

The Chicago Daily News

May 31, 1924

Loeb, Leopold Tell How They Lured Boy Into Car, Slew Him

Two mentally gifted university students, sons of wealthy Hyde Park families, confessed to kidnapping and murder of 14-year-old Robert Franks today in the last detail of plot and execution.

They are Nathan Leopold, Jr., son of the millionaire president of the Fibre Can company, and Richard Loeb, whose father is a vice-president of Sears, Roebuck & Co.

They kidnapped the Franks boy in Ellis avenue, near his home and there, as the first step in what was to have been a series of similar crimes, "in concert for money and "in a spirit of adventure."

With Robert in their car, sitting in the front seat, the kidnapers turned east from 49th street and Ellis Avenue and a moment later the one in the back seat, supposedly Leopold, grasped the captive with a hand over his mouth and then swung the steel chisel on his head.

Victim Strangled to Death
The boy moaned. To stifle the sound, according to of-

ficial quotations from the confessions, a hand was kept over his mouth until a rag could be stuffed in and got blows on the head that caused death.

It was then about 5:30. Robert was dead five minutes after he left his homeward way to get into the automobile.

Loeb and Leopold set about their plans of ruining identification by sprinkling acid in the boy's face and undressing him. They drove out south to hide the clothing and then, about 9:30, went to the swamp. Leopold had a pair of rubber boots. He got out and Loeb handed the dead boy to him.

Elated, Wash Blood Off Car
The young murderers went directly home from their gruesome chore, apparently in a frame of mind more elated at the success of their plans than of horror at what they had done. They washed all the blood they could detect from the rented car, as it stood in the Loeb yard, then went to his room and after a game of casino went to sleep. The next morning they no-

ticed some blood on the car they had overlooked. They went over it carefully and removed every stain except some smears on the robe that resisted their best efforts.

When they returned the car they held out the robe and three days later, Saturday, took it out along the lake shore and tried to burn it.

Those details and all others of preparation, murder and concealment were told freely by the kidnapers once their resistance had been overcome. Evidence dug up by two young reporters for The Daily News, college mates of the suspect, hastened the confessions by revealing flaws in the alibi story. Cornered, discredited, beaten, the murderers told the truth.

Began Plot Last Winter
They planned the crime that baffled all Chicago as long ago as last November, they said. They selected as victims the Franks boy, the grandson of Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears, Roebuck & Co., and the son of Attorney David Levinson, 5201 Ingleside Avenue.

Then they began, with a craft scarcely paralleled in criminal history, to set the stage in such a way that they could operate without danger of detection. To begin with they had the advantage of position. Their parents are friends and social equals of the rich men they had in mind as victims. All are Jews. All live in the same exclusive section of Hyde Park.

Set Up Dual Lives
This advantage they supplemented by establishing

fictitious identities through registries at hotels here and in other towns, bank accounts and the like. All steps in the actual commission of the crime were rehearsed and checked with safety in view.

On Wednesday, May 21, they were ready, with a ransom letter so phrased that it could be delivered to the parents of any one of the three victims they had chosen. They rented a car and set out.

Chance threw the 14-year-old Franks boy in their path. They got him into their car by inviting him to play tennis at Loeb's. Then they killed him.

Coldly Await Ransom
The burial over, they mailed their ransom letter to Franks and sat down to await delivery of the \$10,000 they had demanded. They were sure Franks would pay. They even took the first steps, the next day, toward collecting by the unexpected discovery of the slain boy's body.

Boys Confident of Safety
They were confident they could not be caught. They had been too careful, too wise. Their confidence

endured from that day to this morning. It was so strong that Loeb actually figured in the hunt for the slayer at one stage, helping one of the reporters who was instrumental later in bringing him to justice.

As spectators with neighborly interest, they watched every step of the search, without a moment of worry. And why not? They were beyond suspicion. Leopold's father is president of the Fibre Can company, several times

a millionaire. Loeb's father is vice-president of Sears, Roebuck & Co.

And the students had positions of their own—fraternity men, good fellows, "sharks" at their studies. Leopold was a Ph.D. at 18 (a year ago) and a brilliant student of law. Surely they were safe.

But their confidence, their astonishing aplomb had deserted them at dawn today, when daylight began creeping through the dusty windows of the Criminal court building to reveal the climax of the terrible drama.

