Here's Latest Dixie Phantasy

MURDERS MAN: SAYS TRUMAN’S CIVIL RIGHTS’ PROGRAM INSPIRATION FOR FIENDISH CRIME

Dixie Fantasy

Beats Man To Death
Biames Civil Rights

MOBILE, ALA.—Following the usual line of fantastical tales concocted as a defense against justice in the wanton taking of Negroes' lives by sentiment of mob law, a white man said his anger over President Truman's Civil Rights program led him to murder a Negro here last week.

The victim of the latest assault, 52-year-old Bayard Davis, draftee civilian worker at the Brownley Field Army Air Base here, was apparently beaten to death by Horace Miller, 25, Dur- arc. Miss., white man, after the two awakened from a city bus at Brown and Tennessee st. last Sunday night.

TELLS WEIRD STORY

Miller, also a civilian worker at Brownley Field, gave an incredible story to police that Davis taunted him about the Federal housing Act of 1937 and boasted that "triumph of President Truman would soon make the Negro more important than the white man." While motive for killing the colored man, Miller has not divulged his real reason.

The investigation of the case gives rise to the theory that death may have been robbery. Both men had their pay day at Brownley Field Friday—two days before the murder was committed.

Davis was known to have been thrifty and saved several thousand dollars in his lifetime. The colored man's body, still slightly warm, was found in a Tennessee street ditch by Gustave Arcement, white, about an hour after the crime was committed. Arcement was digging for frogs when he came upon the badly battered body at a dark spot near the rear of an ice plant.

Miller, who admitted he had "a few beers" Sunday night before he killed Davis, surrendered at police headquarters shortly before 1 a.m. Tuesday. He was accompanied by J. Terry Reynolds, a white attorney here. The white man said he struck Davis with his

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firsts and kicked him "several times," as a result of the alleged Civil Rights dispute. He also said that the colored man had been drinking heavily and offered him a drink.

Continuing his story, Miller said: "I looked closer and saw that it was a colored man... I said 'no.'" He asserted Davis held his arm and insisted that they go to his (Davis') house and have a drink together. Miller said when he refused, the colored man injected the Civil Rights Program. "That sort of talk kept making me madder," the white Mississippian added. He said he then knocked Davis down, and struck and kicked him a number of times, when he attempted to get up, and that he didn't know until he read the newspapers that the man had died. Davis' body was found in Tennessee st. ditch between the bus stop and his home two blocks away on that street.

Miller stayed at a rooming house in the opposite direction on South Carolina st., and should have alighted from the bus at another stop to go home. A watchman at the ice plant said he saw a white man following a colored man on Tennessee st. about an hour before Davis' body was found. He said there was no indication of an argument between the two at that time.

Miller, who is being held in the city jail on an open charge, will have a preliminary hearing this week. No bond was set pending the hearing. Dr. H. S. J. Walker, county coroner, following an autopsy, said of Davis' death: "It is murder." The murdered man's face and head were badly battered, indicating that a deadly weapon such as a blackjack, heavy club or brass knuckles had been used in the fatal attack. Davis' foreman and workers at Brookley Field said the man had never manifested any interest in such a subject as a Civil Rights Program. He was regarded as being of the "old school" of thought among Negroes.

In Durant, Miss., hate-mongering whites are raising a defense fund for Miller.