Timeline of Events

1960  Dolores Huerta and César Chávez form the United Farm Workers of America (UFW), an agricultural workers labor union.

January 4, 1960  The United Steel Workers agree on a settlement to end the longest steel strike in U.S. history. The strike had started in July 1959.

February 1, 1960  Four black students request service at a whites-only lunch counter at a Woolworth’s store in Greensboro, North Carolina. They politely begin a “sit-in” to protest not being served. Their nonviolent protest sparks a new form of civil rights protest that quickly spreads throughout the American South.

May 1960  The oral contraceptive pill, known as “the pill,” is approved for distribution throughout the United States.

May 6, 1960  The Civil Rights Act of 1960 is approved to protect black voting rights. However, the law’s loopholes make it very difficult for blacks to register or to vote.