



The Great Wall of Los Angeles

1960s – Present





Black Liberation





By 1966, the civil rights movement had been gaining momentum for more than a decade, as thousands of African Americans embraced a strategy of nonviolent protest against racial segregation and demanded equal rights under the law. But for an increasing number of African Americans, particularly young Black men and women, that strategy did not go far enough. Protesting segregation, they believed, failed to adequately address the poverty and powerlessness that generations of systemic discrimination and racism had imposed on so many Black Americans.

Inspired by the principles of racial pride, autonomy and self-determination expressed by Malcolm X (whose assassination in 1965 had brought even more attention to his ideas), as well as liberation movements in Africa, Asia and Latin America, the Black Power movement that flourished in the late 1960s and '70s argued that Black Americans should focus on creating economic, social and political power of their own, rather than seek integration into white-dominated society.

Crucially, Black Power advocates, particularly more militant groups like the Black Panther Party, did not discount the use of violence, but embraced Malcolm X's challenge to pursue freedom, equality and justice "by any means necessary."

Bettmann Archive/Getty Images



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. being shoved back by Mississippi patrolmen during the 220 mile 'March Against Fear' from Memphis, Tennessee to Jackson, Mississippi, Mississippi, on June 8, 1966.

[Underwood Archives/Getty Images](#)



Black Panthers from Sacramento, Free Huey Rally, Bobby Hutton Memorial Park, Oakland, Calif., No. 62, Aug. 25, 1968. Photograph by Pirkle Jones.

Gift of the Pirkle Jones Foundation, © Regents of the University of California



Malcolm X speaking in front of the 369th Regiment Armory, 1964.

Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Gift of Nell Draper-Winston. © The Louis Draper Archive

Malcolm X

The inspiration behind much of the black power movement, Malcolm X's intellect, historical analysis, and powerful speeches impressed friend and foe alike. The primary spokesman for the Nation of Islam until 1964, he traveled to Mecca that year and returned more optimistic about social change. He saw the African American freedom movement as part of an international struggle for human rights and anti-colonialism. After his assassination in 1965, his memory continued to inspire the rising tide of black power.

Smithsonian Tribute to Malcolm X:
Video Clip Click [HERE](#).



*From left to right, Civil rights leaders Floyd B. McKissick, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Stokely Carmichael marching to encourage voter registration, 1966.
Vernon Merritt III/The LIFE Images Collection/Getty Images*



Stokely Carmichael speaking at a civil rights gathering in Washington, D.C. on April 13, 1970.

Bettmann Archive/Getty Images

As biographer Peniel E. Joseph writes in *Stokely: A Life*, the events in Mississippi “catapulted Stokely into the political space last occupied by Malcolm X,” as he went on TV news shows, was profiled in *Ebony* and written up in the *New York Times* under the headline “Black Power Prophet.”

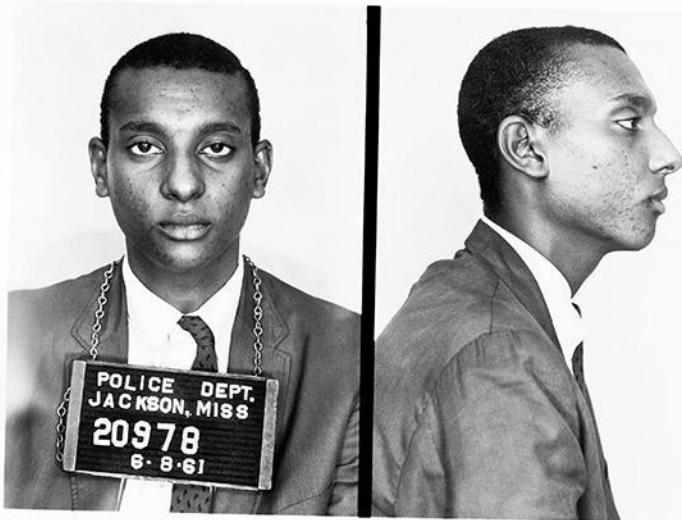
Carmichael’s growing prominence put him at odds with King, who acknowledged the frustration among many African Americans with the slow pace of change, but didn’t see violence and separatism as a viable path forward. With the country mired in the [Vietnam War](#) (a war both Carmichael and King spoke out against) and the civil rights movement King had championed losing momentum, the message of the Black Power movement caught on with an increasing number of Black Americans.

King and Carmichael renewed their alliance in early 1968, as King was planning his Poor People’s Campaign, which aimed to bring thousands of protesters to Washington, D.C., to call for an end to poverty. But in April 1968, King was assassinated in Memphis while in town to support a strike by the city’s sanitation workers as part of that campaign.

In the aftermath of King’s murder, a mass outpouring of grief and anger led to [riots in more than 100 U.S. cities](#). Later that year, one of the most visible Black Power demonstrations took place at the Summer Olympics in Mexico City, where Black athletes John Carlos and Tommie Smith [raised black-gloved fists](#) in the air on the medal podium.

By 1970, Carmichael (who later changed his name to Kwame Ture) had moved to Africa, and SNCC had been supplanted at the forefront of the Black Power movement by more militant groups, such as the [Black Panther Party](#), the US Organization, the Republic of New Africa and others, who saw themselves as the heirs to Malcolm X’s revolutionary philosophy.

<https://www.history.com/news/black-power-movement-civil-rights>





On July 4, 1964, the Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM) wrote a letter to the Vietnamese Front of National Liberation congratulating them on their “victories against U.S. imperialism.” They expressed their commitment to creating “a new world free from exploitation of man by man,” and explained their rejection of U.S. counterrevolutionary measures against their Third World brothers. Eighteen months later, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) issued a statement opposing the Vietnam War, exposing that the U.S. hid behind the discourse of democracy and freedom to undermine the sovereignty and self-determination of racialized people throughout the Global South and in the United States. Given this deception and hypocrisy, SNCC offered its support to those who refused to be drafted into the service of U.S. imperial aggression, and encouraged Americans to put their energy toward the struggle for civil and human rights, instead of the propagation of war and suffering.

Anti-war Protests in Harlem in 1967 (Photo: Savannah Cox).



USA. Hampton, Virginia.
1962. © Bruce
[Davidson/Magnum Photos](#)



[Kathleen Cleaver and Black Panther](#)
co-founder Bobby Seale (right) at a 'Free
Huey' rally in Oakland, California, in
the summer of 1968.



