

# 1960-70: The Civil Rights Movement

**ROOTS**  
OF **BLACK**  
Winston-Salem



This week the Roots of Black Winston-Salem covers the turbulent 60's. This was the time that the Civil rights movement was in full swing. There were sit-ins, demonstrations and a new change in the way of life for blacks.

During this time many restaurants, hotels and stores previously closed to blacks were now opening their doors, some quite reluctantly.

This week the Chronicle talked to Carl Russell, Sr. a long time alderman and leader in the community. He talks about his stay on the board and the changes he has witnessed in Winston-Salem through the years.

Russell also talks about his past political career and his plans for the future in politics. Russell gave up his seat to run for mayor, and although he won in the primary, he lost in the run-off. During the general election...

The Chronicle also explores the involvement of two leaders of the Black Panther Party. We talked to former leader Nelson Malloy and recorded his experiences as a Black Panther. We also talked to Larry Little, former Black Panther leader and presently alderman of the North Ward. Excerpts from their taped interviews were used.

We also took a look at the demise of Kate Biting Reynolds Hospital as a hospital, and the additional role the NAACP played in the Civil Rights Movement in Winston-Salem.

During the 60's in Winston-Salem blacks made political as well as economical gains. In the mid 60's there were three blacks on the school board compared to none today.

We also examined the effect the consolidation of the city-county schools had on blacks.

up our Roots of Black Winston-Salem. This series would not have been possible without the assistance and cooperation of those who have made information available to us. We hope that you have found the Roots of Black Winston as interesting and enlightening as we have.

We hope we have helped to uncover the untold story and expounded on information that had been neglected in the past.

Next week we will close with the 70's and try to examine the progress blacks have made since colonial times. Whether we have progressed or regressed is still a question left to be answered.

If you have history that you would like to share, let us record it in our last installment with the other information that we have on the history of black

## Civil Rights Movement Begat Change in W-S

Demonstrations to end lunch counter segregation began in February 1960 and ended three months later as major downtown drug stores desegregated their counters. By January 1964 Winston-Salem was an open city with those refusing to serve to blacks being the exception.

The Winston-Salem Chapter of the NAACP was instrumental in bringing out numerous changes including desegregation of recreational facilities and racial discrimination in hiring.

In 1962 two NAACP leaders, Dr. J. Raymond Oliver, Jr. and Dr. F. W. Jackson, demanded that Reynolds Park Skating rink be desegregated. The rink was a public facility and they thought it should be desegregated.

A Goodwill Committee was appointed to study demands for desegregating Reynolds Park Skating rink. Dr. Kenneth Williams, Rev. Jerry Drayton and Attorney Curtis Todd were the blacks on the committee.

The Committee was first set up in 1960 to meet problems arising from the sit-ins. The second committee was set up after blacks tried to integrate the skating rink and the third during the summer of 1962 after blacks successful attempt to integrate the city's swimming pools and certain other park facilities.

In 1963 blacks were able to integrate a park and two swimming pools in the summer of 1963 without arrests. Winston-Salem continued to operate its pools despite a temporary reduction in white attendance.

In the area of employment blacks were hired at Hanes Hosiery, a firm they had never been employed above the level of maids and janitors. It was in 1963 that Gordon Hanes, president of Hanes Hosiery announced that the company would hire blacks as machine operators.

Winston-Salem had the highest percentage of Negroes employed in manufacturing of any city in the South, and blacks had the highest family incomes in the area.

According to the 1960 census, the median family income for blacks was \$3,254. Twenty-two per cent of the black families earned over \$5000.

the median years of school completed for blacks were 7.8 years

8.9 per cent had some college education

12 per cent of the work force worked in white collar jobs.

### EDUCATION

The Winston-Salem school system integrated in 1957

when they granted one of four transfer requests which they had received from black students. Desegregation upon request continued through to the 1963-64 school year.

Three of the eight requests received in 1958 were granted. During the 1962-63 school year only 19 black pupils attended previously white public schools. The transfer policy permitted granting transfers only when the black student lived closer to a white school than to a black school he was attending. All white pupils attending an integrated school had the option of transferring out.

Winston-Salem and Forsyth County schools consolidated in January 1963. The county school system which included all students living outside the city of Winston-Salem was integrated. The great geographic area of the county had created genuine hardships on black children.

The city-county school board had three members, one-fourth of the 12-man board. This was the highest ratio of blacks to whites on any major North Carolina governmental board or commission.

