

Total Desegregation Ordered By 1969-70 Not To Affect Hertford

Schools Here Move As Planned

Bertie Integration Order

WINDSOR - Acting under court order issued orally Friday in the chambers of Judge John Larkins in Trenton, Bertie County school officials are putting into action a two-step integration program that will completely eliminate dual schools in the county by 1969-70.

The first phase of the order, which has not yet been signed by Judge Larkins and may be subject to further revision, involves grades eight through 12. Previously predominantly white Bertie High School will be the county's lone high school facility for students in grades 10 through 12.

This action does away with all-Negro Southwestern High School and all-Negro C. G. White High School at Powellsville. It is expected that enrollment at Bertie High will be approximately 1,350.

Former Southwestern High School will be converted into a junior high school for grades eight and nine. These students are to be drawn from all the county's schools with estimated enrollment being 1,200.

Facilities are not sufficient to handle this enrollment and Superintendent J. L. Dupree said some eighth grades will not be transferred until the new eight-classroom addition is completed. This means those eighth graders involved will start their year at the school to which they were assigned under the freedom of choice plan last spring.

Dupree added that transfer of these classes later in the year will not disrupt their studies since the groups will be moved as a unit with their teachers.

An enrollment of 1,350 at Bertie High almost doubles the capacity for which the school was built five years ago. An eight-classroom addition, also under construction there, will not be complete in time for school opening.

Dupree said five mobile classrooms now located at Powellsville will be moved to Bertie High but it may not be possible to relocate all of them by the time school opens.

Elton Lee Newbern Jr. is to continue as principal of Bertie High. J. S. Singleton Jr. is to be principal of Southwestern Junior High. There has been no assistant principal named at either school.

School bus routes, some of which were published in last week's edition of the Ledger, are now void and are to be completely reworked. Principal Newbern asked that those who already read their assignments disregard those listed and watch for a new and complete list just prior to school opening in late August. Previous bus routes also involved Windsor Elementary School students and they will be changed in the new listing also.

Faced with a multitude of problems and questions, teachers, supervisors and principals already on the job are making every effort to make the transition into one high school as smooth as possible.

It will be necessary for students to re-register for classes with registrations completed in the spring no longer being valid.

SPORTS CONCERN

Of a secondary concern, but nevertheless a concern for many, is what this will mean to the athletic program. Determined by the size of the school, Bertie would now be in 4A athletics. Not only does this involve problems about distance to games but this involves decisions about sports participation due to practice problems in a rural area vs. that of city areas which will provide the competition. Bertie was already eligible to play in 3A sports but had dropped back to 2A because of being a rural school.

There also is the question of girls' athletics since there are no girls' basketball teams in 4A competition. It looks now

as if Bertie will no longer be able to participate in Albemarle Conference competition, but it may be that the coaching staff, headed by athletic director Jerry Smith, will know more about the situation when they return from a coaching clinic at Greensboro. They were to be there four days this week.

An athletic program and other extra-curricular activities for the new junior high school will have to be planned and announced as they are developed.

Under the proposed order all school programs, activities and functions are to be on an integrated basis and the board is to take such steps as may be necessary to see that such programs and functions are conducted and carried out without regard to race or color.

ELEMENTARY PLAN

On or before January 1, 1969, the Board of Education must prepare and file with the court a plan of school desegregation providing for the complete elimination of the dual school system with respect to pupil and faculty assignments, facilities, transportation and other school activities. This plan, when approved by the court, is to be effective with the commencement of the 1969-70 school year.

The plan is to prescribe unitary, non-racial, geographic attendance zones or consolidation of grades or schools or some combination of these and pupil assignments may not depend upon a choice to be exercised by or on behalf of the pupils.

At this point emphasis is being placed on preparation for the junior high and high school phase and no plans for elementary schools have been announced. Freedom of choice assignments for elementary students will remain as they have been made for this year.

Judge Larkins has freed school officials from terms of an oral agreement arising from a request by the United States Justice Department for a temporary injunction concerning faculty integration.

