

Biloxi: Ed Hamlet

The white community project is progressing well. There are now about 18 people in Biloxi. One worker was sent to Vicksburg to answer questions of the many local whites who would come into the office there. Another, is in Meridian, and 8 or 9 are in Jackson.

In Biloxi they are making contacts with ~~the~~ union leadership and with moderates in the business community and ministers. Whenever possible they go to peoples homes to discuss COFO programs. Most of the whites seem to believe that workers are down primarily to demonstrate, so the COFO program is explained.

The project people have had very little harrassment, though the manager and owner of the ~~Riviera~~ Riviera Hotel where they are staying, have been pressured by the Klan, the sheriff, and the Birchers. They have come by the hotel and spoken with both. The Hotel is theoretically integrated (if a Negro tried to register he could, but none have) but the only Negroes that have been there are people who have visited project people. The manager and owner have not asked project people to leave, but they are planning on ~~raising~~ raising rent. The group had planned on moving out for other reasons, however.

The project people have maintained some contact with the COFO project in the Negro community, but they find that if they spend too much time there the local whites they work with are sceptical as to whether they are really working in the white community. They therefore try to keep their contact minimal. When they first moved into Biloxi the Klan knew of their presence and affiliations within three days, so they decided to work completely openly, and an article about the project appeared in the Biloxi papers. (a similar article was carried in the Jackson paper as well).

Mailing address for Ed Hamlet and Sam Shirah is: P.O.B. 362, Biloxi, Miss.

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Clarksdale: from Greenwood

A beer bottle was thrown through the front window of the Freedom House in Clarksdale last night. Police and FBI are checking the bottle for fingerprints.

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Greenwood:

Last night, ~~Tom~~ Tom Harris, 32, Greenwood, was returning from the hospital and was noticed by a group of white boys and chased five blocks. He was not injured in any way, however.

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Ruleville: from Greenwood

At 11pm last night a rock was thrown through the ~~the~~ window of a car belonging to Mr. Joe Townsend. Townsend is the brother of Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer and has been housing ~~summer~~ summer workers.

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Dawson, Georgia: from Joyce Barrett

~~Herman~~ Herman Kitchen, Dawson, was arrested yesterday after he had been with a group which tested the Town and Tourist in Dawson. The restaurant was closed down when Rev. Welles, Kitchen and about 3 or 4 others went there. The police refused to give any information about Kitchen's whereabouts at first, but then admitted to having him and said they had picked him up because he owed a fine on a charge from last year. ~~He was bonded July 24 today.~~ Rev. Welles called the FBI and JD when the police refused to give any information about Kitchen. He was bonded out today.