

INCIDENT SUMMARY--AUGUST 1, 1964

Holly Springs: Wayne Yancy, a 21 year old summer volunteer of 2841 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Illinois, was killed today in a head-on collision six miles north of Holly Springs on Highway 78. According to the Holly Springs Highway Patrol, Yancy was a passenger in a 1964 Chevrolet driven by SNCC worker Charles T. Scales, 21, a local volunteer from Benton County. Both are Negro.

Investigating Holly Springs Highway Patrolman Warren stated that the accident happened about 3:30 this afternoon, and claimed that Scales passed another vehicle at the approach to a hillcrest, crossing over a yellow line, and hit a 1962 Mercury driven by Isaiah Richmond, Jr. of 1873 Kendall, Memphis, Tennessee. Scales suffered one, possibly two broken jaws, and pelvic injuries; he was removed from Holly Springs to the John Gaston Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. He was charged by the highway patrol with manslaughter. SNCC staff member Cleve Sellers and summer volunteer and nurse Katherine Dahl were "bodily thrown out" of the hospital when they went to see Scales; an officer threatened to hit Sellers with a nightstick.

Yancy, an auto mechanic for the past 8 years, was teaching mechanics at the Holly Springs Freedom School. He was active in SNCC and CORE before joining the Summer Project, and also worked with the YMCA.

Greenwood: Two local volunteers, John Handy, 20, of Tallahatchie County and Fred Harris, 17, of Greenwood were both arrested last night in front of the store belonging to Greenwood police officer Henderson who, during the Greenwood Freedom Day, was responsible for dragging pregnant Annie Lee Turner across the pavement. Handy did not move back with the crowd at the store when a police bus arrived, and was arrested for disorderly conduct. At the police station his arms were twisted behind him and he was kicked by policemen; his head was shoved three times against a concrete wall and he was hit in the mouth with a stick. He was shoved and kicked into a cell, and was kicked seven more times after he fell to the floor; he was refused a doctor. Harris was also arrested on a disorderly conduct charge in front of the store. Bail for each was originally set at \$50.

Twenty year old white summer volunteer and Harvard student William Hodes of 805 W. End Avenue, New York was arrested on Johnson Street, a Negro business street that has been the scene of much Freedom Registration and of several incidents. He was treated roughly by police at the time of the arrest, and at the police station was pushed, kicked, and his feet were stamped on. The FBI visited him minutes after confinement to inquire if he had been beaten. Bail was originally set at \$100. When SNCC workers arrived at the station to bail out the three, they discovered bail had been raised to \$200 each. The three were bailed out by midnight last night.

Canton: Six civil rights workers handing out Freedom Registration Forms in downtown Canton today are in jail. Tom Foner, 19, of 667 Lincoln Blvd., Long Beach, New York; Margaret Gunn, 19, of 2424 Pine, Bakersfield, Calif.; Tom Manoff, 18, of 2761 Sexton Place, Bronx, New York; Martha Wright, 25, of 308 Riviera Drive, San Farael, Calif.; Rabbi Rav Soloff, and Alvin Paker, SNCC staff, 17, of 814 New Orleans Street, Hattiesburg, were charged with distributing literature without a permit. Paker is a Negro; all others are white. They were arrested on Hickory Street, the main Negro business street in Canton.

Vicksburg: Freedom Democratic Party county meeting for Warren County held at County Courthouse--the first FDP meeting to be held in a government building.

Ruleville: County Meeting

Moss Point: County Meeting

Jackson: County Meeting

McComb: "In White America" production at Freedom School.

SUMMARY OF INCIDENTS--AUGUST 2, 1964

Greenwood: Summer volunteer Carol Kornfield, 20, of Wilmington, Ohio, was arrested on a Justice of the Peace warrant served at the Greenwood office for assault with a deadly weapon. Arrest apparently connected with the breaking of a window in the store owned by Greenwood police officer Henderson, whose brutality during the Greenwood Freedom Day has aroused the Negro community. Miss Kornfield, whose bail was set at \$1,000, was not near the store, but had been calling the jail all night to obtain information on other arrests, (of John Handy, Fred Harris, and William Hodes--c.f. incidents of August 1). Miss Kornfield was held for four hours and released.

