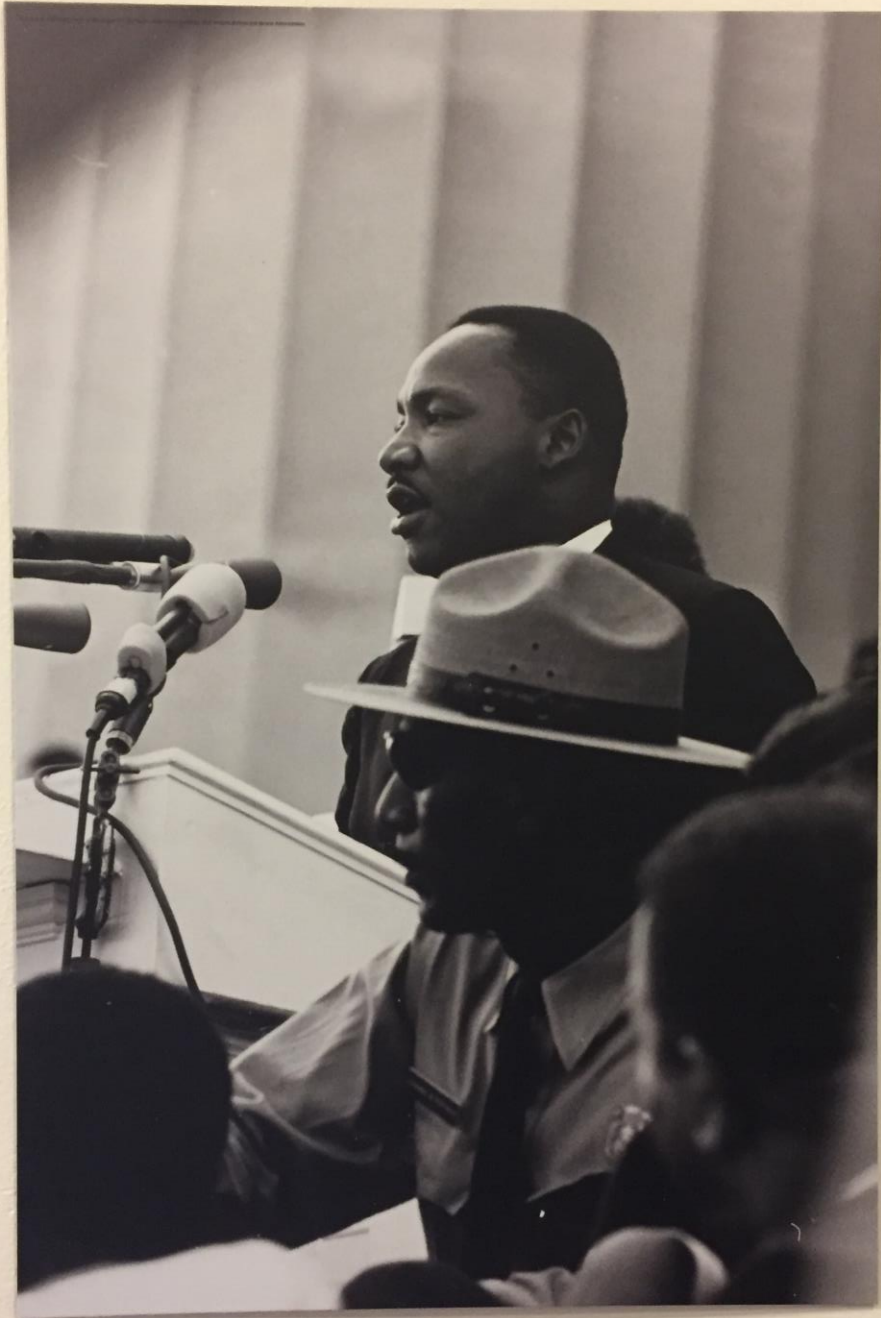


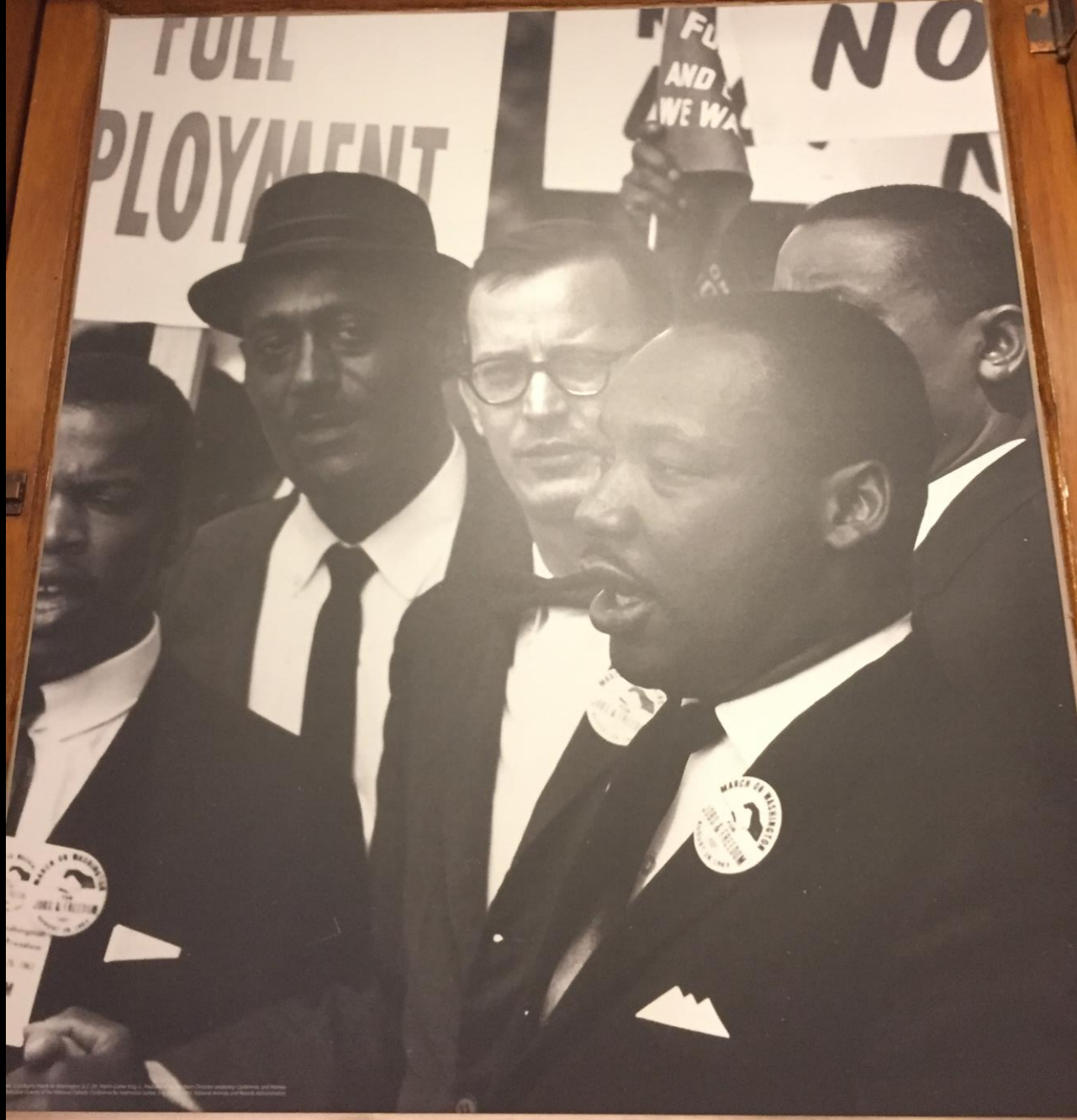
**Twelve incredible photos documenting
the visit of
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
to Phoenix, Arizona and speech at
Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona
on June 3, 1964**



G. Homer Durham, Martin Luther King, Jr., Ralph Abernathy, an unidentified participant, Rev. Louis Eaton and Msgr. Robert Donahoe at Goodwin Stadium, Arizona State University. June 3, 1964.

