

## GENERAL COMMENTS

When we first arrived in Troy, many people ~~wanted~~<sup>wanted</sup> to know why we were here. They said the white folks treated them pretty well, and things were fine in Troy. Here are some of the observations that we have made: where the Negro community begins the side walk and often the paved streets end; some of the unpaved streets are in such poor condition that often only one car is able to go down the street at one time; some homes are in such bad shape that they should have been condemned years ago; there is hardly any recreational facilities for the Negro youth; the fountain service is now being intergrated by the youth in Troy for the first time in its history; in Goshen they still have not been able to get a lunchroom in the school; many of the men are still earning that same \$1.25 that they started with ten years ago; and the women who do day work or work in the cafes never approach \$1.00/hr;

Many people here are afraid. Afraid they might be fired from their job, the church might be bombed or the mortgage might be fore-closed, ~~that they might~~ be physically ~~be~~ harmed.

In Montgomery where we purchased the duplicating machine, the salesman was very courteous and did not stare because we were an intergrated group. Next door at a small resturant they were horrified when we walked in. The Negro cook was sent to wait on us. As soon as we were seated, a white man dressed in a business suit came in and sat at a table parallel with ours. He smiled very cordially at us and ordered coffee. He sat there with that one cup of coffee until we finished our meal. When we were standing near the door getting ready to leave, the man got up, paid his bill, and said rather loudly, "excuse me please" when he passed by us on his way out.

At the mass meeting in Brundidge there was a good cross-section of the community present. Some looked like farmers not long from a day in the field, the women were present in all sizes, shapes, and ages, some of the youngsters had that well scrubbed look of college students, and there were men there in their thirties and forties who were un-smiling. The people seemed eager to hear what Rev. Harroll

had to say. If had said lets get up and march to jail, I feel they would have done so.

In the rural communities, the whold family comes th the mass meetings. Because of the simplicity of the church and its people, and the strange yet very moving prayer and response cha~~n~~ting I sometimes feel the twentieth century did'nt come by here.

A car of our very own would be an invaluable aide. Several fellows have been very helpful, but it is not the same as one of our own. Oft times when we are ready for an early start, the drivers are late or sometimes dont show up at all. When they are here bright and early we have something that must be taken care of later in the day. Most of the time we dont get our moneys worth for the gas we buy.