



OCTOBER FREEDOM DAYS MOMENTS IN CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY

By JANUS ADAMS

OCTOBER 14

On October 14, 1964, an emotionally and physically drained Martin Luther King was resting in Atlanta's St. Joseph Infirmary when this announcement was made to the world: "The Nobel Committee of the Norwegian National Assembly has decided to award the Peace Prize for 1964 to Martin Luther King Jr. the sum of the prize is 283,000 Swedish Kroners (\$54,600)." Work had first reached Coretta King when an Associated Press reporter telephoned the King home. She, in turn, phoned the hospital. "How is the Nobel Peace Prize winner for 1964 feeling this morning?" she asked history's youngest laureate, giving him the news.

One of the world's highest honors, the Nobel Prize was created by Alfred Nobel, the Swedish chemist who discovered dynamite in 1863. In his lifetime, Nobel's more than one hundred patents earned him a fortune, the bulk of which he willed to the benefit of humanity. Every December 10 since 1901, the fifth anniversary of his death, prizes have been awarded in Chemistry, Literature, Physics, Medicine or Physiology, and Peace. Each laureate is awarded a gold medallion engraved with a likeness of Nobel on the front and the symbol of the field on the reverse side. The amount of the award is determined by the interest earned on the principal that year divided by the number of fields awarded. Not every field is awarded each year, but each

professorship in freedom's honor and in tribute to John Brown, whose antislavery blow was struck by the only integrated brigade in two centuries of American military history. Dr. Du Bois had led his NAACP cofounders on a Barefoot March from Storer to the old fire engine house site of the John Brown Raid on the fiftieth anniversary of emancipation. Generations had made pilgrimage to the college. It was gone, but not forgotten. With a groundswell of support, not only did the loyal remember, they ensured that others would never forget Storer's legacy as a historically black college. On October 15, 1966, Storer College was designated a national treasure, a landmark sustained by the National Park Service, providing inspiration for generations to come.

OCTOBER 17

On October 17, 1960, four national department store chains desegregated 150 lunch counter in 112 cities in Florida, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, and the Virginias. An army of seventy thou-



On October 14, 1964, Martin Luther King received an announcement that he was selected to be a recipient of a Nobel Peace Prize award. Dr. King is shown with his family privately celebrating in Oslo following the Nobel Prize ceremony. Photo credit: Moneta Sleet, Jr.

were descendants of Marcus Garvey's 1920s Black Nationalism, with its adherence to self-discipline, economic empowerment, and the call "Up you mighty race, you may do what you will!"

Building on the powerful impact of young people in the southern-based Civil Rights movement, they knew their western-based Oakland, California, movement must organize the young. On the night of October 22, 1966, Newton and Seale outlined a ten-point Black Panther Party platform:

"What We Want; What We Believe:"

1. We want freedom. We want power to determine the destiny of our Black Community...
 2. We want full employment for our people...
 3. We want an end to the robbery by the CAPITALIST of our Black community...
 4. We want decent housing, fit for shelter of human beings...
 5. We want education for our people that exposes the true nature of this decadent American society. We want education that teaches us our true history and our role in the...society...
 6. We want all Black men to be exempt from military service...
 7. We want an immediate end to POLICE BRUTALITY and MURDER of Black people...
 8. We want freedom for all Black men held in prison...
 9. We want all Black people when brought to trial to be tried in court by a jury of their peer group or people from their Black Communities, as defined by the Constitution...
 10. We want land, bread, education, justice and peace...
- It is little wonder they were so admired and so dangerous.

OCTOBER 24

The vision of a "chicken in every pot" may have chased away Great Depression woes, but often as not, by the time the chicken came home to dinner, it had spoiled. With the inventions of one man all that would change.

U.S. patent number 2,526,874, registered on October 24, 1959, tells the story. This "apparatus for heating or cooling the atmosphere within an enclosure" was invented by Frederick McKinley Jones - the man who also invented the refrigerated truck and refrigerated railroad boxcar, which revolutionized the nation's food-delivery system made possible the frozen food industry. But while Jones liberated the food industry, he was only slightly more free to profit from his ingenuity than early black inventors racially barred from registering patents, and nineteenth-century inventors like the engineer Elijah McCoy, who died penniless, despite patents for the lawn sprinkler and other lucrative inventions. Joint venture, licensing agreements, and investment capital were a long way off for the black inventor. Sadly, that too, like Elijah, was the real McCoy.

The following is an excerpt from the book "Freedom Days". Permission for reprint was given by John Wiley and Sons, Inc.



Mr. and Mrs. King are decked out in their finest awaiting the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony event.

field is honored no less than once every five years.

OCTOBER 15

A college means more than students, faculty, mortar, and books. As a gateway to learning, a college is a resource for all who come through its doors and a gift for generations to come. With its closing comes a tragedy for an extended community. When that community was founded by former slaves whose sacrifices raised the school and the race, the tragedy can rock the foundations of hope itself. For witness, visit Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. On a hill overlooking the town known for its pre-Civil War arsenal and made famous by John Brown's antislavery raid, stands a ghostly spectacle: Storer College.

And what a loss Storer was. Frederick Douglass had lectured there, donating his fees to establish a

sand sit-in demonstrators had served notice - a message well summed up by Carl Blair, president of the Chamber of Commerce in Montgomery, Alabama, a city still recovering from its historic year-long bus boycott. "The South is in a time of change, the terms of which cannot be dictated by white Southerners," he said. "There's a revolution of the Negro youths in this nation."

OCTOBER 22

Bobby Seale has said that were it not for the assassination of Malcolm X, there might never have been a Black Panther Party. With Malcolm's murder came the disenchantment of millions. "I think that I was following not Elijah Muhammad or the Muslims, but Malcolm X himself," said Huey Newton. Newton and Seale rooted the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense in Black Muslim teachings. Inspired by Malcolm, they

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