

Race Hatred Ruled Scottsboro Jurors, Noted Author Asserts



RUBY BATES
Missing for weeks, Ruby Bates, is shown in court in Decatur, Ala., as she denied she or Victoria Price was attacked by Negroes.

Says Death Verdict Was No Surprise to Observers Who Noted Response to Prosecutor's Appeal to Prejudice Against Negroes

Mary Heaton Vorse, distinguished American novelist, who has attended the entire Scottsboro trial, has written the following article for The Pittsburgh Press.

By MARY HEATON VORSE

DECATUR, Ala., April 10—Sentence of the death penalty for Heywood Patterson, one of the so-called Scottsboro boys accused of assaulting Victoria Price, did not come as a surprise to anyone who observed closely the jury's response to race prejudice of Solicitor Wade Wright, one of the state attorneys.

The jury of white men listened to a white woman say she was assaulted by a black man, and they were moved by no further testimony.

Not even when the other girl, Ruby Bates, swore that she had lied in her previous testimony—not even with the testimony of the doctor—not the motivation of the story, that of revenge and self-protection as exposed by Samuel S. Leibowitz, attorney for the defense, could reach the ears of the jury.

A white woman had accused a black man, and he already was condemned.

Appeals to Prejudice

The jury listened as impassive as they were attentive until the summation of Wade Wright, a big, heavy man, dark and florid.

He made a speech which appealed to every race and sectional prejudice of the audience and the jury.

"No Alabama jury will believe a witness bought with Jew money from New York," he shouted. "No, they won't!"

"No!" people murmured in the audience.

Wright's face grew purple. He bent toward the jury. They leaned toward him. He spoke their language. He was saying what they wanted to hear.

"This Carter," he cried, "has been supported by Brodsky. His name soon will be Carterevski, and he'll have a hump from carrying a Jew pack!"

Sways His Listeners

The court-room swayed to his words. There was a rapport between him and the jury. There was between them a dark understanding of blood.

He wanted to burn the black boy sitting there, and their desires and hatred flowed together while he

(Continued on Page 4)

BILL MAY SOLVE NADINE BUNGLE

Loophole for Boulevard Action Sought in Measure Before Governor

The way out of Allegheny County's \$3,500,000 "bungle" on the Allegheny River Boulevard was today up to Governor Gifford Pinchot.

Passed by the Legislature, a bill presented by Representative James H. McClure, an assistant county solicitor, was placed before the Governor for signature.

For almost three years the expensive highway has been idle because two public service companies refuse to give up the right of way which is necessary for the road at Nadine, near Verona.

Gives Right to Condemn

The McClure bill would authorize either the State Secretary of Highways or the County Commissioners to condemn land used by a public service company, as other properties are taken for public use, when a substituted right of way is provided.

The roadway starting at Washington Boulevard, and running to Verona, is completed, except for the 1,300-foot strip at Nadine, where the Pennsylvania Water Company and the Pennsylvania Railroad own

(Left) Clipping from *The Pittsburgh Press*, April 10, 1933, page 1 (Ms. Towns via Newspapers.com)

of the men listed are property owners. A total of 103 (56%) men were listed as the head of household, which they owned. Another 51 (28%) names could not be confirmed by the census. It is possible that these men owned land or houses somewhere other than Morgan County or the surrounding area, or that they somehow were missed by the census takers, or that their names were not recorded or transcribed properly – making positive identification difficult. The other 29 (16%) names were confirmed on the census to be renters.

The listed men of Morgan County included grocery store owners, carpenters, railroad shop workers, doctors, shoe shop owners, barbers, undertakers, druggists, brick masons, ministers, teachers, dentists, and farmers. On the lists were 15 men that were landowning farmers. These men were considered educated and in good standing within the community - model citizens.

Living and farming within Decatur was William R. Johnson. Farming in the communities of Cedar Lake and Flint were Jim Skinner, Will Martin, Will R. Garth, Hillard Tate, Jr, and Elizes Pryor. Southwest of Decatur was John Carpenter. Beyond Decatur, there were several men in Somerville, Allen L. and Clifton C. Draper, Amos M. Russell, and Oscar A. Jackson; in Danville, Clayborn J. and Bird J. Sharpley; Lee

Bibb of Hartselle. In addition to these Morgan County farmers, the lists included Albert Ruffin, who owned a farm across the river in Limestone County since at least 1920. By 1930, he was in his mid 60s, and perhaps moved into Decatur sometime between the 1930 census and the 1933 trials.

The list of names presented at the trial indicate not only the individuals of the community that were held in high praise, but the professions and characteristics of those individuals. When presented with these lists, the witnesses overwhelmingly chose individuals that contributed to the community at large – homeowners, landowners, business owners, community leaders. While those that were given the chance to testify were the most prominent people of color from the most prominent and entrenched families in Old Town, their testimony clearly expresses the values held by the community and the relationship of those values to landownership.



VOTE CHEATERS ARE CONFESSING

U. S. Agents Claim Admis-

LIBERTY TUNNELS