

**CHILDREN AND  
TEENAGERS'  
CONTRIBUTIONS  
TO THE  
CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT  
IN LOUISIANA:**

# Introduction

One of the iconic images associated with the 1960s campaigns to end legalized racial segregation in U. S. public schools is of 6-year old **Ruby Bridges** being escorted by Federal Marshals to the William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans on Monday morning, 14 November 1960. But Ruby Bridges, as well as **Leona Tate, Tessie Prevost, and Gail Etienne** who enrolled at McDonough Three Public School that same day, provides one example of the roles children played in the Civil Rights Movement.

May 2013 marked the 50th anniversary of the "**Children's Crusade**" in **Birmingham, Alabama**, led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), and the Students Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). In 2014, we commemorated the 50th anniversary of SNCC's "**Freedom Summer**" campaign and the opening of "**Freedom Schools**" in Mississippi.

Between 2012 and 2015, students at the **University of California, Riverside (UCR)** in courses of **Prof. V. P. Franklin** gathered photos, posters, placards, newspaper and magazine articles, school statistics, cartoons, and other materials on the Children Crusade, Freedom Summer, the Freedom Schools, and other civil rights campaigns where children and young people played significant roles. The exhibit "**Children, Youth, and Civil Rights, 1951-1968: A Student Exhibit**" was first mounted in May 2013 and has been displayed at UCR and university libraries around the country.

Beginning in the 2015-2016 school year, students at Xavier University enrolled in courses covering civil rights issues offered by **Prof. Sharlene Sinegal-DeCuir** and **Prof. Cirecie Olatunji** began researching the civil rights activism of elementary and high school students in Louisiana in the 1950s and 1960s. The exhibit "**Children and Teenagers' Contributions to the Civil Rights Movement in Louisiana,**" is the result of this research and writing project.

It is important to point out that children and young people had participated in marches, demonstrations, boycotts, and other nonviolent direct action protests before the 1950s. In *If We Could Change the World: Young People and America's Long Struggle for Racial Equality* (2009), historian Rebecca de Schweinitz documented the social and political activism of student groups in the 1930s. Young people organized **protest marches and demonstrations** throughout that decade calling for freedom for the **Scottsboro Nine**, African American teenagers who were unfairly condemned to death in Scottsboro, Alabama, after being **falsely accused** of raping two white women. Young people also **protested the racist stereotypes and images found in textbooks** used in public schools throughout the United States.

The Baltimore, Maryland, Youth Forum leader, **Juanita Jackson**, was tapped by NAACP Director Walter White in 1936 to become the Director of "**Youth Programs**" for the NAACP and she established numerous college chapters, youth councils, and junior youth councils around the country. The student groups participated in **protest marches and demonstrations** against lynching and mob violence, employment discrimination, voting rights violations, and politicians fomenting racial hatred.

With the coming of the civil rights protests in the 1950s, young people in **NAACP Youth Councils** organized "sit-ins" and other nonviolent direct action protests in various parts of the country. In Louisiana, children and teenagers in the NAACP Youth Councils and other student groups **participated in civil rights demonstrations** organized by adult organizations, and also engaged in protests completely **organized by the teenagers themselves**. This **student-researched exhibit** documents civil rights activism among youths in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Bogalusa, and Shreveport in the 1950s and 1960s.

"Children and Teenagers' Contributions to the Civil Rights Movement in Louisiana"



Juanita Jackson (on left) in 1937 visiting the Scottsboro Boys in prison in Alabama.



Members of the NAACP New York Youth Council picketing in support of anti-lynching legislation in front of the Strand Theatre in Times Square.



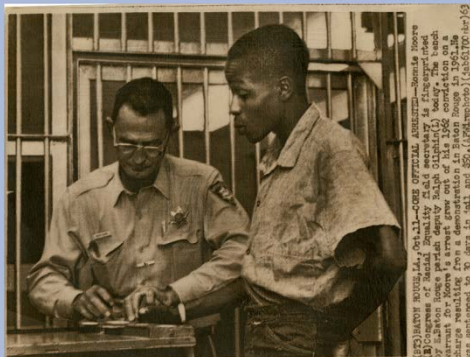
NAACP Youth Council Members in Charlotte, NC in 1942.



# BATON ROUGE



In 1961, Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) demonstration where an estimated 2000 young people, most of them from Southern University, participated in a march in downtown Baton Rouge. Police used tear gas to end the peaceful demonstration after what they considered a reasonable time.



Ronnie Moore served 30 days in jail and paid a \$50 fine for participating in a 1962 demonstration in Baton Rouge. He was released in October 1963.



On 28 March 1960, Southern University students picketed the Kress Store and other establishments that maintained Jim Crow practices and employment discrimination.



Reverend Arthur T. Jelks, NAACP President (here at left) led this group of children to the Baton Rouge Junior High School in September 1962 in a futile attempt to register them at the school. Turning them away was R.L. Smith, school principal.



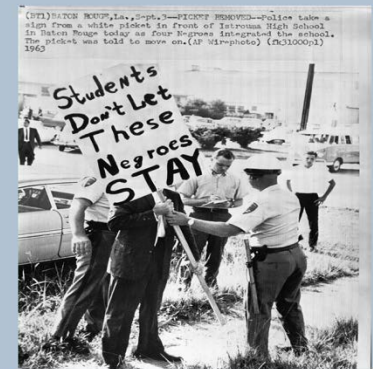
Southern University students picketed the Greyhound Bus Station in March 1960 demanding an end to racial discrimination.



