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WITH OFFICERS MAKING NO ATTEMPT AT RESTRAINT, MOB BURNS NEGRO'S BODY AND CREATES A REIGN OF TERROR

**MOB'S LYNCHING
OF NEGRO BRUTE
STARTS TROUBLE**

**Black Attacks Mother
and Daughter West
of City**

IS HANGED TO POLE

Captured After Long Search
Through
Wooded Region

CONFESSES HE IS GUILTY

Five minutes after he was identified by one of his victims as the negro who attacked two white women at 9:30 yesterday, John Carter, aged 38, was hanged from a telephone pole less than a mile from the Little Rock-Hot Springs highway, on the Twelfth street cut-off, and riddled with bullets. The lynching took place at 5:30 p.m. and was participated in by about 100 armed men. A handful of officers was brushed aside by the mob.

Carter went to his death mumbling a prayer. Before the rope was placed about his neck he admitted his part in the attack on the two women and declared that a negro named Charlie Smith assisted him. Mrs. B.E. Stewart, 45, and her daughter, Glennie, 17, living seven miles out the Twelfth Street pike, were driving to the city in a wagon when the negro accosted them.

Mrs. Stewart said the negro was walking along the pike when she passed him and he asked where "the bridge" was located. She told him there was no bridge in the locality and he jumped into the wagon demanding whiskey. Almost without waiting for an answer he started beating the two women with an iron bar, the first blow knocking Mrs. Stewart from the wagon. Another blow caught the daughter a glancing blow on the neck and she fell out of the wagon.

Negro Frightened Away

An approaching automobile frightened the negro away. The automobile was occupied by Jimmie Lewis, [...illeg...3950?] Pine street; Reuben Wright, John Wright and Miss Ina Wright, all living at 3823 1-2 West Thirteenth street, and Miss

Jean Smith, 1121 Garland avenue. The party was going fishing, but stopped to take Mrs. Stewart and her daughter to the Research hospital.

Carter ran through the woods, crossing the second cut-off and going on into heavier timber. Sheriff Haynie was called and hurried to the scene. He viewed the situation and sent in a call for assistance, which was answered by all available officers and citizens.

A Mrs. Lewellen was the first to see the negro after he disappeared into the timber following the attack. Mrs. Lewellen lives on the upper Hot Springs pike. At 12:30 p.m. she was warned that a negro was being sought in the vicinity and she started from her house to the home of her married daughter, about 400 yards farther down the pike. She took her children with her and was about half way between the two houses when she saw the negro crouching near the road, evidently about to cross over into the bottoms.

Take Up Hot Trail

Searchers were called and they took up a hot trail. Carter made good time and kept ahead of the possemen. He was not seen again until fired upon by Detective Serg. O. B. Rotenberry of the Detective Bureau, Patrolman Guenther and two volunteer searchers. Two shots from the officers' guns took effect and the negro ran only about a mile, stopping to climb a tree in the Hopson-Sachs addition, where he was discovered.

R.L. Snow and E.L. McElvain were the first to see Carter. Snow leveled his gun and was in the act of shooting when his companion stopped him. The negro descended to the ground, begging the possemen to spare his life.

Seven men accompanied the negro about 100 yards to the Twelfth Street cut-off, where he was put in a closed car and held while Glennie Stewart was summoned to identify him. About 100 men had congregated about the car when the girl arrived, and several leaders had declared their intention of "never letting that negro get to Little Rock so the police can protect him."

While the mob waited for the arrival of the negro's victim he was plied with questions. He admitted taking part in the attack, but said time after time that "Charley Smith did the beatin'." Officers attempted to bluff the crowd out of its intention to lynch the negro, but they were themselves threatened and the crowd remained firm in its intention.

Carter asked for a drink of water and was given a pint cup of well water, which he drank. He asked for a cigarette and the request was granted, the giver remarking that it would be his last. The mob did not seem to want to torture the negro, but demanded his death.

Identified by Girl

When Glennie Stewart arrived at 5:25, she identified Carter and the negro was taken from the officers. "That's the man, that's the man," the girl cried.

Two men seized the negro and led him about 30 yards across the road to a telephone pole. No one had a rope and a member of the mob rushed to his car to obtain one. Two men arrived at the same instant, one with a rope and one with a chain. The rope and chain were tied together and one end was thrown over the cross arm of the pole.

“Have you anything to say?” the negro was asked.

“Yes, boss, I wants to make peace with my God before I goes,” the negro replied.

“Why did you do it – did you intend to assault the girl?” was the next question.

“No, sir, I don’t know why I did it,” Carter said.

Although Carter had walked across the road to the telephone pole, he was so terrified that his face turned gray. He did not plead for mercy.

“Start praying, nigger,” someone shouted, “because you are getting ready to go.”

The negro started to kneel, but was told to pray standing up. He threw back his head and his voice was weak but clear as he started asking for mercy from God.

