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LOUISIANA LAKE GIVES UP BODIES

SENSATION AT MER ROUGE, LOUISIANA, WHEN BODIES OF TWO MEN THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN KILLED BY NIGHTRIDERS, ARE BLOWN FROM DEPTHS OF LAKE BY DYNAMITE.

Mer Rouge, La., Dec. 22.—Bodies of two men blown from the bottom of Lake La Fourche early today by unidentified dynamites were lying at an undertaking establishment here tonight, while military men stood guard pending the arrival of additional troops from Alexandria and New Orleans, ordered here today by the adjutant general.

The bodies, badly mutilated and bound with wire, were believed by the authorities to be those of Watt Daniels and Thomas Richards, members of a party of five prominent Mer Rouge citizens, who were kidnapped last August by white robed and hooded men and who have been missing since and then the object of three days' raking of the lakes of Morehouse parish by National Guardsmen, federal agents and professional divers.

Authorities here state they are satisfied the bodies were the ones sought. Relatives and close friends of missing men viewed the bodies during the day and tonight and it was reported bits of clothing of the men were recognized. The coroner announced tonight an inquest would be held over the bodies, probably tomorrow. The arrival of the attorney general of the state and two prominent pathologists of New Orleans is awaited.

It was not known tonight whether the inquest would be held here or at Bastrop, the parish seat.

In the absence of official information the next move on the part of the state was not known here, but it was the consensus of opinion the inquest would be followed by the arrest of at least 20 persons, alleged ringleaders of the August mob. The names of these men will be presented to the military or civil authorities by the four departments of justice agents, who for four months have been conducting secret investigations, it was stated here.

Martial Law Expected

Mer Rouge citizens expressed themselves tonight as believing martial law will be declared.

Everything was quiet and peaceful on the surface here tonight but those informed are authority for statements that there is an underlying feeling of bitterness.

Some resistance is expected when the state's warrants calling for arrest of a number of men believed to have been the ringleaders of the hooded men are served, it was indicated here. The presence of an additional body of state troops, it was believed, however, will serve as a precaution against a probable outbreak.

Department of justice working under the direction of the governor are said to have a partial list of members of the kidnapers. Many names were obtained several months ago when the investigators reported an attempt was made during the night by a group of men to reach a spot on La Fourche lake guarded as the probable resting place of the bodies.

The opinion is advanced that these same men returned in the dead hours of last night and placed the charges of dynamite that wrecked a part of the bank near the eastern ferry landing and released the decapitated, wire bound bodies from the weight that for four months had held them to the bottom of the lake. Divers spent the afternoon trying to locate the rusty wagon wheels that were missed from the banks of the lake simultaneously with the disappearance of the men, said to be the only missing link in the chain of evidence the investigators had submitted to the governor as their solution of the mystery.

While La Fourche was being blasted, what was believed as a decoy of eight or ten men were active in Lake Cooper, 20 miles away, drawing the fire of the state guards and bringing the entire military company from Mer Rouge to the banks of the lake.

Inquiry Into Blasting

The military captain announced the investigators were not responsible for the blasting last night and a search is under way to identify those responsible.

With diving operations continued

DRIEST CHRISTMAS IN NEW YORK EVER

Six Deaths Attributed to Bootleg Liquor.

New York, Dec. 26.—Eight deaths were attributed today to drinking poisonous liquor over Christmas. A score or more of victims were confined to hospitals.

Of the eight persons who died, two were women. A Brooklyn woman was arrested as the seller of whiskey which caused the death of one of the women.

While police records show that yesterday was the "driest" Christmas New York ever spent, six deaths were attributed by police to bootleg liquor. Autopsies will be performed on the bodies of the six—five men and one woman—today. All of the bodies were taken to the morgue pending the medical examination.

Threat of prohibition authorities to make the city as dry over the holidays as the 18th amendment contemplated for the whole year had its effect so far as public drinking was concerned, police reported.

For the first time within the memory of oldest attaches of the West Side court not a defendant brought to bar there on a charge of intoxication.

Bellevue hospital reported that only twelve persons suffering from alcoholism were treated there yesterday. That is the lowest number for Christmas day in the history of the institution.

Minor raids were made by prohibition agents liquor being confiscated in several of the places visited.

BROADWAY RAID BY BOLD BANDITS

Seventy-one Diamond Rings Stolen From Show Window.

