

LYNCHING PARTY ON WAY TO ARK. TO PASS THRU MEMPHIS

Negro Who Killed Two On Christmas Day Taken From Officers At Sardis, Mississippi

Henry Lowry, negro murderer, was taken from officers on a train at Sardis, Miss., at 5 a. m. today by a mob of heavily armed men who are now enroute to Memphis in automobiles, according to word received from Sardis this morning.

The mob, it is said, is taking Lowry back to Wilson, Ark., near where he shot and killed two white persons on Dec. 25, and is to cross the Harahan bridge over the Mississippi river here.

Parade Down Main St.

"We are going to parade him thru Main st. when we pass thru Memphis," the leader of the mob boasted at Sardis. "Then we are going to take him to Arkansas, and that will be the end of him."

Altho the roads are in very bad condition, the mob is expected here before noon. As the roads to the Helena ferry are impassable, there is no other route by which they can cross the river.

Lowry, who escaped immediately after the murders, fled to El Paso, Tex., where he was captured last week. Arkansas officers were bringing him back to stand trial.

Deputies Greer and Dixon left New Orleans last night with their prisoner on Illinois Central Train No. 2.

Tells Plans to Marshal.

Thirty minutes before this train was due in Sardis at 4:56 this morning, five or six muddy and travel-stained automobiles rolled into the little town. Several men alighted from each auto, and went to the Illinois Central depot.

"We are here to take that negro off the train and carry him back to Wilson, Ark.," the leader of the mob said as he approached Night Marshal W. E. Johnson, "and we hope we won't have to cause any trouble here."

Behind him were about 15 grim and determined-looking men, none of whom said a word.

Marshal Johns oninvited them across the street to the Sardis hotel, to wait until the train arrived, and built a warm fire for them.

"Our names," the mob leader continued as they sat around the fire, "are Smith, Brown and Jones."

The leader chatted with the marshal, but none of the other

men spoke a word, apparently by order.

"We've got 50 automobiles spotted out along the road between here and Memphis, and when we get to Memphis we are going to parade the negro right thru Main st. before we cross the bridge," the leader continued.

The train's whistle was heard, and at a command from their leader the men left the hotel and followed him to the depot. On the platform they formed in single file.

Disarm Officers.

The moment the train stopped each man drew a revolver and the leader boarded the negro coach, followed closely by the others. Not a word was spoken.

Lowry was handcuffed to Deputy Greer, who was asleep, while Deputy Dixon stood guard.

Approaching them from behind, the mob members seized the deputies and disarmed them. One of them took the handcuff keys from Deputy Dixon's pocket and released Deputy Greer's wrist.

With the negro between them, they filed out of the coach, leaving the officers behind.

Take Deputies Off Train.

Just as the train started off again, the mob leader commanded Conductor Sitton to stop it. He did.

Deputies Greer and Dixon were then made to leave the train, altho they begged to be allowed to proceed to Memphis.

"No," the mob leader said; "you'll stay here and wait for the next train. It will be along at 6:39 o'clock."

Waiting until the officers alighted and the train pulled out, the mob placed Lowry in one of the automobiles and departed. They were driving northward when last seen.

"It was the coolest job I ever saw," said A. J. Campbell, night telegraph operator at the depot, who witnessed the scene thru one of the coach windows.

"Not a word was spoken, except by the leader, and every man seemed to know in advance just what he was supposed to do," Campbell said. "They didn't draw their pistols until the train arrived, and

then they all drew them at once. Some of them had two guns.

None Wear Masks.

"Several other negro passengers got up and moved to the other end of the coach when the mob entered. And those fellows were all men, too—there wasn't a boy in the crowd. None of them wore masks."

During his conversation at the hotel the mob leader stated to Marshal Johnson that he had been appraised by a telegram from New Orleans that the officers and the negro were on that train.

Apparently nobody but the marshal and the telegraph operator knew the mob was in Sardis.