The first African American students were enrolled at baton Rouge's Istrouma High School in September 1963. Two unidentified African American girls get their lunch at Istrouma's cafeteria.

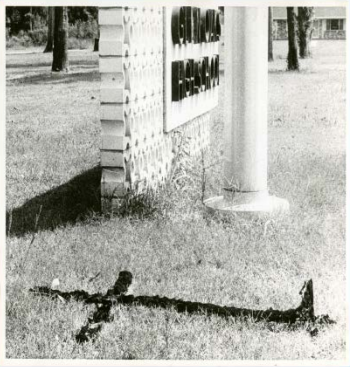


Students protesting segregation in downtown Baton Rouge. Approximately 2,500 students and community members participated in the demonstration on 30 March 1960.



Police took signs from white protesters in front of Istrouma High School in Baton Rouge after four African American students were enrolled at the school in September 1963.





Members of the KKK burned a cross on lawn of a Baton Rouge High School scheduled for desegregation.



During the 1953 bus boycott in Baton Rouge, the African American community organized free carpools, enabling protestors to go about their daily business while simultaneously showing they would no longer accept second-class citizenship.



Official photograph taken on the campus of Southern University, March 29, 1960. Left to right: Marvin Robinson, Dallas, TX; Felton Valdry, San Jose, CA; Major Johns (Deceased), John Johnson, New York City; Donald Moss, Kittell, NC; Janette Hoston Harris, Washington D.C.; Kenneth Johnson, Baltimore, MD; and JoAnn Morris, Atlanta, GA.

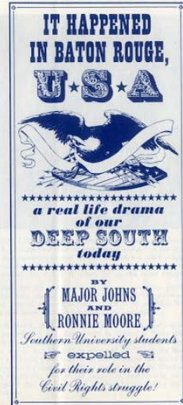
Ignoring warnings of expulsion from Southern University's President, Felton Clark, the student's began planning for a sit-in in late March. On March 28, 1960, seven students sat in at the Kress lunch counter in downtown Baton Rouge. They were immediately arrested for "disturbing the peace" and were sent to jail with a bail of \$1,500 each.



The Rev. T. J. Jemison, pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, accompanies Mary Briscoe, left, and Sandra Ann Jones, two of nine Southern University students released on \$1500 bond each, after being jailed for their part in sitdown demonstrations against segregated lunch counters in downtown Baton Rouge April 4, 1960.



White high school boys protesting Clinton High School integration in East Baton Rouge Parish.



Eleven page Pamphlet written by Major Johns and Ronnie Moore detailing the Southern University student march in 1960.



Southern School News Article (September 1963) discussing East Baton Rouge Parish school desegregation as the first high school desegregation in the state. The grade a year "reverse stairstep plan," placed 28 black students into four high schools in the parish.



09 September 1962, Rev. Arthur Jelks leads an African American group away from the all white Baton Rouge Junior High School where they were turned away by principal R. L. Smith. The girls accompanying Jelks are (1. to r.) Ellis Marie Lamotte, Olivia Sandiford and Jelk's daughter Patricia. Jelks was President of the Baton Rouge Chapter of the NAACP.

# SITTING IN/ DISTURBING THE PEACE

Beginning with the **1953 Baton Rouge** bus boycott, black high school and university students participated in civil rights protests in Baton Rouge launched by the NAACP and the **United Defense League (UDL)**, headed by **Rev. Theodore J. Jemison**. In June 1953, rallies supporting the boycott were held at **McKinley High School** and the three-week bus boycott brought changes in racial practices and served as a model for the Montgomery, Alabama, boycott that began in December 1955.

The "**student sit-ins**" began in Greensboro, North Carolina, on 1 February 1960 and spread to sixty other cities in less than a month. Young Rev. Jemison came to the **Southern University campus** to ask the students to volunteer to participate in sit-ins in "whites only" establishments in downtown Baton Rouge.

**Seven Southern University** students were **arrested** on Monday, 28 March 1960, for conducting a sit in at the **Kress Store**. Charged with "disturbing the peace," Jemison and the UDL paid their \$1,500 bond. The following day, nine Southern University students were arrested for sit ins conducted at **Sitman's Drug Store** and the **Greyhound Bus Terminal**. On Thursday, 30 March, teenagers from the **Southern University Laboratory School** joined the college students in a march on the state capitol buildings to **protest the arrests**.

Under pressure from white state education officials, Southern University **President Felton Clark** "suspended indefinitely" any students arrested in the demonstrations. When the first group of sit-in students returned to campus, a rally was organized to **protest Clark's suspensions** and the students called for a **boycott of classes**. Two days into the boycott, President Clark began contacting parents, which triggered more **withdrawals from the university**. Students rallied again on Monday, 4 April 1960 and called for withdrawal from the university and almost **1,000 students left the campus**.

The Southern University branch of **CORE**, led by **Ronnie Moore, Weldon Rougeau, and Patricia Ann Tate**, organized a peaceful **five-mile march** on the state capitol on 15 December 1961 and in protest legal racial segregation. When the marchers approached the state courthouse, they were **pushed, shoved, and teargassed by police with dogs**; Moore and four others were arrested. Their bond was eventually paid by UDL, but when President Clark announced that the **jailed students were expelled**, **D'Army Bailey** rallied students, who were already boycotting classes, and urged them to leave campus. When the campus reopened on 25 January 1962 under police surveillance, forty students were not allowed to return.