Angela Davis speaking at a street rally in 1974. Photograph: Bettmann/Bettmann Archive

‘The veteran civil rights campaigner on growing up in segregated America, the opportunity of the Black Lives Matter movement and what inspires her to keep fighting

Angela Davis: ‘We knew that the role of the police was to protect white supremacy’

WANTED BY THE FBI

INTERSTATE FLIGHT - MURDER, KIDNAPING
ANGELA YVONNE DAVIS

FBI No. 867,615 G

Photograph taken 1969



Photograph taken 1970



Alias: "Tamu"

DESCRIPTION

Age:	26	Eyes:	Brown
Height:	5'8"	Complexion:	Light brown
Weight:	145 pounds	Race:	Negro
Build:	Slender	Nationality:	American
Hair:	Black		
Occupation:	Teacher		
Scars and Marks:	Small scars on both knees		

Fingerprint Classification: [REDACTED]

CAUTION

ANGELA DAVIS IS WANTED ON KIDNAPING AND MURDER CHARGES GROWING OUT OF AN ABDUCTION AND SHOOTING IN MARIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, ON AUGUST 7, 1970. SHE ALLEGEDLY HAS PURCHASED SEVERAL GUNS IN THE PAST. CONSIDER POSSIBLY ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

A Federal warrant was issued on August 15, 1970, at San Francisco, California, charging Davis with unlawful interstate flight to avoid prosecution for murder and kidnaping (Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 1073).

IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS PERSON, PLEASE NOTIFY ME OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FBI OFFICE. TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES OF ALL FBI OFFICES LISTED ON BACK.

Entered NCIC
Wanted Flyer 457
August 18, 1970

J. Edgar Hoover
DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535
TELEPHONE, NATIONAL 8-7117

FBI Wanted poster for Angela Davis

FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) wanted poster for Angela Yvonne Davis. The poster features two pictures of Davis as well as descriptive information about her physical features. The poster also details information about why she is wanted by the FBI. The back of the poster has a list of addresses and telephone numbers of the FBI special agents who should be contacted with any information.

https://nmaahc.si.edu/object/nmaahc_2012.60.8



On February 1, 1960, four African-American college students made history just by sitting down at a whites-only lunch counter at a Woolworth's in Greensboro, North Carolina. Service never came for the "Greensboro Four," as they came to be known, and their peaceful demonstration drew national attention and sparked more "sit-ins" in Southern cities. *Donald Uhrbrock/Time Life Pictures/Getty Images*



4 Black Students in Greensboro, North Carolina, at the first sit-ins.
<https://www.history.com/news/greensboro-four-sit-in-civil-rights>



<https://www.latimes.com/local/obituaries/la-me-anne-mody-20150211-story.html>



Woolworths protest, Los Angeles, 1960

The California Christian Ministers Conference protest at Woolworths including Dr. Martin Luther King followed by Rev. Maurice Dawkins

Charles Williams photographed for the California Eagle and the Los Angeles Sentinel as a freelance photographer. His career was interrupted during the war years when his wife was placed in a Japanese relocation camp. Upon his return to Los Angeles, he began his wide ranging coverage of the African American community covering the Civil Rights Movement, churches, politics, social activities, and celebrities. Williams established the California School of Photography, giving many aspiring photographers their start. He later became the official photographer for Los Angeles City Councilman Gordon Hahn



A protestor practiced keeping his cool as smoke was blown in his face. His stand-in tormentors were David Gunter, an N.A.A.C.P.-student adviser (left), and Leroy Hill, a high school teacher.

[Howard Sochurek/Life Pictures/Shutterstock](#)



Kresge's in Petersburg used a chain and a 'Reserved' sign setting off the white lunch counter to keep the African-Americans from sitting down.

[Howard Sochurek/Life Pictures/Shutterstock](#)



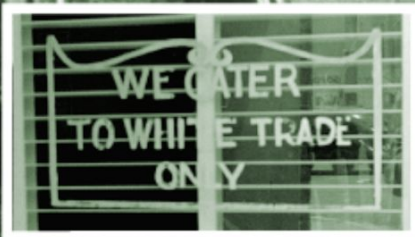
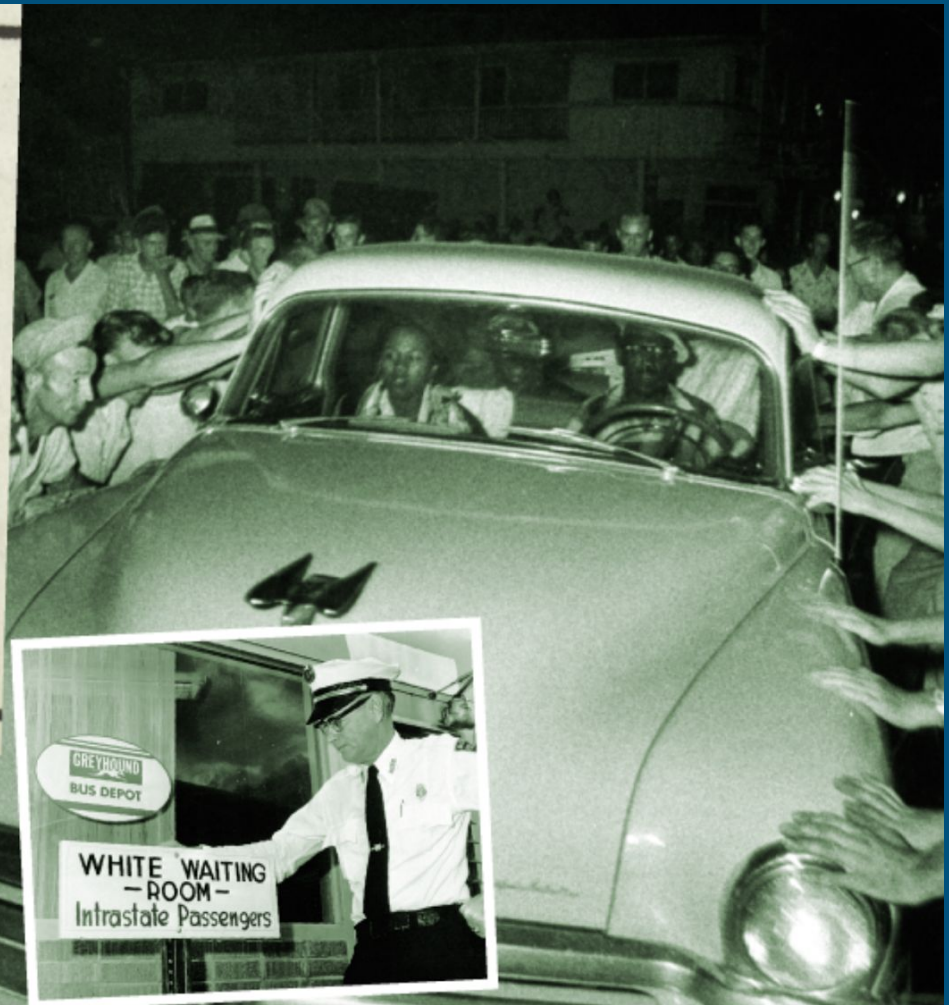
Training for sit-in harassment, Petersburg, Va.,
1960.

