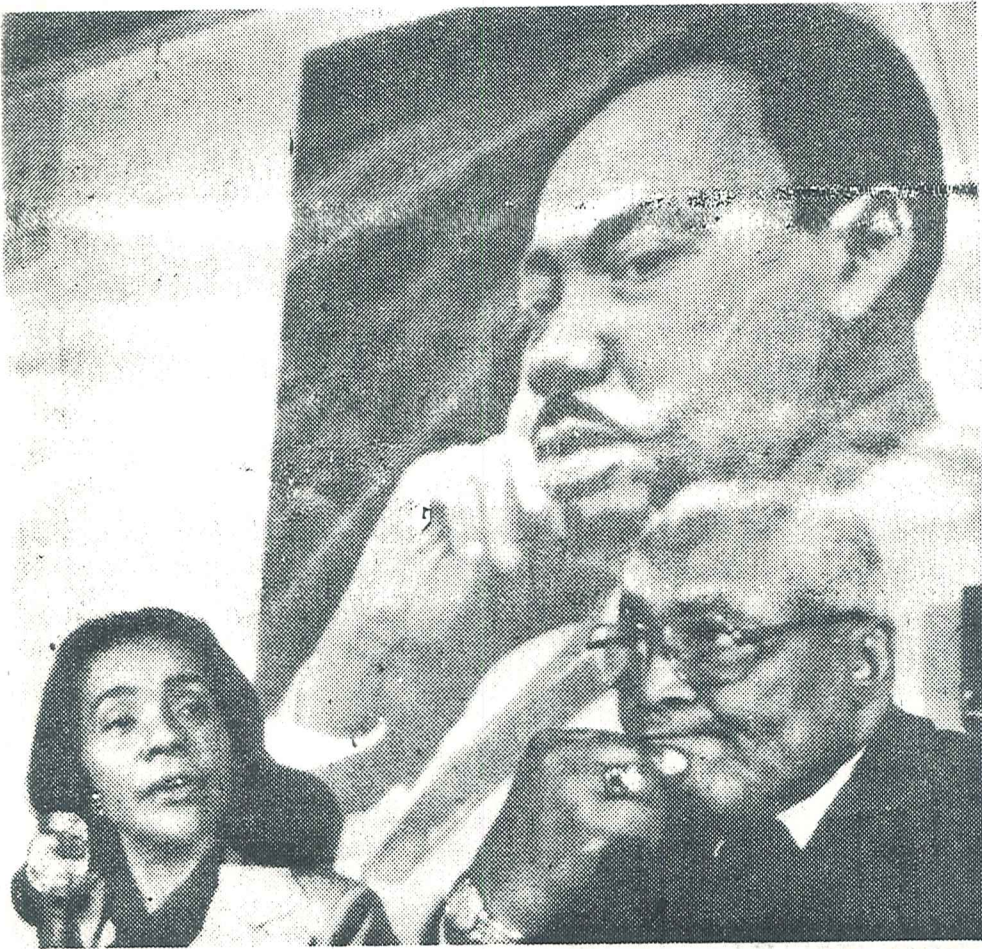


His dream lives on



Bulletin Special Photo

Mrs. Coretta Scott King and her father-in-law, Rev. Martin Luther King Sr., sit beneath a portrait of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., during a tribute in Atlanta marking the 50th birthday of the slain civil rights leader.

His widow continues Dr. King's life work

11/4/79
By JOE SHARKEY
Of The Bulletin Staff

Atlanta — The preacher from Philadelphia was really cooking at the Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Jumping and thumping, the Rev. Leon Sullivan stormed at the front of the old brick church, working the crowd, rattling the rafters in the best tradition of black southern church preaching.

Sometimes the fists of the fiery Mr. Sullivan, who is president of Opportunities Industrialization Centers, would slam down so hard on the wood pulpit that it would startle the Rev. Martin Luther King Sr. Daddy King, who is in his mid-70s and no stranger to hell-fire and brimstone, would smile at that and lean back, eyes half shut, drinking in the sound.

Coretta Scott King listened admiringly Thursday night. She has heard the best of them and Leon Sullivan ranks with the best. She sat erect, this handsome woman, who is no mean orator herself, and sometimes her head swayed lightly to the rhythm.

"I have a dream..."

The words, spoken by her murdered husband in what is perhaps the greatest American speech since the Gettysburg address, often flood back, Coretta Scott King will tell you.

And these: "Free at last. Free at last. Thank God almighty, I'm free at last."

Those words of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. are chiseled on his crypt which rests on a brick platform in the center of a reflecting pool, now frozen solid, just down Auburn ave. from the house where Martin Luther

Please Turn to Page 5

They listen,

ued from First Page

Jr. was born 50 years ago tomor-

house, the tomb, the sprawling Martin Luther King Commu- Center across the street and the for Social Change, have all named part of a national historic ct, because of the efforts of the atigable Mrs. King. Her next she freely admits, is to have her and's birthday made a national ay.

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s. King remembers those days ly. And she remembers her first g that it all might end tragically. r husband was about to lead a registration march through Sel- la., in 1965, a march that would hen the demonstrators ran into a f national guardsmen. At points, ecalled in an interview, the knots eing spectators grew ugly.

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UPI Photo

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy speaks at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta to honor Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

For one thing, she recalls, she was
put off by the fact that he was a minis-
ter, and a fundamentalist at that. In
those days she had wanted to become
a Quaker.

He took her to a cafeteria on their
first date. She thought he was too
short. He told her she was everything
he wanted in a wife. They were mar-
ried in June 1953.

In 1954 he took a post as pastor in a
Montgomery, Ala. Baptist church. She
sees those early days as "preparation
... being in Montgomery was like a
drama that was unfolding." Among
their first friends there was another
Baptist minister, the Rev. Ralph
Abernathy, who would work closely
with Dr. King in the civil rights strug-
gle.

The Supreme Court's landmark
"Brown vs. Board of Education" rul-
ing, which struck down segregated
schools, came in November of that
year.

On Dec. 1 1955 Mrs. Rosa Parks, a
seamstress, boarded a Montgomery
bus and dutifully sat in the Negro sec-
tion. But the bus became crowded and
the driver ordered her to give up her
seat to a white man. Rosa Parks, who
was tired and whose feet hurt, said no.
She was thrown in jail.

The next day, Dr. King opened his

church to a meeting of local black
leaders to plan a massive boycott of
Montgomery's buses.

"We can no longer lend our coopera-
tion to an evil system," King said,

quoting Thoreau.

The death threats started con-
King was arrested for the first ti-
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gomery to Memphis had begun.

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and ends — Adams Warehouse lives up to its name, with the
tions you'd expect to find at the beginning of the season —
of famous brand clothes, REDUCED BEYOND ALL REA-
DOWN AND CLEAN UP!

NOT JUST ONE, BUT TW
FAMOUS BRAND, YEAR

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The death threats started coming, King was arrested for the first time in January. The long road from Montgomery to Memphis had begun.

"I don't know what will happen now... but it really doesn't matter to me now. Because I have been to the mountaintop."

Dr. King said that the night before he was killed in Memphis. Coretta Scott King was shopping with her daughter Yolanda when an assassin murdered him in 1968. Four days after he died, she went to Memphis to lead a protest march in support of striking black trashmen. A few days later, another widow, Jacqueline Kennedy, came to her home in Atlanta, and said, Mrs. King recalls: "When will they ever learn?"

Her children, Coretta King says, always came first. There are four: Yolanda Denise, 22; Martin Luther 3d, 20; Dexter Scott, 17; and Bernice Albertine, 15. When they were young, Mrs. King recalls, she would have to explain at times why their father was in jail.

"The children were always the number one priority," she says. "It's been a matter of emphasis. I didn't feel a need to stay at home with them every minute of the time, but the quality of the time was very important."

Still, after all that has happened, after the turmoil and the loneliness and the assassination, after the murder of Dr. King's mother, after the FBI's attempt to discredit his life, after the threats that still come today, one wonders if Mrs. King ever yearned for a simpler life. Did she ever wish Martin Luther King Jr. had been a pastor

in a small town Baptist church, where she could sing in the choir and live her life in peace?

"Never!" The answer is delivered vehemently.

"I never wanted that. I liked the involvement and the excitement of it all.

I really did. Montgomery was such an inspiring experience for me.

"It makes your life worthwhile. I just don't believe in meaningless kinds of activities," she says. "I still feel just as strongly as I did when we were young in Montgomery."



UPI Photo
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local black
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King said,

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Wayne Brown, a sophomore at Martin Luther King High School, says he would like to learn more in the classroom about Rev. King. Bulletin Photo by Richard Rose

King's legacy fades in schools

By DAVID KUSHMA
Of The Bulletin Staff

Wayne Brown was four years old the warm April day in 1968 that The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. He vaguely remembers a flickering television screen and his mother's tears and an aura of sadness descending on his normally genial spirits, but not much more.

Wayne, 15, is now a sophomore at King High School in Philadelphia's Germantown section, the only school in Pennsylvania named for the slain civil rights leader. Tomorrow he and his classmates will take a day off from school as the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's birth becomes a state legal holiday.

But do the life and legacy of the man once synonymous with the aspirations of black America mean anything other than a long weekend to high school students like Wayne Brown? Most hadn't even started school when Dr. King's career of non-violence ended violently on the balcony of a Memphis motel.

As he stood in front of a mural depicting Dr. King and other black leaders in a corridor of his high school, Wayne said he knows that Dr. King "fought for what he loved, and died to make his dreams come true." But that message may not be coming across quite as strongly to his contemporaries.

Only one out of three high school seniors in a nationwide sample tested on their knowledge of social studies could name even one objective of civil rights marches like the ones Dr. King led in the 1960's, said a recent report of the federally funded National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

"We lived through the civil rights era, it was an important topic of conversation, and we assume that our kids know about it, too," said Alfred Nelson Jr. of the Pennsylvania State Education Association (PSEA), a former history teacher. "It's a shock to all adults to find that they don't."

Quizzed on their social attitudes, fewer of the seniors in the NAEP study expressed support for constitutional rights and individual worth — two of the bulwarks of Dr. King's philosophy — than had a similar group of 7-year-olds four years earlier.

Almost one-fifth of them did not know that their civil rights are stated

zen should have the right to publicly criticize the government.

Nearly one of every seven seniors said a person suspected of a crime should be punished immediately by his accusers — an attitude reflected in, among other things, Southern lynch laws repealed through the efforts of civil rights crusaders who preceded Dr. King.

And another cause for concern: The performance of black 17-year-olds on items dealing with social studies knowledge and skills was generally below that of all 13-year-olds, white and black, who were asked the same questions.

"Kids have tremendous difficulty relating those days to their lives," Nelson said. "They have a different perspective and just don't understand the passions and tensions of that era. In their frame of reference, it's ancient history, about as relevant to them as the Renaissance or the Reformation."

For most of the 3,200 pupils at King High School, and the 20 million other high school pupils across the country, their impressions about the influence of Dr. King and the importance of the civil rights movement he headed derive largely from what they have learned in their classrooms.

"I was too young to know what was going on then," Wayne Brown said. "I read books and my mother and father talk about him, but it wouldn't hurt for them to teach us more about him (at King). I haven't really learned anything about him in school."

Dr. King's death spurred demands on college and high school campuses throughout the nation for programs featuring courses in black history and literature, and for an affirmation among educators of the value of black dialect, spoken and written.

State education departments in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware all require that the contributions of ethnic and racial minorities be given their due in standard history and social studies classes that all pupils must take in order to graduate. They also offer curriculum suggestions along these lines.

But there is no system for gauging compliance with these regulations. State officials must rely on the good faith of local districts. And in the days of "back-to-basics" education, black studies are often dismissed as just an-

"Teachers have an obligation to make (Dr. King's) life part of the total structure of social studies classes," said William C. Green, the Philadelphia School District's director of African and Afro-American studies. "He is not studied in isolation, but in the context of the times in which he lived."

