

Friday July 9, 1965

Leon Gutherz - New Rochelle, N.Y. will be our leader
Frechettia Ford - Robbins, Illinois secretary
The group:

~~XXXXX~~ Norma Danels - Los Angeles, California
Med Moore * Los Angeles, Calif.
Daniel Thompson * Cleveland, Ohio

The five of us left Atlanta, Ga. at 4:00 AM and headed south west for Pike county, Ala. Our directions were to go straight to the Negro section on Troy, which is the county seat of Pike, and locate 604 Wiley St. where a Mrs Goodwin lived. We were not to move from the house until a Rev. Daniel Harrell arrived. The trip from Atlanta was without incident. Rev. Harrell arrived around 11:00 bringing with him a teenager by the name of Elizabeth Shamburger. Liz was to remain with us, and was the only salaried worker.

We were given the names of a few people in the community who were willing to help get us started. We received a briefing from Rev. Harrell about the general conditions of the Negro in Troy. Leon was taken to meet some of the people who had said they would help us. Later we were taken to our new Freedom House located at 611 Railroad. Rev. Harrell paid the first months deposit of \$30.00.

That evening the six of us went shopping at the local grocery store and created quite a commotion. Our new office was to be located on Academy street.

A Mr. & Mrs Jim Baker offered to let Bunny Daniels stay with them. Liz and I were to stay with Mrs Goodwin. All the fellows were staying at the Railroad Address.

Saturday July 10, 1965

~~We received a call from the man who was going to rent our office to say that we would not be there.~~ This morning Mr. Grubbs called to say that ^{the} office was no longer ~~be~~ available to us. He had just been informed that it had been previously rented.

SUNDAY JULY 11, 1965

Bunny, Leon, Liz, and I attended services at St. Paul A. M.E. church. We were able to recruit many teen-age volunteers. Shortly before the benediction, the Presiding Elder allowed Leon and me to say a few words to the congregation about our purpose for being here. After the service we mingled with the congregation and met Mrs E. Mathews and Mr. Lightfoot. An appointment with Mrs. Mathews was ~~arranged~~ arranged for three o'clock.

Ned attended First Baptist Church Sunday school.

Earlier this morning a Negro policeman came to the Bakers home and informed Mr. Baker of a Bomb threat, and the loss of employment if he kept that white woman (Norma Daniels) at his house. Jim Baker said Bunny was welcome as long as she wanted to stay. The Bakers were also told that the two Negro policeman just hired in May would be fired if he did not co-operate. Bunny felt she should stay.

During the afternoon Leon, Ned and I started out on foot to keep appointments that were arranged Sat. and today. We were unable to locate a Mr. Brown, and in the process, we ended up in what apparently was the better white community. People stared and seemed shocked, but no one said or did anything to us.

Tonight the Bakers prepared supper for us and later on we had a pep talk ~~for~~ from Leon.

MONDAY JULY 12, 1965

A checking account was opened, maps were purchased from the chamber of commerce, and the canvassing began. The telephone was connected. While Leon was taking care of the affairs just mentioned, Rev Harrell and I went out to the ~~grass~~ grass roots communities (report on following page). Returning about 1:30 we picked up Leon and went out again. ^{Only} ~~Only~~ Orian and Saco have not been accounted for.

The police came to Mr. Bakers job to talk with him. It seems that either Bunny leaves the house or Mr. Baker will be fired. He asked Bunny to leave.

During the canvassing, each SCOPE worker took along three or four teenage volunteers. As each block and street was canvased, the map was correspondingly

marked. If no one answered the door or we told to come back at a later time we marked this on the sheets, and someone knew what to do later that evening.

PIKE COUNTY

MON. 6-12-65

BANKS - Rev Manley was for having the Buelah Hill church for a mass meeting, but we must first check with deacon Jessie Williams and deacon Bunk Collide. Free advertisement could be obtained from the local station by calling Tell & Sale. Both deacons agreed to let us use the church, and they inturn would help spread the word. The meeting was set for Thursday night, 7-15-65.

MONTECELLO - The Negro population is small and scattered, we must then canvas it.

LINDWOOD - We were told there were only about ten houses, so we will canvas.

Chinagrove ~~is~~ ~~xxx~~ Canvas.

SHADY GROVE - Rev. Richardson will help us canvas on Wed. or Thurs. of this week.

ANSLEY - Acie Adams and William Kennon (deacons) will help get the people together for the mass meeting to be held at the Macedonia Church on Friday.

Canvas on highway 5 ----Goshen to Pike 7.

