

SUMMER FOR THE GODS

— The Scopes Trial —

— and America's —

— Continuing Debate —

— Over Science —

— and Religion —

EDWARD J. LARSON

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471. Edward Larson
Summer for the Gods
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Why Monkey trial
Monkey state

1925 Dayton, TN.
Subvent the Wind

Scopes Trial Museum
Scopes Festival
Bryan College
Subvent the Wind (1955)

The Trial -
Scopes and Bryan Jr. went
swimming in mountain stream

Rappleyea - 31 yrs. old
Scopes 24 yrs. old
Hunter lives Biology

Quinn Dennis

1948 > Outlawing of school prayer - Hugo Black
1962 p249

Thurs 3

Bryan - a liberal Democrat - everyone else on his side were right wing fundamentalist

H.L. Menckey - what was his role

Peerless leader
The Great Commoner

Bryan - July 26 dies p200

The role of the ACLU

Misdemeanor - most widely publicized
Scopes would not testify 173

Bryan resigns in 1915 as Sec. State because of WWI p35
Congress from Nebraska at age 30
The Boy Orator of the Platte

Modernism

200 speeches a year

Worked for 4 amendments -
① Prohibition
② Direct Election of Senators
③ Progressive fed. income tax
④ Female suffrage

Moved to Miami

"Weekly Bible Talks"

German militarism was connected to Darwinism

Billy Sunday - former Chi. Cubs. outfielder

TN Supreme Court appeal - Bryan's son Jr. gets involved p217
John Scopes refuses to go to court
Court upheld status dismissed Scopes conviction 220

At the end of the century, the legacy of the Scopes trial is up for grabs. p224

George W. Rappleyea p88

Herbert and Sue Hicks prosecutors

Fred Robinson - Dugston owner
Chairman Rhea County School Board

John T. Scopes - 24 years

Biology teacher - chain smoker

Kentucky U. student father socialist
agnostic

Accountant: Salem Ill. - same as Bryan

Hicks stood beside Scopes and said he
would prosecute p91

Governor Austin Peay

H.L. Menckin's comment on Dayton 93

Dudley Field Malone - worked for Bryan
at State Dept - resented his former boss
joined Darwin p161

John T. Raulston - presiding judge from Chat.

SUMMER FOR THE GODS

Roger Baldwin - prison
National Civil Liberties Bureau becomes ACLU

Arthur Garfield Hays - most influential
lawyer on ACLU exec comm.

named after Rep. Presidents

Clarence Danow - premier defender of (68 yrs old)
radical labor leaders

won for Congress - lost by 100 votes -

1911 murder trial - 2 labor leaders blew up A. T. Union
Building
they conferred guilt

John R. Neal - acted as local counsel for defense
had run for Gov. against Peary

ACLU first big issue - academic freedom

Lucille Wilmer - ACLU secretary found story
on TV bill in TV newspaper

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News

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*Renowned Lawyer, Historian and Author uncovers
new archival material on the Scopes "Monkey Trial" and*
**AMERICA'S CONTINUING DEBATE OVER
CENSORSHIP IN THE CLASSROOM**

Before O.J. Simpson, there was another "trial of the century," a trial that also had multifaceted issues which were larger than the particular case, a trial that electrified, divided and changed an entire nation. With never-before-published archival material, *SUMMER FOR THE GODS: The Scopes Trial and America's Continuing Debate Over Science and Religion* (Basic Books: July 1997) by Edward J. Larson carefully reconstructs the events surrounding one of the most explosive trials in the history of America's legal system, and explores its continuing reverberations throughout our nation seventy years later.

The Scopes "Monkey Trial" was not merely about whether John T. Scopes, a 24-year-old general science teacher and part-time football coach in a small-town high school, had broken the Tennessee Anti-Evolution Bill which forbade the teaching that man is descended from a lower order of animals. It commanded the participation of two of America's greatest celebrities, the famed defense lawyer Clarence Darrow and three-time presidential candidate William Jennings Bryan, because so much more was at stake: academic freedom, the right of states and local bodies to control the content of education, the credibility of evolutionary theory in the wake of new discoveries, as well as the debate over science and religion. As Darrow remarked on his way to Dayton, Scopes was not on trial, civilization was.

In *SUMMER FOR THE GODS*, the first new book on the Scopes trial in 40 years, Larson researches scarce personal letters and papers, newspaper clippings and pamphlets, minutes of backroom meetings, and other rare archival material to reveal the behind-the-scenes maneuvering: such as the instigation of the trial as a "publicity stunt" dreamed up by the city leaders of a dying Tennessee town; the ACLU's attempts to keep Darrow off the defense; the not-so-veiled Christian bias of the presiding judge; and, the unapologetic cynical asides of star reporter H.L. Menken. The author goes far beyond the courtroom in his analysis when he follows the players through the aftermath of the trial, discusses continuing legal battles over the teaching of evolution, and assesses how and why the Scopes trial became an American legend with such creative retellings as the 1960 release of *Inherit the Wind*, the film version of the Scopes's trial which attracted the participation of superstars Spencer Tracy and Fredric March.

In frustration with the singularly religious nature of the prosecution, Darrow declared the Scopes trial to be a witch hunt, and, as in most witch hunts, serious questions were at stake. Was the

—more—



Tennessee law in violation of the constitutional separation of church and state? Was the teaching of Darwin's "survival of the fittest" morally seditious? Could evolution and the Bible be reconciled? How much influence should the shared values of a community have over the curriculum taught in its schools? This famous trial raised these questions in the context of the centuries-old battle between religion and science, between dogma and the right to think, between the rule of the majority and individual liberties. With unrelenting thoroughness, Larson's ***SUMMER FOR THE GODS*** offers a provocative new look at the notorious Scopes trial and analyzes the importance and enduring impact of these issues.

"Give me that old-time religion, It's good enough for me." So goes a traditional hymn that opens *Inherit the Wind*. Yet the echoes of the trial of the century don't stop with this McCarthy-era retelling. In ***SUMMER FOR THE GODS***, Larson details the continuing ramifications of this watershed trial. Not until 1967 was the Tennessee anti-evolution law finally repealed, and weeks later, the Arkansas Supreme Court upheld a similar law as "a valid exercise of the state's power to specify the curriculum in its public schools." It was only in the U.S. Supreme Court that the issues raised by the "Scopes Case" were finally decided. Yet similarly restrictive legislation is currently pending in Ohio, Iowa, New Hampshire, Tennessee and Georgia. And with the rise of the religious right in this country, of Ralph Reed, the Christian Coalition and Pat Robertson, the questions raised in Scopes's trial seem hardly settled. The historic Scopes trial touched a nerve in this country, and as Larson scrupulously documents in ***SUMMER FOR THE GODS***, the effects on America's laws and culture are still being felt.

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About the Author:

Edward J. Larson is a former associate counsel for the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and Labor. He is now a professor with a joint appointment in history and law at the University of Georgia. For his work on *Summer for the Gods*, Larson was recently awarded a fellowship at the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Study Center. He lives in Stanwood, Washington, and Athens, Georgia.

Advance praise for *SUMMER FOR THE GODS*:

"A recapitulation of the celebrated 1925 Scopes "Monkey Trial" in Dayton, Tenn.—but one that goes far beyond the courtroom in its analysis. . . . A learned and absorbing book, especially in its account of the reverberations of the Scopes trial in recent American history."

—*Kirkus Reviews*

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The Scopes Trial and America's Continuing Debate over Science and Religion

by Edward J. Larson

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