

A Trip to Lynch-Land

SCOTTSBORO BOYS AND MOTHERS VISITED

New Struggles Loom

Funds Urgently Needed
As Hearings for Four
Boys Are Imminent

By Anna Damon

(Acting National Secretary, International Labor Defense)

(See Editorial on Last Page)

The half-dozen Negroes seated in the train gathered up their luggage and moved back, toward the Jim-Crow cars. In this way I knew that we had passed the Mason-Dixon line, and were on our way into the heart of the South.

From then on the signs that we were on Southern soil multiplied rapidly. The character of the landscape began to change. The fields looked less well tended; broken pickets of unrepaired fences lay on the ground. The houses were more weather-beaten; the proportion of tiny, unpainted board shacks increased rapidly. The people seemed thin, underfed. These signs told, more clearly than the most eloquent words, of the fearful exploitation of the masses of the South, more brutal and more intense than anywhere else in the country.

Jim-Crow Signs

Jim-Crow signs increased. "For Whites Only." "For Colored." We saw them in station waiting rooms, drinking fountains, lunch-counters. Still further South, the very soil was different. We began to see the red clay—red as no Northern soil is red. A chemist or a geologist can explain this phenomenon, simply and logically. But among the Negroes there is a saying that the soil of the South is red with the blood of generations of black people.

I stopped off in Atlanta. Soon I was in the home of Mrs. Josephine Powell, mother of Ozie, one of the Scottsboro boys. Mrs. Powell is ill; a life-time of hard work, lack of personal care and medical attention, worry—and, above all, the four-year agony of seeing her son in the shadow of the death chair—these things have wrecked her health. She suffers from a tumor, and she is rapidly going blind. The money that the Prisoners' Relief Department of the International Labor Defense can send her each month is all that stands between her and starvation. She has not even a shack of her own, such as many of the Southern workers, white and Negro, call by the name of home. She lives in one room, in

(Continued on Page 2)

Dimitrov Asks Aid to Mooney

(By Cable to the Daily Worker)

MOSCOW, July 11.—George Dimitrov, heroic defendant in the Reichstag fire trial, has just written a stirring appeal for the defense of Tom Mooney.

"Recently it was announced that the Supreme Court of California at last agreed to hear the appeal of Tom Mooney after he had served 18 years in American jail," said Dimitrov.

"In 1916 when American imperialism made feverish preparations to enter the World War and exerted every effort to foment chauvinism and nationalism in the U. S. A., Tom Mooney, active trade union worker in California, became the victim of a dastardly, contemptible police frame-up. He was sent to jail on the false charge of organizing terrorist acts during the war preparedness parade in San Francisco.

"With the aid of false testimony and evidence, agent provocateurs and bribed witnesses, the court sentenced Mooney to death. His life was saved only by a gigantic wave of protest in 1917. The death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment, and the hand of the executioner stayed.

"But though Mooney's innocence is obvious and the frame-up has been repeatedly exposed, Mooney has remained in the prison of American 'democracy.'

"I urgently appeal to all fighting against political reaction and Fascist barbarity, all honest mental or manual workers, irrespective of their political views, to all who helped by their mighty protest during the Leipzig trial to save the lives of guiltless prisoners and to secure my liberation, despite Goering's villainous threats, to come to the support of Tom Mooney who remained true to the great cause of the working class through all his long years of imprisonment.

"Tom Mooney is a fine worker and brilliant proletarian fighter. He must be saved!

"This terrible crime against a loyal son of the American working class must finally be ended!"

New Scottsboro Struggles Loom

(Continued from Page 1)

the cheapest of Jim-Crow boarding houses.

Girl of Ten at Work

Mrs. Viola Montgomery, the mother of Olen, also says that she could not live if it were not for the assistance of the I. L. D. Prisoners' Relief Department. Her little girl, ten years of age, is forced to go out to work, tending white folks' children. Mrs. Montgomery is looking forward anxiously to the petition for bail for Olen and for Willie Roberson, which will take place in Decatur in the immediate future.

