

# COAL DEALER SHOT DEAD WHILE TALKING TO WIFE OVER PHONE

**J. H. Moore Is Assassinated  
in His Office—Robbery Is  
Believed to Be Motive.  
Will Myers, Negro, With  
Criminal Record, Arrested.**

**HAD BEEN SUMMONED TO  
DEAD KINSMAN'S HOME**

**Three Other Negroes Held  
by Police as Material Wit-  
nesses—Myers Will Be  
Confronted Today With  
White Men Who Saw Mur-  
derer Running Away.**

While talking to his wife over the telephone about going with her to the death bed of a kinsman, J. H. Moore, wealthy wood and coal dealer, was shot dead by an unknown negro assassin in his place of business at 229 McDaniel street, about 8 o'clock last night.

He died almost immediately, while his murderer escaped.

The entire neighborhood and a score of police officers quickly gathered at reports of the murder, and formed a posse to search the negro residences nearby for the murderer. A negro was arrested who, it is said, gave the police the name of the man who fired the fatal shot.

#### **Will Myers Arrested.**

Will Myers, also known as George Myers, was arrested late last night at his residence in the rear of 49 South Humphries street and taken to police headquarters, following information which the police believe fixes the crime on him. Frank Hughes and Calvin Mathis, brother-in-law of Myers, and also the wives of Mathis and Myers, were held as important witnesses.

Myers recently completed a stockade sentence of thirty days and has served a term in the chaingang for shooting a man, it is said. Captain S. S. Dobbs and Detective Sergeant Waggoner put the prisoners through a severe grill last night after they were brought to the station.

Hughes said that he had seen Myers Tuesday morning and he asked him whether Mr. Moore still had a big roll of money. On being answered that Hughes did not know, Myers is said to have flashed a pistol and made the threat that he would get Mr. Moore last night. Myers denies that he saw Hughes at all and insisted that he knew nothing whatever about the crime.

Mathis, Myers' brother-in-law, stated that Myers came home and changed his clothes, before he went out last night, putting on his (Mathis') clothes, overalls and shoes in their stead. On his return home, after the killing, he changed back to his own clothes, it was said.

Myers never worked for Mr. Moore. The theory that the crime was committed by a discharged employee, which was first entertained by the police, has been abandoned, and they are now working on the theory that robbery was the motive.

Myers will be confronted today with W. J. Rutledge and H. L. Elliott, white men, who saw the negro running away from the scene of the killing.

"I knew that something had happened to my husband when his phone was cut off," said Mrs. Moore afterward, through her sobs and tears, at the handsome Moore home at 27 East Georgia avenue.

"John never cut me off like that in his life, and I knew he had been hurt. Bob Smith informed me a few minutes later."

Mrs. Moore had telephoned Mr. Moore to tell him to meet her at once, as she wanted him to go to the home of a kinsman, where one of the members of the family had died during the day.

#### **Wife Hurried to Scene.**

Mrs. Moore, accompanied by her 12-year-old son, Alven, hurried in an auto to her dying husband, who breathed his last in the arms of W. J. Rutledge, of 231 McDaniel street, just before her arrival.

Mr. and Mrs. Rutledge saw the negro assassin steal across McDaniel street in front of their home, which adjoins the offices of the Moore coal and wood yard. They were standing on their front porch. They saw the negro approach the office window and a moment later heard the report of a pistol.

#### **Negro Was Seen.**

"I ran into the street," said Mr. Rutledge, "just in time to get a good description of the negro, who quickly disappeared in the darkness, running in the direction of Georgia avenue. He was a low, chunky negro, about 5 feet 6 inches tall. He had on overall jumpers. The negro had hid himself across the street from my home in a low tree. I saw him come out from the shadows of this tree.

"When I saw I could not catch the murderer I ran into John's office. My wife quickly followed me. We held John up in our arms and called to him, but he never spoke a word. He had fallen to the floor in front of the telephone. He died within ten minutes and before Bob Smith, a friend nearby, could get his wife.

"There was not a better fellow anywhere than John Moore. He had made a fortune for himself, starting out in the coal and wood business twelve years ago and sawing his own wood."

H. L. Elliott and W. C. Sergeant, of 63 Garibaldi street, informed Police-  
man Kirk that they saw the negro turn from McDaniel street into Georgia avenue. Their description of the murdered tallied with that given by Mr. Rutledge.

#### **Negro Employees Questioned.**

Chief of Police W. M. Mayo with Police Commissioners Andy King and Robert Holland and a score of officers hurried to the scene of the murder and detained a half dozen negroes who worked for Mr. Moore and were still in the yard. The police authorities hope that these negroes may divulge some information concerning the negro who killed Mr. Moore.

The first theory of the murder advanced by the police was that Mr. Moore was killed by some disgruntled negro whom he had discharged. About fifty negroes are worked in the yard. This theory was later abandoned.

The six negroes were not put under arrest, but questioning of them failed to divulge any information.

The body was removed to Harry G. Poole's chapel.

Mr. Moore is survived by his widow, one son, Alven, age 12, and one daughter, Helen, age 6; his mother and two sisters, Miss Elizabeth Moore and Mrs. W. H. Miller.

