

[1964]

VALLEYVIEW
Weekly Report--Sept. 14-20

Monday, September 14

Bill Forsythe, Charles Prickett, and Karen Duncan got local person's car and canvassed in the 2nd, 13th, and 15th precincts for ~~Dave Dennis~~ ~~Bob Moore~~ meeting which Mrs. Devine ~~substituted for~~ on Tuesday. Near Camden, we stopped on side road to ask directions. Immediately Deputy McGowan pulled us over and issued Bill (who was driving) a ticket for "obstructing traffic". He took us to Judge Dervyl's house and we paid the 14 dollar fine. We then continued canvassing.

Tuesday, September 15

Charles and Karen left at 7:30 a.m. to take Bill into the Jackson Airport. We had trouble with the car so took it in to be fixed and spent the day shopping while the car was having a valve job.

Wednesday, September 16

In the morning Charles and Nancy took Rev. McCullough into Canton so he could go to Jackson. In the afternoon, they went to the Pine Grove area (Precinct 10) to talk to people about meetings. They found out that Pine Grove does have meetings on Wednesday nights, but they couldn't go that evening because we had no car. Karen stayed in ~~the office~~ and fixed up the office. At about 10:00 p.m. Andrew Green (Project Director) came and told us to be careful that there was a carload of white men prowling around. He returned about 10:45 to take Charles with him to investigate a fire. In the meantime Karen and Charles had seen two new-model, light-colored, cars go in the area of St. John's Baptist Church. During the time Green and Charles were investigating the fire, Karen saw the same two cars leave, going very fast past the Freedom house. At about 11:00 Green and Charles came back to report that the fire was at St. John's and that it had burned to the ground. Karen then called the FBI, the Highway Patrol, Sheriff's Office, Police Dept., and the Fire Department.

Thursday, September 17

The morning was spent handling calls, questions, and press releases on the church burning. Karen and Nancy started to leave to canvass for the mass meeting at St. John's that evening, but two highway patrolman, a state fire marshall, Sheriff Jack Cauthen, and Deputy Sam Leddy arrived. The highway patrolmen were Mr. Weems and Mr. Jack E. Smith, and the fire marshall was Mr. Singletarry. They spent two hours questioning Charles, Nancy, and Karen and left at 2:30. Karen and Nancy then went south to precincts 10, 11, and 2 to canvass for the St. John's mass meeting. They came back at 6:00 p.m. to return the local car. Nancy and Charles attended the mass meeting. Karen in the office.

Friday, September 18

Charles and Nancy canvassed to find registered voters to sign petitions and to go to Jackson on Saturday. Karen was in the office. That night, the local people provided transportation for Karen and Charles to go to a precinct meeting at ~~St. Zion~~ Zion church (Precinct 15) which was a very good meeting. We introduced ~~our~~ *our* and the people discussed 1) parents going into Jackson, Saturday at

9:00 am. (six parents from this area went), 2) the blackout (it's effectiveness), 3) petition for Mrs. Devins and Dr. Henry, 4) Farmer's League meeting, Wed., Sept. 23, 5) welfare committee (they had already elected five people to it), 6) the large precinct maps we have made and will give to the precinct chairman to have present at each meeting to help develop the "precinct consciousness", 7) the biographies of the national, state, and Madison County Movement leaders so that they may become familiar with these people - what beat they are from, what they have accomplished, and what they have suffered - (they were very responsive to this idea and are eager to learn about the movement leaders on all levels), 8) the political workshops which will begin soon and what they want to discuss (they were very responsive to this idea also), 9) we announced the Congressional Rally on October 3 and mentioned the Freedom Day on October 5, and 10) the carpools that need to be set up to the courthouse to assure that people get to register every day and the carpools to go shopping in the unboycotted areas (as Carthage).

Saturday, September 19

All of us had to remain in the Freedom House all day because we had no car!! It was a very discouraging situation as we could have been out working in the field all day.

Sunday, September 20

Karen worked all day setting up office and cleaning house. Nancy went in the morning with Charles to Lee's Chapel (Precinct 11) and Virgin Mary (Precinct 12) to contact registered voters and to find out about precinct meetings in the area. Nancy went in the afternoon to the baptism at St. John's and tried to contact registered voters to sign the two petitions among the hundreds of people.