

GREENWOOD: 3:45 am (Rudd/Grogan) SHOTS FIRED AT HOUSE

Three shots were fired past the home of Robert Miles in Batesville where two white summer volunteers are living. The house was not hit and no one was injured. The shots were heard at 11:25 pm. Kathy Amatnick, 20, from Hastings-on-the-Hudson, student at Radcliffe, and Claire O'Connor, 25, from St. Paul, Minnesota, student at U. Of Minn. were sitting in a lighted kitchen when the shots were fired. The kitchen is directly behind the left front bedroom where the girls sleep. The bedroom was also lighted. Kathy thought the first percussion she heard was a tire blowout. A second percussion was heard and Kathy looked towards the window. She saw a blue streak at the same time she heard the noise. Immediately Kathy turned out the light and both girls dropped to the floor. Robert Miles, who was sleeping in the right front bedroom, was awakened by the second shot. He says he saw a flash coming from the road when the second shot was fired. After the second shot the girls yelled to him and he heard no more shots. Mrs. Miles, however, reports hearing a third shot. A next door neighbor who found the Miles five minutes after the incident reported she heard three shots also.

This is the same house that was teargassed on Saturday, July 25. Mrs. Miles called the Panola County sheriff, Earl Hubbard, at 11:50. A police car which Kathy believes might be the sheriff arrived at 12:10 am. As this car was stopping in front of the house, a black and white 1957 Chevrolet passed the stopped police car. The police car started again in the same direction as the Chevrolet. It had been the third time the Chevrolet had passed the house after the shots were fired. At 12:20 am the police car returned, coming from the opposite direction from that which it had left the scene. Kathy reports on July 26 when the Miles home was teargassed from an unidentified car, a similar '57 black and white Chevy was seen around the Miles home. She was standing in the driveway talking to Hubbard when the car passed the house and stopped 200 feet down the road. Hubbard asked "Who are they?" Kathy replied that she did not know. A few seconds later the car started up again.

THREATS: Two weeks ago a local white told the same neighbor who called the Miles tonight that unless the Miles got rid of the white people in the home, he would be killed. The next night Mrs. Miles received a call from an unidentified man who said "You'd better not go to sleep tonight if you know what's good for you."

Miles is very active in a local voters league. Kathy reports that this past week has been very successful for voter registration activities. Over 100 Negroes in Batesville have been registered this past week. Yesterday the names of 35 of these people were published in Panolian, a local newspaper. The other 27 names appeared in The Southern Reporter, a paper published in Sardi. Kathy says, "The more registered voters we get, the more trouble there is."