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Doctor's Killer Surrenders Self On West Coast

**Thomas Lane, Convicted
In Morris Slaying,
Escaped In 1945**

A 58-year-old man, sentenced to a life term in Kilby Prison in circuit court here Oct. 2, 1931 for the fatal shooting of a prominent Piedmont physician, Saturday gave himself up to a California sheriff and said he had escaped from an Alabama prison.

The San Bernadino, Calif., sheriff identified the man as Thomas Lane, convicted in circuit court here for the May 22, 1931, shooting of Dr. John D. Morris, medical doctor and a member of the Calhoun County Board of Health at the time of his death.

Lane, alias Lang, pleaded "not guilty" to the murder charge at the time by reason of insanity. Newspaper accounts of the shooting said Lane shot the physician six times in the abdomen at Dr. Morris' farm about a mile from Piedmont.

After the shooting, the accounts said he gave himself up by walking into the station of Police Chief Charlie Smith at Piedmont.

Records at Kilby Prison in Montgomery showed Lane escaped from Atmore prison farm Dec. 22, 1945. They also showed Lane had escaped from custody on two previous occasions, both times from Bryce Hospital in Tuscaloosa, where he had been sent because he suffered from a mental disorder.

Kilby Identification Officer W. L. Odiorne said Lane was first transferred to Bryce on May 16, 1932. He escaped from the institution Dec. 26, 1932, and was not captured until May 5, 1935, when he was returned to Kilby.

Transferred to Bryce a second time in April of 1941, Lane escaped again and was finally recaptured and brought back to Kilby the following Nov. 19, after which he was sent to the Atmore prison.

Dr. Morris had been a physician in the Piedmont district for more than 20 years.