

APPENDIX

III. WeBlog: Mack Charles Parker

(Blood Justice)

Copyright 2005-2006 Willie L. Robinson

<http://www.angelfire.com/wi/Carver/mcppms.html>

.... The Parker lynching occurred much closer to home almost four years after Till was killed, and the impact that it had on me at age fifteen was much greater than that of the first lynching of which I had been made aware. I am sure that the fact that I was almost four years older when Parker was killed contributed greatly to my better understanding of what happened, and increased my awareness of my surroundings. The troubling part to me could have also been caused because I was very familiar with some of the names mentioned as being associated directly and indirectly with the story of the lynching.

Between 1955 and 1959, the years of the two lynchings, I worked at two barber shops in town shining white customers' shoes for fifteen or twenty cents per pair. Shining shoes was the way I earned the money to purchase that blue suit referenced earlier. At both shops, one was on Highway 11 South near the bus station and the other one was on West Canal Street, I often heard reference being made to killing black people, mostly black men. The Boston store was located a few doors east of the West Canal Street shop location. Both customers and shop owners participated in the disgusting conversations regularly. On more than one occasion, even comments about killing me were made in my presence as I pretended not to hear them. If the purpose of the conversations was for me to be scared by overhearing what was being said, the purpose was well served. Less than a month after the Parker lynching, I left Picayune and spent the next thirteen months living with family in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The night of April 24, 1959, is also the date that Mack Charles Parker was lynched in Poplarville, Mississippi. In 1986, a book was published about the lynching. The author of the book is Howard Smead, and the book's title is, *Blood Justice: The Lynching of Mack Charles Parker*. I recommend this book as good reading to anyone who is interested in learning more about the subject, especially my home people of Picayune, Mississippi.

REFERENCES:

Blood Justice: The Lynching of Mack Charles Parker by Howard Smead, 1986
100 Years of Lynchings by Ralph Ginzburg, 1966
African-American Holocaust by Milford F. Plaines
FBI - Freedom of Information Act - Mack Charles Parker
The Murder of Emmett Till