





Lynch  
/lin(t)SH/

verb

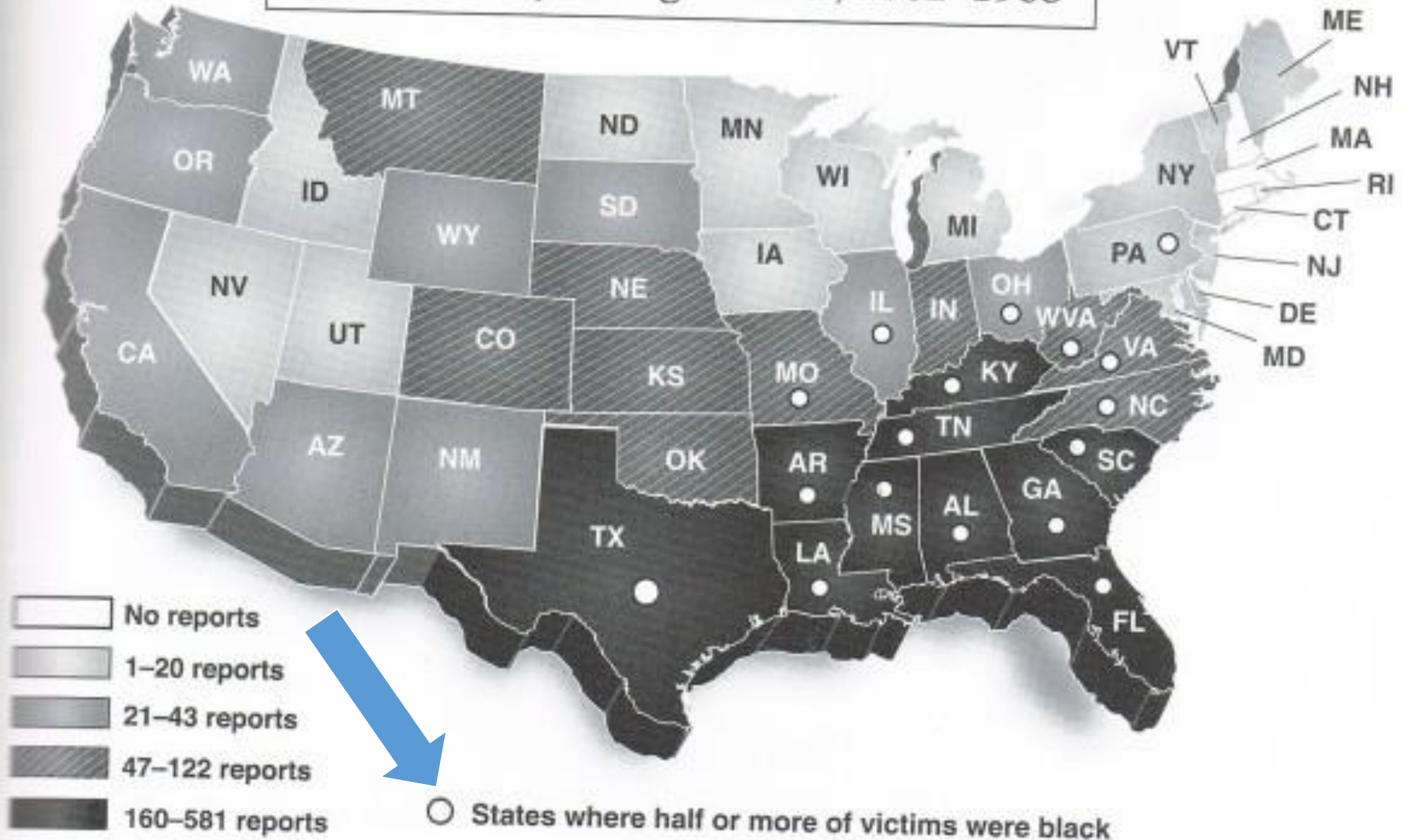
noun: lynching

(of a mob) kill (someone), especially by hanging, for an alleged offense with or without a legal trial.

synonyms:

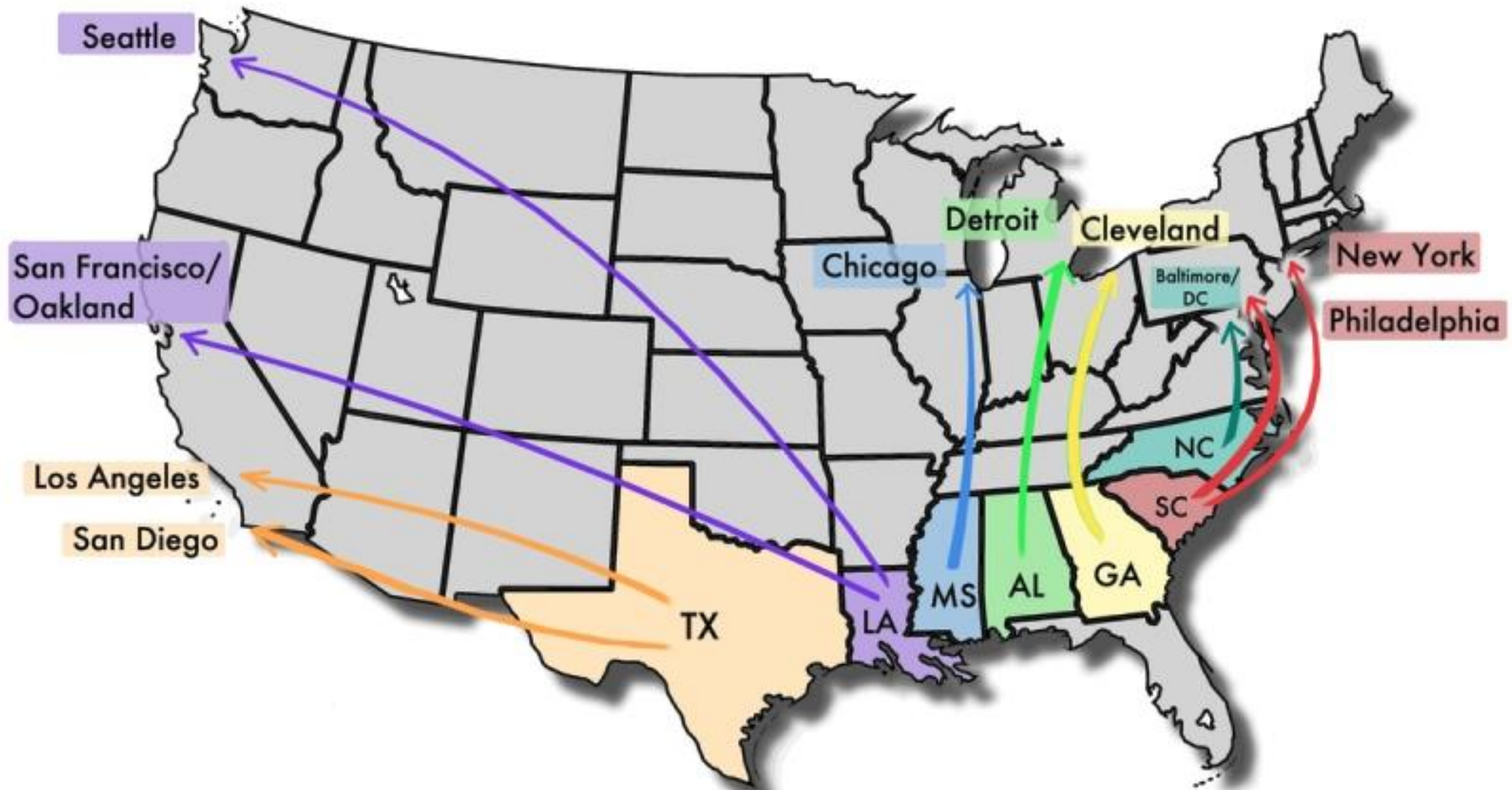
hang, hang by the neck;

# Number of Lynching Victims, 1882–1968



# The Geography of the Great Migration

The Migration of African Americans from the American South (1910-1970)



Like many Southern families, the Till family fled the racism of the South and moved to Chicago between WWI and WWII during the Great Migration.