BRUNDIDGE- Appears large enough to have its own office. The ministers of the two larges churches refused to let us use their facilities. Rev. Russell did, however, steer us in the direction of a hall that had been used for meetings. Mr. Flowers and Mr McGuire agreed to let us rent the KAR hall for \$25.00 a month.

The hall is on the corner of a busy intersection above a cafe. The building is large, there is no water or toilet facilities. There are folding chairs, benches, a desk, work-table, and three rostrums. an old book case and every thing is covered with an inch of red dust.

GOSHEN - Deacon Seymore will ~~xxx~~ talk with the other two deacons and the minister, and will call him back tues. or wed for a definite day for the meeting. This week the church is having their revival meetings for a week.

HENDERSON - We must canvas.

SPRING HILL - canvas

TROY - Bethal Baptist church. Rev. Lowery says he must consult the Deacon Board, and will call us.

Tuesday July 13, 1965

Rev. Harrell, Leon and I drove to Brundidge and gave Mr McGuire a Check for \$25.00 for the rental of the hall from 7-13 to 7-14. From there we drove to Montgomery to purchase a duplicating machine.

Montgomery Equipment Co. Inc. ---\$96.34

1 used Ditto machine, 1 gal. fluid, 50 master units.
repaid

Rev Daniel Harrell was ~~also given~~ \$30.00 for the rental of the house at 611 Railroad ave in Troy.

Meanwhile the canvassing in Troy was going smoothly. Dan and Ned were stopped at two different occasions and asked for their identification by the police. Several of the teenagers ^{said} ~~said~~ a red car followed them during the day.

After the evening meal we ran off announcements about the mass meeting to be held in Brundidge on Wed.

Oh yes, Bunny Daniels left sometime early this morning for Atlanta to pick up her return ticket to California.

Wednesday July 14, 1965

Rev. Harrell drove Leon, Liz, and me to Brundidge to clean up the hall, and headed for Geneva County where he was going to get four additional workers for us.

Armed with two brooms, a box of detergent, and two mops, and all sorts of literature about SCOPE & SCLC, we started to clean up the place. This hall has no running water, or a toilet and so one must ~~take~~ tote the water from outside. On a trip to get water, Leon asked two teenagers if they would help distribute the mass meeting announcements. Minnie and Willie passed out the announcements while the three of us did the cleaning. Willie had a car and they finished in no ~~time~~ time at all. Rev. Harroll brought with him Pat, Mike, Mary and Diane from Geneva ~~xxxx~~ county. People started coming to the meeting at 7:00 and by 7:30 there was

standing room only. Pat and Leon said a few words and Rev. Harrell was our main speaker. After the meeting people came up to meet us. Many offered their cars or knew of someone who might let us use theirs. People left their names, addresses and telephone numbers so that we might call them on registration day.

Thursday July 15, 1965

We canvased Ansley and Banks for the mass meetings. In Troy the canvassing going smoothly, but we were unable to get a church for a mass meeting. Rev Lowery called yesterday to tell us the deacon board did not want a meeting at their church, Leon ~~and Rex~~ talked with Deacon Money about using Morning Star Baptist church and he too refused.

We had asked a fellow named John, who lives in Troy, but has a Florida license plate to take to Banks for a mass ~~with~~ meeting. On the way there, John ~~was~~ skidded thru a stop sign, and knocked down a concrete post that had an arrow sign attached to it. No one was hurt. A pick-up truck ^{containing} ~~containing~~ two white men came along and offered to help. At the same time a young man who was at the meeting happened along, he recognized us, and stopped to see what was going on. We got into his car very quickly and he took us on to Brundidge to get the other workers.

The other SCOPE workers were staying in Mrs. Kenney's rooming house. Apparently during the day, some of Mrs Kenneys neighbors told her not to let the white workers stay there, Mrs, Kenney was un-decided about what to do, and the workers packed their bags and sat on the porch. A Mrs. Starks who lives next door came over and offered to let the two girls stay ~~in~~ with her. ~~Mrs. Starks has a house~~ ^{Mrs. Mrs. Starks have}

~~and~~ ^x two adopted children and four of their own. John was able to get some fellows from Brundidge to take him back to the car, and try to get it off of imbankment. Eddie drove us by the scene of the accident, and the police were there. Finally making it to Beulah Hill church, we had a good meeting.

John had been taken to jail and had a forty-eight dollar fine.

Friday July 16, 1965

More canvassing for potential people to take down to the court house for registration. The police are always crusing by, and the red car is still around, but so far we have not been har~~x~~assed in any way. It sure is hot!

