

October 15, 1964

WATS REPORT-----BOND/MOREY-----JACKSON, MISS.

Belzoni--4 JAILED FOR CRIMINAL SYNDICALISM

At 5:45 pm, four SNCC field secretaries were arrested for criminal syndicalism while walking down Railroad Street. There were not passing out leaflets, but each had with them a MFDP leaflet. In this downtown Negro section, a police car pulled over and told them Chief Nicholson wanted to talk with them. They refused to enter the car, and were told they were under arrest. Robert Bass called from the jail. Trial will be Monday, October 19, at ten or two pm. Bond may be \$1000.

William Ware, Minn. Minnesota, Robert Bass, Ellis Jackson and Joe Louis Stigler wer the arrestees. They are all Negro. Bass and Stigler are on SNCC staff.

Attorney Ben Smith is taking the case. He will try to remove it. And also to get federal bail set. Betty Garman should wait before should wait before sending bail money or contact another souce, since it is a good situation.

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There will be a state wide project directors meeting (SNCC and CORE) at Mileston Community Center, Sunday at 11 am. Agenda is to 1. plan a statewide staff meeting for Mississippi. 2. to deal with the legal situation, 3. the staff counsel problem and 4. for the Freedom Vote.

Valeta Chase, financial secretary for Jackson COFO, is leaving. They will need a replacement.

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The legal office in Jackson, Miss. needs a WATS line. His bill for one month was \$600.

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OCTOBER 16, 1964-----WATS REPORT-----RUST/STOVALL

Drew Pearson is going to bail out 15 local people in McComb that were arrested on Criminal Syndicalism. He is doing it as a dedication for his former secretary, Margaret Laughrun, who is teaching literacy in Batesville, Miss. It will be sent directly to the sheriff. He thinks this could be turned into a revolving bail fund working through the NAACP to get the bail back and revolving.

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Don Hamer arrested in Chula, Miss. Rust/Stovall  
He was returning from an action group meeting in Lexington, Miss., and was stopped by Patrolman Moody. Asked to see liscence. He was then told to get into police car and for the other 4 boys, who were with him, to get out and walk home. Hamer is white and the 4 others were local Negroes. Car has been impounded and Hamer is in Lexington jail. Will find out this morning what bail, etc., is. He was arrested for improper lights.

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Water ways Experiment Company in Vicksburg, Miss., are going to try and collect books to replace those ruined in the Vicksburg bombing.

HOLLY SPRINGS - Two crosses burned Friday night, October 16, in the town of .....  
NEWVALBANY, UNION COUNTY - At the Nathan Sloan house. He had registered to vote about a week ago. Two crosses were burned in New Albany in September, at a funeral home and at the home of a white minister. This man's church was burned. The minister had some contact with Negro ministers and had attended a meeting at Rust College in Holly Springs.

MARKS - Three or four people were standing by a car in Lambert, scene of recent attempts at voter and Freedom Registration on October 20. A pickup truck with two elderly men drove up, they got out, asked what they were doing. They were told "We don't want any Freedom Riders in the area," and that they wanted them out of town in five minutes. As they were ready to leave anyway, they did, but are preparing to go back on the 21st. The truck followed them up the street as they tried to pick up a kid registering someone. The truck stopped again and refused ~~xxxx~~ the COFOers of being about to attack them. One white said he was a constable (no name).

J. D. Powell is out of jail. His case was dropped for lack of evidence.

Lambert people are: J. D. Powell, James Phipps, Stanford Brown, Chicago Frank Morris, Stanford (?), Joe Bateman.

TCHULA - Radio truck followed, stopped by hy-way patrol for speeding. They proceeded to Greenwood and Ruleville. Outside Ruleville, a patrolman followef them and therefore they did not stop in Ruleville. They went to Greenville and while coming back to Jackson were stopped in Itta Bena. They were not speeding. They paid \$14.00 fine to JP there. Back safe to Jackson. Driven by Bruce Gordon and Walt Shepard.

MARKS - Frank Morris was stopped by police. No other information. 14 Lambert forms were filled out today.

