

Natchez

On February 15, 1964 Archie Curtis of Natchez received a phone call at 12:45 A.M. He was told to go out to Palestine Road and go "two miles past the black top" where "a man with a lantern will be waiting to show you the way to Henry Goodman's house." (He was told that Mrs. Goodman had had a heart attack and needed an ambulance)

Curtis went out to Palestine Road as requested, accompanied by Willie Jackson. After going two miles past the black top, they did not see anyone with a light. Curtis blew his horn. A car pulled up behind the ambulance. Two white men got out of the left side and two white men got out of the right side. All four had white hoods over their heads. One had a gun in his hand. Curtis and Jackson were told to get out of the ambulance. Curtis told them to go away because he had no time for foolishness. Curtis told them he was looking for a Mr. Goodman. One of the four white men said, "I'm Henry Goodman. I am the one who called you for an ambulance--and damn it, I want you to get out." Another of the four men walked over to the driver's side of the vehicle and asked Curtis, while pointing a gun at him, "didn't you hear him say get out?" Curtis turned to get out --they caught his hand and hit his hand pit. Curtis got out of the ambulance, he was told to take off his glasses. Curtis was slow getting them off; one of the men grabbed them and threw them away. Next Curtis and Jackson were blindfolded and carried to the white men's car, pushed in the car. Both Curtis and Jackson were put in the front of the car and driven down to a field called Duck Pond. They were told to get out of the car in Duck Pond, which they did; they were told to remove their clothes. They refused. After being hit "two or three times," they dropped their pants. Curtis was told to hand over his NAACP card. Curtis replied by saying he didn't have a NAACP card. He was told "yes, you have and that damn West has a NAACP card too." Curtis said "I don't think West has one" Curtis and Jackson were told to lie on their stomachs and then they were beaten. One of the four men suggested killing them--but another said no "lets just leave them here." Curtis and Jackson went to a freinds' house and got a ride into town.

In General

There have been at least five Negroes murdered in Southwestern Mississippi since the year's (1964) beginning. None of them have been solved and all seem to have racial overtones:

Lewis Allen was killed on February 1, 1964. He was shot in the face with a shot gun at night as he departed from his motor vehicle.

Three people were found dead in their automobile. Carbon Monoxid to death, however, they also had bullet holes in them.