

PIKE COUNTY

I live in McComb, Mississippi, and I have permitted the members of COFO to use my grounds for youth meetings of local young people. The first such meeting was held on July 18, 1964.

On July 26, 1964, at 1 A.M., I was in bed when I heard a car stop in front of my house. I got up to see who it was and I saw a black car. It was an old-model car. The lights from a car coming from the opposite direction shone on the black car and the black car pulled off. I came out of the house and watched the car go over the hill. I came back into the house and all at once it came into my mind that they could have been the bombers who have been going around. So I got my gun and came into the living room to watch and see if they would return. A few minutes later they returned and parked in the same spot. This time I got up and aimed my gun at the car. The window was up and the screen was closed. I did this after the first time I saw them. I waited about three or four minutes to see what they were going to do. I then heard a noise like a bundle of sticks hitting the ground right in front of the window. It landed on the ground and then I opened fire and the car took off. It was going north. Just as the car took off a small blast went off in the yard. I then ran to get my husband who was sleeping and he grabbed the gun from me and ran out the back door and came around to the front yard. By the time he got to the front yard a car was coming back by the house at a very high speed. When it approached the house two shots were fired: one hit the window and the other hit high above the window on the outside. At the same time the last shot was fired the big blast went off and I saw my husband being knocked around and to the ground by the blast. He fired two shots in the ground because he had lost his balance due to the blast. After this we tried to get ourselves together because people began coming over and we were in our pajamas. About five minutes after the bombing a local cop whom we know as [a nickname] came up the walk to our house and told us to put our guns away.

The only reason that I can give for them bombing my house is that I have let the COFO civil rights workers use my yard and cafe for meetings and picnics.

SIGNED: *Ora Lee Bryant*