

July 7, 1964
Freedom School at Asbury Church

- (1) Nancy Cooper
- (2) Sandy Watts
- (3) Nancy Wright
- (4) Richard Schwartz

First day of school

Students began arriving at 9:30 AM.
The final count was 36 students.

I worked on filling out application forms for 15 minutes. School opened with an introduction and brief history of each teacher, and ~~brief~~ general information about the Movement and the purpose of the Freedom School. We then divided up into four groups with each teacher heading a group.

These groups worked separately for about an hour and a half. Within each group was discussed the Civil Rights Movement and how it applied to the students themselves. It was just a period in which we began to be acquainted with each other.

At 11:00 everyone joined in a recreation period which included some ball playing and group singing. At

the end of this period, we all joined hands and sang We Shall Overcome. The benediction was given and the students were dismissed.

After the students left the
four of us adjourned to the Jackson
Luncheon Club and drew up some
organizational plans. We divided the
36 students into four groups of
nine each. We tried to include
at least two leaders in each group
along with a proportionate number
of males and females. Each
group is fairly mixed according to
ages. We felt that some of the
older students should be put with
younger students to try to draw them
into the discussions. These groups
will be the homeroom sections
and will meet for an hour and
15 minutes each day. During
this time each teacher will
include center most of the
discussion and writing around
the Movement. This will include
Negro history, citizenship, creative
writing, conditions in Canton,
water power structure, etc. In
other words it will be left up
to the individual teacher to incorporate
these topics into this session.

After the homeroom sections
are over there will be a
fifteen minute break up to
10:45 A.M. From 10:45 to 12:00
the students will go to special
interest sections. The schedule