

Day 1, #1 – Montgomery Bus Boycott and Rosa Parks

Reading Prompt: Have you ever heard of Rosa Parks? These are Rosa Parks's actual fingerprints.

Name **Parks** **Rosa** **L.** Classification **28 MO 28 MI 72**
Surname Given Name Middle Name
Alias
Nickname
No. **79521** Color **C.** Sex **Female** Reference
RIGHT HAND
1. Thumb 2. Index finger 3. Middle finger 4. Ring finger 5. Little finger
LEFT HAND
6. Thumb 7. Index finger 8. Middle finger 9. Ring finger 10. Little finger
Impressions taken by **W. J. ...**
Files searched by **Rosa L. Parks** **Rosa L. Parks**
Four fingers taken simultaneously Left Hand Right Hand
Four fingers taken simultaneously Left Hand Right Hand

Do you know why Rosa Parks was arrested?



These primary source materials accompany the unit “We Are All Birmingham: Local History through Primary Sources and Writing,” at this link: <https://kidsinbirmingham1963.org/class/we-are-all-birmingham-local-history-through-primary-sources-and-writing/>. See more at kidsinbirmingham1963.org.

Day 1, #2 – Montgomery Bus Boycott and Rosa Parks

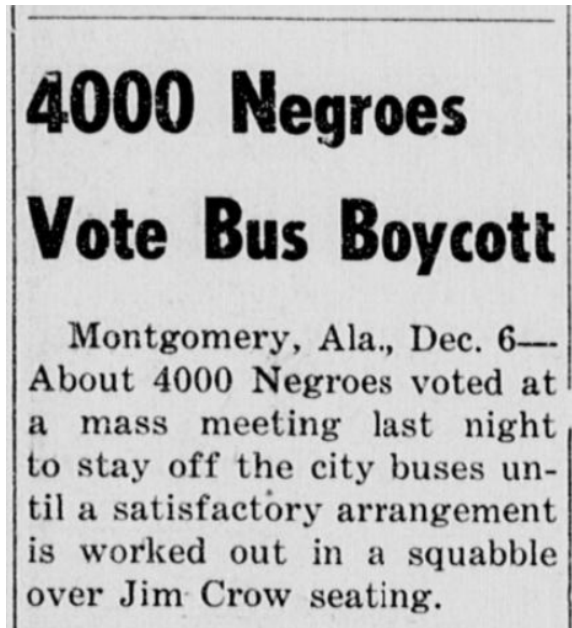
Reading Prompt: This Montgomery Alabama City Code (or set of rules) was written for public buses in 1952.

Montgomery City Code: Chapter 6, Section 11

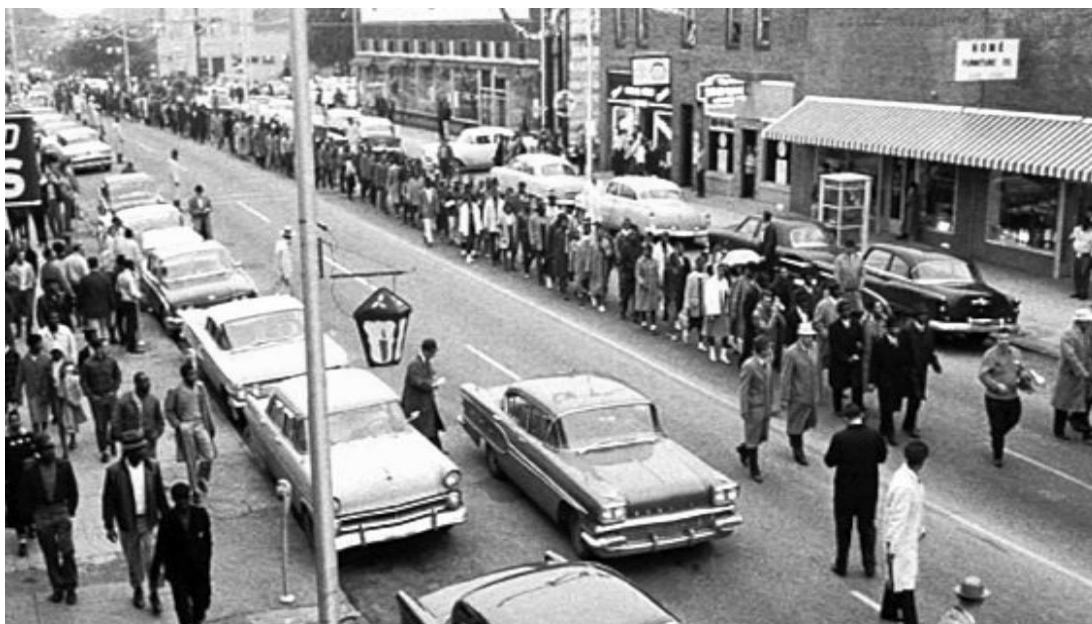
"Any employee in charge of a bus operated in the city shall have the powers of a police officer of the city while in actual charge of any bus, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the preceding section, and it shall be unlawful for any passenger to refuse or fail to take a seat among those assigned to the race to which he belongs, at the request of any such employee in charge, if there is such a seat vacant. The first ten seats are reserved for whites. The last ten seats were for blacks. The seats in between are open seating until space is needed for whites."

Day 1, #3 – Montgomery Bus Boycott and Rosa Parks

Reading Prompt: A Montgomery, Alabama law made Rosa Parks—a Black woman—give up her bus seat for a White man. She refused and was arrested on December 1, 1955.



This is an actual photograph of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which started after Rosa Parks's arrest and lasted for an entire year!



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Day 1, #4 – Montgomery Bus Boycott and Rosa Parks

Reading Prompt: This is Montgomery Police's report after arresting Rosa Parks.

Misc.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF MONTGOMERY

Date 12-1-55 19__

Complainant J.F. Blake (wm)

Address 27 No. Lewis St. Phone No. _____

Offense Misc. Reported By Same as above

Address _____ Phone No. _____

Date and Time Offense Committed 12-1-55 6:06 pm

Place of Occurrence In Front of Empire Theatre (On Montgomery Street)

Person or Property Attacked _____

How Attacked _____

Person Wanted _____

Value of Property Stolen _____ Value Recovered _____

Details of Complaint (list, describe and give value of property stolen)

We received a call upon arrival the bus operator said he had a colored female sitting in the white section of the bus, and would not move back.

