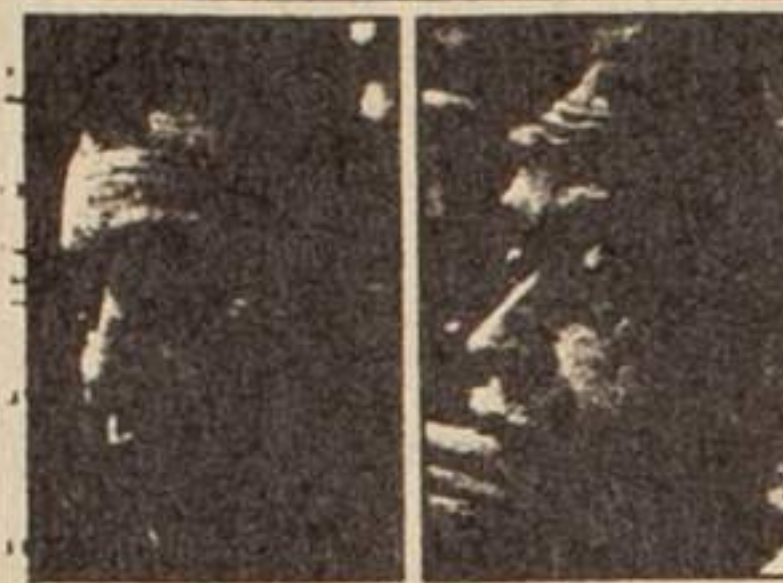




**WITNESSES:
MAXINE SMITH
VASCO SMITH**



Maxine Smith, 61, Memphis school board president and executive secretary of the Memphis Branch NAACP, and her husband, Vasco Smith, have been at the forefront of civil rights in Memphis: "Hopefully we're worthy of having this historical edifice in this city despite our slowness to make creative change. Maybe this museum will be a reminder to Memphis... We have been given a chance to stand tall, but we should stand tall more than structurally. The manifestation of Dr. King's dream should be felt throughout this city."

County Commissioner Vasco Smith, 70, board member and former vice president of the Memphis Branch NAACP, said the civil rights museum "is a monument to the work of Dr. King and to many other individuals. Those who fail to remember the past are condemned to repeat it. People need to be reminded of the hard work, blood, sweat and tears of the movement, so I think the museum serves a good purpose."

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Making

exhibits. Memphis Scenic built piles of garbage around a Memphis garbage truck that dates from the 1968 sanitation strike.

D & P hired Corporate Communications of Richmond, Va., to produce audio and video presentations such as the introductory film, *Cornerstone of Freedom*, that will be shown in the museum auditorium.

"We received 24 hours of photos of garbage" from Memphis State University, which keeps archives on the sanitation strike, Nichols said.

He said Corporate Communications filmed a re-enactment of the incident in which Mrs. Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white man in 1955, igniting a citywide bus boycott by blacks.

For the laser tracing the path of the bullet fired by James Earl Ray, D & P hired Audio-Visual Imaging for \$198,000.

M & W Enterprises of Nashville prepared buses for the Montgomery boycott exhibit and an exhibit on the Freedom Rides.

For the Montgomery exhibit, a former Knoxville city bus used in filming the Rosa Parks movie, *The Long Walk Home*, was bought in Hollywood. Guided by photos of 1955 Montgomery buses, M & W painted,

upholstered and refurbished the bus, then rubbed off the new paint to give the bus an appropriately worn look, said Neil Wildeboer.

Illustrating the Freedom Rides

Greyhound that was firebombed outside Anniston, Ala., in 1961 required more spectacular preparation.

Wildeboer said the state bought a General Motors bus that had once served Greyhound's rival, Trailways. M & W refinished it to look like a Greyhound of the early 1960s, complete with a dog emblem from a bus memorabilia collector in South Carolina.

The refinished bus was taken to the Tennessee State Fairgrounds in Nashville. As Wildeboer, Elsterhold and others watched, the bus was doused with kerosene, set afire and allowed to burn until it resembled the firebombed Greyhound in news photos from 1961. A firebomb wasn't used because it would have burned too unpredictably, Wildeboer said.

Lawless says he is pleased with the finished product's treatment of the unfinished business of civil rights.

He believes the museum will continue to evolve as history unfolds and more people come forward to tell their stories of the civil rights era.

"What we're dealing with is current history, history on the make. It's hard to be distant, lofty. All we know is what we think happened. I'm sure that over the years, this history will be changed and modified and adjusted."

