

Interview with Mrs. Aaron Henry-Sunday, August 2, 1964 at
4th Street Drug Store

Interviewed by Jerry DeMuth

Married 14 years, has 12 year old daughter, Rebecca (Becky)

Taught school--five years in Jackson

Taught school--11 years in rural Coahoma County (I got fired)

In 1954 Aaron filed a petition against segregated schools. A citizens council officer asked the school superintendent if any wives of the signers were teaching. As a result some removed their names, but Aaron didn't. The school principle and supervisor recommended me. I requested an appearance before the board but they wouldn't acknowledge it. The board didn't sign my contract or tell the superintendent why it did so. It just said their action was final. In Oct 1962 I filed for a hearing and received one the following July. The reasons they gave for not renewing my contract were the morals charge against my husband, the libel charge brought against my husband by the police chief and county solicitor, and that Aaron's property was in my name and I was to be sued. On 26 of December, 1963, they ruled against me and it's being appealed. The Mississippi Supreme Court reversed the morals charge conviction but then later reversed their own decision.

(Belongs to Progressive Voters League, active in-works with-COFO)

About two days before Mr Evers was killed they shot three times into our house.

Three white men admitted bombing our house. A white filling station attendant testified that he had pleaded with them not to throw the bomb. One of the three was tried and acquitted and the others were never brought to trial.

A woman use to call us every night at the same time for 3 months. She would threaten and swear at us and I used to recite the scriptures to her. That's when Meredith entered Ole Miss.

Mrs Henry -- add one

Someone used to make collect calls to us from Hattiesburg. ~~They~~ would say it was from Medgar Evers for Dr Aaron Henry. I accepted the first call and the person said, "You tell aaron Henry he'd better get his bullet proof vest ready." We've also gotten collect calls from "Dick Gregory."

I'm housing some of the summer volunteers and I arrange entertainment for them one night a week. And I do whatever I can to make them feel at ease here in the store.

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1 story red brick building--Neon sign: Fourth Street Drugs and a Bordens Ice Cream sign. Juke box stands in door way and a rack of civil rights literature in front of door inside. A fountain runs half way to the back on the left and it is almost always filled with civil rights workers, esp during the heat of the afternoon. Eat ice cream, drink cokes, sometimes just have a glass of ice water. Display cases fill the rest of left side and all of right side. Behind them are shelves to the ceiling, stacked with goods. A prescription section is in the back. One the counter are a pile of the latest issue of the Student Voice in which "Doc" wraps the drugs and pills he sells--getting the word to even more people. A rack of post cards contains post cards with pictures and descriptions of Fred Shuttlesworth and M L King as well as standard scenic cards of Mississippi.

At Coahoma County Court House--List of Poll Tax Payers posted.

Coahoma County _____ precinct, Clarksdale Miss
Columns for Date, Name, Residence, Age Sex, Poll Tax Receipt Number
Under age there are no numbers--only the letter C or W, mostly W.

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