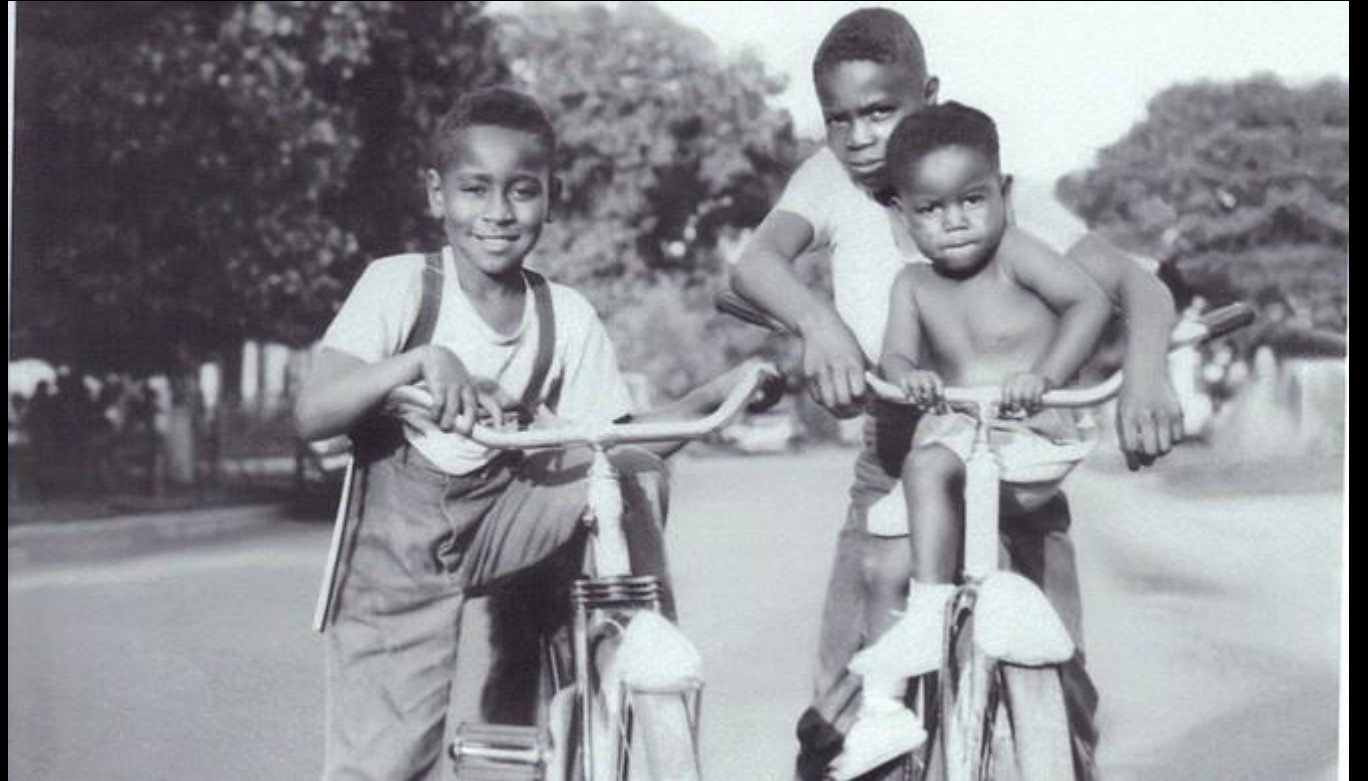


Mr. Till was killed during WWII.

This ring was the only item that Emmett would have to remind him of his father...



Mrs. Till had a good job, and Emmett lived a comfortable, middle class life in Chicago.





In the summer of 1955, Emmett Till traveled from Chicago, IL to Money, MS to visit his uncle (Mose Wright) and several cousins.

Till had never been to the South before.







One year earlier (1954), the Supreme Court had ruled in *Brown v. Board of Education* that southern states could not segregate schools based on race.