Annie Lee Turner, the pregnant 15-year old Greenwood Negro whom officer Henderson reportedly dragged across the pavement during the Greenwood Freedom Day, was arrested today while among a group of Greenwood youth gathered in front of Henderson's store. Henderson came, ordered them to disperse, and then reportedly dragged Mrs. Turner to a waiting police car. She was held on \$50 bond for disturbing the peace. From approximately 11:30 to 1:30 a police blockade, with tear gas equipment at that scene, was maintained at Henderson's store.

A local Negro citizen, Fred Gordon, was arrested today while in his front yard. He reported that a police car drove by, an officer made obscene gestures, Gordon laughed, the car backed up, and he was arrested for profanity. He was held on \$50 bond.

Shortly after midnight a white Ford with Carroll County tags fired four shots at the Greenwood office.

Jackson: Report of a local Negro man beaten very badly after being arrested for an accident.

Report received from Doctor's committee that Scales is badly bruised and has a possible slight pelvic fracture, but is otherwise alright. The examination took place in Memphis, Tennessee to where Scales was removed following an automobile accident yesterday afternoon which was fatal for summer volunteer Wayne Yancey.

Natchez: The Archie Curtis Funeral Home was reportedly shot into by a passing car last night. The owner of the Home was the man beaten last February by hooded men on a desolate road outside the city. Sixty year old Curtis was lured to the spot by an unidentified caller who told him a woman was dying of a heart attack; the provocation of this February incident was presumably Curtis' participation in a vote drive.

Canton: Shot fired from passing car approximately fifty feet from Freedom House.

Greenville: County meeting, Freedom Democratic Party

Hattiesburg: In White America, a Free Southern Theater production, touring Freedom Schools.

INCIDENT SUMMARY--AUGUST 3, 1964

Columbus: First District project director Don White and summer volunteer Robert Levelle, a 19 year old Negro student at Penn State from Pittsburgh, Pa, were arrested today. Lavelle was charged with operating a vehicle without a license, and White with allowing him to do it. Three others were in the car. White was held on \$100 bail and Lavelle on \$300.

Batesville: Batesville SNCC project director Claude Weaver and summer volunteer Benjamin Graham were arrested today at the Batesville Courthouse while securing the names of potential registrants. Weaver, Negro, is a 21 year old Harvard student from Atlanta, and Graham is a 19 year old psychology major from the University of California at Berkeley (661 N. Maple Drive, Beverly Hills, Calif.) Approximately 25 Negro citizens were lined up at the courthouse. As Weaver and Graham attempted to secure the names of the citizens, Panola County registrar Ike Shenkle--who currently has a justice department injunction against him to facilitate registration of all Mississippi citizens who desire to register--ordered one volunteer out of the courthouse. The volunteer went outside and joined Weaver; both were met by Sheriff Earl Hubbard who told them to leave. He returned with his deputy and arrested Weaver. When Graham inquired about what the officers were doing, he was arrested too. The two were held for interfering with a police officer.

Greenwood: Robert Masters, a 19 year old white volunteer from Queens-College(359 Lenox Road, Huntington Station, New York) was arrested today on a John Doe warrant for assault and battery. The arrest stems from Masters' participation in a Freedom Registration Drive along Johnson Street, a main Negro business street in Greenwood. An elderly white man with a limp came up to Masters as he was distributing freedom democratic party registration forms on August 1st, and stepped on his foot. He asked Masters if he wanted to "punch me in the face". Masters did not reply. Today he was picked up from across the street of the Greenwood SNCC office. Two police, one with a club, served the warrant and grabbed Masters. He is being held on \$100 bond. This is the 8th arrest in Greenwood this weekend. At least three of the previous arrests involved extensive police brutality once the prisoners were at the jail.