Loeb's Spirit Cracks
Lately so cocksure, so flip in the face of questioning, the lads had wilted. Loeb sat slumped in a chair in one room, his face yellow with fear, for they had trapped him. In stammering, gasping sentences, the beginnings of the story were coming from him.

In another room was the brilliant Leopold, ashen, haggard, on the rock. He, too, was "cracking."

Presently they were brought face to face, with a table between them, and their half confessions, each throwing the burden on the other fellow, were read to them. They cursed each other, shouted hysterical charges and denials and threats. Then the cold truth of their fix sobered them. They sat shaken and beaten to dictate jointly their real confession.

Please see "Plot," next page

LEOPOLD-LOEB TRIAL OPENING DRAWS NATION'S INTEREST



Richard Loeb, one of the two wealthy parents, who in the trial pleaded insanity. (Left) Nathan Leopold, Jr. The accused positions on the right and left are made ready.

Richard Loeb, who and Nathan Leopold, were the slayers of the 14-year-old Robert Franks. The accused positions on the right and left are made ready.

Something phenomenal occurred in the language of young people during the 1920's. It happened as the result of the desire by rebellious youths to defy the established customs of their parents. It was a harmless rebellion, and it took the country by storm, much to the annoyance of parents. The following list gives an excellent view of life through the words of the flapper. It also shows us how words work their way into our culture as many of these terms remain in our everyday speech.

ALL WET: wrong, as in "He's all wet."

BALONEY: a derogatory term such as "No way!" or "That's a bunch of baloney."

BEE'S KNEES: superb person, such as "She's the bee's knees."

BELLY LAUGH: a loud, uninhibited laugh.

BLIND DATE: a date with someone you don't know, usually arranged by friends.

BIG CHEESE: an important person.

BULL SESSION: an informal group discussion.

BUMP OFF: to murder.

BUNK: ridiculous, as in "That's a lot of bunk."

CAKE-EATER: a ladies' man.

CARRY A TORCH: to love someone, and not be loved back.

CAT'S MEOW OR CAT'S PAJAMAS: the best.

CHEATERS: eye-glases.

COPACETTIC (co-pa-SET-ic): excellent.

CRUSH: being enchanted with someone, as "She has a crush on her teacher."

DOGS: human feet, as "My dogs are tired tonight."

FLAPPER: a 20's girl with bobbed hair, short skirt, and rolled stockings.

FLAT TIRE: a boring person, a nerd.

FRAME: to get someone in trouble by giving false statements, as in "He framed me. I didn't do it."

GAMS: girls' legs, as in "She's got a nice-looking pair of gams."

GATECRASHER: someone who comes to a party uninvited.

GOOFY: silly, as in "He's too, too goofy."

GYP: to cheat, as in "She gyped me out of the lunch she promised."

HARD-BOILED: unsentimental, tough, as in "What a hard-boiled character he is!"

HEEBIE-JEEBIES: the willies, the jitters, as "You give me the heebie-jeebies when you talk like that."

HEP: wise, as in "I'm hep to that."

The 20's Vocabulary

Fact Sheet



Coal miner	\$723.00	Construction worker	907.00
Dentist	2391.00	Doctor	3382.00
Engineer	2520.00	Fire chief	2075.00
Hired man (farm)	216.00	Lawyer	4218.00
Maid	260.00	Police chief	2636.00
RR Conductor	2729.00	Nurse	936.00
Secretary	1040.00	Steelworker	422.87
Typist	624.00	U.S. Congressman	8663.00
Waitress	520.00	Teacher	1227.00
Bus Driver	1373.00		

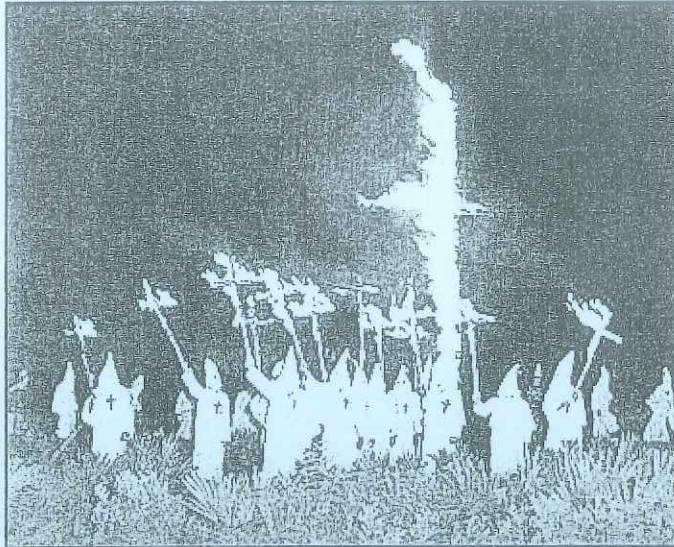
Average Salaries of Workers in the 1930's

