hold meetings or classes in their building.

McCOMB, MISS. - A high school Negro girl was beaten by a white man when seeking service at a formerly all-white restaurant. After police were informed, a warrant was issued for his arrest. And the owner of a white drug store shocked with a cattle prod two of three Negro girls seeking service at the counter.

SUNFLOWER COUNTY, MISS. - Robert McCraney, local Freedom Democratic Party leader, was arrested for not paying his water bill and shooting a gun within city limits. He had fired after nightriders shot into a church as a mass meeting was being held. (See Nov. 17.) He was later charged with carrying a deadly weapon. McCraney, a carpenter, had a carpenter's knife with him.

November 23:

SUNFLOWER COUNTY, MISS. - Bail was set at \$250 for Robert McCraney (see Nov. 21) by Mayor Patterson. Patterson warned McCraney about his connection with SNCC workers, saying, "They are leading you into hell." He said that McCraney's attending the freedom school would make it "harder on him". Local people raised the bail.

RULEVILLE, MISS. - Cathy Rubel, white SNCC worker, was picked up by police and brought to Mayor Dorrough for questioning. He warned her against going onto public school grounds and then released her.

PHILADELPHIA, MISS. - A COFO car driving Negroes back from the county courthouse was stopped by police and ticketed for being overloaded (seven people) and having an out-of-state license, although the car hadn't been in the state long enough to require a Mississippi plate.

ALBANY, GEORGIA - A Negro man was shot in East Albany by an unknown sniper.

COLUMBUS, MISS. - A local Negro boy, Sears Buckley of Canton, was arrested on a charge of vagrancy. He was tried and convicted two days later and sentenced to the County Farm for 30 days. He was released Nov. 23 on bail.

November 24:

SUNFLOWER COUNTY, MISS. - Shortly after a mass meeting, police drove by the homes of several local Freedom Democratic Party leaders, shining a spotlight inside.

November 25:

Nightriders attacked the home of Mrs. Laura McGhee, tearing down her fence and mailbox, shooting into her window, and shooting and killing her dog. She is the mother of Silas McGhee who, after attempting to integrate the local theatre, was beaten and later shot in the head.

November 26:

MOSS POINT, MISS. - Tilmon McKeller was arrested for speeding and was fined \$37.

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November 26 (cont.):

SUNFLOWER, MISS. - At 9:45 p.m., policeman Willy Wood, so drunk he could hardly walk, ordered all Negroes to get off the street. Wood, armed with a shotgun, told the Negroes they would be killed if they didn't obey immediately. Wood, accompanied by an equally drunk white man, cursed, shoved, punched and threatened Negroes with his shotgun while he cleared the streets of downtown Sunflower of approximately 200 Negroes.

November 27:

ITTA BENA, MISS. - A white man threatened SNCC worker Willie McGhee with a shotgun. McGhee, who was waiting in his car with two companions at a gas station, was ordered out of his car by the man who was pointing the gun at his window.

NATCHEZ, MISS. - A shot was fired from a blue pick-up truck at the SNCC Freedom House.

MERIDIAN, MISS. - Eight white COFO staff persons were arrested on a charge of assisting in a burglary. The office had accepted a phonograph from a man from the nearby naval base which, it turned out, had been stolen. The eight were Joseph Morse, Minnesota; Sandy Watts, Oregon; Luke Cabot, Palo Alto, Calif.; Louise Somlyo, Washington, D.C.; Judy and Frank Wright, Boston, Mass.; Gail Falk, Pittsburgh; and Eric Weinberger. All but Joe Morse and Sandy Watts were released that night and the following morning. Morse was charged with receiving stolen goods, bail \$1500. Watts with burglary, bail \$2500.

November 28:

CAMDEN, MISS. - Cleota Lucky, a local man, was shot at by an unknown white man driving a car while Lucky was out canvassing for the Agricultural Stabilization Committee election.

November 29:

MERIDIAN, MISS. - Gail Falk, white volunteer from Pittsburgh, was picked up on a traffic charge, tried and convicted.

November 30:

ASHLAND, MISS. - Bob Smith, of Moss Point, Miss., was arrested while picking up ballots to be deposited at polling places for Thursday's Agricultural Stabilization Committee election. County police charged him with reckless driving and failure to yield to a red light.

NATCHEZ, MISS. - SNCC worker Chico Neblett and six local Negroes were denied service by manager Clarence Eyrich at the coffee shop of the Eola Hotel. And three Negro high school students and Charles Price, Negro volunteer from Chicago, were ordered out of the main public library.

ADDENDA -

November 21, SELMA, ALA. - A local Negro woman was arrested without charges. She was taken from the county jail to the Mount Vernon mental institution. It took local Negroes a full week to locate her.

November 23, MARKS, MISS. - Fred Kushner, of Chicago, was stopped by state police on charges of driving without a proper license. He had a valid Illinois license and had been in Mississippi less than the maximum 30 day limit.

November 25, JACKSON, MISS. - A local Negro, Charles Winstand, arrested for stealing, was beaten by two policemen while his hands were handcuffed behind his back.