

ARREST 3 IN GERRELL CRIME

Mexicans in Jail Deny They Are Guilty

SKULLS OF MAN, WIFE AND BABY FRACTURED

Stains on Clothes of One Un- der Arrest May Aid the Officers

Three Mexicans are under arrest as suspects in probably the most heartless and vicious crime ever perpetrated in Tarrant county. M. F. Gerrell, his wife and infant daughter, who were sleeping in a cottage at Watauga, were attacked by one or more Mexicans and brutally beaten with a club or other blunt instrument.

But for the fact that the son and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerrell awoke it is probable the whole family would have been killed. The boy and girl being roused from sleep by the crying of the baby and hearing a noise in their parents' room rushed in to see what was the matter.

The girl caught sight of a Mexican fleeing from the room just as she entered it. The boy followed the man out and saw him run in the direction of the line of cars where the Mexicans are housed.

The children then endeavored to assist their parents, but found them both unconscious and swathed in blood. Both their skulls were fractured and they were so horribly beaten that their features were hardly recognizable. The babe which was sleeping at their side was the victim of a stroke from the weapon which cracked its skull as well.

Boy Notifies Police

The boy, Wilson Gerrell, notified the police while his sister, who is about sixteen years of age, watched over the almost lifeless forms of her father and mother.

A special train with a physician and Deputies Mansker, Ralph Purvis, L. Andrews and Walter Roark was at once sent to the scene. On the statement of the girl, Miguel Sanchez, a Mexican, was arrested and brought to the county jail.

According to the police she identified him fully as the man who fled from the room as she entered.

He was found in his home, a box car, upon a siding, but despite a careful search no incriminating evidence could be found against him. On account of the positive identification of the girl the deputies were certain at first they had the man who committed the assault, but the Sanchez was put thru a severe examination in the county attorney's office at the court house Monday forenoon, lasting several hours, he refused in any way to admit he was connected with the crime.

Believe Story Weak

In fact, after being brought to the court house he inquired why he was there, saying the officers had told him nothing of why he was arrested. In one particular the police believe his story is weak.

He claims to never have had a word of trouble with Gerrell or any member of the family. It is believed a recent dispute with the son of Gerrell can be proven as cause of animosity between the Mexican and Gerrell.

The Mexican has worked for Gerrell about ten months. Gerrell has been running an extra gang for the Katy for about two years and employs a large number of Mexicans. Formerly for a long time he was in the employ of the Texas and Pacific Railway Company and has many friends among the railroad men in and about Fort Worth.

Two More Arrests

Two other Mexicans were arrested in the early hours of the morning by Officers Hills, Brown and Norwood near the Orphans' Home. One of these men has stains upon his clothes which appear like blood, but the police are not positive he is identified with the crime. He gave as his reason for being out at that hour in the morning the fact he had gone out to the camp at Watauga Sunday to get a job and having obtained it was returning to Fort Worth to take a train in the early morning to the stone quarries where his wife and family are, planning to bring them here at once.

All three are being held for further examination and the police are working on the case.

It is planned to bring the injured to Fort Worth late Monday afternoon and place them in a hospital here for treatment. Virgil Parker, assistant to County Attorney Roy, left for Watauga at 3 o'clock Monday to make a complete examination of the camp for any evidence he may be able to procure.