This afternoon we ran off announcements about the mass meeting to be held here in Troy on our lawn (we have not been able to get a church or even~~x~~ the recreational center). Rev Harrell said he wanted to be the main speaker at this meeting.

Monday is to be the day for the meeting.

Willie, a teenager from Brundidge has been coming around when he could to help us transportation wise. Tonight he took us to the Macedonia church in Ansley. There were about forty or fifty people present. Deacon Seymore from Goshen was there, and he wanted us to come to a revival at his church. No definite date was set.

Saturday July 17, 1965

We were all up bright and early to start passing out hand bills telling of the registration day, monday, and the mass meeting on our lawn the same evening. We tried to cover all the colored sections of Troy. If no one was home the hand bills were put in the door or somewhere else where they were sure to be seen. It sure is hot ! The one thing that would really make things go smoother for us, would be a car.

Sunday July 18, 1965

We went ~~in the~~ to St. Paul A.M.E. church and Morning Star Baptist church and Dan went to Bethel Baptist church. Rev. Duncamb of St. Paul gave them a very warm reception and allowed them to say a few words during the service. He also said he would help us out if he could. At Morning Star we were also allowed to say a few words to the congregation about our work here. Dan was told he could not attend the Sunday services until the minister consulted the deacon board. Rev. Lowery called Dan this afternoon to inform him that it was alright to attend the service, but he was not allowed to say anything to the congregation.

~~That night~~ ^{Tonight} we went over all the registration forms, called volunteers, etc.

GENERAL COMMENTS

When we first arrived in Troy, many people ^{wanted} ~~wanted~~ to know why we were here. They said the white folks treated them pretty well, and things were fine in Troy. Here are some of the observations that we have made: where the Negro community begins the side walk and often the paved streets end; some of the unpaved streets are in such poor condition that often only one car is able to go down the street at one time; some homes are in such bad shape that they should have been condemned years ago; there is hardly any recreational facilities for the Negro youth; the fountain service is now being intergrated by the youth in Troy for the first time in its history; in Goshen they still have not been able to get a lunchroom in the school; many of the men are still earning that same \$1.25 that they started with ten years ago; and the women who do day work or work in the cafes never approach \$1.00/hr;

Many people here are afraid. Afraid they might be fired from their job, the church might be bombed or the mortgage might be fore-closed, that they might be physically ~~be~~ harmed.

In Montgomery where we purchased the duplicating machine, the salesman was very curteous and did not stare because we were an intergrated group. Next door at a small resturant they were horrified when we walked in. The Negro cook was sent to wait on us. As soon as we were seated, a white man dressed in a business suit came in and sat at a table parallel with ours. He smiled very cordially at us and ordered coffee. He sat there with that one cup of coffee until we finished our meal. When we were standing near the door getting ready to leave, the man got up, paid his bill, and said rather loudly, "excuse me please" when he passed by us on his way out.

At the mass meeting in Brundidge there was a good cross-section of the community present. Some looked like farmers not long from a day in the field, the women were present in all sizes, shapes, and ages, some of the youngsters had that well scrubbed look of college students, and there were men there in their thirties and forties who were un-smiling. The people seemed eager to hear what Rev. Harroll

had to say. If had said lets get up and march to jail, I feel they would have done so.

In the rural communities, the whold family comes th the mass meetings. Because of the simplicity of the church and its people, and the strange yet very moving prayer and response cha~~nting~~nting I sometimes feel the twentieth century did'nt come by here.

A car of our very own would be an invaluable aide. Several fellows have been very helpful, but it is not the same as one of our own. Oft times when we are ready for an early start, the drivers are late or sometimes dont show up at all. When they are here bright and early we have something that must be taken care of later in the day. Most of the time we dont get our moneys worth for the gas we buy.

This must be the start of the new day to come. Rev. Sconiers (Mrs. Goodwin's pastor) of St. Marks A.M.E. Church will let us have a mass meeting there on ~~Wednes-~~^{Wednes-} day night.

Monday July 19, 1965

Early this morning Leon received a call from the post master here in Troy. It seems that ~~will~~ some of our ~~phaxpax~~ hand bills were put into mail boxes, and so we owed the post office some money. This is the big day, registration day.

In Pike county a person can only register on the first and third monday of each month. Sometime during the year, the county has open registration which simply means, for five consecutive days, a person can come in an register between the hours of nine and four. That open registration took place the week before we arrived. Only five people came down to register.

