

15,000 SEE WACO LYNCHING

NEGRO TAKEN OUT OF COURTROOM BY MOB AND BURNED

By Associated Press

WACO, May 15.—With 15,000 persons as witnesses, including women and children, Jesse Washington, negro boy, who confessed to the criminal assaulting and murder of Mrs. Lucy Fryar, seven miles south of here last Monday afternoon, was taken from the Fifty-fourth district courtroom shortly before noon today and burned on the public square.

The burning came immediately after the negro's trial had ended and after the jury had returned a verdict of guilty, giving him the death penalty.

Some one not far from the negro started the cry of "get the negro." It was taken up by all of those from that part of the county where Mrs. Fryer was killed, and Washington was then seized and removed from the courtroom.

The crowd at first seemed willing to hang the negro from the suspension bridge, but a suggestion that he be burned on the plaza met with instant response, and he was dragged to the city hall yard, the chain around his neck thrown over the limb of a tree, wood hastily secured and the fire started.

When the flames had subsided somewhat, quite a number in the crowd cut off the negro's fingers and other parts of his body.

NEGRO PLEADED GUILTY.

The negro pleaded guilty to the crime, and after the verdict had been returned he said, in a half audible whisper, "I'm sorry I done it."

No demonstration was made until after the jury's verdict had been received and preparations were being made to remove the prisoner to the jail. The rush came with such suddenness that officers, lawyers and newspaper men were swept off their feet and the negro secured before anyone could stop the proceedings.

Numbers of sightseers remained at the scene of the burning for some time, but the mob withdrew after the charred body had been left to smoulder. Before the crowd had dispersed, however, cries were uttered to pull the body up so that it could be seen by the crowd.

About 1 p. m. some members of the mob returned to the scene of the burning, put the body in a sack, and with a man on horseback, dragged the body through the principal streets.

The horsemen headed in the direction of Robinson, where Mrs. Fryer was murdered, and it is thought to be the intention to carry the body back to the scene of the crime.

The crime for which Washington was lynched was committed last Monday at Robinson, seven miles south of Waco. The negro was working in the field with Fryar and was sent to the house to get some cotton seed. Mrs. Fryar went to the barn to get the seed for the boy, and according to his confession made last Tuesday he struck her on the head with a hammer before committing the assault. He told where the hammer was hidden and it was found the next day.

The crime was discovered late in the afternoon when Fryar returned from the field. The woman's body, her head beaten in and nearly all her clothing torn off, was found in the barn.

Mrs. Fryer was 33 years old and is

(CONTINUED ON PAGE SEVEN.)

NEGRO TAKEN OUT OF COURTROOM AT WACO AND BURNED

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE.)

survived by her husband, one daughter and a son.

Crowd Visits Jail.

Washington was arrested Tuesday and after his confession he was taken to the Dallas county jail for safe keeping. Tuesday night a crowd of about seventy-five people from the southern part of the county came to Waco and searched the jail here. These men were conducted through the jail by Sheriff Fleming, who told them the negro was at Dallas.

Though there were several deputy sheriffs in the courtroom at the time Washington was captured by the mob, no special efforts were being made to guard the negro, as the people of Robinson had assured the sheriff that they would not interfere with the enforcement of the law if Washington was given a speedy trial.