

July 25, 1964:

HOLLY SPRINGS - One confirmed shooting, two unconfirmed shootings reported - local drunk Negro shot at while fleeing from police. Local Negro beaten in jail, witnessed by Elwood Berry, in jail from Freedom Day arrest July 24.

GREENWOOD - Silas McGee, the young man whose beating in Greenwood's Leflore Theater led to the first arrests under the new civil rights law, and his brother Jake were mobbed by 150-200 whites as they left the theater. As they walked to car where Greenwood staff members waited to pick them up after receiving a call from the brothers, Jake was hit repeatedly by the whites, received cuts and abrasions of face and shoulders and glass in the eyes when a coke bottle was thrown through the car window. Both treated at Leflore County but then trapped at hospital along with the SNCC people until 1am as cars of armed whites blocked all roads leading out of hospital. FBI, local police, highway patrol and sheriff refused to give them protection for three hours as they waited inside hospital.

A group of 10-15 project workers handing out Freedom Registration on congested Negro business street prompted at least 3 incidents. Three whites approached Eli Zeretsky, took clipboard and tore up FR forms. Police stood by and refused to act unless Z. knew assailant's name and filed complaint with a judge. A volunteer was jumped from behind and hit on head; police refused aid. Another volunteer was threatened by local whites while police again stood by.

A shot was fired at the home of Silas McGee.

CANTON - 300 attended open air county convention of the Freedom Democratic Party, 102 of whom were voting delegates elected at the precinct level.

HATTIESBURG - Reported that home of two FDP local leaders bombed last night between 1 and 4 am. Porch and door of home of Mr. and Mrs. Boyd burned; broken whiskey bottle found indicating type of "molotov cocktail".

RULEVILLE - Rock smashed portion of windshield of local Negro housing civil rights workers. Car was parked in his yard.

DREW - Affidavit received today from parent of one of the Negro children arrested after a July 15 rally. Drew mayor and city attorney called a meeting of the parents at which they were told unless the children signed a statement disavowing association with "the communists coming into town," defense would not be provided for them. According to the affidavit, city attorney Townsend called Congressman Don Edwards (D-Calif.) a communist and said Edwards had been "Castro's secretary."

CLARKSDALE - Bottle thrown through office window July 24. Three white men were arrested today when they returned to the scene and a local Negro who witnessed the event reported them to police who were at that time investigating. No charge known. They paid \$11.

RULEVILLE - Police broke up conversation between Rabbi Arthur Levine and two local whites for the second time here. Levine was sitting in the couple's car talking with them.

LEXINGTON - It was reported from Canton that a local volunteer, James Dennis, was arrested July 24 while fishing. He was charged with expired license, etc.; paid \$15 fine. While in jail he is reported to have seen a local white man severely beaten by the police. He also reported a Negro, involved in an auto accident, was lying on a mattress wet with blood, both arms and both legs broken with open wounds, denied hospital treatment or visitors.

HATTIESBURG - Reported that the husband of Mrs. Victoria Jackson Gray was arrested for drunken disorderliness July 24.

COLUMBUS - Precinct meeting of FDP in north Columbus.

McCOMB - Two bombs thrown at Charles Bryant's home. As first bomb thrown from passing car, Mrs. Bryant fired at car with shotgun; car had passed by once before. When car's light approached third time, Mr. B. grabbed his wife's gun, ran outside but was knocked to ground by force of second bomb explosion before he had time to fire. The car fired into the Bryant living room, shots travelled 12-15 feet across room, embedded in wall. Bryant has been active in movement many years; brother is NAACP head there.

About 50 people attended voter registration rally at Bryant's pasture that afternoon.

BATESVILLE - A home in which five civil rights workers were living was tear gas bombed at lam. Sheriff and deputy arrived 30 minutes later, found army-type grenade still hot, handled it so that FBI arriving later found it covered with fingerprints of police. Sheriff addressed Mr. Robert Miles (owner of house) by his first name. Grenade exploded behind house, tear gas blew in windows forcing occupants to leave.