MARK, MISSISSIPPI 6:20 pm

Frank Morse, 20, White Freedom Vote volunteer from Stanford was forced off the road and beaten tonight. Four local white men in a pickup truck stopped him and forced him to drive down the road to "talk about civil rights" He was driving around looking for a mailbox. The men beat him then three of them held him and the other one urinated on him. The incident was reported to the local police and the Jackson FBI.

GREENWOOD Mary Varela/Jackson?EPIN

Notes have been received by many local Negroes telling them to watch out for Halloween. Mary thinks we should be warned to expect danger that night..perhaps a bombing or two and does not want the local press and cops to be able to write it off as a prank.

MCCOMB - Civil rights leaders in McComb expressed doubt that eleven men indicted by the Pike County Grand Jury on charges of illegal use of explosives will be convicted. A joint statement by Mrs. Aylene Quinn, whose house was bombed ~~XXXXXX~~ September 20, and who spoke to Pres. Johnson at the White House, and SNCC worker Jesse Harris, said: "After the trials tomorrow and Friday, we think that these people are going to go home free. We don't think that they are being to be convicted according to the Mississippi Code of Justice. We think that bombings in the SW are going to start all over again. There is the possibility that some body will get killed. The Pike County Grand Jury meets Friday morning in Magnolia at 9 to continue the trial of ~~XXXXXX~~ Ernest Zeeck, a white store employee who was one of the first four indicted.

MOULTRIE, GEORGIA - Herman Kitchens has been arrested in Moultrie. Police say there has been gambling in the SNCC house there. His bond is \$79. Reverend Wells was to speak there last night. (October 20)

Police had been patrolling the SNCC house all day. Albany only has \$12.

INDIANOLA - James Dann, was getting clothes from his car in front of 216 Byas Street here at 9:10. Two Negro women were sitting in the back seat of a white man's car who had come to pick them up. "Are you moving out" white man asked. "No, we're moving in." "You sob," the white man said, jumping from the car, knocked Dann down, punched and kicked him in the face. Scattergood, on the porch, called police and then returned outside to aid Dann. The white man pulled a knife, ran at Scattergood, who ran into the house. Scattergood or someone got the tag, Sunflower County, U 7829 Police came 15 minutes later, and said they would start checking. Chief requested Dann come for a personal talk. Later, Dann and Scattergood went to the FBI office and filed an affidavit. Dann, Venice, California (614 .... Canal) They expect an arrest to be made today. FBI agent Redmond contacted.

INVERNESS - Cliff Vaughs beaten on the night of October 20. The assailant was 230 lbs, six feet tall. Vaughs was hit four or five times after being asked "Are you one of them, where are your white friends". A highway patrol car was present, at the junction of 49W and 82 where the beating occurred, but crept away, rather than doing anything. When Cliff did not fight back, the man broke off the antenna on his ~~XXXXXX~~ car, the station attendant had called this man over. Agent Cullen of the FBI has been contacted.



WATS REPORT OCT. 16-17

12:15 am

NATCHEZ Eugene Rouse and Janet Jennott/Betty Gorman

A white man called Natchez Freedom House at 12:10 am Atlanta time to say that they would be blown up in 5 minutes. He called Janet "black sons of bitches" because he doesn't like what they are doing.

In the afternoon police stopped Eugene Rouse, just checking on Natchez project cars.

Chico Neblett put new tags on his car; police gave Chico a ticket for improper tags. There were three local kids in the car, age 12 to 15. They were taken to the police station and held for questioning. Janet called the police, who said "We are not holding anyone," but this doesn't necessarily mean they are out. (Atlanta called the police station. The police said they'd been released and that "You people jump to conclusions too fast.")

2:10 am

Andy Rust/Betty Gorman

JACKSON. There was radio jamming between 11:30 and 3pm.

VALLEY VIEW had "visitors" who shone spotlights on the house.

Via Jackson (Hunter Morey)/Judy Richardson 6:30pm

MARKS See previous report on Mrs. Daisy Campbell's arrest, Oct. 14. She is now charged with insulting the registrar. Mrs. Campbell went to register. The registrar, Mrs. Evens, told her she couldn't register because she hadn't paid her poll tax. (This is irrelevant to registering.) At that point Mrs. Campbell pulled out her poll tax receipt. The registrar began to insult Mrs. Campbell, who broke down into tears.

