Victim Had Been Released from Jail; Nabbed for Trying to Enter Home

By United Press

MINDEN, La., Aug. 16.—Dr. Thomas Richardson, deputy coroner of Webster Parish, says a 28-year-old Negro was beaten to death last Thursday night.

The body of John C. Jones, an oil refinery worker, was found in a partly decomposed condition two miles south of Minden, sprawled on the dam of a small private lake.

His body was laced with whip-like lashes which Richardson said appeared to have been inflicted by some flat object like a heavy leather belt or wooden lathe. The beating was believed to have taken place in a lonely clump of woods near the lake which is surrounded by rolling hills.

Jones had been released from the Parish jail only a few hours before the beating. According to Sheriff O. H. Haynes, he had been arrested on the complaint of a Cotton Valley white woman that he and another Negro tried to enter her home.

When the unidentified woman failed to press formal charges, Haynes said the two men were released late on the afternoon of Aug. 8. Authorities said Jones had a large collection of pictures of "nude white women" on his person when the body was found.

The sheriff said there are no clues in the case. Jones was killed, said the Coroner's official report, through "multiple bruises and abrasions sustained at the hands of a person or persons unknown."
Negro Released From Louisiana Jail Is Lynched

MINDEN, La., Aug. 15 (UP) — Authorities revealed today that John C. Jones, twenty-eight, a Negro, employed at an oil refinery, was beaten to death last Thursday night by "a person or persons unknown."

Dr. Thomas Richardson, Deputy Coroner of Webster County, denied that county authorities had suppressed news of Jones's death, which he described as "a lynching."

The body was found last Friday, but nothing was made public until today when a coroner's jury returned a verdict that Jones had died of "multiple bruises and abrasions." Dr. Richardson said these evidently had been inflicted by a "flat object"—such as a wide leather belt or a thick plank.

In Baton Rouge, the state capital, Governor James H. Davis refused to comment.

Jones was released from the parish jail last Thursday when a white woman refused to press her charge that he and another Negro had annoyed her by trying to enter her home. Dr. Richardson said he died some time around 10 p.m. Thursday. His watch was stopped at that hour.

In Jones's pockets was a collection of photographs of nude white women. Whether this provided the motive for the lynchers was conjectural.

(1n a speech at Cambridge, Ohio, this afternoon Attorney General Tom C. Clark said he was going to ask Congress for legislation to protect cities from racial and other hatreds. Present Federal law, he said, was "a thin thread" for governmental action against mobs to depend upon.)

Jones's body was found on the dam of a small private lake two miles south of Minden.

The Tuskegee Institute at Tuskegee, Ala., which keeps statistics on lynching, said it would not decide whether to list Jones as a lynching victim until it had received official reports. The last lynching in Louisiana was on Oct. 13, 1938, when a Negro accused of killing a white man and beating a white woman was lynched.
NEGRO IN LOUISIANA IS BEATEN TO DEATH

Officials, Reporting No Clues, Say Fatality Came After the Man's Release From Jail

Minden, La., Aug. 15 (AP)—Webster parish officers are investigating the death of John C. Jones, 28 years old, a Cotton Valley Negro, who died a week ago apparently from a beating administered by unidentified persons.

Harmon C. Drew, assistant district attorney, said today that no arrests had been made and that his office had as yet no clues in connection with the reputed mob action.

Coroner Thomas Richardson said that nude pictures of white women were found on the body of the Negro and that the possession of these pictures might have had an influence in the killing.

Attachés of Sheriff O. H. Haynes' office said that Jones and a 17-year-old companion were picked up by unidentified persons last Thursday, soon after the two Negroes had been released from the parish jail in Minden.

The Negroes had been arrested a week before upon suspicion that they had attempted to break into the house of a white woman in Cotton Valley, Sheriff Haynes said.

The sheriff said the white housewife later identified the Negroes as the two who tried to enter her home, but that no formal charges were filed, and the Negroes were released.

The 17-year-old Negro, whose identity was withheld, was reported by Sheriff Haynes' office to have said that he and Jones were placed in separate automobiles by some men.

