

INDICT THREE FOR BRUTALITY TO PRISONERS

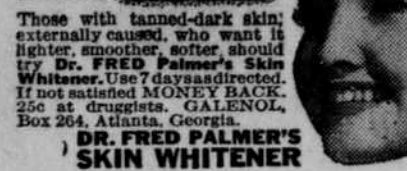
(Continued from Page 1) ed, the indictment charges, were Louis James Hatcher, a Negro who was handcuffed to the bars of his cells and severely beaten with a rubber hose; Ezekial Buchanan, Curnel Jotte Towery, Alvin Lloyd Stevens, Edgar Cullen Bryant, Sr., Edgar Cullen Bryant, Jr., Lillie May Hendon, James Martin and Robert Lloyd Jr., all Negroes; and two white men, Reagle Glenn Huley and Willie Griggs.

24th AND LAKE STREETS PRESCRIPTIONS

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Large advertisement for Pepsi-Cola featuring a bottle and the text 'The Daily TASTE TREAT' and 'BUY MORE WAR BONDS'.

orney General in charge of the Criminal Division, commenting on the case, declared: "A brutal killing of a Negro convicted by the High Sheriff of Macon County, Alabama, was today labeled by a Federal Grand Jury of Alabama citizens as a Federal crime. The case was presented by an Alabama lawyer, United States Attorney Edward Burns Parker and a lawyer from the Department of Maynard Smith, who was formerly City Solicitor of Cairo, Georgia. The grand jury was under the supervision of another Alabama lawyer, the Judge of the Federal District Court. Thus, southern jurors and southern lawyers brought this indictment under the Civil Rights Statutes of the United States Code. Upon inquiry, Victor W. Rotnem, Chief of the Civil Rights Section, said that the original complaints received by the Criminal Division and the Federal Bureau of Investigation were from local law enforcement officers of the State of Alabama who cooperated throughout with Alabama Federal officials.

GOVERNMENT CLEARS TWO IN LYNCHING CASE 3 OTHER FACE CONVICTION

(Continued from page 1) el Shotts, clerk. The remaining three white men who faced penalties of 10 years' imprisonment each and \$5,000 fine

es if convicted included Luther Holder, deputy sheriff and jailer in Jones county where the lynching occurred; Barney Jones, factory worker and Allen Pryor, also a factory worker, whose signed confession as to his part in the atrocity was admitted as evidence over the protests of defense counsel. Pryor is a relative of the white farmer for whose death Wash was convicted.

Immediately after Johnson and Shotts were freed, defense lawyers moved for directed verdicts of acquittal for the others on the grounds of insufficiency of government evidence. Their motion was denied. As the prosecution had completed its case, defense testimony began.

The government gave no testimony against the two freed men and also failed to use some of its witnesses including a Negro convict who was an inmate of the jail when the mob entered. In some cases witnesses showed extreme reluctance to testify against the defendants.

Damaging evidence against Pryor and Jones was given by Sheriff J. Press Reddock of Jones county who identified them as members of the mob which forced its way into the jail, and against Holder, the jailer, who failed to follow orders laid down by Reddock in the event a lynching attempt was made.

The sheriff, who testified Tuesday, told of being summoned to the jail at one a. m. on the day after Wash's conviction last Oct. 14 and of finding a crowd gathered about the locked door. "I didn't tell Holder to give the keys up," Reddock testified, "and I was pleading and begging the crowd for their children and families. I told them about my position as sheriff, how I might be sued on my bond, how I was liable to lose my job. They said that if I lost my job they would get me another."

