

PROJECT REPORT\*\* VALLEY VIEW \*\* JUNE 26, 1964

Six summer project volunteers arrived on Sunday, June 21. Five of the volunteers are living in the Freedom House in Valley View. Andrew Green, Hattie Palmer, Gracie Hawthorne are the three staff members assigned to the project.

Sunday was spent getting acquainted with the community—we all attended a mass meeting and church service at St. John's, and introduced ourselves there. Canvassing began on Tuesday, after we straightened up the Freedom House somewhat (saw about getting a stove, refrigerator, phone and plumbing, built additional tables). We attended mass meetings Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings. Attendance was poor at St. John's and Magdeline's. We were told that this was due to CORE's absence from the area for a few weeks, and that next week there would be more people there. On Wednesday night, we tried canvassing and setting up workshops at the mass meetings (after them, rather). This proved somewhat confusing, because there were only two staff people there. However, with enough people there, this should prove effective.

At the mass meeting Sunday night, Green called for a meeting with the men in the community for Monday morning. Eleven men were there—this was considered a good turnout, considering that most of them were working in the fields at that time. The committee being organized is called unofficially a men's organizing committee. Its purpose is to protect the members of the community, since they do feel the need of such protection. Included in the proposals are a relaying communications system from one man to the next, and a phone for the Freedom House. It was also suggested that the mass meetings begin earlier so that they could end by around nine o'clock. There was a second meeting on Wednesday, and additional people came to that one! There were also some women present, who expressed an interest in forming a women's committee. We will continue to talk about the committees at the mass meetings, and sign up more people. Sometime soon the men will be electing a chairman.

Canvassing has been going pretty well. We are handicapped by the lack of cars (and the fact that they keep breaking down), and also we need local people to go with us. Joe Williams has been canvassing with us, and so have some women from Sharon. Three people have been personally escorted to the courthouse, and several more will be on Saturday morning. Quite a few have promised to go by themselves on Saturday. We have also signed up some more students for the Freedom Schools—many students will need transportation to and from the schools. About 40 people have been Freedom registered this week.

**HARRASSMENT:** On Sunday, Nancy, Hattie, and Gracie were invited to dinner with the Nichols. They stopped at a store first, and a white lady working in the store noticed Nancy, and asked about her. The Nichols' home has been watched all week, by white people driving back and forth. Green and some others went out there to stay one evening, but nothing happened. The sherriff drives by the Freedom House now and then.