Stan Gilbert Photograph, ASU Photographic Services. Call #: MRD-2, Monsignor Robert Donohoe Papers, Arizona Collection, Arizona State University Libraries.







Valley Life INSURANCE COMPANY

May 14, 1964

Mr. Lincoln J. Ragsdale, President
Valley Life Insurance Company
1140 East Washington
Phoenix, Arizona

Dear Mr. Ragsdale:

I was sorry to learn recently that your plan to present Dr. Martin Luther King at Montgomery Stadium either May 27 or June 3 had to be rearranged. In the meantime, I understand that our people have been in touch with you with respect to use of Goodwin or Sun Devil Stadium.

I note that you have approached the Sociology Department at Arizona State University and that Mr. Henry R. Luce, Dr. Kermit Long, Rabbi Albert Plotkin and others are working with you and the local chapter of the NAACP in arranging the visit.

Our ASU Concert Choir will appear at the New York World's Fair the week of June 3, and I am not certain that I shall be in the Valley. If I am, I am obligated to attend a wedding at 8:00 p.m. of some very dear friends in Tempe. However, if I can be of any help on the Steering Committee with the others named, please know of my willingness to do so any way possible.

Sincerely yours,

G. Homer Durham
President

GHD:jj

June 3



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

MARICOPA COUNTY BRANCH

1923 East Broadway Mailing: P. O. Box 8043
PHOENIX 40, ARIZONA

6-0730
6-2582

May 29, 1964

MIN BROOKS

ILSON

DANIELS

EDWARDS

Dr. G. Homer Durham, President
Arizona State University
Tempe, Ariz.

My dear Dr. Durham:

Just a note to ask you to be at Goodwin Stadium
at 7:45 the evening of the Martin Luther King
meeting, June 3.

The platform will be at the south end of the
stadium.

Thanking you, I am

Yours sincerely,

Ruth R. McGregor

Ruth R. McGregor
Co-ordinator

Officers

T

au

*Thomson 7:45
information on
city*

252-5276





Valley Life INSURANCE COMPANY

1140 EAST WASHINGTON • PHOENIX, ARIZONA • TEL. 254-9323

Officers

June 19, 1964

LINCOLN J. RAGSDALE
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VICE PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY-TREASURER

MASON C. REDDIX, M.D.
MEDICAL DIRECTOR

JAMES R. JACKSON
AGENCY DIRECTOR

LILLIAN BROWN
REGISTRAR

G. Homer Durham, President
Arizona State University
Tempe, Arizona

Dear Dr. Durham:

On behalf of NAACP, I wish to further extend our gratitude to you for your cooperation in making Dr. King's visit here a tremendous success.

We shall be grateful for your continued support in the effort to work out a non-violent solution to the crisis of segregation.

Sincerely,

Lincoln J. Ragsdale

LJR:mb





Valley Life INSURANCE

1140 EAST WASHINGTON • PHOENIX, ARIZONA • TEL 254-2323

COMPANY

Officers April 30, 1964

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MEDICAL DIRECTOR
- JAMES R. JACKSON
AGENCY DIRECTOR
- LILLIAN BROWN
REGISTRAR

Dr. Homer Durham
Arizona State University
Tempe, Arizona

Dear Dr. Durham:

We have received confirmation that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be in Phoenix on May 27. This will be his first visit to Phoenix and we anticipate approximately 10,000 people.

The local chapter of the NAACP is the sponsor of this project and will receive 35% of the net proceeds. This money will be used to sponsor voter registrations, make a detailed survey of the educational needs of the Negro community, and to see what we can do to give self-help to the Negro community in the way of better housing and better preparation for securing employment.

