

SUNNYVALE STANDARD - June 9, 1964

## SV GIRL REPORTS FROM MISSISSIPPI

Editor's Note: Gretchen Schwarz, 20, of 1358 Franchers Place, Sunnyvale, is working as a volunteer civil rights worker in Mississippi with the Council of Federated Organizations. She is sending special reports to this newspaper from Mississippi.

"All the volunteers in Ruleville have been helping to set up the Freedom School - Community Center here in Ruleville," she reports.

"We've been unloading hundreds of cartons of books, sorting them by subject and reading difficulty, knocking down out-houses nearby, making shelves to hold books and generally working to make the house livable.

"The center is an old house that the local movement is renting. It is a dry wooden structure which needs fire extinguishers to make it safe to live in. The volunteers are all writing home to find people willing to donate fire extinguishers to make the Community-Center - Freedom Schools safe.

"While the work at the center goes on, some of the volunteers have organized kick-ball and frisbee with local children. Some of the Freedom School teachers are collecting popsicle sticks and bottle caps for arts and crafts projects and checker sets. We hope to have the center set up soon and to start Freedom School classes next week.

"Meanwhile the Ruleville Citizenship Club is sponsoring three mass meetings this week. Last week, Williams Chapel, where they are held, was filled each night. The singing at the meeting is loud and participation is enthusiastic.

"A teenage group, the Ruleville Action Group (RAG) which has about 49 members, has helped with voter registration. They are eager for more civil rights activity. They were formed last week.

"Teenagers regularly attend the mass meetings. Some of us voter registration workers think they will be the active leadership of the movement within two or three years.

"A little bit about Ruleville: the town has a mayor-alderman form of government. The mayor handles everything which involves us. There is a volunteer fire department and two full time policemen and a police dog.

"There are two factories in town. One is the Ruleville Manufacturing CO., which makes jackets and insulated underwear. Operation Freedom, an organization dedicated to the economic renewal of areas hit by economic reprisal, brought a quilt making project to the area so that the local women could earn money.

"The ladies used scraps of material from the Ruleville Manufacturing Company until the firm adopted a policy of burning its scraps. The other company, which makes toys, refused to allow the ladies to use their left-over stuffing and also took up a policy of burning all scraps.

"These two firms do not hire Negroes.

"Accurate Negro employment statistics are impossible to get because unemployment is determined by the number of job applicants, yet systematically excluded are Negro applicants for agricultural labor and domestic service."