LYNCH FOUR NEGROES; TWO OF THEM WOMEN

Prisoners Taken From Mississippi Jail by Mob and Hanged for Murder of a Dentist.

MOBILE, Ala., Dec. 20.—Four negroes, two of them women, accused of the murder of Dr. E. L. Johnston here last week, were taken from the jail at Shubuta, Miss., tonight and lynched, according to information received in Mobile.

All four are reported to have been hanged to the girders of a bridge spanning the Chickasahay River.

Information received here from Shubuta was that the jailer was called into the street by one of the members of the mob and then handcuffed. He was ordered to release the prisoners and forced to accompany the mob and prisoners out of town. The jailer was released before the mob reached the bridge where the negroes were lynched.

Dr. Johnston, a dentist, was shot and killed from ambush while in his barn. Major Clarke, one of the negroes lynched, was arrested, and, according to the authorities, confessed, implicating the others and stating that he had shot Dr. Johnston at the instigation of one of the women who had had trouble with the dentist.

The negroes lynched were two brothers and two sisters, Major and Andrew Clarke, and Maggie and Alma House.
Shubuta Bridge's Toll Stands At Six
Lynch Victims, But Span Is Doomed

By WALTER ATKINS

SHUBUTA, Miss.—This is the story of a bridge.

It's a rickety old span with rusty girders and clattering wooden beams on a rough dirt road two miles outside this town of 756 people. Under the bridge the muddy, quiet Chickasawhay river winds its way down to the Gulf of Mexico.

To a stranger in these parts, the Shubuta bridge is no different from dozens of similar spans throughout the state.

But actually the Shubuta bridge is a monument—a monument to "Judge Lynch." It is not a toll bridge but its toll has been heavy indeed for Negroes.

Six Negroes have been lynched on the bridge since 1918.

Some place the figure at eight, counting two unborn babies—at least part white.

Very few natives can remember when the bridge was built. But virtually all can remember when "Judge Lynch" set up his death court there. It was in the heyday of Mississippi's lynching era that shows a total of 101 Negroes hung, shot and burned at the stake in a score of years. Mississippi leads all other states in lynching.

Symbol of South

Shubuta bridge is a symbol of the South as much as magnolia blossoms or mint julep colonies.

It was in the year that the United States entered the war "to make the world safe for democracy" that Shubuta bridge was first christened as a monument to "white supremacy." That was October, 1918. And exactly 24 years later during another war for democracy in October, 1942, two more humans were sacrificed on the altar to "Judge Lynch."

The champions of "white supremacy" in Clarke County seem to prefer youths to offer as sacrifices on Shubuta bridge. Of the four lynched in 1918 the oldest was 20.

Involved were two Negro couples engaged to be married and a white dentist.

Twenty-four years later to the month the victims were two 14-year-old Negro youths.

Prefer Youths

The "superior" whites of Clarke County seem to prefer youths to offer as sacrifices on Shubuta bridge. Of the four lynched in 1918 the oldest was 20.

Involved were two Negro couples engaged to be married and a white dentist.

The dentist was known throughout town for his bold advances to other men's wives, both white and colored. Many husbands resented him.

The two Negro girls involved were sisters. Both looked forward to happy marriages until the white dentist made advances and forced
Shubuta—

(Continued from Page 1)

his attentions on both of them. Both became pregnant.

Not long afterward the white dentist was found murdered.

Local authorities asked no questions but immediately arrested the two couple and charged them with murder although at least half a dozen other white men in town had motives to commit the crime.

It wasn’t long before a mob gathered, “forced” the sheriff to turn over the prisoners and Shubuta bridge was christened with the blood of four victims.

Offers “Regrets”

The placid waters of the Chickasawhay river flowed quietly under the bridge for 24 years before the turbulent emotions of Clarke County were aroused again during World War II.

A 13-year-old white girl scared by the sudden appearance of two 14-year-old Negro boys on Shubuta bridge—that was the “crime” that got “Judge Lynch” two more victims. The two youths were hung from a rusty girder to again prove Southern whites are “superior” to Negros.

And the governor of Mississippi offered his “regrets” and a promise to “investigate” but . . .

