

Sat. July 13: Tonday was the greatest day in Ablanys history. Tift Park pool w was desegregated!! James Daniels, Randy Battle, and another guy went up there about 9 AM, climbed over the fence, dove into the water fully dressed, swam around for about 5 mts, and climbed out and walked out the exit and down the street. All the little white bastards jumped out of the pool and started screaming for the police, the life guard pretended he didnt see anyting, and the cps were so dumb-founded that they just stood around and didnt do anything. Eddie Brown got some pcitures of this historic event, and when they get published by the Southwest Georgian (weekly Negro press) it will do much to raise the peoples spirits. By Sunday everyone in town well know about this. I talked to Randy after he came out and he ~~said~~ said that water has ~~be~~ never felt so good. The thing that was hrdest to figure is that here they had valid grounds for arrest (one of the rare times they do) and yet they police didn't arrest. But 15 mts later 6 Negro women and kids, also Betsy Wycoff presented themselves in an orderly manner to the ticket taker, tendered their money, and requested a ticket to enter the pool - they were arrested for loitering. I might have mentioned this in a previous letter, but both Daniels and Eddie Brown, are leaders of the largest ~~NEKKO~~ Negro street gags in the city, and both have been doing alot of work for SNCC, and have kept the violence to a minimum. Daniels is x from CME, the roughest territory in Albany, He is about 23 though he claims to be 18, tall and muscular, very dark with processed hair (called a "do") and a broken nose - one of the most striking people I have seen here. Brown is a little shorter, very hadnsome, neat conservative in dress, two font teeth are ringed in gold. Browns leads a gang from out at Six Point where most of the Negro night clubs are located. Also today 10 kids went out to the Wetherbees and Haleys to picket them and were arrested and juv. petitions were taken against them. These are the two wealthiest families in town and the real force behind segregation here. Both are on the B/D of the First State Bank; Haley owns the Ford agency and most Coke bottling planst in the area; Wetherbee owns most of the plantations in Dougherty and surrounding counties. Around 11 AM I went down to see Judge Durden to bond out Willie Ricks. Ricks has been on break and water since the 28th of June and for a while was being forced out on the work gnag. Of course, the same crap starts all over again. Judge has to very carefully consider the idea of the cert bond - then its too late to get the City Treasurer to receive the money; then the street warden is out so the transfer to county jail can't be effected. Later Ralph Allen came into the office with Danny Lyons (a photographer working with SNCC out of Atlanta). they were going out to "Terrible Terrell" county and wanted to know if I would like to go along. CB said I could go if I wanted as there wasnt much going in the office, so we picked up Wendy Mann add Faith Holseart (SNCC field secretaries) and drove out to Sasser, Ga. Sasser is one of the meanest cracker towns in the South; it was here that two churches were burned because people were having voter registration meetings in them. Here also an FBI man was beat up by one of the boys as "another damn outsider . Ralph spent most of last year doing voter work out in Terrell, so he is very well known, both in the Negro and white community; this can be very dangerous. We went out and spoke with the Breuner family, their daughter Johnni Ruth is very active in Sasser and throughout the county. Then went up the read to Leroy Shannon's, a sharecropper on land owned by one of the wealthy white families. We stayed on his place about an hour, and it was really nice - he had a bunch of pigs and other farmtype animals, and insisted on showing us how his crops were doing, and how his wife puts them up - told us to come by anytime and pick all the vegetables we want. Then we drove out to Dawson where Ralph spent some time in jail and was beaten several times. Visited Carolyn Daniels, the beauty parlor operator whose house was shot up by the crackers when she let some of the SNCC workers stay there. She told us that registration is progressing very slowly as the people are scared; they are afraid for their jobs, that their churches will be burned again, afraid for their lives. It is very upsetting to find tat people are ~~be~~ being denied the right to vote today, not because of tricky literacy tests or they way they are graded (although this goes on too) but by a wave of terror that grips these outlying counties. The Klan still rides in this part of the country and the people have seen to many lynchings and burningsto be very brave. Carolyn Daniels and a few like here must carry all the work on their shoulders. The other day she was arrested for "speeding" and her license revoked for 90 days this was because she had been carrying people down to register to vote. After we came back from Dawson I took Wendy out to the DAV to eat as we hadnt eaten all day excpet for some peanut butter and jelly sandwiches which one of the people in Terrell Co gave us. After we ~~saw~~ sat down, some guy and his girl friend asked us to join them at their table, and later invited us to his house for dinner next Sunday; then another guy came over and after he left 3 more people aske d us to join them. It was great because these people are inviting you, so its very clear that they want to talk Movemnet, not like when SNCC goes around knocking on doors asking if you have a few minutes to talk about the Movement, as whenever a white comes to a Negroes door here it either means cops or insurance agnets, so the people are prone to agree to anything just to get rid of you, and the SNCC kids get a very distorted idea of how the community feels about anyting. These people are never reached by the Movement as they work all day and spend their nights out at the clubs. But all of thamm expressed great concern and promised to come to mass meeting Monday night. It is much easier to talk to people and find out how they feel about things in this setting as they are relaxed, in circumstances which they feel very comfortable. People keep telling you how glad they are t you came to help them, and it is hard to make them understand that we "did nt come to help them" but came to help ourselves - that when Albany, Ga is rott

