The Rochester Race Riots

Bing Reaves Jr.
Nelsy Madrid
Brian McCoy
Nathan Cornell
Jonathan Kent
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June 9, 2006
## INQUIRY GROUP LEARNING CONTRACT

**Inquiry Group Member Names/Department:**

1. **Sensour Sandi**
2. **Necia Madrid**
3. **Jonathan Kent**
4. **Briand McKay**
5. **Nathan Cernell**
6. **Ding Keeler Jr.**

**Topic Title:** *Rochester Riots of 1964*

**Facilitator:** Guy Rossi 279-4006, Room 216 O

**Course:** R/C #45 Contemporary Issues

**Date Submitted:** 3/12/06

**Projected Presentation Date:** 6/9/06

### Objectives

**What will you learn?**

- What started the Riots?
- How did it come to an end?
- How was the riot controlled?
- What can we do to prevent another riot?
- How did it change NPO & its policies

### Resources & Strategies

**How will you learn it?**

- Kent's Past Professor
- Internet
- Public Library
- Scrapbooks
- Microfilm
- Video documentary "Juli 64"
- Old newspaper clippings

### Evidence

**How will you know you learned it?**

- We will use different areas of media for research.
- We will come up with possible questions that may arise in preparation for knowledge of subject

### Target Date For Completion

6/1/06

### Plan for Appraisal and Verification of Learning

- Run through objectives with class randomly selecting people
- Provide 2-3 minutes for questions
- Power point presentation
Minutes: Thursday, May 4, 2006
Recruit Class #45

Attended: Bing Reaves Jr. (Notetaker)
Nathan Cornell
Nelsy Madrid
Sandi Sangova
Jonathan Kent
Brian McCoy

Topics of Discussion: Decision of group subject.
How are we going to break group-subject down for
discussion. What areas are we going to cover on
the subject.

Discussion Results:

Decided to do presentation on the 1964 race riots of
Rochester. We decided to cover what caused the riots
and how it changed the RPD. Also we decided to break
it up into the beginning middle and end of the riots.

Conclusion:

Set days for next meeting and possible schedule.
Minutes: Wednesday, May 24, 2006
Recruit Class #45

Attended: Bing Reaves Jr. (Notetaker)
Nathan Cornell
Nelsy Madrid
Sandi Sangova
Jonathan Kent
Brian McCoy

Topics of Discussion: Who's going to be responsible for what?
How much media we are going to have.
Where can we get our media sources from?

Discussion Results: We decided Nelsy is going to have the opening,
Sand is going to cover day 1, Nate is going to do
day 2, Kent and Bing are going to do the
closure and the aftermath. McCoy is going to
be responsible for the media. We decided to use
the internet to find articles and movies. We also
decided to use the public library.

Conclusion: Decide the next meeting day with researched
material.
Minutes: Wednesday, May 31, 2006
Recruit Class #45

Attended: Bing Reaves Jr. (Notetaker)
Nathan Cornell
Nelsy Madrid
Sandi Sangova
Jonathan Kent
Brian McCoy

Topics of Discussion: How can we split the video tape found at the library?
Who is responsible for putting together the powerpoint.
Putting together info found?
How are we going to copy the microfiche on normal size paper.

Discussion Results: We decided to pass the tape around on different days when we were done watching it. We will compile info and organize the powerpoint together.
We looked over info found. Decided to copy microfiche as it is.

Conclusion: Decide the next meeting day with finished notes.
Minutes: Tuesday, June 6, 2006
Recruit Class #45

Attended: Bing Reaves Jr. (Notetaker)
Nathan Cornell
Nelsy Madrid
Sandi Sangova
Jonathan Kent
Brian McCoy

Topics of Discussion: Putting together info

Discussion Results: Gave McCoy sections of the video to que. Put together power point. Made a few copies.

Conclusion: Decided to meet tomorrow.
Minutes: Wednesday, 7, 2006
Recruit Class #45

Attended: Bing Reaves Jr. (Notetaker)
Nathan Cornell
Nelsy Madrid
Sandi Sangova
Jonathan Kent

Topics of Discussion: Putting together info

Discussion Results: Put together powerpoint and pictures. Made a few copies.