In September 1964, ten years after the 1954 Brown decision, the first African American students **desegregated all-white public schools** in Baton Rouge. At some schools **white protesters** were kept away from the black students by the police. The desegregation process was challenged in the courts, but African Americans enrolled at all-white public schools in Baton Rouge **without incident**.



# Chronology of Events: Baton Rouge

**19 June 1953** - Baton Rouge bus boycott began. The boycott lasted six days and ended with the passage of Ordinance 251. Black riders were able to fill the bus from back to front, the first two rows on the bus were reserved for whites and the back seat of the bus reserved for African Americans.

**8 July 1956** - "Freedom of choice" and other school laws were passed by state legislators to prevent the integration of public schools in Louisiana.

**15 March 1960** - State Board of Education announced that any students or professors at Southern University participating in civil rights demonstrations were to be expelled.

**28 March 1960** - Seven Southern University students were arrested for sitting-in at Kress Store's lunch counter.

**29 March 1960** - Nine Southern University students arrested for the sit-in protest at the Greyhound Bus Terminal and the lunch counter at Sitman's Drug Store.

**30 March 1960** - Over 3,500 people marched from Southern University to the state capitol buildings to protest legal segregation. Major Johns and sixteen others were arrested and suspended from Southern University.

**15 December 1961** - Southern University CORE branch organized a march on the state courthouse in Baton Rouge to protest racial segregation in the city and approximately 2,000 young people participated. Police beat and teargassed students and four were arrested.

**18 December 1961** - Southern University students launched boycott of classes over arrests of Ronnie Moore and others; students left the campus for holidays.

**10 January 1962** - Students returned to Southern University, but those who had been arrested were not allowed to enroll.

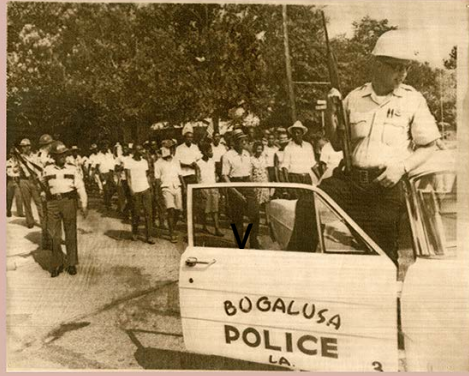
**9 April 1962** - Integration attempted at Baton Rouge Junior High School. Students were turned away by Principal R. L. Smith.

**3 September 1963** - White parents set up picket lines at Istrouma High School when the first African American students were enrolled.

**October 1963** - The first African American students were enrolled at East Baton Rouge High School.

**September 1964** - African American students enrolled at several previously all-white public schools without incident.

# BOGALUSA



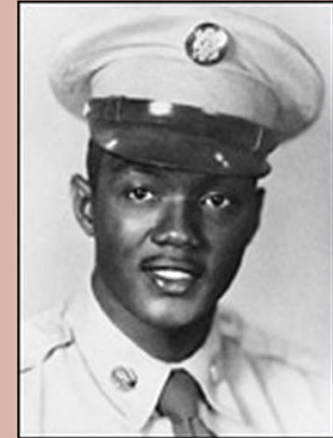
Children and young people marching from Bogalusa to the Louisiana capital at Baton Rouge in July 1965.



White male holds his nose in disgust as he pickets alongside a black youth who is picketing for equal jobs during demonstrations in Bogalusa. 4 April 1965.



White parent with a sign and Confederate flag protesting the desegregation of public schools in Bogalusa.



O'Neal Moore, one of the first black deputy sheriff's in Washington Parish, Louisiana. Moore was killed in June 1965 by white racists after being on the job one year and a day.



On 23 July 1967, over 125 African Americans, many of them teenagers, set out on a 25 mile march from Bogalusa to the courthouse in Franklinton. The marchers demanded equal rights and were escorted by fifty state troopers.



At the Bogalusa to Franklinton March, teenagers peacefully protesting as white police threatened violence.



Billy Brooks, Director of the Louisiana Black People's Advancement Association, sits on the shoulders of some of his followers shouting "Black Power." The groups held a rally on the steps of the Louisiana State Capitol on 20 August 1967. The large rally climaxed the historic 11 day, 105 mile civil rights march from Bogalusa to Baton Rouge.



Police escort African American marchers as they set out on the fifth day of their 120 mile march from Bogalusa to Baton Rouge in August 1967. The marchers are shown here shortly after they left Hammond covering about 8 miles a day.





Three elementary aged children picketing for more jobs and the end of Jim Crow. 22 April 1965.



Mixed youth sit-in at a lunch counter in Bogalusa. 22 July 1965.



White male demonstrator is punched by police officer while at a sit-in demonstration while youth activist watch in horror. 23 July 1965.



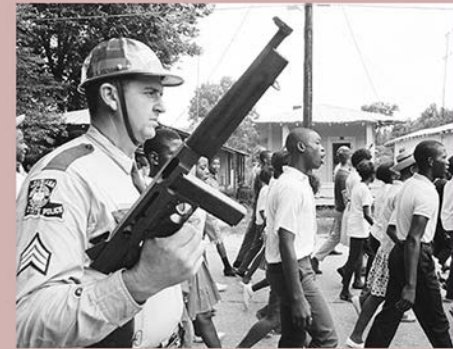
Youth protesters in getting stepped over as they block the entryway to a segregated dinner in downtown Bogalusa. 23 July 1965.



