

848 Vermont #1
Oakland Ca 94610

Dear Mrs. Wilmington:

I was so happy to get your letter, it reminded me of the months I spent in Grenada. Even though that was a time of struggle and hardship, it was also a time of beauty and warmth. I will always remember the warm and courageous people of Grenada. It may seem odd, but the months I spent in Grenada were some of the best of my life, because of the spirit and courage of the people that met and sung in the church, marched to the town square, registered to vote and so much more. Particularly I remember the children who faced such dangers the first day of school and the women of the ~~West~~ Poor Peoples Committee.

I intended to write a book about Grenada, and I did write an outline in diary form of the events that occurred during part of the time I was in Grenada. I showed the outline to a couple of publishers but they were not interested. The fact is that I am probably not a good enough writer for that sort of thing. Also, after I left Grenada I was still active in the movement, as I am today. I never really had the time to try to write a good enough story that someone would publish, even if I had the talent to do so. Anyway I thought that you might like a copy of the outline that I wrote so I am enclosing it in this package.

After I left Grenada I went to work in the anti-war movement. Against the Viet-nam war. The same system that causes black people in Mississippi to be persecuted and oppressed caused the war in Indo-China. The same people who get rich because of the oppression of Black people in America grew rich from the war to kill the Indo-Chinese people. Rich powerful men like Senator Eastland. Over the years that I have been in the movement I have come to believe that the racism that makes Black people suffer in Mississippi stems from the same cause as the Vietnam war, as the recent gasoline swindle that is robbing us of what little money we have, and most of the other problems that we face. I believe that the rich control our government, our schools, our radio and t.v., our jobs, our homes, and as much of our lives as they can. Their desire is to become richer at our expense. To do this they trick poor white Mississippians into fighting poor black Mississippians. They trick young black and white men to travel 10,000 miles to drop bombs on poor Vietnamese women and children. They tell us lies in the newspapers and on the T.V.

I remember singing in Bellflower Baptist Church about Freedom. As the years have gone by I realize ever stronger that a system that oppresses one person ends up oppressing all. This is why I have continued to work in the movement. For the past several years I have been working in factories to earn a living. I spend most of my "movement" time organizing and educating other workers (mostly white) about the need to struggle for freedom. To struggle against racism.

Please write me and let me know what has happened in Grenada in the years since I have left. How you are doing, and also the two Mrs. Washingtons (Beulah and Martha), Sonora Springfield and all the other people who were active in the movement?

Well, I guess that's about all for now. I have a pamphlet on prices that you might like. It was written before the ~~xxx~~ big gas crises so it's a little out of date, but it's still pretty good. I'll include it in this letter. If you would like me to send you other literature just let me know. I know how hard it is to get information on what is really happening in America if you live in Mississippi.

Y urs Truly

Grenada, Miss.
Feb 2, 1967

Dear Bruce ..

We receive your letter it
found all well was glad to hear
from our teacher and to know
that he were well.

Well ~~the~~ Bruce we are
still working on our program
and yet having our meetings I did not
get to go with them to the meeting
at Jackson, I were planning to go
but they had trouble getting some
one to carry them and when they
did get someone they did not have
room for all. but from what
I learned from them it were
very interesting. So I think we
have the canning program now.
So we are trying to decide on what
we will have to have to get started and
how much it will cost we have the
price of a gas stove. Jim is helping
us out some we really miss you
strutting around tho and we are
still working on some of those

names

You gave us I cant find a thing
on A Phillip, ~~at the~~ website if you
can find it ~~to me~~ please and any
other kind of help that weeds
us good. smile)

So Hurry back

By Denise Lee Steenson

819 Pearl Street
Grenada, Miss.
February 8, 1967

Dearest Bruce,

I was so proud to hear from you. This leaves us doing fine so far. How are you and we hope you are doing better.

