

"Cells Jammed"

Secret Report By Bay Rider

Thirty-two girl Freedom Riders in the Jackson, Miss., county jail have been jammed into cells designed for eight, The Examiner learned yesterday.

A letter smuggled out by Rita Carter, an 18 year old Negro member of the Bay area group arrested last week, said that the girls have responded to the crowded conditions well and keep their jailers busy by singing all night.

"In our cell there are 14 Negro girls," Miss Carter wrote. "In the white cell next door there are 18. We sleep until dinner and sing all night. The morale is very high in both groups.

SERENADED

"The boys (Negroes sent to the county jail while the white males remain in the city jail) serenade us through the window from the third floor.

"We are scheduled to get out the 27th of December. I have not been allowed to make my phone calls or receive any of my clothes," she wrote.

Another report on conditions in the Jackson city jail was received from Tom Roland, white leader of the Bay area group.

He reported that false information is being circulated about the Bay riders by the Jackson police.

RED ANGLE

"Some of the people in our group refused to answer any questions beyond name and address," Roland said. "Others refused an answer questions about religious and political affiliation. The record of each of these people states, however, only whether they refused to say whether they are members of the Communist Party."

Roland charged that this

is being done deliberately to make it appear that the Bay riders are Communists.

Ed Blankenheim, organizer of the first and second groups here, said he is now organizing a third group which will leave in about a week for New Orleans and Jackson.

"We already have four or five signed up," Blankenheim said. "They will be joined by about 10 more riders in Los Angeles.

"We also have the largest group to leave the West Coast to date scheduled to leave Los Angeles on July 12. It will include 35 Negro ministers. We hope to organize a group of minister Freedom Riders in the Bay area, too," he said.

Rider Ritual ---9 Minutes, Then Jail

by a Chronicle Correspondent
JACKSON, Miss., June 25—Twenty more Freedom Riders including four from the San Francisco Bay Area came here by train today for a reception that is by now becoming ritual:

- They filed into the depot's White waiting-room.
- Police ordered them to leave.
- They refused.
- They were arrested.

Total elapsed time: Nine minutes.

The Negro and white riders, including 14 Californians, were charged with breach of the peace. Their arrest swelled to 164 the number of Freedom Riders taken into custody here since May 24.

The spokesman for today's group, Marian A. Kendall of San Leandro, told reporters at New Orleans before the trip here that her reasons for the ride were simple:

"When it's all boiled down,
See Page 4, Col. 1

PAGE 4 Monday, June 26, 1961
THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

Freedom Riders: 9 Minutes to Jail

Continued from Page 1

the way humanity treats humanity down here is a little sickening," the 35-year-old social worker declared.

"I feel that once there's equality under the law, other areas of equality will develop."

SPOKESMAN

It was Miss Kendall who spoke for the group at the railroad station here.

Police Captain J. L. Ray, a softspoken veteran of Freedom Rider arrests, ordered the group out of the station. "We can't," Miss Kendall replied.

Ray asked if each understood his order and placed the group under arrest when nobody answered to the contrary.

Other Bay Area residents in the newest group of jailed riders were Richard Thorne, a 24-year-old free-lance writer from Berkeley; John Dolan, 20, and Norma Lisbon, 27, both students at the University of California in Berkeley.

The 11 Negroes and nine whites — the largest single

group yet to challenge Mississippi's segregated transportation facilities — represented six states in all.

ANGELENOS

Most of the 14 Californians were from the Los Angeles area.

The riders did not test segregated depot facilities in New Orleans, where detectives watched quietly and a police photographer shot pictures as the group embarked.

The New Orleans departure and the Jackson arrival were quiet and without incident.