

3113 Folklore
R. Cochran

REMINISCENCE OF CHARLES MADISON YOUNG

~~Poster Collect~~
Folklore class & Acct)

Brooke B. Tappan
December 1, 1977

about the little girl and she took charge of her. One or two other ladies helped her. I never saw a prettier little girl.

The woman had the baby at the hospital. The man came and got the child and said he wanted to take her outside to see her mother and the baby. As soon as he got out of the hospital, he beat it. He took the child, mother, and little girl.

Several years later, Mrs. Young got a call from a probation officer in Little Rock. He wanted to know something about this little girl. Well, my wife gave him all the information she had. She didn't know what her name was or who her people were.

A day or two later he called back and said he had to have more information about that child. Mrs. Young said, "Well, I told you everything I could. What is this all about?" He said that a very wealthy family in Little Rock adopted the child and they wanted to take a trip to Europe and take the little girl with them. She had to have a passport and they needed to know who she was. I don't know what they ever did.

ELAINE RIOT - SEPTEMBER 29, 1919

I was at the Rotary Club when it was announced that there was fighting taking place in Elaine. They busted up the club because we didn't know what was going on down there.

The next morning the Associate Press man from Memphis, and a Commercial Appeal man came to my office. They wanted to go down there. I had a new, big, passenger Buick car. I didn't want to go by myself, so I picked up two men - E.L. Parmelee and E.M. Allen. Allen was the head of the Chamber of Commerce in

Helena and Parmelee was the city engineer.

We started down there. Around Old Town we met a car coming towards Helena. I knew the car. It was O.R. Lily's big Hudson car. In that car was Joseph Myers, and Will Myracle, Deputy U.S. Marshall, a colored driver, and somebody else.

Lily had been killed. They hailed us down and told us that between Wabash and Elaine 4 niggers they had in their car had attempted to kill them. They said Lily and the 4 niggers were killed and dumped out on the road. He said to be careful when we passed there.

At Wabash Mr. Allen decided he had better come back to Helena because there might be trouble. There was trouble. Mr. Parmelee said that he was down there the day before and his wife was all worried. They left me and the two newspaper correspondents. We went down there. We had to go off the side of the road into a ditch to go around those 4 niggers lying in the road, chained together. Two of them were very prominent niggers. One of them was Dr. D.A. Johnson, who owned a three story building occupied by the old McCarty Farm Machinery Co. That building had been watched for some time because they knew that the niggers were meeting there. After Mr. Allen came back, they raided that building and found it filled full of high-powered rifles and hundreds of rounds of ammunition. So they were correct in the suspicion that the niggers were using that building.

We got to Elaine and went to the headquarters. In the meantime, a lot of soldiers from Camp Pike, (now Camp Robinson in Little Rock), had arrived. We went to talk to the General and Governor Brough came in then. The General said that they threw out men on the road leading into Elaine and that they were promptly fired on. A couple of his men were killed and another was badly wounded. One was shot in a breast with a brass tap from up the tree. They didn't have ammunition, they shot him with the tap.

They told us that Governor Brough wanted to come to Helena. Governor Brough told us that whatever we did, not to make any stops along the way for anything!! If anybody wanted to stop he would just have to wait. -That's what he told us.-

I had a pistol I recently bought because there had been a lot of holdups in Helena. I put it in the side pocket and couldn't find the darn thing.

We left and got past those dead bodies in the road where the road paralleled with the railroad tracks. It wasn't paved or anything, just a dirt road. About a mile this side of Elaine the track crossed the road, so we had to slack up to cross over.

Well, as I got to this place I saw several hundred niggers along side the road. I didn't know what they were doing or who they were, so I put my foot on the gas and got over the road as soon as possible. Then I was stopped by a soldier. I told

him who we were and he passed us on. Later I found out that these niggers had gathered there. They were innocent and scared of their lives too. We got to Elaine and met Governor Brough and we brought him back that afternoon.

The Governor told us that they threw his guards out on the road and they were fired on. They gave them orders to shoot everything that showed up and they took machine guns out there and let'em have it.