The police at two o'clock Wednesday morning made a thorough search of Will Myers house and found a loaded pistol with one of the cartridges exploded. The pistol was wrapped up in a shirt.

## Judge Hill Denies Hugle New Trial

Frank Hugle, the negro under sentence of death for complicity in the murder recently of John H. Moore, McDaniel street coal dealer, Saturday was denied a new trial by Judge Ben Hill, in the criminal division of the Superior Court.

The motion for a new trial for Will Miles, also under sentence to hang as the principal in the same crime, was scheduled for hearing Saturday, but was continued until next Saturday.

It was expected that Attorney Tillou Von Nunes, for Hugle, immediately would appeal to the Supreme Court. Miles is represented by Attorney T. Donnelly Bennett.

## Death Sentence for Hugle Is Affirmed

The Supreme Court Saturday declined to set aside the verdict of the lower court in the case of Frank Hugle, the negro accomplice under death sentence in connection with the murder of John Moore, wealthy coal dealer, in his office, on McDaniel street, several months ago.

The decision of Judge Ben Hill in overruling a motion for a new trial was affirmed. The Supreme Court held there was corroborated evidence of a free confession, and Judge Hill did not err in his charge to the jury regarding recommendations for mercy.

Will Miles, principal in the shooting, was hanged.

## HUGLE IS SENTENCED TO HANG ON JUNE 22

Victor Hugle, the negro convicted as an accomplice in the death of John H. Moore, coal dealer of McDaniel street, was yesterday sentenced to death for the second time in Judge Ben Hill's court. Will Miles, the negro who was convicted of the murder of Moore, was hanged several months ago.

A plea of insanity was entered by the negro's attorney, Tillou Von Nunes, but Judge Hill ruled that this plea should be made to the governor.

Hugle was led into the courtroom to receive his sentence with tears streaming down his face and, after he was sentenced, he began mumbling and crying in incoherent tones. The date of the execution was set for June 22.

DAY, JULY 20, 1917.

## Negro Slayer Hanged Protesting Innocence

Frank Hugle, the negro youth convicted as an accomplice in the murder of J. H. Moore, McDaniel street coal dealer, was hanged Friday in the Tower. Hugle's neck was broken, and he was pronounced dead in 18 minutes. The drop fell at 11:03 o'clock. The trap was sprung by Sheriff James I. Lowry.

Will Miles, the negro who confessed to firing the shot that killed Moore, was hanged several months ago.

Hugle went to his death protesting that he was innocent. He made a statement on the gallows, in which he said he was two blocks from the Moore coal office when the crime was committed. He was employed in the coal yard, and said the only thing he knew about the murder was that Will Miles met him in the street and asked him if "Mr. Moore had any money." He said he replied that Mr. Moore had about \$300.

## FRANK HUGLE RESPITED.

### Commission Is Given Time to Pass on His Petition.

Governor Harris has granted a respite until July 20 to Frank Hugle, negro, sentenced to be hanged next Friday for complicity in the murder of John H. Moore, Atlanta coal dealer.

Will Miles, another negro, has already been hanged for Moore's murder. Hugle is said to have watched while Miles did the killing.

The petition for respite was filed by Attorney Tillou Von Nunes, and the respite was asked on the ground that a petition for commutation to life imprisonment had been filed before the state prison commission, but that the commission will not be in session again until after the date set for Hugle's execution.

The petition alleges that Miles made a death statement confessing to the murder of Moore and exonerating Hugle.

## Only an Eleventh-Hour Development Can Stay Hugle Hanging Friday

Unless there is an eleventh-hour development Frank Hugle, a negro, will on Friday pay the penalty for his alleged part in the murder of J. H. Moore, wealthy coal dealer, several months ago.

Hugle is sentenced to hang Friday between the hours of 10 a. m. and 2 p. m. at the county jail.

Will Miles, another negro, has already been hanged for the crime. He was alleged to have confessed to shooting Mr. Moore, implicating Hugle in his confession. Later he denied the confession. Hugle has always denied any part in the crime.

Mr. Moore was shot while in his office on McDaniel street. He was talking with his wife over the phone at the time. Miles, it is said, claimed that he had a pistol pointed at Mr. Moore and that on becoming nervous he pulled the trigger unintentionally. Robbery was given as the motive.

## Slayer's Accomplice Is Again Sentenced

Frank Hugle, the negro convicted as an accomplice in the slaying some time ago of John H. Moore, wealthy coal dealer in McDaniel street, Friday for the second time was sentenced to death by Judge Ben Hill. The date of execution was fixed as June 22. Will Miles, the negro who confessed to firing the shot that killed Moore, was hanged several months ago.

Attorney Tillou Von Nunes, counsel for Hugle, made a plea of insanity for the negro when the latter was brought into court and asked Judge Hill to have him examined by the county physician. Judge Hill, however, ruled that this was beyond his jurisdiction, and informed the attorney he would have to make this plea to the Governor. Hugle was led into the courtroom crying and mumbling.