We (Day & Mixon) also saw her.

The bus operator signed a warrant for her. Rosa Parks, (cf) 634 Cleveland Court.

Rosa Parks (cf) was charged with chapter 6 section 11 of the Montgomery City Code.

Warrant #14254

THIS OFFENSE IS DECLARED:
UNFOUNDED ☐
CLEARED BY ARREST ☐
EXCEPTIONALLY CLEARED ☐
INACTIVE (NOT CLEARED) ☐

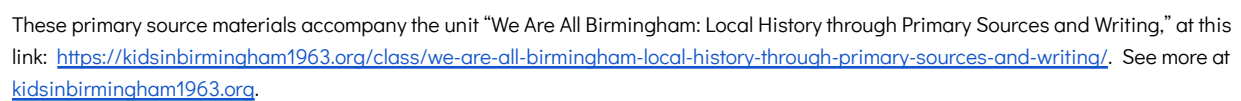
Officers F.D. Day
D.W. Mixon

Division Patrol Time 7:00 pm
12-1-55

10M-PARAGON PRESS-24037

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Reading Prompt: This diagram was used in Rosa Parks's court case. The U.S. Supreme Court outlawed segregation of public busing because of Mrs. Parks.



Day 1, #6 – Montgomery Bus Boycott and Rosa Parks

Reading Prompt: These are staged photographs featuring famous folks in the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Mrs. Rosa Parks



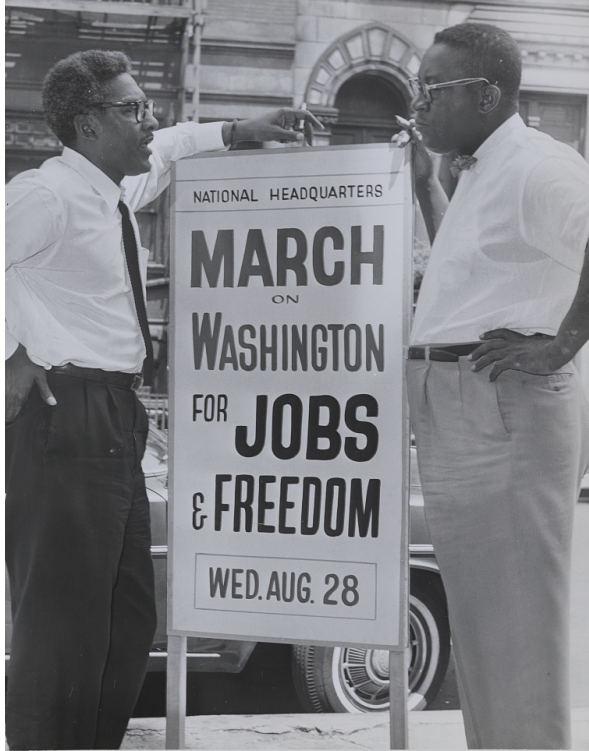
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



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Day 1, #7 – March on Washington and Dr. Martin Luther King

Reading Prompt: African Americans peacefully protested during the March on Washington in 1963. Look carefully at their signs. What are they asking for?



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Day 1, #8 – March on Washington and Dr. Martin Luther King

Reading Prompt: During the March on Washington in 1963, lots of different people joined. Read the signs and look carefully at the faces. Who else supported African Americans' march? What groups of people do you see?



These primary source materials accompany the unit “We Are All Birmingham: Local History through Primary Sources and Writing,” at this link: <https://kidsinbirmingham1963.org/class/we-are-all-birmingham-local-history-through-primary-sources-and-writing/>. See more at kidsinbirmingham1963.org.

Day 1, #9 – March on Washington and Dr. Martin Luther King

Reading Prompt: Dr. King's memorable speech is abridged, which means it is shortened and made easier to read. Remember that Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation!



I am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation.

A long time ago, a great American signed the Emancipation Proclamation. It gave hope to millions of slaves.

But one hundred years later, the we are still is not free.

One hundred years later, our lives are still sadly hurt by segregation and discrimination.

One hundred years later, we live on an island of poverty in an ocean of wealth.

Let us not be sad and despair, my friends.

Even though we face difficulties today and tomorrow, I have a dream. It is the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its belief that says "All men are created equal."

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a *dream* today!

And this will be the day -- this will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning:

*My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing.
Land where my fathers died, land of the Pilgrim's pride,
From every mountainside, let freedom ring!*

Reading Prompt: This is an important newspaper's front-page the day after the March!

C. 2. Weather Bureau Report (Fog) Mt. Pleasant.
Cloudy with scattered showers today;
partly cloudy tonight and tomorrow.
Temp. range: 77-62; yesterday: 81-61.
Temp.-Hum. Index: 70 to 73; yesterday: 72.

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NEW YORK, THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 1963

