



Scottsboro Boys Part I

Mrs. Urbanec

1931-- Alabama

- ❑ Some boys (black and white) hitched a ride on a train. They were looking for work.
- ❑ A fight broke out and the white boys were shoved off the train.
- ❑ When the train arrived at the next station, the 9 black boys were arrested.

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What do you think they were arrested for?



RAPE

- ❑ Two women in another car on the train who had never seen the boys claimed that the 9 black boys raped them. The white boys who were thrown off confirmed this story.
- ❑ The two women were Victoria Price and Ruby Bates.

Left: Ruby Bates & Victoria Price in 1931



A Trial

- ❑ The Scottsboro 9 went to trial. They were represented by volunteer lawyers who were ill-equipped.
- ❑ Even though the evidence had holes in it, 8 were sentenced to death. One, Roy Wright, the youngest (13), was sentenced to life in prison.

**Do you think their trial
was fair?**

The Nation Becomes Outraged

- News of the injustices in the judicial system of the South reached the entire country and even across the globe.
- People started letter writing campaigns, rallies, and marches. There were even demonstrations in Paris, Moscow, and South Africa.



Primary Source Analysis Activity

- ❑ The following are posters and pamphlets from this time.
- ❑ 1. On a clean piece of notebook paper, draw a line dividing the paper in half. Label one side **Observations** and the other **Conclusions**
- ❑ 2. Take a look at these sources and write down the observations you can make on the **Observations** section of your paper. They might be words, phrases, places, or images. What do you see?
- ❑ 3. On the **Conclusions** side of your paper, write down the information you gathered from the sources. It may include how people felt, what people did, who made these sources, why people made these sources, how far-reaching these trials affected people.

LYNCHING NEGRO CHILDREN IN SOUTHERN COURTS



(THE SCOTTSBORO CASE)

BY JOSEPH NORTH

ISSUED BY

INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE

PAMPHLET NO. 4

5¢

80 EAST 11 STREET, N.Y.C.

DON'T LET
THEM BURN!



INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE

112 E. 19TH STREET ROOM 405 NEW YORK CITY

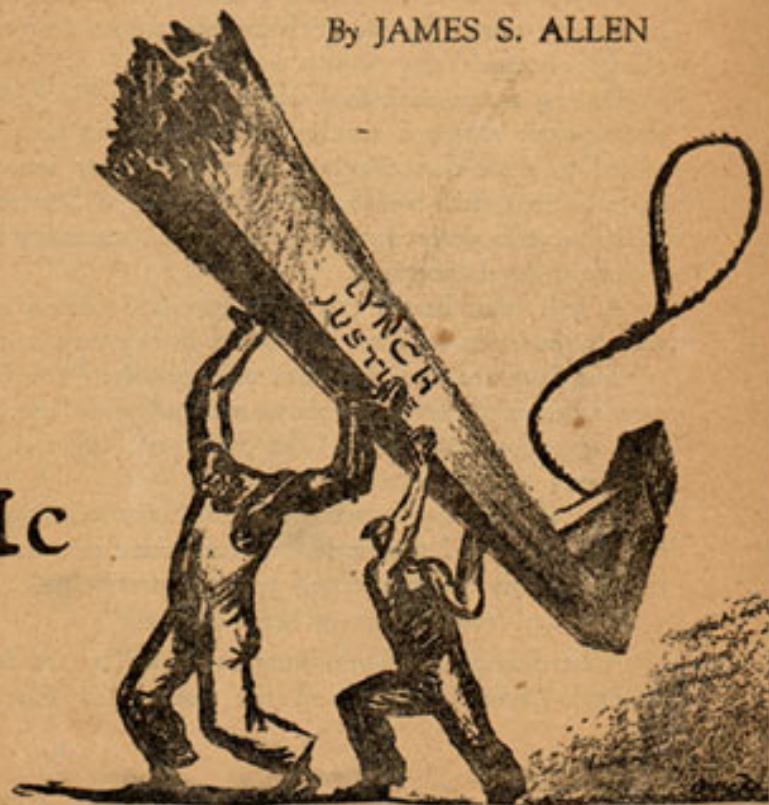
3B

80 NO. DEARBORN ST.
ROOM 400, CHICAGO, ILLS.

SMASH the SCOTTSBORO LYNCH VERDICT

By JAMES S. ALLEN

1c



Don't let them Burn

Stop the Legal Lynching of Nine
Innocent Negro Boys in Scottsboro, Ala.

Mass Protest Demonstration and Parade
38TH & PRAIRIE
Sat. Oct. 8 - 3:30 p. m.

American International Labor Defense

21 So. Lincoln Street

PARADES

From 51st & So. Lawrence to 50th - West to Prairie, North to 38th
From 18th and Indiana South to 22nd - To Prairie South to 18th

Speakers H. NEWTON *Communist Candidate for Congress against De Priest*
S. HAMMERSMARK *Communist Candidate for State Treasurer of Illinois*
CLAUDE LIGHTFOOT *Communist Candidate for State Assembly 5th Dist.*

SMASH LYNCHING AND SEGREGATION

YELLOW WORKERS.

The International Labor Defense has prevented for one year and a half the execution of the Nine Scottsboro Boys, with the mass protest of the workers of the United States and Europe. This mass protest compelled the U. S. Supreme Court to agree to listen to their legal appeal on Oct. 10, 1932.

Now is the time when the workers, Negro and White, native and foreign born, must raise an overwhelming protest against this attempted legal lynching.

No white worker can be free while one Negro is enslaved.

