

SAYS MONEY HIDDEN IN GOV. JOHNSON'S HOME; IS ARRESTED

Mystery Case Develops When J. O. Slayton Is Held After Quitting Valverde.

New Roads, La., Sept. 10.—J. O. Slayton was arrested at Bunkie, La., Saturday on an affidavit made by Charles A. Smith, of Valverde. There is much mystery connected with the arrest, and it is difficult to understand the nature of the charge against the arrested man, or what was his purpose in visiting Valverde. There is much gossip about the affair in this vicinity, and rumors of many sorts are in circulation, but the tangible facts are very meager.

It is said that Slayton went to the store of Mr. Smith at Valverde, where he told the bookkeeper, J. P. Jewell, that he was gathering data for some woman in Mississippi, who was writing a history of the South and the Confederacy, and wanted some information with respect to the late Governor Johnson, who was governor of Louisiana in 1832, and who owned a plantation somewhere in Louisiana. Jewell told him Governor Johnson at one time owned the Woodley plantation, now the property of Mr. Smith, and that the place was Governor Johnson's old home.

Slayton said he would be glad to get some data in connection with the Governor's ownership of the home, and facts connected with the Governor himself. He was told Medora Baptiste, who was a servant of the Governor, might supply the information. Slayton went to see Medora Baptiste and, returning, said she talked so fast he could not get her statement, but that he would return with a stenographer, and he asked permission of Mr. Smith to go to Woodley plantation to take some pictures.

The request was granted and Slayton returned a few days later with a young woman stenographer. Mr. Smith and his family were in North Carolina at this time.

Slayton met Mrs. Mortimer Guerin, who lives with her husband in the old Johnson residence, and persuaded her to take the young woman in for the night, saying he would stay with Medora Baptiste. The next morning Slayton and the young woman, with Mrs. Guerin, started to visit the tomb of Governor Johnson, which is about 300 yards from the house, but on the way he said the young woman knew how to operate the camera, and he would go back and look at the barn. Instead of going to the barn, he went to the residence, and was in the back room where the stairs are while Mrs. Guerin and the young woman were trying to get a picture of the tomb, which occupied considerable time for some reason or other.

Finally Slayton came out of the house and called to them, and informed Mrs. Guerin there was money on the place, and if she would give him permission he could lay hands on it. Mrs. Guerin told him she did not own the property, whereupon he said all of the Johnson heirs were dead and offered to divide the treasure with Mrs. Guerin. She told him to wait until her husband came from the field at noon. While waiting, Slayton told Mrs. Guerin he had got his information from a niece of Governor Johnson, who was in an insane asylum and muttered about money under the third step of the stairway.

When Mr. Guerin came in, Slayton took the matter up with him, and they looked under the step, and Slayton said "Some one has been here already."

He then, according to the statement of Mr. Guerin, appeared to be anxious to get away, and was driven back to Medora Baptiste's place, from which he was sent to the Frisco train.

The young woman who was with Slayton is said to be very prominent in Mississippi and was released on bond last Wednesday. Governor Johnson is reputed to have been very wealthy and there are those who believed there was something in the mutterings about money being concealed under the stairway.