

Rosa Parks Makes History

by Duncan Searl

Rosa Parks Is Arrested

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks boarded a bus for home after work. Little did she know her ride would go down in history.

At the next stop, some white riders boarded. One man had to stand. "Hey!" the bus driver called to Rosa. "Give this man your seat!" On the segregated buses of Montgomery, Alabama, white riders got seats first.

Rosa Parks did not move.

"Just give him the seat," the driver ordered.

The driver's yell did not disturb Rosa Parks. She stayed put. The more African-Americans in Alabama gave in, the worse they were treated.

"I'll have you arrested," the driver warned.

"You may do that," Rosa Parks replied gently.

At the next stop, two policemen rushed Rosa Parks off to the city jail.



African-Americans Protest

News of the arrest spread, and African-Americans got very angry. They had had enough of segregation. Lawyers persuaded Rosa Parks to become a test case. They wanted to prove that bus segregation was illegal. They would go all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

African-Americans boycotted the buses. They formed carpools, took cabs, rode bikes, walked; they did not ride the buses. A young minister in Montgomery led the boycott. His name was Martin Luther King, Jr.

Without African-American riders, the bus company lost money. So did businessmen along the bus routes. They tried to stop the boycott. African-Americans stood firm.

Segregated Buses Are Declared Illegal

After a year, news came from Washington. The Supreme Court justices agreed with Rosa Parks that segregated buses were illegal. All citizens have the right to ride the buses.

The rest is history. The Civil Rights Movement had begun. And Rosa Parks's case was the start of it all!

