

AFFIDAVIT * July 17, 1964

My name is Johnny Lee McGreary. I live at 508 Carver Village, Pascagoula Jackson County, Mississippi. I am 23 years old.

On July 17, 1964 I was at the county courthouse keeping record, for the COFO voter registration project, of the people who went to the courthouse to register that day. I took a woman up to the Circuit Clerk's office when she went up there to register. There were two white ladies and a white man standing in the Circuit Clerk's office. The secretary in the office was explaining the registration application to them. She was saying to them, "for instance, section 39...." when we came in. She left them and came over to us, saying to them as she left, "Wait a minute, I'll explain it to you." She asked us what we wanted, we said the women wanted to register. She asked me if I was registered. When I told her yes, she said that I couldn't stay there with her, but I would have to go back down the stairs. I left.

After I saw that more than one white person was allowed to register, I sent two women up at the same time to try to register. The man at the door went up to the office, got one of them and brought her back down. After that he would let no Negroes come through the door unless he found out what business they had in the courthouse.

Around noon, a young man wearing a small deputy sheriff's badge, came out to us, and said, "if you all are waiting to register, the courthouse is closing at noon," and that no one was coming back to the office. I asked him when it had started closing at noon on Friday and he said that it had always been closing at that time. He went back inside; I went and ~~called~~ called the COFO office about it. The courthouse never closed, and the Circuit Clerk's office opened again at 1:00 after dinner. They stopped taking people to register at 4:45 that evening.

One of the women, Mary Autherine Baggett, asked the secretary in the Circuit Clerk's office to explain section 9 to her so she could understand it. The secretary said that she was not allowed to explain it. She failed the test. Mrs. Baggett was the woman I had taken up earlier.

Signed _____

Witnesses: _____