New York, Dec. 23.—Descending from an automobile into the midst of the throng of holiday shoppers on Upper Broadway, three men tonight smashed the window of a jewelry store with a brick wrapped in towels and escaped with 71 diamond rings which they snatched from trays in the display window. The rings were valued at \$10,000.

The robbery was carried out with the utmost daring. Parking their expensive looking car in the line of automobiles which stood at the curb, two of the bandits fashionably attired, strolled nonchalantly towards the jeweler's display window, leaving a third companion at the wheel.

A dozen persons were inspecting the jewels behind the glass, when one of the new arrivals quietly drew from under his arm what appeared to be a parcel—the brick wrapped in towels. Before any of the pedestrians realized what was happening the parcel was hurled at the window, shattering the thick plate glass and making the gems readily accessible through the jagged aperture.

Gathering up two trays containing the 71 valuable rings, the bandit pair quickly withdrew to the curb, climbed into their car and disappeared into the streams of traffic along the brilliantly lighted thoroughfare.

Two customers and eight clerks were in the store when the robbery occurred. Too late, however, to frustrate the robbery or enable the police to prevent their escape, the clerks gave the alarm.

chiefly on the ferry landing where a chart indicated the bodies of the missing men most likely were hidden, it was declared the guilty men feared the bodies would be eventually located and decided to recover them and remove them to another burial place in the interior. The dynamites evidently became frightened or failed to find their quarry and ran away, the story goes. A ferryman who heard the blasts reported the finding this morning.

With the arrival of additional state troops tomorrow the strength in his parish will be more than 200 men. The troops have a large complement of machine guns.

It is generally believed open hearing will be instituted following the anticipated arrests.

All persons will be free to come into this court of justice under the Louisiana laws, and tell what they know of the case.

Prominent persons in Mississippi and Arkansas, as well as Louisiana, are believed by the state as having been members of the hooded mob. Arrests in all three states are anticipated.

The Spirit of 1923



VIOLENT TEMPESTS IN NORTH ATLANTIC

Huge Ocean Liners Rocked Like Cocksleshells. Worst in Years.

New York, Dec. 26.—Violent tempests of the sort known only to seasoned mariners of the North Atlantic, against the howling power of which huge ocean liners are but flimsy cocksleshells, have raged through the past week threatening smaller vessels with destruction, wrecking steamers' deck equipment, driving fast liners out of their usual lanes and striking terror to the hearts of hundreds of passengers, according to wireless reports today.

Relentless gales, playing havoc with the schedules of the large steamship companies, described yesterday by officers of the Cedric, the Zealand and the United States, which arrived several days late after weathering the worst storms in their history, still are whipping the waters of the Atlantic to fury.

The Manchuria and La Savoie reported today that they would arrive on Thursday, two days late. The Niagara, due today reported she will try to fight her way to port tomorrow.

The Caronia reported from Halifax that she had been forced to put in there. The Mount Carroll is due here and the President Monroe in London tomorrow both far behind schedule.

Veterans of scores of storms who guided liners into port yesterday said they had never before seen the treacherous north Atlantic in such a protracted hurricane mood as during the last fortnight.

Captain Metcalfe of the Cedric said he was forced to slow his ship to five knots by a blow only rivalled by one that he had seen a score of years ago in the Indian ocean. The crew was in oil skins throughout the trip; passengers were confined below decks which were awash every day.

ASK RESIGNATIONS OF FOUR INSTRUCTORS

Charged with Making Home Brew at North Carolina State College.

Raleigh, Dec. 21.—Resignations of four instructors at North Carolina State College of agriculture and engineering here have been requested as a result of charges that they made "home brew" in their rooms. Dr. W. C. Riddick, president of the institution announced today.

The president did not give any further details, except to confirm reports that the action followed an investigation by students who conducted a private investigation. The names of the instructors who were said to have offered their resignations as requested, were given as C. V. Bushe, T. B. Parks, C. B. Buckner and J. C. Miller.

No further action is contemplated, it was said.

DEATH PENALTY GIVEN JEFFORDS

Electrocuted at Penitentiary Friday. Warning to Others.

The State, Saturday.

Leaving behind him a solemn warning to others who might be criminally inclined that his death should be an example to them, Frank M. Jeffords yesterday morning paid the death penalty for the murder last May of his business partner, John C. Arnette.

