

In Memory of Harry Simms

By ANGELO HERNDON

(from Fulton Tower Jail)

Harry Simms, young courageous fighter is today sleeping in his grave. But the cause for which he gave his life shall never die. The capitalists—robbers and murderers of the working class—will soon learn that they cannot kill the fighting spirit of the workers, even though they may take the lives of some of the best leaders.

When Harry Simms first came into the south, he was greeted by the young as well as the adult workers. As soon as he became adjusted to the work in the South he won the comradely love of both Negro and white workers. Through his persistent and painstaking methods of work, he was able to organize many successful struggles of the unemployed workers of Birmingham. These later caused him to be thrown in jail time after time. However this did not cut down on his activity. Not in the least bit.

He was a most valiant fighter for the Scottsboro Boys. Before and during the preparation of the "all Southern Defense conference" held in Chattanooga, May 31, he spoke before many organizations that elected delegates to the conference. As I was a delegate from Louisiana it happened that I arrived in Birmingham in time to help him with the delegation there. After final arrangements had been made we were supposed to meet him on the outskirts of the city at a certain time. As the time went flying by, he failed to show up. We were so perplexed that we were in a round about as to whether we should proceed or not. Finally we decided to go on.

After the conference was over we received a telegram from him. He and the rest of the delegation (which also included sharecroppers from Camp Hill) had been held in the Birmingham County Jail.

K.K.K. stalks the streets of Atlanta, Ga.



When he was in Atlanta with me, where the atmosphere was a little different, he would often say to me, "Gee, you have a hell of a sight better place to work here. In fact it is a paradise in comparison with Birmingham, etc. etc. At least you haven't always got someone on your tail which means that you have a chance to get a deep breath."

At the same time that he was saying this, he had in mind to go to Kentucky, where there was almost a Civil War going on between the coal operators and the miners. Dozens of miners had been mowed down with machine guns and for a "dirty Red" to plant his foot on that hot soil meant almost death instantly.

But did Harry Simms think of such important things? No. He only thought of the performance of his working class duty. Casting aside all things of a personal nature putting in the forefront the liberation of the working class, he went bravely into the midst of the battlefield where blood was being spilt like water.

Certainly, he had done some excellent work when I got the sad news that he had been shot by a gun thug in the pay of the coal operators. Then I read the Daily Worker that carried the story and the first thing I saw was that Harry Simms had bled to death after the hospital had refused to accept him unless they had assurance that the bill would be paid.

Could this be true? Harry Simms dead? I couldn't believe my own eyes. I didn't want to believe it. Harry Simms dead. After I had finished reading I just couldn't keep the tears from rolling down. I caught myself and said: "Am I sentimentalist or not? No, not altogether, for maybe if I had not ever worked with him it would have been different. Hence each tear began to grow into a solemn pledge.

They, the capitalists have killed Harry Simms, like thieves and blood robbers by night. We shall some day get revenge for our heroic comrade, and I shall never content myself until the system that killed Harry Simms, will be wiped off the face of the earth."

My dear Comrade Harry Simms. You have not died in vain. The capitalist class took your life, but you shall always live on in the hearts of all oppressed working men and women.



John Askew, freed by mass action organized by Virginia I.L.D.

TERROR

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CALIFORNIA: Gov. Rolph justifies San Jose lynching. "It is best lesson Cal. has ever given the country."

DECEMBER

NEW JERSEY: Newark Chief of Police, refuses permit for Scottsboro protest. Threatens "Terror like they have in Alabama."

MARYLAND: Attempt to disbar Bernard Ades, I.L.D. attorney from Federal Court because of I.L.D. activity.

ALABAMA: 12 Chambers County Negro croppers fined \$300 each. Charge: "assault with attempt to murder." Charge brought by stool pigeon who got into Share-Croppers Union. 12 held incommunicado in county jail for two months before trial.

ALABAMA: Judge W. W. Callahan sentences Haywood Patterson, Clarence Norris to death.

MASS.: 5 Anti-Fascist workers given 3 months and \$5 dollars fine when they reject offer of 6 months probation without appeal if they repudiate mass defense.

CALIFORNIA: 33 Chinese seamen held by British consul on mutiny charge in San Pedro immigration station.

PENNSYLVANIA: 3 strikers and 1 woman picket charged with "inciting to riot, assault and battery, mischief and disorderly conduct."

NEW YORK: 10 unemployed workers injured as 40 policemen charge 70 workers demanding relief and rent checks from Home Relief Bureau.

ALABAMA: 16 Negro share-croppers in jail on framed charge of stealing cotton and seed. Landlord bringing charge later found supplies where he had put them.