In Atlanta there was brought vividly to my attention the desperate plight of the unemployed. On June 1, 10,000 persons— cynically designated by the authorities as "unemployables"—were dropped from the F. E. R. A. relief rolls. The Fulton County Welfare Board then refused to assist them. No wonder 1,000 persons rallied to the call of the Unemployment Council, headed by Angelo Herndon in 1932, to go before the Fulton County authorities and ask for bread for the needy! No wonder the Georgia officials have since then fought tooth and nail to send Herndon to the chain-gang, in order to preserve their system of wholesale and callous starvation of the jobless!

Terror in Birmingham

From Atlanta I went to Birmingham, center of Southern industry, and, likewise, of Southern ruling class terror against militant workers. It is hard for people whose activity in the labor movement has been confined to the larger Northern centers to appreciate the obstacles facing our organizers in the South. In this kingdom of the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company, even the question of a place to meet becomes a severe difficulty. There must be a constant change of meeting places; there must be a system of personal messengers, for no notice of a meeting may be entrusted to the mails. The I. L. D. has recently been able to prove that the mail-carriers have consistently acted as government stool-pigeons in the Birmingham region.

I went to the Jefferson County Jail, a white structure only a few feet from a monument dedicated to the memory of the slave-holding Confederacy. It is here that the Scottsboro boys are confined. Between the jail in Paint Rock and the jail in Scottsboro, between Kilby Prison in Montgomery and Jefferson County Jail in Birmingham—always behind bars and locks—the nine Scottsboro boys have passed the best years of their youth.

Glad to Be Out of Death Cell

I talked first with Haywood Patterson, oldest of the boys, three times condemned to die and three times saved by the I.L.D. and by the masses which it gathered around it. Haywood arrived in this jail only a few weeks ago. Even after the highest court had reversed the sentence against him, he was kept in the Kilby death cell in Montgomery. Through the efforts of the I.L.D., he was finally transferred to Jefferson, along with Clarence Norris. "I'm glad to be out of there, Miss Damon," he said simply. "The Kilby death cell was hell."

All the boys had attempted to dress up a bit when they heard I was arriving. Visitors are rare in that place, and their coming is an event. The boys all told the same story: they are tired of confinement and the threat of the electric chair; they want to be out, free, and resume normal existence. I brought them boxes of candy, collected from sympathizers who knew I was making the trip to see the boys.

Olen Montgomery is going blind. One eye is sightless; but it is slowly infecting the other nevertheless. Olen asked me to see what could be done about an operation.

All the boys are anxious for the hearings that will take place soon, for this will mean one more battle fought out in the struggle for their freedom.

I left Birmingham and went to Chattanooga, where I talked at length with Mrs. Ada Wright, mother of Roy and Andy; Mrs. Janie Patterson, mother of Haywood, and Mrs. Mamie Williams, mother of Eugene. They are hopeful and courageous.

For four years Scottsboro has been in the forefront of the consciousness of the South, Negroes and an increasing number of militant white workers and intellectuals have fought for the boys' release; the landlords and factory-owners and the politicians who represent them have fought desperately and tenaciously to send the boys to the chair. Today, in the South, there is increased militancy and a desire for working-class unity. As for the lynch-rulers, has their attitude towards the boys softened? Not by one iota! More than ever today they are determined to murder these nine innocent boys. Let me show concretely what I mean:

The Alabama legislature has just passed a bill appropriating \$35,000 to defray expenses of Jackson County in the prosecution of the Scottsboro boys. In other words, the State allows the prosecutors of the boys to dip into the treasury for \$35,000—it provides, actually, a Scottsboro death fund.

The legislature is also considering a bill to give judges in the circuit and other courts the authority to pass on the qualifications of lawyers from other states. Representative Arnold, author of the bill, says frankly that it is aimed at the attorneys of the I.L.D.

