

**FYI June 1, 2011 by Billy X
John "Bunchy" Crear**

Important info about our comrade:

John "Bunchy" Crear of Houston, Texas had a successful operation and is doing well. Brother Bunchy is still in the hospital and will be there for a few more days. I spoke to Bunchy a few times last week. We talked about his work in the BPP.

Bunchy was a member of People's Party #2 in Houston and became a member of the Black Panther Party when the People's Party #2 became a chapter. He also worked a short time with the Southern California Chapter. He then came to Oakland in 1971 and worked under John Seale when we were rebuilding the FOX Theater downtown. He was then recruited into working in the Photography Dept.

I remember John during Bobby Seale's campaign (1972-73). His job was to take photos of Bobby Seale and Elaine Brown and cover the campaign. He was everywhere that Bobby and Elaine went. His photos are the ones we now see in books and magazines. When not on the campaign trail, he was in the darkroom at Central HQ's on 85th and E.14th St.

John worked hard and was put in charge of the photo department of the Black Panther Party. He worked with a number of others on the cadre; Melody King, Donald Cunningham, Glen Lomax, and Tony Jackson who was a community worker.

I remember when in 1974, the SLA ordered Patty Hearst's family to give away tons of food to the community. The food distribution center was located a few blocks from Central HQ's. One of the conditions was that no press attend the food giveaway. Bunchy and Tony Jackson got on top of the roof of Central and filmed the food

giveaway. Later, they got down from the roof and went to take photos on the spot because the food giveaway turned into a riot.

The Black Muslims (The Nation) was in charge of the food giveaway, which was to start at 11am. The food didn't get to 89th and E.14th until after 2:30pm. The Muslims were late and had attitudes toward the people and started disrespecting the people by throwing the food at them. The people turned on them and ran them off and then the police moved in. I saw people jacking police up. One cop on a motorcycle tried to ride his motorcycle on the sidewalk to scare people. He got clothes-lined by a big brother and his motorcycle spun out and crashed. He was beaten up along with other police who first reported to Food King on E.14th Street. I remember seeing Bunchy and Tony Jackson there taking photos.

Tony Jackson later sold the photos to the Oakland Tribune and the SF Chronicle newspapers. Tony and Bunchy had the only photos of the food fiasco and the melee. I saw all of this as I was OD at Central and left the office with Aaron Dixon to check things out.

Both Bunchy and I laughed as we remembered different parts of the Bobby Seale Campaign. We both had a great experience working to serve the people in the BPP.