MILESTON - Half a mile from the site of the new permanent community center being constructed, a SNCC car was burned, the interior gutted. Car was parked in front of home of Mr. David Howard who houses two summer volunteers.

Volunteer John Allen was approached in a store here by two whites who asked where he lived. When he pointed to the community center, they went to their car, each pulled a pistol from the trunk, put them in their belts, came back to Allen and told him they would "find out what was going on" when they "came back."

CANTON - It was learned that the Church Council of Canton (white Presbyterian Churches) voted in June to keep all summer civil rights workers from attending services. Rev. Harvison of the First Presbyterian took exception and admitted volunteers until today. Today white summer volunteers Peter Praetz and Richard Schwartz were turned away by three white men who told them they had "caused too much dissension in the church." At the First Methodist Church, white volunteers Bill Monnie, Dorothy Harris, Mike Piore and Bill Carney were refused attendance for the third week in a row. As they left the church today, a group assembled around their car, shoved them into the car forcibly, and slammed the door with such force the window cracked. Their car was followed to destination by pick-up truck carrying a Mr. Steve Rimmer who last week had been close to the scene of the beating of volunteers.

MAYERSVILLE (Issaquena County) - Precinct meeting at Moon Lake Baptist Church which owner of plantation across the street, A.E. Scott, had threatened to burn if anymore civil rights meetings were held there.

SIMPSON COUNTY - County meeting held here - considered dangerous county.

MOUND BAYOU - Reported through Shaw that white man threatened white volunteers working here.

WEST POINT - Reported today that two people went to courthouse July 22, were turned away and armed guards were placed there as if expecting large groups to return. They went back and took test on third try. Two more went down next day, no trouble.

JACKSON - Twelve white men with metal chain and a pipe appeared to be about to attack a car of lawyers and COFO workers at the Dog & Suds drive-in here. The car was kicked once and the chain raised, but no further incidents followed - the car left.

NATCHEZ - Police complained to SNCC workers here because a bomb threat had not been reported to them!

CLARKSDALE - Project workers started to work Friar's Point and Jones Town. Local response was good; whites started to drive by threatening.

HOLLY SPRINGS - Reported that police "shake-down" restaurants here after 10 pm. When they shake-down the places, they search "everyone."

HATTIESBURG - A permanent civic-political organization emerged from the county convention here today.

JACKSON - Aaron Henry, Ed King, Mrs. Victoria Gray replied publicly to Sen. Douglas' (D-Ill.) "conciliatory suggestion" (his phrase) that no Mississippians be seated at convention or a delegation half Dixiecrat, half Democratic. The FDP statement said seating none would "be in part to perpetuate the situation we have organized to combat," and that we do not believe "a systematic denial of civil rights can be half-condemned, half-condoned....we are dubious of the value of a delegation that is half-slave, half-free."

CANTON - Five National Council of Churches ministers (George Coleman, Boardman Kaphan, Farley Wheelright, Julius Belson, Richard Milford) arriving in Canton for their first Mississippi assignment were trapped in their car with two local Negro housewives from 5:50 to 7:35 this evening on a narrow one-way alley leading out of the bus station where they arrived. The driver of the car in front of them stopped his car and the car in back would not move; drivers of these cars were two of seven white men who had threatened the ministers upon their arrival in the station. A crowd of approximately 100 whites, and another of approximately 50 Negroes gathered at the scene as well as several more cars. A local Negro passing the scene reported the situation to Canton CORE staff who sent a pick-up truck to scene and convinced sheriff to have first car move.

GREENWOOD - Brick thrown through window of Negro barbershop on Johnson Street, the congested Negro business street on which Freedom Registration was held and three incidents resulted.

McCOMB - Summer volunteer Mendy Samstein was arrested for "failure to yield the right of way" as he was driving a group of local Negro children for voter registration canvassing and distribution of leaflets for a Freedom Democratic Party precinct meeting; fined \$16.50.

