

# Eye Witness of Lynching Reveals Fiendish Torture

## Mob Cut Body of Negro With Knives, Gave Him 200 Wounds

By CYRIL BRIGGS

The lynchers of Claude Neal cut off his genitals and forced him to eat them, an eye-witness to the hideous lynch murder of the young Negro worker has revealed. It was also revealed that there had been a secret romance between Neal and Lola Cannidy, the white girl for whose murder he was arrested.

A report prepared from first hand information by a young Southern white university professor and sent to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People indicates that the girl's relations with the Negro worker were resented by the lynchers, and that they murdered her and later had Neal arrested for the crime.

### Lynchers Sliced Stomach and Sides

The eye-witness quoted above gave the professor further details of the fiendish torture of Neal, who was handed over by Alabama prison authorities to a lynch-committee, kidnaped across the state line to Florida and held for 36 hours while the lynchers openly publicised their plans and went ahead with the preparations for the lynching, without interference from the State and county governments or from the Federal government which has shown itself quite relentless in hunting down and punishing the kidnapers of rich men.

Neal was subjected to a terrible torture for 12 hours and wounded in some 200 places, the eye-witness told the investigator. After the lynchers had cut off his genitals and forced the tortured worker to eat them, "they sliced his sides and stomach with knives and every now and then somebody would cut off a finger or toe. Red hot irons were used on the 'nigger' to burn him from top to bottom.

**Hung from Limb Several Times**  
"From time to time during the torture a rope would be tied around Neal's neck and he was pulled up over a limb and held there until he almost choked to death when he would be let down and the torture would begin all over again. After several hours of this torture they decided just to kill him."

The investigator's report, after quoting the eye-witness of the actual lynching, gives further details collected from other sources:

"Neal's body was tied to a rope on the rear of an automobile and dragged over the highway to the Cannidy home. Here a mob estimated to number somewhere between 3,000 and 7,000 from eleven Southern States, was excitedly awaiting his arrival. When the car which was dragging Neal's body came in front of the Cannidy home, a man who was riding the rear bumper cut the rope.

### Woman Drives Knife Through Heart

"A woman came out of the Cannidy house and drove a butcher knife through his heart. Then the crowd came by and some kicked him and some drove their cars over him.

"Men, women and children were numbered in the vast throng that came to witness the lynching.

"It was reported from reliable sources that the little children, some of them mere tots, who lived in the Greenwood neighborhood, waited with sharpened sticks for the return of Neal's body and that when it rolled in the dust on the road, these little children drove their weapons deep into the flesh of the dead man.

### Fingers for Souvenirs

"The body, which by this time was horribly mutilated, was taken by the mob to Marianna, a distance of ten or eleven miles, where it was hung to a tree on the northeast corner of the courthouse square. Pictures were taken of the mutilated form and hundreds of photographs were sold for 50 cents each. Scores of children viewed the body as it hung in the square.

"The body was perfectly nude until the early morning when someone had the decency to hang a burlap sack over the middle of the body. The body was cut down about 8:30 Saturday morning.

"Fingers and toes from Neal's body have been exhibited as souvenirs in Marianna where one man offered to divide the finger which he had with a friend as 'a special favor.' Another man has one of the fingers preserved in alcohol."

### Lynchers Terrorized Negroes

After the lynching of Neal, the white lynchers went on a rampage in the Negro section of Marianna, Fla., beating up Negroes on sight, burning their homes and attacking Negro women. While this was going on, not a policeman or sheriff deputy could be found. It was only when the Negro workers began to defend themselves that Gov. Sholtz

of Alabama sent in the National Guard "to keep the peace." The Guardsmen kept "the peace" by breaking up protest meetings of Negro workers and generally disorganizing all defense by the Negroes.

A Grand Jury which was ordered by Gov. Sholtz to "investigate" the crime, was returned a verdict that Neal met his death at "the hands of persons unknown"—the traditional verdict of the lynch rulers of the South.

### Workers Must Protest Horrible Crime

U. S. Attorney-General Cummings, who rejected the demands of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights and the International Labor Defense that the Federal government intervene to punish the

interstate kidnaping of Neal and to prevent his lynching, has refused to use the Lindbergh kidnaping law against the lynchers.

The horrible torture and lynching of Neal, the open collaboration of the Federal government and the State and county governments of Alabama and Florida in this hideous crime against the Negro people and the working class, must serve to rouse the entire working class and all opponents of fascist lynch terror to the fight against lynching and Negro oppression and for the passage and enforcement of the Bill for Civil Rights for the Negro People and Against Lynching, which has been proposed to President Roosevelt and the U. S. Congress by the League of Struggle for Negro Rights.