Mrs. Campbell was in jail on charges of insulting the registrar. She paid \$21 to get out. She is cool toward COFO and wouldn't let them pay it. This report comes from Rev. Carter in Marks.

CANTON George Raymond (CORE) was arrested for interfering with an officer. This happened around 3:15pm. He was looking into the matter of Bill Forsythe getting a parking ticket. When George pulled up behind Bill, he got the same kind of ticket. The policeman then told George to leave, and he drove away. After a short distance he was arrested for interfering. George is still in jail on \$500 bond. The project feels it can raise the bond locally.

MILESTON Project directors, FDP County Chairmen, and all the people going to the dedication of the Community Center are meeting tomorrow. Call the Justice Department.



Wats Report-----Oct. 18-19, 1964

Mike Thelwell/James Bond

DEDICATION OF HOLMES COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER MARK BY DOUBLE ARREST  
IN MILESTON, MISSISSIPPI

2 COFO workers were arrested at the opening and dedication of the of the newly erected Community Center in Mileston, Miss, which is located in the heart of the Delta. 23 year old SNCC worker, Stokley Carmichael, director of the COFO Delta project, was arrested while crossing the highway in front of the Community Center by State Highway patrolman R. E. Moody. John Allen, white COFO worker from Kingston, Rhode Island, was arrested when he attempted to photograph Carmichael's arrest. Carmichael was charged with interfering with an officer, blocking the highway and disobeying an officer. Allen was charged with interfering with an officer. Bond has been set \$100 a peice. The incident occurred at 1:30 P.M. (Miss. time) just prior to the opening ceremonies at the Community Center. Carmichael was walking across the highway when he was accosted by patrolman Moody who said, "Hey boy, get out of the str street." When Carmichael replied that his name was not boy he was arrested. Allen had his camera seized and was dragged over to the patrol car by highway patrolman Palmtree when he tried to photograph the incident. The arrests were witnessed by a group of SNCC workers who were in Mileston for the dedication of the Community Center. Both men are being held at Tchula city jail. Two cars from the Miss. Highway patrol patrolled the highway in front of the Community Center all during the ceremonies.

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Jackson, Mississippi-----CAR MISSING

Bob Weil/B. Jones

10:45--A caf with four volunteers down for the freedom vote seems to be missing. At 4:00 or 4:30 a white 1962 V.W. with Miss. plates LA1747 left Jackson for Greenville. In the car was Dixon Fiske, Phil Setzer, Marjorie Theeman and John Smollens. The car was told to go through Vicksburg and out of the state and re-enter at Greenville. Phil Setzer called the Jackson office at 9:00 collect but was cut off before Jackson could find where the call was from. Volunteers were told to call the office collect in the event of an emergency. The Louisiana Highway patrol was called in New Orleans and reported that there had been no accidents involving that type of car. Bill Hansen was called and said that if it was necessary he would drive down the route that they were to have taken. Jackson called at 11:30 and was becoming quite worried and asked that Atlanta call the Justice Department and the FBI. At 11:35 the Memphis FBI was called. They said to call Jackson office, (Agent Kirby Fudge). At 11:40 John Dpar was called in Washing. Atlanta was told that he was in Alabama. All attempts to reach him there were in vain. At 11:50 the New Orleans FBI was called. At 11:55 Jackson called to say that the people had been located in Shaw, Miss. but could give no reason why the people were there.

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WATS REPORT/OCTOBER 16, 1964

JACKSON - Ron Bailey/stovall - Vanguard of 150 out of state volunteers for the Freedom Democratic Party's Freedom Vote will arrive in Jackson on Sunday. They will join 250 regular workers for the Council of Federated Organizations in canvassing the entire state for votes in the November 3 protest election. Some 50 volunteers are expected to arrive this Sunday, will 100 more on the following Sunday. The FDP is sponsoring the freedom vote which will enable all Mississippi voting age people to case their ballots October 30 through November 2. Polling places will be set up in barber shops, churches and mobile voting units. State Freedom Democratic Party chairman, Lawrence Guyott, said: "We want all Mississippians, Negro and white, to be able to case their ballots. This is a protest vote, and we want the people to have a real choice." On the freedom ballot will be the candidates of the regular ballot plus four candidates of the Freedom Party who were barred from the regular ballot.

