

LAW & JUSTICE

Emmett Till Mississippi Murder Case Reopened

Justice sought 50 years after death

(AP) — A half century after the murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till shocked a nation and galvanized the civil rights movement, his body will be exhumed as authorities attempt to determine who killed him.

The FBI said Till's body, buried in a cemetery in the Chicago suburb of Alsip, will be exhumed within the next few weeks for an autopsy.

The Justice Department announced plans last year to reopen the Till investigation, citing several

pieces of information that included a documentary by New York filmmaker Keith Beauchamp.

"The exhumation is a logical continuation of that," said Deborah Madden, spokeswoman for the FBI office in Jackson, Miss. "An autopsy was never performed on the body and the cause of death was never determined."

Till, who was raised in Chicago, was abducted from his uncle's home in the tiny Mississippi Delta

community of Money on Aug. 28, 1955, reportedly for whistling at a white woman at a grocery store.

His mutilated body was found by fishermen three days later in the Tallahatchie River. It was unrecognizable and his mother was only able to identify the teenager because she recognized a ring on his finger.

In Mississippi, District Attorney Joyce Chiles of Greenville said that she hopes the autopsy will positively identify Till as well as lead to a cause of death.

During a trial that ultimately led to the acquittal of two men on charges they murdered Till, defense attorneys suggested that the body was not Till's and that Till was still alive.

"If there is a prosecution at the end of this investigation then we hope to dispel any notion that Emmett Till was not murdered,"



Emmett Till

The planned exhumation was applauded by Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., who had urged the Justice Department to re-open the investigation.

"The exhumation of the body of Emmett Till brings the Justice Department investigation to a much higher level," Schumer said in a statement. "In this rare instance, justice delayed will not be justice denied."

The two white men tried for the murder - store owner Roy Bryant, the husband of the woman Till purportedly whistled at, and J.W. Milam, Bryant's half brother - are now deceased. After their acquittal, they confessed in a Look magazine story to beating and shooting Till, saying they killed the teenager because he'd whistled at Bryant's wife.

Beauchamp claimed to have uncovered new evidence in his docu-

mentary, "The Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till."

R. Alexander Acosta, the assistant attorney general for civil rights, has said the documentary films and new information indicates the two had accomplices who may still be alive.

The Till case gave many Americans a closer look at the segregated South, its Jim Crow laws and lynchings. The boy was killed a little over a year after the Supreme Court's landmark Brown v. Board of Education decision outlawed state-sponsored school segregation and about 100 days before Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Ala.

Till's mother, Mamie Till Mobley, insisted that her son's mutilated body be displayed in an open casket at his funeral, forcing the nation to see the brutality directed at blacks in the South at the time. Mobley died in 2003 and is buried next to her son.

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Lawyer Beats Witness Tampering Charges

African American cleared by jury

(AP) — A former African-American prosecutor was acquitted of charges that he bribed and tampered with witnesses as a defense lawyer.

Randy Richardson represented himself in the three-week trial that ended last week. After the verdict, he put his head on the defense table and cried. It ended a two-year prosecution in which Richardson's former colleagues in the Multnomah

County District Attorney's office looked into how he had handled a domestic-violence case from 2001 and the case of Christopher Lambert, who shot into a crowd of people outside a downtown nightclub in 2002.

The prosecution said that before Richardson had taken on Lambert as a client, Lambert had arranged with friends Jennifer Napolitano and Quadre Bradley to

testify falsely that he was with them the night of the shooting.

Prosecutors said that Richardson allowed those witnesses to commit perjury and that he paid Napolitano \$300 to dissuade her from backing out of testifying.

Napolitano and Bradley have pleaded guilty to misdemeanors for lying on the witness stand. Lambert, who is serving nearly 21 years for attempted murder, was to stand trial with Richardson for many of the same charges, but he

pleaded guilty before the trial started.

During closing arguments, Deputy District Attorneys Allison Rhodes and Eric Bergstrom said Richardson knew the witnesses were going to perjure themselves and took steps to make sure they did.

Richardson, however, said the district attorney's office had conspired against him, deploying police officers to pressure witnesses until they said what the police wanted to hear.

Million Man Movement Launched

Leaders call for inclusion

(AP) - Black leaders are calling for a rally in Washington this fall to mark the 10th anniversary of the Million Man March.

Louis Farrakhan, the leader of the Nation of Islam, appeared with former presidential candidates Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton to announce the Millions More Movement in October.

It is billed as a more inclusive successor to the Million Man March, encouraging women and gays to attend.

Farrakhan issued a broad invitation that also took aim at the wealthy, his critics, and both political parties.

"Millions More means we're reaching for the millions who carry the rich on their backs," he said.

The Anti-Defamation League, having long criticized Farrakhan for anti-Jewish remarks, urged other black leaders to separate their cause from him.

"When will someone in the African-American community stand up and say that the Million Man March had a positive message but the pied piper is a racist and anti-Semite?" said ADL director Abraham Foxman.

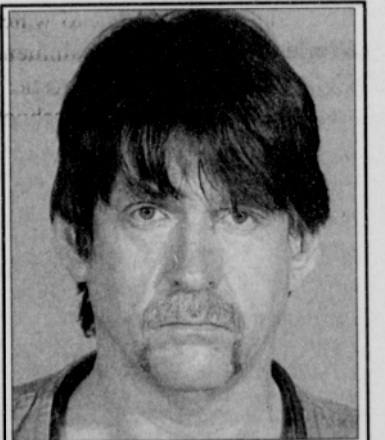


Rev. Al Sharpton speaks at the National Press Club in Washington to announce the Millions More Movement in October to mark the 10th anniversary of the Million Man March. (AP Photo)

Sharpton alluded briefly to the sometimes chilly relations among the three black leaders but said they were working together to make the event a success and to end disparities between black and white Americans.

"We don't come to argue today about who said what, who did what. Our family is in crisis," said Sharpton.

Organizers are promoting a Day of Absence from work and school on Friday, Oct. 14, followed by a march in Washington on the 15th, and religious services the next day.



Donald Skarman

Meth Lab, 50 Guns Seized

Police said they seized evidence of methamphetamine distribution, including drugs and money, approximately 50 guns, and what appears to be stolen property during search warrants that led to an arrest Thursday.

Donald Skarman, 47 was arrested on charges of distribution and possession of a controlled substance in connection with a warrant served at 8320 S.E. Brooklyn St. A storage facility located at Southeast 105th Avenue and Division Street was also searched, where additional firearms and the components of a meth lab were seized.

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