Jeffords went to his death calmly, remaining composed until the end. He made no last minute confessions and did not even mention the crime for which he was paying with his life. The Twenty-third Psalm, as a prayer, were his last words on earth.

The condemned man was brought into the death chamber at 10:13 o'clock. As he entered a deep hush fell over the crowd. Jeffords looked around the little death chamber and spoke to the crowd, "Good morning, gentlemen," he said, as he walked to the death chair. At 10:17 o'clock the current was turned on and at 10:18:1-2 o'clock it was switched off. Physicians began to examine the body and at 10:22 Dr. R. T. Jennings, prison physician, pronounced him dead. After the electrocution the body was removed to an outer room and later in the morning was delivered to an undertaking establishment to prepare for burial. The family took charge of the body.

Early in the morning persons began to gather in front of the prison and by 10 o'clock a large number were present. Only about 35 or 40 saw the execution, however, as the death chamber can not accommodate a large crowd. At 9:25 o'clock Capt. C. C. Roberts read the death warrant to the condemned man.

Death Warrant Read

Jeffords told Captain Roberts that he had had a fairly good night's rest and said he was feeling "very nice." As Captain Roberts concluded reading the death warrant, ending with the solemn words, "and may God have mercy on your soul," Jeffords' face seemed to undergo a change, but did nothing else to indicate that the words impressed him more than casually.

Captain Roberts asked Jeffords if there was anything he wished him to do for him. Jeffords asked the captain to see that his grip containing personal effects was sent along with his body. Everything was in the grip except his Bible and some fruit. "Give the fruit to the boys," he told the captain. Two personal letters were in his coat and he asked that these be turned over to a brother. All of his brothers visited him early in the morning.

S. S. Shorter, chief of the Columbia detective force, visited Jeffords immediately after the death warrant had been read and asked the condemned man if he knew anything about the murder of Patrolman Frank Brown.

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EX-MAYOR OF MER ROUGE ARRESTED IN BALTIMORE

Governor of Louisiana Charges Former Municipal Chief with Murder in Connection with Kidnapings. Ring Leader of Squad of Dynamiters Known.

Bastrop, La., Dec. 26.—The second arrest in connection with the morehouse kidnaping of last August was made late today when Dr. E. M. McKohn, until a few months ago mayor of Mer Rouge, was taken in custody at Baltimore at the request of Governor Parker, who charged him with murder. The physician was taking a post graduate course at John Hopkins.

The former mayor is expected to reach here within a few days to join a former deputy sheriff who is now being held on a similar charge in the Bastrop jail.

While the arrest was being made a detachment of national guard was reconnoitering along Lake La Fourche for evidence to lead to the arrest of dynamiters responsible for the blasting of a ferry landing last week when the bodies of two men, believed to have been tortured and murdered by masked and robed men, were blown from the bottom of the lake.

The company also was to act as a body guard for the sheriff who was to make arrests in the event his suspicions justified them.

Adjutant General on Scene

During the day Adjutant General Toombs suddenly called back from Washington by the governor, arrived in Morehouse to direct the operations of the three companies of state troops encamped here and at Mer Rouge.

It was persistently reported during the day that all preparations had been made to call out two additional state companies if conditions warranted.

Soldiers are on guard duty at the jail here and encamped in the heart of Mer Rouge where the situation is such that the governor does not want to leave the townspeople to themselves in the fear there will be bloodshed because of the friction among them following the August event. Many of the populace are armed.

The military also was at the disposal of the civil authorities to take in custody any members of the hooded mob whose identity are known to the state authorities, according to Department of Justice men.

Attorney General Cocco stated that at least six or seven more arrests will be made before the open hearing January 5.

Ring Leader Known

It is reported that the number of arrests will be increased as the identity of the dynamiters is established. Federal agents declare they have the name of the ring leader and his arrest is imminent.

Attorney General Cocco is expected to arrive at New Orleans tomorrow in preparation for the conference there Thursday at which time plans for the hearing will be outlined and the reports of the coroner's jury that conducted the inquest over the headless bodies of Watts Daniels and Thomas Richards will be discussed.

