

After Miss Merle left with the two baskets, Mapes and that long, tall boy friend of Candy stayed out in the road talking. They was leaning aback against ~~the~~ Mapes car talking and looking at us in the yard. Me, I was leaning back "gaint the garry, near the end, where yyou went round the house back to the toilet. Jacob was coj9ng back from the toilet, and 'fore he got back to the front, I seen him bend over and got the shells from the box under the house. He put one shell in his gun, and put the other one in his overall pocket. You see, that's what w4 had been doing all the time. Sure, we was going to the toilet, too. Everybody sooner or later had to go back there, bu wa was doing more. Clatoo had told us where he had hid the box of shells, and every time one of us went to the toilet, and didn't catch one of the white foòks looki g, we ducked down by the side of the hose and got a souple shells out the boxl Put one in the gun, and the other one in your pocket, case you needed it later. And nobody, none of them knowed anything about this, but the men, the black omen. Not evens the women knowed anything about it. Just the black men who had guns knowed about the shells under the hose. It was Clatoo who did it. Sure, he said, empty guns was good for Mapes--he was the sheriff--sbut, he said, he had never heard of no empty gun yet that scared off a mob. Bullets did. So he had collected all the shells he could, and had hid them under the house, when he came back from up the road with that second load of men. Clatoo didn't want Billy Washington Jean Pierre Morgan to have live bullets, 'cause they was a little minus in sigt, and they might shoot the wrong peopoe in the heat of battle, but Billy Washington said he was here like everybody else was here, to stand with Mathu, and he was go'm have a live shell in his gun like every body else, or else. He said just 'cause he was a little minus