

Meridian: July 29, 1964 (from Jackson Daily News, July 30)

The Mount Moriah Baptist Church, four miles from Meridian was completely destroyed by fire. Deputy Sheriff Alton Allen is quoted as saying ~~that~~ that there was no evidence of foul play. ~~kkkkkk~~

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Carthage: from Zellner in Greenwood

Yesterday a Des Moines, Iowa minister and a Milwaukee summer volunteer were beaten in a doctor's office in Madden. Summer volunteer, John Polacheck, a student at Harvard University had been to the clinic in Madden (12 miles from Carthage) the day before. The receptionist asked him if he was 'living with those Negroes in Harmony (where the Carthage community center is located) and sent him into the Negro waiting room. Polacheck returned to the clinic yesterday with Rev. Edward K. Heininger, about 45, from Des Moines. Heininger had made an appointment with Dr. Thaggard in his own name. When they arrived they saw two people in the waiting room, a woman and a doctor. The doctor berated the minister ~~saying~~ saying he needed 'forgiveness for what you are doing.' He asked if they were 'staying with those Negroes in Harmony'. While they spoke with the doctor Heininger said, '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 hitting me.' Polacheck was knocked to the floor, hit and kicked. Between 5 and 10 men did the beating.

Dr. Robert Coles said that Heininger, who blacked out during the beating, suffered severe injuries to the left eye with possible internal injuries to the eye, severe lacerations to the scalp and face, contusions on the back of the neck, bad cut on the left ear and swelling on the mouth and lips with possible injury to the gums. Polacheck ~~had~~ received cuts and bruises on the head and body.

Heininger was unconscious at the end of the beating. Polacheck recalled getting to the car outside. He dragged Heininger into their car. One of several people surrounding the car took his keys.

The deputy sheriff arrived several minutes later. Polacheck and Heininger were handcuffed together and placed in the back of an unmarked pickup truck, which they believed belonged to the deputy. They were driven about five miles (between Badden and Harmony) and were transferred to one of two unmarked cars that had been following them. Polacheck says that the car they were transferred to was driven by a clinic administrator who gave a club to the deputy when the prisoners got into the car.

Heininger and Polacheck were taken to the police station, charged with disturbing the peace. The doctor had reported that they were using profanity in the clinic. Their bond was set at \$100 each, trials set for August 27. They have been bonded out.

Dr. Robert Coles has said that it is noteworthy that they were refused medical attention and then beaten in the doctor's office with his apparent collusion. He said he would gather all facts available with a view toward reporting the situation to the proper authorities in the AMA.

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West Helena: Larry Seigel

Joe Wright and Larry Seigel saw the postmaster of West Helena concerning the distribution of leaflets mentioned in an earlier report. The postmaster told them that 16 leaflets were found in mailboxes and they were charged 4¢/leaflet. They found that he was fairly pro civil rights and the work being done in W. Helena. W. Helena has become quieter since local Negroes have patrolled the area where SNCC people are living. Last night they had a mass meeting at the Pettis Memorial CME Church. About 300 people inside the church and 200 outside. SNCC workers Joe Wright, Jim Jones, Bob Blockum, and Larry Seigel spoke. Rev. Lyle, the pastor of Pettis Memorial Church also spoke. He is the only minister in Helena or West Helena who has been willing to let his church be used by the movement or to speak out in favor of the movement. ~~They are hoping to have a mass meeting in Helena next week~~

They are hoping to have a mass meeting in Helena next week (nb: Helena and West Helena are different cities with different administrations, police, etc). ~~kkk~~ In West Helena the police want to avoid trouble and though they harass ~~or~~ ~~kkk~~ workers they stop short of violence. In Helena, however, the police have a reputation for beating people. They therefore expect trouble if they're able to get a church for a meeting next week.

The people who threatened Larry Seigel on Tuesday own ~~kkkkk~~ Charlton Grocery in the Negro community. A boycott of the store has been begun, though they've only communicated the boycott by word of mouth. It is the only white-owned grocery in the Negro community in West Helena, though there are two owned by Chinese. The Chinese seem to be frightened of the voter registration workers and possible trouble in the community. The Negro community in West Helena seems to be waking however. They are hoping to have three or four 'freedom days' in about two weeks when they will bus people to the courthouse to pay poll taxes.



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