Conclusion: Decided to meet tomorrow.
Minutes: Wednesday, June 7, 2006
Recruit Class #45

Attended:  Bing Reaves Jr. (Notetaker)
           Nathan Cornell
           Nelsy Madrid
           Sandi Sangova
           Jonathan Kent

Topics of Discussion:  Putting together info

Discussion Results:  Did dry run of presentation. Typed minutes and compiled info to be handed in.

Conclusion:  Decided to get ready for presentation.
The Rochester Race Riots

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Nathan Cornell
Jonathan Kent
Sengova Sandi

June 9, 2006

Objectives

• What caused the riots to begin?
• List 1 way it changed the Rochester Police Department.
• Name 3 agencies outside of RPD that assisted in the riot control.
• Who was the Chief of Police at the time of the riots?
• How did the riots come to an end?

Black leaders

• Instances of alleged police brutality in black neighborhoods became common.
• Black leaders Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X appeared in Rochester to address the problem.
Black Population

- The non-white community grew from 7,000 in 1950 to 24,000 in 1960.
- 80% of Black population concentrated in 6 of the 89 census tracts.

- Protests, picketing and fiery speeches became more of the norm.
- Accusations of abuse
- State commission report issued

The trouble started at 10 pm.
- Began at Joseph Avenue street dance.
- Police attempted to make intox. arrest.
- Rumors of police abuse sparked protest.
Saturday, July 25, 1964

Daytime

- City manager Porter Homer orders 8:00 pm curfew in the city.
- Porter Homer also closes the downtown and all liquor stores in Rochester and adjoining towns.
Saturday, July 25, 1964
Daytime continued

- African American leaders go to the Public Safety Building, and volunteer to help quell disturbances planned in the Third Ward.
- On Saturday afternoon a special session of city court was called to arraign rioters.

Saturday, July 25, 1964
Nightfall

- Violence breaks out in the Third Ward.
- Angry mobs swarm the streets.

Saturday, July 25, 1964
10 PM

- A white man is attacked and killed on Clarissa and Atkinson Streets.
On Sunday, New York Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller sent more than 1,500 members of the National Guard to Rochester.

At 9:15 Sunday evening the first 250 troops arrived; equipped with M-1 rifles and bayonets, displayed a convincing show of force.
Leading Up To The End

- Community leaders concluded
  - African Americans were frustrated by unequal opportunities for jobs, education, housing, and "tense relations with law enforcement".

Community Effects

- Board of Urban Ministry
  - Organization of inner-city churches and religious groups
- Evolved into FIGHT (Freedom-Interrogation-God-Honor-Today)
  - Address cities race problems

FIGHT

- Formed in 1965
- Picketed slumlords
- Protested unfair legislation
- Fought for equal employment opportunities and training
- Targeted Xerox and Kodak, the city's two largest employers at the time.
RPD Effects

- Changes
  - Communication between African American Community and RPD
  - NET offices, Police Citizen Interaction Communities
- Policing Programs
  - Community Volunteer Response Team
  - FACT (Family Action-Crisis Intervention Team)
  - Youth Services Unit
  - Crime Stoppers
  - Operation Impact
  - Project Cease Fire

Officers Policing Today

- Former Chief Robert Duffy compared the relationship between the department and the community as a bank account
  - "Accusations of excessive force, rude behavior, and the lack of compassion by officers represents withdrawals. Treating people with respect, hiring officers who reflect a diversity of the community and responding to critical incidents with as much candor as possible are deposits."

- Officer Roy Hopkins
  - "Increase in minority police officers on the force has helped build bridges to the minority community."
• Amount of damage concluded
  - 60 hours of violence and looting
  - 4 deaths, 350 injured including police officers
  - Over 800 arrests
  - Property damage totaling over one million dollars
  - The Crescent has never fully recovered
    • Plagued with prostitution, drugs, and violence

• Todays Problems
  • High rates of unemployment, infant mortality, and teen pregnancy
  • Only 25 percent of Rochester’s ninth graders went on to graduate their senior year (2004)
  • African American neighborhoods where riots raged remain depressed
  • Numerous stores and businesses where torn down due to damage, and never rebuilt
Answers to Objectives

What caused the riots to begin?
- The racial tensions that had built up coupled with the arrest of a black man during a street party.