The federal suit was first filed in July of last year and in early fall there was filed the request for a temporary injunction concerning faculty desegregation. Judge Larkins allowed the Bertie Board of Education to make as many transfers across racial lines as possible on a voluntary basis and there was a stipulation that all replacement teachers hired had to be across the color line.

Superintendent Dupree said the board is now free to hire the most qualified teachers available regardless of race. He feels this will relieve to some degree the difficulty in finding qualified teachers.

Nevertheless the order stipulates that principals, teachers and other professional staff members shall not be discriminatorily assigned, dismissed, demoted or passed over for retention, promotion or rehiring on the ground of race or color.

In any instance where a staff member is to be displaced as a result of desegregation, no vacancy shall be filled through recruitment from outside of the system unless no such displaced staff member is qualified to fill the vacancy. If, as a result of desegregation, there is to be a reduction in the total professional staff of the school system, the qualifications of all the staff members in the system shall be evaluated in selecting the staff member to be released without consideration of race or color.

The Bertie Board of Education has been represented in the court case by attorneys W. L. Cooke of Windsor and Ed Rodman of Washington, N. C. Francis H. Kennedy is the Justice Department attorney.

WINTON - It is not expected that a federal court order outlined last Friday for Bertie County which will result in total integration of Bertie high schools this fall will have any immediate effect on plans for Hertford County schools this fall, it was learned here Tuesday.

One change the court order will bring about that will be noted this fall in Hertford County, although a minor one, is that the Ahsokie High School versus Bertie High School football game will not affect the outcome of the Albemarle Conference championship.

Under terms of the court order being required of Bertie County by federal District Judge John D. Larkins in Trenton, all 10th, 11th and 12th grade students in Bertie County will attend Bertie High this fall.

Total enrollment of Bertie High will be in the neighborhood of 1,350. This is enough to make the school eligible to compete in 4-A athletics. The Albemarle Conference is a 2-A league.

It is anticipated the enlargement of Bertie High School will

Mrs. K. B. Scull Funeral Monday

CONWAY - Mrs. Lillie Mann Scull, 82, the widow of K. B. Scull, died Saturday in Roanoke Rapids Hospital.

A native of Northampton County, she was a daughter of John and Mrs. Jane Martin Mann.

She was a member of Renoboth Methodist Church.

Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Jane Lane of Conway and Mrs. Elsie Jackson of Richmond; a son, K. B. Scull Jr. of Tampa, Fla.; a brother, Aubrey Mann of Suffolk; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were Monday at 3 p.m. in Conway Methodist Church by the Rev. Robert Baldrige and the Rev. Russell Wimber. Burial was in Conway Cemetery with Bridgers Funeral Home in charge.

Martin Comes Home; His Roots Go Deep

WINTON - His roots deep in Hertford and Northampton County soil, Robert McKinney Martin came back to Hertford County last week as presiding judge for the July session of Superior Court.

Born and reared in Conway, Martin was appointed to the Superior Court bench in July and has been sitting as a special judge where needed.

His mother was reared in Murfreesboro, educated at Chowan College and taught at Milwaukee in Northampton County, where his father met her.

The father was Robert McKinney Martin Sr., native of Martins Crossroads, no longer shown on Northampton County maps, with the family tract one that had been handed down through the family after coming as a grant. Judge Martin, his father and his grandfather were reared on the land, now part of Conway.

Judge Martin's mother was Sadie Katherine Parker, daughter of John Parker of the area of where Ahsokie now stands, and whose wife was Catherine Lane, daughter of George W. Lane. Judge Martin attended Northampton County schools and received his law education at Wake Forest and went into practice at High Point in 1938 where he spent the next 30 years.

His parents are dead and three

sisters live in Maryland, so that the judge, who was the only boy, recently has had very little personal contact with the area that he once knew as home.

Last Easter, he reminisced, he was through the area where he has numerous cousins and other relatives for the first time in recent years.

It was pleasant coming back for the court session and he was welcomed by old friends and the Hertford County Bar Association took special cognizance of his return as a circuit judge.

Thursday, the Bar Association passed a resolution praising the "outstanding judicial temperament and skill" exercised by Judge Martin.