Deputies Greer and Dixon came to Memphis on the next train that left Sardis. They gave Lowry's overcoat, which the mob left behind, to the marshal as a souvenir.

Christmas Day Crime.

The mob did not return the deputies' revolvers.

On Christmas Day Lowry shot and killed O. C. Craig, 72, wealthy planter residing near Wilson, Ark., and his daughter. He also wounded his two sons, Richard and Hugh Craig.

The negro escaped a mob which scoured the country for a week, and fled to El Paso, where he was located by means of letters which he wrote to relatives in Wilson. He was preparing to flee into Mexico. El Paso police arrested Lowry and held him until Arkansas officers arrived to take him back.

MAY LYNCH 3 TO 6 NEGROES THIS EVENING

DEPUTIES' STORY OF HOW NEGRO IS TAKEN FROM THEM LOWRY NEARS TREE ON WHICH IT IS PLANNED TO HANG HIM; TAKEN THRU MEMPHIS TODAY

MAY BE WHOLESAL KILLING AT WILSON

WILSON, Ark., Jan. 26.—A wholesale lynching at Nodena, Ark., tonight appears probable.

A mob, which took Henry Lowry, negro murderer, off a train at Sardis, Miss., this morning, is now en route to Nodena with the prisoner, according to the best reports available here.

It is rumored that Lowry will be lynched tonight with two other negroes, now held in jail, who are alleged to have shielded him and assisted in his escape to El Paso, where he was captured.

There is also a rumor that another negro, not now under arrest, may be taken in tow before the hour of the lynching.

The mob that has Lowry in charge is now en route to Nodena, it is said.

It is rumored here that the mob will skirt Memphis and cross the Mississippi river in launches at Richardson's Landing, Tenn., just opposite Nodena, where the murders were committed on Christmas day.

Richardson's landing is several miles above Memphis in Tipton county.

The mob will not bring Lowry thru the town of Wilson. This much is positive.

Mob Takes Slayer Of Two From Train At Sardis; Carry Him 100 Miles By Auto.

RUMORED OTHERS WILL DIE

While five of their number detoured around Memphis in a closed automobile with Henry Lowry, negro murderer, who is to be lynched at Nodena, Ark., tonight, other alleged members of the mob which took him from officers at Sardis, Miss., early this morning, came to Memphis and dined at Hotel Peabody today.

The alleged members of the mob were met at the hotel by dozens of other men who came to Memphis from nearby towns in Arkansas this morning. Nearly 100 of them were gathered in the hotel lobby, laughing and talking and preparing to return to Arkansas tonight.

The five men who have Lowry passed Millington at noon en route to Richardson's Landing, Tenn., where they are to cross the river on a ferry. Nodena, Ark., is just opposite.

Reports received here indicate that Lowry and three or four other negroes—perhaps even more—are to be lynched at Nodena tonight. The other negroes are alleged to have aided Lowry to escape to El Paso, Tex., after he had killed two white persons and wounded two others at Nodena on Dec. 25.

No Street Parade.

The mob leader announced at Sardis, Miss., this morning that Lowry would be paraded thru Memphis streets and taken across the Harahan bridge here.

Police immediately guarded all roads entering the city to prevent them from bringing the prisoner here. The mob must have learned of this en route from Sardis, for as they neared Memphis Lowry was turned over to five men in a closed car, who skirted the city.

The other men, it is alleged, drove their autos into Memphis and went directly to the Peabody hotel.

Deputy Sheriffs B. H. Dixon and J. J. Greer, from whom the prisoner was taken by the mob at the train stopped at Sardis, mingled with the crowd in the hotel lobby. They were met here by Sheriff Blackwood of Mississippi county, Arkansas, who was to have accompanied them to Osceola with the prisoner tonight.

None of the men in the Peabody lobby would admit that they were members of the mob that boarded the train, but several of them evaded the question in a laughing manner.

Some of the men were muddy and appeared to be travel-stained as the result of a long automobile trip over muddy roads.