THE KU KLUX KLAN

History Classroom Information

Taken from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ku_klux_klan and <http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h1381.html>

Ku Klux Klan (KKK) is the name of several past and present secret domestic militant organizations in the United States, generally in the southern states, that are best known for advocating white supremacy and acting as terrorists while hidden behind conical masks and white robes. The KKK has a record of terrorism, violence, and lynching to intimidate, murder, and oppress African Americans, Jews and other minorities and to intimidate and oppose Roman Catholics and labor unions.



legislatures and Congress, and were elected to the governorship in several states.

The central Klan offices marketed regalia and literature to local units, but agendas were molded by community conditions and concerns. Blacks were the subject of Klan activity in both the North and South, as were Jews, Catholics and immigrants. The Klan also organized to oppose the teaching of evolution in the school and efforts to repeal prohibition. Probably the majority of Klan members confined their opposition tactics

The first Klan was founded in 1865 by veterans of the Confederate Army. Its purpose was to restore white supremacy in the aftermath of the American Civil War. The KKK quickly adopted violent methods. The increase in murders finally resulted in a backlash among Southern elites who viewed the Klan's excesses as an excuse for federal troops to continue occupation. The organization declined from 1868 to 1870 and was destroyed by President Ulysses S. Grant's passage and enforcement of the Civil Rights Act of 1871.

In 1915, a new Klan was started in Stone Mountain, Georgia, by William Simmons, a Methodist minister who had taken inspiration from the favorable portrayal of the Klan in D.W. Griffith's epic film, *The Birth of a Nation*. The new Klan grew rapidly in another period of postwar social tensions. After World War I, many Americans coped with booming growth rates in major cities, where numerous waves of immigrants from southern and eastern Europe and the Great Migration of Southern blacks and whites were being absorbed. After World War I, labor tensions rose as veterans tried to reenter the work force. In reaction to these new groups of immigrants and migrants, the second KKK preached racism, anti-Catholicism, anti-Communism, nativism, and anti-Semitism. Some local groups took part in lynchings, attacks on private houses and public property, and other violent activities. Members used ceremonial cross burning to intimidate victims and demonstrate its power

The second Klan was a formal fraternal organization, with a national and state structure. At its peak in the mid-1920s, the organization included about 15% of the nation's eligible population, approximately 4–5 million men. Members served in state

to parading and burning crosses, the latter an innovation of the new Klan. However, violence was not uncommon — public whippings, tarring and feathering, and lynching occurred in many sections of the country.

Klan members adopted masks and robes that hid their identities and added to the drama of their night rides, their chosen time for attacks. Many of them operated in small towns and rural areas where people otherwise knew each other's faces, and sometimes still recognized the attackers. "The kind of thing that men are afraid or ashamed to do openly, and by day, they accomplish secretly, masked, and at night." With this method both the high and the low could be attacked. The Ku Klux Klan night riders "sometimes claimed to be ghosts of Confederate soldiers so, as they claimed, to frighten superstitious blacks.

The Klan's popularity fell rapidly during the Great Depression, and membership fell further during World War II. The name Ku Klux Klan has since been used by many independent groups opposing the Civil Rights Movement and desegregation, especially in the 1950s and 1960s. During this period, they often acted with impunity by forging alliances with Southern police departments or with governor's offices. Several members of KKK-affiliated groups were convicted of manslaughter and murder in the deaths of civil rights workers and children in the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Alabama, the assassination of NAACP organizer Medgar Evers, and the murders of three civil rights workers in Mississippi. Today, researchers estimate there may be more than 150 Klan chapters with 5,000-8,000 members nationwide. The U.S. government classifies them as hate groups, with operations in separated small local units.