Twenty-some-odd people were killed I think. I brought the Governor back that afternoon and stopped at the hotel and made arrangements for him. Then I went on to the courthouse. I brought the Chaplin who was with the Regiment. His name was Sliney, Faubes Sliney of Boston. He was a typical Irishman. He stayed at our house. He had to come here because two of his men were dead and another one wounded. He had to make arrangements to take care of them.

That night some of the soldiers came on in to Helena and guarded Helena. About 10:00 I heard a shot right up the street from us. Of course that scared us all. The next day I found out that a man named Prince was fooling with a gun and the thing went off. He scared the whole town.

While this Chaplin was at our house, he went back down to Elaine. He saw a big hound there. He liked to hunt, so he asks somebody whose hound that was. They told him, "Well, that's John Thomas's". He asked where John Thomas was and they said

he was dead. So he took the hound and in two or three days, old John Thomas came in. He'd been hiding out in the canebrake and came back and got his hound. So he took this fellow for a coon hunt and gave him another hound.

James A. Tappan was killed the night before I went down there; he and Trenton Lee. There had been a lot of robberies at Elaine Boxcar. In those days they had special agents for railroads. A special agent from Memphis came down here and wanted to go to Elaine. Well, he went to the sheriff's office and they let him have a car and a trustee to drive it. There was, this side of Elaine, a church where the nigras were holding meetings. There was a little creek there. It was dry and the bridge was out, so they went down across the creek. They stopped for some reason and the nigger guard who was watching for the church cut down on them. They shot this agent who was out of the car and riddled the car with bullets.

It was dark and of course they got away and caught a freight train into Helena and gave the alarm. So the next day, a bunch of them who had been in the Army, the Guard, decided to go down there and see. Well, we knew something was wrong.

For several nights Mr. Burkes, Editor of the Helena World, and myself, strolled by the Johnson building. W'd take a look and see if there was anything going on. So we knew there was something in the air.

They had got a Detective Scarbrough down here. He reported that the niggers was fixin to uprise. He was right. When these nigras killed this fellow, and after they got away and came back,

this guard, Trenton Lee, Jimmy Tappan and others started down there. I forgot the other person's name. He used to work for Tappan Hardware. --Ira Proctor-- He was wounded and never did get over it. They were shot before they ever did get to Elaine. The women and children in Elaine went out to some farm west of Elaine and held up while the men armed themselves and was trying to protect them. They appealed to the Governor to send troops over there but there weren't any state troopers in Arkansas. They hadn't come back. The U.S. Government sent two or three Companies over there. They had just gotten back from the Oregons. They'd fought in the Oregons and this priest was one of them.

A good many years later, about '47, I was in Vienna with my wife and other newspaper people. We went out to a party that night, the christening of a new wine. Our Ambassador was there and the Premier of that country and several of the high officials. A man came to me and said there was gentleman down in the wine cellar, filled with great casks of wine, who wanted to see me.

So, I went down there and this man came up and asked me if I was Mr. Young from Helena. I said yes. He said that he was General Fitz, connected there with the State Department, and a Veteran of the Battle of Elaine. He said at that time he was a young lieutenant out of West Point. He was sent to Elaine to try to stop that riot. He told me that they threw two guards out on every road. When the niggers fired on them, they gave them orders to fire on anything they saw. They did.

The Riot was caused by a degenerate white man, whose folks now live in Little Rock, and a nigger from Kansas City, who had lived off other niggers all his life. The white man's father was a lawyer and a shyster.

The niggers that were in the Armies came back and had Savings Stamps and Bonds and things like that. This white man and nigger wanted them. They even gave them a certificate to speak in the halls of Congress for so much. The more ya had, the more they'd give. And they told them that all they had to do was kill off the white folks, like George Blackburn and Countiss, and all those people. They told them to take the land and that the Government was with them. The poor ignorant niggers fell for it. Especially the young ones. The old ones didn't.

They took them up, tried them here, and sent them to the penitentiary. There was a degenerate white man who was a shystered judge over there. He made a deal with the Republican Party to make him a Federal Judge and he turned them loose. They were sent there on charges of insighting a riot and murder.

These are facts. I even saw some of the certificates they gave to the niggers to speak in the Halls of Congress.

KU KLUX KLAN

I had my run in with the Ku Klux Klan along in the 20's, after the Elaine Riot.

People here were very much worried. They didn't know just what was going to happen. They thought that was the end of it,