The mothers of these boys call on the workers to smash lynching and give their sons back to them.

Write or wire your protest to the U. S. Supreme Court, Washington, D. C.

Bring masses of workers to this demonstration.

ORGANIZE AND FIGHT AGAINST LYNCHING AND SEGREGATION

DEMAND FREEDOM FOR TOM MOONEY AND ALL CLASS WAR PRISONERS.

STOP DEPORTATION OF FOREIGN BORN WORKERS.

FIGHT POLICE BRUTALITY AND POLICE TERROR.

JOIN AND BUILD THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE.

APPLICATION

I want to join the I. L. D. and help fight against lynching, imprisonment and police terror.

NAME

ADDRESS

STOP DEPORTATION of FOREIGN BORN WORKERS

For COMPLETE FREEDOM
of the
SCOTTSBORO BOYS

The Negro and white workers under the leadership of the International Labor Defense have just won a smashing

Scottsboro Victory

At this moment we must increase the demand stronger than ever for the complete **FREEDOM OF THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS!**

The Supreme Court has been forced by mass pressure to reverse the death verdict.

Negro and white workers

Unite now for complete freedom of the Scottsboro boys. Come to the

MASS MEETING
Friday, April 26th, 8 P. M.
MOUNT PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH
2506 West Lake Street

Speaker: **HERBERT NEWTON, Dist. Sec'y, I.**

ADMISSION 10c

UNEMPLOYE

Address: NORTH SIDE BLDG
INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE
2512 West Division Street

FREE!

SCOTTSBORO BOYS!

FREE!

Attend Rally

November 17th - 2 P. M.

— at —

47th and Prairie Ave.

March To

3300 S. INDIANA - 3 P. M.
PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH

PROMINENT SPEAKERS

Admission 15c

Marchers 5c

SUPPORT TAG DAYS
November 24th - 25th

Address

INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE
LEAGUE OF STRUGGLE FOR NEGRO RIGHTS

Homework

- Write a written response to these reflection questions.
 - 1. Were the Scottsboro boys treated unfairly?
 - 2. Why do you think people failed to treat the Scottsboro boys with justice?
 - 3. Predict how Alabama will respond to these rallies and protests.
 - 4. Predict what will happen to the boys. To Ruby Bates and Victoria Price.

The Supreme Court Steps In

- In 1932 the Supreme Court ruled in *Powell v. Alabama* that the trials were invalidated because they did not have proper representation from a lawyer.

**What do you
predict the
Alabama
courts will do
next?**



A New Trial



- Haywood Patterson was given a new trial
- Samuel Leibowitz heard of the injustices and offered to defend Patterson.
- One of the women, Ruby Bates, retracted her testimony, and a doctor testified there was no evidence of rape.
- Take a look at your next primary source,
Letter from Ruby Bates to Earl Streetman

Why does Bates claim she lied?

How does she feel about what she did?

How do you think the jury will respond to her new testimony?

The Verdict

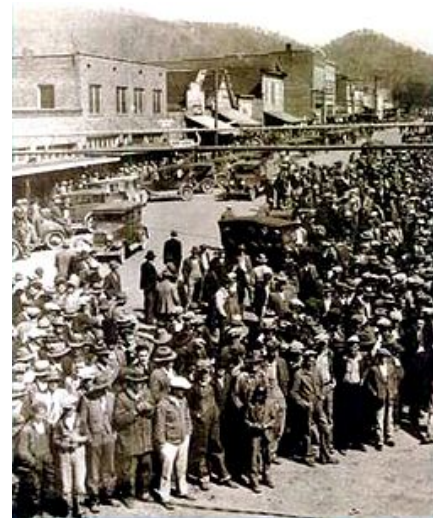
- ❑ The jury found Patterson guilty.
- ❑ The judge threw out the case because he claimed that there was not enough evidence for the jury to convict him.
- ❑ He is tried again but this time with another boy, Clarence Norris.
- ❑ They are convicted again.
- ❑ "sentenced to the electric chair 3 times" -- Norris



MORGAN COUNTY ARCHIVES

The Supreme Court Steps In Again

- ❑ In 1935 the Supreme Court ruled in *Norris v. Alabama* that the convictions were wrong because it was not a jury of their peers, because there were no blacks on the jury.
- ❑ Alabama decided to try the defendants again.
- ❑ The trials last into the 1940s.



How It All Ends

- ❑ Five of the boys, Ozie Powell, Andy Wright, Clarence Norris, Haywood Paterson, and Charlie Weems are convicted and get long prison sentences.
- ❑ They drop the charges of four of the boys, Roy Wright, Eugene Williams, Olen Montgomery, and Willie Roberson.

Roy Wright's Account

- Take a look at your first primary source. We are going to read this as a class.
- Primary Source: The First Days

What are the police supposed to do in our society?

How do the police in Paint Rock act towards the boys?

How was Wright treated during the trial and how did this affect his testimony?

Evaluate this trial with regard to justice.

Works Cited

□ Pictures

■ Train

<http://ghostdepot.com/rg/images/marshall%20route/marshall%20pass%20470%20locomotive%20passenger%20train%201931%20prn.jpg>

■ Supreme Court

http://www.slowtrav.com/blog/chiocciola/washington_dc/

■ Map <https://www.ftnewspaper.com/ftusa/gfx/worldmap.gif>

■ Posters

http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/poets/a_f/boyle/proteste_xhibit.htm

■ Haywood and crowd

<http://www.answers.com/topic/scottsboro-boys>

■ Norris

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/scottsboro/peopleevents/p_norris.html