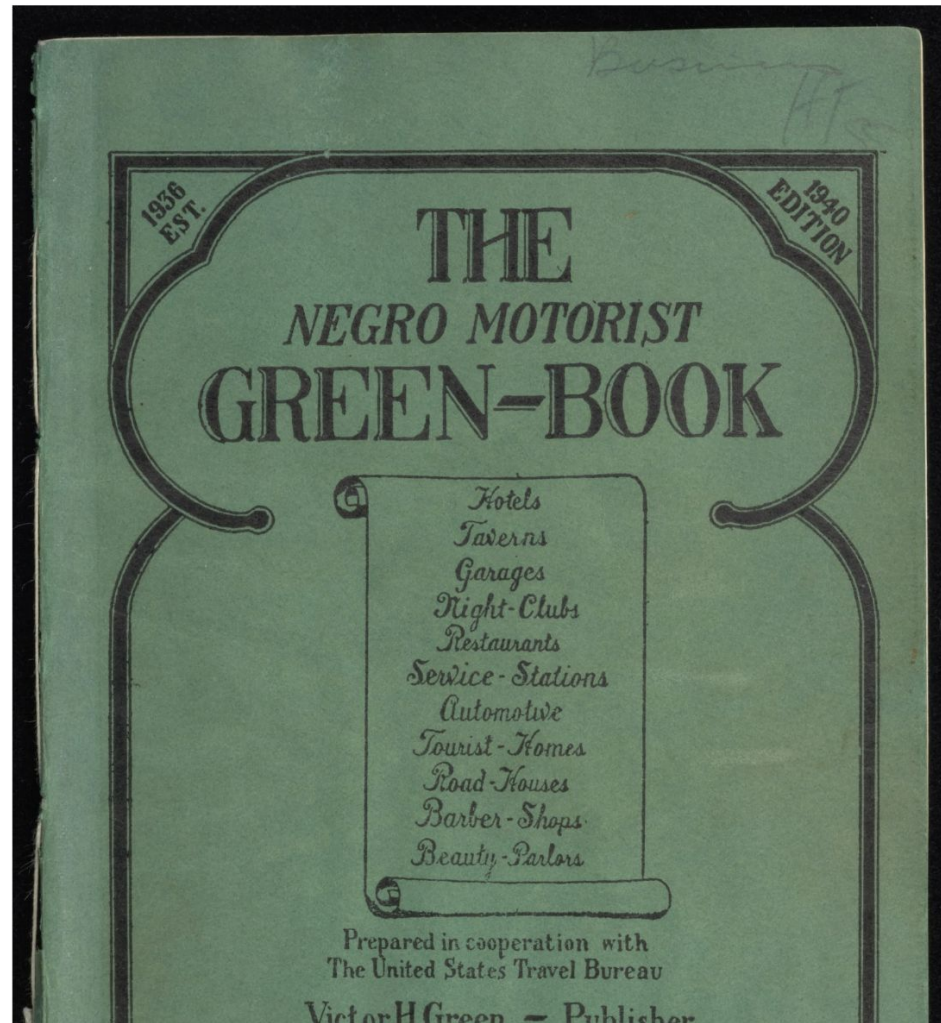
[Howard Sochurek/Life Pictures/Shutterstock](#)



“Signs of the Times: The Visual Politics of Jim Crow,”

A sign in Jackson, Mississippi, photographed in 1961.





The Negro Motorist Green Book, 1940

The Green Book, first published in 1936, was the brainchild of a Harlem-based postal carrier named Victor Hugo Green who, like most African Americans in the mid-20th century, had grown weary of the discrimination Blacks faced whenever they ventured outside their neighborhoods. This guide helped Black Americans indulge in travel without fear.

The New York Public Library

A look inside the Green Book, which guided Black travelers through a segregated and hostile America

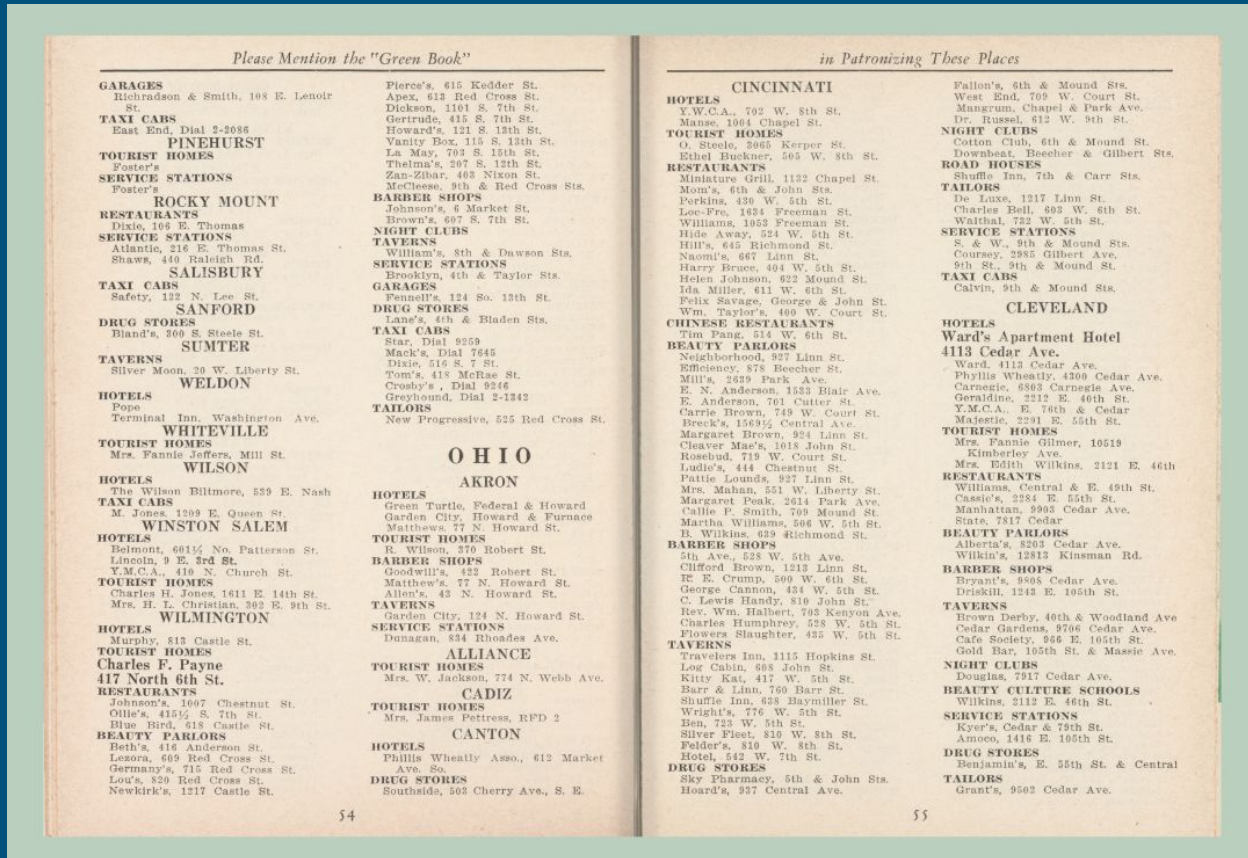
For Black travelers driving across segregated America in the '40s, '50s and '60s, the Negro Motorist Green Book was more than a travel aid – it was a guide for keeping them safe.

