

We have nothing to fear

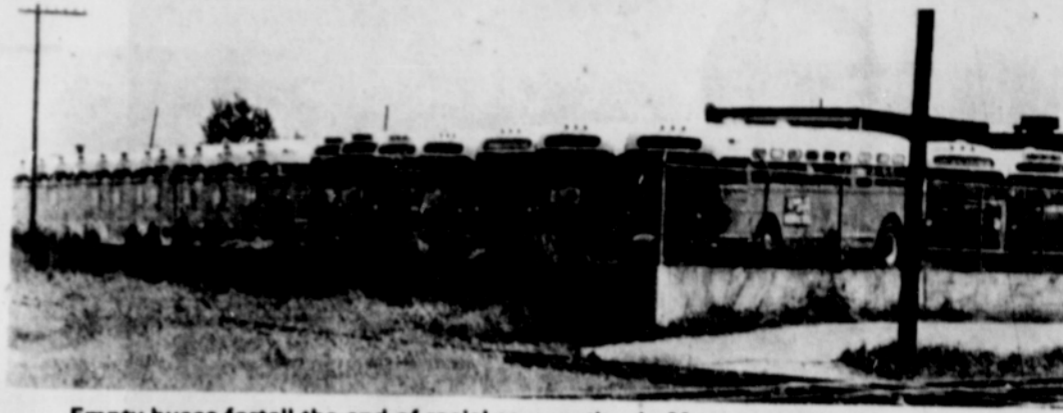
Montgomery, 1955

"Actually, no one can understand the action of Mrs. Parks unless he realizes that eventually the cup of endurance runs over, and the human personality cries out, 'I can take it no longer'. Mrs. Parks' refusal to move back was her intrepid affirmation that she had had enough . . . She was anchored to that seat by the accumulated indignities of days gone by and the boundless aspirations of generations yet unknown."

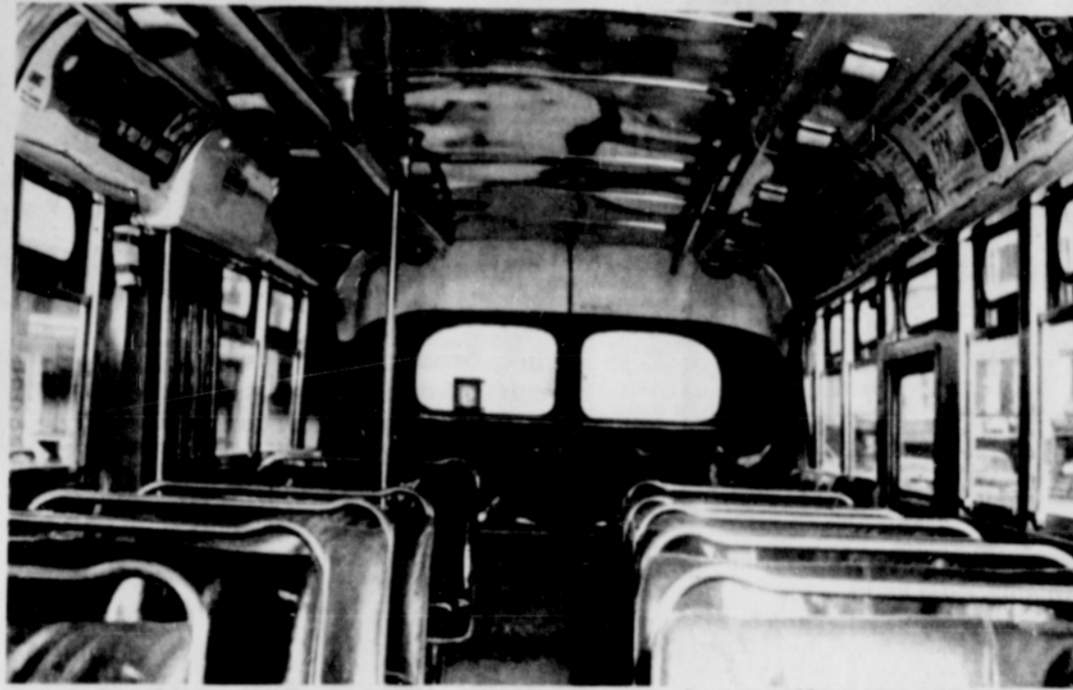
— M.L.K.



