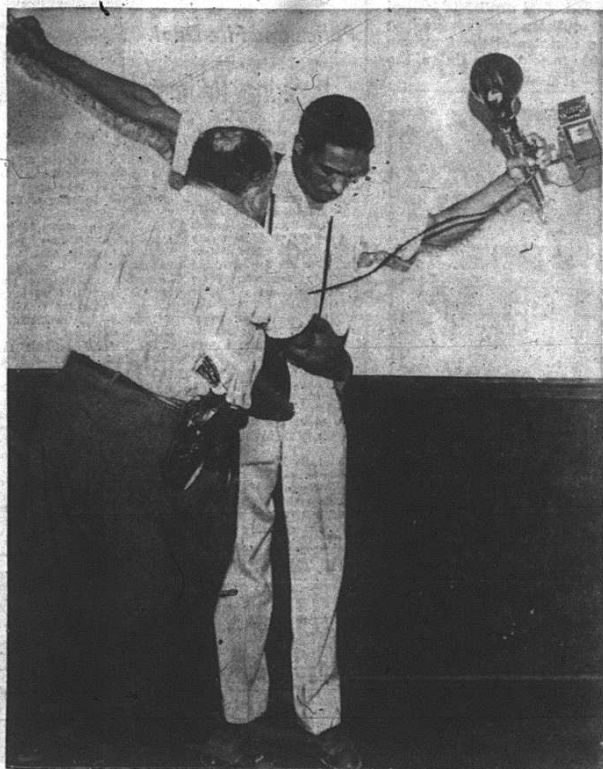


The St. Louis Argus

SECOND SECTION

ST. LOUIS ARGUS, SEPTEMBER 30, 1955

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Photographer Franklin Searched By Dixie Deputy.

Staff Photog Tells Own Story of Trip

By Wm. B. FRANKLIN Argus Staff Photographer

With my phone jumping off the hook constantly since my return from Mississippi, America's state of terror, and with many asking why, how, when and what was done to secure the more than 200 pictures while there? I decided to write it as it happened

for all to see and perhaps so I can get some rest.

It all started on Saturday morning, September 17, at nine o'clock when I was awakened by the persistent buzzing of my telephone. Answering with a sleepy hello, I recognized the caller as little Mrs. Nannie Mitchell-Turner, my boss and president of the St. Louis Argus. She said in a stern voice, "Franklin, we are going to Mississippi to cover the Till murder trial." I was fully awake now and I replied, we are, when? She said, "as soon as possible."

Many things went through my mind as I dressed. I remembered the last time I went South to cover a story was when many persons were killed during a tornado in Arkansas, Tennessee and Mississippi. I thought of the first and last time I had covered a lynching was in the State of Missouri. I remembered very well my long trip to Korea as a combat photographer, and I quietly said to myself—but I have never been to Mississippi, and as Keweenaw, I was not too happy about going.

"At 11 a.m. I arrived at the office and was greeted by my ever-smiling friend and advertising manager for the Argus, Irving A. Williamson. Brother Williamson, as we call him, was ready and waiting to inject all the necessary enthusiasm to go along with the assignment, and so he did. Shortly afterward, Howard B. Woods, news chief, arrived, and almost immediately we all went into conference and the trip was planned. A call was put in to Steve Duncan, our top newshound, and we decided to leave Sunday morning after church. I remembered that the

(Continued on Page 19)

Philosophy

The biggest man in the USA has been stricken with a heart attack. To me he was the on-man whose heart was right.

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