Leon, Lester, Willie Leon, Cotton Reader, and another white boy is in. They are here to help to get Mr. U.S. Hillon in as a councilman (smile)

Mr. McKelray hired A.C. Chamberlain and Roosevelt Bennett as policemen.

The Allen's suit is going on again this week.

Bell & lower was burned, but not down. The white folk say it was caught from a wire, but we know it was burned. Say hello to your mother, and tell her

-- we really miss you from Grenada.

Aline is doing much better now.

~~The~~ My family say hello, and they
are looking for you back.

your friend,
Senora

⑤

The Poor People Committee
513 Plum Street
Jan 26, 1967
Guinade Miss

Dear Bruce.

I hope you will forgive us for such a long time writing you but we have been very busy doing our home work over Bell Flower Church burned Sunday Jan. 22. it was damage very badly. it was sit from the side next to the fire in that opening but that did not stop the Mass Meeting not one night.

we are over to Vicent Chapel Church

Bruce I hope you are having a nice stay at home with your family. you must have wonderful Parents. we miss you in C class every day. we are getting along alright. Jim help us when we ask him & don't mean doing our home work but we go to him for information

2.

we are working very hard trying to help poor family committee for a hearing for Mrs. Birtka Moore and Mr Clarence Martin also.

Since you are suppose to be here for Court Leon Kerman Dodge Cottrader is here & Cooke

Old Judge Perry is Crazy as ever he put Robert Johnson in jail for walking in front of the judge he wasn't in when they was told not to they put his Lawyer in jail for trying to stop them from jailing Robert. Robert Bond was \$300 he did not charge Lackey Lackey Bond anything.

we went to Jackson four of us Jim went with us we in on the meeting and listen to what the different Counties had to say witch was not very interesting. for the poor people committee from what we gather. we decided if we go into business, we would go

into the preserve and Sirup
to set up a Co. if we would
have to borrow from them
we would not be making
anything no way. we hope to
go into some type of business we
have been very busy the white
folk put A.C. Chandler on Police
to arrest Clark only

we haven't had time to have
our picture made we hope to have
them made Sunday. Bruce we
really hope you will come back
to Grenada if you can and
work to

hello to your parents

Sincerely yours
Miss Mable G. Wilmington

Spring 67

The Poor People Committee
513 Plum Street
Guernsey, Miss.

Dear Buel:

We the committee hope you are fine and have gotten enough rest to come back to Guernsey.

We are getting along pretty good with our home work and welfare cases we got Mrs Deborah Bullin on her case is close she is the woman with 9 children she received a check on the 29th of January and one on the 16th, also Mrs Effie Hays Shelby \$23⁰⁰ each for her two kids and \$20⁰⁰ for the mother, also Mrs Ella Mae Wright.

We have been very busy we hope to get many more on welfare.

Mrs. Bulah Washington and I (Mable) went to Jackson to the 3 day meeting. I am very glad we finally got a way to go fine

Bulard carried us Mrs Bertha Moore went on the bus with Mrs Woods. but we ask her come back with us she did. it was a very large deligation of old and young men make our welfare it was something to witness

there were people there from Delta Counties who are living on Commodities food only

when I listere to those people I thought. as I sat and lister I will work harder when I go back home..

we wanted to go to Washington to the Poor People meeting, but we learn about it to late to raise our money

Bruse we hope you will return some day please write Miss Washington (our)

and ask her to stay with
Bulah and me all the
other has drunk she
has met with us
4 time since you left
write us sometime

Sincerely yours
The Poor People Committee
Grenada News

hope we can send the picture
soon

624 Plum St.
3-26-74
Grenada, Miss.

Mr Bruce Hartford
325 Manley Hts. Rd.
Orange, Conn.

Dear Mr Hartford

I was told that you were waiting a book at the you was working in Grenada. if it is true I would like very much to buy one from you if they are off the press and ready for sale.

If this is not true please forgive me. I do hope you are getting along fine. I hope to hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely
Mable H. Wilmington