Mrs. John Drisko—Lett 1 died July 7, 1964

In the company of a bad 2 individuals including three CBS news men I proceeded by car to the Holiday Inn and requested to be served at the Admiral Benbow. The man in charge informed us that he had closed the restaurant and we would not be served at this time or at any time he could serve. Mr. McLeanick asked him if he understood that the Civil Rights bill had been passed. "Do you know sir it is now illegal against you to refuse to serve us?" and "Do you understand that this policy of the Holiday Inn manager is that all facilities at their establishments will be open to the man at the door to the Admiral Benbow so that we could not enter. We asked the door to the Admiral Benbow to serve them and was also asked by several "why do you refuse to serve us? Is it because we are Negroes and it more than one instance it was stated directly to him that he was refusing to accommodate us because we are Negroes. None of us were granted service. We informed the man that we would leave but that we would return at an unspecified time.

Mary told the man that we liked him and hoped that one day we would find his motel and restaurant service open to us and that this came about we would assuridly patronize the Holiday Inn restaurants. We then went to the Southern Inn and requested to rent motel accommodations for each of our party as we had previously done at the Holiday Inn and were refused. We were refused at the Southern Inn also and upon being asked to speak to the manager were refused on any other way. For service station attendants who were at the Holiday Inn when we stopped there and who drove off in a blue 3/4 ton pickup truck had by now arrived at the Southern Inn. One man was behind the desk as we entered and the other was inside and told the one that he had "called and it start anything as we have plenty of people to take care of things."

On leaving I saw these two men surrounded by about eight all white all approximately 23-35 years of age and dressed in white all white. One of them was the owner of the motel and another was the police car which had folowed the establishment and parked as we did in the parking lot, and I was having a talk with the police who were standing by and to be friendly and in each others company.

While we were in the Southern Inn the owner of those two men was wearing a red and white checked shirt and turned up the 70 on the TV set in the lobby of the motel and I turned it down down the TV set in the lobby of the motel and I turned it down and he struck my hand away from the set and turned the volume up so that the CBS sound equipment tape recorder would be turned out. I moved away from the TV set and back to our party.

Also present with our party as an observer for CBS was Ivonne Dillingham, a Caucasian woman.

We left the Southern Inn in a party of three cars. The lead ear with Mr. Henry and led us to the local airport. It was followed by a Missouri rented car driven by the three CBS reporters.
Two of the reporters proceeded from the airport by car with their equipment. We overheard a statement that four men were going to try to "get" them.

We returned to the Freedom House of G.O.P.O. We were told that mobs are beginning to be formed because of our attempt to gain service at these two establishments.

signed,
Joan Drake