

WATS REPORT: SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1964

unofficial report

Greenwood: 8:55am Stu House re Browning church- some new info.

Full report on church burning:

A Negro Baptists church burned to the ground in a predominately white community named Browning, Miss., at approximately 3:30am, July 11. The name of the church was the Pleasant Plan Missionary Baptist Church. There is no record of civil rights meeting in this church.

An unidentified Negro boy arrived on the scene while the church was still burning. He said that the fire truck was parked approximately 1000 feet away. He said that the truck was not attempting to control the fire. When the church was investigated by two SNCC workers at 7am the rafters were still burning. Fire had obviously not been dampened.

A Moose Lodge meeting was reported to be going at full tilt as late as 2am by a local Negro woman Mrs. Laura McGee. She reports that after 2am she heard a procession of cars pass her home in the direction of the church. She says that she feels that they were stopping in the general vicinity of the church.

Jesse Johnson, a local white was reported to have asked the congregation to sell him the building and grounds. He had recently bought the surrounding property. The congregation refused to sell.

Mrs. McGee also reports that she was told by the local sheriff that he would trade the church for a local county school. When she remarked that it was impossible to trade a private church for a public school building he remarked that the church would have to be moved. The Rev. of the church is Rev. J./R. Rouse.

The SNCC office just called Sheriff Smith of Leflore County at 8:10am. He stated that he investigated the fire site at approx. 7am. He said that he had turned the case over to the state fire marshall Lewis Hopkins, Loula, Miss. Ed Rudd, Dick Frey and Fred Mangrum are going out to the church again and expect to return in about 1 hour. Hopkins will determine whether the fire was caused by arson. Sheriff Smith said the marshall was to arrive in Greenwood at noon to begin his investigation.

Enfield: J.V. Henry

The Klan has been active in the Halifax area again. Last week a cross was burned across from the home of Willa Johnson. Her teaching contract had not been renewed this summer because of her participation in voter registration, and she recently filed a suit in federal court for her reinstatement.

the Negro community in

Also last week the Klan had a motorcade through Williamstown, Martin County, about 35 miles from Enfield. As the Klan drove through the community shooting it was met by return shots from Negroes. This has happened before, however, so J.V. expects that they will return.

Another group of students and ministers is going into Elma City on Monday to begin painting the Negro church again. The Klan had offered to paint the church in order to dissuade the new group from coming in. The church group will stay in Rocky Mountain rather than Elma City.

In Enfield they are emphasizing their citizenship program. There are 12 schools with an average of 10-12 students in a class. SCLC teachers are conducting the classes.

Selma: Tom Brown: 5pm

The following people are to be bonded out today: Joh Love, Eric Farnum, Frances Mitchell, Ernie Mac Millan, Karen House. Peter Hall feels that the others will probably be out by today.

Greenwood- July 11, 1964

WATS line Report,

Unofficial

Greenwood had a picnic with the community and had some more of the freedom registration forms filled out.

Floyd McGlaughan- was walking down the street and a car full of white men pulled up close and tried to hit him. He dodged and they went on. Unconfirmed that there was a rifle in the car.

5 PM

Maeola Anderson was walking downtown with 1 volunteer and 1 local person. She was shoved and punched in the chest. Police called and nothing was done.

Unconfirmed: Small Negro boy kidnapped by car full of white men. Police looking for him now.

Greenwood-Shaw project 11:00 PM From Stu House To Porter
Negro was offered 40 dollars to show whites where the office (COFO) was, and then he was offered \$400 to blow up the office. The whites told him that they had the dynamite with them. Local Negro said that the police were part of the group of whites (unconfirmed). Cars of whites have been passing the office since 3 PM this afternoon. Shaw project called the local police and told them. They were told that they had protection on the "other street". The street that the cars have been on is unlit. Officials of Bolivar county are stopping all cars. Their car had a rifle showing through the window. A car with three helmeted policemen, which was at first standing on another street, has now moved up in front of the office. At 10:30 the only car that the people in the office saw was what they assumed was a police car.

There are 19 people in the office including Lynn Edwards (father is congressman.) Two girls are hoods in private homes which can be seen from the office.

Shaw called Cong. Edwards, and he is going to call John Doar again. Greenwood called FBI at 9:40 Miss. time. Greenwood called John Doar at 11:40.

Canton, Miss. report from James Collier taken by Sheila Hatcher
9:20 Pm a small fire bomb was thrown on the lawn of the freedom house from a blue Volkswagon lic. tag no. :458178, No county. The bomb ignited briefly and then was extinguished.

Laurel, Miss. 11:30 Report from Bob Beyers by Sheila Hatcher
~~xxxx~~ This afternoon at 1:45 a NAACP Youth Group attempted to integrate Kresses a 5 and 10 cent store. They advised local authorities of their plans in advance. After the six Negroes sat down a group of ten whites converged on the counter, and pulled Cardin and Hughes, both 18, off the chair. They hit Elmore ~~xxxxxx~~ McGirill, 12, in the back with a baseball bat and cut Jerry Arrington, 14, with a knife. All of the Negroes were local. The entire incident was in the presence of the police. Police said one white man had been arrested on assault and battery late this afternoon. Later, Jerry Jenkins, a local Negro was beaten by five whites in Kresses. Police ~~xxxxx~~ were present but no action was taken. A complaint is going to be filed. Jennifer Roberts, 14, was cut in the face, neck and arms by a white man. This incident may not have been reported to the ~~xxx~~ police.