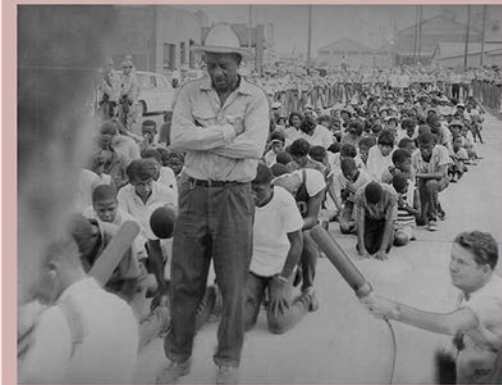
150 Freedom Marchers marching at the Capital in Baton Rouge. One youth marcher is pictured holding a sign stating "We are Children of God." 12 June 1965.



Freedom marchers cross the Amite river on their way from Bogalusa to the state capital in Baton Rouge. After repeated attacks by the KKK, the Governor is forced to provide National Guard and state troopers to protect the demonstrators on their 10-day march.



A heavily armed white trooper menacing a protest march through Bogalusa, Louisiana, in 1965.



A minister identified only as the Rev. R. Brown leads black Bogalusa residents in prayer in civil rights demonstration in that city. July 15, 1965. J.W. Guillot / staff

(BT) BATON ROUGE LA JUNE 12--FREEDOM MARCH-- Some of the 150 FREEDOM MARCHERS who came to BATON ROUGE SATURDAY ARE SHOWN AS THEY WALKED IN FRONT OF THE CAPITOL BUILDING. (AP WIREPHOTO) (717004/MB) 1965.



# STUDENTS SAY "NO" TO RACISM

Nonviolent direct action protests began in Bogalusa in July 1964 when **two 12-year old black girls** decided on their own to integrate the lunch counter at the Woolworth Store. When local whites learned of their actions, **a mob formed** led by the Ku Klux Klan members and the children had to be escorted out of the building by the police.

**Brooks Hays**, a former Arkansas Congressman and representative of the federal **Community Relations Service**, arrived in Bogalusa in October 1964 to help move the desegregation process along. When it was announced that Hays would give a **speech at the Episcopal Church** on 7 January 1965 about ending Jim Crow practices in Bogalusa, the Klan launched a ferocious campaign of intimidation against the Episcopal ministers and church officials. When the Klan **burned a cross on the church's lawn**, they decided to cancel Hays' speech.

**Andrew Moses**, chairman of the **Bogalusa Civic and Voters League (BCVL)**, was committed to voter registration. After the cancellation of the Hays speech, several BCVL members contacted **CORE organizer Ronnie Moore** in New Orleans and asked him to send staff members to Bogalusa to train nonviolent protesters. CORE's **Bill Yates and Steve Miller** arrived in mid-January 1965 and held training sessions for those, mostly teenagers, who agreed to participate in direct action protests. On Friday, 28 January, BCVL's Andrew Moses led the **four teams of protesters** to visit sixteen restaurants, two movie houses, and the Washington Parish public library. They were **denied services at all these locations**.

**Black teenagers and CORE organizers** continued the protests; testing out new establishments and returning to those where they were refused service. Moses and BCVL began negotiations with Bogalusa's Mayor Jesse Cutrer within a tense environment of threats and **harassment from the Klan**. Black and white CORE organizers were regularly accosted when their paths crossed the klansmen. Members of the "**Deacons of Defense**," a black self-defense group from Jonesboro, volunteered to help protect civil rights workers, their friends, and family members.

Andrew Moses announced that BCVL's first "**Civil Rights March**" would take place on Friday, 9 April 1965. Panicking city officials passed ordinances prohibiting picketing and large protests. While CORE and BCVL leaders debated whether to follow the law, **black teenagers at Central Memorial High School** launched a **spontaneous walkout** and headed toward downtown Bogalusa. Marching with a permit, the teenagers were confronted by **armed policemen and snarling K-9 dogs** and were dispersed.

The teenagers' actions inspired BCVL's A. Z. Young to lead a **delegation to City Hall** with a list of **seven demands** calling for the desegregation of public schools and equal employment opportunities in local government and businesses. CORE leader **James Farmer** had been invited to the 9 April 1965 march, which was led by the "**Student Committee for the March against Racism**." When about 400 protesters left the Negro Union Hall headed for City Hall, they were **attacked by shrieking mobs of whites and klansmen** who forced the protesters to return to the union building. After the intervention of Mayor Cutrer and the police, a **second march** took place without Klan disruptions.

When Mayor Cutrer failed to get Bogalusa's white business owners to meet with the BCVL, A. Z. Young called for a **boycott of downtown businesses**, and the picketing six stores, during the Easter Season, 1965. When the klansmen threatened the picketers, members of the Deacons of Defense protected them. A **standoff** occurred between the **Deacons and the klansmen** at Central Memorial High School's graduation ceremony on 26 May 1965; the police arrived and dispersed both groups.

**Black Power groups** emerged in Bogalusa in 1967 and **organized marches to the state capital** at Baton Rouge calling for the implementation of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and 1965 Voting Rights Act by government officials in the state of Louisiana. By 1968 the **desegregation of public accommodations** had taken place in Bogalusa.