“God, here I come on this fourth day of May, 1927. Take me God and have mercy on my soul—”

Is Paralyzed With Fright

The prayer was interrupted by hands adjusting the rope about his neck. Carter was told to climb upon a Ford roadster standing near the telephone pole. He attempted to obey, but his legs were unequal to the task and he had to be assisted. While he was being hoisted to the top of the car, several men were busy getting the crowd back and placing the men with guns in a line about 25 feet from the negro.

The hanging was dragged out over several minutes. Those in charge wanted the negro hoisted to the top of the pole so that he could be riddled with bullets without danger to persons who might be in the line of fire. This plan was defeated by the chain, which could not be pulled over the cross arm.

After half lifting the negro to the top of the car the lynchers decided they had “wasted enough time.” The car was driven out from under the negro and he was left dangling from the end of the rope, his feet about five feet from the ground.

About 50 men lined up opposite the pole and waited for the word to start firing. Carter was allowed to dangle about two minutes. He did not struggle, being too weak to do more than quiver.

200 Shots Are Fired

A shot rang out and was followed by a fusillade which lasted for several minutes. At least 200 shots were fired.

One man lay in a ditch between the negro and the mob while the firing was going on. He was holding the rope to keep the negro from falling.

When all the guns were empty the shooting stopped and the lynchers set up a howl, surveying their work with every evidence of satisfaction. The first shot struck Carter over the heart and was followed by so many more in every part of the body and head that he never knew what struck him.

Someone suggested cutting the body down and burning it, but one grim-faced farmer halted any such action by the simple statement that no one could touch the body.

Word of the mob's action spread rapidly and in five minutes 300 persons had been added to the number taking an active part. Several police officers appeared on the scene, but waited for the arrival of their superior officers.

Sheriff Haynie arrived about 15 minutes after the shooting was over. He ordered everyone away from the scene and sent word for the county coroner to come and hold an inquest. Sheriff Haynie had left the scene when the members of the mob cut the negro's body down and started for the city.

Coroner Holds Inquest

Dr. Samuel O. Boyce, coroner, was taken to the scene of the lynching by Dr. and Mrs. L.L. Marshall. Dr. Boyce questioned several persons who were standing about the body when he arrived, but could find no one who would admit having been present when the shooting and hanging took place. Examination of the body showed that it was literally riddled with bullets, and as no direct information was obtained, Dr. Boyce returned the verdict that "John Carter came to his death from multiple gunshot wounds at the hands of parties unknown."

After the inquest was completed, Dr. Boyce left the scene to call an ambulance, and in his absence the body was removed by members of the mob. The coroner advanced the theory that members of the mob which killed the negro probably had left the scene and those who removed the body had no actual part in the lynching.

Had Criminal Record

Carter was well known to police, having been convicted of an almost identical crime only a few months ago. On the night of August 3, 1926, he entered the home of Mrs. Emma Baynham, 812 East Eleventh street. He attacked Mrs. Baynham without provocation and beat her over the head with a hammer. She was not seriously injured.

Carter was arrested and convicted of the assault. He was fined \$500 and sentenced to one year on the county farm. He escaped from the county farm last Saturday night and has been hiding in the woods since.

The lynching of Carter is the first demonstration of mob violence in Pulaski county for 36 years.

Grand Jury to Act

A thorough investigation is expected of the Pulaski county Grand Jury. The Grand Jury met yesterday before the lynching occurred to consider evidence against leaders of mobs which caused police considerable trouble Sunday and Monday nights, but no indictments were returned. Gordon N. Peay Sr., foreman of the jury, indicated that any violence would be followed by a Grand Jury investigation.

“The Grand Jury proposed to do its duty under any and all circumstances,” he said, “and any misguided citizen who attempts to take the law in his own hands will have the same measure of justice meted out to him.”

Body Dragged Through Streets

After the mob took charge of the swaying and bullet-riddled corpse, a spokesman asked for a vote on taking the negro’s body back to Little Rock and dragging it through West Ninth street. The crowd shouted in favor.

The spokesman again addressed the mob.

“All in favor of burning his body, shout aye.”

The crowd again shouted: “Aye!”

The negro’s body was cut down and then tied to the front bumper of a Star roadster. This car took the lead and the mob moved to the city. Somewhere the mob stopped and tied one end of the rope to the rear bumper and then the march through the city was resumed. The movement of the mob in entering Little Rock has not been learned definitely by the police, but the first they knew of it, the body was being dragged through West Ninth street.

The gruesome parade then sped north on Main street to Markham then west on Broadway directly in front of police headquarters, and then to Sixth street. Here the line moved over to Louisiana street, to Ninth and then back out Ninth.

