

*Miss Brown, Jr.*

Sunflower County FDP  
Box 30  
Indianola, Mississippi  
January 5, 1966

Dear Mrs. Montgomery:

In the last letter I wrote you I told you we had received the remodeling permit to build the Indianola Community Center. However, the permit which we received was for the wrong address, so now we are trying to have the address on the permit changed or get another permit. The wrong address was on the permit because the man from whom we bought the land and the house was using someone else's mail box address. The mail man wouldn't bring the mail to the house because of the poor condition of the road. A month before we bought the land the road was paved.

We began work on the house and worked four days before we were informed that our permit was no good. If we had had enough money to really do the job the right way, we probably would have completed work on the outside of the house before the permit was invalidated. We could have been working on the inside without a permit, but now we need a frame on the outside before we build on the inside.

Mayor Pitts, Mayor of Indianola, gave us the remodeling permit with the wrong address on his own authority. Our second application for a remodeling permit must be approved by the board of aldermen. Our application has supposedly been on the board's agenda twice, but we've heard nothing from them. Mayor Pitts has told us that he hoped the board didn't give us the permit.

Our lawyer is going to file suits in federal and state district courts concerning our permit. He is going to file in both courts to improve the odds of winning a favorable decision; if we lose in one court, maybe we'll win in the other. Our case in the state district court will be heard in March, as that

Phone Numbers: 887-9929 or 887-9954

court convenes only in September and March.

To complete the Indianola Community Center we will only have to raise \$3000.

When the community center is built we are going to use it for a child day care center, for adult literacy classes, and, hopefully, start a regular night school.

The child day care program will be for children 18 months to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years. Several women are already finding children to be in the program, so it can begin as soon as the community center is ready for use. The day care program will run from about 7:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

Adult literacy classes are now being held in people's homes two nights a week. The classes are taught by people in the community. When the center is completed they will be able to hold their classes at the center.

We would also like to start a night school. No night classes are offered at the highschool or anywhere else in Indianola. A night school would give people who were busy during the day a chance to further their education at night. We would also charge tuition so that the night school would make expenses.

We are still going to try and integrate the schools around here. A lawyer is going to file a suit to integrate the schools in Sunflower County and that will affect all the schools in the county but those in Indianola. Some mothers in Indianola will talk to the principal of the white school here in Indianola about enrolling their children in the white school.

The Indianola Improvement Association, a conservative Negro group, is working on voter registration. They would like to take over the work of the FDP volunteers. Whatever their purposes, we're glad to see others working on voter registration.

We are working hardest on getting a place for the people to meet. We still haven't paid for the work that was done on the house before we lost the permit. Please send something, anything, even if it's only a dollar. Anything would be appreciated.

Your Disparagement is my Disparagement,  
Otis Brown, Jr.