TEN CENTS

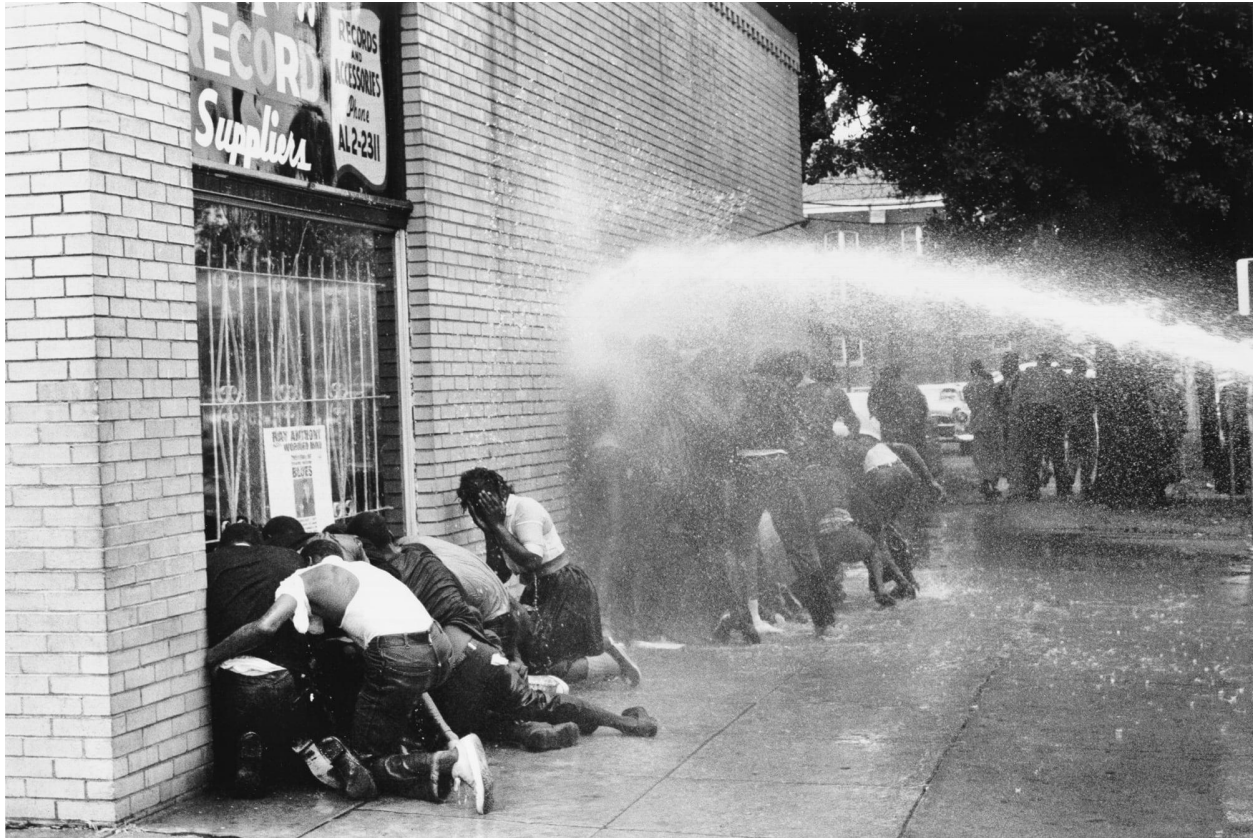
1111

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NEWSEUM

Day 2, #2 – Birmingham Kids March

Reading Prompt: These African American youth are sprayed by firefighters' hoses who want to interrupt their protest.



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Day 2, #3 – Birmingham Kids March

Reading Prompt: Describe everything you see about the children and adults in this image, including their clothes, ages, and messages.



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Day 2, #4 – Birmingham Kids March

Reading Prompt: African American children and teenagers peacefully marched. Look carefully at their signs. What were they asking for?



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Day 2, #5 – Birmingham Kids March

Reading Prompt: This is Audrey Faye Hendricks, one of the children that participated in the Birmingham Children's March. She is also the main character of The Youngest Marcher: The Story of Audrey Faye Hendricks, a Young Civil Rights Activist by Cynthia Levinson. Imagine Audrey's age, experiences, and ideas when this photograph was taken.



Day 2, #6 – Birmingham Kids March

Reading Prompt: This is Melvin Todd, who lived in Birmingham. Read carefully about how his experiences were similar to or different from others.

Birmingham, Alabama was the most segregated city in America. It was the model of Jim Crow America. It was designed by the White Ruling Class to make Colored Citizens feel inferior. It also made ignorant White people feel that they were special and superior to any and all Colored people.

My daddy was a steelworker at the Tennessee Coal & Iron Company (TCI). [African American] workers at TCI could only work at the jobs [that paid the least money]...those that were the most dangerous and required heavy lifting. The White steelworkers had locker rooms with showers. The Colored steelworkers had only lockers. ...

Hospitals in the city had wards designated as White Only and Colored Only. ... The Colored wards were always located in places that were prone to the easy spread of disease. ...

Even the cemeteries of the city were segregated. Cemeteries for Whites were serene and beautiful places. ...

The White neighborhoods had paved streets with streetlights and sanitary sewers. My neighborhood streets were unpaved. They were often covered with gravel or slag from the area steel plants. ...

The city buses were segregated. Colored people [had to] ride in the rear of the bus. ... Colored people had to pay their fare to the bus driver, then walk outside and enter through the rear door of the bus. Many times, the bus driver would take off before some of the Colored passengers could make it to the rear door.

Name _____

Reading Prompt: Virginia Jones was a 17-year-old white girl in 1963. Her story has been abridged, or shortened down. Bull Connor was Birmingham's Commissioner of Public Safety, who many people felt was racist.

I lived over the mountain in Homewood. I never realized until recently how isolated we were back then ... There was so much that I never knew. We only saw what the *Birmingham News* chose to print which as I recall wasn't much and the little news we saw on TV. Growing up in Crestwood as a young girl I lived just about 3 blocks from **Bull Connor's** home and had no idea what an evil man he would become.

After graduation from Auburn University I taught in an all-black school in Georgia. My roommate and I [were the first white teachers at the school]. I will never forget the acceptance and help from the faculty that year. ... I think our city has come a long way but I think there is still so much prejudice that is more cleverly hidden these days. As the Peace Pole says at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church says, "May Peace Prevail on Earth." Indeed.

We've Got a Job by Cynthia Levinson Questions

Name: _____

How does the text describe the resistance that civil rights activists faced when trying to remove Jim Crow segregation laws? Use evidence from page 136 to support your arguments.	What were the causes that led to the Birmingham Children's Crusade? Use evidence from page 69 to support your arguments.	How did the African American community work together to plan the Birmingham Children's Crusade? Use evidence from page 71 to support your arguments.	How is the second day of the Birmingham Children's March described? Use evidence from pages 81 and 82 to support your arguments.

Day 4, #1 – Mountain Brook and Homewood in 1964

Reading Prompt: What can you learn from this Birmingham Post Herald June 17, 1964, p. 1 article?

Birmingham, Homewood Merger Groups To Meet

BY TED BRYANT

A Thursday meeting of merger committees representing Birmingham and Homewood appeared likely yesterday as mayors of both cities named their three-man committees.

The third committee, however, representing Mountain Brook, has not been announced.

Mayor R. M. Goodall said he is awaiting details of the meetings from Mayor Albert Boutwell.

Boutwell said City Councilman Alan Drennen and Fred Sington, chairman of the Community Affairs Committee on Municipal Expansion, will accompany him to the session.

Homewood Mayor E. G. (Bud) Walker said Dr. John Glass and Clarence Lloyd have agreed to serve with him.

Meanwhile, the City Council met quietly after yesterday's regular session and appointed Councilman Don Hawkins to its merger committee.

