

ROSA PARKS

Directions: Complete the following reading and included primary sources related to the arrest of Rosa Parks to assist in completing the related activities.



On December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks, a 42-year-old woman took a seat on the bus on her way home from her job as a seamstress. Before she reached her destination, she quietly set off a social revolution when the bus driver instructed her to move back, and she refused. Rosa Parks, an African American, was arrested that day for violating a city law requiring racial segregation of public buses.

On the city buses of Montgomery, the first 10 seats were reserved for white passengers only. Rosa Parks was seated in the first row behind those 10 seats. When the bus became crowded, the bus driver instructed her and three other passengers seated in that row, all African Americans, to move from their seats for the white passengers boarding. While the other three passengers moved, Rosa Parks remained seated, arguing that she was not in a seat reserved for whites. When the driver, Joseph Blake, was unable to get her to move and he believed that she had defied his order, he called the police. Rosa Parks was immediately arrested, booked, fingerprinted, and briefly imprisoned.

Rosa Parks, and her actions, would prove to be incredibly beneficial to the overall Civil Rights Movement. She was a woman of unchallenged character who was held in high esteem by all those who knew her. At the time of her arrest, Rosa Parks was active in the local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), serving as secretary to E.D. Nixon, president of the Montgomery chapter. Her arrest became a rallying point around which the African American community organized a bus boycott in protest of the discrimination they had endured for years. Martin Luther King, Jr., the 26-year-old minister, emerged as a leader during the well-coordinated, peaceful boycott that lasted 381 days and captured the world's attention. It was during the boycott that Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., first achieved national fame as the public became acquainted with his powerful oratory.

After Rosa Parks was convicted under city law, her lawyer filed a notice of appeal. On November 13, 1956, the Supreme Court ruled that bus segregation was unconstitutional; the boycott ended December 20, a day after the Court's written order arrived in Montgomery. For a quiet act of defiance that resonated throughout the world, Rosa Parks earned the title "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement."

POLICE REPORT PG. 1

Misc

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF MONTGOMERY

Date 12-1-55 10

Complainant J.P. Blake (WM)

Address 27 No. Lewis St. Phone No. _____

Offense Misc. Reported By Same as above

Address _____ Phone No. _____

Date and Time Offense Committed 12-1-55 6:06 pm

Place of Occurrence In Front of Empire Theatre (On Montgomery Street)

Person or Property Attacked _____

How Attacked _____

Person Wanted _____

Value of Property Stolen _____ Value Recovered _____

Details of Complaint (list, describe and give value of property stolen)

We received a call upon arrival the bus operator said he had a colored female sitting in the white section of the bus, and would not move back.

We (Day & Mixon) also saw her.

The bus operator signed a warrant for her. Rosa Parks, (cf) 634 Cleveland Court.

Rosa Parks (cf) was charged with chapter 6 section 11 of the Montgomery City Code.

Warrant #11254

THIS OFFENSE IS DECLARED:
UNFOUNDED ☐
CLEARED BY ARREST ☐
EXCEPTIONALLY CLEARED ☐
INACTIVE (NOT CLEARED) ☐

Officers J. D. Day
D. W. Mixon

Division Patrol Time 7:00 pm
12-1-55

POLICE REPORT PG. 2

POLICE DEPARTMENT

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Date of Arrest 12-1-55

Arrested by Day + Nixon

Charges Resisting a bay order of bus driver
Chapter 6 Sec. 11 of City Code

Residence 634 Cleveland Court
Montgomery.

Disposition #10 + out (app)

Place of Birth Tuskegee Ala.

Nationality Negro

Date of Birth Feb. 4 1913.

Age 42 Height 5' Feet 3 Inches

Weight 140 Eyes Brown.

Complexion Black

Hair Black.

Build Med.

Scars and Marks None

Employed by Montgomery Fair.

Occupation alteration shop.

Relatives Husband, R. A. Parks.
634 Cleveland Court.

Remarks:

Case No.

44464

1. What was the reason(s) for Rosa Parks being arrested?

3. What event resulted from the actions of Rosa Parks? Explain the event.

5. Why do you think her protest was so effective? Explain your reasoning.

6. In what way did her actions impact the overall Civil Rights Movement?

7. How would you describe the legacy of Rosa Parks?