Jackson: Local Negro volunteer Benjamin Brown, 18, was arrested for vagrancy today in front of a drugstore near his home. Brown, who had a SNCC button on his shirt, reportedly did not have his draft card with him. He is being held on \$225 property bond.

Clarksdale: Rev. Frazier Thomason of the Church of Christ and white summer volunteer David Batzka, a junior in philosophy and religion at Eureka College in Eureka, Illinois, were refused admission to Clarksdale's white Church of Christ. The church members felt they were "exploiting the church."

Hattiesburg: Free Southern Theatre production of In White America touring Freedom Schools here.

INCIDENT SUMMARY--AUGUST 4, 1964

Washington: The FBI issued the following news release at approximately 4:30 a.m. this morning, Mississippi time: "FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover has announced that two of the three bodies located near Philadelphia, Mississippi last night have been identified as Andrew Goodman, age 20, Michael Henry Schwerner, age 24, white New Yorkers, and efforts are continuing to identify the third, a Negro.

"Mr. Hoover stated that examination of the body at the University Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi resulted in their being identified as two of the three civil rights workers who had disappeared on the night of June 21, 1964. The bodies were removed to the medical center last night after being found by FBI agents in graves at the site of a dam approximately 6 miles SW of Philadelphia.

"According to Mr. Hoover, the site of the graves is approximately 20 miles from the area where the station wagon in which the three civil rights workers had been travelling was found abandoned and burned on June 23, 1964."

Shaw: The Negro McEvans high school here closed indefinitely as of this morning in response to a student boycott. The boycott was sparked off when last Friday evening three white summer volunteers were made to leave the school cafeteria by Principal Earl Altheimer, after they had been invited there for a school fund-raising dinner. The students declared a boycott on the school cafeteria, and caused leaders of the Shaw Mississippi Student Union to assemble their grievances concerning the school, and call for a general boycott of the Shaw Elementary and high school until certain requirements are met by the school board. Early this morning students presented their demands to the principal who relayed them to the white superintendent. Shortly after Principal Altheimer informed the superintendent of the students' demands, the principal came and told the students standing outside that the elementary and high school had been closed indefinitely. Heavily armed sheriff and deputies, in helmets, appeared on the scene. It was reported that 75% of the high school students walked out upon declaration of the boycott. The statement of the Student Union declared that the boycott was called "because of the inadequate education we are getting." The demands included up-to-date texts, a well-stocked library including a section on Negro history, workshops and laboratories, and foreign language course and other courses necessary for entrance to accredited colleges.

Moss Point: Approximately 62 people were arrested from a voter registration meeting held on the front lawn of the SNCC office here; 5 of these were civil rights workers, the rest local Negro citizens. The orderly meeting had been in process for approximately 15 minutes when assistant deputy sheriff Thomas Palmer came and told them he would give them 5 minutes to disperse; the group stayed. Within minutes a group of 18 helmeted policemen with guns, bayonets, and clubs surrounded the group. Fifteen minutes later a prison bus drove up; ten police cars and two motor cycles--a total of 40 officers--accumulated. All at the meeting were put in the bus and taken to jail. Workers arrested were Eddie Stevenson and Billie McDonald, SNCC staff members; summer volunteers George Tessaro, 20, 1705 Peterson Street, Park Ridge, Illinois--a University of Illinois student, and Roger Barnhill, a 23 year old Michigan State University student of 31 Nob Hill Drive, St. Louis, Missouri, and the Rev. Charles Milar, 31, an Episcopal minister of 743 Main Street, Flushing, Michigan. They were held for breach of the peace on \$300 cash bond each, or \$600 property bond.