Center Point Job

Hawkins, a resident of the eastern section of Birmingham, was given the assignment of chairman of a subcommittee on Center Point merger actions.

Mayor Boutwell last week asked that Homewood and Mountain Brook mayors appoint committees to meet with the Birmingham group Thursday 10 a.m. in Homewood and 2 p.m. in Mountain Brook.

Neither Boutwell nor Walker said definitely that the meeting will take place at the specified time, but Walker said he was "willing to meet their time—place, date and time."

Goodall said he had written Boutwell asking for details of the meeting and would not point a committee until he receives an answer.

Request Answered

Boutwell wrote the answer late yesterday, informing Goodall that:

"First, if you and the present City Council of Mountain Brook wish to enter into an agreement concerning merger and we are able to agree upon the various details, our re-



HAWKINS NAMED — Councilman Don Hawkins has been appointed to the city merger committee as chairman of a subcommittee on Center Point.

spective city councils then could formalize the committee's status . . . and then the agreement when completed would be submitted to the voters of Mountain Brook for approval . . .

"Secondly, it is my feeling that even if our two city administrations are unable to reach agreement on all the details, we can reach agreement on as many questions as possible and then submit the issue to the voters of Mountain Brook.

"I feel sure that many questions and misunderstandings with respect to the effects of merger can be satisfactorily resolved if we join in an effort to resolve them."

Mayor Boutwell also disclosed that he had written to Mayor Claud J. Smithson of Fairfield asking a similar meeting in that municipality.

Boutwell suggested that the meeting be held at the Fairfield City Hall at 11 a.m., June 26.

Jaycees Are Busy

Hawkins' appointment to the merger committee was first mentioned in a letter from Boutwell to Robert D. Ginwright, president of the Eastern Birmingham Junior Cham-

ber of Commerce.

Ginwright met with Boutwell in City Hall yesterday and informed him that the Jaycees are making an all-out effort for merger of the Center Point community.

"We need Center Point," Boutwell said in the letter. "We believe its citizens need us. As an added factor, it adjoins what is perhaps the fastest growing section now lying within our city limits.

"I am thoroughly aware of the practical problems involved in merging Center Point with Birmingham, particularly those connected with the most important of all concerned, public schools. I know specially of the concern for the earliest possible completion of the high school, and the projected needs of further elementary school construction."

Boutwell said he is certain "that the technical details in working out the school properties involved can be readily resolved . . ."

Scranton In Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., June 16 (UPI)—Pennsylvania Gov. William W. Scranton pursued his search for Republican National Convention delegates into Minnesota tonight.

The underdog challenger of front-runner Barry M. Goldwater arrived at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport amid security precautions obviously tightened by a telephoned threat that "Scranton will be assassinated."

Security police held planeside greeting ceremonies at a minimum, steered Scranton into a limousine when he sought to walk into the terminal building to shake hands with banner-waving supporters, and whisked him off in a motorcade for downtown Minneapolis.

Scranton, who came here after campaigning earlier today in Iowa and Kansas, scheduled a hotel news conference, a get-together with about 500 Republican leaders at a reception, and

Day 4, #2 – Mountain Brook and Homewood in 1964

Reading Prompt: How does Birmingham Post Herald August 10, 1964, p. 1 (from p. 12) discuss benefits for the merger?

4 Areas Decide Merger Tomorrow

Residents of four communities will vote tomorrow on the question of joining Birmingham.

If approved at the polls tomorrow, merger with Fairfield and Midfield to the west, Irondale to the east and Homewood would add approximately 15 square miles and almost 50,000 in population to Birmingham.

Mountain Brook, with a population of almost 13,000 and 12.5 square miles, will vote on merger Aug. 25. Tarrant has set no date as yet.

Leaders of anti-annexation forces predicted defeat for merger.

Rallies, telephone polls, mailing pieces, special radio and television programs and newspaper statements have been carried on in an intense area-wide campaign by both merger and anti-merger forces.

"Contracts in trust" have been prepared by Birmingham City Council to spell out the efforts Birmingham will make toward new citizens and school questions have been discussed.

The Birmingham City Council, the Birmingham Board of Education, Birmingham Planning Commission are holding places open for appointees from areas which vote for merger tomorrow. Contracts in trust have mentioned specific points of improved service available to Birmingham residents that citizens in annexing communities will become eligible for immediately after a favorable vote on merger.

These would include stepped-up garbage service and street maintenance, pay increases for police and firemen, improved

fire protection and lower insurance rates.

Residents of Fairfield and Midfield, who face a possible separation from Birmingham in establishment of a separate county with the Bessemer Cutoff, have been urged to vote "yes" on annexation before the two areas can be split.

Have Stressed Need

Merger leaders have stressed primarily the need for merger or annexation to enable Birmingham to grow and be more attractive to further diversified industry as a coordinated whole, rather than an area of fragmented municipalities with different laws and regulations.

Merger opponents counter with the loss of identity that faces residents of the merged communities.

"The people of Fairfield are not for merger and Tuesday's vote will show how they feel about it," said Fairfield Mayor Claude Smithson.

In Homewood, the director of publicity for the anti-merger forces, Fred Melof, resigned and announced for merger on the eve of the election.

Predicted Defeat

John J. Smith, campaign chairman, declared "annexation will be defeated overwhelmingly."

See MERGER, Page 12

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Day 4, #2.1 – Mountain Brook and Homewood in 1964

What is implied from this Birmingham Post Herald August 10, 1964, p. 12 (from p. 1) on why people opposed the merger attempt in 1964 in a similar way to 1959?

Merger

(Continued from Page 1)

ingly." Other city officials, seeking re-election tomorrow, concurred.

Felix Lancaster of the pro-merger forces will give a down-to-the-wire report on merger progress at 7 a.m. today at an Optimist Club breakfast at the Molton Motel.

In spite of a ruling by State Atty. Gen. Richmond Flowers that a separate school district can be maintained for Mountain Brook school children, the superintendent and others on the school board of Mountain Brook School system have opposed merger.

Petitions will be circulated in Mountain Brook tomorrow at the polls by pro-merger forces to start the process of setting an independent school system from Birmingham, provided merger wins in the Aug. 25 election there.

Other opponents of merger stated:

Hubert Kilgore, Mayor of Irondale: "The main reason I am against merger is that the majority of the citizens of Irondale oppose it and while I have the highest respect for those people's opinion who think we ought to be merged I must represent the majority of our people in opposing the issue."