He said that he was struck on the head and remained unconscious for several hours and knew nothing of what had happened to his companion, Jones.

The body of Jones, a former Army corporal, was found later by a group of fishermen on Dorcheat Bayou last Friday. The story was first made public yesterday.

Dr. Richardson said the nature of the wounds indicated that the floggers had not intended to kill the Negro but only to whip him.

District Attorney A. M. Wallace, to whom a report was made by Sheriff Haynes, was out-of-town and might not comment until he returned to his office, it was said here.

State police at Shreveport said that they would not enter the case unless requested to do so by the district attorney.
Negro Released From Louisiana Jail Is Lynched

Official Denies Suppression of News About Week-Old Death of Refinery Worker

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Dr. Thomas Richardson, Deputy Coroner of Webster County, denied that county authorities had suppressed news of Jones’s death, which he described as “a lynching.”

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Jones’s body was found on the dam of a small private lake two miles south of Minden.

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The last lynching in Webster Parish of which this town is parish seat was in 1886. The victims then were two white men.

Progress in Fatal Beating

MINDEN, La., Aug. 16 (P).—Assistant District Attorney Harmon C. Drew said today that officials in this northwest Louisiana parish have developed “several leads” in their investigation of the fatal beating of a twenty-eight-year-old Negro, but he declined to say whether he believed the Negro was lynched.

Mr. Drew planned to confer with District Attorney A. M. Wallace on the death by reputed mob violence of John C. Jones, whose body, beaten from head to foot, was found near here a week ago. Jones, a former Army corporal, and another Negro were reportedly seized and spirited away soon after their release from jail. They had been held for a time, but not charged, in connection with a reported attempt by two Negroes to enter a white woman’s house in Cotton Valley, La.

Fiery Cross on Campus

JACKSON, Miss., Aug. 16 (UP).—The fiery cross symbol of the Ku-Klux Klan was burned on the campus of Tugaloo Negro College near here Tuesday night, J. H. Owen, a faculty member, reported today. He said four or five figures, unhoofed, stood near by and watched during the ceremony.

The cross was lit at 11 p.m. and burned for two hours, casting a bright glow over the campus and the homes of Negro faculty members. The school is supported by the American Missionary Association of New York.
NEW YORK, Aug. 19—Officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People were racing yesterday against a La. mob in a desperate effort to save the life of an eye witness to the horrible beating and blow torch lynching of John C. Jones, Negro war veteran.

After La. officials began the usual southern "investigation" for "person or persons" unknown guilty of the lynching, NAACP investigators conducted a private search, that has furnished the names of at least five of the lynchers, one of whom was a woman.

The body of Jones, a cotton seed oil refinery worker was found last Aug. 14 in a lake near Minden, La.

The eye witness Albert Harris, a 17 year-old Negro was also shot by the mob, but feigned death until the mob left the scene. He then escaped into nearby Texas.

A lynch mob that discovered Harris’s whereabouts was on its way to the Texas town at noon Monday to seize the youth, according to an NAACP investigator, who phoned Walter White at New York NAACP headquarters in a desperate appeal for help.

Harris is said to have escaped to Texarkana, Texas, which is divided by the Arkansas and Texas boundary line. While en route on a bus out of Minden he talked to a man named Walker. This man, who lived in Shreveport, has been absent from his home and job for the past two days.

There has been no serious effort by the district attorney for Webster Parish to arrest the lynchers. It is generally known that they are residents of Cotton Valley, who came to Minden for Jones and Harris by prearrangement with prison officials.

Sol Harper, of the National Equal Rights League, has called upon all "unions, churches, progressive organizations, city, federal and state officials," to wire Gov. Thomas Bailey of Mississippi, demanding that "immediate protection from mob violence be given to the Negroes in Magee, Miss."
The late Cpl. John C. Jones, 28, with wife, Carrie Lee, 25, and daughter, Myrtle Ann, 4, Jones, who escaped Nazi fire, died at the hands of a lynch mob at Minden, La., Aug. 7.