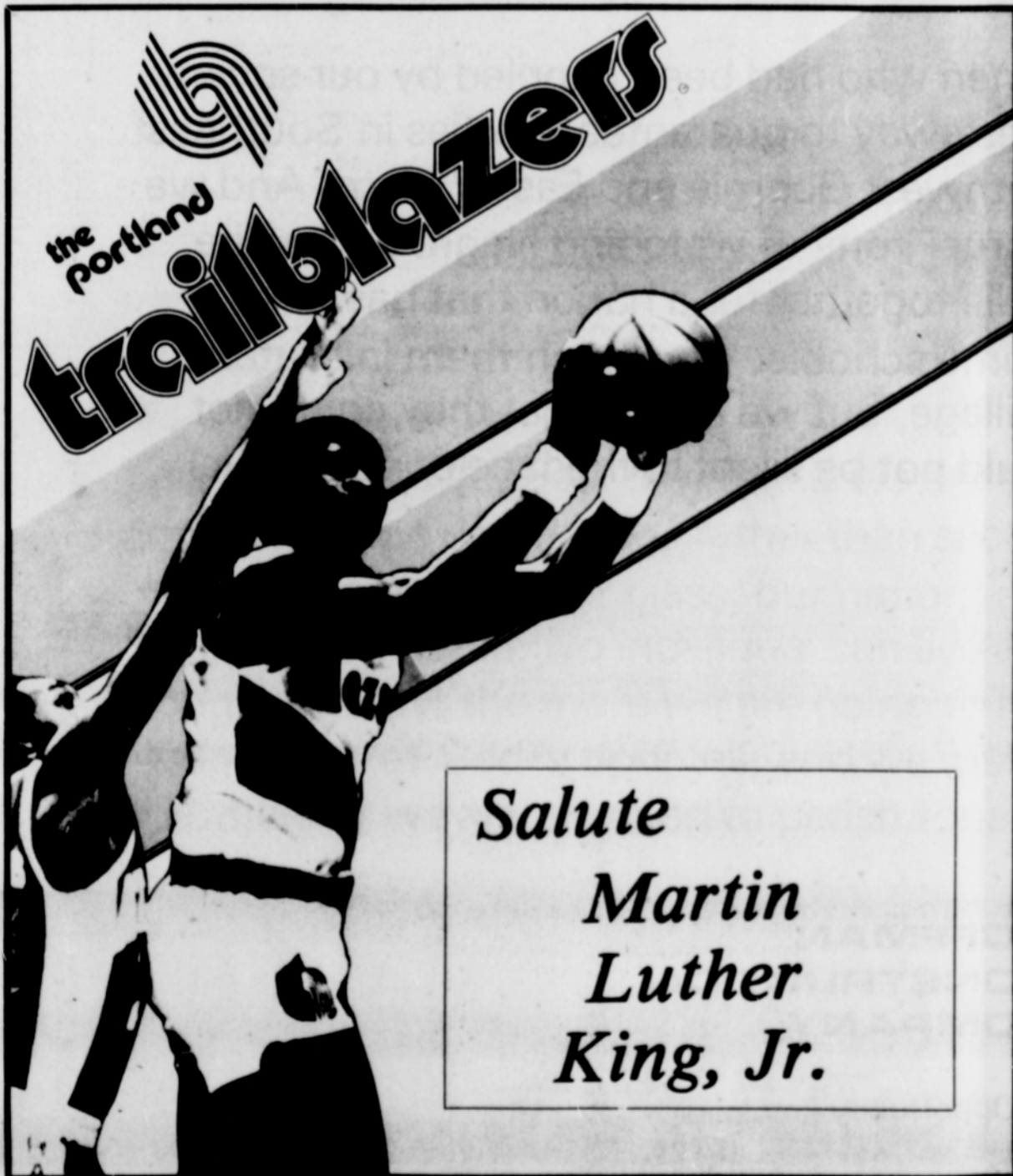
On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks, a seamstress, refused to give up her seat in the bus to a white man. This was the episode that triggered the successful bus boycott in Montgomery and the end of segregation in the South.



Empty buses foretell the end of racial segregation in Montgomery.



Man of Peace



"We will suffer and die if we have to"

... I don't know what will happen now. We have got difficult days ahead. But it doesn't matter with me because I've been to the mountain top. Like anyone else, I would like to live a long life. But I'm not concerned with that. I just want to do God's will and He has allowed me to go up the mountain. I see the promised land. I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the promised land. I am happy tonight that I am not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.

You all know the story of Rip Van Winkle. . . .

Everyone remembers that Winkle slept for twenty years.

But what is important is that when he went up on that mountain to sleep there was a picture of King George hanging in the town.

When he came down, there was a picture of George Washington in its place.

Rip Van Winkle slept through a revolution, but we cannot afford to remain asleep. . . .

Our world is as a neighborhood.

"We must all learn to live together as brothers, or we will all perish as fools. . . ."

There are two challenges to America.

The challenges are racism and poverty.

In a few weeks a few of us are coming to Washington to see if the will to meet those challenges still lives among us.

We're not coming to engage in any histrionic action.

We are not coming to tear up Washington.

We are coming to engage in dramatic, nonviolent action.

We are coming, and we will stay as long as we have to. . . .

We will suffer and die if we have to. For I submit, nothing will be done until people put their bodies and soul into this.

April 3, 1968

Memphis, Tennessee