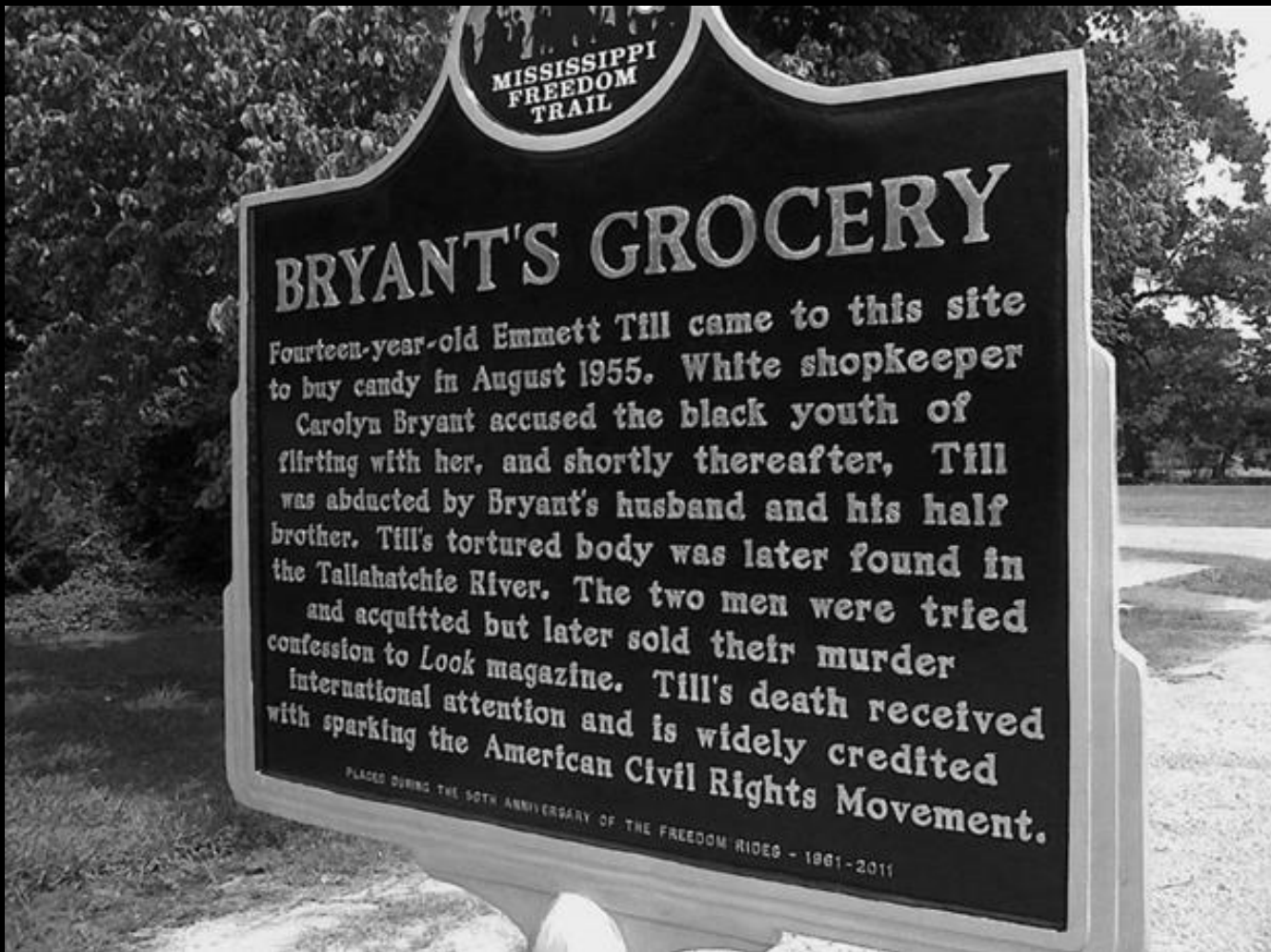


By 1955, many Southerners were angry with the Supreme Court's decision, and felt their way of life (Jim Crow) was being threatened...



This was the Mississippi that Emmett Till visited in 1955.





After swimming with friends, Till and his cousins stop at Bryant's Store for some candy and drinks.

