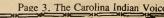
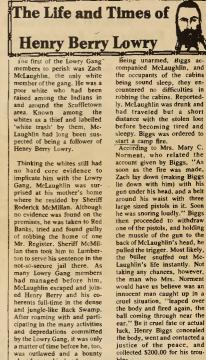
Thursday, December 30, 1976







The first of the Lowry Gang-members to perish was Zach McLaughlin, the only white member of the gang. He was a poor white who had been raised among the Indians in and around the Scuffletown area. Known among the whites as a thief and labelled 'white trash' by them, Mc-Laughlin had long been sus-pected of being a follower of Henry Berry Lowry.

Henry Berry Lowry. Thinking the whites still had no hard core evidence to implicate him with the Lowry Gang, McLaughlin was sur-prised at his mother's home where he resided by Sheriff Roderick McMillan. Although no evidence was found on the premises, he was taken to Red Banks, tried and found guilty no evidence was found on the gremises, he was taken to Red Banks, tried and found guilty no evidence was found on the the home of one Mr. Register. Sheriff McMil-an then took him to Lumber-ton to serve his sentence in the not-so-secure jail there. As many Lowry Gang members had managed before him, McLaughlin escaped and join-ed Henry Berry and his co-berents full-time in the dense and jongle-like Back Swamp. After roaming with and parti-cipating in the many activities and depredations committed by the Lowry Gang, it was only matter of time before he, too, was outlawed and a bounty placed upon his head. outlawed and a ed upon his head. bounty

On the night of December 21, 1870, Henry Biggs met Mc-Laughlin at the home of another white, Noah Duncan. After supper, the two whites left together.

According to Mrs. Mary C. Norment (author of The Low-rie History'). "McLaughlin drew a pisto on Biggs and commenced cursing him, tell-ing him that he had tried to persuade him long enough to join their band, and that he should compel him that night to go and aid him in robbing some cabins belonging (to turpentine hands in the neigh-borhood."

collected \$200,00 for his trou-bles. The last paragraph in 'The Lowrie History' dealing with the murder of Zach McLaugh-lin relates: 'The reader will recollect that McLaughlin was the murderer of Owen C. Norment (the author's hus-band) in March preceding his death. He was considered by all who knew him as more brutal than any of the gang.'' If he was more brutal than henry Biggs who shot a sleeping man through the back of the head, and then leaped over the body to shoot him once again from a different angle, then all this writer has to add is ''God rest his soul!'

Continued next week.

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