

MISSISSIPPI WOMAN'S HOME FIRED ON

GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI - The home of a Negro family active in civil rights was fired into November 26 for the second time in less than six months.

Mrs. Laura McGhee's house outside Greenwood was shot into, her dog killed and front fence and mail-box torn down, the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) said.

The Greenwood SNCC office said local policemen first refused to investigate the shooting because SNCC workers, and not Mrs. McGhee, had reported it. SNCC 2nd Congressional District Project Director Stokeley Carmichael said a FBI agent from the Greenwood FBI office said the bullet which passed over Mrs. McGhee's body as she lay sleeping was "a pretty innocuous shot."

The entire McGhee family has been a target of segregationists because of their civil rights activity. Mrs. McGhee is a sister of Gus Courts, NAACP leader run out of Mississippi in 1956 after he was shotgunned in Belzoni. Three Greenwood white men were arrested this summer on charges they beat Mrs. McGhee's 21-year-old son Silas, a SNCC Field Secretary, on July 5. Silas and his brother, Jake, had integrated the all-white Leflore Theatre and were beaten by whites there July 5. Later, on July 16, Silas was picketing the Leflore County Courthouse when he recognized one of the men who had beaten him earlier. He left the picket line, reported the man's presence to FBI agents here, and was forced into a car at gun-point and beaten again after he left the Greenwood FBI office.

Silas was shot in the head by a would-be assassin while he was sitting in a parked car on a Greenwood street on August 15. Jake McGhee was arrested August 18 while he was walking down a Greenwood street on charges of "impersonating another" and not having a driver's license. Mrs. McGhee was jailed herself August 20 on charges she struck a white policeman here. Both Silas and Jake have other civil rights connected arrests. The McGhee home was fired upon in early June by night riders.

Mrs. McGhee, a small property owner outside Greenwood, has long been a special target because of the rich land she owns. Local whites have tried several times to remove the family from the area.

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee has been conducting a voter registration drive in Greenwood and Leflore County since 1962.