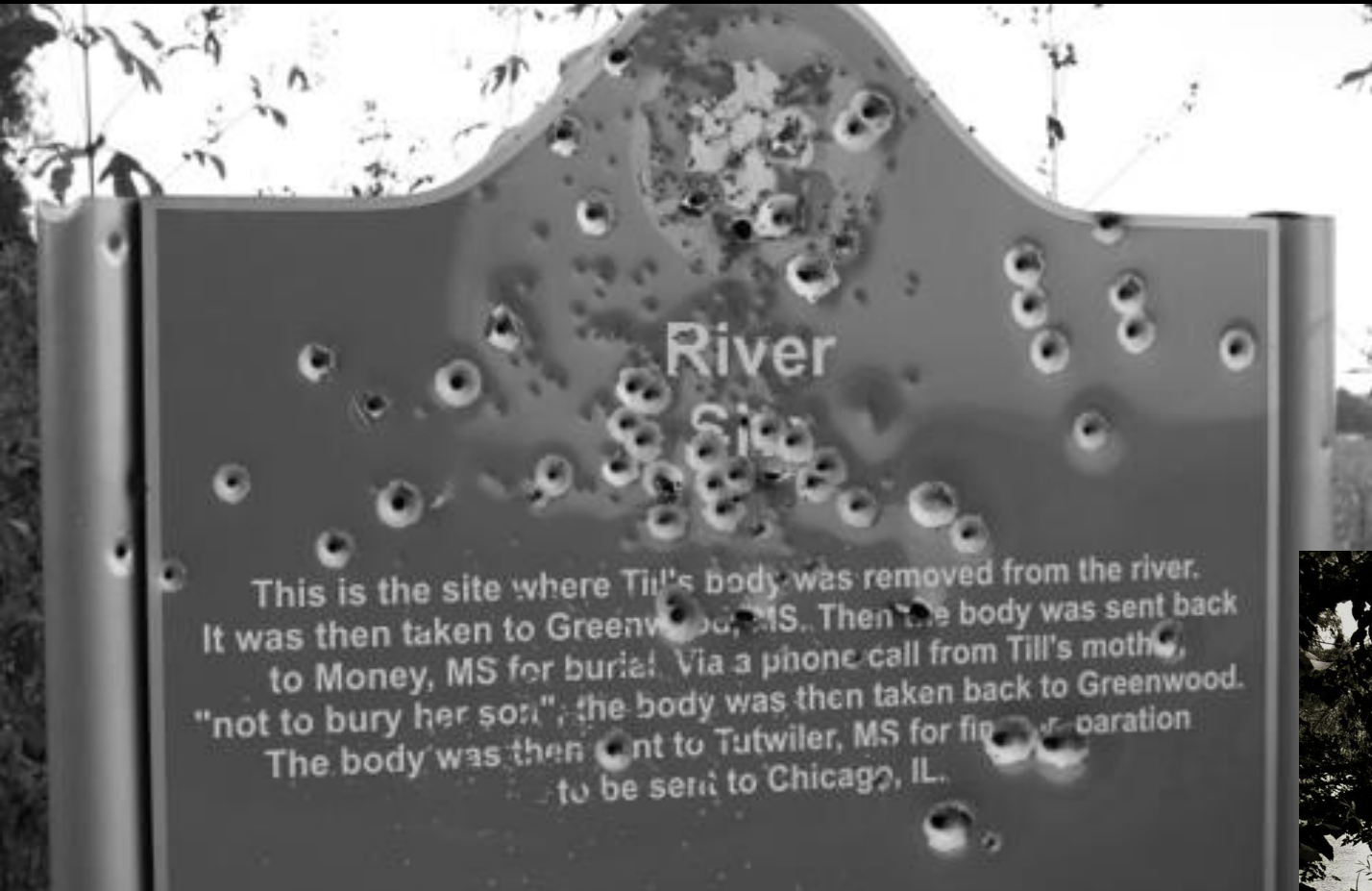


Both Mr. Bryant and his brother in law were not at the store.

Only Mrs. Bryant was there.

According to her, Emmett “whistled” at her.





After hearing Mrs. Bryant's account, Mr. Bryant and Mr. Milam kidnapped Emmett Till, beat him, shot him, and threw his body into the river.



This is the sign that marks the spot where Till was found.

Even in 2010, the sign is regularly defaced and vandalized.



Emmett had been beaten so much, that his face was unrecognizable. His mother and uncle were only able to identify his body because of the ring he was wearing.



Mrs. Till refused to keep the casket closed, and insisted on a public funeral with an open casket. She wanted to world to “see what they did to my boy.”





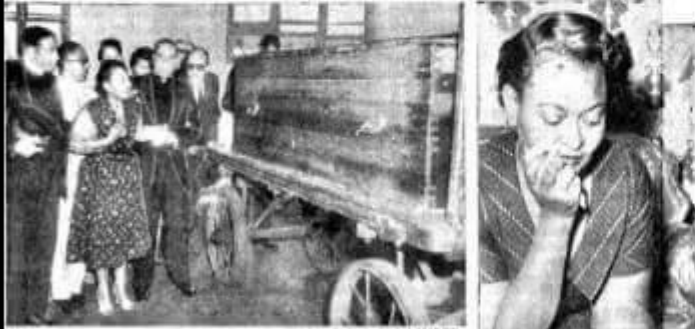


Thousands  
attended the  
funeral...