Hugle's case had been appealed to the Supreme Court, that tribunal recently affirming the conviction and death sentence. The original sentence had expired, and this necessitated the resentencing.

## DEATH DATE SET FOR SLAYER OF J. H. MOORE

Will Miles, the negro who confessed to slaying John H. Moore, wealthy coal dealer who was shot to death some time ago in his office in McDaniel street, and who later repudiated the confession, Monday was re-sentenced by Judge Ben Hill to be hanged in the Tower on Tuesday, January 30.

The hanging of Miles will be the first execution to be conducted by Fulton's new Sheriff, Captain James I. Lowry, the date being less than one month from the time Captain Lowry assumed office.

Miles' only hope to escape death on the gallows now rests with the Governor, as his case has been closed so far as the courts are concerned. Immediately after his conviction, his attorney made a motion for a new trial, and this was overruled by Judge Hill. No appeal from this decision was taken to the higher courts, and now no other recourse through the courts is open to him.

The case of Frank Hugle, Miles' alleged confederate in the murder,

has been appealed to the Supreme Court, and it is probable that Miles will have been executed before a decision is handed down.

The doomed negro was taken from the jail to the courthouse—his last time in the open air and sunshine—by Court officer Kenny Mason. When taken before Judge Hill and asked by the court if he had anything to say as to why the death sentence should not be pronounced, he again denied his guilt.

"Judge, they just beat me up at the police station and made me say what I did—I wasn't at Mr. Moore's office the night he was killed, and didn't have nothin' to do with it."

Judge Hill, however, told the negro the evidence against him was overwhelming, and that there was no doubt of his guilt.

"My advice to you now is to prepare for eternity," said the court. "Your only hope now is a possible commutation by the Governor, and I don't think there is any chance of that."

When Judge Hill pronounced the execution date as Tuesday, January 30, Miles exclaimed:

"Is that tomorrow—am I to hang tomorrow?"

Officer Mason, who stood close by his side, promptly set him right as to the date.

Beyond this, the negro showed no agitation when told that he must die within the month.

## DOOMED NEGRO CHANGES HIS CONFESSION

Saved from death on the gallows Tuesday by a motion for a new trial, filed Monday by Attorney T. Donnelly Bennett, Will Miles, the negro who made a full confession of the murder of John H. Moore, widely known coal leader, has made an eleventh hour denial of his guilt in a frantic effort to finally escape the penalty of the law.

All preparations for the execution had been made when the new trial motion was presented to Judge Ben Hill, in the Criminal Court. Judge Hill set the motion for hearing on November 18, and signed a supersedeas, staying the execution until after that time. In the event the motion is denied, Miles will have to be resentenced to death.

The execution of Frank Hugle, Miles' alleged accomplice, which was scheduled for Friday of this week, previously had been temporarily stayed by a similar order from Judge Hill, based on a motion for a new trial.

Miles repudiated his confession in a conversation with Sheriff Mangum before the supersedeas had been signed. He denied that he shot Moore, or that he had any hand in the tragedy.

Asked by the Sheriff why he had changed his story, the doomed negro replied:

"Just because I ain't guilty."

## Negro, In Death Cell, Asks for Fried Chicken On Eve of Execution

Will Miles, colored, quartered in the death cell next the little yellow room at the top of the Fulton county tower where he will be hanged Tuesday for the murder of J. H. Moore, ate a substantial breakfast of fried chicken and eggs Monday morning.

With his end less than thirty-six hours away, the prisoner does not seem to realize his fate. At his own request, Jailer Bob Holland provided him with chicken for breakfast and he has asked for another big meal later in the day. He will be hanged some time between 10 o'clock in the morning and 4 in the afternoon Tuesday, probably about noon.

Miles was convicted for shooting Mr. Moore, a coal dealer, last fall, while the latter sat at the telephone in his shop on South McDaniel street. The bullet was fired through the window and entered Mr. Moore's heart.

This is the first hanging under the administration of Sheriff James I. Lowry.

## Moore's Slayer Tries to Hang Self in Cell

Turnkeys at the police station learned Friday that just before the hearing Thursday afternoon of Will Meyers, confessed slayer of John H. Moore, coal merchant, that the negro had attempted to hang himself with blankets.

According to information gathered by the officers, Meyers failed in his attempt because the blanket became untied. He dropped to the cell floor unhurt. He had planned, the police say, to break his neck by jumping from the side of his bunk while the noose was suspended from the cell top.

Meyers and Frank Hugle, alleged accomplice in the murder of Tuesday night, were held without bond. The Grand Jury had the case Thursday. It is expected the pair will go to trial early next week.

## Will Miles Hangs For Moore Murder

Will Miles, negro, was hanged Tuesday at 11 o'clock in the Fulton Tower. Sheriff Lowry in person conducting his first execution. Miles protested he was not guilty of the murder of J. H. Moore, for which he was sentenced, and declared Frank Hugle, a negro companion, was the guilty man. Hugle was in a cell nearby, awaiting the result of his appeal after conviction as an accomplice of Miles.

Miles made a brief talk to the scores of men admitted to the execution, warning them against hanging bad company.