the whole country is rotten, and that none of us can live anywhere when peop- cant live in Albany. You also learn about things that people never talk about when canvassed at home - out at DAV people will tell you storied about their work, their relationships with the boss, etc. Here you get the real undercurrents of discontent as the suspicions are less and the people more relaxed. They are naturally suspicious of any white who comes to their home, as this only means trouble, but in a bar which is familiar to them, when they invite you to their table to share a beer, then things are on a completely different basis. I also experienced a strange thing ~~was~~ tonight; one of the people who came over to the table seemed annoyed that we didnt recognize him, as he insisted that Wendy and I had both been to his house, We discovered that he was talking about two other white SNCC workers who don't bear any physical resemblance to us at all, except for skin color. You suddenly realize what it is like to have no identity, the "all those people look alike to me" thing; and ;you can start to understand how a Negro must feel going through life, faceless, designated not by name, but as "boy" or "uncle" with absolutely no individual identity in the eyes of whites. It was good to have felt this, because although I understand that a white can never really feel what it ~~x~~ is to be a Negro, this kind of experience helps the necessary awareness one needs to get insight into the situation here.

Sunday July 14: Last night a Negro was shot to death in Leary, Calhoun Co by the police. They came to his house to arrest him for fighting with a white man, and the official report states that he refused to take his hand out of his pocket, and pulled a gun; no further investigation will be made. Things are also starting in Americus. Sat night a group of 17 were arrested for picketing the local movie and also having a "stand-in" at the ticket office. The picketing arrests in Americus are very interesting in that the ordinances was passed at an emergency session of the council on Sat afternoon (one of the provisions being that free speech can only be exprcised between the hours of 9 AM and 6 PM) and the kids were arrested that evening. We got Ricks out of jail today. Tho he was supposed to be transferred to County on Sunday the police "forgot" and he was still in City Sunday. CB sent me down with \$1000 to bond him out (he doesn't like to go into County as thats where sheriff Campbell hit him). When I came down to get him out one of the officials asked me "you come after a nigger", and I told him "No, a Negro" and he just got a real surprised look on his face and didnt say anything more. We worked until about 4 AM typing the pleas for the kids arrested in Americus who are to be tried on Monday morning.

Mon July 15: Went up to Americus for the trials. This is a really primitive place, but on the whole, the court officials (judge and city prosecutor are alot more civilized than in Albany -~~m~~ they call CB "Atty King" when addressing him, etc) CB says this will only last until they realize that the Sumter Co Movement will not disappear in a few days, and then the harrassment will start here too, but right now it is a pleasure to work there. CB constantly kids me about losing my identity, says I become more Negro every day - that when I deal with the cops he notices I start shuffling and mumbling, yessir, thank you sir every few minutes however, this civility in the courtroom is not carried outside the doors. On my way into court a guy walked up to me as said "We dont need no nigger-lovin' New York lawyers in this town; go on back to Moscow" (people here constantly equate civil rights and communism.) Later when I went down to ask the desk sargent if I could make a local call on the police phone (he refused) and I started out the door a guy walked up to me and elbowed me hard in the ribs, in front of the Sgt. I must have turned purple with rage, but pulled myself under control and walked on as if I didnt notice it. Anyhow, the court was ~~xxx~~ the usual circus you get in the Recorders Courts when civil rights cases come up, and alot of the good townspeople turned out ~~of~~ for this show. The judge ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~judge of the law~~ looks very young, wears a Univ of Ga ring with Sigma Nu insignia on it. No one up there seems to know very much law, at least concerning this area. They had no idea what the city provisions for certiorari were, and after I found them in the code and showed it to them, no one really understood who had the authority to do what. Before our case was called (they saved it for last so it was after 2 PM when we got on) there was a disorderly conduct case brought against a group of about 7 Negroes (2 different families who live next door to each other) CB says this is known as a "nigger mess" in the local courts. One family had retained a white attorney to represent them. He called them by their first names, or referred to them as "those three"; the grandmother who must have been over 70 was called "girl" by both counsel and the judge. The court has a very paternalistic approach in these cases; very similar to scolding naughty children, and the people being tried showed good evidence of "the system" in operation. They were constantly vieing with ~~with~~ each other to eastablish themselves as "good niggers" and win the favor of the court, ie "Judge, we never fight, and they are always fighting" "I told him I'd call the cops, and he say, damn the police" etc. Our case was handled pretty much as was to be expected, except that the Judge read all the defensive pleas (a change from Albany), but then sentenced everyone to 60 days or \$106. (maximum allowed for Recorders Ct) I had no problem getting into the cells, however, and this will make it easier on CB when things start getting hot in Americus, as I'll be able to make the trip up to get the facts from those arrested.