



Black Panther Party

From the time of my indoctrination, up to this very day I've had a sense of total commitment to the cause.

To my knowledge every member, since the demise of the party, has remained active in his or her community.

As protectors of the Rights of the People, We sought first and foremost that Justice and Equality became our cause to rise up against the White Power Structure in this Country. We were the Vanguard of the Black Revolution.

When I walked into the Fillmore Street Chapter of the Black Panther Party in San Francisco, California, I was convinced that the brothers and sisters were serious. I knew then that I wanted to get involved, this was 1967.

I had to learn the Party Rules, the Ten Point Program and the Principles of the Black Panther Party. We read the Revolutionary tactics of Che Guevara (Castro's right hand man), and the Red Book (Mao Tse Tung). It was also mandatory to read Soul on Ice by Eldridge Cleaver.

We marched, trained and studied revolutionary tactics and survival. We studied Guerrilla warfare and worked with Community relations.

I was in a group with brothers and sisters that had to help locate and setup safe houses in the community.

There were times when I was assigned as perimeter guard at rallies and gatherings.

During the trial of Huey Newton, Fred Bennett and I were part of thousands that marched on Alameda County Courthouse and maintained vigil. I was assigned to accompany Eldridge Cleaver, when he spoke at Sproul Hall,

University of California in Berkley. I was part of Oakland rally, when we dedicated Defermery Part to little Bobby Hutton, the largest turnout ever.

I recall when John Brown and I were told to ride with Kathleen Cleaver as guards from Oakland to San Francisco. We were coming from a rally in Oakland, Brown drove the big Lincoln Town and I accompanied him. I also accompanied the brothers who escorted Stokely Carmichael from the San Francisco Airport when he arrived for a large rally in Marin County. We showed up with shot guns, rifles and small arms.

These are only a few of the assignments and experiences that I had as an active party member.

Every day we sold Black Panther Party News Papers while patrolling the community.

Our daily patrols and presence in the community gave the people that sense of security that they never had before. Police brutality ceased, and Street Gangs had truces.

Some of the worst Police action was drive-by shootings of the Black Panther Party's Offices and late night raids.

I mention Brown and Bennett because they were my mentors. We were assigned buddies; no Panther went anywhere alone, always with a buddy. We were instructed to travel in groups of 3 to 5 Panthers at a time, always vigilant.

At that time you were either "Part of the problem or Part of the Solution". I chose to be part of the Solution and join the Black Revolution.

I am most fortunate to have met and work with the Brothers and Sisters of that era. I evolved into the person I am today because of it.

The teachings and discipline were incredible. These principles will be with me for the rest of my life.

I will be forever grateful for the founding of the Black Panther Party by Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale. May the legacy that these two brothers, live

on in the hearts and minds of every Man, Woman, and Child on this Planet from now on. Our cause was not a Black Cause, it was a Human Cause.

**All Power to the People
Louis St. Cyr**