BATESVILLE - Precinct and County meetings. Volunteer arrested for speeding.

McCOMB - Police were reported preparing a warrant to arrest Charles Bryant for displaying a fire arm.

GREENWOOD - Three police cars and three fire trucks pulled up in front of office in response to false fire alarm.

MERIDIAN - The tax bureau here apparently plans to levy taxes on the Baptist Seminary - currently in use as a Freedom School site - for unrelated church activity.

NATCHEZ - "It was a good day, full of accomplishments with many contacts in the community," SNCC workers reported. There are no chairs yet, snakes in the back yard, police watching closely, "but it's not so bad as before."

WEST POINT - Reported that a Negro cook at a drive-in was fired from her job. Her employer stated reason was that he had seen some men coming from the kitchen last month with a sack. Miss Catherine Hannah however, says it because she attended a Freedom School and told her fellow workers about it.

Also reported that a 15-year-old local Negro youth was detained at police headquarters for "throwing an empty can at a patrol car." Emma Bell reported there were witnesses who would claim in court the charge was a "complete fabrication."

GULFPORT - No incidents occurred when project workers took 60 local youths to a beach in Pass Christian July 26 although mayor stated they would be arrested if they went.

A local Negro man came to the office and reported his 8-year-old nephew had been cut over the eye by some white kids July 25. Two white teenagers had apparently thrown bricks at him from a car.

HOLLY SPRINGS - Precinct and county meetings had 300 in attendance. When the convention ended, police stopped every Negro leaving building, took down all license numbers, stopped about 70 cars in addition for license checks, arrested five on various traffic charges. About 200 people surrounded the police cars and sang Freedom Songs. The meeting was "great," according to Ivanhoe Donaldson, and was held in a school building which the superintendent threatened to burn down if the meeting was held there.

CANTON - Five National Council of Churches ministers arrived at the bus station here, due to be picked up by a local person. Before that car was able to move out, they had been blocked off by cars of whites in front and back. A large mob gathered, the ministers were threatened with beatings. Eventually four cars of whites blocked off the ministers' car, a truck with project workers arrived from the office, tension rose, large numbers of Negroes and whites gathered. Sheriff finally came.

July 28, 1964:

ITTA BENA - Voter registration office broken into during night. The front porch supports were broken off and strewn around the porch leaving a badly sagging porch roof. The door was half torn off, all windows were broken in. Posters on front porch advertising Martin Luther King and urging people to vote for Fannie Lou Hamer were torn off. Volunteers at the office-house have received several threatening phone calls about the house and v r activities there. House is at 153 Love Street.

HOLLY SPRINGS - Local volunteer worker Charles Scales involved in an auto accident near Benton County line, driving with volunteer Peter Cummings to Freedom School. Car slid on gravel at curb, four or five small trees on federal property knocked over. White man who witnessed called police who arrested Cummings (white) for reckless driving and leaving the scene of an accident; later charge of obstructing justice added. Scales is Negro. Neither recieved major injuries.

A summer volunteer was arrested here same day for passing on a yellow line. He was tried without a lawyer at Bob Green's used car lot (Green is a justice of the peace) and paid \$21.

TCHULA - Attempted bombing at 4am this morning - home of Jessie Delaney on plantation of Mr. Taisch - by two white men. One of the two bombs thrown missed the house, the other hit a window, was smothered by a plastic curtain and rolled under the bed of one of Delaney's three children. The bombs were made of bottles and were said to contain gas and either. Mr. Delaney has not been involved in the movement at all. However, this was the second time his home has been bombed. A similar incident occurred last year; nothing was done by local authorities. FBI investigated this bombing, as well as a deputy sheriff called to the scene by the plantation owner.

