

Prince Edward Still Holding Ground For Equal But Separate Schooling

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Keystone of the segregation decision of the U. S. Supreme Court is Prince Edward County, Virginia, where one of the court cases originated. Following is an editorial from last Friday's issue of *The Farmville Herald*, Prince Edward's leading newspaper. It gives a full yet concise explanation of the feeling of the people of that county regarding the court decision, and the steps they are taking to meet it.)

The people of Prince Edward County spoke unequivocally Tuesday evening in a public meeting at which the matter of public education in Prince Edward County for the immediate future was discussed in a serious, calm, logical manner. Several shades of opinion were expressed and sincerely supported by advocates. Jarman Hall, with seating capacity of over 1300, was filled, despite inclement weather. By a show of hands we judge that easily 70 per cent of the audience were white school patrons. The almost unanimous action (not more than 25 contrary votes) in effect reaffirmed the position of about 300 patrons and citizens who appeared before the Board of Supervisors on May 31 and requested that the school budget for Prince Edward County be not ap-

proved. The Supervisors disapproved the budget, and appropriated the minimum, (50 cents per \$100 valuation) for public schools as required by Virginia statute, which means that public schools in Prince Edward County can not be operated in the next school session.

Because of this action, the school board is without funds to employ teachers. Recognizing the irreparable damage to the school system if the teaching staff was dissipated, a group of interested citizens and patrons of the several white schools advocated the underwriting of a sum of approximately \$200,000 in voluntary subscriptions by which the teachers in these schools could have some assurance of continued employment during the emergency. The plan to organize a non-profit corporation and being solicitation of funds was overwhelmingly approved by the approximately 1300 patrons and citizens present. This is now a direct obligation of our people. It is the largest goal that Prince Edward citizens have voluntarily taken upon themselves. That it will be accomplished we have no doubt, if the white citizens of the County share their proportionate responsibility.

The long series of events which forced the action might be reviewed.

(Paid Political Advertisement)

Prince Edward County has long had an interest in public education, expressed in 1776 by the founding of Hampden-Sydney College; in 1873, when Farmville Methodists began a college, which was the basis for establishment in 1884 of Longwood College, the first state-owned institution for teacher training.

In elementary education semi-public schools were a legion, but those who studied under the celebrated C. C. Bass (1874-1897) still praise his pedagogy. Dr. J. D. Eggleston, of Prince Edward County, gave his life to public education and was the first superintendent of public instruction in Virginia, serving during his career as president of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and later Hampden-Sydney College. To rectify these facts is to show the educational consciousness of the county.

Buildings were inadequate from the beginning of free public schools and not until 1912 had a modern school been constructed for the white citizens. In 1926 the frame school building used by the Negroes since 1892 was replaced with a modern brick building. A second unit was added to the Farmville High School in 1927, and a second brick modern school building was constructed in 1939 for the Negroes. This indicates

the effort which was being made to develop the physical property of the school system. Naturally, progress in the Negro plant followed that in the white plants, because an overwhelming majority of the taxes were paid by the white citizens.

Immediately after World War II, there was an upsurge of Negro pupils in the County, and the consolidated school building at Farmville was incapable of accommodating them. With the purpose of meeting an emergency, temporary class rooms were built to provide instruction with the understanding that they would be used for ten years, to make the investment economically sound. At the end of that time permanent facilities would be provided. Nevertheless, Negro patrons became restless in their zeal for a permanent building. Possibly, misunderstandings were interpreted as undue delay.

On April 23, 1951, without warning the students of R. R. Moton High School walked out. The principal, an unusually able administrator, was absent from the school because of an anonymous telephone call, when the walkout occurred. The strike was reported to have for its purpose to focus attention upon conditions at the school and to obtain a permanent building. Racial integration of schools was not injected into the matter until NAACP lawyers were introduced upon the scene. It is our belief that the majority of the plaintiffs were under the impression that "a new school" was the sole issue. Certainly the survey by the Richmond Times-Dispatch on December 12, 1953 indicated that the majority of pupils interviewed in a cross-section preferred their own school.

The long road through the district Federal Court, an appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court, and months of study of myriads of legal facts and arguments, and the 1898 opinion of this court, enunciating "equal but separate" philosophy, evidently had the Supreme Court divided upon the law. Death removed two of the most able judges, President Eisenhower's appointee, Earl Warren, as chief justice, wrote an opinion, in an incredibly short time, based upon psychology and socio-

Miss Jones of "Oklahoma!"



Movie land's plushiest role has been landed by a stage-struck, twenty-one-year-old, Smithton, Pennsylvania, girl, Shirley Jones, whose remarkable story appears in the current Cosmopolitan magazine, will play Laurey in the new six-million-dollar production, "Oklahoma!" soon to be released. Of medium height, Shirley is a slender, blue-eyed, ash blonde who freely admits she must watch her diet. Also appearing in "Oklahoma!" are Gordon MacRae, Charlotte Greenwood, Eddie Albert, and Bambi Linn.

logy, completely reversing the lower court, and the former decisions of the Supreme Court. Senator Eastland of Mississippi has proposed an investigation of the sources upon which this decision was based and charges that the sources are the results of a "communist conspiracy."