# Chronology of Events: Bogalusa

**1956** - Bogalusa Civic and Voters League (BCVL) organized to carry out voter registration campaigns in black neighborhoods.

**May 1964** - Ku Klux Klan begins recruiting new members in Bogalusa in anticipation of voting rights demonstrations organized by the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and BCVL.

**3 July 1964** - Two 12 year old black girls sit in at Woolworth Lunch Counter and are attacked by whites and were escorted out of the store by police.

**10 July 1964** - BCVL members meet in New Orleans with Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) organizers to make plans for civil rights campaigns in Bogalusa.

**4 April 1965** - Picket lines set up by BCVL in front of downtown stores that engage in racial discrimination.

**8 April 1965** - Black teenagers at Central Memorial High boycott classes and marched to the downtown where they are halted by policemen and police dogs.

**9 April 1965** - BCVL's first civil rights march on downtown Bogalusa is met by white mobs and Klan members and are forced to turn around. After the intervention of the mayor, the second march was carried out with police protection.

**22 April 1965** - CORE leader James Farmer speaks at rally at Ebenezer Baptist Church with over 400 black teenagers and young people in attendance.

**19 May 1965** - When black children and women attempted to desegregate Cassidy Park, they were viciously attacked by white men, police, and police dogs.

**23 May 1965** - BCVL and city officials announce six-point agreement calling for the repeal of all segregation statutes and the opening of public facilities and parks to all city residents.

**24 May 1965** - White mobs attack city officials who agreed to desegregate public facilities in the city. Klansmen take over Cassidy Park celebrate their reversal of the desegregation efforts.

**26 May 1965** - Klansmen show up at Central Memorial High School's graduation and violence is avoided when the Deacons of Defense also showed up to confront the Klan and protect the students.

**29 May 1965** - Teenagers and BCVL members launch picket lines at downtown stores and are attacked by klansmen. When policemen arrive, they arrest 11 black protesters and 6 klansmen.

**6 July 1965** - The BCVL launched a new wave of picketing of stores in downtown Bogalusa, and protesters are harassed by whites as police stand by.

**7 July 1965** - BCVL organizes a march on city hall to protest the attacks on nonviolent protesters, but were greeted by mobs of whites along the way and the marchers retreated.

**8 July 1965** - BCVL organizes a second march, but this time they are protected by the Deacons of Defense, and Henry Austin wounds klansman Alton Crow who was attacking a black teenage girl.

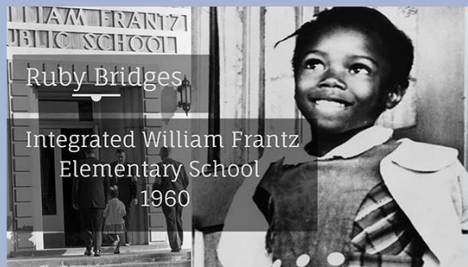
**12 September 1966** - At newly-desegregated Bogalusa Junior High School, fights between black and white students led to klansmen and Deacons showing up at the school. Both groups were dispersed by the police.

**14 August 1967** - The Bogalusa to Baton Rouge march was organized by BCVL to highlight the weakness of the biracial committee formed city officials to improve race relations in Bogalusa. Police and national guardsmen were called out to protect the marchers.

**20 August 1967** - Protesters, mostly teenagers and young adults, who participated in the Bogalusa to Baton Rouge march arrive at the state capital for a rally without incident. That night violence and rioting by young people erupted in black neighborhoods.



# NEW ORLEANS



Ruby Bridges

Integrated William Frantz Elementary School  
1960

New Orleans school officials decided the desegregation would begin on 27 November 1960 with Ruby Bridges' enrollment in the first grade at William Frantz Elementary School.



State and federal marshals were used to escort 6 year old Ruby Bridges to and from Frantz Elementary School because of anonymous threats made against her enrolling in the all-white school.



Mobs of white parents and other protesters greeted Ruby Bridges at the Frantz School, and Leona Tate, Tessie Prevost, and Gail Etienne at McDonald 19 Public School each morning as they entered. Later the girls said the crowds reminded them of Mardi Gras celebrations.



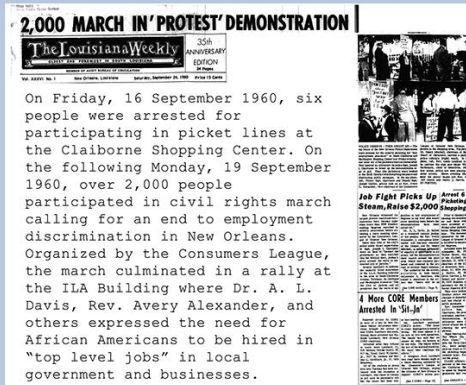
In the 1961-62 school year, many other New Orleans public schools were desegregated and black and white children were educated in the same classrooms and many became friends.



Members of the NAACP Youth Council often sang "Freedom Songs" while protesting discriminatory employment and voter registration practices in New Orleans in the early 1960s.



In September 1960, NAACP Youth Council launched picket lines in front of the Woolworth's and other stores on Canal Street. Mayor Chep Morrison ordered the police to arrest civil rights demonstrators and charge them with "criminal mischief."



On Friday, 16 September 1960, six people were arrested for participating in picket lines at the Claiborne Shopping Center. On the following Monday, 19 September 1960, over 2,000 people participated in civil rights march calling for an end to employment discrimination in New Orleans. Organized by the Consumers League, the march culminated in a rally at the ILA Building where Dr. A. L. Davis, Rev. Avery Alexander, and others expressed the need for African Americans to be hired in "top level jobs" in local government and businesses.



