

Holmes County, Nov. 21, 1964 - by Mary Brumder

Ed Brown (project director)	SNCC
Larry Stevens	SNCC
Don Hamer	SNCC
Mike Kenney	
John Allen	
Mary Brumder	

SNCC has not been paying much of the time. The budget is insufficient. Survival has come from private resources - friends, family, etc. These are not endless and are dwindling. A fair part of the project money, especially gas, has also come from our pockets.

For the project to be nearly self-sufficient even, we would need actual pay for the staff, subsistence for John and Mike, and a budget sufficient for gas and other bills - probably about twice the present budget.

Cars:	1. 1964 Plymouth	SNCC
	2. 1964	Mike Kenney
	3. 1962 Volvo	Mary Brumder
	4. 1957 Ford	Don Hamer
	5. 1957 VW	Larry Stevens

The last two are in bad shape. We are working by programs. This means that each of us responsible for a given program throughout the county. Therefore, those of us who do not have working cars are rendered nearly inoperative.

COMMUNITY CENTERS.

Mileston: Sue and Henry Lorenzi are directors under a seven member Board of Trustees and a manager. So far, time has been devoted to the lease, getting butane and raising money. Programs, existing or proposed for the near future, are:

- children - kindergarten, evening reading hour
- teenagers - freedom school, action group to help with the center and start a newspaper
- adults - mass meetings, farmers' meetings (discussion), Friday night social
- also Saturday night movie or dance

Pilgrim's Rest: Local people have renovated an old school and are working (with some aid from us) on a freedom school and Saturday kindergarten. Movies and dances are planned.

Sunnymount: There is a building. Also local interest.

It should be noted that John Allen, presently in charge of action groups, hoped to run the Mileston Center. He would now like to run or work in the other two, which are now pretty much on their own. He works better when he likes what he is doing.

## HOLMES COUNTY/ 2

### FREEDOM SCHOOLS. (Don Hamer).

The Mileston school is taught by the Lorenzis. There are also schools in Mt. Olive, Pilgrim's Rest, Goodman and Tchula. I believe there are plans to start one in Lexington and Lebanon (a community north of Lexington), all taught by Don.

The program is basically to be two nights a week (or evenings) where possible. One session is for English, reading and writing, and one for Negro History. Science, language and other things may be taught.

The teenagers are also involved in action groups. These, at present, have little, if any, independent existence. They have two main endeavors:

1. executive meetings - frequent, do little and are hard to get to;
2. odd jobs - canvassing and such for us

They have little idea of why they exist. In some cases they are social in a large part. If they continue, it must be clear why. Also local adult supervision might help bring them really into the movement.

Note: next summer there are many areas which could profit from freedom schools. There are eight places which come to mind now, mostly well-populated, other than places that had them last summer.

### FOOD AND CLOTHING.

During the summer, a committee of local people handled welfare. At summer's end, Stokely suggested (said) that it should be handled by project directors. This was strongly opposed in Mileston where it was centered heretofore. Since there has been no distribution (except for a couple of emergencies) the question is not resolved. However, Ed intends to handle it from Lexington, for movement people.

### VOTER REGISTRATION. (Mike Kenney).

Little has been done since summer, though a few people have been down. The circus clerk is being tried at present and the Justice Department expects good results. After December 6, voter registration is to be emphasized, freedom days and all. We have accumulated a back-log of willing people. It is proposed by Ed that all registrants be accompanied by one of us.

Work is needed to get all who have been down to check back.

### FDP. (Larry Stevens).

The main project was the freedom vote. There has been little registration since summer.

The vote used local talent poorly in Lexington, and the eastern end of the county, as opposed to the rest of the county. Mileston was less than it should have been because canvassers allowed voting at home rather than getting people to come down.

In many cases, we ended up doing things local people should have done.

Nor did we fully use local help in placing boxes. However, the actual voting, except for places mentioned, was handled well by local people. Also, local people got a fair number of plantation votes.

Since the election, the FDP has been trying to reorganize, to improve communications and establish a way for the executive to get things done by delegating authority. This is in process. Larry has details.

Meetings are poorly attended. There is a lack of purpose. What are they doing? Suggestions are:

1. a county mock election in spring
2. federal programs program

I suggest voter registration, freedom registration and political education - all badly needed.

#### FEDERAL PROGRAMS.

ASC nominations in eight of nine communities were attempted. Petitions were circulated in mass meetings. Nine of twenty were disqualified because of people living in the wrong communities. So far, it appears this was justified. We are still investigating. Our mistake may have been doing petitions in meetings rather than door to door.

Ballots arrived today and confusion is at an end. The ASC seems fairly complete in mailings, though not to sharecroppers and tenants in some cases. I am working on this. This is the first year they have received any election information.

Local people are canvassing. We hope by Friday, November 27, to have lists of willing voters and to arrange car-pools with a leader who will keep tabs, report on venture and help with difficulties. We are considering a central clearing place to and from polling places, which would facilitate keeping tabs, getting after laggards. There will be people at the counting.

#### My communities:

- Alcona - 2 nominees. Enthusiasm and good people. Majority of Negroes. Victory, likely.
- Ebenezer - 2 nominees, one likely write-in. Very good. New area should win.
- Delta - 3 nominees. Vast area. Lots of whites. More Negroes, but it's close. Possible victory.
- Pickins - Write-in needed. Not much hope, but there is an unprecedented response for that area.

#### Larry's:

- West - 2 nominees. Fear and few Negroes make victory unlikely.
- N. Lexington - No nominees. Good write-in. Due to stupidities it is behind, but has great potential in terms of quality of nominee, canvassers and number of voters.

#### Mike's:

- Durant - Write-in. Few people. Fear and lack of leadership. It is involving people heretofore inactive.

S. Lexington - 1 nominee. 1 write-in. Can win, but there are some untried canvassers at work. It's large with a fair number of whites.

Mike had a good idea. Mimeograph ballots for each community, one blank and one voted upon, for each voter. This would give them some idea of what needed to be done.

Post-ASC. I want to work through small discussions among farmers and me, discussing problems and solutions. This will range from co-ops to PHA to written contracts and include ASC follow-through. The purpose will be mutual education and information. I will also deal with specific complaints and problems, but the goal will be to make this, finally, a function of local leaders more than COFO. Thinking and pooling experience can do a great deal. Where good ideas emerge, they will be worked on. If I'm let do it.

Mary Brumder

[Faint, mostly illegible text, possibly bleed-through or a second page of notes.]