The decision of May 7, 1954, declared that segregation in schools was unconstitutional under the Fourteenth Amendment, and the Court adjourned for vacation announcing that it would hear arguments later as to the form of a decree it should issue. In other words the Court said in effect that it would not make its findings effective until later. Even though it was unconstitutional on May 17, 1954 it could remain unconstitutional until the court got around to how and when it would demand it to become in fact unconstitutional. Of course, people confronted with a complete change in customs and mores, were pleased with the respite, but the fact remains we have acted unconstitutionally for an entire year. And now with an ax over our heads in the form of decree to the district courts these unconstitutional acts continue. It appears to us that the Supreme Court and those who would integrate the schools, churches, and thus society, are depending upon gradualism, and indifference of many areas of people, to enforce integration leading of course to amalgamation of the races.

The people of Prince Edward have seen the effective work of the NAACP legal staff, and we believe, of the psychological "brain-washing." Recent pronouncements of the NAACP are that the principal of integration will be pushed with vigor. As a defendant in the case and with the implementation directed only to this county in Virginia, we are not willing to choose integration of schools as an impending fact.

As a matter of principle, the people of the county believe that separate schools are in the best interest of the people, and for the best interest of education. The Board of Supervisors, supported by the white people, refused to appropriate funds for the school budget, which was in effect a choice between integrated schools or no schools. Prince Edward occupies the place in court as the convicted prisoner on probation. The judge can act immediately without further proceedings. Other counties like Nottoway, might conceiv-

ably operate another year on the segregated basis given time to delay in court proceedings. That is the reason that Prince Edward has stood, on a principle, ready and willing to sacrifice for a time its public education. The calculated risk of integration is too uncertain.

Prince Edward has been careful not to set a state pattern for integration. It has done nothing except to comply with state law.

Whether or not Section IX of the Virginia Constitution has been abolished by the U. S. Supreme Court's ruling is a question yet to be determined. In our opinion it has been abolished.

Judge Leon Bazile's findings that bonds authorized prior to the decision of May 17 for construction of white and Negro schools in Hanover County would be invalid, raises a serious question by the same reason that the Virginia budget for public free schools is invalid.

Prince Edward County citizens have simply moved to retain intact its teaching forces, but they have not proposed private schools.

In short, the Board of Supervisors have taken a stand on a matter of principle. They are backed by an overwhelming opinion of the white

Obituaries

(Continued from page 5-B)

Angeles; George Wright, Albert, Canada; James A. Wright, Christlansburg; Ballard P. Wright, Roanoke; Samuel Wright and Charles E. Wright, both of Catawba; four sisters, Mrs. Amy Sirry and Mrs. Rosa Burnett, Catawba; Mrs. Lucy Craft, Fincastle; Mrs. Tobitha Moses; 23 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

MRS. VICTORIA F. SPENCER
Mrs. Victoria F. Spencer died at the home of a daughter, Mrs. R. S. Wall, in Bassett, at the age of 87. Other survivors include a brother, Emmet Foley, of Salem.

MRS. JESSIE H. ETTER
A resident of Roanoke County, Mrs. Jessie Hyton Etter, died this week in a Roanoke hospital. She was 52. Funeral services were held at the Tabernacle Baptist Church with interment in Sherwood.

She is survived by her husband, LeRoy E. Etter, Sr., eight sons and three daughters: Henry T. Etter, Jesse H. Etter, and LeRoy E. Etter, Jr., Roanoke; David Etter, Joe Etter and Kenneth Etter, Roanoke County; Charles C. Etter, Monroe Washington; Philip Etter, U. S. Navy, Lakehurst, N. J.; Mrs. Lou Noakes, Roanoke; Mrs. Jean Bain, Hialeah, Fla.; and Mrs. Frenchew

people, and many Negroes. If it be argued that Section 129 of the State Constitution is valid, the maintenance of schools is a state responsibility.

Without prejudice, Prince Edward stands resolutely on the principle of separate schools for the races and passes the matter to the State of Virginia.

Prince Edward rests its case.

Natnick, South San Francisco; two brothers and four sisters: A. L. Hyton, Roanoke County; Wm. T. Hyton; Mrs. O. C. Jordan, Elizabethton, Tenn.; Mrs. C. M. Hairfield, Mrs. Etta Peters, and Mrs. Ada Floyd, Roanoke.

CLOY M. BOWER
Cloy Moore Bower, 64, died this week at his home near Christiansburg, this week. Among his survivors is a daughter, Mrs. Rosa Katherine Pratt, of Salem.

ARTHUR L. FRALIN
Funeral services for Arthur Lee Fralin, 23, of Roanoke, who died as the result of an automobile accident in Salem this week, were conducted by the Rev. Jesse E. Davis and Frank Gilbert on Tuesday. Interment was in Fairview.

