

Poverty Scholars Program Strategic Dialogue #2
Re-Igniting the Poor People's Campaign:
Finishing the Unfinished Business of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King
November 6th – 9th, 2008

Saturday, November 08, 2008

Moderated Conversation with the Women of Marks and Tutwiler, Mississippi

Moderator: Marian Kramer, Michigan Welfare Rights Organization, Highland Park Michigan

Introduction: John Wessel-McCoy (5 min)

Short Power Point slide – images of Marks, Tutwiler, Poor People's Campaign (5 min)

Questions for Bertha Burres, “Queen of the Mule Train” (40-50 min)

- Will you tell us about when King came to visit Marks, MS in 1968? Why did he come to Marks? What did he see and what impact did it have on him?
- Will you tell us about the arrest of the SCLC Poor People's Campaign organizer, Willie Bolden – how did the town respond? What role did the youth play?
- How did Willie Bolden's arrest impact the organization of the Mule Train? (People were reluctant to go on the Mule Train / go to Washington DC before. How did Willie's arrest change people's minds?
- Why did they decide to have a Mule Train? Why a Mule Train specifically?
- What made you decide to take part in the Mule Train?
- What was your role in the Mule Train?

Questions for Betty Crawford (20 min)

- What is your relationship to Bertha Burres?
- What inspired you to create the Mule Train story quilt?
- Why is it important for you to preserve the history of Marks and the Mule Train?
- What made you decide to learn quilting? How did you connect with the Quilting group in Tutwiler?

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- How does art play a role in your life – personally, spiritually? You take the Mule Train quilt around to educate people about the history of Marks and its relationship to the Poor People's Campaign. What kind of difference do you think it makes?

Questions for Tutwiler (20 min)

- Tell us about Tutwiler, MS & the Tutwiler Community Education Center.
- *(Lucinda, Mary Ann, Maureen will give a history of the Tutwiler Community Education Center and clinic and quilting program.)*

Question for the large group (20 min)

What lessons can we draw from these testimonies for a movement to end poverty today?

Open up for group reflections