“These prejudices are in-born in us,” said Gov. Paul B. Johnson. “You know there’s nobody down here would sit down with a Negro and eat with him at the same table. You know we’d rather die first.”

Who’s “Business”

The governor, boasting of the picture of Abraham Lincoln on the wall, continued:

“Our feelings toward the Negro are our own business, and certain people in the North are trying to make it their business. The President’s wife, for instance. And that’s bad. We’re a very proud people in the South, in Mississippi, and you just make us mad that way.”

So today the white people of Mississippi are proud of Shubuta bridge and mad because Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt doesn’t like the way things are done on Shubuta bridge.

And Clarke County Negros, outnumbered by whites three to two, are numb with pain inside. And they’re learning to be proud too—they refused to bury their dead.

Charlie Lang and Ernest Green, aged 14.

Exhume Bodies

And the people in the North are making “Judge Lynch” their business even though Gov. Johnson doesn’t like it. FBI agents have come to look over Shubuta bridge and exhume the bodies of the two dead bodies for possible fingerprints.

Yes, the calm waters of the Chickasawhay flow gently under the rusty old Shubuta bridge. But even some of the old timers see a flood coming, a long overdue flood that will smash and sweep away Shubuta bridge and all it stands for.

They see the flood coming from a storm brewed in Berlin—a storm that has become the business of the world, including even Clarke County, Mississippi. When slavery made in Germany became the business of the world, lynching on Shubuta bridge became the business of the world too.

So Shubuta bridge stands as yet but it is doomed as sure as Shickelgruber, (also known as Adolph Hitler).
Two Lynched Boys Were Ace Scrap Iron Collectors In Mississippi Town

By EMCE F. WATERS

SHUBUTA, Miss. — Shubuta, the small town in the westmost part of the state — that's how it's referred to by many Mississippians with whom I talked.

Shubuta, the small town in the westmost part of the state — that's how it's referred to by many Mississippians. But the Shubuta story is not entirely accurate. The town has a rich history, and its residents are proud of their heritage.

Shubuta is a small town located in the western part of Mississippi. It is known for its rich history and culture, and it is home to many residents who are proud of their heritage.

For obvious reasons, only names absolutely vital to this report are mentioned in this sensational story by EMCE F. Waters, ace Chicago Defender reporter, who visited Shubuta, Miss., to investigate last October's lynching of two youths. Because it is not exactly national health for Negro reporters to be known in Shubuta, Waters talked to no whites in gathering his information. This report, he assures us, is as accurate as conditions allow.

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Ignorance And War Hysteria Found Underlying Causes Of 2 Lynchings

By ENOC P. WATERS (Defender Staff Correspondent)

SHUBUTA, Miss.—Many of the Negroes who live in this rural town believe that a horrible lynching mob last October were victims of a hysteria.

Charles Long and Ernest Green were lynched not for what they had done, but rather as a warning to other Negroes that the whites are still in control of the area.

This seems quite likely when some of the vital statistics of this community are studied.

With a smaller population, more whites had been drafted into the army because of the pattern of the United States army required that only one Negro be drafted for every 10 whites. In addition the educational facilities for the Negro in Shubuta were homes, so poor that even some of the Negroes drafted had to stop attending college.

War Prosperity

This, of course, caused much complaining and great sorrow among the whites, too ignored to see anything except that the whites here were being sent to war and the Negroes spared.

Another contributing factor was the great increase in the Negro families here.

Since Negroes are among the most economically backward of any in the state, it is obvious that they are not so well off nor as well able to meet the needs. Their prosperity is related to the percent of Negroes that are either independent farmers, owning or renting their land, or small workers. In other words, the Negroes are great in excess of that of Negroes living on the plantations of the county where they are in a preponderance of Negro sharecroppers who are in opposition to everything except that their ability to work.

Leaves for War Jobs

There are few leaves for the women in Shubuta, and few children of the smaller or the fields and the mother in the home. While this is the estimated family income is from $40 to $50 per month. Many Negro families have been reported on by the federal government as being late in paying their taxes.

Shubuta women are among the poorest in the state, and their income is spent on the necessities of life. While the white family also has the income of $40 to $50 per month, many Negro families have been reported on by the federal government as being late in paying their taxes.

