

Lynched Man's Fingers, Toes, Used to Make 'Nigger Sandwich'

Correspondent Reports 9 P.M. Curfew Still in Effect in Salisbury, Maryland

NEW YORK—(CNA)—Brutalities overshadowing in horror all the facts previously known about the lynching of Matthew Williams in Salisbury, Md., on December 6, are described in a letter from an eye-witness to the lynching, which has come into the hands of the editors of the Crusader News Agency.

Although almost three months have passed since this brutal murder, no arrests have occurred, and no known move has been made to investigate the lynching, in spite of repeated promises of action by Governor Ritchie and State's Attorney Lane.

Asked Wage Raise

It will be remembered that Williams was shot and lynched as the result of his request to Daniel J. Elliott, owner of the Salisbury Crate and Basket Factory, for a slight increase in his wages of 15 cents an hour.

"The lynching of M. Williams in this town was the most brutal sight human eyes could witness. And it certainly has brought a black gloom over the entire state.

"Everyone down here knows just who led the mob that lynched this man, everybody here knows who it was that shot him while he was in the hands of the police.

"I can not even write you, or explain to you how horrible the whole thing was.

Make "Nigger" Sandwiches

"First they dragged him to the court house square, and hanged him,

then they cut him down, tied the rope to the back of an auto, and dragged him to the Negro section of the town. They then got about 40 or 50 gallons of gasoline, but before they threw this gas over him, they cut off his fingers and toes, threw them on the porches and in the yards of the colored people's homes, shouting these remarks, that they (the colored people) could make 'nigger' sandwiches out of them. Then they threw the gas over him, set a match to him, and while the human torch burned, they passed booze around, drinking and shouting.

"They also warned the colored citizens that they would burn their homes down, if they heard as much as a whisper out of them.

Keep Negroes Off Streets

"They also told them not to be seen on the town streets after 9 p.m., under penalty of death; even now, weeks after the lynching, the colored people are not seen on the streets of the town after 9 p.m.

"We would like to know whether something cannot be done to punish the leaders of this crime?"

Officials at the New York headquarters of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights and officials at the national office of the International Labor Defense stated that further investigations would be made, and that they hope to make known the names of the lynchers of Matthew Williams.