



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

WILL MISSISSIPPI

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 kidnappers 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 fiendish atrocity when the accused kidnapers go on trial September 19.



Chicago youth Emmett L. Till was plump, handsome.

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.

Sheriff Hints Mother Doesn't Know Her Child

Emmett Till. Said Granger: "There have been cases where justice was done in Mississippi, but from past actions, anyone can be excused for being doubtful about it."

Meanwhile, the boy's bereaved mother Mrs. Mamie Bradley found herself in a 3-way debate with two Mississippi sheriffs over whether the body shipped to Chicago which she insisted should lie in state for three days "so all the world can see what they did to my boy" is actually that of her son.

Leading Mississippi police who seem intent on devising a loophole through which Money, Miss., grocer Roy Bryant and his half brother John Milam may slip to freedom is Tallahatchie county sheriff H. C. Strider, who has repeatedly said he doubts that the body found in the river is Till's. Obviously out to create a counter sensation to direct attention away from the brutality and senselessness of the murder, Strider has also hinted that the NAACP "planted" the body, that 1,000 carloads of Chicago Negroes were invading Mississippi to seek revenge and that Negroes in an Illinois car forced female members of the Milam family off a highway in recent days.



Stump jutting up out of Tallahatchie River (opposite)

Disagreeing with him is Leflore county deputy sheriff John Cothran who helped fish the body out of the Tallahatchie River. A ring initialed "L. T." that he removed from the dead boy's finger has been identified by Mrs. Bradley as her son's.

"This is just an attempt by those people in Mississippi to wriggle out of this crime," she sobs. "I've seen the body and what mother wouldn't know her own son. It looks like they will do anything down there to cause confusion and keep a white man from being punished for killing a Negro."

Dozens of relatives and the 100,000 Negroes who formed block-long lines to view the body were inclined to agree with her for the strange ways of Southern white folks, where county jealousies can often tip the scales of justice, are well known.

But in Leflore county where young Till was taken out of his uncle's home at 2 a.m. for allegedly whistling at Bryant's wife, Sheriff George Smith hastened to say that he will press kidnaping charges if the men are freed of murder charges in Tallahatchie county where the body was found. Apparently as outraged as the rest of the nation, Mississippi promised a quick trial in spite of early rumors that it might be postponed until next March.

Wrote the Clarksdale Press Register: "Mississippi may as well burn all its law books and close its courts if the maximum penalty of the law cannot be secured in this heinous crime."

All America agreed and all the world watches to see



Bryant's wife said teen-age boy gave insulting "wolf whistle."