The Green Book – named after its creator, not the color of its covers – was pocket-sized, about 5 by 7 inches, and published nearly every year from 1937 to 1966.

The guide was an indispensable list of Black-friendly businesses essential to travel: hotels, restaurants, gas stations, garages and more.

"It was one of many things African Americans had to develop to survive a hostile environment," says Scot Brown, professor of African American Studies and history at the University of California-Los Angeles. "A modern-day equivalent could be a Black GPS."

<https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/travel/2021/02/19/black-history-month-inside-green-book-travel-guide/4357851001/>



Please Mention the "Green Book"

GARAGES
Richardson & Smith, 108 E. Lenoir St.

TAXI CABS
East End, Dial 2-2686

PINHURST

TOURIST HOMES
Foster's

SERVICE STATIONS
Foster's

ROCKY MOUNT

RESTAURANTS
Dixie, 106 E. Thomas

SERVICE STATIONS
Atlantic, 216 E. Thomas St.
Shaws, 440 Raleigh Rd.

SALISBURY

TAXI CABS
Safety, 122 N. Lee St.

SANFORD

DRUG STORES
Bland's, 306 S. Steele St.

SUMTER

TAVERNS
Silver Moon, 26 W. Liberty St.

WELDON

HOTELS
Pope
Terminal Inn, Washington Ave.

WHITEVILLE

TOURIST HOMES
Mrs. Fannie Jeffers, Mill St.

WILSON

HOTELS
The Wilson Billmore, 559 E. Nash

TAXI CABS
M. Jones, 1269 E. Queen St.

WINSTON SALEM

HOTELS
Belmont, 601 1/2 No. Patterson St.
Lincoln, 9 E. 3rd St.
Y.M.C.A., 410 N. Church St.

TOURIST HOMES
Charles H. Jones, 1411 E. 14th St.
Mrs. H. L. Christian, 302 E. 9th St.

WILMINGTON

HOTELS
Murphy, 515 Castle St.

TOURIST HOMES
Charles F. Payne
417 North 6th St.

RESTAURANTS
Johnson's, 1067 Chestnut St.
Ollie's, 415 1/2 S. 7th St.
Blue Bird, 615 Castle St.

BEAUTY PARLORS
Beth's, 416 Anderson St.
Lezora, 609 Red Cross St.
Germany's, 715 Red Cross St.
Lou's, 820 Red Cross St.
Newkirk's, 1217 Castle St.

in Patronizing These Places

CINCINNATI

HOTELS
Y.W.C.A., 702 W. 8th St.
Manse, 1061 Chapel St.

TOURIST HOMES
O. Steele, 2645 Kerper St.
Ethel Buckner, 505 W. 3rd St.

RESTAURANTS
Miniature Grill, 1122 Chapel St.
Mom's, 6th & John St.
Perkins, 430 W. 5th St.
Lee-Fre, 1634 Freeman St.
Williams, 1859 Freeman St.
Hide Away, 524 W. 6th St.
Hill's, 645 Richmond St.
Naomi's, 667 Linn St.
Harry Bruce, 404 W. 5th St.
Helen Johnson, 622 Mound St.
Ida Miller, 611 W. 6th St.
Felix Savage, George & John St.
Wm. Taylor's, 400 W. Court St.

CHINESE RESTAURANTS
Tim Pang, 214 W. 6th St.

BEAUTY PARLORS
Neighborhood, 927 Linn St.
Efficiency, 875 Beecher St.
Mill's, 2639 Park Ave.
E. N. Anderson, 1333 Blair Ave.
E. Anderson, 761 Cutler St.
Carrie Brown, 749 W. Court St.
Breck's, 1563 1/2 Central Ave.
Margaret Brown, 924 Linn St.
Clever Mae's, 1915 John St.
Rosebud, 719 W. Court St.
Ludie's, 414 Chestnut St.
Pattie Lounde, 927 Linn St.
Mrs. Mahan, 551 W. Liberty St.
Margaret Penk, 2614 Park Ave.
Callie P. Smith, 709 Mound St.
Martha Williams, 606 W. 5th St.
B. Wilkins, 629 Richmond St.

BARBER SHOPS
5th Ave., 528 W. 5th Ave.
Clifford Brown, 1213 Linn St.
T. E. Crump, 209 W. 6th St.
George Cannon, 424 W. 5th St.
C. Lewis Handy, 810 John St.
Rev. Wm. Halbert, 703 Kenyon Ave.
Charles Humphrey, 528 W. 5th St.
Flowers Slaughter, 435 W. 5th St.

TAVERNS
Travelers Inn, 1115 Hopkins St.
Leor Cabin, 608 John St.
Kitty Kat, 417 W. 5th St.
Barr & Linn, 759 Barr St.
Shuffle Inn, 428 Baymiller St.
Wright's, 776 W. 5th St.
Ben, 723 W. 5th St.
Silver Fleet, 810 W. 8th St.
Felder's, 810 W. 8th St.
Hotel, 542 W. 7th St.

DRUG STORES
Sky Pharmacy, 5th & John St.
Hoard's, 927 Central Ave.

Fallon's, 6th & Mound Sts.
West End, 709 W. Court St.
Maugrum, Chapel & Park Ave.
Dr. Russel, 612 W. 9th St.

NIGHT CLUBS
Cotton Club, 6th & Mound St.
Downbeat, Beecher & Gilbert Sts.

ROAD HOUSES
Shuffle Inn, 7th & Carr Sts.

TAILORS
De Luxe, 1217 Linn St.
Charles Bell, 609 W. 5th St.
Walsh, 732 W. 4th St.

SERVICE STATIONS
S. & W., 9th & Mound Sts.
Coursey, 2935 Gilbert Ave.
9th St., 9th & Mound St.

TAXI CABS
Calvin, 9th & Mound Sts.

CLEVELAND

HOTELS
Ward's Apartment Hotel
4113 Cedar Ave.
Ward, 4113 Cedar Ave.
Phyllis Wheatly, 4309 Cedar Ave.
Carnegie, 6803 Carnegie Ave.
Geraldine, 2212 E. 46th St.
Y.M.C.A., E. 74th & Cedar
Maiserle, 2241 E. 55th St.

TOURIST HOMES
Mrs. Fannie Gilmer, 10519
Kimberley Ave.