Burned at the Stake

After dragging the body for more than an hour, the procession was halted at Ninth street and Broadway. The body was placed directly in the center of the street, blocking two car lines, and gasoline was poured upon it. With the first flames leaping up the mobbers began pointing pistols into the air and firing promiscuously.

News of the degrading scene spread quickly. Thousands of automobiles sped to the scene.

The shooting continued. Gasoline was poured upon the charred corpse. Shouting of men and women intermingled with the shooting. There was no semblance of order.

A gray-haired man, unarmed, borrowed a shotgun and emptied it into the air. Releasing the empty weapon he asked for a rifle another was holding but was told it was unloaded. Another stepped up and gave him a revolver. In his haste and excitement he seized the barrel of the weapon and raising his arm, tried to pull the trigger. Seeing his mistake, he changed ends quickly and then fired.

A young negro appeared and someone shouted. The last seen of him he was leading several hot-headed young men.

Another negro in an automobile attempted to pass through the intersection just as the fire was kindled. Several started after him and he raced away.

Scene Creates Excitement

Dragging the body of the negro through Main street created a furore. [sic] Excited people shouted and many per[sons ran to Main. Some one shouted sons ran to Main. Some one shouted] [sic] Louisiana street and the crowd ran back to Louisiana. Here others were running toward the city hall and soon all streets leading in that direction were crowded.

All streets for blocks around the scene of the burning were jammed and automobiles were parked from sidewalk to sidewalk. Men, women and children were running to the scene. Some women carried infants in their arms; others dragged them along. The steps of the Mosaic temple (negro) on the corner, seemed to have been reserved for women. It was crowded.

Several officers were at the scene when the mob took the body down, but no one resisted the efforts of the mob, it was said.

Assistant Police Chief E.W. Crow, acting chief of police, had no statement to make last night, except to say that he did all he could under the circumstances. He said both Mayor Moyer and Chief Rotenberry had left Little Rock yesterday afternoon and professed that he did not know where they went or when they would return.

After the mobbers left the West Ninth street scene, all lights on West Ninth street were extinguished and not a negro was in sight. A systematic search was made of all negro houses in that district and whether any negroes suffered was not known last night, as no policemen went to the scene.

Alderman J.H. Bilheimer reported to police that as he passed Ninth street and Broadway, he saw many armed white men on the porches of negro homes and he said they were awaiting the arrival of the police.

From West Ninth street, the mob scattered in all directions, searching for negroes.

Persistent rumors reached headquarters during the night that negroes were mobilizing or were arming themselves, but these calls when unheeded.

About 9 a mob caught a negro at Ninth and Broadway, and the members said they found a revolver on him. Shouts of "burn him" were heard and the negro was badly beaten. It appeared that the mob was not organized, as the negro was tossed from one automobile to another until about 20 young men obtained possession of him and rushed him to the police headquarters where the police called an ambulance and sent him to the General hospital.

At 10, Major Fredeman, assistant adjutant general, accompanied by several officers, left police headquarters for the West Ninth street sector prepared to discharge tear bombs to disperse the crowd. This was the first effort made to quell the rioting.

Anticipating trouble late yesterday after news of the lynching reached Little Rock, the police ordered thousands of rounds of ammunition and also obtained all shotguns and rifles they could. The weapons and ammunition were distributed to

the crowd of officers, and during the night was shot was fired through a ceiling when a weapon was discharged accidentally. No one was injured.

The 20 young men who rescued the negro assaulted at Ninth street and Broadway, proved themselves heroic. A man named Hastings, driver for the Smith Auto Livery Company, exhibited to the police a burn of his hand he had obtained when he and others of his crowd pulled the negro from the fire. They left headquarters immediately after the negro had been placed in an ambulance.

The most gruesome act of some of those who gathered at Ninth street and Broadway was the poking of sticks into the negro's charred body and, tearing off bits, carried them around time.

Police Finally Act

At 10:30, when Major Fredeman called Acting Chief Crow and informed him that the crowd on Ninth street had been dispersed by members of the National Guard, every uniformed officer and many in citizens clothes left the city hall in automobiles. Each car loaded was assigned to certain districts with instructions to break up any gatherings or mobs encountered.

All night telephone calls from excited citizens poured into police headquarters, asking aid. The white residents had heard rumors that the blacks were mobilizing and were about to advance on all white people. The negroes pleaded for help or protection.

Practically every member of the City Council was called to headquarters and went into [sic] conference with Acting Chief Crow and military heads. No one knew the whereabouts of Mayor Moyer or Chief Rotenberry.

The charred body of Carter was sent to police headquarters at 10:45 by the guardsmen, in a Dubisson & Co. ambulance. Acting Chief Crow immediately sent the ashes to the undertaking parlors. Until that hour the body had remained in the street.

Reports, apparently well founded, continued to reach headquarters last night that a concentrated drive would be made on the city hall at 2 this (Thursday) morning to "get Chief Rotenberry."