Aaron Henry for Senator; Mrs. Hamer for Congress from the second district; Mrs. Annie Devile for congress from the fourth district, and Mrs. Victoria Gray from the fifth district. Guyott said that after the freedom vote the FDP intendes to file a federal court suit challenging the seating of Mississippi congressmen on the grounds of discriminatory voting procedures. The FDP also will ask the Democratic caucuses in both houses of congress to strip Mississippi representatives of their seniority privileges. The FDP has already freedom registered 75,000 voters using a simplified form that eliminates literacy and constitutional interpretation requirements..... AP and UPI in Jackson notified by Bailey.

GREENWOOD - Rust/stovall - \_\_\_\_\_ Jacqueney was stopped when crossing a boad construction and the car stalled. They (Jacqueney and Mrs. Victoria Gray) were about to be permitted to go on when a policeman asked who owned the car. The answer given was Mrs. Gray. Then they saw the Gray bumper sticker and the sheriff held a conference and arrested Jacqueney for reckless driving. He was pushed around because he insisted on calling Mrs. Gray "Mrs." Policemen were R. W. Palmurtree, badge 39, and W. D. Robinson, badge 48.



8:30 p.m.

PASCAGOULA (Tammy Cole/lampe) -- A cross was burned here last night sticks in the form of a cross placed on the car of a man who evidently has no connection with the Movement.

CHARLESTON (Tammy Cole/lampe) -- CASTRATION REPORT UNTRUE  
Joe Lewis Hail was not castrated as rumored (see WATS 10-12-64). His health is fine though he was hit once. Charges on him were changed to resisting arrest and breach of peace; today in court he was fined \$25 plus \$15 costs; money should arrive in time for his release tonight. Though Hail evidently had no connection with the Movement, his family is now angered and two brothers plus a sister have become interested in working with the Movement.

BELZONI (Tammy Cole/lampe) -- The case against Albert Lee here (see WATS 10-3-64) has been dropped. He had been charged with threatening a Negro policeman who beat his son, Joe. Joe is still in jail.

PHILADELPHIA (Tammy Cole/lampe) -- The new COFO phone number here is 654-9998.

MARKS (Tammy Cole/lampe) -- A cheque for \$1250 arrived here today to provide bonds for Goodner, the Abbott brothers and Powells (see WATS 10-12-64). Lawyer Nier will try to bail them out tomorrow at 8 a.m.

JACKSON (Tammy Cole/lampe) -- WORKER'S FATHER REPORTED KILLED  
It is reported that Jerry Wingate was shot and killed by a Negro woman here at about 1 a.m. today. He is the father of McComb civilrights worker Jerry Wingate, Jr., who rushed to Jackson today. The woman has not yet been arrested.

MCCOMB (John Wilkins/lampe) -- Sixteen charged with criminal syndicalism remain in jail here on \$500 bond for a total of \$8000. Two others have been released on bond posted by family or friends.

11:30 p.m.

JACKSON (Tammy Cole/lampe) -- JIMMY ROSS JAILED  
Jimmy Ross - project director at Mound Bayou - was picked up at the Jackson State Fair here tonight on a profanity charge. Bond \$100; hearing tomorrow 4 p.m.



WATS LINE REPORT

OCTOBER 19, 1964

Via Jackson , Miss. Rust/Stovall

James Dann was beaten in Indiano-a, Miss., on Byas Street in front of where he lives. Dann was getting clothes out of car at 216 Byas Street at 9:10 am. 2 Negro women were siting in back seat of a car driven by a white man who had come to pick them up. The white man asked, "Are you moving out? No, we are moving in, James said. The white man replied you sonobitch and then jumped from the car and hit James in face after knocking him down. Charles Scattergood then came out of the house. The man pulled knife on Charles and started to run at him. Charles then ran into the house. Police was called by Scattergood as soon as he saw the man attacking James. It took 15 minutes for police to get there. 5 cars of white men begin to pass the house, more traffice than usual. Police said they will try to find man. The liscense no. was Sunflower County U7829. Police chief called and asked James to come down. So police came later to take him to see the chief. FBI was notified.