Ned and Leon were stationed at the court house along with one of the workers from Brundidge. People were there early and in an orderly fashion, but they had to wait because a court was in session. By eleven o'clock there were nearly two hundred people to be processed. As the people came in they were given numbers. Mr. Gilchrist, the chief registrar, told Leon they would only be able to process about twenty of the people today. With a little mental pressure applied from Leon, fifty people were taken care of. Only nine passed. Mr. Gilchrist said he was not authorized to give additional days, but that at a meeting in Montgomery which was to take place on Friday, ~~and~~ ^{would} he ~~try~~ to get extra days. ~~which is something~~ Mr. Gilchrist said he was shook up to see so many people there, and he would try to get additional days for registration. Leon in turn called the office and told us not to bring any more people down, because they would not be processed. This was around 11:00A.M.,. The office was also told if individual people wanted to come down, they could, but explain the situation to them. Mr Gilchrist was told that we would march on the court house if we felt we were not given some co-operation, and by no means did we want to have demonstrations, but if ^{it} became necessary we would.

This evening we had our first mass meeting in Troy. We had a much larger crowd than we had anticipated. After the meeting Deacon Boyken, Mrs Smith, and Deacon Money got together and agreed to let us use Morning Star church for a mass meeting. They were very pleased with Rev. Harroll and wanted to extend an invitation to him and his wife to attend a gospel musical.

Tuesday July 20, 1965

This morning, we passed out hand bills in the West End section of town announcing the mass meeting at St. Marks church. we were suppose to canvas in the rural areas, but our transportation failed to arrive. The remainder of the day was spent cleaning the house. Leon paid the post master \$2.00 for fifty hand bills that were put in some mail boxes, and was warned not to let that happen again.

Wednesday July 21, 1965

Ned, Jim, Willie, Eddie, and I canvased Orian, Seco, Montecello, Lindwood, China-grove, and Shady Grove and returned home to go to the mass meeting ~~in~~ at St. Marks church. Our next stop was Morning Star church for the musical.

Thursday July 22, 1965

We took as many volunteers as we could find and canvased the ~~neighborhood~~ neighborhood to announce the mass meeting at Morning Star church the next evening. Tonight we had a birthday party for Liz and a fairwell celebration for Ned.

Friday July 23, 1965

A very large attended our meeting at Morning Star church. Liz went home for the weekend.

Saturday July 24, 1965

Ned Moore left for Los Ageles with the understanding that he ~~must~~ ^{must} return by August 1, 1965 ^{if not} or he should stay in L.A.

Mr Gilchrist said he would let us know Wednesday if we could have all of ^{the} next week for registration.

Sunday July 25, 1965

Today we all attend different churches. Rev. Duncomb of St. Paul A.M.E. church plans to talk with the steward board and will let us know via Mrs Fields on tuesday if we might use the church for a meeting saturday. Dan talked with the deacons at Bethel Baptist church who were in favor of having a meeting there. The deacons said they would talk with the pastor next sunday and would then let us know the results.

Mrs Mathews and her sister Mrs Smith invited us over for supper. Since we first met them, they have been a tremendous help to us, and they have apparently been very active in the community.

Leon ~~went~~ went Hartford, Ala. (Geneva County) to speak at Rev. Autry's church. Rev Harroll could not make appointment and asked to fill in for him.
Monday July 26, 1965

Eddie, a volunteer worker from Brundidge, said someone called and said he would be beaten up if he continued to carry those civil rights workers around.

Dan and I, along with two volunteers canvased Spring Hill. There is a church there named Elan Baptist, and we talked with a deacon Larkin about using it for a meeting. Sometime during the week someone had broken out the windows, and therefore he said he would hesitate to let us use it for civil rights purposes. He said, however, he would go along with whatever the chairman of the deacon board said.

At Henderson we wanted to get the use of Mt. Zion church, and a William McNeal of Troy is to be contacted.

Deacon Seymore in Goshen suggested we bring Rev Harroll or Leon out to talk with the deacon or the pastor who were holding out against the use of the church.

Another mass meeting in Brundidge tonight. Rev. Harroll said we are going to get a car of our own tomorrow.

Tuesday, July, 27th

Leon and I went to talk with Deacon Seymore and Deacon Brantley. I do not believe Deacon Brantley will change his mind, however we invited both deacons and their wives to attend our next mass meeting.

Wednesday July 28, 1965

Mr. Gilchrist called to say we would be able to have the six extra days starting tuesday. Later this afternoon Mr. Gilchrist called to say we would not have the extra days or even monday our regular day because the new registration forms were not ready, and they had no idea when they would be ready. Leon told him that he would not be responsible for the peoples actions now, and that he had been able to keep things in check because it seemed that Troy was really trying to co-operate with us. Leon said, "I'll leave it up to your imagination what will happen when our people find out".