A CIVIL RIGHTS CHRONOLOGY

Civil rights has been an issue every day of the nation's history. But the movement that redefined the South and changed the country marched at full stride through the 1950s and 1960s.

Here is a chronology of major events during those years.

1954

MAY 17: By a unanimous vote in *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, the Supreme Court rules that segregation in education is unconstitutional. The ruling overturns the "separate but equal" doctrine that had legitimized segregation in education since 1896. Segregated school districts are integrated the following autumn in some states, but defiant politicians and groups opposing desegregation emerge in the South.

1955

AUG. 28: Emmett Till, a 14-year-old from Chicago, is lynched in Leflore County, Miss., for whistling at a white woman.

NOV. 25: The Interstate Commerce Commission outlaws segregation on interstate buses and in bus terminal waiting rooms. The order is ignored in some communities.

DEC. 5: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the 26-year-old pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, urges blacks in Montgomery, Ala., to boycott city buses, four days after Rosa Parks is arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white man. The boycott ends Dec. 21, 1956, when city leaders agree to a settlement favorable to the protesters.

1956

MARCH 12: Sen. Harry F. Byrd of Virginia and 100 other congressmen release the "Southern Manifesto," pledging the South will fight integration. The document is signed by all Southern senators except Estes Kefauver and Albert Gore of Tennessee, and Democratic Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson of Texas.

JUNE 1: Alabama bans most NAACP activities within the state, accusing the civil rights organization of planning and financing an illegal bus boycott in Montgomery.

NOV. 13: Supreme Court rules interstate bus segregation unconstitutional.

1957

JAN. 10-11: The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) is founded in Atlanta. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is elected its first president.

MAY 17: The Prayer Pilgrimage to Washington on the third anniversary of the *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision draws about 30,000 to the Lincoln Memorial.

AUGUST: The Civil Rights Act of 1957, the first civil rights bill in 82 years, is passed by the House and Senate and signed into law. It strengthens voting rights for blacks and creates the national Commission on Civil Rights.

SEPT. 24: President Dwight Eisenhower reluctantly sends federal troops to Little Rock to enforce a court order to desegregate Central High School. The move ends almost three weeks of well-publicized tactics by Arkansas Gov. Orval Faubus to thwart the order, including using the state militia to keep a small group of black students from enrolling at Central. The confrontation is the first civil rights battle to receive significant national television coverage.

1959

JUNE 26: Prince Edward County, Va., abandons its public school system rather than

comply with an integration order.

1960

FEB. 1: Four black college students sit down at an F. W. Woolworth lunch counter in Greensboro, N.C., and refuse to leave. The sit-in, a demonstration method that had previously met with limited success, grows and attracts national attention.

APRIL: The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) grows out of the sit-ins. Marion Barry becomes the organization's first president.

NOVEMBER: With strong support from blacks, John F. Kennedy outpolls Richard Nixon to win the presidency. One factor that may have helped his narrow victory: a call he made to Coretta Scott King while her husband was in jail.

1961

MAY 4: Thirteen riders leave Washington for New Orleans by bus on a trip designed to expose segregation in bus terminals. The Freedom Ride encounters mob violence in Anniston, Birmingham and Montgomery, Ala. A bus is burned, black and white Freedom Riders are savagely beaten, and local and state authorities offer little police protection. Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy finally orders 600 federal marshals to Montgomery to maintain order. Evidence would later reveal police involvement in the violence. The Freedom Ride continued through Mississippi to Jackson, where riders, their ranks swelling, are arrested and jailed under state Jim Crow laws.

SEPT. 22: The Interstate Commerce Commission issues another desegregation ruling for interstate bus and rail terminals. The order is ignored in some communities.

NOV. 17: The Albany Movement is born to fight segregation in Albany, Ga. Hundreds of protesters, including Dr. King, are jailed in the months that follow.

1962

APRIL: The Voter Education Project, a private, tax-exempt organization to register black voters in the South, is started. Though often overshadowed by marches, boycotts and sit-ins, black voter registration efforts in the South play an important role in bringing about change.

OCT. 2: Two people are killed during rioting at the University of Mississippi in Oxford over the enrollment of James Meredith, the school's first black student. The Kennedy administration sends in more than 20,000 troops to restore and maintain order.

1963

APRIL: The Birmingham Campaign begins with lunch counter sit-ins in the Alabama town described by Dr. King as the most segregated large city in the United States. Marches, boycotts and other demonstrations follow. The nation and the world are shocked by photographs of police dogs and fire hoses being used against protesters under the direction of Birmingham Police Chief Eugene "Bull" Connor.