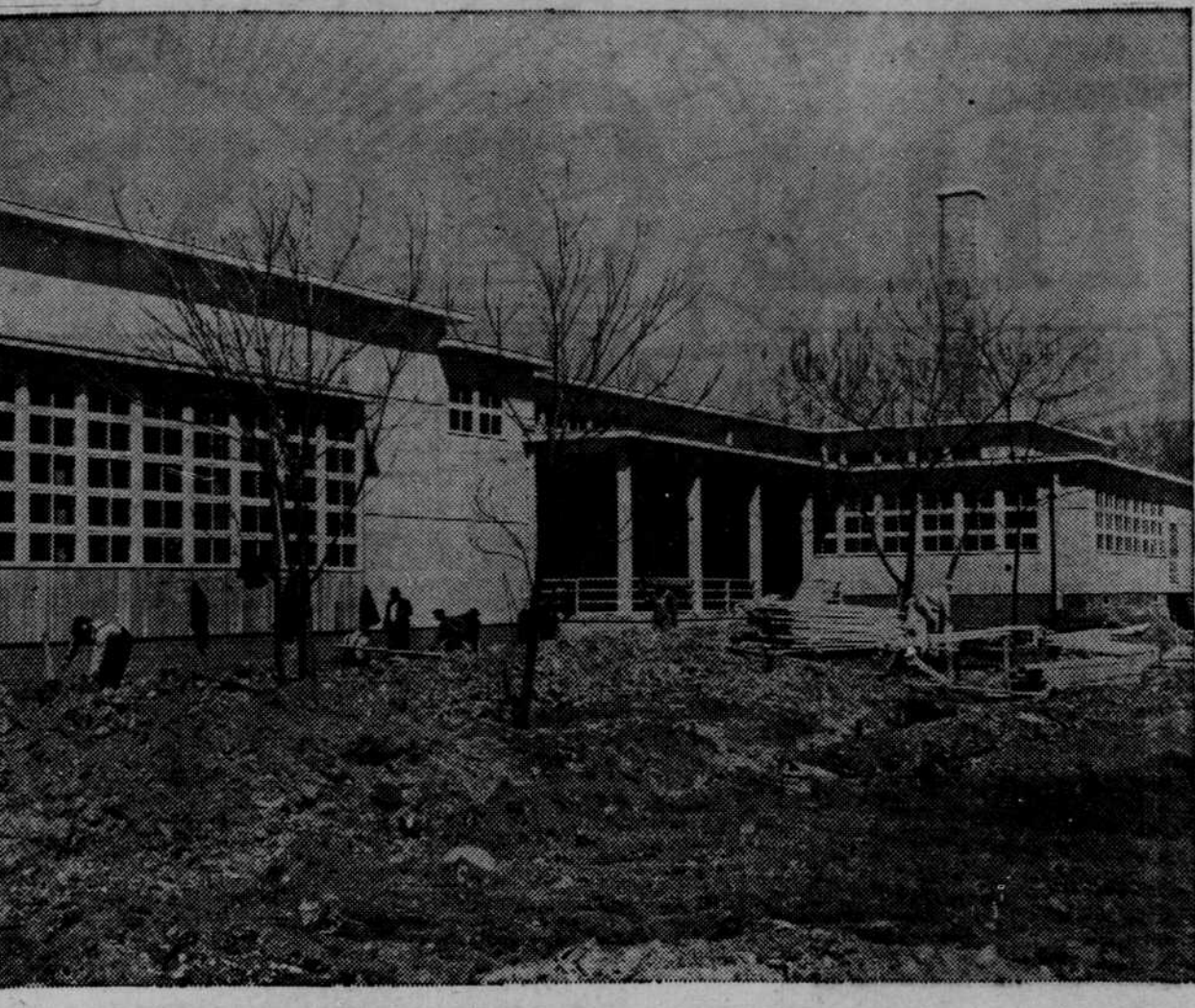
Reddock said that Pryor, carrying a pickaxe, but not in a threatening manner, laid his hand "gently on my shoulder" and assured him "I'm not going to strike you. Just don't be a damned fool; give us the keys."