We are soliciting the full cooperation of the Sociology Department of Arizona State University in a Phoenix Peace Corp operation. We would like to ask you to serve on our Steering Committee, which will be made up of approximately 12 of our leaders. We have invited Mr. Henry R. Luce to be the Program Chairman and to introduce Dr. King.

The Selection Committee is headed by Dr. Kermit Long of the Central Methodist Church and Rabbi Albert Plotkin of the Temple Beth Israel.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Lincoln J. Ragsdale
Lincoln J. Ragsdale
President

at



Place
me? Read

ARIZONA STATE
UNIVERSITY

June 5, 1964

Professor Harry M. Bracken
Department of Philosophy
Campus

Dear Professor Bracken:

Thank you for your generous note of June 4, 1964.

Unless the University is engaged in examining and dissecting unpopular views, we will reflect only the popular and, in so doing, can function only as mirror and not as lamp to increase and shed light.

Everyone who understands a university, of course, appreciates this fact. It is a constant, continuous task, however, to make the same understandable and appreciated. I do not despair despite the pessimism of such as G. E. G. Catlin, with whom I once enjoyed extensive discussions on this subject. In many respects, I found Catlin more optimistic on this score than many thoughtful men who have devoted much of their lives to the problems and role of the intellectual in the social order.

Sincerely yours,

G. Homer Durham
President

GHD:jj



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

MARICOPA COUNTY BRANCH

1923 East Broadway Mailing: P. O. Box 8043
PHOENIX 40, ARIZONA

Phone BR 6-0730
Phone BR 6-2582

May 21, 1964

Branch Officers

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President
CHARLES W. WILSON
First Vice President
MR. GRACE E. DANIELS
Second Vice President
MRS. NAOMI N. EDWARDS
Secretary
CALVIN GOODE
Treasurer

Dr. G. Homer Durham,
Arizona State University
Tempe,
Arizona.

My dear Dr. Durham:

I was delighted to learn from Bob Choate that you have agreed to introduce the Rev. Martin Luther King at Goodwin Stadium on the evening of June 3.

I am enclosing a biographical sketch of Dr. King for your use. If there is any more material you need, do not hesitate to call me at 252-5296.

We are asking the platform guests to assemble at the stadium by eight o'clock.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth R. McGregor

Mrs. Ruth R. McGregor
Coordinator Martin Luther King Commi
212 Greater Arizona Savings and Loan

National Executive Officers

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Dr. King Visits Arizona

In 1964, Dr. King was invited to Arizona by the Maricopa County chapter of the NAACP. He delivered a speech titled "Religious Witness for Human Dignity" at ASU's Goodwin Stadium and was introduced by then president of ASU, G. Homer Durham. The event, which occurred less than one month before the landmark Civil Rights Act was signed, drew a crowd of 8,000.

There were no known recordings of the speech until 2013 when Phoenix resident Mary Scanlon found a box of reel-to-reel recordings produced by Arizona civil rights leader, Lincoln Ragsdale, at a Goodwill. Scanlon brought the reels to the ASU Archives and Special Collections where the speech was digitized and made available to the public.



Rev. Martin L. King Here June 3

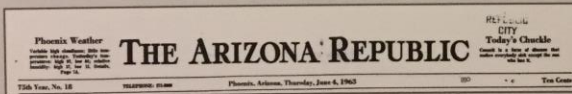
The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., will appear in the Valley for the first time at Goodwin Stadium, A.S.U. Temple, on June 3, 8 p.m. His appearance is sponsored by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and of leaders of church groups. Named as "Time Magazine" "Man of the Year" for 1963, Dr. King is internationally known leader of the non-violent civil rights movement. Members of religious circles in Phoenix sponsoring the address are: His Rev. Monsignor Robert Donohoe, Dr. Kermit Long, Rabbi Albert L. Pleskin, Rev. C. W. Hall, A. C. Kendrick and Louis Eaton, director of the Phoenix Council of Churches. Further information can be obtained at 212 Greater Arizona Savings and Loan Building, Phone 252-5296.

