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2001

## Interview with Frances Geddes for the Freedom Riders 40th Anniversary Oral History Project, 2001

Frances Geddes

University of Mississippi. Center for the Study of Southern Culture

University of Mississippi. William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation

University of Mississippi. Division of Outreach and Continuing Education

University of Mississippi. Center for Media & Documentary Projects

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Freedom Riders Oral History Collection Digitization Project  
Log Sheet

Name of Interviewee: Reverend Francis Geddes

Name of Interviewer:

Date: November 10, 2001

Place of Interview: Jackson, MS

**Log of Topics/Names/Events discussed:**

**0:00-2:00**

Grew up in Southern California and lives in San Francisco Bay area, retired; in his family, Christianity not seen as having intellectual integrity, but his opinion changed during WWII, while in college

**2:00-4:00**

Mother liberal, democrat, physician; minister in United Church of Christ—served in parish founded by Howard Thurman; became Freedom Rider because he was minister of an interracial church in 1955 and invited by Quakers to go to MS

**4:00-6:00**

Jackson, MS; Tougaloo College; heard Martin Luther King, Jr. speak; integration of airport coffee shop with interracial, interfaith group

**6:00-8:00**

Integration of airport coffee shop and arrest; Hinds County Jail; CORE; July, 1961; arraignment of 400 Freedom Riders in August, 1961

**8:00-10:00**

Entertainment in jail; Dr. Charlie Sellers, Berkeley; food; television presence

**10:00-12:00**

Not fearful; release from jail and response upon returning home

**12:00-14:00**

Involvement in Chavez's organization of grape workers (Fall 1965); Chris Hartmire, another Freedom Rider, organized California Migrant Ministry

**14:00-16:00**

Jailed for involvement in Chavez protest; later investigation of arrest by Sen. Robert Kennedy; his children's political attitudes

**16:00-18:00**

Freedom Song "Oh Freedom"; reaction to reunion, returning to Jackson

**18:00-20:00**

**20:00-22:00**

**22:00-24:00**

**24:00-26:00**

**26:00-28:00**

**28:00-30:00**

**30:00-32:00**

**32:00-34:00**

**34:00-36:00**

**36:00-38:00**

**38:00-40:00**

**40:00-42:00**

**42:00-44:00**

**44:00-46:00**

**46:00-48:00**

**48:00-50:00**

**50:00-52:00**

**52:00-54:00**

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**56:00-58:00**

**58:00-60:00**