We called Pat in Brundidge, and arranged to meet early tomorrow morning to map plan the strategy for a march on the court house monday and the following days until better arrangements could be made for voter registration.

Thursday July 29, 1965

John drove Leon and me to Brundidge. When we arrived there was a call for Leon from Troy. Mr Gilchrist wanted Leon to come to a meeting with Judge Reeves, the Chief of Police, and himself. Pat and Leon drove back to Troy and about one hour later called to say that registration would be on the regular monday and tuesday thru saturday for extra days.

Friday July 30, 1965

Liz, Dan and I went canvassing in the morning. We had hand bills announcing mass meetings at St. Paul for ^{tomorrow} ~~tonight~~ and Morning Star for tonight. We went out again in the early afternoon when a car came to take us to the outlying areas of Troy. Tonight at Morning Star there were about sixty people and we took up our first collection of \$.

Saturday July 31, 1965

We all canvased the community with handbills about registration day, and the mass meeting tonight at St. Paul church. We went out about mid afternoon again with hand bills about the registration day on monday and the following days of

~~registration~~ five days of the week. As a rule our volunteers have been Liz Penn-
ington, Walters st.: John Henry Reynolds, 412E. Gamble St. (John has been
staying at the freedom house for a couple of days) and ~~Leon~~ Robinson, 417 Walters
St. Usually when we canvas, we used the kids in that ~~immediate~~ immediate neighbor-
hood to help us out. Tonight at St. Paul church, Mrs J. Harrell and Leon Catherz
were our speakers. There were about sixty people present and the collection was
\$. Leon and John Henry went around to the various cafes and put up posters
about the ~~xxxx~~ coming election days.

August 1, 1965

Leon and John attended Shiloh Baptist church, Liz attended 1st Baptist, and I
attended Bethel church and a home coming. At all of the various churches we told
them about the coming registration, and tried to obtain these churches for meetings.
Leon went to another county to speak, and John, Liz, and I went to the evening
service at ~~Bethel~~ Shiloh. Rev Smith said he would hold a meeting to see if the
majority in the church wanted to let us use the church for a meeting. Rev.
Harrell called and told Liz to have her bags packed on wednesday and be ready to
go to Monroe County.

August 2, 1965

At the courthouse things went very smooth. The people were given numbers as they
came in. They kept the same numbers with them when they finished being processed.
We took their name, address, city, and the amount of education ~~xxx~~ ~~xxx~~ they had.
When they came out we checked them off our list whether they passed or failed.
For the day 47 passed, and 5 failed.

Rev. Harrell took Daniel Thompson to Clayton (Barbours county) Ala. to work.

August 3, 1965

John Henry Reynolds father beat him with an ax handle because of his affiliation
with us. John now lives at the Scope House, with Leon. At the court house this
morning all was going well, then Leon left for Clayton where they were preparing

to march to the court house. After Leon left, the registrars slowed down to a snails pace, and ~~started failing~~ failed about seven in a row. One of the last people they failed was a college graduate. There were a few unfriendly words exchanged between the registra and the Scope workers, and finally Leon arrived. Leon was told the whole story and he talked with Mr Gilchrist, and Judge Reeves again. Today 42 passed and 14 failed

Meanwhile we had to have our lunch at the drug stores down town, and so far all has gone well. Today we went to Byrd's.

Tonight we had the best meeting since we have been here. The speakers were our volunteers, John H. Reynolds; Ethel Brooks from Camden; and Leon. There were about one hundred people packed in the church and the collection was \$ Mrs Harrell and Jim came to take Elizabeth Shomburger back with them. Pat Sweeney took a plane for Los Angeles, Calif. today.

Wednesday 4, 1965

Early this morning handbills were given out about the mass meeting at Bethel church. The day went very smooth at the court house.

Thursday 5, 1965

Today Liz Pennington, and Elaine Warren came down to the court house to help out with the registration. Ethel Brooks came from Camden to speak at our meeting. After the meeting we elected officers for the new

The officers are: Mrs Johnnie Mae Warren Pres.
Mr. Charles Stringer Vice Pres.
Miss Brenda Smith Sec.
Mr. Charles Terry Tres.

We Scope workers will meet with the new officers and any other people of the community on Monday Aug. 9th at 7:30, to get acquainted and explain exactly what we have been doing and to bring them to the point where they can take over the work.