Dr. King Addresses Huge Crowd



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., addressed a crowd of 8,000 at Goodwin Stadium, Arizona State University. He said that a massive nonviolent program on a national basis would end segregation in the United States. Dr. King urged his listeners to become active workers in making freedom, not a reality now and not a dream. He said that the civil rights bill would pass and though he was not pleased with it - the bill would have to be endorsed. After leaving Phoenix, he was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America at New York City.

The Martin L. King Here June 3 - Arizona Tribune, 29 May 1964, p. 1



NEGRO LEADER HERE—The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, who spoke here yesterday, is flanked by the Rev. J. Harper, left, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Phoenix, and member of the Phoenix Business Education Commission, and Milton Gray, director of the Phoenix Community Council. Dr. King called for a nonviolent program in end segregation.

King Calls for Nonviolent Action

Rights Leader Stresses Peaceful Settlement

PHOENIX (AP)—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., called for a nonviolent program to end segregation in the United States today. He urged his listeners to become active workers in making freedom, not a reality now and not a dream. He said that the civil rights bill would pass and though he was not pleased with it - the bill would have to be endorsed. After leaving Phoenix, he was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America at New York City.

June 1964

June 4, 1964

President John G. Babbitt
Board of Regents
P. O. Box 608
Flagstaff, Arizona

Dear President Babbitt:

In order that there may be no misunderstanding, I am providing you and the members of the Board of Regents with the correct information concerning the appearance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Goodwin Stadium, Wednesday evening, June 3, 1964. This information may be helpful in the event you receive any calls or comments with respect to his visit to Arizona.

Goodwin Stadium was rented on behalf of the Maricopa County Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People through Rev. George Brooks and Mr. Lincoln Ragsdale of Phoenix. University halls, Sun Devil Stadium and Goodwin Stadium are regularly made available to Arizona taxpayers and citizen groups. For example, Sun Devil Stadium was recently rented to the Billy Graham Crusade.

A group of Phoenix clergymen and other citizens also collaborated with the Maricopa County Chapter of the NAACP in arranging for Dr. King's appearance.

I personally attended the event Wednesday evening in Goodwin Stadium at the invitation of Mr. Ragsdale. Rev. George Brooks was master of ceremonies. In response to the invitation from the sponsoring organization and some prominent Phoenix citizens, I introduced Dr. King to the audience immediately prior to his address.

The entire meeting was orderly; it was preceded by a great deal of singing by a colored choir from the Assembly of God church in Phoenix. During the collection, the choir from the Unitarian Church of Phoenix rendered the music. The meeting began with an invocation, followed by the national anthem, the pledge of allegiance, and the introduction of the platform guests by the master of ceremonies, Reverend Brooks.

Dr. King's address was presented in substantial, intellectual terms, befitting his scholarship and education (he holds the Ph.D. from Boston University, together with several honorary degrees), emphasized from time to time by the homiletics of a minister of the gospel of the Baptist faith, which he is.

BOARD OF REGENTS
OF THE
UNIVERSITIES AND STATE COLLEGE OF ARIZONA

P. O. Box 608
Flagstaff, Arizona
June 8, 1964

Dr. G. Homer Durham
President, Arizona State University
Tempe, Arizona

Dear Homer:

Thanks for your letter of June 4 with regard to the appearance of Dr. Martin Luther King in Goodwin Stadium.

I agree with you completely that it is a service to the community to provide our facilities for such events. Whether or not we agree completely with all that any of the speakers who use these facilities say, in my opinion, is beside the point as long as they are not subversive or improper in their utterances.

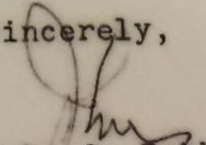
Mr. William Kendall, in his letter with regard to TV Station KAET, confirms what I have heard a number of times recently. The station certainly seems to be well received.

I also wish to thank you very sincerely for your kind letter with regard to the Regents.

Here's wishing the baseball team good luck in Omaha!

With kindest regards -

Sincerely,


John G. Babbitt
President

