

*M King*July 25, 1964:

HOLLY SPRINGS - One confirmed shooting, two unconfirmed shootings reported - local drunk Negro shot at while fleeing from police. Local Negro beaten in jail, witnessed by Elwood Berry, in jail from Freedom Day arrest July 24.

GREENWOOD - Silas McGee, the young man whose beating in Greenwood's Leflore Theater led to the first arrests under the new civil rights law, and his brother Jake were mobbed by 150-200 whites as they left the theater. As they walked to car where Greenwood staff members waited to pick them up after receiving a call from the brothers, Jake was hit repeatedly by the whites, received cuts and abrasions of face and shoulders and glass in the eyes when a coke bottle was thrown through the car window. Both treated at Leflore County but then trapped at hospital along with the SNCC people until 1am as cars of armed whites blocked all roads leading out of hospital. FBI, local police, highway patrol and sheriff refused to give them protection for three hours as they waited inside hospital.

A group of 10-15 project workers handing out Freedom Registration on congested Negro business street prompted at least 3 incidents. Three whites approached Eli Zeretsky, took clipboard and tore up FR forms. Police stood by and refused to act unless Z. knew assailant's name and filed complaint with a judge. A volunteer was jumped from behind and hit on head; police refused aid. Another volunteer was threatened by local whites while police again stood by.

A shot was fired at the home of Silas McGee.

CANTON - 300 attended open air county convention of the Freedom Democratic Party, 102 of whom were voting delegates elected at the precinct level.

HATTIESBURG - Reported that home of two FDP local leaders bombed last night between 1 and 4 am. Porch and door of home of Mr. and Mrs. Boyd burned; broken whiskey bottle found indicating type of "malotov cocktail".

RULEVILLE - Rock smashed portion of windshield of local Negro housing civil rights workers. Car was parked in his yard.

DREW - Affidavit received today from parent of one of the Negro children arrested after a July 15 rally. Drew mayor and city attorney called a meeting of the parents at which they were told unless the children signed a statement disavowing association with "the communists coming into town," defense would not be provided for them. According to the affidavit, city attorney Townsend called Congressman Don Edwards (D-Calif.) a communist and said Edwards had been "Castro's secretary."

CLARKSDALE - Bottle thrown through office window July 24. Three white men were arrested today when they returned to the scene and a local Negro who witnessed the event reported them to police who were at that time investigating. No charge known. They paid \$11.

RULEVILLE - Police broke up conversation between Rabbi Arthur Levine and two local whites for the second time here. Levine was sitting in the couple's car talking with them.

LEXINGTON - It was reported from Canton that a local volunteer, James Dennis, was arrested July 24 while fishing. He was charged with expired license, etc.; paid \$15 fine. While in jail he is reported to have seen a local white man severely beaten by the police. He also reported a Negro, involved in an auto accident, was lying on a mattress wet with blood, both arms and both legs broken with open wounds, denied hospital treatment or visitors.

HATTIESBURG - Reported that the husband of Mrs. Victoria Jackson Gray was arrested for drunken disorderliness July 24.

COLUMBUS - Precinct meeting of FDP in north Columbus.

McCOMB - Two bombs thrown at Charles Bryant's home. As first bomb thrown from passing car, Mrs. Bryant fired at car with shotgun; car had passed by once before. When car's light approached third time, Mr. B. grabbed his wife's gun, ran outside but was knocked to ground by force of second bomb explosion before he had time to fire. The car fired into the Bryant living room, shots travelled 12-15 feet across room, embedded in wall. Bryant has been active in movement many years; brother is NAACP head there.

About 50 people attended voter registration rally at Bryant's pasture that afternoon.

BATESVILLE - A home in which five civil rights workers were living was tear gas bombed at lam. Sheriff and deputy arrived 30 minutes later, found army-type grenade still hot, handled it so that FBI arriving later found it covered with fingerprints of police. Sheriff addressed Mr. Robert Miles (owner of house) by his first name. Grenade exploded behind house, tear gas blew in windows forcing occupants to leave.

MILESTON - Half a mile from the site of the new permanent community center being constructed, a SNCC car was burned, the interior gutted. Car was parked in front of home of Mr. David Howard who houses two summer volunteers.

Volunteer John Allen was approached in a store here by two whites who asked where he lived. When he pointed to the community center, they went to their car, each pulled a pistol from the trunk, put them in their belts, came back to Allen and told him they would "find out what was going on" when they "came back."

CANTON - It was learned that the Church Council of Canton (white Presbyterian Churches) voted in June to keep all summer civil rights workers from attending services. Rev. Harvison of the First Presbyterian took exception and admitted volunteers until today. Today white summer volunteers Peter Praetz and Richard Schwartz were turned away by three white men who told them they had "caused too much dissension in the church." At the First Methodist Church, white volunteers Bill Monnie, Dorothy Harris, Mike Piore and Bill Carney were refused attendance for the third week in a row. As they left the church today, a group assembled around their car, shoved them into the car forcibly, and slammed the door with such force the window cracked. Their car was followed to destination by pick-up truck carrying a Mr. Steve Rimmer who last week had been close to the scene of the beating of volunteers.

MAYERSVILLE (Issaquena County) - Precinct meeting at Moon Lake Baptist Church which owner of plantation across the street, A.E. Scott, had threatened to burn if anymore civil rights meetings were held there.

SIMPSON COUNTY - County meeting held here - considered dangerous county.

MOUND BAYOU - Reported through Shaw that white man threatened white volunteers working here.

WEST POINT - Reported today that two people went to courthouse July 22, were turned away and armed guards were placed there as if expecting large groups to return. They went back and took test on third try. Two more went down next day, no trouble.

JACKSON - Twelve white men with metal chain and a pipe appeared to be about to attack a car of lawyers and CORE workers at the Dog & Suds drive-in here. The car was kicked once and the chain raised, but no further incidents followed - the car left.

NATCHEZ - Police complained to SNCC workers here because a bomb threat had not been reported to them!

CLARKSDALE - Project workers started to work Friar's Point and Jones Town. Local response was good; whites started to drive by threatening.

HOLLY SPRINGS - Reported that police "shake-down" restaurants here after 10 pm. When they shake-down the places, they search "everyone."

HATTIESBURG - A permanent civic-political organization emerged from the county convention here today.