William J. Waldrop, Mayor of Midfield: "As far as we know there has been no formal anti-merger organization in Midfield, there was no official action by the council in asking the people to oppose it but it has been generally felt that the people were opposed to it and that there is no possibility for a favorable vote toward merger. I and the council feel that it should be left strictly to the people."

J. Clewis Trucks, chairman

made against you isn't much of a tragedy at rubber bridge, but the game was duplicate and the difference between our score of minus 110 and the possible score of plus 200 was the difference between top and bottom.

East had a reason for leading the fourth heart. He pointed out that if I had held the jack of diamonds and not the king of clubs, his play would have beaten the hand while a club return would have allowed South to make his contract. It had never occurred to him that my shift to the deuce of clubs surely indicated possession of a high club.

Shades Valley Sun Urges Citizens To Approve Merger

The Shades Valley Sun has called for a vote in favor of merger in Homewood and Mountain Brook elections.

The editorial, on page one, bears the headline "Homewood and Mountain Brook Can Show Greatness By Favorable Merger Vote."

It said in part, "Now is the time, this is the hour, to put aside the personal and group self-interest that beclouds the issue and take a stand that's honorable and far-thinking."

"Now is the time to think past the pitfalls, to overlook hurt feelings and hasty judgments, to 'make do' with the too brief time for discussion and debate and think instead of the great

contributions Mountain Brook and Homewood can make to the Mother City which was responsible for their birth in the first place.

"Now is the time to realize that the civic leaders of Mountain Brook, the Model City, can contribute much to good, sound, solid government in Birmingham; that the powerful men and women who make Homewood such a fine place in which to live can make an even greater contribution to the entire metropolitan area . . .

"We'll be voting yes, Tuesday, Aug. 11, in Homewood and Tuesday, Aug. 25, in Mountain Brook. We hope you'll see the greater good for all and vote yes too."

Why would anti-merger forces want to debate the “school question” as seen in the Birmingham Post Herald August 17, 1964, p. 1 (from p.9)?

Merger Foe Says Graham Evades Issue

**Pro-Merger
Debate Terms
Unacceptable**

BY NICK HENRY

The leader of the Mountain Brook anti-merger committee accused Gen. Henry V. Graham, leader of the pro-merger forces, of evading his challenge to debate on merger.

The accusation of evasion was made by W. B. Kidd, chairman of the anti-merger Mountain Brook Citizens Committee, and came in answer to General Graham's written acceptance of his challenge to a debate.

The upshot was that the anti-merger forces stuck to the terms they laid down in their challenge and refused to accept any of the conditions offered by Graham for a debate.

Graham, chairman of the Mountain Brook merger committee, accepted the anti-merger forces' debate challenge but differed sharply with them on what, who and where to debate the merger question.

Graham said last night from his home that he had received the anti-merger reply "a few minutes ago," needed some time to study it and would answer the Citizens Committee as soon as possible.

Schools Only

The anti-merger challenge asked to debate the school question only. Graham's counter-offer said the entire merger question should be open to examination for a "proper debate."

Kidd said Graham's reply "evades the challenge" which specified discussion on the school issue.

Kidd said in his challenge that J. R. Hendrix and James L. Permutt would represent the anti-merger forces in the debate. Graham replied that "I rightfully expect that you personally are prepared to debate with me," because Kidd had "made serious charges" in his letter.

Kidd answered "I must disqualify myself as a debate participant for, as you already know, I have no children."

He went on to defend Hendrix and Permutt as the anti-merger champions because "our fellow citizens are entitled to hear from the best qualified and best informed people in this field."

Day 4, #4 – Mountain Brook and Homewood in 1964

Reading Prompt: How does this Birmingham Post Herald August 26, 1964, p. 1 (from 11) describe why people voted to defeat the merger attempts?

Merger Defeated By 254 Votes

BY LILLIAN FOSCUÉ
Mountain Brook residents, by a vote of 3177 to 2923, rejected an effort to merge their city with Birmingham.

The results were announced to a cheering anti-merger crowd at Mountain Brook City Hall last night at a meeting of the city council to count the votes.

Heavy voting was prevalent at all four Mountain Brook voting places yesterday, in spite of an afternoon rainstorm.

A total of 84 per cent of Mountain Brook's registered voters went to the polls yesterday.

After the vote count was announced by the city council, council members promised to begin discussions toward "a sound plan for consolidation."

In a statement read by Mrs. Dorothy B. Hoyt, council member, and signed by Mayor Robert M. Goodall Jr., Mayor-elect William M. Given Jr. and the four other council members, city officials expressed gratification over the vote.

"The vote today was not a defeat for Birmingham. It was the defeat of an unsound proposal for consolidation," read the statement.

"During the campaign, we have stated on several occasions that in the event annexation was defeated, we would work toward the development of a sound plan for consolidation which would include legislation necessary to protect our schools and zoning and the development of binding agreements between Birmingham and Mountain Brook to protect other matters of vital concern.

"We stand ready to do so. Mayor Goodall will be out of the city for some three weeks. Immediately upon his return, he and Mayor-elect Given will appoint a committee to meet with representatives of Birmingham and begin discussions leading toward such a plan," the statement continued.

Gen. Henry T. Graham, who arrived at City Hall toward the end of the official canvass by city officials, said he "takes heart" from the statement and from that of Given previously that he would initiate immediate negotiations to bring the two cities together.

Graham, chairman of pro-merger forces, congratulated Bradford Kidd, chairman of the group opposing consolidation, and Mayor-elect Given "for their victory."

He concurred with both Given and Kidd that the credit for the defeat of the election was due "Mountain Brook ladies."

Asked how the unprecedented vote of 84 per cent turned out in yesterday's election, Kidd said, "I don't know how to answer that. I leave it up to the girls. The ladies got it out."

In his prepared statement, Kidd declared opposition of the Mountain Brook Citizens Committee "was not in any way opposition to Birmingham."

"Those of us who opposed annexation did so because we felt any benefits which it would bring to Birmingham would be far outweighed by the destruction of our school system and other adverse effects on our community. The defeat of annexation leaves the way open for consideration of a true merger proposal."

