

## BAND OF BROTHERS

by Dorie A. Ladner

Come gather round people while I tell you of a tale  
About a Band of Brothers who worked in Mississippi, a living hell.  
They were ninety-nine in number  
Some old, some very young  
And from each of their mouths a song was sung.

This Band of Brothers was led by Bob Moses  
Who was fought by all of the official forces.  
He was silent in manner  
But his strength and determination were like  
    a waving banner  
In his work he was persistent  
And met his opposition with nonviolent resistance.

This little Band of Brothers worked in north, south, east,  
    and west  
Sometimes not knowing which direction for them was best  
Yet they met their foes in each of these directions  
Trying to erase their evils with love and humane correction.

Among this group were the Sam Blocks and the Willie Peacocks  
Who worked in what is known as Greenwood  
An area that was tough and hard as timberwood.  
They went without food and sleep each day  
Trying to pave for their black brothers A Freedomway.

This Band of Brothers worked in Voter Registration  
Which made their character targets of defamation.  
Oh, no, this did not stop them.  
They paid no attention to their foes vicious whims.

This Band of Brothers even initiated the idea of a Summer Project  
Which met with opposition and was subject to rejection.  
Included in it was such things as the Community Center,  
    Freedom School, Voters Registration and the Federal Program  
Which some tried to cancel and shouted goddamn !  
But to this Band of Brothers surprise  
This small idea did rise and rise  
It became known nation-wide as a huge success  
To each and everyone joy and triumph was all they could confess.

Now don't get me wrong  
The Brothers homes were faced with many a bomb  
Especially in that great city of McComb.  
Oh, of course nine arrests were made for the bombings  
The nine pled guilty on their part  
The fatherly judge set them free and the nation alarming.  
Yes, to him, doing this deed came from the mercy of his heart.

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Yes there was the horrible killings of the three  
Which by now is known to everyone throughout the Country.  
It was done by men trying to uphold sovereignty  
In the grand state of Mississippi.  
This triple murder Mississippi will never erase  
So she'd better get her face set for more disgrace.

There was organized within this group a Freedom Democratic Party  
Which brought praise and respect from the majority  
At her most of the opposition found themselves pointing a finger.  
Of course she would speak and sing louder than ever,  
Making her enemy wish they could lower the lever.  
This little Party journeyed to the Democratic Convention;  
The idea of being seated was their one intention.  
Of course, they met good and bad  
This seemed not to make them sad only glad.  
Now you know they were approached with bargains  
But being seated was what they were trying to gain  
Rather than bargain, unseated they did remain.

This Band of ninety-nine is still leading the Freedom line  
With no intentions of stopping ever crossing their minds  
Their one ambition is Freedom and Equality  
For their Black and White Brothers in this land of Democracy  
This is the Band of Brothers.

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