

1955

THE EMMETT LOUIS TILL CASE

Date: August 28

Place: Greenwood, Leflore County, Mississippi

Incident: A 14-year-old Negro boy, Emmett Louis Till, had come from Chicago to visit his uncle at nearby Money, Mississippi. He was taken from the home of his uncle by two white men and a woman, who drove away with him. His shot and beaten body had been weighted and thrown into the Tallahatchie River. He was charged with "making ugly remarks" to a white woman. These remarks are reported as being a "whistle."

Apprehensions and/or Convictions:

Two white men, Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam, half-brothers, were charged with Till's kidnapping and murder. The white woman at whom Till is supposed to have made ugly remarks was Roy Bryant's wife. Both men admitted taking the boy from the house but denied killing him. They were acquitted of the slaying; and a Leflore County grand jury declined to indict them on charges of kidnapping. Thus they were freed of all charges in the case.