

TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE.

FRIENDS:

This is the true record of an occurrence in the Twenty-second Circuit of the State of Missouri, presided over by Judge James V. Billings, at Kennett, Dunklin County, Missouri.

Judge James V. Billings was elected in November 1932 to fill the unexpired term of Judge Walker, deceased. He was reelected in 1934 for a term of six years.

In 1935 Judge Billings sentenced a Negro to hang for a crime for which he was duly indicted, tried, convicted and sentenced, which was legal, proper and within common experience.

A few days before the date of the legal execution, it was decided to make it a HOLIDAY, and it is said that tickets were sold to the general public at from ONE to TEN DOLLARS each.—quote, Daily Press.

A ten foot wall was erected around the gallows, in the Court House yard and on the day of the execution people gathered to celebrate, the affair having been advertised for miles around and a GALA DAY was begun.

During the day refreshments were served and a great festival was staged. "A Nigger was being hung in Kennett."

The Human torches, that provided a thrill for Nero in Rome were no more barbarous than was this spectacle in civilized, Modern America. The Home of the Free and the Brave.

Legal? yes, So was the "Red Purge" in Soviet Russia and the Nazi Purge in Germany. Legal? Yes, "Josh the Great" reigns Supreme in Kennett.

Imagine the lifeless body of your son or brother dangling from the end of a rope to provide a joyous spectacle for "Dear Josh" to chuckle over. A bit of fun, as it were, for the savage desire of a righteous Judge.

Oh! Justice, thou art blind, What atrocious crimes are perpetrated in thy name.

What other than a tendency toward a desire to LYNCH A NIGGER, prevented Judge Billings from calling the Sheriff to terms and demanding the execution in the ordinary

way. If he was without power to stop it, he could have appealed to public sentiment and in the name of humanity, prevented this atrocity. As he did not, rather it seems that by his very attitude of silence he said, COME ALL YE and SEE US HANG A NIGGER, AIN'T WE HAVING FUN?

Will you, shall you, can you vote for a man and place him on the State Supreme Bench, who is even worse than Judge Parker, who was decried and prevented from being appointed on the Federal Supreme Court? You have the power in your hand. The Parker case was in the hands of the President. Negroes, whites, men, women, Republicans, Democrats, every man and woman who believes in the honor of the law, the rights of humanity and the sacred honor of Justice should raise up in the righteous dignity of their power and show the world that we will keep our highest tribunal forever clear of such warped minds.

What if your friend or brother was brought before the Supreme Court and his very life hung upon the slender thread of HIS distorted sense of Justice? Standing there waiting the decision of this fiendish MODERN NERO.

So gruesome, so atrocious, so barbarious was this unholy spectacle that State Senator Paul Jones of Dunklin County, Judge Billings home District, arose on the floor of the Missouri State Senate during the Fifty-ninth General Assembly, and introduced the "LETHAL GAS BILL" and put an end forever, to this ghastly ROMAN HOLIDAY SPIRIT in Missouri.

You have to do your duty. Tell every man, woman and friend. Go to the polls, take others with you. Stay out on the streets, go to their homes, work, it is for the protection and preservation of Justice, that you vote every one you can against this human vulture. Spread the news and on August 2nd, show the world that Missouri is Humane and Justice must Reign.

THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE IS THE SUPREME LAW.

Motto of the State of Missouri.

Yours for a Clean Court.

WM. H. HAMPTON,

Overland, Missouri.