...and newspapers from around the world covered the story.

### Grieving Mother Meets Body Of Lynched



**MOTHER'S GRIEF** Mrs. [Name] is seen here with the body of her son, [Name], who was lynched in Chicago last week. She is surrounded by friends and relatives.



**Mother Weeps Vain For Help** Mrs. [Name] weeps as she looks at the body of her son, [Name], who was lynched in Chicago last week. She is surrounded by friends and relatives.

### NATION SHOCKED, VOW ACTION IN LYNCHING OF CHICAGO YOUTH

'Murder,' White Says; Promises Prosecution

Urgo Eisenhower To See That 'Justice Is Served'



**Chicago Defender**  
 PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN NAACP  
 NATIONAL 157  
 WASHINGTON, D.C.

### Blood On Their Hands ...

**'Protest Assinippi Shome'**

**Thousands At Rites For Till**

**Mother's Tears Greet Son Who Died A Martyr**

**Brownell Orders**

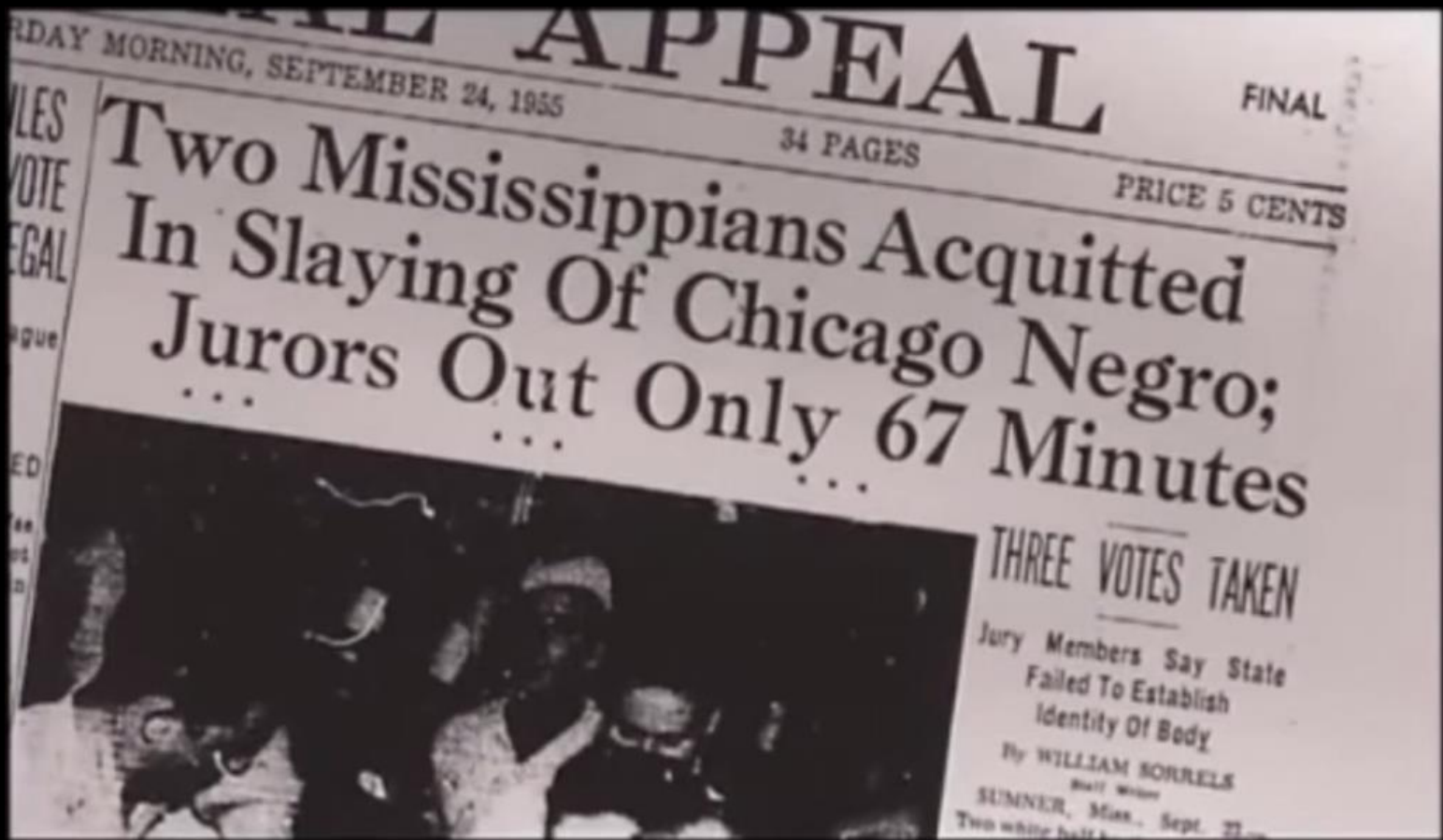


Murder charges were brought against Milam and Bryant.

They were put on trial in Mississippi.



Uncle Mose Wright identified and testified against Bryant and Milam. According to PBS, “It may have been the first time when a black man stood in open court in the South and accused a white man of a crime — and lived.”



After just over an hour of discussion, the jury found both men INNOCENT of murder.

Few southerners were surprised.

... p. m.  
 swim classes, under the  
 Robert P. Koch, aid the  
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 n Page Twelve)

... screaming down the road  
 and drowned in a lake born of the  
 storm. Red Cross officials said 50  
 per cent of the homes in Christ  
 Church were battered beyond re-  
 pair.

## Two Men Acquitted In Mississippi Murder

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 24 (AP)—  
 An all white jury, composed main-  
 ly of Delta cotton farmers, acquitted  
 two white storekeepers of the mur-  
 der of a 14-year-old Chicago Negro  
 boy yesterday, but the half-brothers  
 spent the night in a neighboring  
 county jail.

Roy Byrant, 24, and John Milam,  
 36, still face charges of kidnaping  
 Emmett Louis Till from the share-  
 cropper shack in Leflore County  
 where he was vacationing with his  
 uncle, Mose Wright.

## Continues In For Another

NEW YORK, S  
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 and many commur  
 other states.

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# San Antonio Express

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## New Evidence Found In Whistle Slaying