He testified that after the lynching he made a "thorough investigation" but did not arrest Pryor because he couldn't find him. No state indictments were returned. Reddock said he surrendered his rifle to a deputy who came from the jail to receive it when "somebody" in the crowd asked him to give it up because "they" wanted to talk to him. The defense, in cross examination, endeavored to establish that the reason Deputy Sheriff Holder didn't lock himself in the jail, behind the steel door, was that he was afraid of an attack in a vestibule from his office to the door. The jail, it appeared, was in darkness during the attack.

Not a shot was fired, the sheriff conceded, nor did he observe anyone was armed. He said, in effect, he didn't see the prisoner taken from the jail but estimated he must have been removed an hour or more after his arrival on the scene. The next time he saw Wash, Reddock said, he was hanging from a bridge. He identified a picture of it.

Advertisement for Hotel Theresa, featuring a building illustration and text: 'The TESTIMONY OF THOUSANDS: It's the HOTEL THERESA When in New York any season of the year'.

New Dormitories Built for D. C. War Workers



One section of Wake and Midway Halls, new Government dormitories for Negro women war workers is shown a few days before completion by Samuel Plato, Negro contractor for the million-dollar job. Plato is the namesake of Samuel Carter, famous Negro slave-builder in the old South. Carter left his tools to one of his apprentices, James Plato, the father of the Negro contractor.

Another early witness, (Rout) Judge Burkett Collins, who presided at the Wash trial for murder, testified that Reddock telephoned him that a mob had surrounded the jail. The judge, who said he hadn't anticipated trouble although the prisoner had been confined for safe keeping at a jail in Jackson, Miss., prior to the trial, said he urged the sheriff not to permit the mob to get the keys and that he telephoned Gov. Paul B. Johnson for aid, which was sent at once in form of national guardsmen who arrived too late.

Judge Collins, telling of apprising the governor of the lynch mob, said that Gov. Johnson, in promising aid, said: "For God's sake don't let that happen."

Pryor's signed statement admitting he was a member of the mob which stormed the jail and took Wash and then rode in the car to a nearby bridge where he was hanged, was presented during the testimony of John L. Sullivan, special agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Mr. Sullivan, ace G-man of the Mississippi office, was corroborated by Otis Brasier of the New Orleans office, in his testimony that Pryor gave the statement voluntarily and without promise of reward.

In the statement dated Nov. 25, 1942, Pryor admitted going to Laurel from his home near town the night of the lynching "to see what was going to happen to Wash." This was prior to the lynching, but earlier in the same night when the victim was taken from the jail.

"I figured that something was going to happen," the statement recited.

Pryor's statement asserted he returned to his home near Shady Grove and found about 50 men at a nearby store. He said he recognized Hillard H. Welborn, brother of the slain white farmer, in the group, and that they agreed to meet near the Jones county jail in Laurel "before taking Wash out of the jail."

Pryor's statement contradicted earlier testimony of the two deputy sheriffs in the jail the night of the lynching with Deputy Sheriff Holder that members of the mob were armed.

"I saw no guns in this crowd at this jail at any time," Pryor's statement declared. "The only gun there was held by Sheriff Reddock and it was a .22 calibre rifle."

Only one Negro witness was used by the government before the jury of native Mississippians, although several had been called. This Negro had been a prisoner in the cell next to Wash's at the time of the lynching. It was, it developed, "as dark as midnight in the dungeon" and the witness, Mack Lewis, was prostrate in his cell. He did not know "who the gentlemen were" who stormed the jail but, he testified, he heard someone ask Wash if he was "sorry" he did and he said "yes."

Lewis testified that Wash was then asked by the mob if he wanted to say anything. "He said 'no' but he had a dollar and he wanted someone to give that to his babies."

Then barefooted and bareheaded, after the mob had informed Wash he didn't see shoes, he was taken away, according to Lewis' testimony.