By 1963 throughout the state of Louisiana, African American citizens were crowding voter registration offices to register to vote. In many places they were turned away. On 20 September 1963, hundreds of teenagers and adults converged on the New Orleans voter registration office and were arrested. Members of the NAACP Youth Council and Youth Crusaders Corps of the Coordinating Council of Greater New Orleans led the march and many were arrested. Voting rights protests and marches continued in Louisiana until the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.







# YOUTH ON THE MOVE

Along with the nine black teenagers who desegregated Central High School in September 1957, **Ruby Bridges** became the child most identified with civil rights campaigns. After years of litigation the New Orleans public school system, Bridges was enrolled at **William Frantz Public School** on 28 November 1960. At the same time, three six-year olds - **Leona Tate, Tessie Prevost, and Gail Etienne** - enrolled at **McDonald 19 Public School** in the Lower 9th Ward. White parents organized a boycott of the two schools so during the 1960-61 school year, the four girls were the only students in attendance at those two schools. This was one of many ways **children and teenagers contributed** to the Civil Rights Movement in the Crescent City.

No African Americans were employed in many stores and shops in black neighborhoods. This situation led to the founding of the **Consumer League of Greater New Orleans** in March 1959. Under the leadership of **Dr. Raymond Floyd** of Xavier University, the league organized boycotts of white-owned business on Dryades Street in 1959 and 1960. The **New Orleans branch of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)**, formed in the summer of 1960, launched its first direct action protest on 9 September 1960: **a sit-in at the Woolworth's Store at Canal and Ramparts Streets**. The police were called and seven protesters were arrested and charged with "criminal mischief."

The students who organized the New Orleans CORE chapter - Rudy Lombard, Alice, Jean, and Shirley Thompson, Oretha and Doris Jean Castle, Doratha Smith, Rev. Avery Alexander, and Jerome Smith - first engaged in nonviolent protests with the Consumer League.

After the arrest of the CORE members, the **NAACP Youth Council** launched a picket line in front of the Woolworth's. Led by **Raphael Cassimere**, the Youth Council members carried signs declaring "**Jim Crow Must Go**" and "**They Were Arrested Because They Wanted to Eat**" and were often harassed by white youths and police. In addition to the picketing, the Youth Council issued a statement urging black parents to "**register your children in the white schools in your vicinity.**" Teenagers in the Youth Council maintained the **picket lines** for weeks and expanded them to include other stores on Canal Street.

On Friday, 16 September 1960, **six members of the Consumer League were arrested** for picketing stores in the Clairborne Shopping Center. In response, a **protest march** took place on Monday, 19 September 1960 calling for "equal employment opportunities." Members of the Youth Council were among the **2,000 people** who participated. Marching along South Claiborne Avenue and ending at the ILA Auditorium, **Dr. A.I. Davis, Rev. Alexander Avery, Dr. Henry Mitchell**, and other speakers "blasted merchants in the area who have refused to hire Negroes as cashiers and other supervisory jobs." Later that week, four more CORE members were arrested for picketing stores on Canal Street and demanding "**Fair Employment Practices.**"

When New Orleans CORE members engaged in marches, boycotts, picketing, they could count on the Youth Council to support the protests. Later that year, the state supreme court and federal **courts threw out the convictions** against CORE and NAACP activists for their non-violent protests,

In February 1962, **Canal Street merchants** decided to meet with CORE and NAACP leaders and agreed to **remove racial signs from stores**, and to **serve all customers** in the restaurants. After carrying out a survey and finding that white merchants and restaurant owners still had failed to hire black workers, the teenagers in the **Youth Council** launched their own **picketing of white businesses** in July 1963. Youth Council not only organized picketing of stores and restaurants until African Americans were employed, the young people also participated in **voter registration drives and rallies**, even though many were still too young to vote.

# Chronology of Events: New Orleans

**December 1959** - Consumer League of New Orleans organized, headed by Dr. Raymond B. Floyd and Lolis Elie. It sought an end to racial discrimination in employment and education.

**1 February 1960** - Student sit-in movement launched in Greensboro, North Carolina, by four students from North Carolina A & T College. Sit in protests began to take place throughout the country.

**April 1960** - The Consumer League organized a boycott of stores on Dryades Street and called on the owners of these establishments to hire African American workers.

**28 July 1960** - Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) leader James McCain met with 20 New Orleans students about setting up a branch. Subsequently, the group was organized.

**9 September 1960** - New Orleans CORE carried out its first sit-in protest at the Woolworth's on Canal and Ramparts Streets and seven members were arrested.

**10 September 1960** - NAACP Youth Council members launched picket lines in front of the Woolworth's and other stores on Canal Street.

**12 September 1960** - Mayor Chep Morrison announced his directive to the police department to arrest any persons engaged in "peaceful picketing" of businesses in the city.

**16 September 1960** - Seven members of the Consumer League and CORE were arrested for picketing in front of stores on Clairborne Avenue that had mostly black customers, but no African American employees.

**19 September 1960** - Over 2000 people marched through the streets and held a protest rally at the ILA Building demanding an end to the employment discrimination in New Orleans.

