

Tucson Man Rider On Freedom Bus

TUCSON — A 28-year-old Tucson man, one of six white persons aboard a Freedom Riders bus that met violence in Alabama last week, believes similar demonstrations will speed racial integration in the South.

"Our trip simply dramatized the Negroes' plight in the South. Today America is aware that Negroes do not have equal rights under the law," says Edward N. Blankenheim, a former special student at the University of Arizona who says he never graduated from high school.

"**DEMONSTRATIONS** such as ours have given the Southern Negro courage and have brought both North and South civil right leaders together."

Blankenheim joined 5 white men and 7 Negroes to ride from Washington, D.C., to New Orleans May 4.

Blankenheim was forced from the bus when a fire bomb landed inside the vehicle in Anniston, Ala. Several Freedom Riders were injured before state troopers rescued the group, he said.

The demonstrators later flew to New Orleans after they were unable to obtain bus transportation.

BLANKENHEIM joined a group called Students of Equality while attending the UofA last year. The organization later became affiliated with the Congress of Racial Equality.

"When I received an application for the freedom ride from CORE, I joined immediately," he said.

Blankenheim said he will lecture in the Southwest in place of Jim Farmer, national director of CORE, who was jailed in Jacksonville recently for Freedom Ride activities.

THE BUS, stalled about 6 miles out of Anniston by a flat tire, was destroyed by the blaze.

FBI Agent Thomas J. Jenkins of Birmingham said his agents were making an inquiry into the bus burning to determine if there had been any violation of federal law.

The **CORE** members left Washington 10 days ago with six white and seven Negro "Freedom Riders." The number has fluctuated at various stops. On the Anniston bus the **CORE** group included five Negroes and four white persons. The number on the Trailway bus which reached Birmingham was not known.

Dr. Walter Bergman, 61, a former Michigan State University professor and a member of the **CORE** group, said a fight broke out on the bus. "About 10 white men attacked Charles Person, a student at Morehouse University, Atlanta.

"And then James Peck (editor of a **CORE** publication) stepped forward, then they turned on us. Peck was beaten about the face and got a deep cut on his scalp.

"**THEY BEAT** me and were kicking me. And then they threw the Negroes and others over me. There was no other violence until we got to Birmingham."

Bergman said three policemen stood outside the bus at Anniston while this took place.

Several white men attacked a Negro youth as he left the bus in Birmingham. They turned on a white passenger who tried to intervene on the Negro's behalf. Both were bloody from the beatings.



Edward Blankenheim, Right, Tucson, Congress of Racial Equality Secretary
With Jerome Smith, CORE'S New Orleans Chairman

Race Riders Accuse Police Of Beatings

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Congress of Racial Equality leaders yesterday accused New Orleans police of falsely arresting three white Freedom Riders at a private home and later mauling them.

Police said the riders were ar-

rested after officers investigated a complaint of fighting among Negroes and whites at a Negro house Saturday night.

THE RIDERS later fought with another prisoner in the police wagon and seized a gun in a scuffle with two patrolmen, police said.

Arrested were Frank A. Nelson, 23, New York City; John Dolan, 20, Berkeley, Calif.; and George Blevins, 21, Los Angeles. They were at first charged with having no visible means of support. Later, they were booked for simple and aggravated battery and attempting to escape.

Edward Blankenheim, **CORE** field secretary from Tucson, and Jerome Smith, **CORE** chairman in New Orleans, made the charges against New Orleans police as the two left for Jackson, Miss.

Blankenheim said the three arrested riders were waiting at the home to go to Jackson where some 180 riders begin their appeal today on breach of peace charges.

Meanwhile in Jackson, scores of freedom riders renewed acquaintances in the sweltering heat of Mississippi's capital as they flocked here to appeal convictions for crossing color lines.