

Letter to his family from Larry Wright. Written at
Holly Springs, Mississippi.

August 6, 1964

I hope you will be able to see Wayne Yancy's sister. I shared a room with Wayne and I am still in a state of disbelief over what happened. He was the closest person to me ever to be killed. We are not sure how it happened because if isn't possible to know if he was being chased.

I was with Wayne when those truckes boxed us in in Tennessee. He was more worried than the rest of us; he ~~saw~~^{saw} his uncle hanged when he was five years old and since then he has been very nervous. He passed on a hill and that's when the accident happened. I have driven with Wayne a lot and he never passed on a hill except when those truckes were chasing us.

The work slowed down for just a day. We had a memorial service for Wayne Sunday evening. His mother and brother were here; they took his body back to Paris, Tenn., for a Funeral Saturday. I want to go there for the funeral if possible.

We had a "freedom day" here July 24 during which we registered 46 persons at the court house. There were cops all over the place but we didn't have too much trouble. "Only" one man was arrested. It was successful enough that we are going to have two more this month. I will send you a copy of the Rust College newspaper which tells about it.

Our freedom schools have dropped in size because of the summer session of public school. We plan to keep the freedom schools going all year around with a few teachers anyway. If in time the freedom schools become complete enough in curriculum we will encourage students to attend them only. The public schools aren't worth a damn. But right now we try to get our students to go to public school also. Some of them don't do it. Negroes are not required to attend public school.

We put on the play In White America. It went so well we are showing it to other freedom schools around the state. We are getting out a newspaper called Freedom News, written by students. It comes out whenever we have enough material. This encourages students to write articles about what they are learning and doing. It gives them a good feeling to see their work and ideas mean enough to be printed.