

SHERIFF PARADES POLICE DOG AT COURT HOUSE

As a group of Negro citizens was attempting to register to vote at the Panola County court house in Batesville, today, Sheriff Earle Hubbard walked into the registration office with a German shepherd dog and stood the dog up on its hind legs to demonstrate its height to the clerk.

Present in the office were Mrs. Colonier Butler, Mrs. Velma King, and Mr. Wolford Thomas. Other witnesses were Greene David Swearengen (age eighteen) and George Leslie (age twenty), volunteer registration workers who were standing in the hall outside the office at the time. All are residents of Batesville.

When Deputy Brewer had seen the Negroes enter the court house he had gone immediately to the jail and returned with the sheriff and the dog. Greene Swearengen saw the sheriff go first to his car and strap on a gun.

While Mrs. Butler, Mrs. King, Mr. T. T. Johnson, and Mrs. Gladys Toliver were attempting to register, several white men - including the sheriff, Deputy Brewer, and the tax assessor J. V. Still - gathered around local volunteers Swearengen and Leslie and began questioning them.

Tax assessor Still, after having explained to the sheriff that Leslie was the "boy" who had brought "them" into the court house, warned Leslie he would be in trouble when the outsiders left at the end of the summer. "Those folks will only be around for a short time, but you have to live here," he added.

The sheriff then asked Leslie for his name, age, address, driver's license, and car registration. Leslie answered all these questions. The sheriff also asked Leslie whether his mother were on welfare and whether he was employed. When Leslie said no, the sheriff turned to the crowd of whites and remarked, "Boy, twenty years old and not working."

Deputy then asked Greene Swearengen his name, age, and address.

Swearengen left the court house when Carl Pomerance of Valley Stream, New York, another voter registration worker, came in to tell him that Deputy Brewer had said to move the car. John Shetterly of Cincinnati, Ohio, another volunteer worker who had brought people to the court house to register that morning, also moved his car.

The group, including prospective voters and volunteers, left around noon when the court house closed.