[n.d.]

Downtown Columbus

A shopping trip to downtown Columbus, Miss. and it feels like any such expedition in a small town. But no one for a minute is allowed to forget that it is indeed a town in Miss. and they are being watched constantly.

First to the local radio station to buy time to announce evening freedom classes for adults in a neighborboring town. The manager of the station asks how everything is going "Hope your comfortable"

This is certainly progress. There was a time when freedom classes whould have been held in strict secrecy. Now they are advertised on the local radio station.

However, a few minutes later in a corner jewlery store waiting for a watch to be repaired two boxes sitting on a shelf can hardly escape notice "Tear Gas mits". And the words of the station manager come back "Well welcome to Miss. maam you sure will find it a wild and wooly place". He was right.

Over to Sears to pick up a large tent. This is for a local resident who was removed from his land when he housed a white worker for two nights. Now unable to find employment in a community where he has lived and worked all of his life he must now house his wife and six children in a tent.

Word gets around and the whispers come floating from the back office "some of those there intergrationists are out front". Heads peek around corners and its hard not to feel like an animal in a zoo. It was just two white people waiting to pick up a tent yet the local citizens have an uncanny way of knowing who you are.

Its the day after the bodies of the three workers from Meridan are found yet none of the white population seems aware of the event or if they are they refuse to discuss it. However the country is at the moment at the brink of another war which may truly be the war to end all wars yet the local missipians seem totally unaware of this also.

[illegible] local [illegible] they are ind[illegible]