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## Wolf-Whistle Jury Sets Murder Defendants Free

Verdict Made  
 In 67 Minutes





Bryant and Milam celebrated their court victory...

CONSENT AND RELEASE

I, JOHN W. MILAM, have discussed at great length with William Bradford Huie the abduction and killing of the negro, Emmett Till, in Sumner, Miss. I have also read and fully understand the general rough outline and notes which are to be the basis for the article or story which Mr. Huie proposes to write, which are attached hereto, initialed by me and hereby made a part of this Consent and Release.

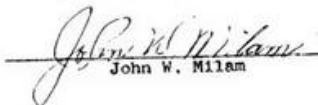
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as an  
sessed of any other reprehensible characteristics, criminal or otherwise,  
which Mr. Huie may, in the work, attribute to me, but is merely intended,  
for the consideration herein expressed, to irrevocably waive any right  
of legal action which I, or any member of my family, or my or their  
heirs, representatives and assigns, might have by reason of anything con-  
tained in the work, or any excerpt therefrom or adaptation thereof,  
concerning me or my family, or might assert in any court or forum against  
Mr. Huie or against anyone else whom he authorizes to print, publish,  
dramatize, circulate, distribute, produce, advertise, portray, promote,  
exhibit, or otherwise adapt the work in whole or in part, in any and all  
forms of communication, including specifically, without limiting the  
generality of the foregoing, magazines, newspapers, books, radio, tele-  
vision, motion pictures, stage, etc.

This Consent and Release is also given upon the express condition  
that the existence of this instrument and the fact of my cooperation with  
Mr. Huie in writing the work will not be revealed publicly unless I, my  
wife, Juanita, or other member of my family, and/or Roy Bryant, his wife,  
Carolyn, or other member of Mr. Bryant's family and/or anyone acting on  
my, our or their behalf, should institute legal action against Mr. Huie  
or any printer, publisher, producer, circulator, distributor, exhibit  
or promoter of the work, or against anyone else having any  
other connection, direct or indirect, with the work or any adaptation  
thereof. I also confirm that this Consent and Release of the rights  
herein granted are exclusive to Mr. Huie and his assigns. I hereby rep-  
resent that I have not granted or accorded to others any or all of the  
rights or privileges set forth herein and will not hereafter do so.

