

Dec 15/37

THE WEATHER
Fair and colder tonight; fair and continued cold Sunday.

Detailed Weather Report on Page 16

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SCAFFOLD FA

Ritchie Order

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RITCHIE PROBES LYNCHING OF SLAYER ON SHORE; 2,500 JOIN MOB

40 Gallons of Gasoline Used on Pyre After Hanging; Lane Is Called For Conference With Governor Ritchie

Governor Ritchie today ordered a sweeping investigation of the lynching of Matthew Williams, negro murderer, by a mob of 2,500 in Salisbury last night.

At the same time he revealed that an independent investigation was under way into conditions on the Eastern Shore growing out of crimes of violence laid to negroes.

The Governor has called Attorney General William Preston Lane, Jr., into conference this afternoon.

Williams had confessed to the murder of his employer, Daniel J. Elliott, sixty-seven, wealthy lumber dealer. After the murder Williams shot himself. He was taken to Peninsula General Hospital after again being shot by Elliott's son.

It was shortly before 8 o'clock that a half dozen grim-faced men strode down Main street shouting:

"We're going to get him"

150 AT HOSPITAL

Others fell in behind and at least 150 were in the mob which marched on the hospital. They were met at the door by Chief of Police Nicholas Holland and Deputy Sheriff John Parks, who were guarding the wounded man in the negro ward on the first floor.

Chief Holland warned the mob to disperse. While one of the members engaged the officers in conversation, four others slipped into the hospital by a side door and accosted Miss Helen V. Wise, the superintendent. One of the men said:

"We don't want to cause the hospital any trouble, but we're here to get Williams and we're going to take him."

The quartet entered the ward, where there were four patients in addition to Williams.

IN STRAIT-JACKET

Silently, the terrified negroes pointed to Williams' bed, where the killer lay with his head swathed in bandages and his arms and torso confined in the strait-jacket to prevent an attempted escape.

Williams was lifted from the bed and hurled through a window to the lawn, where members of the mob dragged him to his feet.

At this point Sheriff G. Murray Phillips arrived and attempted to rescue the negro. A member of the

OFFICIALS GIVE LYNCH VIEWS

Prominent Maryland law enforcement officials in general, and more particularly those associated with the coming trial of Yuel Lee, alias Orphan Jones, for the slaying of a family of four near Berlin, today commented or refused statements on the lynching of a negro at Salisbury last night.

Attorney General William Preston Lane, Jr., said:

"I am greatly shocked. I feel sure that our State's Attorneys will take the proper steps toward prosecution of the mob's leaders."

CHILD BLAMES LEAGUE

State's Attorney Godfrey Child, who will have charge of the prosecution of Lee next week, said:

"This lynching indicates that if the International Defense League doesn't stop meddling on the Eastern Shore we're going to have serious trouble."

Bernard Ades, Lee's attorney, and attorney for the League, declared:

"I expect to be attacked myself when I go to Cambridge. But what can I do about it? I still hope, however, that the Court of Appeals will now move the trial from there."

Levin C. Bailey, State's Attorney