Cleveland: Thirteen people were arrested today for distributing pamphlets among pedestrians across the street from the Courthouse, urging them to vote; they were arrested under an anti-litter ordinance. This morning, 50 potential Negro registrants accompanied by the 13 workers lined up at the courthouse; the Negroes were admitted one by one at 45 minute intervals. Leaflets were passed out to them without incident, but when the group moved across the street the whole group--7 local volunteers, a SNCC staff member, and 5 summer volunteers--were arrested. Those arrested were: Stokeley Carmichael, Howard University graduate and SNCC staff member, local Negro volunteers Ernestine Bryant, Willie James Crawford, Eddie Short, Frank Brownlow, Lucy Hutton, Ruby Richard, and Mary Sue Hawkins. Also arrested were summer volunteers Johnathan Black, 21, 17 W. 71st Street, a Harvard student from New York; Wallace Roberts, 23, Lenox, Mass.; Cathy Logan, 18, 2 Allen Bond Drive, Decatur Illinois, a University of Illinois student; Judy Michalowski, 20, 380 W. Main St., New Britain Connecticut--a student at Lawrence College in Appleton, Wisconsin, and Morris Rubin, 281 E. 4th Street, New York. Bond was set at \$300 each.

Marks: Lawyers Constitutional Defense Committee attorney Haskell Kassler (1 State St., Boston, Mass.) was injured by a city Marshall in this small town 14 miles east of Clarksdale today. Attorney Kassler of the Memphis LCDC had gone to Marks regarding the detaining of a voter registration worker by Marks City Marshall McArthur. In Marks, Kassler saw a car full of civil rights workers being stopped by the Marshall. The attorney went over to investigate, and reported that the Marshall first threatened him and then threw him against the police car. Kassler sustained head injuries, a large gash over his eye. Kassler was arrested for "obstructing an officer in the performance of his duties," and held on \$200 bail.

Incident Summary--August 4, 1964, cont.

Jackson: After being refused service at a small cafe on the corner of Gallitin and West Capitol streets, local volunteer Sammie Johnson, 19, was chased up Capitol Street by a white man in a white 1964 GMC pick-up; two shots were fired at him. The incident took place shortly after 11 p.m. On his way out of the cafe, Johnson stated that a crowd of whites and later a passing car shouted insults at him.

McComb: Folk singer Pete Seeger held folk-music workshops at McComb Freedom School this morning following evening concert last night.

Hattiesburg: Pete Seeger conducted folk-music workshops in two Hattiesburg Freedom Schools this afternoon. In White America at the Freedom Schools here.

Meridian: Community concert by Pete Seeger in support of Mississippi Summer Project

Four people refused service at the supposedly integrated "Dairy Queen."

A bus driver refused to pick up a person wearing a CORE tee shirt.

Cleveland: A car with 3-4 white men inside, with guns, circled the house of local volunteer Lois Rogers between midnight and 1:00; parked briefly about 100 yards from her home. Several local people reported this to Miss Rogers by phone; she also saw the car herself before they called.

INCIDENT SUMMARY--AUGUST 5, 1964

McComb: Two Negro boys, ages 14 and 18, students at the McComb Freedom School, have been receiving harrassing phone calls from two white girls. The boys were arrested a few days ago, and were yesterday sentenced to a year in jail each under Mississippi's recent phone harassment law.

Natchez: Mt. Pilgrim Baptist church in Finwick, just outside Natchez, reported burned last night. No inspection as yet by our Natchez office.

Shaw: Thirty-five parents from Shaw are organizing a parents association to meet with the school board and McEvans High School faculty. Student grievances led to a boycott by them of the school and, finally, closing of the school yesterday by Principal Earl Altheimer. In addition to the students' demands, the parents will take action against the inadequate school lunch program, the problem of the split session in Shaw, and the mechanics of desegregation in the school system there. The next meeting will be held Friday August 7 at the Shaw Church of God in Christ.

Jackson: Community concert by Pete Seeger in support of the Mississippi Summer Project.

Gulfport: Free Southern Theater production of In White America.

INCIDENT SUMMARY--AUGUST 6, 1964

Jackson: Approximately 300 delegates from precinct meetings and county conventions attended the first State Convention of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. Approximately 1000 delegates, alternates and observers attended that event at Jackson's Negro Masonic Temple, 1072 Lynch Street.