Friday August 6, 1965

Our meeting seem to help, because more people are coming down. The registrars are woking much faster. Today 92 passed and 3 failed. One-hundred & fifty were given numbers

We were all excited about the new ~~EIGHTH LEXXON~~ Voting Rights Bill.

Saturday August 7, 1965

~~ON SATURDAY~~ This morning at 8:15 there were about fifty people in the in the court room when we arrived. By 10:30 about two hundred people were there. We only gave numbers to those people who could read and write sufficiently well to pass the literacy test. The remainder of the people were asked to be patient. Before the registrars could use the simplified form, they must receive official notice from the state of Alabama. There was no notice on Saturday, and so only those people who could read and write were processed. There were ninety-six registered.

Since the court house is located down town and there are no eating facilities in it, we have been eating in the local downtown drugstores. The first five days there were no incidents, and yesterday two fellows returned to the first drugstore we went to. The manager of the store ask asked John (Negro) to step outside so that the people in the store could get some fresh air. John refused to move. The manager then said his dog would be fed before they would be served. John got angry but the other fellow, Mike, was able to calm him down sufficiently to prevent a scene. The manager proceeded to wait on them after serving everyone in the store.

Sonny Starks, the oldest son of Mrs Starks (pres. of Brudie Civic Club) was fired from his job because he drove those "civil rights workers" around. On Monday he was told he could still have his job, if he wanted to go back. He chose not to go back, and found another job with a negro carpenter. The pay was better and the hours were shorter.

Sunday August 8, 1965

~~Mr. Warren asked Leon to go to Ozark, Ala. to see if he could stimulate the people in Ozark to go to the court house and register tomorrow. They went to a Baptist church where a Rev Autry is the minister.~~
Mrs Warren asked Leon to go to Ozark, Ala. to see if he could stimulate the people in Ozark to go to the court house and register tomorrow. They went to a Baptist church where a Rev Autry is the minister.

~~church in~~ ^{Ozark} ~~Harbison~~ ^{Dale} (~~Greene County~~), ~~Alabama~~. I attended services at Bethel church where an announcement was made about Tuesday and Wednesday for voter registration and ~~in~~ now the new law affected us. At a home coming ~~W~~ I made a similar announcement.

Monday August 9, 1965

On his way to Birmingham, Rev Harrell brought Elizabeth Shamburger back to us. The morning was spent canvassing the community with voter registration announcements. That afternoon Leon ran off all the additional announcements we would need for the week. Leon, John, and Mr. Warren drove to Ozark where they received permission to use Rev. Autry's church for a mass meeting on Friday. The Rev. would be at a revival, but would Tuesday August 10, 1965 make sure the church was available for us.

This morning as usual, there were about thirty people at the court house when we arrived. Leon Guthertz left for Birmingham Via Hitch-hiking. We gave out one-hundred ninety numbers, but only one-hundred and thirty seven were processed. Tonight we held our first meeting with the new civic association.

Wednesday August 11, 1965

At the court house we had our usual good turn out in the early A.M. At 10:30 I asked Mr. Gilchrist, the chief registrar, to call Montgomery to get permission for Thursday and Friday registration. He called and was told to expect a reply around 2:00 P.M. At the scheduled time no one called. At 4:00 P.M. one hundred and sixty seven people were registered. Judge Reeves asked to have a conference with John and I along with Mr. Gilchrist. We were told that they were expecting a call from Montgomery at any time just before five o'clock, and they were ~~are~~ doing their very best to get those days. If any thing developed, he assured us he would call our office. Judge Reeves called later on to inform us that the extra days for registration had been denied.

During the day our teen volunteers passed out hand-bills announcing a mass meeting at the First Baptist Church for Thursday.

Thursday August 12, 1965

Mr. Warren, our neighbor, drove John, Diane, and Pete to Ozark to pass out hand-bills announcing the mass meeting on Friday, and registration on Monday. They spent a good deal of the morning and early afternoon canvassing in the rain. We had large crowd for the mass meeting at the ~~First~~ First Baptist Church.

Friday August 13, 1965

Friday night on the way down to Ozark we were involved in a three car accident. Mrs Warren, our Driver, had to stop suddenly to prevent a head on collision. We were hit from behind by the car trailing us. Mr. Flowers, from Brundidge was in the car behind us, and he said the car behind him knocked him into us. Luckily no one was injured, but there was extensive car damage to all three automobiles. We arrived in Ozark over an hour late. At the church, we found the doors locked, and there was not a light to be seen in the ministers house directly behind the church. There were no people or cars in the vicinity of the church. ~~HE SAID HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY WE~~ We stopped at the house nearest to the church to inquire if people had come and then gone home. We were told that the minister returned home last night and said he had not given us permission to use the church. He said he could not understand why we would take it upon our selves to make that kind of announcement, and under no circumstances were we to get inside the church or use the lawn. The mayor left word for "those civil-rights workers" to use the city hall if we just had to have a meeting.