**27 November 1960** - Under the protection of the State Police, Ruby Bridges entered William Frantz School; and Leona Tate, Tessie Prevost, and Gail Etienne were enrolled at McDonald 19 Public School. No white students were in attendance because white parents organized a boycott.

**7 March 1961** - In the case of *Garner v. Louisiana*, the state court ruled that CORE members arrested in 1960 for picketing stores were exercising their constitutional rights as U. S. citizens and their convictions were overturned. CORE and Youth Council protests continued to the end of 1961.

**February 1962** - Local merchants targeted for boycotts and picketing met with Consumer League, CORE, and NAACP leaders and agreed to end discriminatory practices in their stores.

**September 1963** - Hundreds of youths, members of the NAACP Youth Council and Youth Crusaders Corp, organize protests at voter registration offices and many were arrested. This was the beginning of widespread and successful voting rights campaign in New Orleans.



# SHREVEPORT

"Shreveport Five" along with Dr. C.O. Simpkins, UCM President were arrested in April 1960.

Four youth arrested after talking to a local store head, August 20, 1960. No changes to store policies were made.

Four college students confront manager of H.L. Green Store about practices get arrested and released 20 hours later on bond in April 1960.



The students were reacting to the denied permit to march following the Birmingham, AL bombing of four girls while in church.

The police responded by firing shots in the air forcing the children to retreat to the school on September 24, 1963.

On October 11, 1963 students were suspended for the BTW school demonstrations. A city wide boycott followed, named in honor of one of the suspended students, Frank Daniels.

Harvey C. Evans was fined \$200 and given 60 days in jail for disturbing the peace. The other five students received \$100 fines and 30 days in jail. All sentences were eventually suspended.

Over 1000 students from Booker T. Washington High School stage a silent protest on October 23, 1963 by staying at home. They were protesting the suspension of Frank Daniels, one of the three students charged with instigating the Booker T. Washington High School march. The following month, BTW students were fined and given jail sentences that were later later suspended.



Courtesy Shreveport Police Department  
Booker T. Washington High School, September 23, 1963.

Students flee after their non-violent protest march was attacked by the police. Six high school students were arrested.

★★★

Six Negro students, convicted of disturbing the peace in racial demonstrations centering around a Shreveport Negro school, on Nov. 14 filed motions of appeal.

Five of the six were fined \$100 and given 60 day suspended jail sentences. The sixth, Harvey C. Evans, 17, identified as one of the leaders of the demonstration, was fined \$200 and given a 120-day suspended sentence.

The youths were tried Nov. 4 in Shreveport City Court on charges growing out of the Sept. 23 demonstrations that started at the Booker T. Washington High School.

In addition to Evans, the defendants are Emmitt Holmes Jr., 20, Lennie S. Sartor, 17, Charles Brown, 17, John L. Smith, 18, and Peggy V. Autrey, 12.

In Plaquemine, Alvin J. Johnson, a Negro parent, filed suit in state court seeking release of his son, Kenny, from the state reform school where the youth has been confined as a "neglected child" following his participation in the massive racial demonstrations that gripped the little Mississippi River town during the summer and fall.

DeLessé nearest of by more Dec. 7 pri in a rumo

of Plaque Leander Jackson, of educat the South

Other s sepe S. M Orleans dor to States, Gillis L al Distr who hi U.S. Se

The six high school students who were arrested on 23 September 1963 for "disturbing the peace" were tried in the city court on 4 November 1963 and were fined \$100 - \$200, and given jail sentences that were suspended.



Police attacked Booker T. Washington High School students during their memorial march organized as a response the deaths of four black girls in the 16th Street Baptist Church on 15 September 1963.



Arthur Burton was the first African American student enrolled at C. B. Byrd High School in Shreveport. In June 1967, Burton became the first African American to graduate from that school.

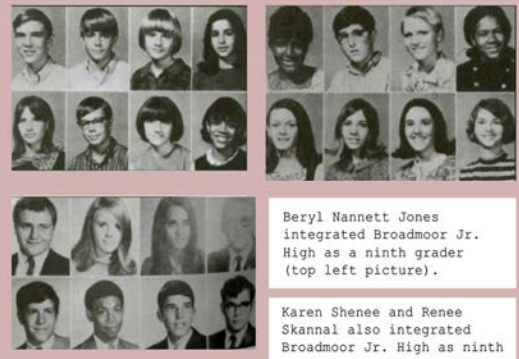


Youth activists led by the NAACP Youth Council organized a boycott and maintained a picket line at Stan's Record Shop for two and a half months because the record shop did not provide equal wages for black workers.



**STREET RALLY** - Pictured above is a scene at the NAACP-sponsored street rally on Milam St. on the Booker T. Washington High School campus. The rally, attended by an estimated 300 persons, was staged in protest of Michael's Drive Inn located directly across the street from Washington High School. (See related story)

The NAACP Youth Council boycotted Michael's Drive because the owner allegedly pistol-whipped a teenager and kicked another but was not arrested.



Beryl Nannett Jones integrated Broadmoor Jr. High as a ninth grader (top left picture).

Karen Shenee and Renee Skannal also integrated Broadmoor Jr. High as ninth graders (top right picture).

Ray Belton and his sisters (not pictured) Jessie and Carolyn integrated Fair Park High School.



Students from Booker T. Washington and other schools, 3,000 total marchers, successfully marched from BTW to Caddo Parish School Board office for a better education and black history courses. Their demands were met.