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SELMA, ALA. Love/Stovall

60 People were able to register here at the Selma County court house in Selma, Ala. today was the last day of registration.

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BELZONI, MISS.-----via Jackson, Miss. Rust/Stovall

John Smith called today and said trial had been held. Bond was set a at \$1000 dollars. It was the trial of Bass and Bill Ware. Ware had been struck while in jail by a highway patrolman.

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McCOMB, MISS.-----via Jackson, Miss. Wendy/Richardson

Some type of preliminary hearing with no paper men was held today. The regular trial of the men arrested on conspiracy charge will be held tomorrow at 9:00 am and another trial on Friday at 9:00 am against Ernest Veek (maybe misspelled) accused of bombing Mrs. Quinn's home. and her two kids, ages 4 and 9 have been subpoenaed to appear.

STATEMENT FROM McCOMB: JESSE AND MRS. QUINN

"after the trial tomorrow and Friday, we think that these people are going to go home free. We don't think they are going to be convicted according to the Mississippi court of justice. We think that the bombings in the area are going to start all over again. There is a possibility that somebody might be killed."

"Today at the courthouse all the people who were being held for conspiracy and bombing were being treated like heroes or kings returning from war. They were congratulated and patted on the back by everyone, including the jury."

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HOLLY SPRINGS, MISS. Via Jackson-----Wendy Richardson  
Two crosses were burned in one of the counties that Cleveland Sellers works. Headquarters are Holly Springs, Miss. On October 16, in New Albany, Miss in Union County, one was burned in the front of Nathan Sloan's house. He had registered to vote about a week ago. Other one was burned in Union County but no name was given because Cleve wanted to talk to the man first to find out his connection with the movement. In September, 2 more were burned: 1 in front of Beasley Funeral Home in New Albany. Couldn't find apparent reason for bombing since they are not connected with the movement. The District Superintendent of the Methodist Church also had one burned on his lawn. This man's church was also bombed in Benton County. Minister attended meeting at Rust College and had some contact with the minister in Holly Springs, Miss. We only have his word that this is true.

## WATS REPORTS

OCTOBER 25-26, 1964

## FREEDOM DAY IN MERIDIAN

The Meridian COFO Office announced plans to hold a Freedom Day on October 29, 1964. Freedom Day, held by many COFO projects throughout Miss., is a special day on which COFO projects try to register large numbers of Negroes to vote. Meridian plans for Mrs. Fannie Lou Cheney, mother of James Cheney, one of three civil rights workers slain in Neshoba this summer, to head a line of Negroes at the Meridian courthouse. They will enter the Registrar's office and try to register to vote. Mr. Floyd McKissick, National Chairman of CORE, one of the groups comprising COFO, will be in Meridian on the 29th as observer. Ten percent of the twelve thousand eligible Negroes of Meridian and Lauderdale County are registered to vote. According ~~###~~ to the Congressional Quarterly, Meridian's Freedom day will be held one day before the opening of FDP's Freedom Vote. A protest mock vote in which Mississippians of voting age will be able to demonstrate support for the Negro candidates of the FDP who are not on the regular ballot.

## INDIANOLA, MISS. 8:15 pm

A small plane crop duster type, started buzzing the Indianola Freedom School. On the first pass, the plane dropped a flare, and on the next, it dropped "something that exploded" and made a "large blast." No apparent damage and no one was injured. The plane made four more passes, then flew off. A car with three whites, a 53 white pontiac, was parked 100 yards from the Freedom School, drove off following the explosion. Wynn is certain the plane and not car is responsible for the blast. Two Negro cops were present at the meeting. They notified Indianola police. Wynn reports that near July the Freedom school was buzzed by a crop duster, which he can recognize if he ever sees it again. There were 250 people at the mass meeting.

Two new kids in Marks, Miss., Frank Morris and J. Harris, ~~###~~ from Stanford, California, have been reporting to their college paper, releasing a rumor involving the murder of a young Negro found near Ruleville. Bennett, from Marks, Miss., is a teenager. His body was found in a river near Ruleville on Thursday or Friday. Buried Saturday. Cousins say body was cut up. Stanford daily news has it as a fact. They also reported this as being true. (the FBI agent there refuses to shake hands with Negroes.)



