The continuing violence against Negro citizens in Mississippi is as much alive today as it was in August when Emmett L. Till was 'lynched'.

Down in south Mississippi in a county, Smith, commonly called Sullivan's Hollow, a young Negro man about 30 years of age (his mother did not know exactly) was shot five times with a pistol by a white man or men in a country store about four (4) miles north of Mize, Mississippi.

Sunday, January 29 I, along with a photographer, Tom Armstrong, went to Mize to try and ascertain some facts into the alleged "self defense" killing of Edward Duckworth.

Friday afternoon of each week is usually "payday" in this sawmill community where two brothers, Grover Luckey and (?) Luckey own a sawmill quarters. This Friday afternoon Edward Duckworth insisted on getting off from work early so that he could take his baby (six-week old boy) to the doctor. It is alleged for that Duckworth went to the store owned by Lucky and asked/some money from Mrs. Luckey to take his baby to the doctor and after getting the money he went out and started drinking and came back for more money but the woman refused though he insisted on getting more. The husband came in the store about this time and insisted that he leave immediately but instead he made "advances" on Grover Luckey and Luckey shot him.
Though we obtained from Negro residents essentially the same information as was given in the newspapers, no one we talked with actually witnessed the incident. However, there were persons who was on the scene who would not talk to us at all.

Duckworth was shot five times in "self defense". But what was very strange to me was the fact that his face showed three or four different scars which could have resulted from a beating though he is alleged to have been just shot to death.

The question arose as to the possibility that his death could have been caused by the wreck he was in while his brother rushed him to the hospital some 15 miles away, but an autopsy ruled that out when it was revealed that he was shot through the heart.

Grover Luckey has been released on a $5000 bond until the grand jury meets.

I shall continue to seek more information about the case.

Respectfully submitted,

Medgar W. Evers
Field Secretary

MNE: mbe