

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

# Learning Lagniappe: Educator Extras The Moncrief Photograph Collection

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[http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital\\_archives/moncrief/](http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/moncrief/)

The Moncrief Photography collection comprises 890 black and white negatives taken during the career of Hattiesburg native and photographer Winfred Moncrief. The expansive collection has been divided into a range of topics including events in Hattiesburg, African Americans, the clergy, business, libraries, Mississippi governors, Tatum Salt Dome nuclear testing, and 20th century architecture. Images can be accessed through keyword search or by browsing within each series, as they become available online. Twenty-three of the images are from student photographer Jim Ellis whom Moncrief worked with. Ellis' images may be viewed in the William F. Winter Archives and History Building Archival Reading Room but are not available in electronic format.

## **Subjects that can be addressed with this Digital Archive:**

Historic buildings (in Hattiesburg), Hinds County, vaccinations, politicians, parades, boy scouts, nuclear testing, civil rights, and logging.

## **Suggested Classroom Activities:**

- Make your own sign and write a slogan or motto to chant if you were one of the marchers in the Civil Rights Movement protests.
- Research the numbers of African American and white voters in 1964 in Mississippi and compare them to today's statistics. Are there differences? How do you think they could be changed or improved?

*For more lessons and activities based on the Digital Archives and other collections visit the Classroom Materials page on our website at*

<http://www.mdah.ms.gov/new/learn/classroom-materials/lesson-plans-and-teaching-units/>

*Teacher Discussion Guide on Reverse*

## Teacher Discussion Guide

Use images from the MDAH Digital Archive entitled “Moncrief Photograph Collection,” (found at [http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital\\_archives/moncrief/](http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/moncrief/)) to lead your class in a discussion analyzing and interpreting the following images.

1. Click on “View Collection.” Then click on “African Americans--1960-1970.”
  - a. From what you see, what are the primary events involving the African American in these images? **Voter registration protests and civil rights demonstrations.**
  - b. What can you learn about civil rights protests from these images? **Direct students to the images of the white media, a black policeman, peaceful protesting, etc.** How do these images make you feel?
  - c. Look at the images of the young man carrying the American flag.
    - i. What do these images mean to you? Explain.
    - ii. Why would the U.S. flag be an important symbol for civil rights protesters? **The U.S. flag largely stands for citizenship and freedom, two things that African Americans felt they did not have.** How do you personally define the terms citizenship and freedom?
2. Click on “View Collection.” Scroll down and click on “Clergy.”
  - a. Where are the clergy marching and why? **They are marching in front of the Forrest County Courthouse for integrated voting.**
  - b. Why is the courthouse significant to voting rights? **The courthouse is where people went to take the voter registration and literacy test to determine if they would then be registered voters, yet staff in the courthouse often ensured that African Americans failed the literacy test and would not allow them to register.**
  - c. Why do you think the clergy joined the Civil Rights Movement? Does their participation surprise you? Why or why not?
  - d. Images include youth marching in the protests. Why do you think they participated? What do you think the relationship is between the clergy and the youth? Explain.
3. Click on “View Collection.” Scroll down and click on “Mississippi—Politics and Government—1951.”
  - a. What is happening in the majority of these images? **A political campaign rally for Governor Paul Johnson, Jr.**
  - b. What is a political campaign? **A race between candidates to win an elected office.**
  - c. Who is participating in the political rallies? Or, who is missing from the images and why? **African Americans do not appear in the photographs of these political rallies because at this time the majority of African Americans in Mississippi (and many throughout the U.S.) were not allowed to vote and thus not a visible part of the political process.** How could you take part in a political campaign today?
  - d. Why is it important to know about political candidates and their campaigns? Why is it important to vote? **It is every U.S. citizen’s responsibility to question political candidates and take an active role in the political process in order to affect change in the everyday lives of all U.S. citizens.**
  - e. What are politics and how does it affect our everyday lives? Explain.
4. Click on “View Collection.” Then scroll down and click on “Primaries—Mississippi.”
  - a. The United States has a two party system: Republican and Democrat. A primary election is the preliminary election to select candidates for either party for a general election. Why is it important to have a primary election? **It determines who will be nominated as a candidate for the general election.** How does it differ from a general election? **The primary election allows voters to choose the nominees and the general election allows voters to choose between the parties’ nominees for a political office.**
  - b. The images feature Lieutenant Governor Paul B. Johnson, Jr. casting a ballot for the gubernatorial election campaign. Why do you think Johnson, as a political figure, cast a ballot? **Each U.S. citizen is allowed the right to vote, even if it means the right to vote for themselves.**
  - d. The images also feature Johnson talking to poll workers. How would you feel about talking to an election candidate? What kinds of questions would you want to ask?