

AT FOUNTAIN, ALABAMA.

Mobile Informant T-1, who is a farmer residing in the vicinity of Fountain, advised that he had heard through various colored men who work in the Vredenburgh Saw Mill at Vredenburgh, Alabama, that the Victim, RUSSELL CHARLEY, was hung by the subjects. He said he understood that the reason for the victim's being lynched was because W. M. EVERETT, a white man, who is foreman of the Dry Kiln, Vredenburgh Saw Mill, had been keeping company with a colored woman in the quarters, and the victim was also having relations with this same colored woman. T-1 reported that EVERETT had warned the victim to stay away on several occasions, but the victim did not heed these warnings. He stated that on one occasion not too long ago an attempt was made to kill the victim, but the victim had gotten away and returned to his home. He stated that on the night the victim was killed the victim's wife had pleaded with him not to go with WATSON, telling him that she knew he would be killed, but the victim went with WATSON in spite of his wife's warnings. That was the last time he was seen alive. T-1 informed that all of the colored people in Vredenburgh are very much excited and upset about the death of CHARLEY and are afraid for their own lives. He said that they were even afraid to discuss the matter inasmuch as it is generally understood that the Sheriff's Office is making a deal with the subjects to list CHARLEY's death as a suicide in return for the payment by the subjects of \$6,000 to the Sheriff's Office. T-1 said he understood that LEE THOMAS, who is a policeman with the Vredenburgh Saw Mill and who may be a policeman with the City of Vredenburgh, was acting as go-between in paying off the Sheriff's Office. T-1 stated he is afraid for his own life if it becomes known that he furnished any information in this matter and declined to furnish a signed statement regarding the information as furnished above.

T-1 said that LEE THOMAS was definitely not involved in the lynching as he was out of town on the night that this occurred, and he was confident he had no connection in any way with the lynching of this victim. He said he was not sure that THOMAS was a law enforcement officer on public payroll, but he did know he is a policeman with the Vredenburgh Saw Mill. T-1 informed that none of the other subjects in this case are law enforcement officers.

An article appeared on the front page of the Monroe Journal, a weekly newspaper published in Monroeville, Alabama, dated Thursday, May 13, 1954, which had the heading TWO MONROE NEGRO MEN FOUND DEAD. The article states in part as follows: