

\$10 MILLION CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM OPENS JULY 4 WHERE DR. KING DIED

By Larry A Still

The historic National Civil Rights Museum will open in Memphis, TN, with a week of celebration, memorials and ceremonies, June 30 - July 6, at and surrounding the site where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated 33 years ago. Hundreds of civil rights movement pioneers were expected to join scores of celebrities at the festivities.

The series of events will be climaxed on July 4 with the dedication of the 10,000 square foot, ten million dollar museum at 450 Mulberry Street, the former location of the Lorraine Motel where Doctor King was fatally wounded on April 4, 1968.

Invited participants ranged from community leaders, pioneer activists James Farmer, Judge Benjamin Hooks and Coretta Scott King to poet Maya Angelous, singer Pete Seeger, Gov. Nick McWhorter and President George Bush, whose scheduled remarks on civil rights provoked local protests.

"The museum holds worldwide significance because it will mark the first time ever that a comprehensive overview of the American civil rights movement has been presented in exhibit form," said Memphis Circuit Court Judge D'Army Bailey, chairman of the non-profit NCRM Foundation.

The goal is to bring to life that period in history, put it in proper perspective and provide a focus for national remembrance. "I hope it will provide the inspiration to pursue the many opportunities that emerged from the struggle," said Bailey. Visitors can sit at an actual lunch counter reminiscent of the student sit-in demonstrations, walk through a vintage city bus representing the Montgomery (AL) bus boycott and view the rooms Dr. King occupied at the motel at the time of his death.

Opening activities also include a citywide worship service featuring Rev. Jesse Jackson and Joseph Lowery, president, Southern Christian Leadership Conference founded by Dr. King and others; a three-day symposium featuring well and little known "heros" of the movement such as James Farmer, Diane Nash and Bob Moses; a banquet at the Peabody Hotel with Julian

Bond, Guy Carawan and the Original Freedom singers, and an entertainment gala at the Orheum Theater.

Bush was invited to participate in the July Fourth ceremonies, but declined because of a conflict in his schedule, museum officials announced.

The \$10 million museum is funded by the State of Tennessee.

INJURIES REPORTED IN SEVERAL GANG ALTERCATIONS

Police have reported there were four gang attacks resulting in five injuries in North Las Vegas last Friday night and Saturday afternoon.

In one incident, two gang members were in the rear of the A & K Market at 600 W. Lake Mead Drive at approximately 8:15 p.m. Friday, when two rival gangsters came in and shouted a gang slogan.

A bottle was then thrown at

see, the City of Memphis, Shelby County and private contributors including the Hyde Foundation, Dunavant Enterprises, Federal Express Corporation, First Tennessee National Corporation, Promus Companies, Malone & Hyde, Inc., and the Plough Foundation.

Eisterholdl Jewell Exhibit Services prepared research and

the rivals, one of whom pulled out a gun and fired several shots.

Everyone then fled the store. Police have no suspects.

Also on Friday at 10:50 p.m., several gang members knocked down the front and rear doors of a home at 2025 Hassell Avenue and attacked a 22-year-old male, beating him unconscious. The victims father and a juvenile also in the house were not harmed.

Again, police had no sus-

design of the exhibits with the help of Smithsonian historians Spencer Crew and James Horton, according to an official announcement.

Bailey said the original concept was developed when he joined with "a small group of others in the black community" to develop the "Martin Luther King Memphis Memorial Founda-

tion" which was later changed to the "Lorraine Civil Rights Museum Foundation," a non-profit, tax exempt organization. "With the proceeds of a fund campaign and a \$50,000 loan from a black-owned bank, we bought the (Lorraine) motel for \$144,000 at foreclosure auction

in 1982. Later, with \$50,000 from the city and county governments, we hired Ben Lawless, who had been a director of exhibitions at the Smithsonian. He worked with us to design a museum that would tell the story of the Civil Rights Struggle..."

Minutes later at 10:55 p.m., a car pulled up to a house at 2008 Hart Avenue, and a passenger fired gunshots into the home. Three family members inside were reportedly injured by bullet fragments.

Finally at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, police were called to a mobile home at 500 Miller Avenue after four men fired shots into the residence.

All four of the suspects in this shooting were arrested, but not named.

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