

Fellow Worker of Lynched Man Says He Was Quiet, Industrious

SALISBURY, (Lynch-town) Md.—

In an exclusive interview given an AFRO reporter, Holland Walters, Delaware Street, a fellow worker of Matthew Williams, told Sunday of the working conditions at the Elliott Box and Crate Factory.

Walters said:

"I started to work at the factory about 15 years ago. I have been working there ever since. About nine or ten years ago, Matt, when he was a mere boy, came to work at the factory. At that time we were earning about ten cents an hour. This salary was later increased to fifteen cents an hour following the good seasons.

Quiet, and Worked

"Williams was a very quiet fellow. He never engaged in any quarrels with the others at the plant nor did he associate with them. In fact, I can't recall anyone who wasn't a friend to the youth. He was con-

sidered a good reliable worker. He knew what he was supposed to do and did it without someone watching him. He was faithful and conscientious while at work. He worked relentlessly from the starting whistle to the closing whistle.

"He was well liked by every one in the community who knew him. He was the type of person who always went alone. Never have I seen him with a group of young men or women other than at a baseball game. He had good common sense and ofttimes advised the young fellows who worked with him to save their money.

"His while objective was to own his own home and probably a small automobile. He ofttimes told me that when he had gotten his home and a small farm, he would get married. He was very thrifty, and when the plant closed down several weeks ago for repairs, he was the only person in our section who seemed affected.

"He had saved his money. The day prior to his lynching he had \$56 in his pocket, and two books for lo-

Continued on Page 2, Col. 2

FELLOW WORKER SAYS MAN WAS QUIET

Continued from Page One

cal banks. Several weeks ago, or rather when there were rumors that one of the local banks wasn't so strong, he took his money out and divided it. He deposited the money in the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank of Salisbury and the Prudential Bank. He carried the bank books with him at all times.

"Only part of our shift was working Friday, the whole shift having been broken into two parts, one section to work during the first part of the week and the other section or group to work the latter part of the week. Matt was in the first group, and wasn't working Friday.

"Late in the afternoon, I saw Miss Lena Tingle, white, Mr. Elliott's secretary, running through the factory while she was ablaze. Three new stoves were recently installed in the office building, and right away I thought that one of them had exploded. When I didn't see any smoke, I went on back to work at the far end of the building. Shortly afterwards, I saw a group of men congregating around the office and I went to see what the trouble was. I arrived in time to see Mr. Elliott and Matt being taken to the hospital.

"One of the boys who worked at the other end of the plant stated that he had seen young Mr. Elliott when he shot Matt, as the youth was staggering across the lumber yard.

"I have no idea what led up to the shooting of Mr. Elliott or what it was all about. It's a puzzle to me. Matt thought a lot of Mr. Elliott, and both the old man and his son thought a lot of Matt."