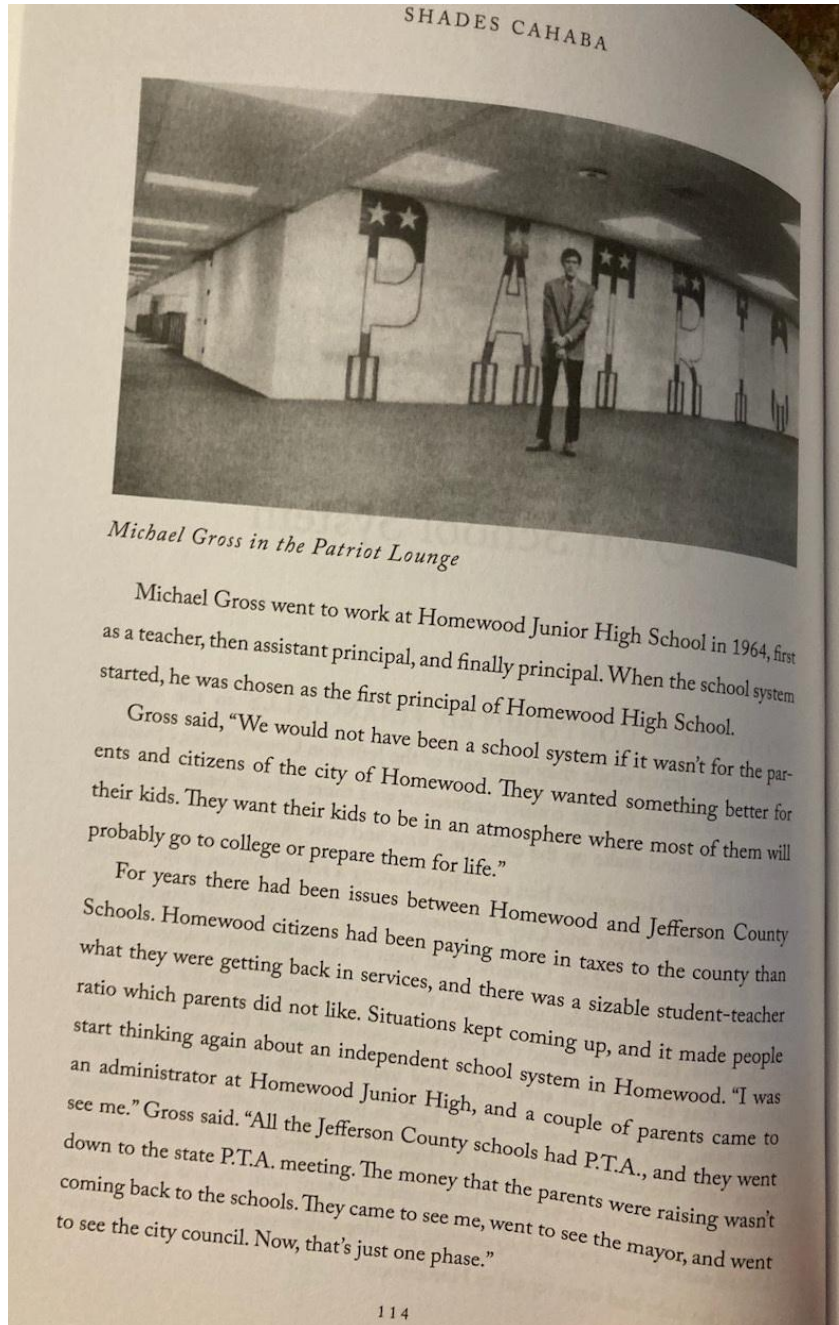
All statements urged citizens of Mountain Brook and Birmingham to "put their differences behind them and work together toward building the future of our whole area."

A delighted crowd crowded the entrance foyer to Mountain Brook City Hall last night waiting for the unofficial count that

See **MERGER**, Page 11

Day 4, #5 – Homewood in 1970

Reading Prompt: Below is page 114 from the book Shades Cahaba: The First 100 Years. What reasons are given on this page for the creation of the Homewood City Schools system? How are the reasons for creating the Homewood City Schools given similar to the newspaper clips you have looked at?



Michael Gross in the Patriot Lounge

Michael Gross went to work at Homewood Junior High School in 1964, first as a teacher, then assistant principal, and finally principal. When the school system started, he was chosen as the first principal of Homewood High School.

Gross said, "We would not have been a school system if it wasn't for the parents and citizens of the city of Homewood. They wanted something better for their kids. They want their kids to be in an atmosphere where most of them will probably go to college or prepare them for life."

For years there had been issues between Homewood and Jefferson County Schools. Homewood citizens had been paying more in taxes to the county than what they were getting back in services, and there was a sizable student-teacher ratio which parents did not like. Situations kept coming up, and it made people start thinking again about an independent school system in Homewood. "I was an administrator at Homewood Junior High, and a couple of parents came to see me," Gross said. "All the Jefferson County schools had P.T.A., and they went down to the state P.T.A. meeting. The money that the parents were raising wasn't coming back to the schools. They came to see me, went to see the mayor, and went to see the city council. Now, that's just one phase."

Day 4, #6 – Mountain Brook and Homewood in 1959

Reading Prompt: What can you learn from this Birmingham News April 7, 1959 p. 1 article?

Elections set May 12—

Merger camp mapping plans to get out vote

Leaders in a move to merge Mountain Brook and Homewood with Birmingham were preparing today to start campaigning for the proposals, which come up for a vote May 12.

City councils of the two municipalities adjoining Birmingham fixed the election date last night at special meetings.

Members of both councils voiced opposition to merger.

George Peach Taylor, Homewood attorney spearheading the merger move, said campaign headquarters are expected to be set up, probably in Homewood, tomorrow.

AND HE SAID merger leaders expect to announce an organizational setup this week.

Robert Jemison Jr. heads up the group advocating merger. He is assisted by James A. Simpson in Mountain Brook and Frank Dominick in Homewood.

Taylor said the group is "delighted" at the actions of the

INSIDE

Debate, Page 6
Mountain Brook Council
Statement, Page 10

Homewood and Mountain Brook Councils last night.

"We are particularly pleased that the councils set the elections for the same day," Taylor said.

MOUNTAIN BROOK councilmen issued a statement in which they said they were unanimously opposed to annexation "as presently advocated and presented as not to the best interest of the citizens of Mountain Brook.

THE HOMEWOOD Council unanimously adopted a resolution setting the election. The resolution included a statement opposing the merger on grounds citizens would lose home rule.

