

Archiving Party Photos

Recently I have been taking classes on Dark Room developing in San Francisco at the Harvey Milk Photo Center. I drive from Sacramento to SF 3 times a week (70 miles each way). The classes are from 4pm-9pm Tuesdays and Thursdays and 10-am-5pm on Saturdays. It is a great learning center, right across from UCSF Hospital and it has a nice community park attached. I am a student of Suzanna Lamaina. Many of you know her through her Panther photo project. Suzanna is a great photographer and teacher. She is teaching me how to develop the many black and white negative's we have in the It's About Time archives. She is well qualified, as she was a student of Pirkle Jones (RIP) many years ago. Pirkle and his wife Ruth Marion Baruch did the first Panther photo book and exhibit back in 1968 in SF. It is important to our legacy that we former Party members maintain our own archives of newspapers, photos, magazine articles, flyers and other memorabilia. I get emails and calls daily about our history. We have over 450 issues of the BPP newspaper, a collection of Ministry of Information newsletters in addition to newspaper articles from Establishment media. In our archives we have hundreds of negatives that were never developed into photos.

I would like to thank Melvin Dickson for his donation of 50 Panther newspapers. It has enabled me to put a lot of articles and photos from the Panther paper on our Facebook page under my name Bill Jennings and It's About Time/BPP. In the darkroom I'm developing photos that were used in the BPP newspaper; including many rare special events like BPP weddings, NY photos from the Health clinic, photos of rallies, National HQ's personal staff and Central Committee members.

Back in 1970 in SF, the Pigs were going all out to destroy the BPP newspaper. Some members of the newspaper staff were under indictment and the staff of the company that printed our paper was harassed. Party members were stopped on the streets for selling the BPP newspaper. Cointelpro was working overtime and they set the SF State BSU off-campus office on fire which was located not far from the Fillmore office. The office operated as a location that served Free Breakfast and also was a storage space for the BPP newspaper. Hundreds of papers were destroyed. A community person took photos of the fire seen in the next issue of



THE FIRE IS ONE OF THE MOST RECENT ATTEMPTS TO DESTROY THE "BLACK PANTHER COMMUNITY NEWS SERVICE"



THE HISTORY OF THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY IN WORDS, LIVES ON IN THE MINDS OF THE PEOPLE.

the newspaper.

More info below with photos

I attended the Malcolm X Day in Oakland. Shelley Sanders and Brenda Presley, both staff members at National HQ's on Shattuck St., stopped by our outreach table. I told them I had just developed some 1969 photos of them and I sent them



the photos last week.

Both Brenda and Shelley were indicted in 1970 by the US government. The government wanted to know how many papers we sold, where the money went, etc, etc,.

I have run across a number of photos from the People's Revolutionary Constitutional Convention in 1970. Through my research and talking to Ducho Dennis who was the party photographer, I believe these might be the only set of photos from the convention that the party had.

Billy X Jennings