Arrest Is Surprise

Citizens were gathering on the corners tonight discussing the arrest of two of their former law officials. The arrest of the man who had been their mayor until he resigned last August came as a complete surprise. Dr. McEoin was born and grew to manhood at Monroe and later moved to Mer Rouge where he was a practicing physician. His friends induced him to make the race for mayor and during his incumbency he fearlessly upheld the law and attempted to rid the community of moonshiners and other law-breakers, it was said.

On August 2 he reported assassins fired two loads of shot into his moving automobile, as he was answering a sick call. He later received persistent warnings to leave the community and he did so. This event led to the tragedy of the 24th in the theory of the state.

First Prisoner Sullen

T. J. Burnett, arrested last Saturday, is denied visitors except under military surveillance. Today he grew sullen, restless and repeatedly gripped the iron bars in which he is enclosed. His battery of attorneys spent several hours with him.

The friends of Mrs. William Solomon will be sorry to learn that she is confined to her home on account of sickness.

LAURENS TRIO IN FATAL WRECK

JOHN VAUGHN, 40, DIES, SAM VAUGHN'S BACK IS BROKEN, AND BEN TUMLIN, SLIGHTLY HURT. MISSED BRIDGE NEAR FOUNTAIN INN.

Greenville, Dec. 23.—John Vaughn, age 40, is dead, Samuel Vaughn, 35, his brother, is in a critical condition from a fracture of the spine, and Ben Tumlin, age about 30, is severely bruised after a car in which the three were traveling, left the road at "dead man's curve," about one mile north of Fountain Inn, on the Greenville-Laurens highway, jumping a creek and turning turtle. The accident occurred about 6 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

All three men were residents of Laurens county, living some two miles south of Fountain Inn. John Vaughn was the only one of the three who was married. He is survived by his wife.

The men were in a Briscoe touring car and were making the trip from Greenville back to Laurens county, their home. "Dead man's curve" is a sharp turn to the right just as a bridge which spans McBee branch, about six feet wide.

Curve Seemingly Unseen

According to the story told of the accident to Mayor Anderson of Fountain Inn, by tourists who were immediately behind the ill-fated car, the Briscoe was traveling at a very rapid rate of speed. They said the driver seemed not to see the curve in the road. The car plunged through the sparse shrubbery on the right side of the road. It struck a slight rise on the high bank of the creek and jumped to the opposite bank, a distance of about eight feet.

The car landed on the south bank right side up but struck a big rock and quickly turned completely over. It landed upside down with all three men pinned beneath it. The tourists' car was the first machine to come near the scene of the accident. The occupants of the car quickly alighted and turned the over-turned car back on its wheels and pulled the unfortunate men from beneath it.

Neck Was Broken

John Vaughn's neck was broken. He died almost instantly. Sam Vaughn, when the car was turned from his body, was in the throes of agony, suffering from a broken back. Mr. Tumlin sustained severe bruises and minor lacerations, but was able to walk and his injuries are not serious.

Which one of the men was driving is not known. Mr. Tumlin, soon after he was taken to Fountain Inn, went to his home just outside of the city and had little opportunity to talk of the accident. It was reported in Fountain Inn that Mr. Tumlin was at the wheel.

Condition Is Critical

Mr. Vaughn's body was taken to Arthur Cannon's undertaking parlors. Sam Vaughn was rushed to the City hospital here in Mr. Cannon's emergency ambulance. He was badly bruised and was almost crushed in the accident. Reports from his bedside early this morning show that his condition is very critical.

When Mayor Anderson was informed of the affair he immediately notified Sheriff Rector. The Greenville sheriff stated that he would be there immediately to investigate the occurrence by the Fountain Inn mayor assured him that it was entirely an accident and that he had conducted all the investigation necessary.

"Dead man's curve" has been the scene of a number of fatal accidents.

GOOD ORDER CHRISTMAS

No Arrests Made on Account of Christmas Disturbances During Holidays.

"The Christmas holidays have been the quietest during my career as a peace officer," said Sheriff Reid Tuesday afternoon. Up to that hour, according to the sheriff, no arrests had been made for Christmas disorders and everything still seemed quiet and serene. The only arrest of any kind made since last Friday, he said, was that of a small negro boy for carrying concealed weapons and this could not be called a Christmas offense as such arrests are made from time to time.

The same reports of quiet and tranquility also come from the city police officers. The holidays so far, according to them, have been devoid of rowdiness. Whiskey has been very little in evidence.