The newly constituted board then changed assignment policies to allow any pupil to attend the school nearest his home without special board approval. In

1964 the board approved the assignment of all first graders to the schools nearest their homes without regard to race.

During the 1964-65 school year, 13 out of 42 elementary schools in the county were integrated.

### KATE BITTING REYNOLDS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

By 1959 most of Winston-Salem's top leaders had agreed that a new hospital was needed in the area. To construct a new hospital would require a substantial increase in the city's bond indebtedness. The bonds would have to be submitted to the county's voters in a referendum.

There was some difficulty in securing the black vote because the white leaders would not state that the new hospital would be integrated.

Instead a plan was devised to offer blacks the City Memorial Hospital in exchange for support by blacks.

"The city hospital had been condemned as a hospital and they wanted to give blacks a condemned hospital," said Dr. F. W. Jackson a NAACP leader.

"The NAACP fought it."

Blacks were finally promised a new black hospitals in exchange for support. The bond carried and plans were made to build Forsyth Memorial Hospital.

## Panther Leaders Tell the Impact of Party

### Malloy: Organizer

Nelson Malloy I got involved in the Black Panther Party in 1969. Leading up to my involvement, I was a student at Winston-Salem University. I worked one summer in a program with other college students that worked different cities around North Carolina. Low-income neighborhoods, and basically we were trying to organize around welfare rights, unpaved streets, unemployment, just organize people and help them to get things they were entitled to by being citizens of the United States.

happening in the community, and what could be done if anything to alleviate some of the conditions of police brutality, indecent housing, there was a lot of controversy with the school system, with the Ku Klux Klan running around, unemployment and those things.

Just an informal group of guys. There were some guys in Greensboro there were with A&T, and had belonged to the Black Panther Chapter in New York. I forget what exactly happened but we made contact with them and they gave us some of the ideology, some books, and we started from that particular point there.

We had a series of rallies, whereabout we would go into a neighborhood where we would speak in open fields or in the streets. At that particular time we wore black berets, black jackets and we openly carried weapons, shot guns, rifles which were legal weapons. This drew attention to the group in Winston-Salem.

As a result of these meetings, we would tell people what our platform program was and this drew attention with our dress and the manner which we carried ourselves; they had never seen this before.

We were trying to say that black people had a right, a constitutional right, to bear arms and that it was legal. That was the basic message we were trying to get across, that we would defend ourselves, that we would no longer be subject to attacks, physical attacks of abuse.

Contrary to beliefs of most people, the Party has never been a mass membership organization. Ne-

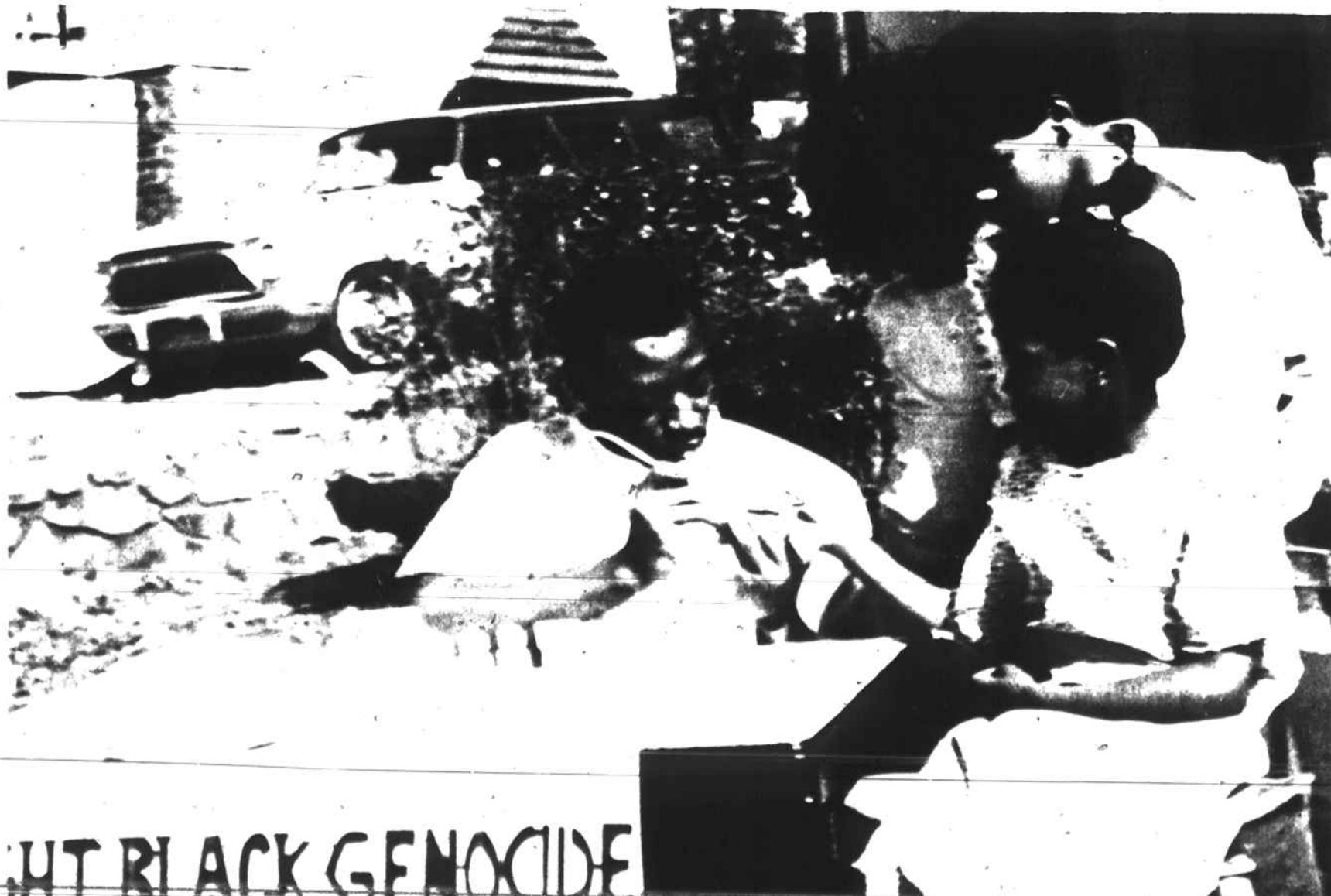
I was in that particular group. Just an informal type of group where guys sit down and talk about different things that were