JUNE 11: Alabama Gov. George Wallace vows "segregation now, segregation forever," before the first two black students are registered at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa; there is no violence.

JUNE 12: Medgar Evers, NAACP field secretary, is shot to death in the doorway of his home in Jackson, Miss.

AUG. 28: An estimated 200,000 people converge on the Lincoln Memorial for the March on Washington, the largest protest in the nation's history.

1964

JUNE 21: Three civil rights voter registration volunteers — James Chaney, Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman — disappear in Neshoba County, Miss. Their bodies are found in an earthen dam in August. The county sheriff and deputy sheriff are among 19 suspects in the murders.

JULY 2: President Lyndon Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1964, forbidding discrimination in public housing and employment.

JULY: Blacks riot in the Harlem section of New York. One person is killed, 140 injured and 500 arrested. Black riots begin in other Northern cities, including Brooklyn, Chicago and Philadelphia.

DEC. 10: Dr. King is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

1965

FEB. 21: Black nationalist leader Malcolm X is assassinated in New York.

MARCH 7: Civil rights marchers are beaten by Alabama police at the Pettus Bridge in Selma, abruptly ending the first attempt at a Selma-to-Montgomery march to protest the denial of voting rights to blacks in Selma. Thousands of marchers return to Selma two weeks later to successfully complete the march, with the eyes of much of the nation upon them.

MARCH 9: Three white ministers are beaten in Selma while assisting civil rights workers. Rev. James J. Reeb, 38, of Boston, dies two days later.

AUG. 6: President Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act of 1965, providing federal examiners to register black voters who have been turned away by state officials. Black political participation rises.

