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MISSISSIPPI'S MOST UNUSUAL PRISON

JUANITA STOUT:
Philadelphia judge has
five-point project to
reshape lives of girls

Lady Judge
Helps Girls
Who Go Wrong



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Eyewitness Report Exposes Miss. Mob Action

Following a call from Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy's office, Mayor W. H. Douglas of McComb, Miss., ordered his reinforced police department to protect Freedom Riders who vowed to return after being beaten and kicked last week. Here is an exclusive, eyewitness account of the first violence reported in Mississippi since the Freedom Riders began their determined drive to integrate the state. The following account was substantially the same report given to the FBI by Jerome Smith of New Orleans.

By Jerome Smith as told to Larry Still

"We left New Orleans at 6:45 (a.m.) Tuesday. We arrived in McComb at 10:45 and tried to enter the Greyhound bus station. Someone standing around told us it was closed because of a gas leak. So we flagged a cab (Negro) and went to the outskirts of the city to a cafe and stayed there three or four hours. We returned to the bus station at approximately three o'clock. Four of us went right to the lunch counter and requested service.

"I went to the ticket window to purchase five tickets to New Orleans. At this point I gave a sign for two members of our group to come into the seating section of the lunch room. One of the men at the lunch counter started to pour coffee down George Raymond's back as he got up. At this time, a belligerent-like beast attacked me with brass knuckles on his hand. He hit me in the head and back and beat me until I was in back of the counter. Somebody knocked Dorothea down and kicked her in the side. Alice Thompson was kicked in the face and head. I tried to make my way from the back of the counter to the door.

"At this time I saw Thomas Valentine (who had made it out of cafe) being pitched about in the street like they were dribbling a basketball. I went out and tried to catch a cab, but he drove on. Then I dove into the back of an empty truck. George and Alice stopped another cab. Dorothea and I were stranded. Thomas finally stopped a



After riding 114 miles from New Orleans to test integration in McComb, Freedom Riders face vicious attack at bus terminal.



Teaming up on defenseless Riders (who are pledged to non-violence), young whites viciously pummel both males and females.



In exclusive photos showing fury of the attack, Freedom Rider Thomas Valentine is snatched from the car (top), hauled . . .



. . . through the air (center), then dumped to the ground in a heap as unidentified members of mob move in on him.



Jerome Smith phones account of mobbing, (l.-r.) Dorothea Smith, Alice Thompson, George Raymond, Julia Aaron stand by. cab. The cab cruised the block and got Dorothea and I. We all returned to the cafe bleeding and hurting. We called another cab and started back to the bus station, but we ran into more difficulty. The mob was gathering and wouldn't let the cab through. We went back to the White Castle Hotel and Cafe and stayed until about 8:30 while we called our office (CORE). We were treated by a Dr. Anderson who came to the cafe. My head and ear was so sore I couldn't stand to touch it. (All of the Riders were treated at the Charity Hospital in New Orleans.)

"We began to get calls from the Justice Department while we waited at the cafe. Finally, Police Chief George Guy came in with some police. They were the first police we had seen since we arrived. I do remember seeing somebody in blue and hearing something about the minutemen when I dove into the truck. Chief Guy said they would protect us while we were leaving town. He asked us if we wanted to prosecute the fellows who beat us. We told him no because it was inconsistent with our principles of non-violence. We refuse to harm those who oppress us. We got a cab and went back to catch the bus. The police followed. On the way to New Orleans, we made plans to return to Mississippi to test integration again."