



Mrs. Daniels in her home



A neighbor's house

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NIGHTRIDERS COME, SHOOT REGISTRATION WORKER

DAWSON, GEORGIA- A 33-year-old woman barely missed death here early Sunday, December 8 when nightriders fired shots into her home and bombed her house.

Mrs. Carolyn Daniels, a Dawson beautician, received a bullet wound in her left foot when shots were fired at her home late Saturday night. While she was at a hospital - waiting for treatment for her injuries - a bomb exploded in her home, making it a total wreck.

Mrs. Daniels was one of the first Dawson citizens to open her home to SNCC vote workers. With their aid - and often by herself - she has managed to keep interest in voting high in Terrell County. In two weeks in November, Mrs. Daniels and two SNCC workers were able to get 45 Negroes to apply for the registration test. Mrs. Daniels has set up citizenship schools in Dawson to give potential voters instruction in Georgia's voting test.

Terrell County received national attention on July 25, 1962 when county sheriff Z. T. Matthews and 12 armed, cigar smoking white men broke into a voter meeting in a Sasser church. Matthews told newsmen at that meeting, "We are a little fed up with this voter registration business. We want our colored people to go on living like they have for the past 100 years."

Mrs. Daniels' home has been fired on once before. On September 6, 1962 night riders shot into her home, wounding SNCC workers Jack Chatfield, Prathia Hall and Chris Allen. On September 5, two churches--both used for voter registration meetings--were burned to the ground. On September 17 another church was burned. On September 3, Sasser deputy sheriff D. E. Short ran three SNCC workers-- Allen, Prathia Hall and Willie Paul Berrien--out of town at gunpoint. Short was later sued by the U. S. Justice Dep't but was acquitted. On October 29, 1962 three SNCC workers were jailed in Eronwood, near Dawson, on "trespass" charges after they entered a white-owned grocery store to canvass for voter registration.

In Atlanta, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee asked President Lyndon B. Johnson to "act immediately to halt bombings and shootings aimed at intimidating voter registration workers in Southwest Georgia." The SNCC protest from Chairman John Lewis quoted President John F. Kennedy's remarks after Mrs. Daniels' home was fired upon a year ago, and two girls were shot in Mississippi.

The late President then said: "To shoot... two young people who were involved in an effort to register people, to burn churches as a reprisal... I consider both cowardly as well as outrageous." In Albany, Slater King, president of the Albany Movement also protested the bombing and shooting to President Johnson. King said "the shooting and bombing will be repeated unless strong presidential action is taken."

As of 1960, only 51 Negroes were registered voters in Terrell County. Out of 4,533 whites, 2,894 were registered. The first lawsuit filed by the Justice Dep't under the 1957 Civil Rights Act was filed here. Terrell County officials were charged with systematic discrimination and were enjoined from further acts of discrimination. SNCC workers have been active in the county and in Dawson since November '61. Working with local people like Mrs. Daniels, they have been able to raise the number of Negroes registered to vote from 51 in 1960 to approximately 140 as of August 1963.