List one way it changed the Rochester Police Department.
- The Canine Unit was dissolved.

Name 3 agencies outside of RPD that assisted in the riot control
- Monroe County Sheriff's Department
- New York State Police
- United States National Guard

Who was the Chief of Police at the time of the riots?
- Chief William Lombard

How did the riots come to an end?
- After numerous injuries and arrests, black community leaders met with city council members. Demands and agreements were made.
The Rochester Race Riots

Bibliography

1. Rochester Public Library – Scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings
July 24, 1964: Chatham Gardens, a middle-income housing complex in what was then the city's Seventh Ward, was just two years old when a race riot broke out at the intersection of Joseph Avenue and Nassau Street.

broken at the block party of 200 people on Nassau St. Rumors of police slapping a pregnant woman and releasing a dog on a child.

3:30 pm
400 people riot on Joseph Ave. All available police called on scene.

12:30 pm
Police Chief Lombard urges crowd to disperse. Rioters throw stones at police, and overturned his car.

Saturday, July 25, '64
2:00 am
Police Chief Lombard instructs officers on use of riot weapons.

3:30 am
Crowd swells to more than 2,000, looting spreads down Joseph and Clinton Ave; city police, state troopers and sheriffs were called in.

4:24 am
State of emergency declared.

Daytime
City Manager Porter Home orders 8:00 pm curfew in the city of Rochester, closes downtown and all liquor stores.

Nightfall
Violence breaks out in the Third Ward, angry mob swarms the streets.

10:00 pm
A white man is attacked and killed on Clarissa and Atkinson St.

Sunday, July 26, '64
3:00 pm
Helicopter surveying riot damage crashes into a Clarissa St house, killing three. National Guards called in for assistance.

Evening
Rochester riots end. Nearly 1,000 people arrested. 15% were white.
Research puts the age persons moving year. It is the greatest to have been Negro—part of the South of the South (where into the North and Rochester, from the south.

The journey directly ered trucks and cars. The point in the migration with not much dress, on and without the South into one industrial societies as to have provided. Harvesting the cotton, tomatoes, the peanuts, they have a sister, an cause Rochester has and generosity, good.

Wing Day celebration recently. She is the first woman volunteer to jump in the “Crush Malaysia” campaign pushed by Indonesia.

PERCENT OF NEGRO POPULATION in the city's census tracts is shown here. Tracts in white either have no Negroes or Negroes make-up less than 1 per cent of the population. Streets are labeled to help the reader.

life outside the cotton field or the orange grove need a generation to develop a sense of community responsi-
Riot Injury Toll Still Uncertain

By MIKE WHITNEY

City public and hospital officials know that many persons were injured in yesterday's riots. But no one knows exactly how many were hurt.

Seventeen city policemen, one detective, one state police officer, two sheriff's deputies and two firemen were taken to emergency rooms of various city hospitals. Geneseo Hospital treated 15 civilians.

Other hospitals kept no record as to whether their emergency cases were riot victims.

Several civilians treated at Geneseo reported that they were injured at the rioting scenes.

Injured Policemen

Here is a list of city policemen reported injured:

- Dominic D'Angelo, eye injury, treated at Northside and released; later treated at St. Mary's and released.
- Christopher DiCapri, multiple cuts, St. Mary's, released.
- Anthony Donofrio, back injury, St. Mary's, released.
- Vincent Gallo, nose injury, Geneseo, released.
- Harry Griswold, cheek cut, Geneseo, released.
- Albert Heavran, leg injury, cast applied, Geneseo, released.
- Phillip Mills, leg injury, Geneseo, released.
- Samuel Ricci, elbow cut, Geneseo, released.
- Joseph Pecorelli, multiple cuts, Geneseo, released.
- John Perticone, leg injury, Geneseo, released.
- Dominic Rito, arm cut, St. Mary's, released.
- Anthony Scott, thigh cut, Geneseo, released.
- Robert Yoda, hand and arm injuries, St. Mary's, released.
- Duquette Vossebelt, shoulder injury, Geneseo, released.
- Edward Welckman, forehead abrasions, St. Mary's, released.
- Paul Yoder, scalp cut, mild concussion, Geneseo, released.