Sheriff's Story

In his room at the Peabody hotel, Sheriff Dwight H. Blackwood of Mississippi county, Ark., said:

"Nearly every man, woman and child in our county wanted the negro lynched. When public sentiment is that way, there isn't much chance left for the officers. Of course, we may believe that the negro ought to be killed for what he did, but as officers it is our duty to carry out the law.

"I knew several days ago that they had men at Texarkana, Hoxie and Jonesboro and that we wouldn't have a chance going that way, so we took the only route left open. We found later that they had men at New Orleans and were tipped off when my men left that place. I believe that there were some Arkansas men in the crowd, but they didn't let my men see them."

Sheriff's Deputies Dixon and Greer, of Wilson, Ark., who were bringing Henry Lowry from New Orleans today, told in the Peabody hotel lobby in Memphis how the black was taken from them at Sardis, Miss. Their stories follow:

Dixon's Story

Deputy Dixon in explaining how the mob captured the negro, said: "I was laying on a seat just across from him, and Deputy Greer had just finished combing his hair when the men rushed in. We took turns about sleeping, you know.

"Three of them grabbed Greer and took his gun. One of them slammed the door, which caused me to raise up. I was leaning on my elbow when three big men jumped on me. My gun rolled under me, and I thought that they would break my neck before they got it."

"After they started out with the negro, Greer and I sat down, but several of them came back, and told us to come on and get off the train. 'You've got the negro, let us go on to Memphis,' I said. 'You heard us, come on and get off this train,' one of the leaders replied.

"I then asked for my gun back, explaining they could take the shells out of it. 'No, you might have some more shells,' one of the leaders said. We then got off the train and the men with the negro headed north in an automobile.

"I could not identify any of the men. They were not from Wilson."

Deputy Dixon says that he and Deputy Greer were under orders to take the prisoner to Little Rock.

Deputy Dixon says that he was forced to smuggle the negro out of El Paso, Texas, as a lawyer retained by members of a negro lodge at Wilson employed a lawyer to fight the case. The matter had been taken up with the governors of both Arkansas and Texas, and every effort was being made to prevent his being taken out of Texas.

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NO TROOPS ORDERED TO NODENA, ARK. GOV. M'RAE MAKES FRUITLESS EFFORT TO REACH SHERIFF AS MOB PLANS FOR LYNCHING BEE

Gov. McRae of Arkansas told The Press over long distance telephone this afternoon that he has not ordered state troops to proceed to Nodena, Ark., to prevent threatened lynchings there tonight.

"I can't get in touch with Sheriff Blackwood of that county, so I wouldn't know who to send the troops to," Gov. McRae said. "I understand that Sheriff Blackwood is at the Peabody hotel in Memphis and I have tried to telephone him there, but they say he is not in his room.

"What's the sheriff doing in Memphis? Why isn't he on his job? It's the worst outrage in the world to put a man to death without giving him a trial, and the sheriff that county should be getting busy. He hasn't called upon me for assistance.

"They had no business bringing that negro over the route they took. They should have brought him thru Arkansas and taken him direct to the penitentiary at Little Rock.

"I had heard that the negro was taken off a train at Sardis, Miss., this morning, but I didn't know they were bringing him back to Arkansas."

NEGRO TAKEN FROM TRAIN AND HURRIED TOWARD CRIME SCENE; MOB MEMBERS AT LOCAL HOTEL

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THE MEMPHIS PRESS



Daily except Sunday by MEMPHIS PRESS CO. Independent Politically, Financially, Commercially. Entered at Memphis Postoffice as Second-Class Mail Matter.

Which Is the Better Way?

ON a railroad train is a negro in the custody of officers of the law. The negro is being taken to stand trial for the murder of two people. He will be convicted and will be executed. In due time he will pay the proper penalty for his crime.

Armed men board the train. From the officers of the law they take the negro. They put him into an automobile and carry him thru parts of three states to the scene of the crime. With bravado it is announced that he will be lynched at a certain hour.

