

# Howard Griffin, Noted Author-Lecturer, Is Hit By Lightning

John Howard Griffin, internationally known author and lecturer, was hit by a bolt of lightning on Friday night in Thomas Merton's mountainside cabin in Gethsemane, Kentucky. Griffin was knocked from his wheelchair while typing during an electrical storm and was on the floor unconscious when monks from the Abbey in the valley below came up to check on Griffin after he failed to answer their call on the telephone. It is thought the rubber tires on the chair may have saved his life.

Griffin was chosen to be the biographer of Thomas Merton by the Catholic Church. Griffin chose to do his writing in the cabin made famous by Merton. Merton, a Trappist Monk, died of an electrical shock in Bangkok, Thailand about two years ago.

Griffin was treated in the Gethsemane Hospital and return-

ed to the cabin on Sunday. He is having some troubles with memory, but doctors think this will disappear in a few days.

"Black Like Me", "The Devil Rides Outside", "Nuni", and "Land of the High Sky" are some of the published works of John Howard Griffin who now makes his home in Fort Worth.

had regained consciousness

Merton Legacy Trust.

July 13, 1970

Dearest Nell,

Guess you should hear this from me and not from some other source that would exaggerate the damage. I am very well recovered now, have most of my memory back, and no brain damage. My abdominal muscles have to be built back up but otherwise, everything is okay, and I am the luckiest man alive. I am home with my family, taking it a little easy but working very quietly.

Don't be disturbed by any of this, Nell. I would not really mention it to you, but the story is getting around in one version or another.

Everyone here joins in sending best, best love to you.

John