Nelson Malloy



Larry Little



Black Panthers test children for sickle cell anemia.

### Little: Manchild

I played a role. My role in the community was not to take no s--t. Was to enforce the demands of the black community, even if it meant putting my life on the line, and many times I did just that.

When I couldn't graduate from high school my senior year, I left town in 1969, and went to New York. And when I got up there I read the autobiography of Malcolm X. When I read Malcolm's autobiography things seemed clear for me. I was conscious that I was black. I had participated in the riots. Basically I was an athlete at a white school and because I felt I had been exploited, I was upset.

After reading Malcolm's autobiography, I pursued an intellectual campaign of my own, educating myself. I was like a dry sponge that you pour water on. I soaked it up so quick. I learned to use my mind, my imagination and creativeness.

I finally after six months or so came back to Winston-Salem, where I had begun to read all the time. Then I got a job at Hanes Dye and Finish. I lost that job, probably because I was in the Panthers.

Once I was reading in my room, like I usually did, I would read for hours at a time. At about 4 o'clock I got up to take a walk. I was staying with my mom. When I turned the corner a girl came running to me saying, "There's black men with shot guns, them black men, with shot guns, they're going to tear up something." I said where? She said down there at the end of the street. I started running down there. Lo and behold I saw these black brothers with these black uniforms on, the shy guys in their hand, quoting Malcolm, quoting Mao Tse-Tung, Nkrumah.

I loved it all because I had read Malcolm, I had read Mao Tse-Tung, I had read Kwame Nkrumah. Lord, it just blew my mind. I said hey I have to be a part of these (black people), and it was that thing that made me attracted to the Panthers.

I saw a couple of guys I knew, I said, 'how can I join up, man?' They told me it just wasn't that easy and to check with them. So I would check with them. And the next thing they had a meeting, it was on a Sunday at a church on Thurmond Street, Homes Methodist Church, and they said, come on and join.

I joined on May 19, which was Malcolm's birthday. I started going to the political education meetings, and I was what you call a PIT, a Panther in training. At the political education meetings they would go over the red book, Mao Tse-Tung's quotations, I had read it so I knew it.

So they said, You're a pretty well-read brother but it still remains to be seen how tough and how strong you are. So we had training, we would go up on Paisley's football field and work out and train for hours. Start at 7 o'clock in the morning and work until 12. We would be walking on our stomachs, doing running drills; we would run for four miles and it was that sort of thing.

I was very good physically, good athletic person; I could do all the training so people started admiring me. They brought me up and made me the Lieutenant of Information. I sold papers. I was good at selling papers.

I was going to school at Winston-Salem State, I was working at Hanes Dye and Finish, and it was killing