These leaves their families deserted, and send them enough money to make ends meet and support their children.

With the Negroes being more than half as many, and refusing jobs in the kitchen of the whites, the Negroes have been quickly got out that Negroes were getting too much of their wages.

Sabal Shuffling

Also at work setting the scene for the lynching was the practice of the so-called "shuffling" of the social structure that would have given a Negro a new and perhaps more elevated station in the community. To the ignorant masses the most prominent names of the whites in Shubuta — and elsewhere too — is the threat to white supremacy which they see in the Negro.

The story might be true, but it is not an exact one that the words are attributed to a white Shubuta resident.

Those who participated in the lynching may or may not have been aware of the historical significance of the lynching, or may have been led by feelings it was not a conscious one.

It is significant that the lynching was not an act of impulse. Several days elapsed between the time they were captured and the actual hanging.

In the interim the whites overtook the activities of the boys, and then they began to talk about other matters. "Hillbilly" are doing these days refuse to work in our homes, going out and getting jobs, spending more money, walking the street, while our boys are incapacitated of living on the battlefield.

"ballet" can imagine one of them saying, "it is time we put a stop to this and the best time to start is right now. Imagine these boys, "they say, "black boys bring in a change in the situation that Martin got."

The lynching has had but little ill effect on the community. The government is on the alert to deal with the problem. In many cases, the Negro community is on the alert to deal with the problem. In many cases, the Negro community is said to be honestly concerned about the Negro in Shubuta and the school principal and other members of the community.

But Mary Waters is only one. There are many cases of the lynching of Negroes in Shubuta, but they are not so numerous as the lynching of whites.

To the pleasure of the whites, there is a new and perhaps more elevated station in the community. To the ignorant masses, the most prominent names of the whites in Shubuta — and elsewhere too — is the threat to white supremacy which they see in the Negro.
Folks In Dixie "Lynch Town" Don't Care About FBI Probe: COURIER AND PM SEND REPORTER; HERE'S HIS STORY

EDITORS NOTE:—The Pittsburgh Courier believes in giving its readers the truth...FIRST! With this in mind, this newspaper made an arrangement with the liberal New York daily PM, to have one of their "ace" reporters, Victor H. Bernstein, fly to Jackson, Miss., and then go to Quitman, Miss., by automobile to get an EXCLUSIVE story.

Mr. Bernstein's graphic story, dramatically portraying the "story behind the story," is printed herewith.

By VICTOR H. BERNSTEIN
Special Correspondent, The Pittsburgh Courier and PM

JACKSON, Miss., Oct. 29—Sheriff Lloyd McNeal, of Quitman, told me his version of the story. He is a husky, red-headed fellow; self-spoken and very polite when he puts his mind to it. He put his mind to it this time.

We sat in his car parked in a lot beside the courthouse in Quitman. The courthouse is like ten thousand others in rural America, with shabby corridors and dim cubbyholes—offices—and bulletin boards plastered with yellow and fly-specked notices. Quitman itself—population 1600—consists of a couple of hundred yards of highway 45, and two or three short side streets running off to the West.

"THEY GOT A FAIR AND SQUARE HEARING..."

"First off," said the Sheriff. The papers got the ages wrong, sayin they were 14. Mr. Simpson tells me the Green boy worked for him ten years ago, and that he was yearnin' age then. You better put it down. Them N...ra wasn't 14. They were maybe 16 to 18.

"All right. We arrested them N...ra—Charlie Lang and Ernest Green—a week ago last Tuesday. We went down to Shubuta and got 'em on complaint of a 13-year-old girl. We brought 'em up here and they got a fair-and-square hearing before Justice of the Peace W. E. Eddings and they confessed to attempted rape."

"Do those boys know what attempted rape is?"

"It was this way," said the Sheriff. "They tol' us they waited for the girl at the bridge, knowin' she came this way from school. One N...ra waited under the bridge. The other hid besides the road."

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 5)

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"We're all for law and order here," the Sheriff said. "But, of course, we got some good folks that get kind of wild. Them N----rs is gettin' uppy, you know."

"Has anything been done to catch the lynchers?"

