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New Orleans, La.

May 13, 1964

An impromptu report on recent events in Canton, Miss.

As of 5-12-64 the Weinbergers had not received their copy of the sales tax permit from the state govt. They had previously gotten one for their shop at the Canton Freedom House, 838 Lutz Ave., but ~~the~~ their business permit was denied by the city authorities. They then sought to get the permit for their shop in a building in rural Madison county. When they get the state permit (actually just an agreement to pay state sales tax) they will then have to apply to the County for a permit to do business. They are concerned about not having yet received the state permit for the new address.

Scott Smith is in the Veterans Hospital in Jackson with a seriously infected foot. He says the infection ~~is~~ may have resulted in a cut he got in the county jail in Canton. At any rate he seems to have neglected it and there is a possibility that ~~his~~ his foot may have to be amputated. This seems strange, that he would have let it reach that point, for a person who was a medic in the military.

During the week of May 4 a phone call came to the Canton Freedom House from a man purporting to represent the Klan who said they were going to burn the House down. About three weeks earlier the owner of the land and building had his fire insurance on the Freedom House cancelled. He had the policy paid up and no reason was given. The owner is George Washington (see earlier reports for his troubles) and he owns a lot of property in Canton and presumably carries fire insurance on all of them but the policy covering the Freedom House was the only one cancelled.

On Thursday May 7 a man in a white hood and cape drove by the Freedom House. ~~Thensasondztime~~ during the evening. The second time he drove by that evening neighborhood children spotted him and shouted "there he is, there he is" and started running after the car. The driver who was apparently alone in the car fired a pistol shot back towards the car but obviously intending not to hit them. Observers say the bullet kicked up dirt in the road about 20 yards behind the car whereas the children were over 50 yards behind the car.

Matt Suarez was arrested in rural Madison County outside the Southern Hill Baptist church on highway 16 on Tuesday May 5, and the same evening also arrested was Hattie Palmer. The rather complicated situation is this: Suarez drove to the church but found the driveway blocked by a car (later known to be a police car), he parked somewhat illegally on the side of the road while he went inside the church to ask the owner of the car to move it so he could park. While he was inside the church Hattie Palmer who was with him saw a car coming down the road so she decided to move the car a little to get it further off the road or to what she thought would be a safer place to park it; she doesn't have a drivers license. Suarez was charged with two counts of illegal parking and Palmer for driving without a license. His fine was \$64 and hers \$19. My notes show that he was in jail from Tues to Thurs. and Sat. to Mon. just why that was I don't know.

Sunday night May 10 a volunteer from Hattiesburg Joe Walker was arrested for ~~xxxxxx~~ speeding (which he may have been) and held in jail 4 hours until his \$29 fine was paid. This in Madison Co. also.

Wednesday May 6 at 4 AM Rev. Grady Poullard's car (he's with the NCC and the car is a Hertz, I think from Memphis) was towed away in Canton for improper parking. After he paid a \$25 towing fee and a \$16 ticket and was driving it away he was stopped for having ~~switched~~ "switched tags". I don't believe a determination has yet been made on that case, pending some word from Hertz, or something like that. Another minister was arrested on the same charge for ~~drw~~ driving Rev. Poullard's car. His trial was scheduled for Tues. May 12. His name sounded like Lyle Weible (Rev.).

/Ed Hollander