# MUST TEENAGERS TAKE OVER?

Located in the northwest corner of the state, whites in Shreveport were very conservative, and despite the Supreme Court ruling in the 1954 *Brown* decision, there was no integration of public schools in **Caddo Parish** through the 1950s. Through **freedom-of-choice laws** and other legislative actions, school officials allowed no African American student to transfer to the better equipped, up-to-date public schools "for whites only."

The **United Christian Movement (USM)** was launched in 1956 as an affiliate of Dr. Martin Luther King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), with **Dr. C. O. Simpkins** as president. The USM worked with activists challenging Jim Crow practices, including the "**Shreveport Five**," African American teenagers who sought access to the city's public library in April 1960 and were arrested along with Dr. Simpkins and charged with "vagrancy" and "disturbing the peace" and fined \$350.

When **Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)** activists were traveling through Louisiana in August 1961, they were arrested, along with "**Local Freedom Riders**," for deliberately breaking segregation rules at the Shreveport Bus Terminal. Between 1956 and 1962, the NAACP, MSM, and CORE had made efforts to end Jim Crow practices and laws through protests and litigation, but there was no meaningful change in public practices in Shreveport.

Following the **bombing of Birmingham's Sixteenth Street Baptist Church** on 15 September 1963, killing four young black girls preparing for Sunday school, NAACP president **Rev. Harry Blake** and other members of the **Ministerial Alliance** organized a **six-block march** from one church to another on Sunday, 22 September 1963. As they were leaving the church, the **police attacked the marchers** and beat and arrested Rev. Blake and others.

The next day students at the all-black **Booker T. Washington High School** decided to hold a memorial service on the school's lawn for the murdered children and arrests the day before. The police gathered and when about **400 students began marching, they were attacked** by Caddo Parish police. When the school's principal **Raleigh H. Brown** and teachers tried to protect the students from the police, they were beaten, arrested, and placed in paddy wagons.

The following day, 24 September 1963, the students at **J. S. Clark Junior High School** held a peaceful rally at noon to protest the arrests. When the police showed up and the students chanted "**We Want Freedom Now**" and began throwing stones, the officers pulled their guns and **fired shots into the air**. The children ran back into the building, but were eventually allowed them to leave. On 11 October 1963, **NAACP Youth Council** met with CORE representatives and asked, "Must Teenagers Take Over"? The students expressed their willingness to march, take a beating, and go to jail to obtain their "freedom." Three Washington High students who participated in the September 1963 protest were suspended and seventeen were placed on "indefinite probation." However, over **1, 800 students** at Washington, Clark, and several other Shreveport schools organized a **school boycott** over the suspensions and it lasted several days. In November 1963, **the six protesting Washington High School students** were fined between \$100 and \$200, and given 60 to 120 jail sentences that were eventually suspended.

**African American teenagers in Shreveport** continued to apply for admission to all-white public schools and some were admitted. The teenagers continued to organize **non-violent protests** to bring about the desegregation of public institutions in the city through 1968.

# Chronology of Events: Shreveport

**15 July 1957** - United Christian Movement (UCM) organized first civil rights demonstration in Shreveport.

**20 August 1960** - Four students arrested for asking for fair hiring at H. L. Green Company.

**4 August 1961** - Delores (18) and Marie McGuinne (12) were arrested for local freedom ride at Continental Trailways Bus Terminal.

**8 June 1962** - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke at Little Union Baptist Church and advised African Americans in Shreveport to continue their protests against racial discrimination.

**19 July 1963** - At sit-ins at Woolworth's Store, Annie Louise Steward (15) was arrested.

**20 July 1963** - Sit in at Woolworths, Robert Henderson (16) and Joseph Lee Giles (16) arrested.

**23 September 1963** - Students at Booker T. Washington High School held a memorial service for the four black girls killed in the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, AL.

**24 September 1963** - Students at J. S. Clark Junior High School launched a protest over the beating of Rev. Harry Blake by police at the Little Union Baptist Church.

**19 October 1963** - Two black students denied admission into Shreveport Trade School. One student was a 18 year old senior at Booker T. Washington High School.

**23 October 1963** - On "Frank Daniel Day," students at Booker T. Washington High School held a silent protest over suspension of student activists.

**14 March 1964** - Glen Lewing (14) beaten by police on the way home from band practice at Union High School.

**September 1965** - Arthur Burton became first African American enrolled at C. E. Byrd High School in Shreveport.

**January 1966** - Carolyn Jones became the first African American student enrolled at Creswell Elementary School.

**1 June 1967** - Arthur Burton, the first African American enrolled in C.E. Byrd High School, become the first black graduate.

**September 1968** - Beryl Jones, Karen Shenee, Renee Skannal, Ernest Jones, Constance Malry, and Obryietta Scott become the first African Americans enrolled at Broadmoor Junior High. Ray, Jessie and Carolyn Belton became the first black students to enroll at Fair Park High School

**7 June 1968** - NAACP Youth Council launched picketing and a boycott of Stan's Record Shop.

**20 June 1968** - The Youth Council and UCM organized a boycott of Michael's Drive-In, Fairway Restaurant, and Superette Stores seeking to gain employment for black workers.

**10 September 1968** - NAACP Youth Council members were arrested for "disturbing the peace" after organizing a demonstration for inclusion of Black History programs in the Shreveport public schools.

**18 September 1968** - Up to 3,000 participated in a march calling for the inclusion of Black History in the public schools.