Within the next few days, a definite date will be set for new court actions in the Scottsboro cases. Bail will be asked for Olen Montgomery and Willie Roberson, in the court of Judge Callahan at Decatur. In the same town, before Judge B. L. Malone of Juvenile Court, the cases

of the two youngest boys, Roy Wright and Eugene Williams, will be considered. All four boys will be represented by attorneys employed by the International Labor Defense—Osmond K. Fraenkel of New York and C. B. Powell of Birmingham.

When will these hearings come up? The I.L.D. does not yet know. No dates have been set, and this is in itself significant. Although it is certain that the hearings will be held soon, the State has avoided setting a definite time. There is no question that the Alabama officials intend to notify the I.L.D. at the last moment, in order to create the greatest difficulties for us, and above all, to avoid publicity in the case, to avoid letting the masses know what is going on. A swift and quiet railroading—that is the object of the prosecution.

How will the I.L.D. conduct these hearings? It will provide the best legal defense, of course. But—and here let us speak frankly—there are tremendous financial difficulties. Such hearings will cost the defense not less than \$4,000! We have collected very little of this. And so, once more, we must appeal to the readers of the Daily Worker. Rush funds to Room 610, 80 East 11th Street, New York.

We can and must meet the tricks of the Alabama lynchers! We must raise a Scottsboro freedom fund to match the Scottsboro death fund which the Alabama legislature is so anxious to provide!

C. P. Pushes Drive To Free Krumbein

(Continued from Page 1)

imperialism and the Nanking Chiang Kai Shek butcher government.

When Comrade Krumbein went to China for this revolutionary purpose, the work of which he and our Party and the New York workers are proud of, he was forced to take a passport under an assumed name, because he knew very well that the authorities would never give him a passport in his own name since he is too well known as a leader of the working class.

We all know that Comrade Krumbein was not sentenced so severely because of the official reason given. We know that many people travel under assumed names and are not given such heavy terms of imprisonment.

We all know that Comrade reason for this outrageous sentence is the fact that Comrade Krumbein is a courageous fighter and a devoted leader in the struggles of the toiling masses. That is exactly why we must free him from prison and bring him back to the work and struggles that so urgently need him.

On Aug. 3, the case of Comrade Krumbein comes up before the Parole Board for hearing. Comrade Krumbein is eligible for parole. Make your voices heard in support of parole for Charles Krumbein! Send letters, and telegrams to the Federal Parole Board, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., for immediate parole for Charles Krumbein!

Krumbein is needed for the work and struggles of the New York toiling masses. Krumbein must be freed! Do not delay actions!

Workers, professionals, intellectuals! Send letters and telegrams supporting immediate parole for Charles Krumbein! Send them immediately, individually and through your organizations!

N. Y. Police Balk On Mass March

(Continued from Page 1)

composed the delegation that visited the Police Department.

Preparations and mobilization for the parade will continue, without any changes, the Unemployment Councils announced. Mobilization will take place promptly at 12 o'clock noon tomorrow. Meanwhile, all organizations that will participate in the march will demand that the city government grant them their constitutional rights to assemble and petition.

Characterizing the action of the police in denying the workers the right to march to City Hall as "a flagrant denial of civil rights," the Communist Party urged all workers in the city to waste no time and send protests to the Mayor today against "this arbitrary police edict."

The Office Workers' Union announced that it had called on its 3,000 members and all white collar workers to come to Union Square at 12 noon tomorrow to join the parade.

Every branch of the International Workers' Order, large detachments of the building trades unions, food, metal and marine unions will participate in Saturday's parade.

The main demands to be presented to the Mayor by a delegation of twenty-five representing the marchers are:

Twenty-five per cent increase in relief.

Union wages on the relief projects.

Endorsement of the Workers' Unemployment Insurance Bill, H. R. 2827.

The Unemployment Councils announced inadvertently through yesterday's Daily Worker that the Friends of the Soviet Union would participate in the relief march to City Hall.

"No doubt individual members of the F. S. U. will participate in the march, but the F. S. U. as an organization will not," a statement of the F. S. U. said.