RULEVILLE - The Ruleville Manufacturing Co. which has not employed Negroes up to now. Last night they began a system to train Negro girls to run sewing machines. About 40-50 signed up after it was announced in the high school. The factory manager was intimidated and threatened so that all Negro girls were released from training. White girls are still being trained.

GULFPORT - Ten precinct meetings held.

NATCHEZ - The sign in front of a Negro hotel was shot off last night. SNCC's Chuck McDew believes it was connected to the fact that they had tried to rent office and housing space from the hotel owner who has not otherwise been singled out as a target of whites.

MOUND BAYOU & SHAW - Precinct and county meetings held.

MERIDIAN - People who have gone to the courthouse to register have been told they won't find out results until late November, "after the election."

VICKSBURG - 700 attended precinct meetings here.

CLARKSDALE - 300 attended county meeting. Forman spoke.

ABERDEEN - One person attempted to register to vote at courthouse.

July 29, 1964:

HOLLANDALE - Earl Harris, SNCC, was chased from a traditionally white barber shop by a razor-wielding employee. As he entered an old man stood up and struck him on the neck. As this happened, the barber approached Harris with a razor and said, "If you don't get out of here, I'll kill you." Harris left.

RULEVILLE - A 35-year-old plantation worker was fired from his job for registering with Freedom Registration and attending two Friday night vote rallies. Mr. Willie Smith was told by the renter of the Marshall plantation near Ruleville, "Get off the place and don't come back. You're messed up in the voter registration and I don't want to have anything to do with you."

MEMPHIS - A vagrancy charge lodged against SNCC worker Dick Frey was dropped.

HOLLANDALE - Precinct meeting.

HATTIESBURG - Reported that a local woman, Mrs. Vera Mae Lawson, came to a mass meeting and reported her cousin, Dave Waxton, had been missing for about a week. He was last seen July 18 when he told his cousin he had been beaten by some white boys. He was bleeding in his chest and said he had been kicked.

Two more traffic tickets were meted out: one to a summer volunteer, another to a local woman active in the movement.

CLARKSDALE - The FBI reported to the office that a warrant had been issued for the arrest of the meter reader who was threatening to kill SNCC worker Lafayette Surney every night.

The NAACP sponsored testing of two restaurants; service refused at both.

VICKSBURG - Project workers reported a possible shot, and seeing a shiny instrument in a passing car.

LAUREL - Two brothers, active in the movement here, were stopped by a white man in a car and asked if they had motioned him to stop. They said no. When they looked up he had a gun pointing at them. They ran in opposite directions; he drove off. Both Gillum brothers are students at the Freedom School, have done v r work.

HOLLY SPRINGS - John Doar stopped in unexpectedly overnight.

July 30, 1964:

MERIDIAN - The Mount Moriah Baptist Church, route 2 outside Meridian, was burned last night. The Negro church, located in an all-white neighborhood, was totally destroyed. Project workers found a policeman and photographer there today when they went to investigate. Remains were still hot, glass windows completely melted. Although many homes are located close to the site, the fire department was not notified until too late to halt the fire. The Meridian office reported an unconfirmed report that the white community has been trying to get the property for a building.

GULFPORT - A local Negro volunteer, Dan Moody, was forced at gunpoint into a car here last night, blindfolded and taken to a location he guessed to be in Biloxi. Five men were in the room and questioned him at length about COFO and its activities. They offered to pay him for information about people and organizations. He was not injured or molested other than one man who repeatedly poked him with a gun. He was asked to meet the men again at 7am the next morning, but they did not appear at the agreed location. He does not believe the men are from Gulfport.

DREW - 20-year-old Negro SNCC volunteer Fred Miller of Pritchard, Ala. and Ruleville Negro volunteer Betty Williams were arrested early this morning for distribution of leaflets on public property without a permit. Bond was set at \$500 for Miller and \$200 for Williams. They had been distributing, house to house, announcements of an FDP precinct meeting to be held the next night.