Green was one of the 200,000 persons on hand when Dr. King delivered his classic "I Have a Dream" speech at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial as the climax of the August 1963 civil-rights march on Washington, D.C.

The experience moved him so deeply that the speech now serves as the centerpiece of a Martin Luther King lesson plan designed by Green's office for use in city public school classrooms.

Among the suggested classroom activities: Students re-enact the Montgomery, Ala. bus boycott that propelled Dr. King to national prominence in December 1955, assuming the roles of demonstrators, city officials and businessmen, and the young black minister who stood between them.

Green's guide also proposes that pupils analyze the rhetorical and thematic devices of Dr. King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" in their English classes, or declaim his sermons in public speaking periods, or discuss such concepts as "passive resistance" and "civil disobedience."

"We want the kids to relive that time," Green said, "to understand how many lives (Dr. King) shaped socially, economically, and politically, how he pricked the conscience of America, how he shook the foundations of our society."

But Green conceded classroom teachers have no obligation to incorpo-

rate the guide into their own plans, now that Dr. King's accomplishments have crossed the line from "current events" to "history."

"But we would hope they wouldn't have to hit a teacher's head with a hammer, and say, 'You must use this,'" he said. "How do you possibly teach a history without integrating this material?"

The National Education Association, America's largest teachers union, has distributed its own curriculum guide to its state organizations. The packet has found its way into urban classrooms throughout the Greater Philadelphia area, according to PSEA's Nelson said.

Many local schools also have held special assemblies and contests to commemorate Dr. King's birthday. But pupils at King High School said a one-day program isn't enough to learn everything they ought to know about the man whom their school was named.

"They should make every body in black history," said Lynn Sharpe, a King senior and school body president. "I talk to people and they tell me (Dr. King) was really that great. I think he was altogether great man — and Capricorn, just like me."

Added Raymond Campbell, a sophomore, "We aren't learning much as we should about him. We have about 10 minutes (of class time) a year. If it wasn't for him, we wouldn't be where we are today. His life is a lot to me."

And Quintina Clark, 16, a sophomore, "Maybe if the kids around here learned more about Dr. King and what he stood for about nonviolence, we wouldn't have so many fights."



Bulletin Photo by Richard Rosenberg

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"They should make everybody take courses in black history," said Rosalyn Sharpe, a King senior and student body president. "I talk to people today and they tell me (Dr. King) was not really that great. I think he was an altogether great man — and he's a Capricorn, just like me."

Added Raymond Campbell, 15, a sophomore, "We aren't learning as much as we should about him. We get about 10 minutes (of class time) a year. If it wasn't for him, we wouldn't be where we are today. His life means a lot to me."

And Quintina Clark, 16, suggested, "Maybe if the kids around here knew more about Dr. King and what he said about nonviolence, we wouldn't have so many fights."

Some offices to shut in honor of Dr. King

State, Philadelphia and Montgomery County courts, offices and agencies will be closed tomorrow in commemoration of the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Governor Shapp declared the day a legal holiday.

Several observances have been planned.

The Guardian Civic League, 1516 W. Girard ave., is sponsoring a "people's march" tomorrow. Participants will meet at 10 A.M. at 25th and Diamond sts., North Philadelphia, and march to Broad st., then south to Progress Plaza, Broad and Jefferson sts.

A memorial service will be held at 8 P.M. tomorrow at Crozer-Chester Medical Center's Crozer Hall, Upland, Delaware County. Dr. King was graduated from Crozer Seminary.

The Free Library of Philadelphia and all its branches will be closed, as

will all district health centers and most Department of Recreation facilities, except for the ice-skating rinks at Tarken, Frontenac and Levick sts.; Simons, Walnut lane and Woolston ave., and Scanlon, J and Tioga sts.

The Philadelphia Bar Association's offices and its lawyer reference service in City Hall Annex also will be closed.

In Philadelphia, trash and garbage will be collected.

Federal, Bucks, Chester and Delaware County courts, buildings and agencies will be open.

State liquor stores and banks also will be open.

Mail will be delivered.

Traffic on West River and Montgomery drives will be one-way during morning and evening rush hours as it is normally.