Witness:

  
John W. Milam



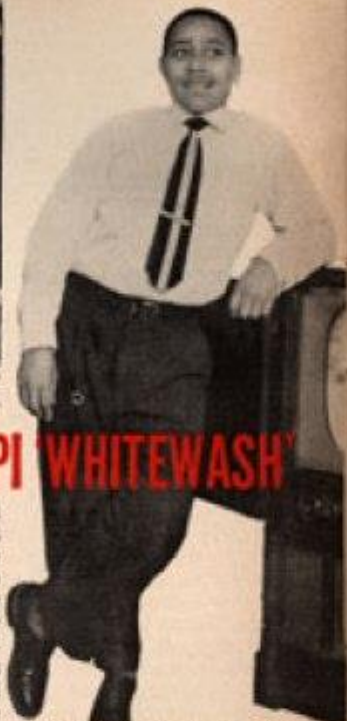
... and then sold their story  
to Look! Magazine for just  
over \$3000

The shocking story of

# APPROVED KILLING IN MISSISSIPPI



"I hope you haven't died in vain," boy's mother cried at graveside.



Chicago youth Emmett L. Till was plump, handsome,

## WILL MISSISSIPPI WHITEWASH?

As the horribly mutilated body of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till was lowered into the cold ground of a Chicago cemetery many days and many miles away from the watery Mississippi grave his kidnap-murderers intended for him, his distraught mother screamed to the world that his death be avenged. But as time wore on and southern justice began to bear its strange fruit, national leaders, the heartsick mother and thousands of other Americans began to wonder if Mississippi will whitewash its latest and most fendish atrocity when the accused kidnapers go on trial September 19.

Because the gang-fashion May slaying of Rev. George W. Lee in Belzoni and the courthouse yard August slaying of Lamar D. Smith in Brookhaven have both remained unsolved, the Urban League's usually soft-spoken Lester Granger has roared that he expects the murderers to go "unpunished," despite Mississippi Governor Hugh White's assurances that "the courts will do their duty" in the wolf-whistle lynching of



Savage lynchers crushed boy's skull, shot him, mutilated his face.

## THE EMMETT TILL SLAYING?



At grand jury hearing, accused men John Milam (c.) and Roy Bryant (r.), admitted kidnaping but denied harming Till.

husband, J. W. Milam, would arrive to shepherd them to his home for 7:30 p.m., eight young Negroes—and a girl—in a '48 Ford had stopped by included sons, grandsons and a niece (Pevsner) Wright, 54, a boy were between 13 and 19 years old, natives of the Delta, and others, his nephew, Emmett (Bobo) Till, 14, from the Chicago area. Till was 14 years old, born on July 19, 1955, was stocky, muscular, weighing 110 pounds, five feet four or five. Pevsner later learned a dozen other young

# LOOK

The shocking story of APPROVED KILLING IN MISSISSIPPI



THE U.S. TEEN-AGER

A searching picture-and-word report on the most-maligned generation in our history

In the interview they admitted to the murder...  
...double jeopardy protected them from further prosecution.



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

“...To publish this story, of which no one is proud, but which was certainly justified, smacks loudly of circulation hunting. Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam did what had to be done, and their courage in taking the course they did is to be commended. To have followed any other course would have been unrealistic, cowardly and not in the best interest of their family or country.”

Richard Lauchli  
Collinsville, Illinois

“...Your exposé of the Till case was done with candid but restrained technique. You are to be complimented for your willingness to stick your neck out in this manner for the sake of justice...”

Samuel H. Cassel D.D.  
The Fairview Baptist Church  
Cleveland, Ohio

The New York Times

*Woman Linked to 1955 Emmett  
Till Murder Tells Historian Her  
Claims Were False*



In 2017, Carolyn Bryant admitted that she had lied about Emmett's "whistle" and that the boy had done nothing wrong...

Despite all of this,  
some good came from  
the death of Emmett Till  
In the Summer of 1955...



I thought about Emmett Till, and I could not go back. My legs and feet were not hurting, that is a stereotype. I paid the same fare as others, and I felt violated. I was not going back.

— *Rosa Parks* —

AZ QUOTES



Studies Weekly

On Thursday evening **December 1, 1955**, after a long day of work as a seamstress for a Montgomery, **Alabama**, department store, Rosa Parks boarded a city bus... ..and the rest is history.

