

GREENWOOD: July 24, 2:20 am (Garman/Grogan)

Jessie Harrison, Fred Maagrum, and Ruth Howard called the office at 11:30 pm to report that they were being followed by three cars. They had been followed by at least one of the cars since they left Greenwood en route to Swisstown where they were taking people home after the FDP County meeting tonight. The cars were: the car of the State Game Warden, a green stationwagon; a bluish Ford with a Deputy Sheriff in it; and a red Oldsmobile. They called from the house of the people they took home and were deciding whether or not to spend the night.

The Memphis FBI was called from Greenwood at 11:45 pm. They said they would check into it. At 11:50 Betty G. called Sheriff Smith of Leflore C. and described the situation to him. He answered "None of my deputies are down there. They are all out looking for the blue Ford that tore up the TV station up here tonight. There's one state game warden in Morehead and another someone else." Betty asked if he would please check into the situation and he answered that he didn't have any cars of that description "No ma'am, we have no cars like that." B. informed him that we had called Memphis FBI and were about to call the Justice Dept. (The Justice Dept. was not called)

Jessie, Ruth, and Fred arrived in Greenwood at 1:00 am. They reported that the deputy stopped them on the road, looked at the car license, asked them where they were going, to which Jessie answered that they were just trying to get back to the office. The deputy said something about the fact that they were looking for the people who tore up the TV station.

Rest of the report is vague pending Jessie's report when he comes back to the office in the morning. However, all did reach the office safely and it appears that the deputy may have helped the trio out.

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GREENWOOD 4:30 am (J.Harrison/W.Grogan)

Regarding the above incident: Jesse reported that the deputy stopped the trio and the above exchange of conversation took place and, in addition, the deputy told them that they would probably be stopped several times before they reached Greenwood as the authorities were conducting a search to determine who had torn up the TV station earlier in the evening. After driving a short distance, Jesse's car was stopped again by the same deputy. The deputy said that they wouldn't be stopped again as he had called ahead and informed other deputies that they were legit. After that, though Jesse passed more than one deputy car, he was not stopped and arrived in Greenwood at 1:00 pm. It is Jesse's opinion that the deputy's kept their distance due to Garman's phone call to the sheriff stating that the FBI had been called and that the Justice Dept. was going to be contacted about the cars following Jesse's car.

McComb: Lee Garrett

Re beating and arrest of Mr. Brock:

Police came into Brock's club last night a little before midnight. They arrested Brock ~~kkkk~~ for serving alcoholic beverages after midnight (there is a law which requires that all beer bottles be broken before midnight and Brock had not broken all of them). Brock got into a dispute with the police about whether he could leave someone to close his club. They therefore added a charge of resisting arrest. Brock headed to the back of the club and reached out for a pipe on the wall to hold onto. The cops tried

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McComb-Natchez:

Car with George Greene, Chuck McDew, Dorrie Ladner, and Chuck Neblett was thought missing from McComb to Natchez this afternoon: the following is the chronology of calls made during the time they were thought missing:

12:15pm: group left McComb headed for Natchez

1:30 should have arrived in Natchez

2:25 Jackson called Mr. Metcalf's home where they stay in Natchez; they hadn't reported in. Checked Meadville jail; they weren't there.

3:07: Mr. Metcalf called Jackson: their car, a beige '64 Pontiac Catalina rented at Hertz in Jackson, Rankin County plates with citizens band radio and antenna) wasn't at the house or the Natchez jail.

3:35: Atlanta called McComb and Curtis Hayes said that they ~~walked~~ planned on going ~~kkkk~~ by site of burned church and then to a home in Amite County. Curtis said he'd take car out and follow route they should have travelled.

3:40: Jackson called Meadville jail again. Still not there.

3:50: Jackson checked Liberty jail: not there.

3:40: a complete report given by Jackson to FBI man J. E. Cohen.

4:05: Natchez FBI man Prospero only available through highway patrol.

4:50: Betty called JD in LC and spoke with Schwelb. He said he knew of the case had been informed by local police.

5:00: call to Greenwood from four--they were in Louisiana and OK.

5:05: Atlanta called Mr. Metcalf to inform him that they were OK and he said that George usually takes the route through Vicksburg, Tard Tallulah avoiding Miss. roads when travelling from Jackson. Possibly they were routing in a similar way from McComb.

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Mayersville (Issequina County): from Dotty Zellner

Charlie Cobb was told by some Negroes who work in Mayersville that their employer, A.E. Scott had threatened to burn the Moon Lake Baptist Church if there were any more civil rights meetings there. The church is across from his plantation. It has been used for meetings in the past and a meeting is planned there Sunday evening at 7:30 for Freedom Democratic Party precinct and county meetings. Scott has also threatened to murder any Negroes working for him who try to register to vote.

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Belzoni: from Dotty Zellner 6pm

Dorothy Higgins, Robert Bass, Joe Stigler, Willie Shaw and Elis Jackson went into Belzoni today. They called Greenwood at 4pm from a candy store on Church St. to say that they were being followed by 4 local police cars and 2 highway patrol cars. The cars were parked 2 blocks away from the store. Greenwood advised them to remain where they were and not go on to meet Stokely as previously ~~planned~~ At 4:15pm ~~kkkk~~ the group called Greenwood saying 2 pick-up trucks had joined the police cars. When Greenwood called the FBI they were told that the FBI had told the Belzoni police about the five coming in in order to 'protect' them. Greenwood suggested that that was more harrassment than protection.