The crime of which the negro is accused is atrocious. Such a slayer should himself meet death as quickly as legal process will allow. There is no doubt but that he will quickly come to legal death.

Another negro committed a murder that is even more atrocious, if possible, than the first. He is arrested at his home. There are many people around, some of them close friends of the victim's sorrowing family. There is every opportunity for Judge Lynch to claim this second negro. But the second negro is today alive in a penitentiary cell, awaiting the seemingly certain verdict of electrocution.

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FEED DRY LEAVES TO SLOW FIRE WHICH COOKS LOWRY

Tries to End Life by Swallowing Hot Coals
as Flames Eat Flesh From Legs.

BAD ROADS, TIRED MOB SAVE OTHERS

Make Start for Imprisoned Blacks at Blytheville and Marion, but Quit Quest.

BY RALPH RODDY.
(Memphis Press Reporter.)

NODENA, Ark., Jan. 27.—“Cap, I want to be buried at Magnolia, Miss.”

These were the last words spoken by Henry Lowry, negro murderer, who was burned at the stake last night, three-quarters of a mile east of here.

More than 500 persons stood by and looked on while the negro was slowly burned to a crisp. A few women were scattered among the crowd of Arkansas planters, who directed the grewsome work of avenging the death of O. T. Craig and his daughter, Mrs. C. O. Williamson.

Not once did the slayer beg for mercy despite the fact that he suffered one of the most horrible deaths imaginable. With the negro chained to a log, members of the mob placed a small pile of leaves around his feet. Gasoline was then poured on the leaves, and the carrying out of the death sentence was under way.

Inch by inch the negro was fairly cooked to death. Every few minutes fresh leaves were tossed on the funeral pyre until the blaze had passed the negro's waist. As the flames were eating away his abdomen, a member of the mob stepped forward and saturated the body with gasoline. It was then only a few minutes until the negro had been reduced to ashes.

Muddy dirt roads held the lynchings in Arkansas last night to one negro being toasted to death.

Desultory efforts were made to reach the county jails at Marion and Blytheville, Ark., early today, but the hundreds of armed men who started out to make the lynchings total an even half dozen were balked by the impassable roads.

Even after the flesh had dropped away from his legs and the flames were leaping toward his face, Lowry retained consciousness. Not once did he whimper or beg for mercy. Once or twice he attempted to pick up the hot ashes in his hands and thrust them in his mouth in order to hasten death.

Knock Coals From Mouth.
Each time the ashes were kicked out of his reach by a member of the mob.

Before death came Lowry confessed to the killing and implicat-

ed two other negroes who assisted him to make his escape to Texas. The two mentioned by Lowry are Morris Jenkins, now in jail at Marion, Ark., and J. T. Williams, who is being held at Blytheville. Williams is said to have fed the negro for two days after the killing, keeping him secreted in his cotton patch, while Jenkins is alleged to have furnished him money for train fare to El Paso, Tex.

One witnessing the scene might have easily pictured themselves in a courtroom. The negro was burned in a natural amphitheater between two bluffs, with the Mississippi on one side and a huge

lake, caused by backwater, on the other.

No Guns Visible.
Not a shot was fired by a member of the mob, and no guns were visible. As the negro slowly burned to death two men stood near his head and questioned him. The slayer answered their questions freely, and the general impression was that he was telling the truth.

A big six-footer put the questions to the condemned man, while another wrote the questions and answers down in a note book. It reminded me of a lawyer and court reporter. Other members of the mob crowded around, but not once did they attempt to interrogate the negro, leaving this to the pair who appeared to have been assigned this duty.

Cries Out Appeal.
Words fail to describe the sufferings of the negro. Even after his legs had been reduced to the bones he continued to talk with his captors, answering all questions put to him. As the gasoline was poured over his chest and head the negro cried out some appeal of one of the many negro lodges of which he was a member.

It was the original intention of the mob to take the negro to the Craig farm. However, the crowd soon became so thick after leaving Richardson's Landing that it was next to impossible to travel further. The leaders then held a hurried consultation and decided to put him to death where they were—being within sight of the Craig home.