"Why, sure. We been searching", and you know the Governor sent down some of his State Guard. And now the FBI is around asking questions. But you know how it is, people don't like to tell on their friends.

"Do you thing, if the FBI turned up some evidence, or maybe you old, you could get a Grand Jury to indict and a jury to convict?"

"That's a tough question" said the Sheriff. "I really wouldn't know. Feeling runs high against the N----rs sometimes."

"Have you any idea, Sheriff what can be done to prevent things like this in the future?"

"Why, no," the Sheriff said. "I don't think I have."

DOESN'T BELIEVE FBI WILL GET ANYWHERE

I walked across the highway and dropped in to speak to the editor of the Clark County Tribune. This kind of thing isn't really a native; he comes from a couple of counties below. I don't believe in violence," he told me. "None of the better people around here believe in violence. This kind of thing is for the town, for the country and for the state."

"Did you write an editorial about the lynching?"

"To tell you the truth, no. I covered the lynching, all right. Just a straight story, but seems to me my best policy is to forget it, now.

I asked what good it was to be against lynching and yet not do anything about it. He said something about "What's the use of making speeches to empty chairs."

DOESN'T BELIEVE FBI WILL GET ANYWHERE

I asked, "Do you think the FBI will get anywhere?"

"Frankly, no," he said. "There's lots of people here don't like the idea of the government coming in on a local affair. We got our pride, you know."

Around the block I talked to a man whose name had been given me in Jackson. He was an educated fellow.

"It was a terrible thing," the man said. "There was no call for mob violence. There's never a call for mob violence."

"You're apparently one of the leading citizens here," I said. "Have you made any public statements? Have you tried to organize a protest?"

"Why, no," he said. "I haven't talked to anyone about it. I've got other things on my mind."

He was a staid-looking man, and I'm sure he was speaking the truth when he said he had other things on his mind. I thought about it on the way back to my car. Everything just keeps flashing back on my mind; I wondered whether one of the things was the fear of being called "N---- Lover."

No, I didn't get to see the family of the lynched boy. If I should have, I know, but I didn't because a man in Quitman told me quietly, "It wouldn't do them N----rs any good to be seen talking to you."

BUT POLICE WON'T TALK

"How do the townspeople feel about the lynching?"

I asked the Sheriff:

"ARE THEY BEATING, BUT POLICE WON'T TALK"
Defiant Dixie In Poll Tax Rout, Lynches 2, Forms Vigilantes: Mob Storms Jail, Drags Two Boys, 14, 14...

Special

New York Amsterdam Star-News (1941-1943); Oct 17, 1942;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: New York Amsterdam News (1922-1993)
pg. 1

Defiant Dixie In Poll Tax Rout
Lynches 2, Forms Vigilantes

Mob Storms Jail, Drags Two Boys, 14, to Their Deaths

Washington (Special) -- On the eve of Congressional action on the Anti-Poll Tax bill to "undesirables" were lynched in Southern States, the South opened the first gun of its campaign by resorting to a mob attack on the simple, defenseless "attempted to rape a white woman."

Anonymous Villalistas

Then, following action of the House Tuesday in passing the bill, the South fired the second gun by announcing the organization of the Villalistas, a new movement to organize the South against the free Negro and the Negro movement. The new society is based on the "white man's code of honor" and the "black man's code of honor" and is "based on the precepts of the Bible and the Constitution of the United States."

Answer to the Poll Tax

"Two Boys, 14, Lynched for Attacking Girl, 14"

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Defiant South
Strikes Back

Continued from Page One

who are now deprived of their civil and political rights, burned at the stake, and subjected to scores of other abuses and indignities from the hands of an an-American, un-Democratic bloc of citizens who would rather see Hitler win the war than to give Negroes the right to live like free men in the United States.

Whether or not the bill will get by teh Senate where there is unlimited debate, is a question. Dixie senators are certain to institute the filibuster, and unless strong public pressure is brought to bear on them, the measure is sure to be talked to death before this session of Congress ends, Jan. 3, 1943.

On the Senate side. Senator Claude Pepper, sponsor of the bill will have powerful support from Senator Brooks. of Illinois and other northern and western solons.

