17-YEAR-OLD BOY LYNCHED BY TENN. MOB: Cook Opens Jail Door For Ring Leaders; Shot 4 Times

By ROBERT LUCAS (Defender Staff Correspondent)

PIKEVILLE, Tenn. — A lynch mob ended the life of James T. Scales here Thursday morning a few hours after he reportedly killed two white women and escaped from the reform school where he was an inmate.

The 17-year-old boy was captured and taken to the Bledsoe County Jail where he was later released to three men who said they were "guards" from the school.

The men drove 18 miles "up the mountain" to the State Training and Agricultural School where a mob had gathered ready to hang Scales. Assistant Superintendent W. S. Neil pleaded with the mob of 20 or 30 men "not to do anything like that here." They tossed aside the rope, then fired four shots through the boy's head.

**Parade Past Body**

As Scales lay there, the other students were forced to parade past his body. "This is for you," they were told.

Early Thursday morning Scales, who worked in Superintendent Scott's home on the school grounds, hacked to death Mrs. Gwendolyn McKinnie, Scott's 21-year-old daughter, and fatally wounded her mother, a matron at the home.

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Lynching—

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perintendent Scott was in Nashville at the time.

The women were found dead in a hallway after school employees had forced their way into the house. Nearby were found an axe, two butcher knives and a hammer.

Scales fled the school but was picked up by a white farmer, Walter Hale, who took him back to the school to collect the $10 reward offered for escaped inmates.  

**Girl is Jailer**

From the school, three men drove Scales to the county jail in Pikeville and left him in the custody of Ruth Douglas, the cook at the jail. The sheriff was working in a mill in another part of town.

About an hour later, three men posing as guards from the school persuaded the young girl to unlock the jail. She later told investigators that they appeared to be the same men who had brought him to the jail.

Twenty State Highway police were rushed to the scene to maintain order and Governor Prentice Cooper ordered Chief Lynn Bomar to make a complete investigation.

**Had Criminal Record**

Scales' body was delivered to his father in Nashville. It was here the boy had begun his career of crime at the age of nine. Nashville Juvenile court records show a long list of other violations of the law, uninterrupted except for 19 months when Scales was in the army. He was convicted of larceny shortly after his discharge and was sent to the reform school.

In Nashville on Monday, at a meeting of the Ministers' Alliance a $500 reward is to be raised for capture of members of the mob. However, people in Pikeville, both Negro and white, have little faith in the outcome of the investigation.