

[July 13-19, 1964]

REPORT - WEEK OF July 13 through  
Valley View (Rural Madison) Project

Monday - Dean in Canton, Dave and Nancy canvassing in the Mt. Zion area. We stopped to ask the Dawson's for directions, and Mr. Dawson went canvassing with us all day. Mr. Dawson and Mrs. Celia Singleton both suggested that we speak to the deacons about continuing the mass meetings, and about holding the precinct meeting at Mt. Zion, since the church is not insured, and they are afraid it might be bombed. The deacons we spoke to want to have the meetings anyway. We spent much time speaking to a Senior deacon, Thomas Kennedy, who finally filled out a Freedom Registration, but still won't come to the meetings (his endorsement, however, was very significant). There has been a lot of work done in the area, and the precinct meeting should go well. The Mt. Zion mass meetings draw people from a wide area, including Q. Paul. Attendance at the meetings had begun to fall off - one girl said that this was due to the lack of dynamic local leadership.

Joe

Tuesday - Dean, Nancy, ~~Jim~~ Williams, Dave canvassing in the 14th and 15th precincts. Dave and Joe canvassed in 15th, and Nancy, Dean and Frank Washington (local boy who was arrested on Freedom Day) went to find the deacons of Anders Chapel in the 14th precinct. They weren't home, so we came back and the four of us went to the 14th precinct. Joe and Dave canvassed, Dean and Nancy spoke to five of the nine deacons, and a precinct meeting in the 14th precinct was set for Friday, July 24, at 7:30 pm. We met two teenaged girls - the Simpson girls - who went with us to speak to the deacons.

Wednesday - Spent the morning making leaflets for Freedom Democratic Party precinct meetings. Dean, Nancy, Dave went to 10th precinct - picked up Johnnie Van Buren. Spoke to Rev. Perry at Pleasant Gift - he agreed to pass out leaflets, but said that not many from Pine Grove would be able to get to Pleasant Gift in time for the mass meeting there on Sunday. Distributed leaflets in the Rising Chapel area, and along highway 16. Made posters for three stores. Johnnie Van Buren is the registrar for the Pine Grove area - she had registered 11 people since last week.

Thursday - Joe Keesecker arrived from Kansas with his car (!). Joe, Nancy, Dean went to 2nd Precinct. Dave and local person distributed leaflets in Farmhaven. Joe and Dean covered a meeting at the community center - everyone went to mass meeting at Milton Grove that evening. There was very poor attendance (someone said that the meeting conflicted with a game).

Friday - Dave canvassed and distributed leaflets in the 2nd precinct. Dean and Nancy went to Mt. Zion area. We learned that the sheriff had been around the day before (Thursday). He asked at at least two homes (1) where Mt. Zion was located and (2) were any civil rights workers living in the area.

*There was a mass meeting ~~at~~ at Zion - which was almost cancelled because of the Sheriff - It went very well.*

Saturday - The Freedom School teachers said they would help us by going to various churches on Sunday, to make announcements about the precinct meetings. We planned routes so as to hit the most churches, and had a meeting with the teachers to explain the important points. Dean left for Jackson, Richard added.

Sunday - Spent the day at the churches - the plans went well, and several teachers expressed an interest in doing some canvassing, and in returning to the churches. Joe and Richard hit several churches briefly. Dave attended Virgin Mary, Nancy went to Pine Grove and a mass meeting at Pleasant Gift church. This was their first mass meeting - about 40 people were there, and it was quite successful. Rev. Perry, pastor of Pine Grove church, and a resident of the Pleasant Gift area, is solidly with us. I will try to prepare a written report of the churches covered.