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August 28

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FY

McComb, contd. is in the area where the other bombed churches are..  
Local officers are collecting the evidence.

McComb: 2:35: Sefus: Received call from the daughter at about 1:30 We told her to call the FBI, Then ~~Shu~~ Sefus and Joe Martin went to the scene. We got there before the cops. When we got there, we saw the stuff on the lan The explosion ten yards from the house, and about ~~five~~ <sup>four</sup> ten yards from the road. There was a package of unexploded charge wrapped in brown paper with red tape holding it together. Joe Martin counted nine sticks of dynamite being pulled out of the package by the cops. They did it with their bare hands, thus smearing prints. The cops looked like a riot squad

billy clubs, rifles, machine gun, shot guns, etc. About four carloads came.

The cops drove the crowd away from the ~~xd~~ dynamite, claiming there might have been a time fuse. Both night and day shift cops were there. Guy was ther in his pajamas and was in charge. Was in direct supervision of what was goin on. The cops didnot touch the package until he arrived..

Could have been two separate charges. Joe overheard one of the cops say, as he was pulling the stick out of the package and ~~sing~~ the label say, "It's the same shit as the other bombing." FBI arrived at about 2:00 am.

Agents Ford and Harold, of the McComb office. They questioned the crowd about seeing anyone prowling, etc. They said they would be by in the morning to question the Dillons and the nieghbors. Sefus asked ford if he had authority to supervise the handling of the dynamite, he said"no, that is in the jurisdiction of the local lpolice." When Sefus left, they had apparently not inspected the dynamite. The cops had already handled it( the dynamite. Sefus saw Ford talking to Chief Guy. FBI and cops were in thy scene when Sefus left.. The cops were concentrating on Mrs. Dillon, did not question the crowd. Sefus didnot see them searching the ground. Their interest dentered on the Dillon family and the unexploded dynamit.

The man's name is Willie J. Dillon, about late thirtys of early forties, mechanic, the other day, for the first time, we brought one of our cars to him to fix. He has not directly participated himself. His wife ~~hus~~ took the voting test as a part of our freedom day, moday the 17th, has been very friendly with us, freedom registered, precinct meetings, possibly a delegate to county. The two children, Linda, 14, and Willie J., R Jr., 11, both attended Freedom school.. Mrs. Dillon is about same age as husband... No threats that we know of. They are members of Sweet Home Baptist Church, scene of attempted burning a few weeks ago. The four of them were in the house at the time of the bombing. Rumors in the crowd about a white truck (a pickup?). Rumors about the use of small airplanes, these are very unreliable. Also rumor about trouble in Pricedale, a small community near McComb. Thats were Mt. Canaan Church is.

The explosion made a very small crater. Occured near a rose bush, about a foot away, and the bush was unperturbed. A man in the crowd who seemed to know something about dynamite, said he thought one stick had exploded.. Local people were talking about setting upa guard in that area and col closing thestreets to strange cars. There were no reporters on the scene.

) They want speakers tomorrow, they will probably have a meeting tomorrow night in that section.

Jackson: 3:05 am.; Janis Grant. She were driving out Baily avenue. Just across Woody willson, about fifty yards past the interection, there were a panel truck, not a paddy wagon, and two cars blocking the road. The truck was headed ~~south~~, north, the two cars hoaded south . There was a white man standing outside the truck with a flashlight, who waved on a white driven truck and a white driven car. The traffic was definietyl being stoppeed and checked for something or other.

Janis had already crossed Woddy Wilson, she stopped and backed out and turned onto Woody willson and back onto Baily toward COFO. At the intersection of Monument, there were three police cars, one behind her, one in front, on beside. She just continued across monument, one cop stayed with her. She stopped and turned around, came back up Baily. Back to Woodrov Wilson, and saw that the situation had not changed. She went around by way of Whitfield Mills, and went home.

Pike county jail, 783-2323, Magnolia, 4:02, no answer.

