George Albertz Papers
(1964-2013)
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Related Collections:  
- Sid Simon Collection, Queens College, NY
- Hubert Albertz Papers, Queens College, NY

Controlled Access Terms

Organizations:  
Student Nonviolent Coordination Committee

Subjects:  
- Civil rights movement – United States
- Mississippi Freedom Project
- Council of Federated Organizations

Places:  
- Greenwood (Miss.)
- New York (City)
Biographical Note

George Albertz was born in 1935 in New York, NY to Hubert and Krescenz Albertz, both German immigrants. He graduated from St. John’s University in 1961 and was a member of the Army Reserve for seven years. Influenced by his father, who fought corruption in the AFL-CIO Services Employees' Union Local 32-E and whose papers are also at Queens College, Albertz joined the Civil Rights movement. Albertz joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in February 1964. He helped raise awareness of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party by contacting local churches and organizations for support.

Albertz traveled to Greenwood, Mississippi in 1964. He was arrested there 3 times, twice for “reckless driving” and once for “parading without a permit and contributing to the delinquency of minors.” The last charge occurred while Albertz was walking back to the Greenwood SNCC office after participating in a demonstration of teenagers picketing a store in response to police brutality. This arrest led to a $500 payment for bail. A high volume of targeted arrests were made against civil rights activists in Mississippi, which were lumped together and sent to the Federal Courts and over concerns of fair trial. They were sent back to the Mississippi courts where they were not further pursued. The charges against Albertz accumulated that summer were eventually dropped by City of Greenwood.

In August 1964, Albertz went to protest the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey, after returning to New York from Mississippi. In 1966, he joined the Woodcrest commune in Rifton, New York, which in 1964 donated a car to a group of Queens College students. These students, under the guidance of Queens College Professor Sid Simon, went down to Mississippi to rebuild churches destroyed by the Ku Klux Klan.

In 1977, Albertz married Dorothea (Dorly) Alberts, who grew up as a child in Nazi Germany, where her family helped Jews to survive the Third Reich.

They had three daughters, all members of the Bruderhof Beloved Community.
Scope & Content Note

The George Albertz Collection documents Albertz’s 1964 participation in the Greenwood Freedom School, part of the Mississippi Freedom Project. While in Greenwood, he was arrested 3 times, twice for “reckless driving” and once for “parading without a permit and contributing to the delinquency of minors.” His bail receipts, a written account of his arrest record and correspondences with lawyers dealing with his arrests are part of the collection. Once back in the New York area, he participated in the Democratic Party Convention in Atlantic City to support the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party efforts to be legitimately recognized. In the collection there are also a number of news articles relating to the deaths of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner, as well as articles on a group of students led by Sid Simon on a trip to rebuild churches in Mississippi.

Arrangement Note

The George Albertz Papers is comprised of one series:

Series I: Freedom Summer Papers

Series Description & Container List

Series I: Freedom Summer Papers
The series contains George Albertz’s essay, with a timeline of events, on his personal experience as a volunteer for Freedom Summer. Included are press clippings and a pamphlet on Freedom Summer and Civil Rights activism (most of the articles mention Albertz’s activism specifically), a handwritten list of his arrests, a bail bond, and correspondence. The collection also contains a 2013 article written by Albertz looking back on his activism.

Box 3, Folder 4 located in the Hubert Albertz Papers