BILOXI - Two precinct meetings. Several men from a military base were prohibited from participating because of the Hatch Act which forbids military or federal personnel to participate in political activities.

ABERDEEN - 125 people attended precinct meetings here.

A local volunteer worker reported to the office that he had been stopped a few days before by police who told him if they "caught any Freedom Riders riding in his car," he and the riders would be arrested.

Two other local people were stopped by police. One, a volunteer who had been canvassing, had his material gone through. The other, a cab driver, was told he must have a commercial license to drive a cab after he had taken project workers to church.

SUMMIT - Seven Freedom Registered adults were present at a precinct meeting. The project workers were stopped en route home by the highway patrol. A patrolman told the driver, David Gerber, "David, in the business you're in I'd advise you for your own protection to leave Mississippi and go back to Maryland. Now this is just advice." One of two vehicles that had stopped so the occupants could watch, a pick-up truck, followed the project car back toward McComb. Gerber called over the citizen's band radio for an assistance car to come from the SNCC office. When the car moved out, the pick-up left.

PILGRIM REST (near Tchula) - Reported that people here want a project at summer's end, and are having trouble getting a phone installed.

ITTA BENA - The owner of the wrecked v r office told a worker she wants them to move - fears burning. When police arrived today to ask about a newly arrived person, the project workers told the police to tell the persons who wrecked the office it wouldn't stop them from "doing what was right." Also reported that on July 25 Willie and James Brown were asked to leave a plantation where they had gone to canvass for Freedom Registration. The owner told them if his people wanted to register, he would take them down himself.

RULEVILLE - The office started receiving an anonymous gift subscription to National Review, right wing publication, far right wing publication. The project moved into Morehead (35-40 miles from Ruleville) for the first civil rights organization in that community the project knows of. Reception was reported to be good.

TCHULA - Reported that three precinct meetings went well: 60-80 in Mileston; Pilgrim Rest 20; Mount Olive 100 persons.

July 31, 1964:

BATESVILLE - Names of 85 newly registered voters were placed in the local newspaper. The "good moral character" requirement of Mississippi vote laws no longer applies because of the Panola County court order. 27 names were placed in the Sardis paper. The effect of opening these people up to white intimidation is the same, although the provision no longer remains by law.

SHAW - Three white summer workers were turned away from a local high school cafeteria after they had been invited to attend a special function there by local high school students. The principal told the volunteer summer workers they would have to go downtown to get the superintendent's (white) permission to enter the building. Two other volunteers were told to leave by the principal who said he was "only following orders." Local students immediately began planning a boycott of the cafeteria in protest, and the Mississippi Student Union president suggested later it be expanded to the entire school and that petitions be drawn up for better library, more text books, equipment, etc. A dance-talent show at the same school the following Tuesday was scheduled to be boycotted if white summer volunteers were not allowed to attend.

MERIDIAN - Summer volunteer arrested on traffic charge of reckless driving and speeding. He was doing 30mph.

RULEVILLE - The two volunteers arrested on the distribution of leaflets charge here yesterday asked for a continuance at trial and were denied the application by the mayor; fine set at \$100. Case will be appealed to federal court.

BILOXI - Dickie Flowers, SNCC staff, and two volunteers arrested in Ocean Springs. No details known.

BRANDON - The Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church burned to the ground at about midnight last night. When the church deacon arrived at the church - old highway 80, approximately 3 miles from Brandon - the town marshall and 3-4 highway patrol cars were at the scene. When Deacon Jones asked where the fire department was, the marshall said they had been there, decided the place was too far gone, and had left. Jones however stated that flames were visible from the base of the hill on which the church is located when he arrived. An unidentified fire department spokesman told the office the fire trucks stayed at the scene 15-20 minutes before leaving. A butane gas tank was buried next to the church but did not ignite. 13th church burning since June 21, summer project start.

