

[1964]

REPORT - WEEK OF July 6 through 12
Valley View Project

- Monday - Dean and Nancy canvassing in the Pine Grove area, Dave in the office. The canvassing went very well. We spoke to at least two people who had been down to the courthouse before. Four people we spoke to promised to go down to try and register the next day (none of them actually did go). Apparently there has been no canvassing in ~~the~~ the Pine Grove area before - no mass meetings had been held. We met at least two local people who seemed to be in the front line of the freedom fight - Arthur Sutton and Mrs. Annie Slaughter. Mrs. Slaughter tried to register on ~~the~~ Freedom Day. Mr. Sutton registered to vote in Madison County about 12 years ago. He tried to vote in his precinct about 5 years ago, but was turned away by armed white men. Since then, he has not paid his poll tax, and there is some question as to whether or not he is still on the books. He is a deacon of Pine Grove church, and gave us the names of the other deacons, and the pastor. Monday evening there was a mass meeting at St. John's. They set up a time for the precinct meetings to be held (Thursday at 2 pm., after the agricultural meeting).
- Tuesday - Joe and Dave canvassing on foot in Pine Grove area. Nancy and Dean went to pick up people who said they would go down to courthouse - none went. Everyone continued canvassing. Seven people agreed to go down to try and register that afternoon. Dean and Joe took them down - only four got in (the others said they would try again the next day). Two more people said they would go down by themselves during the week. We met three local teenagers who went canvassing with us, and volunteered to go with us anytime. Their names are; Dorothy Green, ~~Sharon~~ Johnnie Ruth VanBuren, and Ot Fierce.
- Wednesday - Nancy, Dave, Dean and Joe Williams canvassing - Joe K. in the office. We picked up Dorothy Van Buren in Pine Grove and went canvassing in the Pleasant Gift area. Dean took Mrs. Green to the courthouse. Canvassing did not go as well as before - no one was willing to become Freedom Registered at that time. Spoke at length to Rev. Perry, pastor of the Pine Grove church. He and his son are both registered voters. Rev. Perry said that he had never voted because he understood from those who had that they were turned away from the polls. He said he would find out if he was still officially registered. Rev. Perry also offered to meet with his deacons about a mass meeting at Pine Grove. The conversation was interrupted for a meeting at Valley View with the Canton staff.
- Thursday - We had no car. We attended the two precinct meetings held at St. John's (which were subsequently voided). Both meetings went extremely well. One precinct elected five delegates and five alternates. The other elected ~~ten~~ delegates with ~~one~~ vote each.

- Friday - Dave and Dean canvassing in the Pleasant Gift area. Nancy in the office. There was a mass meeting at Pleasant Green church - we got information about the churches in the fourth and fifth beats, and precinct boundaries. We set the date for the precinct meeting. Friday night we went to a mass meeting at Mt. Zion - no one there but us. We later found out that there had been some confusion about whether or not there would be a meeting, since there had been none for two weeks.
- Saturday - Dave and Joe Williams canvassing in Farmhaven. Joe K. left for Kansas. Nancy went to Jackson to doctor. Dean in office.
- Sunday - Dave went to church at New True Light, and arranged time for precinct meeting to be held at that church. Nancy and Dean went to church at Pleasant Gift, and arranged a precinct meeting at that church. The pastor, who is from Jackson, was very cooperative. We attended a mass meeting at Pine Grove. Very few adults were present (this might have been due to the fact that we conflicted with two funerals), but there were quite a few teenagers present. They seemed quite interested, and several have gone canvassing with us. The church would be an ideal place for a Freedom School (it even has a separate Sunday school classroom with a blackboard). We set up a Freedom Registration center at the Van Buren's home.

Total Freedom Registered this week ----- 67 people