McComb: 4:34 am: Father Garver, Sefus came back from the city jail, wrote the following to give to Jackson: Sheriff Warren did most of the questioning. Whitestown is outside of McComb city limits. Both sheriff and FBI agent Ford insisted that Mr. and Mrs. Dillon take lie detector tests. Ford said, "Well, if you don't have anything to hide, why don't you want to take it?" Mr. and Mrs. Dillon answered, "We don't do anything so we don't think we have to take it."

Highway patrol who questioned son recognized Mrs. Dillon from being at courthouse on Freedom Day tuesday, August 18th. She tried to register on that day, not monday. Suggested to try to call the jail directly rather than the sheriff. Left at 4:12 bound for Magnolia jail . Mr. Dillon was not at city jail.

Pike county jail, 783-2323L: no answer....

McComb info information now says that the above number is the sheriffs office

Pike county jail: 783-9225: Trusty answered, says a Negro named Willie was brought in about 30 minutes ago, (it is now 4:42am), he thought by a IP man. didn't know charges. Jailer is home in bed, won't return till 6:30. says some people were just there asking about the same man, and they went over to the jailors house. Gave name as Hubert Cwon.

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McCull: 5:55 am: The jailor said that a man had been brought in about 4 o'clock, charged with "operating a garage without a licence.". That's all he knew.

The plan is at 7:30 or 8:00 to pick up Mrs. Dillon, go to the jail, to find out the charges, and to see her husband.

McComb: After much time getting busy signals, finally reached/at 6:10, confirmed by Cephus that Mr. Dillon is at county jail. Still don't know amount of bail or trial time. Request that we find legal aid and contact them later. office

Breaker

Lolly Springs: Larry Rubin-- 8:30-- Mrs. Lee, Negro from Waterford, was evicted from her home for participating in civil rights activities. She and her husband are sharecroppers on a plantation in Waterford. The plantation owner came to their home and told them that they were no longer needed and would have to leave because Mr. Lee participated in civil rights activities. This was Monday. They have until Tuesday to leave. The owner, while he was there, shot and killed two of their hogs. He tried to kill all of them.  
Larry is going to call the JD to day.

Cleveland: Lois Rogers-- 9:05 Needs office equipment badly. Don't even have a typewriter. Can they get one immediately.

Moss Point: Chuck McEller- 9:20-- Four of the people who were arrested at Laundromat are out on bond. The other two will be released today.

Biloxi : John Else-- 9:25-- Called the King and King insurance this morning about getting insurance on a Snick car. Was told that all insurance on Snick cars had been cancelled since last week. Does Atlanta know this?

Indianola : 9:30-- Will not try to integrate the schools today, Both of the family decided to wait until next year.

McComb: Seephus Hugh-- Mr. Dillon was arrested and charged with operating a garage without a permit and stealing electricity. Both the FBI and The sheriff insist that Mr. & Mrs. Dillon take a lie ~~detector~~ test.

Mr. Dillon's bond was set at \$500 cash.

His trial is this afternoon at 3. He hasn't been allowed any visitors, and the sheriff said that he couldn't have any until tomorrow.

Right now, both ~~#~~ an official from sheriff's office and representatives from the ~~power~~ Mississippi Power company are at the Dillon's home investigating.

Canton: Mary Shupenko-- 10:35-- Joe Lee Watts, local CORE worker, was picked up by the police and take to jail. They had a warrant for his arrest. Said he was being held for investigation. George Raymond went down to the sheriff's office. They wouldn't let him see Joe Lee and the sheriff wouldn't tell him what he was investigating. The sheriff said that he could hold him for 72 hours. Bill Robinson said that he could only hold him for about 24 hours. Two lawyers are there from President's committee. They will work on the case.

Meridian: Mike Churchill-- 11:45-- 70 year old Negro man was shot in the left leg by yesterday at his home by an unknown person. It is not clear whether the shooting was in anyway connected with civil rights since the person wasn't directly ~~involved~~ involved in cr activiites. He was, however, the deacon of the Morning Star church which has been used for voter registration work.

