

FIELD REPORT: SAM SHIRAH  
OCT. 4

I arrived in Orangeburg about 1:00 that afternoon and went directly to Trinity Methodist church, the headquarters of the movement there. I ate dinner in the church with the pickets. That afternoon I spent talking to the leaders of the movement there. Macarther Goodwin is the student leader that is most dynamic.

Orangeburg is a town of about 15 or 20 thousand people. It is the county seat of Orangeburg county which is 64% negro. Orangeburg itself is about the same percentage wise. At that time over a thousand negroes had been arrested in less than a week.

There was a march that afternoon in which about 250 people were arrested. They are picketing the whole downtown area of the city. The students met at the church about 9:30 every morning to go out on the pickett lanes.

I attended the mass meeting that night but was not asked to speak. The NAACP has this place sewed up and are very jelous of their prestigue. After the meeting I went over to Claflin College and got a room in the men's resident hall. About half that night I spent talking to some of the student leaders there. George Sadler in perticurly, who is the pres. of the NAACP youhh council on campus.

Oct. 5

I got up about noon today and went over to the canteen to eat. I spent the whole day talking to the students here and typing up field reports and contact lists. About 28 ministers and teachers were arrested in a march this afternoon. Tonight I went with some of the students to meet Dr. Calhoun, who is one of the most radical professors here. We talked to about 12:00 and then went back to the campus. I got to bed about 3:00 in the morning. Stayed up talking to the students.

Many of the students knew Regy Roberson when he was here. They explaned some of the problems he had ~~with~~ with the NAACP. Some of the students worked with Regy. Regy had his office in Orangeburg.

Oct. 6

Got up very late today, about 2:00. I went to the canteen where I talked to some of the students from S.C. STATE college. S.C. State is right next to the campus of Claflin. They told me it would be better if I did not go on there campus because the state police were over there. We went down to the mass meeting at Trinity Methodist church at 3:00. After the meeting we held a march in which about 485 people marched. I marched with them since they were only going around the block and not downtown. This really shook up the police who followed right beside me all the way around. The photographers from CBS took a lot of picturs of me which are supposed to be shown on CBS Wednesday night Oct. 9. Nothing else interesting happened that day.



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OCT. 7

Got up late as usual today. Spent the afternoon talking to students. Went to the mass meeting that night and was stoped by Det. Brant of the Orangeburg police dept. He checked my I.D. and tried to ask me a bunch of questions but I refused to answer them. There was a large mass meeting. The steering committee called for a boycott of all public schools in that district because one of the teachers was fired for participating in the demonstrations. After the meeting I went to the Trinity Methodist church to help make pickett signs. Got to bed very late as usual.

Oct. 8

Got up late again. Bought a camera from Sam Kennedy to take some pictures of the picketts. I did not get any pictures because I could not get any film.

The Boycott was 100% effective. All of the schools were picketed and no one broke the pickett lines.

There were about 60 or 70 kids arrested today. They were arrested at the court house when they used the white rest rooms. One of their teachers started it.

That night I went to the mass meeting at Trinity church. After the meeting I started back to the campus at Claflin. I was stoped by the police as I was crossing the street and arrested. The arresting officer was Det. Brant. He told me the charge was vagrancy, but when we got to the police station he changed it to investigation. They booked me and put me in with three white prisinors. The jail cell was the worst I've seen. That night I did not sleep because the drunks kept me awake.

Oct. 9

I spent all day today in jail. I made a telephone call to the movement no. but it was about 5:00 before anyone came down to see me. A local att. for the NAACP came down and told me he would help me get out of jail but he would not represent me in court. He made some deal with the police that if I would get out of town they would let me go. Someone got my bags from the college and at 9:30 I was carred to the bus station and put on a bus for Atlanta. The policeman bought my ticket and told the bus driver not to let me off until I got to Atlanta. When I got to Columbia we had an hour lay over. I went out to the Wesley Foundation and talked to some students. I got into Atlanta about 5:30 this morning.