The negro was burned almost directly in front of the home of J. T. Williams, who has confessed that he kept the negro hid in his cotton field for two days after the killing. Williams cooked meals for the slayer and carried them back and forth to him, while scores of armed men scouted thru the bottoms in search of him. Two negroes who had built fires for the mob at Williams' house, fled from the scene as the men with the slayer approached from the Tennessee side of the river.

Planned Other Lynchings.
It was definitely planned yesterday to march on the jails at Blytheville and Marion and get Williams and Jenkins for lynching. Some were also in favor of taking another negro in the Blytheville jail and four more in the Marion jail, and lynching all of them.

The almost impassable dirt roads perhaps saved all these negroes from death. The mob was too tired to try to get over them.

A few members of the mob of several negro lodges, and was struggled into Blytheville, but aided to escape to Texas by his lack of leadership saved the life of some. A majority of the lodges are said to have been organized by smart eastern negroes for the purpose of inciting the southern negro and for getting what money they could out of him.

Mob Starts After Others.
After they had stood by until Lowry was reduced to a charred mass, members of the mob headed (Continued on Back Page.)

New Lynching Threatened If Sheriff Dies

Posse Hunts for Man Who
Shot Officer in Mississippi.

A lynching probably will result if Raymond Johnson, negro, who shot Deputy Sheriff Waddel Oldham of Tunica, Miss., is captured.

Oldham is at the Baptist Memorial hospital in a critical condition. Interns say he has one chance out of 10 to live. A posse is now searching for the negro.

Oldham was shot in the abdomen when he attempted to arrest Johnson.

The officer was rushed to Memphis and operated on. He began slowly sinking, and was operated on again today, in an effort to save his life.

Early today it was believed that the guilty negro had been captured at Helena, Ark., trying to effect an escape.

It was later learned that the negro in custody was the wrong one and he was released.

Indignation is at a tense pitch in Tunica, where Oldham is a popular officer.

Oldham's brother accompanied him to Memphis and has been at his bedside continuously.

MAY BREAK UP NEGRO LODGES

BLYTHEVILLE, Ark., Jan. 27.—There was considerable talk here today to start a campaign to break up the various negro fraternal lodges thruout the state. The death of O. T. Craig and his daughter, Mrs. C. O. Williamson, and the burning at the stake of Henry Lowry, confessed negro murderer, is blamed on the activity of the negro lodge leaders.

Lowry was a prominent member of several negro lodges, and was said to have been organized by smart eastern negroes for the purpose of inciting the southern negro and for getting what money they could out of him.

(CONTINUED FROM NEWS STORY
ON PRECEDING PAGE.)

FEED DRY LEAVES TO SLOW FIRE WHICH COOKS LOWRY

Continued From Page 1

in the direction of Osceola. It was whispered that they would divide at Osceola, one squad taking the southbound train for Marion, where Jenkins was confined, and the other squad going to Blytheville for Williams. The latter were to travel in automobiles.

The mob failed to reach Osceola in time to catch the southbound train, and after riding back and forth across the country for several hours finally began to disperse and go home. It was evident that the leaders were practically exhausted from their long trip with Lowry, who was taken away from Arkansas officers at Sardis, Miss., early Wednesday morning.

of the negro confined there. After things settled down again at Nodena, I hurried to Wilson and from there to Blytheville.

Goes on to Blytheville.

Going up to Blytheville, I ran across Kenneth Rayner, who used to pound a typewriter for Charley Metcalf. Kenneth is now an honest-to-goodness lawyer in Blytheville, but had rushed down to Nodena to witness the burning of the negro.

At Blytheville Rayner and myself hurried to the new county courthouse to see if the mob had arrived. Scores of men were hanging around police headquarters and in front of the city jail. We learned that members of the American Legion had been called out to assist in guarding the prisoners.