The shot came from a nearby woods. Several kids from the neighborhood ran to see who fired the shot, but saw noone.

The police and the FBI are investigating.

Dan Durman, a summer volunteer, paid \$150 to a white nurse as settlement for having accidentally taken her car for a day. Settlement at such a high figure was forced by the Justice of Peace Crawford, who threatened \$500 fine and 60 days in jail unless the nurse was satisfied. She tried to get \$300 first.

Ruleville: Gerry Tecklin-- 12:15-- A cross was burned last night on the ~~#~~ highway department property. Piles of leaflets were dumped in the white community. The leaflets stated that The town had had enough of Mayor Durrough and the Board of Alderman and their soft approach to civil right workers and integration. ( a cross was burned a few weeks ago on Mayor Durrough's lawn) There was warning that integration was only 40 miles away in Clarksdale. The citizens should get the petty politician out of office.

Yesterday, the workers got the results of the Drew proclamation of Aug. 14, 1964, which stated that any cr worker caught in the Negro section of town after dark would be arrested. Judge Clayton of the Federal Court ruled yesterday that he preferred #6 not to rule on the matter and wanted the workers to try and reach a compromise with the Board of Alderman in Drew.

The meeting with the board is tonight. If a compromise can't be reached, then the hearing and decision will be ~~held~~ on Tuesday.

McComb: Scopius Hugh-- 12:50-- Tonight at the mass meeting a petition will be drawn up to the president asking for him to use the full use of his office to bring an end to the atrocities in Miss. The petition is not asking for federal troops. It just wants to make the Justice Department more concerned and to pressure the local police for more protection.

McComb: Seepius Hugh-- 2:35-- Two lawyers are there, Frank Jones and Neil ? They have been to the jail and can't get any information from the sheriff as to where the trial is being held.

The sheriff won't permit them to see Dillon. Mrs. Dillon is on her way to the jail to try and see her husband.

5 car loads of workers are out canvassing for the meeting tonight.

A McComb city policeman drove up in front of the office and stopped. He stuck a camera out of the window and began to take pictures of all the people on the lawn. He left when Dave Gerber went inside and got his camera. Last night during the investigation of the bombing, one of the highway patrolman took a letter out of one of the SNCC cars and put it into his pocket. Two people saw him do this.

Moss Point: Mervie McKay-- 3:20-- The final two people are out of jail.

~~Belzoni: Want F.B.I. to move in for protection right away, 25 people are going up to the court house on Monday, Sheriff say if they come it will be bad for them. These people want to take the registration test.~~

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Columbus: Charles Ward -- Starkville COFO worker was stopped by highway police this noon booked with improper tag., he was fined \$25. need permission five people to drive the SNCC car these people are Charles Ward, Don white, Willie Ervin. Police remove tag from car and still has it.

#### Emerson

Hocker

Jackson: Bill Robinson called in 8:30 to report that he had spoken with the FBI

Canton: Coffin admits holding Watts, but he won't tell the Canton office where.. Called the jailhouse several times, and the sheriff's office, have driven down to the jail and the sheriff's office; they were not permitted to hold anyone and were told that they were holding him...Mary Ann Shipenko George Raymond went back to the jailhouse about 8:00. The people at the county jailhouse said he wasn't there, they had no information. Canton office is calling every five minutes. The man on the phone stated that he had no information. Threatened to have the whole staff arrested for disturbing the peace. Sears Buckley, Jr., went to call from The Jackson Supper Club, and the jail (county) took their phone off the hook.

At about 10:55 this morning, Mary Ann received a call from Joe Lee Watts, told her that he was in the sheriff's office, that the sheriff had a warrant for his arrest.. Mary told G. Raymond the same over the phone(same call). Immediately thereafter, George Raymond went to the sheriff's office and spoke to the sheriff. Sheriff confirmed that Joe Lee was being held for

Investigation. Over the phone, Watts had not been permitted to give any information about the charges.