A slate of 68 delegates and alternates was elected to represent Mississippi at the National Democratic Convention in Atlantic City. Hattiesburg housewife Mrs. Victorial Gray was elected National Committeewoman, and the Rev. Ed King, chaplain of Mississippi's private, interracial Tougaloo College was elected National Committeeman. King is white. Dr. Aaron Henry, Clarksdale pharmacist and President of the state's NAACP, was named permanent chairman of the Convention, and chairman of the delegation to the National Convention.

After the Convention, the newly elected State executive Committee named Pass Christian resident Laurence Guyot chairman, and Hattiesburg resident Mrs. Peggy J. Connor secretary of the Party. Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, candidate for Congresswoman in Mississippi's 2nd District was named vice-chairman of the delegation, and Mrs. Annie Devine of Canton, secretary.

The address of keynoter Miss Ella J. Baker, currently coordinator of the Washington office of the Freedom Democratic Party, received a standing ovation and sparked a spontaneous of marching and Freedom songs in the hall.

Among the resolutions adopted were statements of loyalty to the National Democratic Party platform and candidates.

Indianola: White summer volunteer Christopher Hexter, 19, a University of Wisconsin student of 7001 Lindell Boulevard, St. Louis, Mo. was arrested today on a charge of obstructing the sidewalk and streets in Drew, Miss. He was originally arrested on these charges, along with 24 others, on July 15. His name was accidentally omitted from the petition removing the case to a federal court; therefore Hexter was to stand trial in Drew on July 22, but was never notified by that city. He has been released on \$250 bail.

Gulfport: In White America, Free Southern Theatre production, at Freedom Schools.

INCIDENT SUMMARY--AUGUST 7, 1964

Meridian: Over 200 persons gathered at four Meridian churches at 6:00 this evening to take part in a memorial procession for slain civil rights worker and Meridian resident James Chaney. Walking in silence, two abreast, in somber dress, the mourners joined approximately 400 others for a memorial service at the First Union Church in Meridian. Dave Dennis, assistant program director for CCFO addressed the gathering. The procession and service followed private burial of Chaney in Meridian this afternoon. Immediately following the service, the Free Southern Theatre production of In White America was presented at the church in conjunction with the Freedom School convention which began in Meridian tonight.

Jackson: A. Phillip Randolph, President of the American Negro Labor Council and longtime head of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, addressed a mass meeting of students and parents of the Jackson Freedom schools at Pratt Memorial Church here tonight. Randolph delivered a strong statement of support for the "long range nature" of the Mississippi Project and of the Freedom Schools in particular, noting the strong relationship between enlightened education and labor in the midst of a technological revolution. Entertainment was provided by Len Chandler and Cordell Reagen who are currently giving folk-music concerts as part of the Summer Caravan of Music.

The Jackson Freedom School system opened this week.

Aberdeen: Integrated group refused service at Tom Restaurant and Elkin Theatre.

Jackson: Holly Springs Project Director and SNCC staff member Ivanhoe Donaldson was arrested here for an improper driver's license. He was not in a car at the time of the arrest. There were four integrated cars in front of the house at which Donaldson was picked up. He was held on \$50 bond. The arrest took place late last night; he was released this morning on bond.

Jackson: White summer volunteer Mary Zeno, 22, of 2829 Alida Street, Oakland, California, and local volunteer Rommie Drain were chased by a white citizen with a pistol in his belt as they canvassed for voter registration late yesterday afternoon. Draine's mother is quite active locally in the civil rights movement.

Jackson: Freedom School coordinator Tom Wahman of 244 W. 104th Street, New York, was arrested and fined \$17 for failing to yield the proper lane.

INCIDENT SUMMARY--AUGUST 8, 1964

Jackson: New York pathologist David M. Spain, M.D., reported today after the post-mortem examination of the body of James Chaney, "In lay terminology--the jaw was shattered, the left shoulder and upper arm were reduced to a pulp; the right forearm was broken completely across at several points, and the skull bones were broken and pushed in towards the brain.

