

[Oct. 4, 1964]
Judy

Daily Reports--Sept.--Oct.

Sunday September 27--September 30-- Orientation at Batesville

In the orientation we were given information about the various areas in the Mississippi project (FDP, Freedom Schools, voter registration). The field secretary of the district we were in spoke to us specifically about black-white relations as seen by his staff. The discussions were general and outlined by what we wanted to know. Many people who spoke to us related personal experiences as part of their presentation. I was most interested in the seminar group on the Freedom schools. we met with Liz Fusco and talked about the responsibilities of a freedom school teacher and we also did some practice teaching with some of the local children then we discussed the teaching that had been done by each of us. I hope to be teaching French, English, Biology. I was impressed by the importance of personal contact with the students in particular ways (one of the practice was teaching french and set up a scene where the boys greeted him with a hand shake and the phrase they were trying to learn--some of the children were not able to look the white teacher in the eye--important situation to remember). Analogies are important in introducing ideas to the children (one teacher used examples of a chicken and a chair as living and non-living things). Discipline is important and up to individual teacher--also bringing in the children outside the center who misbehave or disturb classes. Great importance in creating a casual atmosphere and establishing a warm response with the children. Development of a sensitivity to the children being taught--their general background and situation relevant to choosing games. I was impressed with the idea of my responsibility to the children and to the workers around me. The lack of staff puts a good deal of added pressure on each member of the project. In a letter to George Raymond I explained my reasons for wanting to stay at Valleyview and work with the Freedom Schs, Commun. Center and MSU program. Phil Sharp and I have a tentative program set up which will have to be flexible with the crop schedule. Wednesday night--mass meeting at Pleasant Gift.

October 1, Thursday

Spent the morning organizing the new office for the Freedom Sch, Commun Center and MSU set up in the Freedom House. We have separate files and our work will be done exclusively in this office. Organizing the program for the next few weeks is difficult because of the crops. There is a lack of enthusiasm which we want to start working on first. The MSU offers best local help. The library must be organized this week. We will open it first.

October 2, 3, 4, Friday, Saturday, Sunday

Continuing working on the organization of community center, freedom school programs, and MSU. No MSU meeting on Sunday. Working on library organization and advertising opening of center. We want to advertise the opening of the center well in advance so as to attract more people. There is of course a transportation problem and maybe this can be better worked out if people know a head of time. If our programs are well-worked out then we will have activities in which we can work with the local people and their enjoyment of these activities should strengthen their enthusiasm and perhaps they will spread the word more quickly.