RESTAURANTS
Mrs. Edith Wilkins, 2121 E. 46th

BEAUTY PARLORS
Williams, Central & E. 49th St.
Cassie's, 2284 E. 55th St.
Manhattan, 4993 Cedar Ave.
State, 7817 Cedar

BARBER SHOPS
Alberta's, 5203 Cedar Ave.
Wilkin's, 12813 Kinsman Rd.

TAVERNS
Brown Derby, 46th & Woodland Ave.
Cedar Gardens, 3706 Cedar Ave.
Cafe Society, 466 E. 105th St.
Gold Bar, 105th St. & Massie Ave.

NIGHT CLUBS
Douglas, 7917 Cedar Ave.

BEAUTY CULTURE SCHOOLS
Wilkins, 2113 E. 46th St.

SERVICE STATIONS
Kyer's, Cedar & 79th St.
Amoco, 1418 E. 105th St.

DRUG STORES
Benjamin's, E. 55th St. & Central

TAILORS
Grant's, 9503 Cedar Ave.

L.A. Freedom Riders mark historic journey

Robert Farrell was just 24 when he boarded a Mississippi-bound train from Los Angeles during the summer of 1961.

A recent UCLA graduate, the present-day San Pedro resident was among 11 students from Los Angeles – men and women, black and white – who set out to protest the unlawful segregation of transportation facilities in the American South by traveling to Louisiana and Mississippi aboard interstate bus lines.

They never made it.

The students were arrested for unlawful assembly as they sat at a lunch counter at Houston's Union Station Coffee Shop and thrown in jail. Together, they endured racial tension, and some fell victim to violence.

But in the end, they accomplished their goal and helped transform the country. The Los Angeles Freedom Riders embarked on their journey to support the 435 other activists – mostly students – who traveled together aboard buses and converged on cities in the South from May to August 1961 for nonviolent protests of segregation. The first Freedom Rides left Washington, D.C., on May 4, and their 50th anniversary is celebrated this month.

It was the images of the brutal violence the first group of riders faced once they reached Birmingham and Montgomery, Ala. – flashed on television screens and splashed in newspapers – that galvanized the Los Angeles students into action.

“The call went out to students across the country,” said Farrell, now 74 and living in San Pedro.

“Let's save the Freedom Riders.”

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/freedomriders/>



Greensboro Student Sit-ins, 1960.

The Greensboro Four were four young Black men who staged the first sit-in at Greensboro: Ezell Blair Jr., David Richmond, Franklin McCain and Joseph McNeil. All four were students from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College. They were influenced by the nonviolent protest techniques practiced by Mohandas Gandhi, as well as the Freedom Rides organized by the Congress for Racial Equality (CORE) in 1947, in which interracial activists rode across the South in buses to test a recent Supreme Court decision banning segregation in interstate bus travel. The Greensboro Four, as they became known, had also been spurred to action by the brutal murder in 1955 of a young Black boy, Emmett Till, who had allegedly whistled at a white woman in a Mississippi store.



Anne Moody endures harassment from a crowd of whites at a Woolworth's in Jackson, Miss.

Fred Blackwell/Jackson Daily News, via Associated Press



[Lena Horne entertains a group of fans outside the Imperial Theater in New York, where she was performing in 1958. \(AP\)](#)

It was 1960 in Beverly Hills and Lena Horne had had enough. The world renowned singer and actress was trying to enjoy an evening out with her husband when a man at the next table began making racial slurs. According to Horne, the man, an engineering executive named Harvey St. Vincent, looked Horne up and down and said, "So that's Lena Horne, huh? Well, she's just another black nigger to me. All niggers look alike to me, and there ain't nothing they can do for me." Horne was outraged. She told him to stop. When St. Vincent continued his tirade, Horne picked up an ashtray and threw it at him. Then she threw dishes. And a hurricane lamp.

St. Vincent escaped mostly unscathed, save for a small cut above his left eye. Horne was unrepentant. "I really don't like to make scenes like that," she said, "but sometimes people push you too far."

Fans began filling Horne's mailbox with letters of support. St. Vincent claimed the attack was unprovoked. But Horne's manager, Ralph Harris had no doubt about what had gone on. "She's the most wonderful woman I have ever known," he said. "If she did it, he had it coming."



Bertha Gilbert, 22, is led away by police after she tried to enter a segregated lunch counter in Nashville, Tenn., on May 6, 1964. She was arrested on a disorderly conduct charge. (Associated Press)

The Nashville movement would soon transform Nashville into a pulsating hub of social activism that coursed through the networks of the SCLC, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, Congress of Racial Equality, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People throughout the South.

Trained by Lawson in nonviolence praxis, a group of Nashville student activists, including Marion Barry, James Bevel, Angeline Butler, Pauline Knight, Bernard Lafayette, John Lewis, Diane Nash, Gloria Johnson Powell and C.T. Vivian, mobilized hundreds of college students to desegregate Nashville and participate in important campaigns throughout the 1960s.

The Nashville student leaders participated in the formation of SNCC in 1960; the 1963 Birmingham campaign; the 1963 March on Washington; the Freedom Summer campaign of 1964; voting rights actions prior to and involvement in the 1965 Selma campaign; the Chicago campaign in 1966; and the Memphis sanitation workers strike of 1968. The Southern nonviolent movement not only dismantled Jim Crow in downtown Nashville by 1962 but, by many accounts, led to the passage of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965.



South Africa

Wounded people in South Africa's Sharpeville township lie in the street on March 21, 1960, after police opened fire on black demonstrators marching against the country's segregation system known as apartheid. At least 180 black Africans, most of them women and children, were injured and 69 were killed in the Sharpeville massacre that signaled the start of armed resistance against apartheid. [OFF/AFP/Getty Images](#)



While the 1960s brought extraordinary progress for civil rights, the decade also brought violent setbacks.

On July 12, 1967, an act of police brutality against an African-American man in Newark, N.J. sparked riots throughout the city that would last for six days and leave 26 dead and hundreds injured.
-/AFP/Getty Images



Two terrified African-American girls flee police officers during a race riot in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn, itself sparked by rioting over police brutality in nearby Harlem, on July 21, 1964. Bettmann/Contributor/Getty Images



Firemen turn their hose on a group of African-Americans during an anti-segregation demonstration in Birmingham, Ala. on May 3, 1963.

[Bettmann/Contributor/Getty Images](#)



A first-grade girl is escorted by U.S. Federal Marshals to a grade school that is being guarded by city police on the first day of school integration by order of the federal court. New Orleans, Louisiana. November 14, 1960.

Underwood Archives/Getty Images



<https://news.usc.edu/trojan-family/martin-luther-king-usc-los-angeles-moments-and-mission/>



At home, millions of Americans hoped to overcome racial divides. By 1963, despite fierce opposition, the civil rights movement had begun gaining momentum. In August, activists including Martin Luther King Jr. led the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, which drew approximately 250,000 people to the nation's capital in an unprecedented show of support for the movement.



Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous "I Have A Dream" speech during the march.

[AFP/Getty Images](#)



On March 26, 1964, the decade's two most prominent civil rights leaders shared their only meeting.

As Martin Luther King Jr. (left) was leaving a news conference, Malcolm X (right) stepped out of the crowd, extended his hand, and smiled.

"Well, Malcolm, good to see you," King said.

"Good to see you," X replied.

The gaggle of photographers surrounding the men took photos to immortalize the historic moment that lasted all of about one minute.

[Wikimedia Commons](#)



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-/AFP/Getty Images



Two terrified African-American girls flee police officers during a race riot in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn, itself sparked by rioting over police brutality in nearby Harlem, on July 21, 1964. Bettmann/Contributor/Getty Images



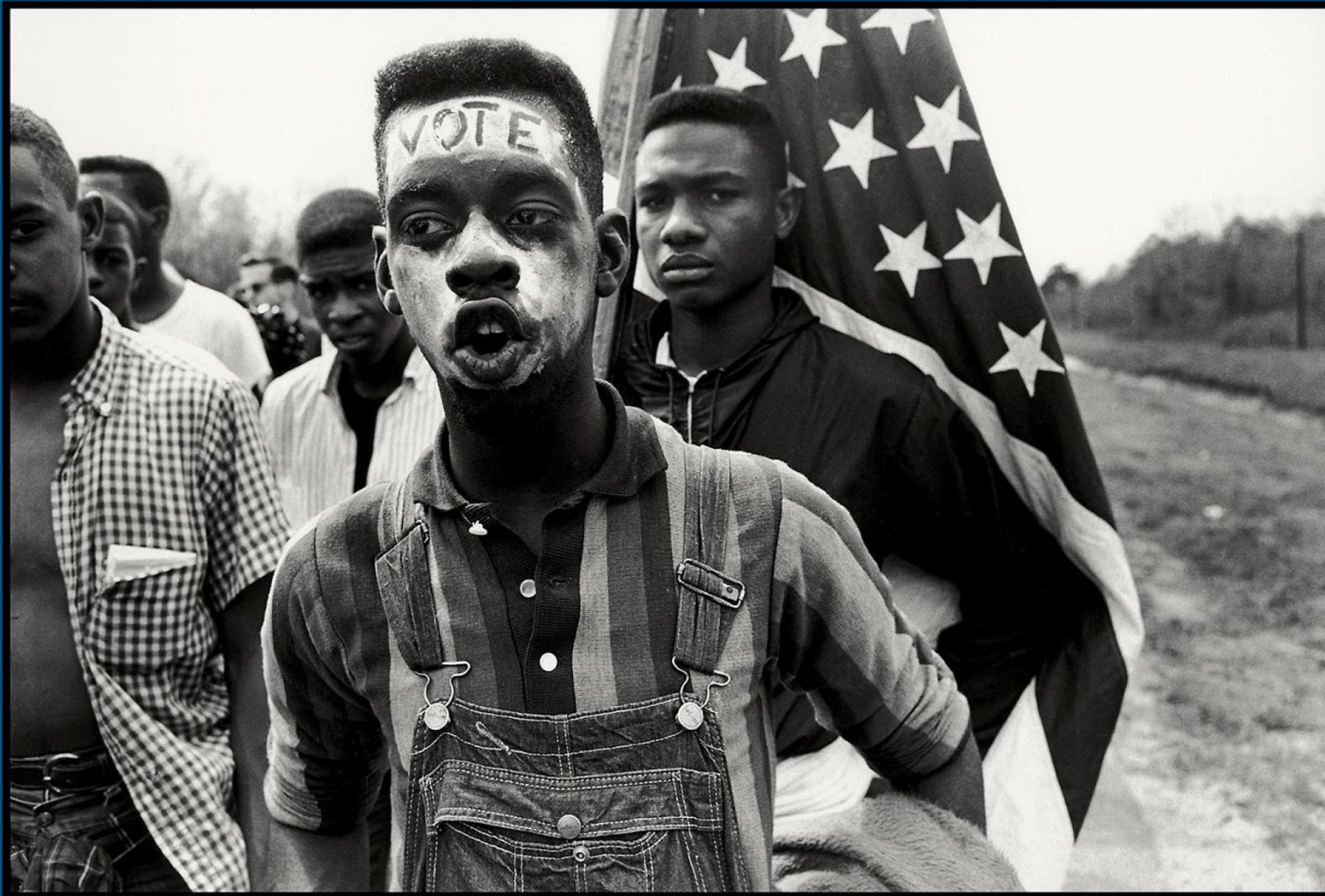
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[Bettmann/Contributor/Getty Images](#)



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Underwood Archives/Getty Images



Civil rights demonstrators
march from Selma to
Montgomery, Alabama,
1965.

[Bruce Davidson](#)

Freedom Riders



© Bruce Davidson/Magnum Photos

In 1961, Davidson joined a group of Freedom Riders on the bus ride to Mississippi as both a participant and photographer. His images showcase the Civil Rights movement from the front lines, depicting those struggling for justice and equality amid protesting and police violence.

Davidson photographed many facets of this era, from the Freedom Rides to the 1963 March on Washington and the 1965 Selma to Montgomery March.

MORE images [HERE](#)

