NAACP PROBES ALABAMA 'LYNCHING': Woman, 63, Slain; Witnesses Clam Up

SELMA, Ala. — Was there a lynching in Alberta, Ala. last month?

An NAACP investigation into the rumored brutal killing of a 63-year-old helpless paralyzed woman at Alberta, Ala., by Wilcox county law enforcement officers was stymied last week when frightened witnesses shut up like clams.

The woman, Mrs. Della McDuffie, was found dead after Sheriff Lummie Jenkins and other officers were said to have gone into her husband's little cafe the night of April 25, "swinging blackjacks."

Mrs. McDuffie's husband, Will, is said to have been among those who scattered in all directions to avoid the officers' blows.

Eyewitnesses said the officers entered the house adjoining the cafe and beat the paralyzed woman with their blackjacks. She was then shot, according to whispered reports to the NAACP.

A white man had reported that the Negroes were playing a juke box after midnight Saturday, and the officers went in "Dixie law" style to put a stop to it.

NAACP officials in Mobile said they have learned that iron curtain conditions, as bad as any reported from Europe, have existed in Alabama's black belt for years. In many places, Negroes have been murdered at will, the NAACP declared.

One man is said to have put a "notch" in his gun for each Negro killed by him.