Mitchell Makes Plea

While Reps. Joseph A. Gavan of New York and Raymond S. McKeough, of Illinois, led the fight for the bill, perhaps the most impassioned plea of all was that made by Rep. Arthur W. Mitchell, lone Negro member who probably was making his last important speech in the present Congress.

Mr. Mitchell, who is not a candidate for re-election, charged that the "poll tax is a means and a measure" to prohibit members of my race from voting in the Southern States.

"Whenever legislation affecting the Negro and the poor people is under consideration," he told the use, "it is interesting to see how many constitutional barriers can be raised and from what section of the country."

Mr. Mitchell said further, that he was certain there would not be one-tenth of the opposition if the Negro was not involved in the bill.

"Good Enough to Die"

"If the Negro is good enough to live in this country," the Congressman thundered, "if he is good enough to wear the uniform of his country, if he is good enough to shed his blood for this country, then he is entitled to vote in peacetime as well as in wartime."

Representative Colmer of Mississippi, the state that had just shown how little it thinks of its Negro citizens by lynching two young boys, declared that the "bill's direct object was to enfranchise the Negro in the South."

"Today," he said, "we shall see the sorry spectacle of that (Democratic) Party joining hands with the Republican Party: nay, more than that, taking the leadership in trying to pass another force bill."

He said the measure would prevent the people of the Southland from even controlling their own election laws, their own State primaries and meeting their own problems, which are peculiar to that section."
FBI MEN MOVE INTO MISSISSIPPI: Lynching Of Three People In One Week Brings Action IMBIBERS OF MOB...  
The Pittsburgh Courier (1911-1950); Oct 24, 1942;  
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Pittsburgh Courier (1911-2002)  
pg. 1

MEMBERS OF MOB REPORTED JAILED

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 22—A nation-wide wave of protest has flooded the office of Governor Paul R. Johnson, President Roosevelt, and the Justice Department following the lynching in one week in Mississippi. Early last Saturday morning a mob, estimated at 500 men, stormed the Laurel jail, whipped and lynched three Negroes.  

BULLETIN

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small bridge known as Welborn's Bridge, near the home of Clint Welborn, the man whom Wash was convicted of murdering.

The mob victim had not been sentenced, but a life term became mandatory when the trial jury failed to agree on punishment, leaving in the minds of the many a doubt whether Wash should have been convicted.

The teen-age boys, Charles Lang and Ernest Green, were lynched last Monday and hanged from the Bridge, famous for being the scene of four previous lynchings.

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Fury Spurs Foes Of Lynching

By Roy Willson

I read a small group of brutal stories this afternoon, making another in a long row holding the country's attention. Some had wrung the heartstrings of those who had suffered, others who had witnessed the tragedy.

In the United States, there are today, without a doubt, the most brutal cases of lynching of any race in the world. The fact that this country is a democracy, and that the majority of people are not as given to lynching as many others, is a source of pride. But the fact that this country is a democracy, and that the majority of people are not as given to lynching as many others, is a source of pride. But the fact that this country is a democracy, and that the majority of people are not as given to lynching as many others, is a source of pride.

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SOLDIERS, FBI MOVE IN TO HALT 4TH LYNCHING: MISSISSIPPI MOB TRAILS NEW VICTIM

Biddle, Governor See to Foil Hoodlums; Outrages Stir Nation

WASHINGTON — At the request of Governor Biddle, the late Tuesday that he ordered an investigation to

Washington — Saturday of this week Wash., 45, of Laurel, Miss.

"Assuming the invest develops a case, relentless sessions will follow," the new General declared.

lynching of Wash, third

a week in Mississippi

aroused the consistory and
gross and President Ro

are being flooded with

what is the situation

been whittled by passage

news of the anti-poll tax

was the belief that express

many quarters, since the

ings begun as soon as it becomes

apparent that the poll tax

would pass.

HAZELWOOD, Mis

mob of lynchingARIO

The mob, including 25 St

men here were deter-

add a fourth lynching.

Mississippi's score a

hunted John C. Catchings

bonds were reported

in the swamplands.

lli's liberal governor

summon companies of the State

Continued on Page

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