

THE MAYCOMB LIBERAL CITIZENS GAZETTE

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By Maudie Atkinson

A TIME FOR CHANGE

Tom Robinson's Trial was one of the most exciting and most meaningful events of this summer. Tom was accused of rape by a Mr. Bob Ewell. Bob Ewell is well known for his lack of obeying the law and his perpetual drinking problem. Tom is known for being a hard working black man, with a dead arm that was caught in a cotton gin when he was young. In this day and age, most likely the most important fact to the average person in my last sentence, was the fact that Tom was black. It was that actuality that caused the unfair yet easily expected outcome of the trial. Tom was black, but why should that take away his innocence and kind heartedness? Sure, many people knew Tom was innocent, but only one man was willing to risk his credibility as a true citizen to try and prove it. That man was Tom's lawyer, Atticus Finch. Atticus accomplished less than he intended, yet more at the same time. All he wanted to do was to prove that Tom was innocent of his misdemeanor, but that did not happen. However Atticus did something even harder, he made people realize that a black man was more innocent than a white man, and let the whole town take a big step forward into the future.

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<http://blackwalnutdispatch.com/2012/05/07/literary-gardeners-mayella-ewell-and-maudie-atkinson/>



<http://space2live.net/tag/atticus-finch/>



<http://tokillamockingbirdtmd.wikispaces.com/Bob+Ewell>

A pivotal point in the trial was when Atticus tried to claim that Bob Ewell was not only lying that Tom raped his daughter Mayella, but he was trying to infer that Bob had actually beat his own daughter. That was an exceedingly critical moment because Atticus was risking the entire case by saying something as intense as accusing a man of hitting his own daughter. Now normally I would be appalled by someone accusing someone else of something as heavy as abusing and maltreating his own kin. This situation is much different, that is because Atticus was able to back up his accusation so well that I'm sure, that poor girl was ready to admit what her father was actually doing in secret and silence. At the same time I wonder what would have happened to those pitiful children if their father had gone to jail. As much as he is a terrible influence on them, and causes them to have a lack in social

skills and education, he is still their father, and they probably wouldn't know what to do if he were not around, also they would be a large burden on the town because they would be unsupervised and then have no one to punish them for their wrongdoings. I can just see them running up and down the streets tearing up my flower beds, making too much noise, it would be absolute mayhem. It seemed like the case was going to be the most eventful acts to occur in this town for a long time. I can say without a doubt it was certainly not. After the trial things took a turn for the worst. It started with Bob Ewell threatening Atticus Finch. Now the most interesting part of this encounter is that Atticus let Mr. Ewell spit in his face and cuss at him, and neither said nor did anything in response. Now I think that this says what kind of a man Atticus is. Some might say is

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implies that he is a coward, or that he did nothing because he was scared or too old. Now I think that anyone who says that is just plain dense. By not doing anything Atticus has once again separated himself from the modern male, he has shown Bob that not only is he not scared of him, but he also does not respect him enough to even take his threat seriously, it shows that Atticus is an above average gentleman.

What goes around, comes around. That is all I would have wanted to say to Bob Ewell before the events that ultimately led to his death. Bob Ewell had already threatened Atticus, the he decided would be a good idea to scare more people too. He decided to try and meddle with Judge Taylor. The poor man was at his home alone when he heard a fright come from outside, he went to check what it was only to find nothing because Mr. Ewell had run away. Judge Taylor was scared enough from the situation that he sat with his shotgun across his lap for the rest of the night. Then Bob Ewell stooped to an even lower level. Helen Robinson, now a widow because Tom is deceased, needed a job to provide for herself and her children. Mr. Link Deas was kind enough and respectful enough to the Robinson family that he happily gave Helen a job. Bob saw this as an opportunity to mess with her on her way to and from work. This woman has had terrible tragedy occur in her family with her husband being killed. Now she needs to work in order to provide for her family, and on top of that she is being harassed by the man responsible for her husband's death. Bob Ewell's final act of anger is once again towards Atticus. Atticus's two children Jem and Scout were walking home from a Halloween fair and pageant. Then Bob Ewell jumped out from behind them and tried to strangle them. Jem fought with him

briefly but Bob Ewell broke Jem's arm at his elbow, and tried strangling Scout. What happened next is unclear to everyone, according to Sheriff Heck Tate, Bob tripped and fell on his own knife, jamming the knife up his own rib cage. Some people say that Jem was able to get up and kill Bob himself, although that seems highly unlikely since the poor boy was on the ground in pure agony. Some people even say that there was a secret third party that saved Scout and Jem's lives. However no one knows who that could've been. I think that Bob Ewell fell on his own knife, since he has a drinking problem, he was most likely drunk, and probably fell on his own knife. Bob Ewell killed himself in more ways than one, it was his fault that he died, but he also died because what goes around comes around, and he had done some pretty terrible things.

Tom Robinson died because of Bob Ewell. Bob Ewell is now dead because of the terrible things he had done. All of this could have easily been avoided if the jury had just done what they knew was right and found Tom Robinson innocent and Bob Ewell guilty. It is almost like killing a mockingbird, there was no reason any of these events should have happened. If there were not a difference between Black and White in the eyes of society then none of this would have happened. The town of Maycomb needs to change soon or situations like these will keep happening, and the aftermath of how we deal with these situation will keep getting worse. We need more men like Atticus Finch in this town. We need change.



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