

M King

INCIDENT SUMMARY--JULY 31, 1964

Brandon: The Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church, located on old Highway 80, approximately 3 miles from Brandon, burned to the ground last night. The fire department came to the scene and left before the fire was put out, stating they had "been called too late." A butane tank was buried next to the church. The wooden frame building burnt to the ground. FBI began investigating the burning as soon as notified.

Carthage: The Reverend Edward K. Heininger, a National Council of Churches volunteer from De Moines, Iowa, and John Polacheck, a summer volunteer from Milwaukee and a Harvard student, were brutally beaten in the office of a Dr. Thaggard, Sr. in Madden (small town near Carthage) today. Polacheck had gone to the clinic yesterday (July 30) for medical treatment, but left when he was told to go to the Negro waiting room (he is white). He came back today with the minister, and both were met in the waiting room by the doctor who began berating Heininger for his civil rights work. While they were talking, Heininger was hit from behind. Polacheck estimates that between 5 and 10 men beat them for approximately 5 minutes. Heininger reported that the doctor pushed him from the front into the punches of his assailants. Heininger was knocked unconscious, suffered severe injury to the left eye with possible internal injury to the eye, severe lacerations of the scalp and face, contusions on the back of the neck, a bad cut on the left ear, and a swelling of the mouth and lips with possible injury to the gums. Polacheck got to their car parked outside the clinic, and pulled in the minister who was on his back outside the car. One of several whites standing around the car grabbed the car keys. A deputy sheriff arrived, handcuffed Heininger and Polacheck and jailed them for disturbing the peace: the doctor had reported they had used profanity. They were released on cash bond of \$100 each after being brought to the station in a non-officially marked pick-up truck and car. Trial is scheduled for August 27.

Meridian: A 22-year old white summer volunteer, Richard Swanson, was arrested for reckless driving and speeding. A Seattle resident and University of Washington student, Swanson was not informed of the charges until after being held at the police station under arrest. At the station he was questioned as to whether he was "sure" what his race is, and was hit on the hand when reached for the ticket to see what charges were being placed against him.

Greenwood: Twenty-one year old Silas McGhee, Greenwood resident, and summer volunteer John L. Paul, 21, of Ossing, New York, were arrested for driving with an improper vehicle license although both cars had temporary 7-day Tennessee license tags. Negro SNCC worker Monroe Sharp reported the arrests to the Greenwood SNCC office over the car radio and was then himself arrested for resisting arrest. The two drivers were held for \$50 bail and Sharp for \$100.

Batesville: Three shots were fired late at night past the home of Batesville Negro citizen Robert Miles, who houses five summer project volunteers. On July 26 the Miles home was tear gas bombed at 1 a.m. A local white has reportedly threatened to kill Miles if he does not oust the voter registration workers.

Shaw: Three white summer volunteers were made to leave the McEvens High School Cafeteria, where they had been invited to a fund-raising supper at the Negro high school. They were warmly received by the students and the supervising teacher, but were told by Principal Earl Altheimer they must first secure permission of the superintendent in order to enter the school. One volunteer commented that the incidents are "excellent demonstrations of the fact that not only Negroes but whites also are not free in Mississippi.

Ruleville: Precinct meetings