"Under the circumstances, these injuries could only be the result of an extremely severe beating with either a blunt instrument or chain. The other fractures of the skull and ribs were the result of bullet wounds. It is impossible to determine whether the deceased died from the beating before the bullet wounds were inflicted.

"In my extensive experience of 25 years as a Pathologist and as a Medical Examiner, I have never witnessed bones so severely shattered, except in tremendously high speed accidents such as aeroplane crashes."

Spain conducted the second examination of the body (the first was made by the staff of the University of Mississippi Hospital) at the request of Mrs. Fannie Lee Chaney, mother of James. Spain is the former medical examiner of Westchester County, New York, and a nationally recognized pathologist whose services were secured through the Medical Committee for Human Rights.

Hattiesburg: Two men, Clifton Archie Keys, 51, and his nephew Estus Keys, 31, were tried today for the July 10 beating of Rabbi Arthur Lelyveld, 51, of Cleveland, Ohio. The pair pleaded nolo contendere, waived arraignment, and paid fines of \$500 each. They also received 90 day suspended sentences on condition of good behavior. The charge was changed by District Attorney James Finch from assault and battery with intent to maim to simple assault and battery.

Also beaten at that time were white summer volunteers Larry Spears and David Owen. Spears is a 20 year old Stanford University (California) senior majoring in History, of 950 Matadero, Palo Alto, California; Owen is a 19 year old Oberlin College student of 1583 Rose Villa Street, Pasadena, California. The threesome were attacked by the two men wielding a metal bar in broad daylight in Hattiesburg; the rabbi received the brunt of the beating.

Meridian: Approximately 150 outstanding students from Freedom Schools throughout the state gathered for a Freedom School Convention here today. Resolutions brought by the student delegates from their community Freedom Schools were divided into four groups: Foreign Relations, Medical Care, Education, and Public Accommodations, and workshops held in each area. SNCC Executive Secretary James Forman addressed the convention during the afternoon session, stressing both the need for Mississippi students to obtain a good education and for them to put it to use within the state. A. Phillip Randolph, President of the American Negro Labor Council and longtime head of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, told the gathering of the need for a revolution in jobs to solve the problems of automation. Seeds of Freedom, a Holly Springs Freedom School production based on the life and death of Medgar Evers, was performed during the evening, as well as the Free Southern Theatre production of In White America.

Tallahatchie: Four members of a local family here--the first Negro family to attempt to register to vote from this county in several decades--have been the subject of harassment since last Tuesday when they attempted to register. On Tuesday night, two truckloads of whites with guns came by at 6 p.m., 10 p.m., and 3 a.m. shouting obscenities and threats. They have been back several times, and the family is now afraid to go work in the fields.

Voter registration activity in this hardcore area was begun less than two weeks ago by SNCC workers.

Tallahatchie County Registrar William Cox is currently under a court injunction to determine the qualification of Negro registrants by the same standards as whites, to not limit Negro registrants to coming in one at a time, and to not use the constitutional interpretation section of the registration form. The injunction was placed June 24.

Tallahatchie County has an approximate Negro population of 70%.

Shaw: Two cross burnings have been reported to the Shaw SNCC office; both burnings reportedly took place on the night of Thursday, August 6. One was on the farm of Mr. Mack Carter, 6 miles outside of Shaw. Carter is the brother-in-law of Miss Ernestine Bryant, one of the 13 civil rights workers arrested on August 4 for distributing (voter registration) leaflets without a permit. The police allegedly told Carter's son that they were well informed of all of Miss Bryant's activities, and that "there is no telling what will happen to her when the white volunteers leave." Carter is a relatively prosperous Negro farmer whose children are frequently picked up on tenuous traffic charges. The second cross burning was on the property of Fred Hardy of Choctaw. Hardy's next door neighbor, Mr. Gus Lawson, has attended voter registration mass meetings in Shaw regularly; Lawson feels the cross burning was meant for his property.