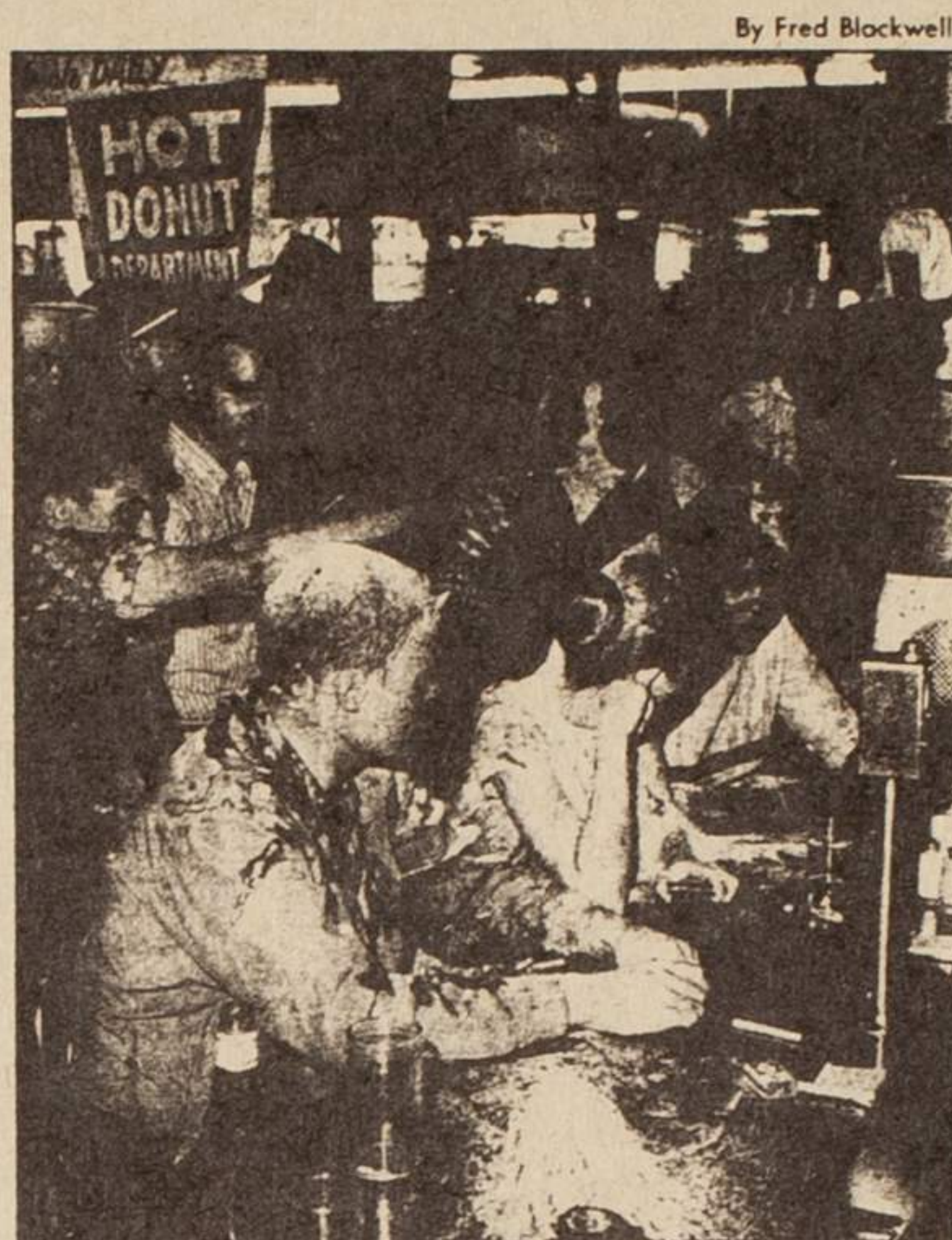
1966

MAY 16: With differences over militancy within the freedom movement deepening, Stokely Carmichael is named president of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. The NAACP distances itself from the "black power" doctrine two months later, and the Black Panther Party is born in Oakland, Calif., in October.

JUNE 26: A March Against Fear organized by James Meredith ends at the state capitol in Jackson, Miss. Meredith was shot during his first attempt to pull off the march three weeks earlier.

1967

MARCH 22: Alabama is ordered to begin desegregation



Prof. John Salter, Joan Trumpauer and Anne Moody stage a sit-in May 28, 1963, at a downtown Jackson, Miss., lunch counter amid the taunts of a crowd of teenagers who cover them with mustard, ketchup and sugar. Salter was beaten several times on the back and head, but remained on his stool.

Marchers at the peaceful demonstration demand an end to discrimination in education, employment, housing and other sectors of society. Dr. King delivers his stirring "I Have a Dream" speech.

SEPT. 15: Four black girls are killed when the 16th Street Baptist Church is bombed in Birmingham.

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1967

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of its public schools, marking the first time an entire state has been placed under a single injunction to end school discrimination.

APRIL 4: Further splintering the civil rights movement and driving away some white supporters, Dr. King attacks U.S. involvement in the war in Vietnam in a speech in New York.

JUNE 12: The "long hot summer" of riots begins in Newark, N.J., site of the worst riot since Watts two years earlier. Riots break out in several other cities, including Detroit, Buffalo, N.Y., and New Haven, Conn.

JUNE 19: De facto school segregation is ruled unconstitutional in the District of Columbia.

1968

FEB. 29: The National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders concludes that the rioting that swept across many cities the previous summer was the byproduct of two vastly different societies in America: "one black, one white, separate and unequal."

APRIL 4: Dr. King is assassinated at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. Riots break out in more than 100 cities. Eleven days later, the sanitation strike that brought Dr. King to Memphis ends.

MAY 11: The Poor People's Campaign, a demonstration Dr. King had planned before his death, begins in Washington.

JUNE 8: James Earl Ray, the accused assassin of Dr. King, is arrested at London's Heathrow Airport, two days after Sen. Robert Kennedy (D-N.Y.) is assassinated in Los Angeles.

1969

MARCH 10: James Earl Ray pleads guilty and is sentenced to 99 years in prison for the murder of Dr. King.

OCT. 29: The Supreme Court orders an almost immediate end to all school segregation, replacing an "all deliberate speed" order under which some school districts were still dragging their feet in opposition to busing. The Memphis school system later becomes one of the systems placed under court order to end segregation.

Compiled by Cornell Christian from these sources: The Negro Almanac: A Reference Work on the African American, edited by Harry Ploski and James Williams; Free at Last? The Civil Rights Movement and The People Who Made It by Fred Powlledge; Parting the Waters: America in the King Years 1954-63 by Taylor Branch; Eyes on the Prize: Reader and Study Guide, edited by Clayborne Carson, David J. Garrow, Vincent Harding and Darlene Clark Hine; The Encyclopedia of Southern Culture, edited by Charles Reagan Wilson and William Ferris.

WITNESS: SPENCER CREW

Crew, 42, is a historian and curator at the National Museum of American History at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. He is one of two historians who researched the civil rights movement to prepare exhibit text and quotes for the museum: "What you'll find in the text is that it's really not focused on the leaders so much as it was the people involved. There's a lot of information from the participants and not always the

headline-makers. I think it's important to see that part of the process. You've got to give them a lot of credit for really believing that something is important enough to sacrifice almost everything for."