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ALL COFO STAFF ARRESTED IN MCCOMB, MISS.

3pm, 3 COFO workers, Earnestine Bishop, Karen Pate and Jessie Harris were arrested for operating a food handling establishment without a permit. They were release on \$100 bond each. Will appwar in court at 7:30 am Monday. They were arrested at ~~by~~ the McComb Freedom House, which is located at 702 Wall Street. The Freedom House which house the three and other COFO workers in ~~the house~~ McComb is the establishment police say is being used as "a food handling establishment." COFO ~~sees~~ contends that the house is used solely to lodge the COFO staff. John Smith called at 7:40. All COFO staff has been arrested. No details yet. The above mentioned three were not re-arrested. Frank Hardman of the Jackson Medical committee in McComb contacted Dr. Wynans of the state board of health in McComb for comments. He said, "His only concern was ~~the~~ to protect the health of the people in the community and he hoped COFO would cooperate.

The arrestees were John Wilkins, Ark., Marshall Ganz, Calif., Dennis Sweeney, Oregon, J. V. Smith, Ill., William ~~Poff~~ Powell, England, Candy Brown, L.A., Nancy Jervis, N.Y., Ursula Junk, Germany, Rev. Henry Bowie, N. J., Rev. Paul Long, NCC, and a Warrant is out for Cephas Hughes and Joe Harrison. They have been at the COFO office waiting but the police have not arrived to pick them up. Rev. Paul Long of Rochester N.Y. was jailed for distributing leaflets without a permit. His bail is \$50. Rev. Long is being raised in the community. All those ~~in~~ in jail have been released. bail was put up by Drew Pearson.

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7 ARRESTED DISTRIBUTING LEAFLETS ABOUT FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY VOTE

Henry Parks, Darthmouth, Benjamin Brown, Clarksdale, Owen Gillon, Tougaloo, Robert T. Smith, Mac Arthur Cotton, Tougaloo, Margaret Burnham, Jackson. Bond is \$100 dollars each.

WATS REPORT-----OCTOBER 28, 1964

14 arrested for contempt of court in McComb, Mississippi during Freedom Day

The people left the office at 8:00 am and arrived at the courthouse at 9:30 am. They were met by officials, 4 patrolman and policemen at the courthouse. A courthouse order requiring the registrar to be out of the office today was read to the people. The people and officials then negotiated for about 15 minutes and were then arrested. The following were arrested:

Jesse Harris, Lou Ellyn Kimmerle, Dr. Walter Mehl, Tom Forster, Fred Cornell, Dick Sterndergur, Mindy Samstein, Bob Beech, Claphus Hughes, Rosie Sims, Miss Alyene Quin, and Mrs. White. They were held for contempt of court.

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COLUMBUS, MISS. via Jackson-----Wendy/Jones

Howard Shulman is a Freedom Voter volunteer is 25 from New York was arrested at 6:45 at Wayne Wooldrige grocery store, located 201 23rd Street. Shulman was talking to a group of Negroes about attending the mass meeting held that night in Columbus. Two policemen in the police car pulled up and searched him and then two more policemen pulled up and took him to the Columbus city jail. The COFO people called twice but couldn't get any more information except that he was there. Hery Aaronson called from Jackson and talked to Officer Graham, who told him that he was being held for investigation but would give no charges and no bail has been set. The lawyers and FBI have been notified.

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Batesville, Miss.

Chris Williams was in the bedroom when a car came down the road and a lot of firecrackers went off. He went to the front door and a blue car was seen going down the road very slowly. He then saw a white chevy. The white car was coming around the building where the project car was parked. As the car left, more firecrackers went off. Then the car drove across the front lawn and another bunch of firecrackers went off. The two cars drove up the road together and near the church further down the street, there was a lot of noise, possibly gun shots. Then both cars drove off and more firecrackers were heard. The sheriff was call and he arrived in 8 minutes and then went off to investigate. The klan held a meeting there last week, a fairly reliable source said.

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