

SEARCH  
DETNEWS.COM

GO

When you subscribe or renew your subscription to the...  
**The Detroit News**



Monday, January 14, 2002

[Return to Metro](#)

[The Detroit News](#)

[E-mail this story](#)

[Comment on this story](#)

[Previous story](#) [Next story](#)



*The Cost of*  
**Segregation** || Part I:  
 Racial Attitudes

**SITE INDEX**

- [Homepage](#)
- [Search](#)
- [CyberSurveys](#)
- [News Talk](#)
- [Autos Talk](#)
- [Sports Talk](#)
- [Lions Talk](#)
- [Pistons Talk](#)
- [Wings Talk](#)
- [Tiger Talk](#)
- [Tech Talk](#)
- [Horoscope](#)
- [Hot Sites](#)
- [Lottery](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Staff](#)

**NEWS**

- [Autos](#)
- [Insider](#)
- [Auto Show](#)
- [Consumer](#)
- [Joyrides](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Careers](#)
- [Census](#)
- [Columnists](#)
- [Commuting](#)
- [Detroit History](#)
- [Editorials](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Metro / State](#)
- [Livingston](#)
- [Macomb](#)
- [Oakland](#)
- [Wayne](#)
- [On Detroit](#)
- [Nation / World](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Death Notices](#)
- [Politics / Govt.](#)
- [Real Estate](#)
- [Religion](#)
- [Schools](#)
- [Special Reports](#)
- [Technology](#)

**SPORTS**

- [Sports Home](#)
- [Lions/NFL](#)
- [Red Wings/NHL](#)
- [Pistons/NBA](#)
- [Shock/WNBA](#)
- [Tigers/Baseball](#)
- [MSU](#)
- [U-M](#)
- [More Colleges](#)
- [Golf Guide](#)

**Timeline**

**Major moments in Metro Detroit race relations**

By Zena Simmons / The Detroit News

**1832:** Michigan's first anti-slavery society is formed; two years later white abolitionist Seymour Finney arrives and hides slaves while their pursuers eat in his hotel.

**1836:** Thirteen black Detroiters form Second Baptist Church, which becomes a stop on the Underground Railroad.



**1863:** Federal troops restore order after angry whites stone and burn black homes when William Faulkner, who is black, is convicted of raping two girls; the girls later recant.

**1869:** The first blacks are admitted to Detroit schools.

**1923:** Henry Ford's auto plants become a major draw for black workers from the South, but most black Detroiters are confined to an area called Black Bottom on the lower east side.

**1925:** A white man is shot dead after an irate white mob threatens outside the home of Dr. Ossian Sweet, a black physician who moved to an all-white area in Detroit. Two trials end without convictions.

**1942:** Detroit police arrest 106 blacks and three whites in clash when black residents move into the Sojourner Truth housing project in a heavily Polish northside neighborhood.



**1943:** In one of the nation's worst wartime riots, 25 blacks and nine whites die when escalating racial friction boils over beginning at Belle Isle.

**Twenty-five blacks and nine whites die when racial friction boils over in 1943.**

**1944:** A white neighbor

[City Guide](#)  
[High Schools](#)  
[Motor Sports](#)  
[Outdoors](#)  
[More Sports](#)  
[Scoreboards](#)

#### ENTERTAINMENT

[Entertainment](#)  
[▶Casino Guide](#)  
[▶Movie Finder](#)  
[▶TV Listings](#)  
[Crossword](#)

#### HOMESTYLE

[Homestyle home](#)  
[▶Decorating](#)  
[▶Food](#)  
[▶Gardening](#)  
[▶Home Improvement](#)  
[▶Home Life](#)  
[▶Home Tech](#)  
[▶Wine Report](#)

#### PHOTOS

[Sports](#)  
[Red Wings](#)  
[Lions](#)  
[Autos](#)  
[Joyrides](#)  
[News](#)  
[History](#)

Copyright 2002  
The Detroit News.

Use of this site  
indicates your  
agreement to the  
[Terms of Service](#)  
(updated  
08/09/2001).

sues, citing deed restrictions that bar blacks, when Orsel and Minnie McGhee move into a northwest neighborhood; the U.S. Supreme Court in 1948 sides with the McGhees and abolishes racial deed restrictions.

**1950:** Detroit's population reaches a high of 1.85 million, but over the next 10 years the black population increases by 50 percent while the white population drops 25 percent.



King Jr.

**1958:** Ozzie Virgil becomes the first black Tiger, 11 years after Jackie Robinson's debut, despite Detroit Tigers' owner Walter Briggs longtime opposition to blacks.

**1960:** Grosse Pointe real estate agents and sellers are found to use a "point system" that ranks potential buyers by race, nationality, occupation and "degree of swarthinness."

**1963:** Nearly 250,000 blacks and whites, led by Martin Luther King Jr., march in Detroit to protest injustices two months before the famous rally in Washington, D.C.

**1967:** Five days of rioting leave 43 dead after Detroit police raid an after-hours saloon in a mostly black neighborhood.

**1968:** Congress passes the Fair Housing Act, which bans race discrimination in housing.

**1970:** Southfield and Oak Park prohibit home "for sale" signs to stem "blockbusting," in which real estate agents incite panic-selling by moving blacks into a previously all-white block.

**1970:** Warren residents vote to reject \$2.8 million in federal urban-renewal grants that would have required the city to adopt integration policies.

**1971:** Opponents of mandated busing to integrate schools firebomb 10 Pontiac school buses; Michigan Ku Klux Klan members are convicted.

**1973:** A federal court rules Detroit and suburban schools must integrate by busing students across district lines; the U.S. Supreme Court later reverses, saying Detroit cannot bus suburban children.

**1974:** Coleman A. Young, Detroit's first black mayor and a racially polarizing figure, starts the first of five terms.

**1978:** Orville Hubbard leaves office after 36 years as Dearborn mayor marked by rigid opposition to integration; leaders later disavow his racism, but name a street and senior complex after him, and honor him with a holiday and statue.

**1991:** Television video shows black Detroit women beating and



Five days of rioting in 1967 leave 43 dead after Detroit police raid an after-hours saloon in a mostly black neighborhood.

robbing three suburban white women at July 4 fireworks; one Detroiter pleads no contest, one is acquitted.



**East Detroit, a predominantly white suburb, changes its name to Eastpointe in 1992 to distance itself from Detroit.**

**1992:** East Detroit, a predominantly white suburb that borders Detroit along Eight Mile, votes to change its name to Eastpointe, hoping to increase property values by distancing itself from Detroit.

**2001:** Census results show Metro Detroit has the most segregated black-white living patterns in the nation.

[▶ Comment on this story](#)

[▶ Previous story](#) [▶ Back to index](#) [▶ Next story](#)