NAACP Rescues Lynch Victim, Describes ‘Sadism’ of Attack

The National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People reported yesterday it is flying Albert “Sonny Man” Harris, Jr., to New York from Texas to save him from a mob being formed at Minden, La., to come after him.

Harris escaped with his life, the NAACP reported, on Aug. 7 by feigning death after he was shot in the shoulder by a mob that killed his companion, John C. Jones, 26-year-old war veteran. The two Negroes were seized by a mob after they were released from the Minden jail, where they had been held for a week without charges.

NAACP investigators said there were evidences of “bestial sadism” in the attack and disclosed that Jones had been burned about the face with a blow-torch and had been badly mutilated with a meat cleaver.

“The mutilated veteran’s head had been struck repeatedly while his hands were severed by a cleaver,” the Association said in a statement. “The excessive heat and beatings caused the victim’s eyes to pop from their sockets.”

Harris’s father, investigators reported, was beaten in an effort to make him disclose the whereabouts of his son.

The NAACP reported its investigators learned the names of at least five of the lynch mob, including one woman. Negroes in the vicinity are fearful of being visited by members of the mob, the NAACP said, because of the general knowledge prevailing as to who participated in the killing.
Report FBI Racing Mob
For Boy Who Saw Lynching

By ALICE DAVIDSON

FBI agents and a Louisiana mob reportedly were in a race today to reach a 13-year-old Negro boy believed to know the names of lynchers who 10 days ago mutilated, burned and beat to death John C. Jones, 28, a veteran of Cotton Valley, La.

Details were supplied to the offices here of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People by their field workers in Texas.

The boy, Albert Harris, left his Louisiana home with his father yesterday and boarded a bus bound for Texarkana, Tex. But when the bus arrived just across the Texas line, Albert was missing.

A mob formed in Minden, La., was known to have sworn to go into Texas, 200 miles away, to find the boy, if necessary. Whether they might have caught up with him during his bus ride and taken him away was not known.

A source in Texarkana told The Post by phone that Albert "might have become frightened and slipped off the bus at an earlier stop. We just don't know what to think."

Walter White, executive secretary here of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People, said his office had received a desperate appeal for help from an NAACP investigator in the Minden area and that plane passage had been arranged to bring Albert to New York.

White said he had been in constant touch with the FBI during the night and had its approval of the trip.

He also said the NAACP had supplied the Dept. of Justice the names of five members of the lynching mob.

Accused by White Woman

Trouble for Jones and Albert started early this month when they were arrested upon suspicion that they had attempted to enter the garage of a white woman in Coton Valley. They were held for a week in the Minden Parish (County) jail and released Aug. 8 after the woman identified but refused to press charges.

According to an NAACP investigator, "When finally released, the two found a mob waiting outside the jail. Earlier, witnesses had heard screaming from inside the jail, and when the mob took them, it was noticed that they were already badly beaten."

"was burned about the face and body with a blowtorch after a horrible beating at the hands of the mob. The mutilated veteran's head had been struck repeatedly and his hands were severed by a cleaver.

"The excessive heat and beatings caused his eyes to pop from their sockets. Jones was of light yellow complexion, but when his body was found his face was charred black."

After the lynchers departed, the boy managed to reach his home, but when his family urged him to come in so they could dress his wound he became frightened and went away.

A few days after that, Albert's father was beaten by whites demanding to know the boy's whereabouts, according to the NAACP.

The Harris boy returned home on Aug. 15, again today, and with his father, set out for Texarkana and the home of his grandfather, Amos Robin.
FBI and Mob Vie to Reach Lynch Victim

A 17-year-old Negro boy who has given to investigators the names of five persons he said lynched John C. Jones near Minden, La., two weeks ago was being sought along the Texas-Louisiana border today by FBI agents and probably by members of a mob, the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People said.

