

Freedom Riders Are Convicted In Poplarville

POPLARVILLE — Three Freedom Riders tried here Monday afternoon on breach of the peace charges were fined \$250 and sentenced to two months in jail.

Mayor Pat Hyde, in whose court they were tried, pronounced the sentence.

A second charge of obstructing justice lodged against the white man in the group, Frank Nelson, of New York City, was dropped. The other two were Alice Thompson and Patricia Smith, both of New Orleans and both Negroes.

All three made bond for \$500 each and will appeal to Circuit Court. Bonds are returnable to the April 1962 term.

Following the trial, which caused little interest and was witnessed by only a couple of dozen persons, officers escorted them out of the city.

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Three Riders Arrested At Poplarville

POPLARVILLE, Miss. (AP) — Officers arrested three "Freedom Riders" in a bus terminal here Thursday after two of them staged an impromptu sit-in at the white waiting room cafe.

The three were among six riders who left Hattiesburg, 35 miles to the north, earlier in the day after obeying police orders to move out of segregated facilities in a bus depot there. The six included five Negro girls from New Orleans and a white man from New York City.

A spokesman for the ride-sponsoring Congress of Racial Equality in New Orleans said when the Greyhound bus made an unscheduled stop—to fix a fuel line—in Poplarville, Patricia Smith, 18, and Alice Thompson, 22, got off the bus to test segregation laws.

The girls' ordered and were served soft drinks in the depot's white cafe, said the spokesman, but as they were leaving Town Marshal B. F. Orr arrested them on charges of disturbing the peace.

Orr also arrested Frank Nelson, 23, on charges of interfering with officers, said the spokesman.

It was undetermined whether the three would remain in jail until their trial or post bond for release.

The other three riders stayed on the bus and completed their trip to New Orleans. They were Doratha Smith, 18, Jean Thompson, 19, and Betty Daniels, 20.

The six left Mobile, Ala., with the avowed purpose of challenging segregation laws in Mississippi transportation terminals in line with the new Interstate Commerce Commission's order banning segregation in bus terminals handling passengers from state to state.

In Hattiesburg three of the girls took seats in the Union Bus Terminal cafe and the other two entered the rest room for white women.

After police Capt. Roy Conn instructed the three to move out of the cafe for the second time, they obeyed. When the two came out of the rest room, Conn also ordered them out.

Nelson, who had remained in the white waiting room, rejoined the group outside the depot.

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