Petitions asking for the elections had been presented to the two city councils last month.

Mountain Brook councilmen warned against effects the merger would have on schools and zoning and subdivision controls.

THEY POINTED to the possibility that Mountain Brook schools, if a part of the Birmingham system, face the danger of being closed along with Birmingham schools in any integration effort.

Council members reminded that the council school committee is studying the feasibility of setting up a Mountain Brook Board of Education to divorce schools from the county system.

HOMEWOOD COUNCILMEN said the proposal "does not adequately nor properly protect and preserve the rights of the citizens of the City of Homewood in the handling of administration of local affairs."

The resolution named zoning, parks, playgrounds, schools and rights of self-determination and local home rule.

The proposal is "not in the best interest of the greatest number of citizens of said City of Homewood," the councilmen said.

MOUNTAIN BROOK councilmen, while opposing the present merger plan, pledged cooperation for a study toward developing a mutually satisfactory plan for the solution of the metropolitan area problem.

Homewood Mayor E. G. Walker also said he believes a thorough study would result in a plan for a metropolitan area organization acceptable to both Homewood and Mountain Brook.

The Homewood resolution designated five polling places for the election.

They are Homewood Recreation Center, Edgemont Cleaners, Edgemont Elementary School, Public Library and American Legion Hut.

These primary source materials accompany the unit "We Are All Birmingham: Local History through Primary Sources and Writing." See more at <https://kidsinbirmingham1963.org/class/we-are-all-birmingham-local-history-through-primary-sources-and-writing/>. See more at kidsinbirmingham1963.org.

Day 4, #7 – Mountain Brook and Homewood in 1959

Reading Prompt: What can you learn from this Birmingham News April 7, 1959 p.6 article?



News staff photo—Louis Isaacson

MOUNTAIN BROOK EXCHANGE CLUB HEARS DEBATE OF MERGER
... Speakers from left, Atty. Joe Wallace, Charles Morgan Jr., and Bill Cole, and John Main, club president.

At Mountain Brook Club—
Segregation is raised in hot merger debate

BY LOUIS ISAACSON
News staff writer

Two attorneys squared off last night in a debate over merger of Mountain Brook with Birmingham, both agreeing that the most important factor involved is schools.

Joe Wallace, speaking against the merger, told a meeting of Mountain Brook Exchange Club members that "the first time racial integration comes, all of Birmingham's schools will be integrated."

Bill Cole, for merger, declared "there would be a three-year negotiating period before the schools could be taken into the Birmingham system and if there is no compromise there would be an arbitration period."

WALLACE SAID Mountain Brook schools would be involved immediately if annexed to Birmingham.

"We could become a separate school system," Wallace said, "but we already have a good system under the Jefferson County Board of Education."

Referring to Sen. Larry Dumas' school bill, Wallace said such a bill "would only get you out of integration after you've already gotten into it."

COLE SAID he felt the Dumas bill was a good one because "each school would be an entity in itself and could drop out of the system."

In other remarks on the merger, Wallace declared that "newspapers are putting pressure against us and want the merger."

The attorney said Birmingham "is looking for a plum in the pudding . . . and Mountain Brook is it."

Wallace cited Mountain Brook's bonded indebtedness and declared that "if Mountain Brook merges with Birmingham, the City of Birmingham would get \$1,000,000 in assets."

"Every member of your family is in debt just \$50 now," Wallace said, "but to become a part of Birmingham, that figure would nearly double."

WALLACE referred to Mountain Brook as "the jewel of the Valley" and said "Birmingham wants that 'jewel.'"

"But," Wallace said, "you would be a sorry voter if you let your pocketbook dictate how you vote."

Wallace struck a blow at the Birmingham Downtown Improvement Assn. when he asked "What did they do their blood-brothers on Fifth-av. at? They ditched them."

"We don't have any traffic control problems over here," Wallace said, "and no parking limits except for a two-hour limit in some areas."

"We don't have parking meters either," Wallace added, "but as sure as we merge with Birmingham, they would be all over the place."

WHILE WALLACE said he thought there were honest men in the Birmingham city government . . . "there is a combination of some kind over there that gets things all fouled up."

"The trouble is," Wallace said, "this generation is trying to cure the ills of the past and it looks like this age group (referring to those present) are the ones who are catching hell and I'm tired of it."

"What is the concept of the city of Mountain Brook?" Wallace asked.

"Mountain Brook is a residential concept while that of Birmingham is industrial," Wallace said.

Wallace said Birmingham "wants us to be sentimental and come in . . . just like Paul Bryant at the University of Alabama who—when the University called, came running, hollering 'mama.'"

Briefly touching on the subject of zoning, Wallace said, "You don't see any spot zoning over here, but Birmingham is notorious for spot zoning."

COLE TOLD the group that in addition to schools he felt that another factor was the "political and economic values involved."

Cole said "61 of the 73 members of this club have offices in the City of Birmingham and are regulated by Birmingham's license code."

"If we can be affected by Birmingham economically, then we should have something to say about the Birmingham government," Cole declared.

COLE SAID he didn't think the questions of zoning, appointments to commissions, garbage collection, or representation on the school board "are important in the merger issue."

"If we concede that we are economically or politically affected by Birmingham, we should examine what goes on in Birmingham," Cole said.

"At one time we lived in Birmingham," Cole declared, "but the higher income percentage has moved out."

"If that be so, then who is going to run the city of Birmingham?" Cole asked.

COLE SAID five of the eight state legislators come from the Valley area and "we vote 60-70 per cent of our registered voters."

"The Valley could control the voting strength of Jefferson County," Cole added.

"If we as businessmen of Birmingham carry any weight in that city, I say that we should get in there right now before it is too late," Cole declared.

IN ANSWER to a question of whether or not Birmingham had intentions to get Fairfield and Irondale to merge, Cole said "I know of no such plan to do so, but frankly I don't know if Birmingham would or not."

"Can we compare the integrity of Birmingham with that of Mountain Brook?" one member of the club asked.

"If you're dissatisfied with the City of Birmingham, you should get in there and do something about it," Cole said.

ATTORNEY CHARLES MORGAN JR., heading the committee for merger in Mountain Brook and serving as moderator last night said:

"Nothing has been said about changing the form of government in Birmingham, but if political pressure desired it, a referendum vote could be called for by petitions of at least 10 per cent of the voters."

