

SEES CRUSHED BODY OF O'DEE HENDERSON

By **EYEWITNESS**
(Special to The Pittsburgh Courier)

FAIRFIELD, Ala., May 23—I saw the crushed body of 24-year-old O'Dee Henderson shortly after it was brought into the Whiteside and Poole Undertaking establishment in the colored sector of Fairfield, Friday morning. It was not dressed as yet and stood there as evidence of one of the most inhuman and brutal acts ever to be perpetrated in this nation.

It was brought here from the Tennessee Coal and Iron hospital, where it had been taken by police officers under the subterfuge of being an automobile accident case. A brother, Clark Henderson, had talked to hospital officials and made arrangements for the burial. Ben and Lillie Henderson, mother and father of the youth, were not permitted to see his body for several days. An investigation was being carried on by Coroner T. J. Collum of Bessemer and his aides. Mayor C. N. Gilley was kept under the impression that the youth had his head smashed in an automobile accident by the police department for some time. I saw the body before even the post-mortem examination.

It was one of the most grotesque sights I have ever seen. The youth, Henderson, whose reputation in this community was said to be excellent, was light in complexion, but in death he was beaten so badly that he had turned black and blue. He was swollen all over, especially in the face which was almost wholly mutilated. His head laid flat on the slab, the back of it completely crushed. It had grown soft from the constant beating by black-jacks and other implements of the police officers before Henderson was shot.