Ruleville: from Mary King

All but two passengers got off a bus in Ruleville when a Negro woman was roughly treated by the bus driver. The woman had sat down beside a white man.

Drew: from Mary King:

Rabbi Allan Levine and Jeff Thatcher, summer volunteer, were forcibly ejected from the office of the Drew City Attorney where they had gone to attend a meeting called by the mayor ~~kkk~~ for parents of children that had been detained and then released on July 15. The two were threatened ~~kk~~ with arrest by city police. There were 6-8 parents at the meeting. The children (~~y~~ 23 of them) had been arrested when police got the owners of property where a rally was being held to ask them to leave. When they stepped off the property to the street they were arrested.

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Holly Springs: from Judy Richardson

Elwood Berry (Woody) of Dayton, Ohio, and student at Syracuse U., was arrested in Holly Springs today. He was charged with profanity in the presence of more than two people, or disturbing the public peace. Woody was driving some people to the courthouse to register when police told him to "move on god damn it". He repeated what the police said on his citizen's band radio and three policemen jumped out and arrested him. Attorneys Alan Levine and Burt Perkel are filing for removal of the case to Federal Court, but they are trying to get Woody out earlier than under the removal, because he is key in Union and Lafayette county precinct meetings which will be held Monday. Greenwood is trying to raise the \$500 bond for him now.

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McComb: continuation of incomplete report (the cops tried...) re Brock

The cops tried to pull him away from the wall, pistol whipping him once on the hand, cutting him with the trigger guard. They hit him over the head with a beer tray and used the weighted leather strap of ~~kkk~~ a billy club (his hand is swollen). Police said something about Brock 'getting uppity' now that he had white customers. (the whole scene was witnessed by 3 or 4 white and 5 or 6 Negro ~~of~~ SNCC workers. Brock's lawyers are trying to get his case removed to Federal court.

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Freedom Democratic Party. Mary King

There are 14 precinct meetings tonight in Jackson. Others are being held in Meridian. Four meetings will be held in Hattiesburg tomorrow.

Americus: John Perden 7:30pm

John Perden was beaten today when he went to take his literacy test at the Sumter County Courthouse in Americus. When he went down he was questioned by all three registrars. Generally each registrar takes an applicant. They question him about his work, who he was trying to register, why he hasn't attempting to register whites. They questioned him about his residence requirements and he said that Sheriff Chappell could testify that he had been in Sumter C. for more than a year because he had arrested him last August. Sheriff Chappell was called in and affirmed what John said. The officials discussed trouble makers and whether John was one. After John took the test, which he passed, he walked out the door of the office toward the courthouse door and saw a man standing in the hallway. John tried to avoid the man, and walk around him, but the man slugged him hard in the right eye with a gloved hand (he may have been wearing brass knuckles under his work gloves). John stumbled out the door, twisting his ankle, to avoid being hit again.

Sammy Mahone and Sammy Rushin, SNCC workers, were waiting in the car for John. They reported that while waiting, they saw the assailant go up to a white Oldsmobile with out of county license : 149A47 (possibly Webster County). The driver of the car was fairly well dressed. He gave the man a pair of work gloves and women's sun glasses, which he was wearing when he hit Perden. He then hung ~~around the courthouse, outside, then inside,~~ ostensibly reading bulletins, waiting for Perden to come out. Mahone and Rushin went back into the courthouse after Perden came out, to look for his glasses, but they could not find them. They then went to the police station asking that a warrant be sworn out against the assailant. They were told that "the courthouse belongs to Chappell". When they questioned the statement they were told that it is in his jurisdiction. They then went to the Sheriff's office where Police Chief Chambliss, Captain Mason, Sheriff Fred D. Chappell, a deputy sheriff and a fifth man were talking. They were told that to swear out a warrant they must go to the Justice of the Peace. They did and were told that although they had the auto license number of the above car that they couldn't swear out a warrant without the man's name.

John then went to the hospital ~~where~~ where he was treated for his cut. He has a 1/2" gash on his eyelid. They initially tried to ~~charge~~ charge him \$2 for the treatment, but John asked to be billed and he doesn't want they'll bill him.

Background: John feels that the sheriff and police were involved in the beating because 1) they knew when he would be coming--when he first went to register Sheriff Chappell came in and lectured him for the attempt, and said, "now go and tell the Justice Department about that." After the first attempt to register one is sent a notice to come back in a month, so they knew exactly when John would be coming, and he was the only one there at the time. 2) This is part of a pattern of harassment. On February 14 Chappell ~~threw~~ threw two girls bodily out of the rest room and threatened to arrest them. The two were in the courthouse to register. On the same day, former GBI man Southall beat Sammy Mahone at the courthouse when he had come down to register. When SNCC people take people down to register the county clerk tells them to get out of the courthouse because they are not on official business. Mahone and Rushin were waiting in the car because they knew they'd just be thrown out of the courthouse.

The above incident happened at around 2:40-2:45pm. John has not been able to reach the FBI to report the incident. ~~At~~ At 8:30pm Atlanta had not been able to reach JD.

John has been told by a contact in the white community that he is a marked man and can expect more trouble if he continues working in Americus.

Yesterday 24 Negroes were registered in Americus.