

Sharecropper, Farm Hand To Testify At Till Hearing

GREENWOOD, Miss. (AP)—An elderly Negro sharecropper and a teen-age farm hand, who said they fled to Chicago for safety, are expected to testify today before a grand jury considering kidnapping charges in the famous Emmett Till case.

Testimony of Mose Wright, 64-year-old uncle of the 14-year-old Chicago Negro abducted by two white men, and 18-year-old Willie Reed forms the heart of the state's case against the two men.

The two Negroes arrived in Greenwood Sunday night from Chicago and said they had no fear of being harmed, although both said they fled Mississippi earlier for fear of being killed.

The Leflore County Grand Jury, working through a heavy docket yesterday, delayed until today consideration of kidnap charges against 24-year-old Roy Bryant and his half-brother, 36-year-old John W. Milam.

The 26-man, all-white grand jury will decide whether Bryant or Milam will stand trial. No Negroes were called on the 64-man jury panel from which the grand jury was picked.

Dist. Atty. Stanny Sanders said the jury's decision will be released in its final report, probably Wednesday.

The grand jury could indict them under one of two Mississippi kidnapping statutes. One provides the death penalty, the other carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison, in the event of conviction.

Bryant and Milam are free on \$10,000 bond each.

A trial jury in adjoining Tallahatchie County found them innocent of murdering Till.

The trial, six weeks ago in nearby Sumner, was one of Mississippi's most famous cases.

Wright and Reed fled Mississippi after testifying at the trial.

Wright said he plans to remain in Chicago. Reed plans to finish high school and then attend college on a \$1,000 scholarship given by the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People.

Wright identified Milam and Bryant as the two men who roused Till from bed about 2:30 a.m. Aug. 28 and took him away because he allegedly made off-color remarks and wolf-whistled at Mrs. Bryant.

Reed testified that he saw Milam with Till several hours after Bryant and Milam said they released the Chicago Negro boy. The boy was a plantation run by Milam's brother, Leslie Milam, Reed testified.

Officers testified the two white men admitted taking Till from Wright's farm shack in nearby Money, but said they freed him unharmed when they found he was the wrong Negro.

A body pulled from the Tallahatchie river three days later. Wright and the boy's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, identified it as Till's body.

But defense attorneys presented three witnesses, including a doctor and an undertaker, who said the

body could not have been Till's because it had been in the water at least eight days.

Jurors said the contradictory identification figured strongly in their verdict of innocence.

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THE QUEEN AND HER COURT sat for a formal portrait during homecoming festivities at Oregon Tech this weekend. The queen, Edith Wallin, a practical nursing student, was sponsored by the diesel class. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Wallin, 6747 South Sixth Street. The princesses are Yvrl Hogan (top left), Marilyn Whitman (lower left), Mary Lou Thompson (lower right) and Joanne Mecham. The queen presided over the parade Saturday morning, the football game Saturday afternoon and the buffet and dance Saturday evening.

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Bomb Believed Crash Cause

DENVER (UP)—A "bomb-type" explosion shattered a cargo hold in a United Air Lines DC-4B which crashed a week ago, killing 34 persons, two Civil Aeronautics Board officials said today.

James N. Peyton, investigation chief for the CAB in Washington, said an intensive examination of the wreckage — which is spread over three square miles near Longmont, Colo. — has shown definite evidence of an explosion.

The No. 4 baggage hold was "shattered," Peyton said.

Luggage which had been in the No. 4 compartment smelled "like gunpowder, or an exploding fire-

cracker," and this same smell was detected on other parts of the wreckage, the CAB investigation chief said.

Jack Parshall, the CAB regional investigator from Kansas City, said Monday that "we have no evidence that there was any kind of bomb explosion."

"We are not far enough along to say what kind of explosion it was," Parshall said.

Parshall also said Monday that "no evidence" had been found of an explosion in the No. 4 cargo hold.

His statements were made in reference to a report published in American Aviation Daily, a trade paper, that crash investigators had discovered definite evidence of a bomb-like explosion in a cargo compartment.

But after Peyton revealed that the American Aviation Daily report was correct, Parshall told United Press:

"I'll have to say that Mr. Peyton's statements are correct. I wasn't at liberty before this to say how much we had found, and we still must await the FBI laboratory reports on the items we have sent them before we can be more definite."

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