

Mississippi Departure
June 24, 2013

I don't remember what happened between the August 28 jail event and my departure from Columbia several days later. It appears to have been summed up in these two pages of notes made by my father, apparently after the disposition of my case, probably the following Monday, August 30:

Phone to Dick 8/30

What happened?
(How trial go) ~ 1/2 hr.
elec. man.
lawyer

[Snip]

Do you still want to stop off at Antioch?

[Snip]

When planning leave?

How long Antioch? arrive Pgh?

Give us a call (collect) along way to let us know you're on road
OK -- E. suggest. girls do same.

[undated]

281-7560

30 [day?] sentence suspend

\$50 fine --

Leave Wed.

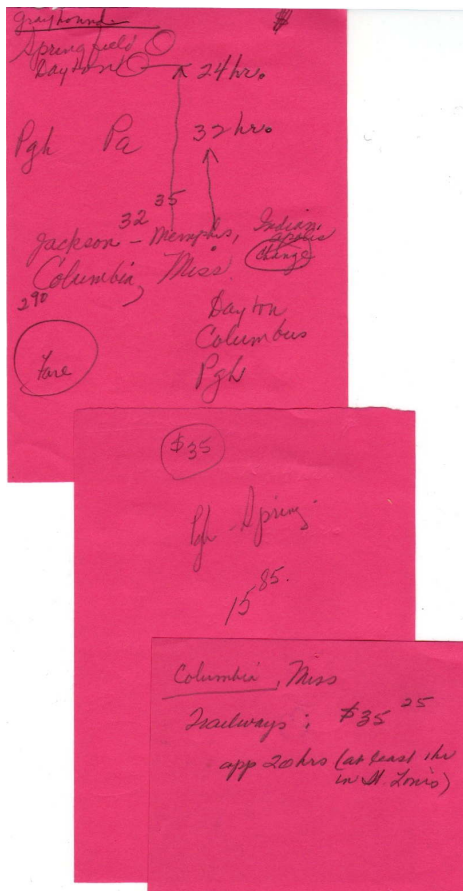
Ant[ioch]. 1-2 days.

Dick tentatively planning to arrive Antioch
Thursday for day or two visit . . .

So, it looks like a fine of \$50 (bail) and 30 day suspended jail sentence. I didn't go to jail for another beating, and the mayor didn't have a PR problem on his hands. And I apparently left on Wednesday, September 1, heading north on a bus to Antioch College in Ohio for a short visit with my brother, after a lot of documented research by my parents on alternative bus schedules

and routes, in the days before the internet. One small sample (not the pages of tables):

Bus notes by my parents



My last memory of Columbia is of sitting on the bus looking out the window, and noticing that my luggage was being removed from the bus's luggage compartment. I got out and succeeded in getting it put back on the bus. If I hadn't looked out at that point, I would have had yet another fond memory of Columbia's 60's hospitality for trouble-makers...

I remember hoping to return that fall. But the University of Chicago told me their experience was that students that left for a quarter never returned as effective students, and if I insisted on going, I would lose the scholarship that was essential to my continued studies. I chickened out and stayed at Chicago, and soon lost touch with the friends I'd made in Columbia.

So much for (some) white northerners...

[For the complete set of my Mississippi 1964-65 letters,
see <http://dickatlee.com/issues/mississippi>]