The boy, Albert Harris, was said to have been left for dead by the mob which killed Jones. He disappeared about a week ago after giving NAACP investigators the names of the allegedlynchers, including that of one woman. He was to have met an Association representative in Texas yesterday for transportation to New York, but failed to appear.
Lynching Witness Located

Albert Harris, the 17-year-old Negro eyewitness to the blow torch and meat cleaver lynching of veteran John C. Jones at Minden, Louisiana, Aug. 7, has been located with his father and given protection by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Harris can definitely identify at least five members of the lynching mob that took him and Jones from the Minden jail where they had been held without charge in connection with an alleged robbery. Jones' horribly mutilated and burned body was found floating in a lake near Minden Aug. 14. Subsequently an NAACP investigator learned of Harris who had been left for dead by the lynchers, but was only severely wounded, and managed to escape to Texas.

FORMED ANOTHER MOB

The investigator then discovered that the lynchers also knew of Harris' escape and had formed another mob to go and finish him off.

This information was wired to NAACP headquarters with an urgent appeal for help from the investigator.

Plans were made for air evacuation of Harris from Texarkana, Tex., Aug. 19, but he never reached the rendezvous. Later the investigator discovered a clue that indicated the elder Harris had taken his son from the hiding place and headed north. Harris Senior had previously been brutally beaten by Minden mobsters in an effort to make him reveal the whereabouts of his son.

ESCAPED TO MICHIGAN

Both badly wounded and in need of medical attention, they made their way to a small northern Michigan town where they contacted local NAACP officials. Oliver W. Harrington, NAACP public relations director announced yesterday that both father and son are being closely guarded and are on route to New York, where their information concerning the Louisiana lynchers will be given to the FBI.

Jones' lynching was one of the most horrible in recent years. He was beaten, chopped with a cleaver, and burned about the face with a blow torch until his eyes popped from their sockets.

The NAACP investigator learned that the mob had taken Jones and Harris from the jail by pre-arrangement with the jailer.
Boy, Left for Dead by Lynchers,
Tells How He Fled to the North

By BETTY MOORSTEIN

A six-foot, 17-year-old Negro, Albert Sonny Man Harris, Jr., sat in an office of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People yesterday and with amazing aplomb told a dozen reporters how he'd been beaten and left for dead by a Louisiana mob only to "come back to life" and escape to the North with his family.

The youth's cousin, John C. Jones, a 28-year-old veteran, was beaten to death by the same mob. His mutilated body has been recovered from the woods 15 miles from Minden, La., where the two youths were attacked on Aug. 8.

Albert has identified two of the men in the mob. Their names and the names of 11 other men, including three deputy sheriffs, who allegedly took part in the attack, have been turned over to the FBI by the NAACP.

The youth has been the object of an intensive search by the FBI and the NAACP, who for three weeks have scoured the South and Middle West in an effort to find him before the Louisiana mob got to him again. His whereabouts were reported to the NAACP Monday by a relative with whom the Harris family had taken refuge in a Midwest town. Albert and his father were brought to New York yesterday by the NAACP.

Albert told his story yesterday— a tangle of threats and fears, futile all-night drives, miraculous survival. An ugly, half-healed gash marked his left eyebrow where he had been struck with the butt of a .45 caliber pistol. His wrists and ankles were scarred—sovereigns of the grass rope which had bound them. A white shirt covered the lash marks of the heavy leather straps with which he had been beaten. But Albert's face was one of serious equanimity.

The Harrises had lived in Cotton Valley, La., for three generations, Albert's father said. Harris, his wife, Albert and three daughters, 9, 11 and 13 years old, lived in "a little old three-room shack" about two miles out of town. Harris earned a good living, $45 a week, in a saw mill.

On July 31 Albert was arrested for complicity in a rape allegedly committed by his cousin, John. He was released from jail two days later but was severely beaten by five white men who waylaid him as he was going home. His father then took him to stay with friends in Texas, but brought him back after being threatened and beaten by the local sheriff. Albert and Jones were again arrested and held in the Minden jail. According to the NAACP, they denied the charges and the woman involved refused to prosecute.

After nine days they were released. As they left the jail about 8:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 8, they were set upon by 10 men, forced into two automobiles, bound and driven 15 miles from Minden.