## Negro Leader Miss Dilling of Unemployed In California Is Convicted On 'Red' Hunt

### I.L.D. Will Appeal Case of Ramey in Cincinnati

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Nov. 26.—The International Labor Defense today took the case of Will Ramey, Negro unemployed leader, to the Court of Appeals.

Ramey, who was declared guilty of "assault and battery" by a lily-white jury, was one of an Unemployment Council delegation of five who were arrested on Oct. 25, when they attempted to enter the Transient Service Bureau to present the grievances and demands of the unemployed workers. Matthews, a guard at the bureau, had covered the delegation with his gun while other guards brutally attacked the workers with blackjacks and brass knuckles, and then swore out a warrant charging the delegation with "assault and battery."

The conviction of Ramey has aroused great indignation among broad sections of Negro and white workers here, since the five arrested, only the Negro worker was convicted in an obvious attempt to break the solidarity of Negro and white workers. Of the white defendants, one was acquitted, and the three others not even brought to trial. An intensive mass campaign is being conducted for Ramey's release.

### Author of 'Red Network' Plans Aid to New Provocation

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Nov. 26.—Bringing to Los Angeles and the Junior Chamber of Commerce her "broad" understanding of the "red menace," Elizabeth Dilling is now in the city looking for plots.

Miss Dilling, author of "The Red Network," has offered her services to the institutions of higher-learning as an investigator. She, the university heads being willing, will ferret out locally "the comprehensive plan" of what she says is "a revolutionary program to influence the minds of students."

Quite appropriately she will add these "facts" as a supplement to her book, which, undoubtedly, will find ready sale among the jittery members of the Chamber of Commerce and their sophomoric offspring, the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Meantime, while Miss Dilling pantingly waits to prowl the universities, she will pick up some pin money for the Junior Chamber of Commerce at a meeting at the Philharmonic Auditorium on Dec. 1. She will reveal information on "Communist attempts to overthrow the established government."

## Facts of Crisis Food Plentiful Are Analysed In the U.S.S.R., In LRA Notes Workers Find

"Capitalists Unable To Solve Crisis" is the conclusion of a three-page factual article in the December number of Economic Notes, just issued by Labor Research Association. Business activity indices indicate that the drop in business between May and September was greater in 1934 than in any year of the crisis.

Tariff, housing, government spending, dollar devaluation and other major Roosevelt proposals are analyzed for their long-range worth and the conclusion is reached that U. S. capitalists cannot solve the crisis because they cannot profitably create the necessary mass purchasing power.

Decline of mass purchasing power is further indicated in an article on retail sales and food prices, the latter being nearly 30 per cent higher than in April, 1933, one month after Roosevelt took office. The current level of prices adds about \$3,000,000,000 annually to the retail food bill of the masses, Economic Notes points out.

The feature of this issue is an article on "Class Lines in Farming," which gives for the first time basic detailed data on the different types of farmers and their incomes. The story, prepared from census figures analyzed by Farm Research, shows that nearly half of the farmers in the country are poor farmers, whose total value of products is less than \$1,000 a year.

Economic Notes is on sale at local Workers' Book Stores, or directly from Labor Research Association, 80 East Eleventh Street, New York City. Five cents per copy, or 65 cents a year by mail.

Food is abundant in the Soviet Union, according to a cablegram received today by "Soviet Russia Today," publication of the Friends of the Soviet Union. Forwarded by the workers' delegations of the F.S.U., the report is based on their thousand mile trip through the Soviet Union, in which the food situation was investigated in the Ukraine and elsewhere. The delegation visited farms, spoke to peasants and discovered that the crops were good, the farm equipment excellent, and food abundant.

The present report once again disproves the slanders about famine in the Soviet Union and especially in the Ukraine, that had been circulated by the Nazis, the Japanese press, and by the White Guards through the world and particularly in the United States.

The delegation consisted of a textile worker from Rhode Island, a Pittsburgh Westinghouse worker, a dirt farmer from South Dakota, a hosier worker from Philadelphia, a Boston seaman, and was headed by Herbert Goldfrank, National Secretary of the F.S.U. The delegation left for the Soviet Union on October 20, 1934, and will report on their experiences at a welcome meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 12, at Irving Plaza.

The full cablegram received today reads: Kitchkas.

"Have travelled thousand miles, investigated food situation in the Ukraine and elsewhere. Visited farms, talked to peasants, crop good, equipment fine, food abundant, adverse reports lies."

"Workers Delegation."

### St. Louis Conference Against War Attended By 40 Youth Delegates