City Detective John Gerbino was treated and released from Geneseo for eye injuries resulting from tear gas.

Sheriff's Deputies William Yohe and James Keller were treated at Geneseo for lacerations.

Firemen Hurt

City firemen Allan Miles and George Kline were treated at Geneseo for multiple bruises. Webster Police Gilbert Kunzer was treated at Northside for hand, leg injuries. Eugene Morin was treated for laceration injuries.

Fireman Richard Shaw, 43, of 41 Cottage St., hit on the head with brick, Geneseo. Vincentamine, 29, of 33 Brown St., also on Engineers, injured right hand. Treated at St. Mary's.

Lt. William Baumeister, 33, of 100 First Ave., was hit in the left arm with a brick but required no treatment.

State Trooper W.F. Townes, 44, of Lyons, stationed with Troop 4 in Waterlo, struck in chest on Jefferson St. with loose metal and fiber glass hammer about 9:10 p.m. "I was in the middle of a group of about 100 men and never saw it coming," he said.

State Trooper James Mohn of Catoosa station was treated at Northside for multiple lacerations.

Ronald B. Edwards, 56, of 38 Apostle Drive, was listed in "good" condition at Geneseo last night. He was the only victim of riot police admitted. Other civilians reported injured are:

- Celina Drifton, 46 Buchan Park, tear gas inhalation.
- Johnny Fulton, 109 Reynolds St., scalp cut.
- Harry Ingham, 1403 South Ave., neck, shoulder and arm cuts.
- Clarence Jackson, 129 Wells St., knee injury.
- Curtis Kinard, 10 Vienna St., scalp cut.
- Wells Latoff, 1382 Creek St., leg cut.
- James Lorkins, 164 Broadway Ave., scalp cut.
- Frank Ocondes, 1 Short St., cut ear.
- Grace Chamberlain, 400 Oxford St., hand injuries.
- Perl Penez, 322 Troop St., cut foot.
- Sandra Pinto, 9 Albowl Place, finger.
- Ralph Sanders, 215 Collingwood Drive, face cuts.
- Gregorio Santillo, 102 Lyndhurst St., face injury.
- Eugene Slater, 42 Gorham St., head cuts.
- Queen Esther Stevenson, 34 Atkinson St., head injury.
- Walter Brown, 17, of 26 Manhattan St., left hand, left thigh, and right ankle stunned into glass on Jefferson St. on way home.
- Harry Armstrong, 17, of 112 Ford St., lacerated left foot, right hand, stunned on Jefferson Street into broken glass, while on his way home.

AUSTRALIAN JURIST DIES

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) —
200 Arrested;
Special Court Session Held

Nearly Killed, Lombard Admits

Chief Credits Negroes for Rescue

About 100 persons were arrested after 8 a.m. yesterday, bringing the total in the two-day rioting to 260 persons. The disturbances were still going on, with reports of more than 100 persons who were arrested in the first eight hours of rioting. Judge Thomas P. Culhane, president, all were charged with felony counts of rioting. In addition, some of the offenders were charged with offenses such as third-degree burglary, disorderly conduct, malicious mischief, possession of dangerous weapons, larceny and intimidation.

City Court also adjoins the scenes and the accused were adjourned until tomorrow to give the defendants time to obtain lawyers. No bail was expected to be set until tomorrow and the accused were being held at Monroe County Jail and other lockups.

The trial is expected to be preceded by the July Grand Jury, which will reconvene tomorrow.

Edward Tepe, chief complaint clerk of City Court, said his office will be open today for the first Sunday in the 18-year period there. The reason is to allow police and other officers to file for court appearances.

Tepe said the charges against the prisoners are first-degree robbery and fraudulent use of a credit card.

The largest number of felony arrests in the city were made in the past year.