Rayner telephoned officials at the courthouse that he and I were coming over. He took this precaution in order that none of them would shoot at us when we started across the courthouse lawn. After a few questions we were finally admitted and told to go upstairs.

Squads Guard Town.

Squads of men were stationed at points of vantage thruout the building. The prisoners were confined in the jail next door, but a glance showed that the guards would be able to sweep the entire building with their high-powered rifles.

Men rushed thruout the building, guarding doors and flashing lights in each other's face. The situation appeared a bit ticklish, and several times I wished that I had remained outside with members of the mob. The guards in the building were under instructions to shoot the minute that an attempt was made to rush the jail door.

Danger of Shooting.

However, I was more afraid that they would start shooting each other even before the mob arrived. The majority of them were a bit excited, and with the build-

ing in darkness, it was impossible to tell which were guards.

I remained in the courthouse until around 1 o'clock this morning, and then left to secure something to eat and see if I could hear anything of the mob which started from Nodena. I remained in a cafe around the corner from the jail until after 2 o'clock and, when no signs of the mob were seen, I finally went over to the hotel and "turned in."

Lack of Leader Saves Negro.

The only thing that saved the Williams negro from meeting the same fate as Lowry was lack of a leader. Several times it was whispered around "Come on, let's go get him," but no one volunteered to lead the attack.

The police chief then hurried thru the city, warning those who were standing around the various stores and cafes that they had better go home. Other places were closed up to prevent the mob from congregating. They could not stand the cold weather long, and gradually the crowd thinned out.

Says He Was Not Drunk.

Lowry maintained thruout the trip from Texas, and even while death was creeping over him, that he did not know why he killed Craig and his daughter. Asked if he was drunk, he replied in the negative, but added that he had taken a couple of drinks.

The negro laughed frequently during his trip from Sardis, Miss. As members of the mob told jokes to pass away the time, the negro smiled and laughed and seemed to enjoy this as well as anyone in the posse. He never once appeared down-hearted, and his nerve held up to the last.

Arrangements for three seven-passenger Cadillacs were made at Memphis before the posse started to Sardis. These were used thruout the trip from Sardis as far as the Tennessee side of the river at Richardson's Landing. From there on the roads were impassable for an auto and the negro was transferred to a wagon.

Eats and Laughs.

Lowry was eating salted peanuts as he neared the scene of his death. When the posse stopped to eat, the negro, too, requested that he be fed. He ate a hearty meal and laughed at the jokes of the mob members a few minutes before he was tied to the stake.

It was the original intention of the mob to stage the affair near midnight. It was planned to take all three negroes to the Craig plantation and burn them at the stake. However, a few details of the plans miscarried, and the leaders found it advisable to dispose of Lowry before starting after the other two negroes, Williams and Jenkins.

Still May Be Lynched.

The Williams and Jenkins escaped death last night, the general

impression here, as well as in Wilson and Blytheville, is that the pair will be put to death before they are ever brought to trial. It is understood that mob leaders deemed it inadvisable to attack the Blytheville jail with it heavily guarded, but that a plan had been worked out to suddenly sweep down on the building when they are least expected and remove Williams.

The general impression here is that an investigation of the lynching will be ordered by the governor, but it is expected to result in naught, as Sheriff Blackwood himself has stated that it appeared to him that "every man, woman, and child in the county was determined to have Lowry burned. He says that he did everything possible to protect the slayer, but that the mob was so well organized, that it was impossible to get him safely back into Arkansas.

Why Deputies Detoured.

In explaining why his deputies detoured thru New Orleans with their prisoner, the sheriff said that the mob had scouts posted all the way from El Paso, Tex., to Little Rock. He hoped to throw them off the trail by sending the prisoner thru New Orleans, starting him on his way 24 hours before he was scheduled to leave.

Deputies Dixon and Greer would have stood no chance of retaining the negro at Sardis, as scores of men were present and all were heavily armed. The original plan was to take the negro off the train at or near Memphis, but at the last minute this plan was changed for fear that Memphis authorities might attempt to interfere.