The government succeeded in establishing through testimony of Louis L. Welch (chief deputy sheriff of Jones county and Laurel police that it had been agreed that if a mob came for Wash, Jailer Holder would lock the big steel "mob-proof" door from the inside, locking himself in, and had borrowed a tear gas gun from the police department. As is known, such precautions were disregarded. Welch said that even before Wash's one-day trial three men asked him to surrender the prisoner but he refused. He claimed he didn't know who they were and on cross examination said he deemed them innocuous. But on his direct examination he testified he informed Holder of their request with the result the plan was agreed on. He didn't know why, he said, it wasn't carried out. The defense, on cross examination, drew from the deputy the statement that "dictates of humanity" might preclude use of the tear gas gun because it might affect the prisoners in jail.

The police officers were used to confirm the lending of the tear gas gun to Holder and to point out that its affects are temporary and usually confined to the direction in which the shell is discharged. Two special deputies, in the jail with Holder when the mob arrived, added details to previous accounts of the scene. Both said the crowd thrust pistols against Holder in demanding entrance, although Pryor's statement to the FBI was to the effect, he observed no weapons. The government contends in effect, the jailer afforded tacit complicity and was persuaded to release the prisoner.

One of the special deputies, John Hilton, said he was so excited when the mob rushed in an ante room that he gave the keys to Holder because "I didn't want them." He was vague about what happened after that but he said the mob played flashlights on them, grabbed them both, jammed pistols into Holder's side and pushed him in front of them. He didn't see what happened when the crowd arrived at the steel doors.

"They called 'All right, stay where you are. We've got you,'" Hilton said, "and there was nothing friendly about it. I was excited and scared."

"The other special deputy who was in the jail, I. O. Fowler, testified Holder unlocked the steel door after the mob threatened him with pistols and later went to the upstairs cells, where the Negroes were kept, and told the other prisoners to "lay still," adding Wash, "they have come after you."

William Pickens in tour for war bond sale Jefferson City, Mo., April 28 (AP)—William Pickens of the integral section of the national organization division of the war savings staff at Washington, has just completed a tour of southeast Missouri, for promoting the sale of the leading high schools in that section and to Lincoln university, located in this city.

It is noted that Missouri Negroes representing every walk of life, are doing their best toward making this war bond effort a success. The following are reported: Negroes of the economically underprivileged southeast cotton section of Missouri purchased \$12,000 in bonds. In St. Louis a Negro union bought \$125,000 in war bonds, the Brotherhood of Pullman porters, \$50,000; while persons in defense plants, schools, and the YMCA invest 10 percent or more in war bonds. Outstanding in Kansas City is the school participation. School children in this city are paying 12 percent of the cost of a \$175,000 bomber while teachers contributed regularly through the teachers' credit union. Lincoln university now is in the midst of a war bond drive in an effort to aid in reaching its war bond goal.

BIBLE PASSAGES FOR EVERY NEED

(BY MRS. H. R. GREENFIELD) When in sorrow, read St. Johns 14th. When men fail you, read Psalms 27. When you have sinned, read Psalms 51. When you worry, read Mt. 6-10, 34. Before church services, read Psalms 84. When you are in danger, read Psalms 91. When God seems far away, read Psalm 139. When you are discouraged, read Isaiah 40. When doubts come upon you try John 7-17. For Jesus idea of a Christian, read Matt. 5. When you feel down and out, read Romang 8:31-39. When you want courage for your task, read Joshua 1. When you want happiness, eol. 3:12-17. When you become bitter or critical, read 1 Cor. 13. When you want to get along with men, read Romans 12. Why Not follow Psalm 119:11 and hide some of these in your memories?

"NOT I, BUT CHRIST."

(BY MRS. H. R. GREENFIELD) "Not I, but Christ." I could not brave the storms that rise; I would but faint with fear: Before the anger of the skies. "Not I, but Christ." I could not face the future days. With confidence and joy; Alone I could not sing one note of praise. Not I, but Christ." 'Tis, He my blessed Lord who gives me grace to go, With radiant face along the shadowed way.

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