"They told me to hold my head down so I couldn't see where we was going," Albert recalled. "There wasn't much talking. We drove for about an hour on round-about roads. "When we got out of the car they said they would beat us up. They said they ought to kill us. They threw me down on my stomach and put their feet on my head and on my feet so I couldn't move. Then they beat me with a strap about that wide." He held his thumb and forefinger about three inches apart.

"They had a bunch of straps. They took John on the other side of a little creek. First, they'd beat him; then they'd beat him.

"They kept asking me was John in that woman's yard. I said no and they told me I was lying."

Albert doesn't know how long he was beaten, but at the end the men hit him on the head with the butt of the .45 and left him for dead.

Back in Cotton Valley, Albert's parents heard he'd been beaten to death. It was Friday—pay day—but Harris didn't wait to get his pay. He kissed his family good-bye, told them to sit tight until he sent for them, and caught the first train for Chicago.

A few hours later, Albert, battered but alive, drove up to his home in a taxi.

He'd "come back to life" in that blood-spattered Louisiana woods. He doesn't know what time it was. It was very dark, he said. He saw John lying on the other side of the creek and went over to him. John asked for a drink of water and Albert took off his shoe, scooped up some water and fed it to him. John asked Albert to tell another cousin to take care of the German Luger automatic which John had brought back from overseas. "Then he died," Albert said.

Albert's mother didn't say a word when he arrived. "She just grabbed me." As soon as it was dark, she loaded the boy in the car and drove him to the home of friends in Arkansas.

They left Arkansas at 1 a.m. Friday and didn't stop driving until they reached Chicago about noon Saturday. They got in touch with Harris, who was with relatives in another town, and pushed right on Saturday night until they reached him.
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Albert Harris, Jr., who escaped death at hands of Louisiana mob, shows his scars to his father. He told his story to reporters here yesterday.
Lynch Victim's Widow Speaks: Mrs. Carrie Lee Pendleton Jones, widow of the victim of the Minden, La., lynch mob, spoke to more than 1,000 people at a meeting sponsored by the citizens committee of the New Orleans National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Shown with Mrs. Jones are (left to right) executive secretary N. A. Byrd of the New Orleans NAACP; her four-year-old daughter, and vice-president C. W. Cubla of the Informer newspapers.

—L. V. Myers photo
5 to Face Court in Lynching
Charge With Civil Rights Violation

Shreveport, Oct. 18 (AP)—Five men are to be arraigned in
Federal Court here Nov. 4 on indictments charging civil rights viola­
tions in connection with the lynching of a 28-year-old Negro war
veteran, U. S. Atty. LaFargue said today.

The Negro, John C. Jones, was found beaten to death near Min­
den, La., Aug. 8.

Jones, a former Army corporal, was seized by a mob of a dozen or
more white men after he had been released from the Webster
Parish jail at Minden.

He had been arrested in connection with an alleged attempt
by a Negro to break into the home of a white woman. Sheriff
Haynes said he was released after complainants had failed to file a
formal charge.

Jones was driven to a remote spot in an auto and whipped.

Jones' body later was recovered from a bayou section.
Justice Dept. Acts
In Louisiana Lynching

The Justice Dept. announced the indictment, under Civil Liberties statutes, of six men in connection with the lynching of John C. Jones, 28, and the beating of Albert Harris, 17, by a mob of Minden, La., in August. Defendants include the Minden police chief, V. Geary Gantt, and two deputy sheriffs, Charles Edwards and O. H. Haynes, Jr.

The two Negroes, questioned in connection with an attempt to break into the home of a white woman, were seized by the mob shortly after their release from the Webster Parish Jail at Minden. Jones's badly beaten body was recovered from a bayou.
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The two Negroes, questioned in connection with an attempt to break into the home of a white woman, were seized by the mob shortly after their release from the Webster Parish Jail at Minden. Jones's badly beaten body was recovered from a bayou.
WASHINGTON, Oct. 18 (UP).—The Justice Department today announced a Federal Grand Jury has indicted six men in connection with the lynching of one Negro and beating of another by a mob at Minden, La., in August.