Lowry had a reputation for being a peaceful negro in this section. This was his second season on the Craig plantation. No cause can be discovered for the fatal shooting Christmas Day, tho the general impression is that the negro was angered because low prices of farm commodities had wiped away his profits.

Murders Two.

Lowry pursued a negro woman to the Craig home, threatening to shoot her. When O. T. Craig stepped to the door to remonstrate with him, Lowry shot him to death, and then killed Mrs. C. O. Williamson when she rushed to his side. Two sons, Hugh and Richard, were wounded by the negro, but both recovered.

Lowry escaped to El Paso, Tex., but was captured as he was about to cross into Mexico. He was being brought back to Little Rock for safekeeping, when he was taken away from the officers.

EX-POSTMASTER WILL BE TRIED NEXT MONTH

Wm. F. Mackey, Memphis, formerly postmaster at Neshoba, Tenn., will stand trial in federal court in February on a charge of embezzlement. He was arrested yesterday by federal officers. It is alleged he appropriated a small amount of government funds.

ANXIETY TO HEAR FROM HOME CAUSE OF NEGRO'S DEATH

Safe in El Paso, Murderer
Writes Friend.

INTERCEPT LETTER

Could Have Crossed Border
to Mexico.

NODENA, Ark., Jan. 27.—The death of Henry Lowry can be attributed directly to his anxiety to hear from home. A letter written to a lodge member at Turrell, Ark., resulted in his capture at El Paso, Tex., as he was preparing to cross the border into Mexico.

Lowry directed the letter to Morris Jenkins with the request that he go to the home of J. T. Williams, another negro, living near Wilson, Ark., and learn the whereabouts of his (Lowry's) wife. The Jenkins negro instead of doing as requested, wrote a letter to Williams. The letter was intercepted, and El Paso officials were asked to arrest the slayer.

Letter Lowry Wrote.

The letter to Jenkins follows:

Mr. Morris Jenkins, Turrell, Ark.:
Dear Friend and Brother—It affords me no small pleasure to write you a few lines to let you hear from me. This leaves me very well in health, and I truly hope these few lines will find you and family well and doing well.

Listen, I have made it to the border line, but I have not crossed yet. I have run out of money and am trying to get me a job to work some. Soon as I get money enough I am going over in Mexico. It costs me \$10 to cross over.

Have you heard from my wife and girl or Williams? Write me and let me all you know about the matter. Now I can't see nothing in the paper here where I am at. I am over a thousand miles from you now, and as soon as I get some more money I am going on further. I am now in El Paso, Tex., right on the border, so you write me at once and let me hear how is everything.

Back your letter to S. M. Thompson, 1201 East Third st., El Paso, Tex. If you have not heard from J. T. Williams I would be glad for you to go down there and see him for me. I don't want to put you to so much trouble, but you know how it is with me. I can't take no risk. I want to hear from my wife, I don't know how she is feeling. I let her with a plenty, but you know how it is with the white people in a case like this.

Now listen, you go up there for me. I will draw you the road so you can't miss it without asking anyone the way to Williams' house. You go to his house and get him to carry you where my wife is and tell her to write just how he is feeling and what she is going to do and what can she do and see if she got her money out of them war stamps.

Tell her I want her to get where I can write her. I want her to come to me later. I will tell her how to come when she gets so she can come. By the time she gets so she can come I will try to send her some money. It takes \$41 on the Dallas train for to bring her here.

I am got a job that pays me \$10 a month and board, so I guess in a few months I can send her some money. So I will lay out the road to Williams' house from Wilson on the next sheet.

The negro then drew a crude plan of the road from Wilson, Ark., to the home of Williams.

The letter was signed "S. M. Thompson."

A postscript read: "My mail comes to my home, 1201 E. Third st. Be sure to tell my wife any time she writes me from there mail it to you and you mail it to me."

The letter was written in pencil, but the El Paso address had been written in with ink. The letter was posted Jan. 11.