When Raymond went to the office, the sheriff confirmed that Watts was being held for investigation. Raymond thinks he saw Watts in the office at 8:00 a.m. Looked through the door and thinking he saw Watts talking to Deputy Evans. The person Raymond saw did not look interested in any way. Sheriff added that "he'd be all right."

Raymond returned and told Mary Ann and Jean Sokolow and William Messing of Prog. Comm. The three went to the sheriff's office and spoke to the sheriff who was courteous. The sheriff said he was holding Watts for investigation. Sokolow asked him how long he could hold Watts, and the sheriff replied seventy-two hours. Sokolow replied that he was not familiar with the procedures here. Asked the sheriff if he had had a warrant. Replied "yes, I wouldn't have arrested him if I didn't." Sheriff Coffin, Lawrenceville, Sokolow asked the sheriff when he could get some information. Sheriff said "call back around four thirty." Sokolow asked to see the warrant. Sheriff refused.

The three (Shipenko, Sokolow, Messing) returned to the office.

At four fifty-five Shipenko called the sheriff. She spoke to a woman clerk who said she was in charge of bonds in the county. She said "The sheriff and his deputies are out. Call the county jail." Shipenko then called the county jail. They said they had no information on Watts, he was not there, and he had been checked out by the sheriff for questioning in the morning. They would not say Watts had been there in the morning.

Shipenko called the sheriff, and spoke to the same clerk as before. She said the sheriff and his deputies were still out, try back in half an hour. She called back (Shipenko) in half an hour, and spoke to the deputy who said he Watts was not at the office, call the county jail. Shipenko said you had called the c. jail, and they had referred her to the sheriff's office. The deputy then said, "the sheriff must have him out for questioning."

After Shipenko talked to the deputy, Raymond spoke to Sam Liddy, who told George that the sheriff must have him (Watts) out somewhere. Liddy said he was trying to contact the sheriff himself.

Bill Robinson called (6:15) from Jackson, said he would contact the FBI and have them put pressure on the sheriff's office. 7:00 Shipenko called Jackson FBI, spoke to Agent Collins, who asked her to go back to the sheriff's office.

8:00 Raymond went back to the county jail. The people there said they didn't know anything. Told Raymond to see the sheriff. Shipenko told the FBI this. FBI said he had talked with the sheriff, and confirmed that they were holding Watts for investigation. "They didn't know where." Asked Shipenko to keep him informed.

Raymond then returned from the sheriff's office, and said they would start calling every five minutes, asking for Joe Lee Watts. Buckley then called, asking for Joe Lee. The man stated, "I have told you time and time again, I know nothing about him. Stop calling. You're doing nothing but disturbing the peace, every damn one of you, and we're going to have you all arrested." Sears then asked for Watts again, and the man hung up.

TEHLA: 9:25. Flora At lot Pennefield's store a little Negro was playing and a White man drove up in front of the store and told the negro boy to read a newspaper. The boy walked away. The white man then said "I ought to shoot your damn brains out." the woman who owns the store called Mr. Moore, a lawyer at Tchula.. Lawyer advised her to get tag numbers.

McCORMICK: Lawyers left behind schedule. Left about 9:00P. M. LCDC.

Jackson: FBI confirmed earlier that Watts was being held in Madison Cy. jail for investigation.

Itta Bena

HOLLY GREENWICH: 9:00 no answer.

GREENWOOD 9:45. Liz Fusco will not be in Jackson tonight. she will spend the night in Indianola and return to Jackson tomorrow, Aug 29, probably with someone from Greenwood.

MARSH: 9:50. Cars circling the building,(Cofo office)

ROUND BAYOU: 9:55 no answer.

RULEVILLE 10:00 p. m. Len Edwards, Jerry Becklin, LCDC John Edmonds, met with the Board of Alderman and City Att'y of Drew. The Board decided to urge the mayor to rescind his order of proclamation providing for the incarceration of Civil Rights Workers in protective custody for overnight if found in the city after dark.