<https://time.com/3777390/freedom-riders-bruce-davidson-on-his-awakening/>



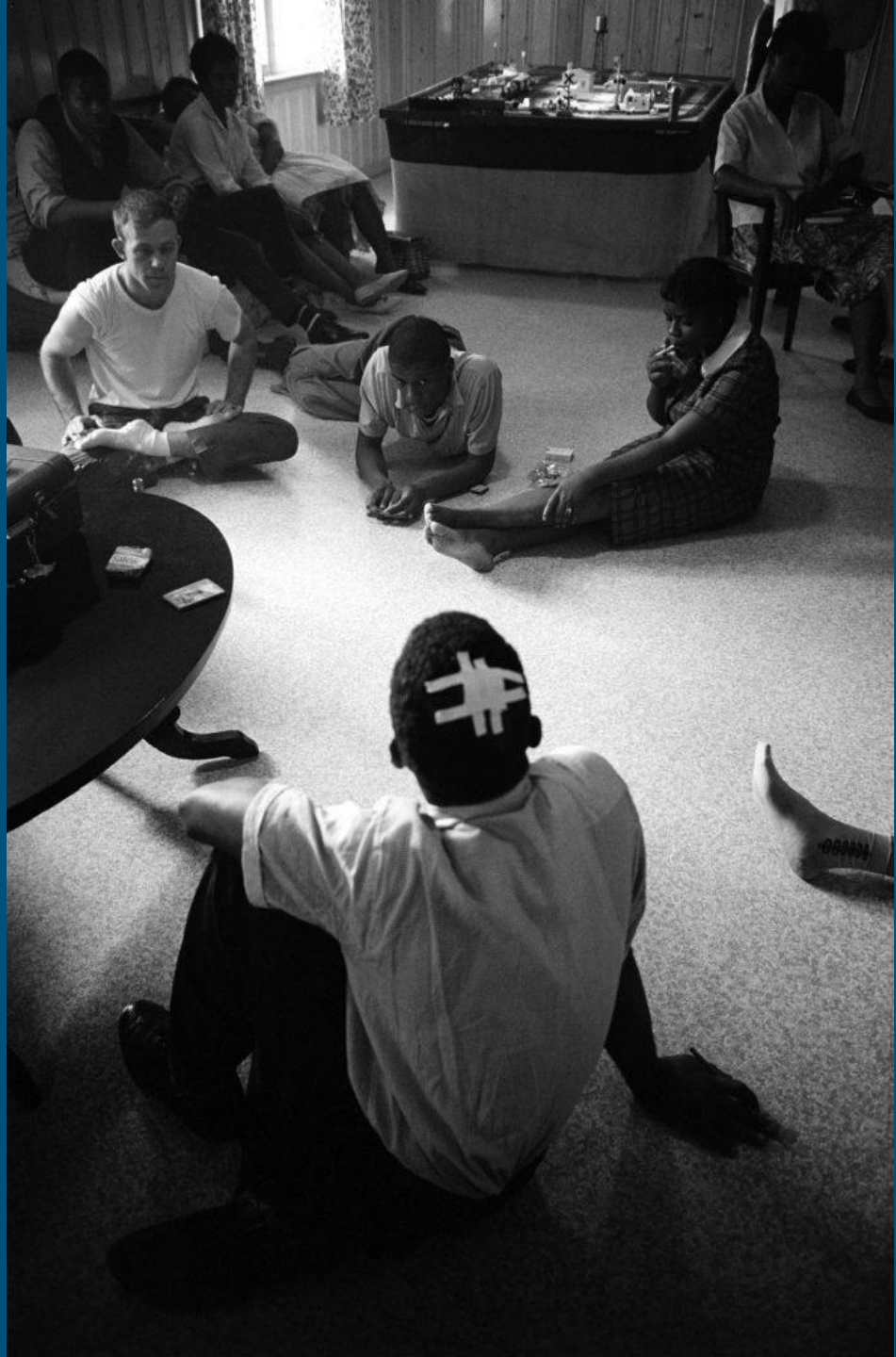


















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Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous "I Have A Dream" speech during the march. [AFP/Getty Images](#)





Marchers gather in Los Angeles to mourn the death of Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968. ([Photo/Herald Examiner Collection/Los Angeles Public Library](#))



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[Wikimedia Commons](#)



Watts Towers Arts Center, Calif., 1961

“Since its inception in 1961, the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs’ Watts Towers Arts Center Campus, and the later-built Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center, located in the heart of Watts on a campus that includes Simon Rodia’s Watts Towers, have provided programs designed for cultural enrichment.” The towers were built over 34 years by Simon Rodia, starting in 1921 and finished in 1955.

SOURCE:

<https://culturela.org/cultural-centers/watts-towers-campus/>

Starting work on art center for children adjacent to Watts Towers are, left to right, Pedro Marin, 6; Tom Davidson, construction worker; Bud Goldstone, engineer; Claire Biane, a teacher.

Photo:

<https://digital.library.ucla.edu/catalog/ark:/21198/zz0002qgf2>



On Aug. 11, 1965, the Los Angeles Police Department pulled over an African-American man named Marquette Frye for drunk driving. His arrest soon evolved into a roadside scuffle and many quickly accused the officers of police brutality. Six days of riots followed in the city's predominantly African-American Watts neighborhood.

To contain the riots, the LAPD needed nearly 4,000 members of the California Army National Guard. In total, the riots resulted in 34 deaths and \$40 million in property damage.

[Wikimedia Commons](#)



AERIAL VIEW-Two buildings on Avalon Blvd., the left one at 107th St. are the right one at 108th St., go up in flames in this picture from a helicopter. August 15, 1965

Photo:

<https://calisphere.org/item/ark:/21198/zz0002twdp/>

Aug. 12, 1965: The scene at Imperial Highway and Avalon Boulevard in the early morning just before violence broke out. (Don Cormier / Los Angeles Times)



On Aug. 11, 1965, California Highway Patrol Officer Lee Minikus responded to a report of a reckless driver in the Watts section of Los Angeles. Shortly after 7 p.m., he pulled over 21-year-old Marquette Frye near 116th Street and Avalon Boulevard. Frye failed sobriety tests as a crowd of about 50 people began to gather nearby. Police were going to tow Frye's car, so his older stepbrother, Ronald, brought their mother, Rena, to the scene to claim the vehicle. When she got there, Rena Frye began berating her son for drinking and driving, according to police and witness accounts.

Marquette Frye had been talking and laughing with Minikus and other officers who had reported to the scene, but after his mother's arrival he began "cursing and shouting that they would have to kill him to take him to jail," according to a report later issued by a state panel.

With tensions rising, the CHP officers attempted to handcuff Marquette Frye, but he resisted. His mother jumped onto an officer's back. An officer swung his baton at Marquette Frye's shoulder, according to the state report, but missed and struck him in the head.

Frye was bleeding. Witnesses told others in the crowd that police had abused Rena Frye (who later told The Times that was not true). The crowd soon swelled to nearly 1,000, as Marquette, Ronald and Rena Frye were all taken away in handcuffs.



Police officers guard an intersection in Watts, Los Angeles (Calif.). March 16, 1966

Photo:

<https://calisphere.org/item/ark:/13030/hb70000844/>

Charcoal Alley - Watts Riots



Police searching men in the Watts district of Los Angeles in March 1966, seven months after the confrontations between police and residents that became known as the Watts Riots and that were followed by ongoing tension and violence in the community.

[Bettmann/Corbis/AP Images](#)



Aug. 13

National Guard troops secure a stretch of 103rd Street, dubbed Charcoal Alley, during the Watts riots. This photo was published on the front page of the Aug. 14, 1965, edition of the Los Angeles Times.

[\(John Malmin / Los Angeles Times\)](#)



Aug. 13

Debris litters Avalon Boulevard near 105th Street as pedestrians watch smoke rise from a building at 108th Street.