The indictments were in connection with the mob killing of John C. Jones, 28, an oil refinery worker, and the beating of Albert Harris, Jr., 17. The lynching occurred Aug. 8, after the Negroes had been turned over to a mob in the jail yard of the Webster Parish jail. They had just been released from the jail.

The indictment, in three counts, was returned by the grand jury at Monroe, La., yesterday and was sealed until five defendants had been arrested and the sixth announced he would surrender.

Indicted under the civil rights statutes were V. Geary Gantt, Minden police chief; Charles Edwards and O. H. Haynes Jr., both Webster Parish deputy sheriffs; Samuel Maddry, Sr., H. E. Perry and W. D. "Slim" Perkins, who were not otherwise identified.

Albert Harris, Jr., victim of the six indicted, and his father made the trip to Monroe, La., to testify to the federal grand jury, closely guarded by a number of U.S. marshals, to protect them against the Ku Klux Klan violence prevalent in that area.
CHIEF HELD IN LYNCHING

Louisiana Officer Is One of Six
Indicted in Negro's Death

MINDEN, La., Oct. 18 (UP) —
Chief of Police B. Geary Gantt
was arrested today as the sixth
man indicted by a Federal grand
jury for the lynching of one Ne-
gro and the beating of another on
Aug. 8.

The indictments were revealed
by the Justice Department in
Washington.

Chief Gantt was indicted on one
count in the mob killing of John
C. Jones, a 28-year-old war vet-
eran, and the beating of Albert
Harris. He was released at Shreve-
port under $500 bond.

The indictment charged that
Gantt, as Chief of Police along with
Deputy Sheriffs Charles Edwards
and O. H. Haynes Jr., deprived the
Negroes of their Constitutional
rights by "causing them to be re-
leased and handed over to a mob
which then inflicted a beating upon
both."

The others named were Samuel
Maddry Sr., H. E. Perry and W. D.
Perkins. Deputy Haynes is the son
of Sheriff O. H. Haynes Sr., of
Webster Parish.

The indictment followed an in-
vestigation by the FBI at the re-
quest of the civil rights section of
the Justice Department.
6 Indicted in Lynching

Outgrowth Of Mob Killing And Beating At Minden, La.

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Five Webster Parish Men Facing Trial Here Today

Quintet Charged With Civil Liberties Violations in Connection With Lynching of Negro

Five Webster parish men, two of them deputy sheriffs, go on trial in federal district court here this morning in a precedent-setting case for north Louisiana.

The men are charged with depriving two negroes of civil rights guaranteed them under the constitution, by conspiring to administer punishment without trial. The case, filed under provisions of statutes based on the 14th amendment to the federal constitution, differs from others involving civil rights in that it involves punishment and death of one of the negroes without a trial. Previous civil rights cases were based on allegations of involuntary servitude, orpeonage, principally affecting agricultural workers.

While the death of the negro, John C. Jones, may figure prominently in the case, it is not one of the offenses alleged in the grand jury indictment. There is no federal statute applicable to homicide in a case such as this. —

The case has attracted nation-wide attention. The alleged offenses occurred on Aug. 8, 1946, shortly after a presidential order to Attorney General Tom Clark to conduct thorough investigations of a Georgia lynch-slaying of four negroes, and all "similar" cases with the purpose of ascertaining whether federal statutes had been violated.

Court opens at 9:30 a.m. with Federal Judge Gaston L. Porterie presiding. There is every indication that

(Continued On Page Two)
Jury Chosen In Webster Case

A jury of 12 men was completed and sworn in at 12:18 p.m. Monday in the trial of five Webster parish men accused in federal district court here of violating civil liberties laws in connection with the alleged lynching of a negro near Minden last Aug. 8.

Before the twelfth juror was selected a total of 39 men were excused from a list of 80 drawn for service in the trial.

The jury as completed: John F. Harrison, Bienville; J. A. Green, Haynesville; Roy Leach, Many; Arthur Kellab, Shreveport; E. H. Collinsworth, Bienville; John T. Holmes, Grand Cane; Louis L. Culpepper, Natchitoches; Leo B. Miller, Many; Alexander Paul Young, Pothabian; C. M. Graham, Jamestown; Clifton Dry, Logansport, and L. U. Reynolds, Lisbon.