MRS. GAYE M. NICHOLS
A former Salemite, Mrs. Gaye Manning Nichols, 49, died this week at her home in Hopewell. Funeral and burial took place there.

She is survived by her husband, Tyree A. Nichols; six children, her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Manning, Salem; four sisters and two brothers: Mrs. Gerlie Hale, Bent Mountain, Mrs. Minnie Duncan, Salem; Mrs. Odessa Bolling and Mrs. Laura Walton, Roanoke; Samuel Manning and James R. Manning, Salem.

SANDRA D. BOHON
Last rites for Sandra Darlene Bohon, 11, of the County, who died this week, were conducted at the Bonack Methodist Church by the Rev. James D. Burford. Interment was in Evergreen.

Palbearers were J. L. Shocklett, Jr., E. L. McDaniel, Delbert Wilson, R. L. Gibson, J. L. Chewing and John A. Parks.

For **SHERIFF**
of Roanoke County
J. D. Altizer
Subjected To Democratic Primary
July 12, 1955
Your Vote And Influence Appreciated
Deputy Sheriff From 1947 to 1953



Ford gives you more

Ford's Thunderbird styling and new Trigger-Torque power put it on a par with cars costing hundreds of dollars more. And even most of these cars don't offer such Ford advances as baked-enamel finishes, new anti-fouling spark plugs and Ford's gas-saving Automatic Power Pilot.

It has that Thunderbird look!

In every one of Ford's 16 body selections, you can trace the exciting lines of America's fastest-selling personal car—the Ford Thunderbird.

It has Trigger-Torque take-off!

Ford acts like the Thunderbird, too! All three of Ford's mighty engines offer the swift response of Trigger-Torque power.

It has interiors seen for the first time in any car!

Ford's rich Luxury Lounge interiors show further marks of the Thunderbird's good taste and workmanship.

It has a new Angle-Poised Ride!

This year, Ford's Ball-Joint Suspension has been angled back to iron out even tiny flaws in the road! No car in Ford's price class can match this new Angle-Poised Ride.

Advances galore make it America's worth-more car!

Ford's deep-block engines . . . 10% larger brakes . . . 5-cross-member frame . . . Center-Fill Fueling—are all extra dividends found in no other car at Ford's price.



FORD the new BEST SELLER... sells more because it's worth more!

Sample a Ford and you'll want it for keeps

FORD

SEE YOUR LOCAL FORD DEALER



Want to make your pie extra-good, extra-pretty? While the top crust is warm, sprinkle it with

Arbuckle's
Confectioners
XXXXXX
SUGAR

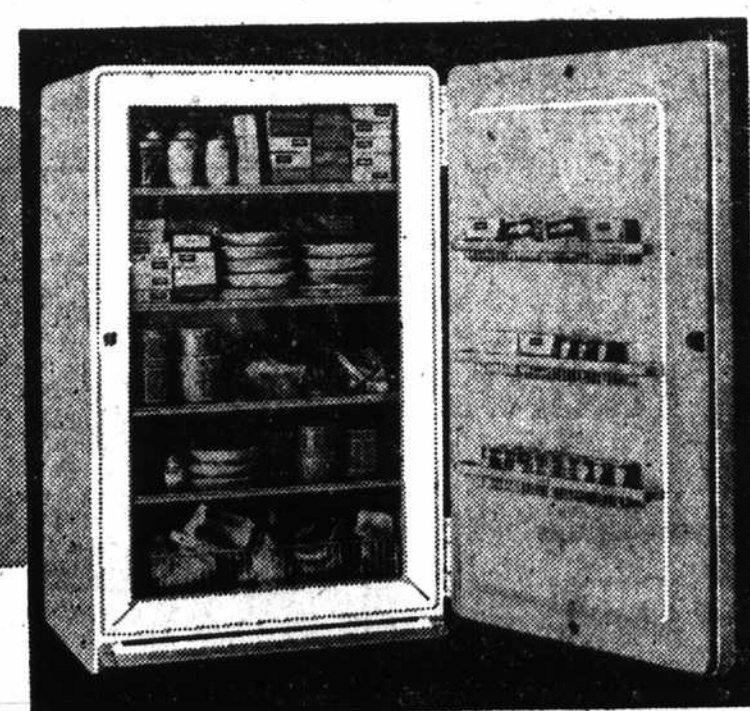


Look at this Economy!

New UNICO Economy UPRIGHT FREEZER

FULL 16 CU. FT. OF STORAGE

Only
\$339.00



- Family size—holds over 1/4 ton of frozen foods • 3 door shelves
- Cold clear to floor • All aluminum liner • Warning light • Toe access plate • Dependable Tecumseh compressor unit • Fiberglass insulation • 5 year warranty

See this new economy freezer today!

Salem Farm Supply Corp.

Phone 2501

Salem, Va.



YOUR SOUTHERN STATES COOPERATIVE SERVICE AGENCY