

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

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M.L. Brown 65
Legget Road, Algiers.

On the day of July 21, 1964, I was working as chairman of the trustee board of Mount Vernon Church, and had some fellows working on a well at the church. At least twice that day, I saw Sheriff R.R. Warren pass by Mount Vernon Church, in a white car bearing the insignia of the Pike County Sheriff's Office. He came down a small gravel road in front of where my sister and her husband reside, about 200 yards from the church, came by the church and then turned out onto the black-top road.

That evening, I had been coming back from Algiers and saw Mount Vernon Church on fire, from the inside. I went to the home of a white man, Mr. Earl Grant, and asked him to call the law. One of Sheriff Warren's deputies was the first law enforcement officer to arrive on the scene. Then Sheriff Warren arrived. The highway patrolmen arrived, two of them. About a half an hour later, the F.B.I. arrived, and asked me to take them back up to Mr. Grant's so one of them could make a phone call. The town marshal from Magnolia was there too. Mr. Warren, at one point, said that the tracks he found around the Church were the same as those found at Zion Hill Church, which had been burned on Friday, July 17, 1964.

The next morning, Wednesday, the sheriff asked me questions about whether we had any enemies or whether there was any quarrel in the congregation which might account for the burning. It seemed that he was trying to put the blame on some of our people for the burning.

"One Man, One Vote"