CARTHAGE - A Des Moines, Iowa minister and a summer volunteer were beaten in a doctor's office here yesterday it was reported. Rev. Ed Heininger, 45, and John Polacheck, from Milwaukee (Harvard University) went to a clinic in Madden - near Carthage - yesterday seeking treatment for Polacheck. Polacheck had left the clinic the day before when he had gone for treatment and had been asked to wait in the Negro waiting room. P., white, was asked by the receptionist if he were living with "those Negroes in Harmony."

Polacheck returned the next day with Heininger who had made an appointment in his own name with Dr. Thaggard. Upon arrival the doctor began berating the minister telling him he needed "forgiveness for what you are doing." While they spoke with the doctor, H. states, "I was suddenly hit from behind. At the same time they were hitting me with their fists, the doctor was pushing me from the front into the people who were striking me." P. who was also knocked to the floor, hit, and kicked, estimates between 5-10 men did the beating.

Heininger was knocked unconscious, suffered eye injuries and cuts on the face and scalp. Polacheck: cuts and bruises on head and body.

Polacheck dragged Heininger into their car, when his car keys were taken from him from one of several people who surrounded the car. The two were handcuffed together when a deputy sheriff arrived and placed in a non-officially marked pick-up truck. At some point between Madden and Harmony they were transferred to one of the non-officially marked cars following them. According to Polacheck, the car was driven by a clinic administrator who had a club and handed it to the deputy when the prisoners got into the car. They were placed in a cell marked "white women" at the police station; other occupant being a Negro man.

The two were charged with disturbing the peace, bail set at \$100 each, with the case coming to trial August 27. A doctor was called to the jail, they were taken by a deputy to the Leake County Memorial hospital where they paid \$30 for X-rays. They were returned to jail and released on cash bond.

GREENWOOD - Three persons were arrested when SNCC radio mobile units left here for Memphis to get more cars. Within two blocks from the office Monroe Sharp reported that drivers of both cars were being arrested and were ordered to follow police to the station. James Forman took the radio and ordered the units to return to the office. Both cars came back minus their drivers and Sharp who had been manning the radio. The drivers, Silas McGee and John Paul, were charged with driving with improper vehicle licenses although both cars had temporary 7 day Tennessee tags. Sharp was charged with resisting arrest. It was reported that radio jamming equipment was in operation in downtown Greenwood during this time.

BATESVILLE - Three shots were fired past the home of Mr. Robert Miles where two white summer volunteers were living. The house was not hit; no one injured. The summer workers, Kathy Amatniak and Claire O'Connor were sitting in the lighted kitchen when the shots were fired; saw blue streak at the same time she heard what sounded like a tire blowout. Both dropped to the floor after turning out lights. Mr. Miles was awakened to hear two more shots and see a flash from the road. A black and white 57 chevy passed by the house for a third time that night when the sheriff arrived. Similar car was seen July 26 when the same home was teargassed. Two weeks earlier a local white told a neighbor of the Miles home that Miles would be killed unless he got rid of the whites living at his house. The next night Mrs. Miles received a call telling her they'd "better not go to sleep if you know what's good for you."

A L A B A M A

A R K A N S A S

G E O R G I A

From Atlanta SNCC WATS line digest:

PINE BLUFF, ARK. - James Jones, SNCC staff, and four other workers, three of whom were local high school students, were arrested while canvassing and selling poll tax. When the sheriff who stopped their car questioned the group and learned what they were doing, he placed the entire group under arrest. After a lecture, he released the students but continued to hold two older workers. -- July 26

MONTGOMERY, ALA. - SNCC worker Robert Zellner filed suit July 23 in federal court seeking \$200,000 in damages against Ala. Governor George Wallace. Also named is Ala. Public Safety Director Al Lingo. Zellner charges them with false arrest and malicious prosecution dating back to a Jan. 1963 arrest for vagrancy when he was visiting his alma mater, Huntingdon College here, and a false pretenses charge against Zellner shortly after.

DAWSON, GA - Testing of public accommodations in Terrell County has netted at least one arrest here July 25.