

On a Move #3 - January 26th “The Sky’s the Limit”

My friend, photographer Ilka Hartmann, called me the other day and invited me to the book signing for “The Sky is the Limit: People vs Newton, The *Real* Trial of the 20th Century” by Lise Pearlman. Ilka’s photos are on the front cover and back inside cover. I think Ilka is an outstanding photographer. She covered the Panthers and the Student Anti-War movement from the 1960’s and 70’s. As a former student at UC Berkeley, Ilka was there on the front lines, even getting arrested in SF at a Free Huey Rally. She lets me use some of her photos and we have done exhibits together. Ilka was always in the right place at the right time. In 1969 when our Native American friends took over Alcatraz Island, she was on one of the boats and got some of the great photos still used today in books and magazines.

Driving from Sacramento, I called Terry Cotton who lives in Oakland by Lake Merritt and asked him if he wanted to go with me. He said yes and I picked him up on the way. Brother Terry is a former Panther. He was in the car with Lil Bobby and Warren Wells that night back on April 6th 1968. Two days after Martin Luther King was killed, the Party went on a mission to stop people from rioting in the streets of Oakland. Terry was one of the many Party members who spread out across SF and Oakland to stop rioting. Panthers went to all the major high schools to talk to the youth.

The BPP believed the primary job of the Party was to provide leadership for the struggle and rioting isn’t an organized method of struggle. So there wasn’t any major rioting in Oakland. The pigs were mad about that because they had their guns already to kill Black people

They couldn’t shoot up the people, so they attacked Party members on April 6th in West Oakland. Party members defended themselves. Eldridge was shot in the leg, Warren Wells was shot and Lil Bobby was killed that night. Terry escaped without injury, but was jailed for months. He is still standing tall today.

The book signing was held at Lake Merritt Hotel. Lise, the author of the book, was a former judge and was a student at Yale during Chairman Bobby Seale’s trial in New Haven. Since leaving the bench, she works with Alternative Resolutions as a mediator and arbitrator. She works with Fania Davis, Angela Davis’ sister. Fania spoke at the signing about

**all the hard work she had done working with the youth of Oakland.
Melvin Newton, Huey's brother, was there and said that he had read
about half of the book and it is well done.**