We were only able to locate one deacon of that church, and he told us the same story. Every where we went we were told the same story.

Leon met us in Ozark, and we all returned to Troy together.

Saturday August 14, 1965

Early this morning Leon tried to get in touch with the mayor of Ozark

and the probate judge. He picked up Diane in Brundage, and they spent the remainder of the day trying to get a church or hall for a mass meeting tomorrow. The judge told them he would get the extra days for registration only if there were enough people attempting to get registered on Monday, thus deeming it necessary to hold the court house open another day. The ministers gave Leon and Diane the story that their churches would be available sometime this week, but not tonight, or ~~sax~~ Sunday. Meanwhile here in Troy, we finally got a car to take us canvassing in the rural communities. ~~saxsax~~ Tonight we had a mass meeting at the Macedonia Church in Ansley, Ala. This afternoon we went to Brundage for the court hearing concerning the accident last night.

Sunday August 15, 1965

We drove to Ozark again this afternoon. Still no church. About four o'clock Leon and I went to the local drugstore owned by a Negro and had a coke. The owner came over and asked for a ~~saxsax~~ for our side of the story concerning Friday night, and we told him. Leon asked if we might use his drugstore for a meeting that evening, and he agreed.

That drugstore was packed to and then beyond its capacity when the meeting got underway.

Monday August 16, 1965

This morning at 8:30 there were fifty people waiting for us. All day long people kept coming, and the registrars worked slower and slower. I talked with Mr. Gilchrist, and Judge Reeves and asked them to get those people to work faster. They were suppose to be using a shorter form, and yet they were processing fewer people. At the end of the day, there were about two-hundred and fifty people there and only 155 were processed. Leon had remained in Ozark for their registration, ~~sax~~ He called to inform us that 220 people had been processed, and they were given Tuesday and Wednesday as additional~~s~~ days.

Tuesday August 17,

This morning around seventy-five people came down to the court house in an attempt to get registered. This day was not granted to us for registration, but we had asked the the people to come down anyway. About eleven o'clock we had everyone sit together in the lobby of the court house. Judge Reeves asked to have a meeting with John and me in his office. Mr Brantley, a lawyer, was also present. They asked what our grievances were, and then told us they had done as much as they possibly could for us. I told them that there were not nearly enough people processed yesterday, and the community would like to have some Negro help doing the registration, and that people came back today who were not taken care of yesterday. Neither Judge Reeves nor Mr. Brantly would make a definite promise about the additional registration, but they said they would do their best. After the meeting I talked with the people and asked them to go home, because for this day we had made our presence felt, but to return tomorrow. The people dispersed immediately.

About fourteen of us went to one of the local drugstores for lunch. The owner informed us that he did not want to serve "niggers" but the law said he had to. He called his lawyer to come down to the store, and was told that he had to treat us like human beings, serve us in the manner that was customary with the store, and if the store seemed like a Negro store for the time being, there was nothing he could do about it.

That evening Leon returned from Ozark where 150 people were registered. One of the local young men, Charles Stringer, suggested having a committee of about ten men from the community go and talk with the city officials about some of the things they wanted done in their community. Leon suggested having a bi-racial council of about twelve or less people from white and Negro communities. Leon said he would talk with Judge Reeves and Mr. Brantly about the possibility of the council in the morning.

Charles gave me a tentative list of eight people in the community, and I added the names of others who had been helping us.

Wednesday August 18,

This morning we went down to the court house and twenty-five people were waiting. Mr. Brantly had gone to Montgomery to try and get the extra days for us. Leon presented Judge Reeves with the idea of a premanite bi-racial council, and the judge appeared enthusiastic. I called the suggested people and asked them to come to a meeting that night. Some of the youngsters helped us canvas in the late morning for the mass meeting on the following night. Leon called to tell us we were granted Thursday and Friday of this week for registration. We canvased again in the late afternoon about our extra days.

That night twenty-two of the leading citizens of Troy came to the meeting. Almost all of them spoke, and the general ~~consensus~~ consensus was that a bi-racial council ~~council~~ would function as an agent to bring suggestions, and complaints from both communities, and the committee would make recommendations to the proper channels. A temporary chairman was selected to get in touch with more people, and after our mass meeting Friday night the ten people to be on the council would be selected.

