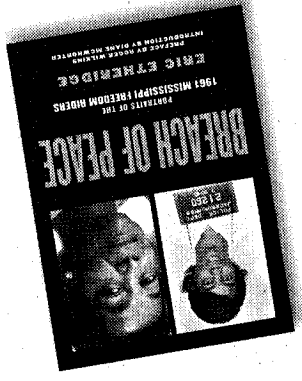


Books

Freedom Riders again ride in 'Breach of Peace'



They put up a segregation fight in 1961

By Bob Minzesheimer
USA TODAY

They were mostly college students from across the USA. About half were white, half were black.

All risked their lives by riding interstate buses to challenge segregation laws and to force a reluctant Kennedy administration to act.

They were the Freedom Riders, or the "so-called Freedom Riders," as Mississippi's largest newspaper called them in 1961. Many were beaten up. One of their buses was set on fire.

All were arrested, convicted and jailed, for a month or more, for "breach of peace."

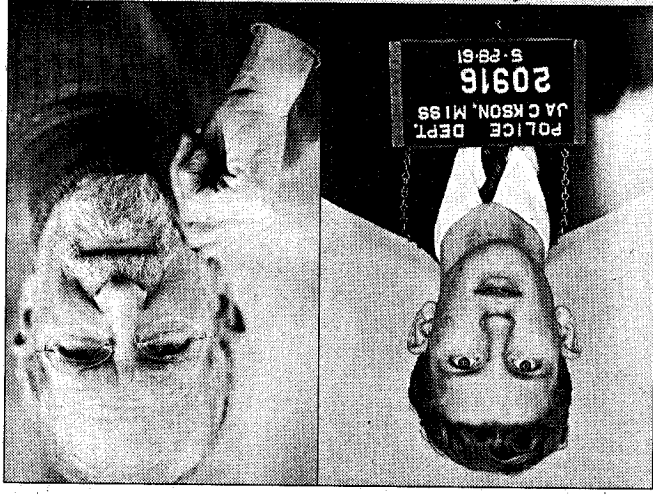
That's the title of Eric Etheridge's new book (Atlas, \$45), which tells their stories through photographs — then and now.

Etheridge, who is white, was 4 years old and living in Carthage, Miss., when the Freedom Riders rode south. Later, he moved to New York to become a magazine editor and photographer.

In 2004, he was visiting Mississippi when he came upon old files of the state's Sovereignty Commission, a "segregation watchdog" in the '50s and '60s. They included police mugshots of 328 people arrested for



Catherine Burks-Brooks
Police mug shot: 21 years old; student at Tennessee State University in Nashville
Today: Retired Avon sales manager; substitute teacher, Birmingham



David Fankhauser
Police mug shot: 19 years old; student at Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio
Today: Chemistry/biology professor at the University of Cincinnati

"I struck gold, dirty, hippie Commies, which they were (called) anyway," he writes. In *Breach of Peace*, he writes, "The police camera caught something special, even if no one quite intended it that way."

He tracked down nearly 100 of the Freedom Riders and included their stories and current portraits in his book, with updates on his website, breachofpeace.com.

"They did that on purpose," Etheridge says. "They got haircuts so they wouldn't be called in dresses."

Most of the faces are young and clean-cut. Many of the men are wearing ties; the women are in dresses.