(John Malmin / Los Angeles Times)

WATTS WRITERS' WORKSHOP

“Founded in South Los Angeles in the wake of the police violence and societal oppression that initiated the Watts Rebellion of 1965, the Watts Writers Workshop (1965-1973) represented a high-profile cultural experiment that left an indelible imprint well beyond the borders of the city. Conceived by Academy Award-winning novelist and screenwriter Budd Schulberg (*On the Waterfront*) as a response to the Rebellion in Watts, the Workshop was developed to provide a platform and opportunities for African American communities through creative writing. Soon after launch, the gifted authors and innovative poems and prose that emerged from the Workshop would draw critical acclaim and law enforcement attention for articulating demands for social justice and bringing forth all-too-accurate descriptions of the gross injustices impacting Black Americans and other communities of color.”

SOURCE:

<https://www.cinema.ucla.edu/events/2022/07/10/tell-it-like-it-is-watts-writers-workshop-television>

March 26, 1968: "Robert Kennedy steps up to be seen, heard by Watts backers. Crowd jams into parking lot of Watts Writers' Workshop to hear Democratic hopeful." A crowd of 5,000 gathered to hear Kennedy. The group cheered loudly when the New York Senator proclaimed he wanted "violence and hatred replaced by jobs. I want bitterness replaced in this county."

Photo: <https://tessa.lapl.org/cdm/ref/collection/photos/id/30426>



Aug. 13

An aerial view of two buildings on fire on Avalon Boulevard at 107th Street, left, and at 108th Street. (John Malmin / Los Angeles Times)







EMERGENCY ENTRANCE





On April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn. Pictured: Civil rights leader Andrew Young (left) and others standing on the balcony of Lorraine Motel point in the direction of the then unknown assailant just after the bullet struck King, who is lying at their feet.

[Joseph Louw/The LIFE Images Collection/Getty Images](#)



Demonstrators from the Congress of Racial Equality march in front of Los Angeles City Hall, Aug. 19, 1965, carrying signs demanding the ouster of Chief of Police William H. Parker and denouncing police brutality.

| [Ellis R. Bosworth / AP](#)



King's assassination once again brought racial tensions to a head in more than 100 cities across the country.

Washington, D.C. (pictured) saw the worst of it. Over the five days following King's death, rioters burned more than 1,000 buildings, causing about \$27 million in damage and prompting President Johnson to call in 13,600 federal troops.

[Wikimedia Commons](#)



*Fists in the air, attendees smile
at the Revolutionary People's
Party Constitutional Convention,
Philadelphia, September 1970.*

*Photo: David Fenton via Getty
Images.*



Women's Liberation group marches in protest in support of Black Panther Party, New Haven, November, 1969.

David Fenton / Getty Images

Civil Rights Protests in Birmingham, 1963



Firefighters turn their hoses on civil rights protesters in Birmingham in 1963. Bruce Davidson/Magnum Photos



A 17-year-old Civil Rights demonstrator is attacked by a police dog in Birmingham, Ala., on May 3, 1963. This image led the front page of the next day's *New York Times*.

Bill Hudson/ASSOCIATED PRESS



Untitled [Police dogs are turned onto protesters by order of Eugene “Bull” Connor, Commissioner of Public Safety, during a Civil Rights demonstration, Birmingham, Alabama], May 3, 1963 Charles Moore/Masters via Getty Images Photograph courtesy Ryerson Image Centre



Charles Moore

[Police using dogs
to attack civil rights
demonstrators,
Birmingham,
Alabama]



Frank Rockstroh/Michael Ochs Archives/Getty Images



A Black American protester being attacked by a police dog during demonstrations against segregation, Birmingham, Alabama, May 4, 1963.

[Afro American Newspapers / Gado / Getty Images](#)



Men carry the coffin of Jim Crow through the streets to protest racial discrimination in 1944.

[PHOTOGRAPH BY CORBIS](#)



Rev. James Lawson, center, is arrested in front of the First Baptist Church on March 4, 1960. Rev. Lawson was arrested on charges of conspiring to violate the state's trade and commerce law.

[UPI PHOTO](#)



Thomas Wells, his wife Eleanor, and nephew Raymond Conley showing broken glass from a shotgun fired into their home by white neighbors. The shotgun blast occurred after the neighbors threw beer bottles into the home. According to the Los Angeles Sentinel newspaper, "Wells held his ground. He borrowed a neighbor's shotgun and held the suspects in check until police arrived." Several men were arrested for firing into the home following a wild party.

[Photograph by Charles Williams. July 10, 1962.](#)



Civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. addresses the crowd at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., where he gave his "I Have a Dream" speech on Aug. 28, 1963, as part of the March on Washington. AFP via Getty Images

Source: <https://www.npr.org/2010/01/18/122701268/i-have-a-dream-speech-in-its-entirety>



Angela Davis raises her fist to give her power salute as she sits in the courtroom at Marin Civic Center in San Rafael, Ca., on March 16, 1971. Davis, who is accused of supplying some of the weapons used in a shoot-out during an attempted escape of prisoners at the Marin County Courthouse, is waiting for her court hearing to start after it was postponed because of bomb threats.

<http://kwekudee-tripdownmemorylaneyou.blogspot.com/2014/01/angela-davis-revolutionary-freedom.html>



After spending a year as a hunted man, Malcolm X was shot and killed during a meeting of the Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU) at the Audubon Ballroom in Harlem, New York, on February 21, 1965. The assailants, at least three in number, were members of the Black Muslim group the Nation of Islam, the group with which Malcolm X had been a prominent minister for ten years before he split with them in March 1964. Exactly who shot Malcolm X has been hotly debated over the decades. One man, Talmage Hayer, was arrested at the scene and was definitely a shooter. Two other men were arrested and sentenced but were most likely wrongly accused. The confusion over the identity of the shooters compounds the question of why Malcolm X was assassinated and has led to a wide range of conspiracy theories

Source:

<https://www.thoughtco.com/the-assassination-of-malcolm-x-1779364>

Segregation Signage



[A passenger points to one of the segregation signs removed from all Dallas Transit Company buses in 1956. Photo: Getty Images](#)



[Texas segregation sign in Dimmit, Texas.](#)



Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture

Exhibition

Defending Freedom, Defining Freedom: The
Era of Segregation, 1876-1968

Signage from 1930s

Scalar Research

- 1960 - The Lunch Counter Sit-Ins
- 1960s - Freedom Rides
- 1962 The Black Muslims / Malcolm X
- 1963 - LA United Civil Rights Movement
- 1963 - March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom
- 1963 Birmingham "Demonstration: Dogs and Hoses Repulse Negroes at Birmingham"
- 1963 Jericho Stands: The Beginning of the Backlash
- 1964 Civil Rights Act
- 1964 The Civil Rights Act
- 1964 The Civil Rights Act
- 1965 - The Watts Uprising
- 1965-67 The Watts Renaissance
- 1966 Black Power: Stokely Carmichael and the Black Congress
- 1967-68 The Panthers and the US
- 1967-68 The Peace and Freedom Party (Eldridge Cleaver)
- 1968-69 Malcolm X Youth: Black High School Activists
- 1969 Bradley for Mayor
- Oral History Interview with James Lawson