Thursday August 19th

We registered 237 people today. The mass meeting brought fourth some very interesting talks from the local people. There were about 75 people present. The temporary chairman selected three people for a caucus that would select the ten people for the bi-racial council.

Friday August 20th

This is our last registration day, and 260 were processed. At our mass meeting all the speakers were the local people. We asked all the people present to remain for the report x from the caucus committee. The following people will make up the negro representation on the bi-racila council:

Troy Representatives

Rev. McCarby

Mr. George Grubbs

Mr. Dave Frazier

Mr. Charles Stringer

Mr. John Nolan

Mr. George Dix

Mr. George Burks

Mr. W. L. Felton

Mr. Mase Baily

Brundidge Representative

Mrs. Roberta Starks

by Ned Moore

The bi-monthly voter registration day last Monday in Pike county, Alabama, brought over 200 Negroes to the area's courthouse in Troy, the largest number to be in the structure since it was built in 1952.

With one registrar home sick, the two registrars on duty from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. were only able to process 48 people. Only nine Negroes were able to pass the rigorous literacy test and become registered voters.

The significant point is that so many of the county's Negroes woke up to their right and responsibility as citizens and turned out on this day.

Earlier in the month there was a special five day period of registration and only ~~about~~ ^{five} Negroes came to the courthouse for processing during the entire time.

Pike county has ^{over 11,000 Negroes, with some} ~~5,000~~ old enough to register. Yet before last Monday only 519 were registered. The number of eligible voters totals 42 percent, the rest being Whites over 21 years old.

What brought about the new attitude on the part of Pike's Negroes? It was due to hard work by ^{eight} ~~four~~ civil rights volunteers from various parts of the United States who ^{had} set up summer headquarters in the county a little over a week before.

Led by Leon Guthertz, a New York school teacher and a White, a Negro ^{girl} ~~from~~ from Chicago and Whites from Cleveland and Los Angeles moved into the heart of Troy's Negro community and proceeded to awaken the residents to their rights. ^{Five} ~~Four~~ California SCOPE workers stay in Brundidge, the county's second largest city.

The volunteers work for ~~the~~ Dr. Martin Luther King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference, ~~and~~ Summer Community Organization and Political Education project, operating in over a 100 counties throughout six Southern states.

Orientation was at SCOPE headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. Guthertz's unpaid group was told by director Hosea Williams ~~that~~ that its mission was to

get the Negroes of Pike registered. The secondary objective was to build up a local leadership body to carry on when the summer was over. His people were told to avoid demonstrations in all but extreme situations.

Winning over the Negroes of Pike proved only a little challenging, for they seemed ready to move. This is not to say that the task was easy. Persuading the Negroes to do what they ought to do took friendliness, honesty and much talking. It took long hot days of door-to-door canvassing and many nights of mass meetings in the churches of cities throughout this agricultural county of 25,000 persons.

The workers still have to contend with ^{the} centuries old fear of the Negroes of ^{economic and physical harm} retribution from the Whites, especially in places outside the cities.

A California volunteer, a White woman, lost heart and returned home early after the Negro family she was staying with was threatened with bombing and job loss, and she was ^{by them} asked to move out.

Actually, the Whites ^{power structure} of Pike ~~are~~ more afraid than the Negroes. They fear another Selma, with demonstrations that bring on national attention. They also fear economic boycott.

"Whether the Whites like it not," commented Gutherz after talking to Troy officials, "they realize that we have power. We're not going to use it provided we have their cooperation."

As to registration, Gutherz said, "Once they eliminate the literacy test, the thing we have to do is keep the Negroes moving to register. Without the test, the registrars should be able to ^{be sign up} ~~register~~ over 200 people a day. We'll have to have more registration days, then by mid-August we could have 90 percent of the Negroes registered.

"We'll hold classes here for illiterate Negroes to teach them enough reading and writing to be able to register."

He estimated that 3,500 of the county's Negroes are ~~ready to register~~ right now willing to go down and register and added that even more than 200 would have been at the courthouse Monday if his workers had not told them to ~~not~~ stay home

at 10 a.m. when it was realized that the registrars could not possibly process so many people.

Probably even the registrars could not pass the literacy test, Gutherz remarked, after recalling that ^{Monday} he noticed them consulting answer sheets just after Negroes took the examinations.

~~Registration in Pike will be~~

Registration will be easier in Pike from now on because a new and simplified literacy test [#] has gone into effect throughout most of Alabama.

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