Another club member questioned what would happen to the value of property in Mountain Brook if merged with Birmingham.

Cole referred to the community of Buckhead in Georgia, "which when it went into Atlanta the value of property went up and is still doing so."

COLE SAID, "Once you vote to join Birmingham there is no way to get out." This was in answer to a question if there couldn't be a conditional vote.

One of the members called for a straw vote of the 41 members present, but President John Main said "we do not feel that this club can take such a vote or a stand on the issue."

However, Arthur Cook, publisher of The Shades Valley Sun and a member of the club, passed out slips of paper to members. The results were not revealed.

TONIGHT at 6:30 p.m. at the Homewood Elks Lodge another debate has been scheduled by the Shades Valley Optimist Club. Homewood Mayor E. G. Walker will argue against the merger, while Atty. Frank Dominick will argue for the proposal.

He asked for a show of hands from an estimated 60 to 70 specialists attending a public hearing on the legislation, who identified themselves as small loan operators, if they agreed with his statement.

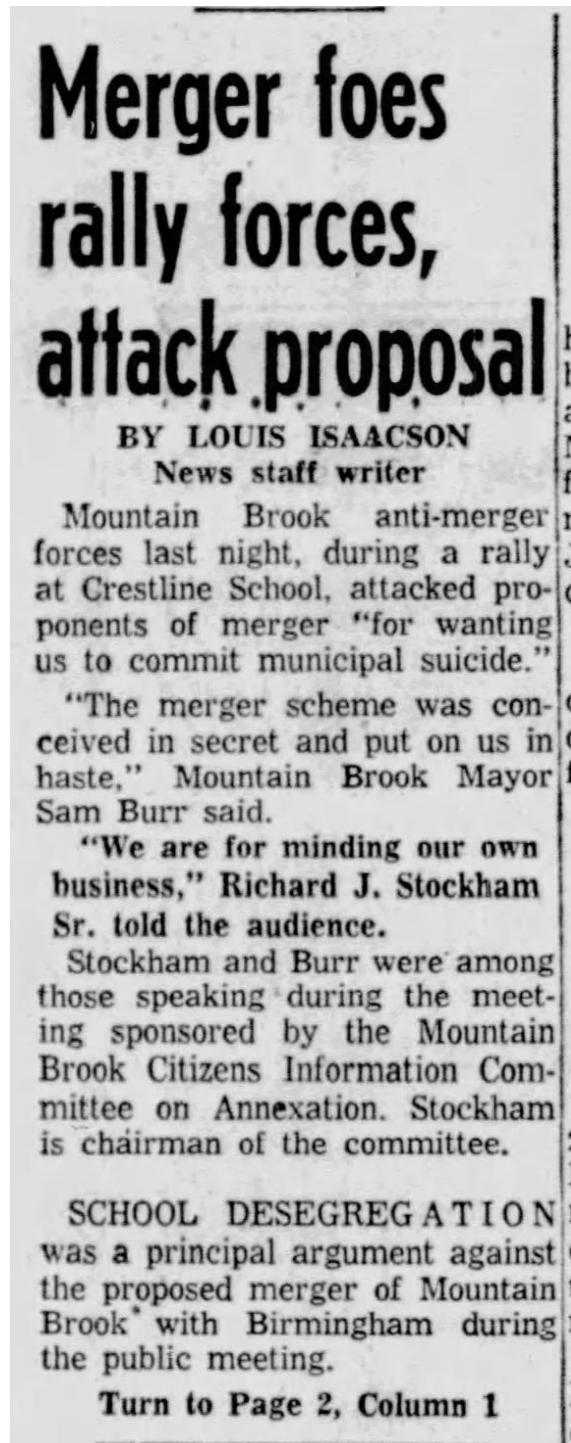
Says couldn't operate—
Lending executive raps proposed law

MONTGOMERY, Ala., April 7.—A spokesman for small loan companies told an interim legislative subcommittee today small money lenders couldn't remain in business under a proposed law.

Are All Birmingham: Local History through Primary Sources and Writing," at this all-birmingham-local-history-through-primary-sources-and-writing/. See more at

Day 4, #8 – Mountain Brook and Homewood in 1959

Reading Prompt: How does this Birmingham News April 17, 1959 p.1 article connect with the previous articles?



Merger foes rally forces, attack proposal

BY LOUIS ISAACSON
News staff writer

Mountain Brook anti-merger forces last night, during a rally at Crestline School, attacked proponents of merger "for wanting us to commit municipal suicide."

"The merger scheme was conceived in secret and put on us in haste," Mountain Brook Mayor Sam Burr said.

"We are for minding our own business," Richard J. Stockham Sr. told the audience.

Stockham and Burr were among those speaking during the meeting sponsored by the Mountain Brook Citizens Information Committee on Annexation. Stockham is chairman of the committee.

SCHOOL DESEGREGATION was a principal argument against the proposed merger of Mountain Brook with Birmingham during the public meeting.

Turn to Page 2, Column 1

National Timeline Events

Directions: cut each sentence into a strip. Arrange the strips in order from first to last on your desk.

The Supreme Court Case Brown vs. The Board of Education ends school segregation.

The Civil Rights Act passes.

Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a city bus.

Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated.

The Voting Rights Act passes.

The Supreme Court Case Plessy vs. Ferguson decides that segregation is legal if facilities are separate but equal.

Martin Luther King Jr. leads the March on Washington.

Key:

1896: The Supreme Court Case Plessy vs. Ferguson decides that segregation is legal if facilities are separate but equal.

1954: The Supreme Court Case Brown vs. The Board of Education ends school segregation.

1955: Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a city bus.

August 28, 1963: Martin Luther King Jr. leads the March on Washington.

July 2, 1964: The Civil Rights Act passes.

1965: The Voting Rights Act passes.

1968: Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated.

Directions: cut each sentence into a strip. Arrange the strips in order from first to last.

Later on May 2, 1963: More than a thousand children are jailed in Birmingham.

1970: Homewood City Schools are established.

1959: Homewood and Mountain Brook vote against joining Birmingham for the first time.

Morning of May 2, 1963: The Children's March happens.

1871: A Cholera outbreak drives people out of Birmingham and into the Homewood area.

1964: Homewood votes against joining Birmingham for the second time.

1926: Homewood is founded.

Historical Marker



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