Jurors Questioned At Length.

The only negro called on the jury panel, Hayes H. Poole, druggist, of Shreveport, was excused by the defense.

Both government and defense attorneys questioned each prospective juror at length. The prosecuting attorney centered his questioning upon whether the jurors would be prejudiced because of the fact the persons allegedly deprived of their civil rights were negroes.

The defense asked each prospective juror whether he would vote for acquittal if there existed in his mind a reasonable doubt as to the guilt of the defendants and whether they would accept the law as read to them by the court. Most of the defense questioning was conducted by Attorney Harry V. Booth.

Jurors Told Maximum Penalty.

At the request of U. S. District Attorney Malcolm E. Lafargue, Judge Gaston L. Porterie explained the nature of the charges against the five men. He told the jurors that the maximum penalty upon conviction on one of three counts involved in the indictment would be a $5,000 fine or ten years' imprisonment.

The indictment charges that the two deputies caused the negroes John C. Jones and Albert Harris, Jr., who had been held in the parish jail in Minden on suspicion of entering a house "to be released and handed over to a mob gathered in and about the jail, who thereupon forcibly seized and detained" them with the assistance of Maddrty, Perkins and Perry.

In an indictment returned by a federal grand jury at Monroe the defendants, Oscar H. Haynes, Jr., and Charles M. Edwards, Webster parish sheriff's deputies, and Samuel C. Maddry, Sr., Willie Drayton Perkins and Harry Edward Perry, Cotton Valley oilfield workers, were accused of conspiring to deprive two negroes, one of whom lost his life, of rights guaranteed them by the constitution.

Seated at a table with the defendants was Sheriff Oscar H. Haynes of Webster parish, father of one of the accused deputies.

The indictment charges that the two deputies caused the negroes John C. Jones and Albert Harris, Jr., who had been held in the parish jail in Minden on suspicion of entering a house "to be released and handed over to a mob gathered in and about the jail, who thereupon forcibly seized and detained" them with the assistance of Maddrty, Perkins and Perry.

The mob, the indictment charges, "without a lawful trial beat and maligned" the negroes, "causing the death of John C. Jones and inflicting grave injury, pain and suffering upon Albert Harris, Jr." Jones' body was found in a swamp Aug. 8.

WEBSTER CASE

From Page 16.

Jurors excused from service after the selection of the jury got under way included Willis Thomas Edwards, Homer; Everett Pyle, Logansport; James J. Dachamp, Mansfield; C. M. Leach, Many; W. C. Kalmia, Shreveport; Lloyd Cole Stewart, Arcadia; Walter T. McCook, Shreveport; Willis M. Folks, Mansfield; Henry Clarence Story, Grand Cane; L. C. Worley, Haynesville; J. G. Rankin, Haynesville; Ora E. Huston, Haynesville; Felder Burckett Fields, Gisland; Charles F. Dranuquet, Natchitoches and William Arthur Roach, Mansfield.

Excused by Judge Porterie on medical and other grounds were the following men: R. R. O'Neal, Shreveport; C. L. Saltier, Negreet; Edward D. Green, negro, Shreveport; Hyman Cohen, Derry; Jack McCrooklin, Shreveport; John E. Hunsicker, Shreveport; C. J. Hines, Gisland; S. S. Burton, Castor; C. R. Bates, Shreveport; Wade McClain, Shreveport; Carey Ebarb, Noble; Alphonse Prudhomme, Bermuda; Eber Guy Martin, Shreveport; Dora Sepulvado, Noble; E. G. Odell, Shreveport; C. C. Alford, Jr., Many; Henry Lofton, Natchitoches; W. E. Alcock, Natchez; J. T. Watson, Athens; M. G. Kendall, Jr., Shreveport; William O. White, Castor, and S. E. Baker, Athens.

See WEBSTER CASE, Page 16.