Too, the resolution commended Judge Martin for "his courtesy to members of the bar and those appearing in court."

The resolution was concluded: NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hertford County Bar highly commends Robert M. Martin for his judicious dispatch of cases coming before him at this term of Hertford County Superior Court and for the fairness, justice and mercy of his judgments pronounced at said term.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be made a part of the minutes of this term of Superior Court, and that

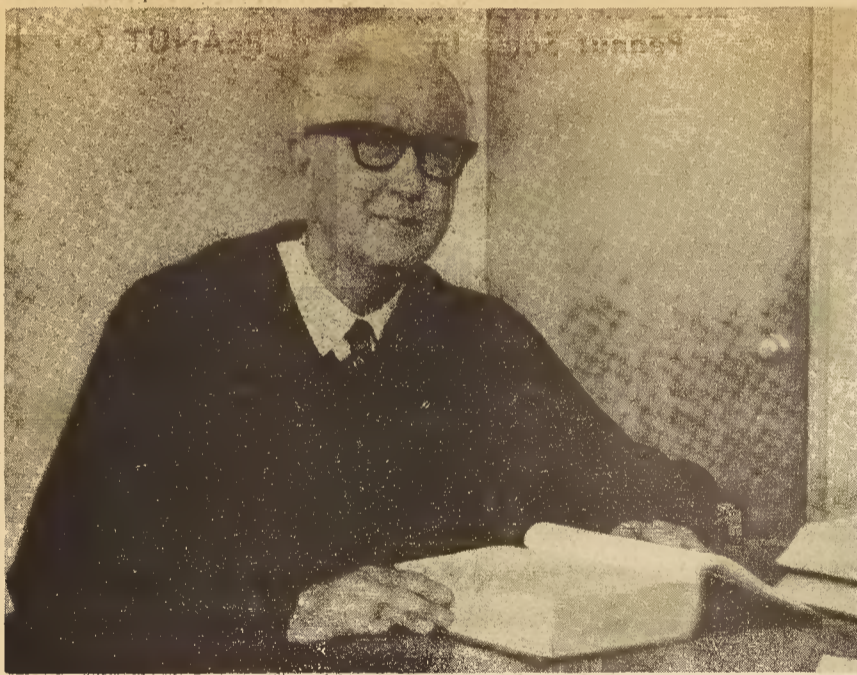
a copy be mailed to His Excellency, Dan K. Moore, Governor of North Carolina, and that a copy be mailed to The High Point Enterprise, High Point, North Carolina.

This 25th day of July, 1968. Carter W. Jones, Chairman of the Hertford County Bar

It was read in open court and spread on the court record.

Judge Martin will sit the next three weeks in Winston-Salem.

He spends his weekends when weather permits at Lake Badin, in the western part of the state, where he keeps his boat.



Judge Robert McKinney Martin

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Parker Named To 2 Posts; Kuralt High On N. C. Press

WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH - North Carolina and her newspapers have a high national rating in the opinion of a distinguished television news correspondent and native Tar Heel.

He is Charles Kuralt, a veteran CBS news commentator who was born in Wilmington and spent his school age years in Onslow County. His comparison of his home state and home press is made on the basis of personal observations during a year's travel throughout the United States.

"North Carolina's industrial growth, its higher standard of living and other good things happening to it, make it quite different from what it was when I was a kid in Eastern North Carolina,"

But he added, "The state always has had several things that make her great - generosity, friendliness, good humor and a good feeling among people of different races."

He explained that he did not

always find these characteristics everywhere he visited around the nation. "I hope North Carolina will always have these things going for her," he said.

Kuralt, who lives in New York City now and is in his 12th year as a television news correspondent, also compared the North Carolina press most favorably. "Taken as a whole," Kuralt said, "North Carolina has the best newspapers of any state I've ever visited."

He said some of the state's newspapers "may be clunkers, but as a group, they are the best I've seen." Kuralt attributed much of the state's steady progress over the years to the state's newspapers. "The papers are not afraid to lead the people," he said.

His observations have the added significance and depth of his early background as a journalism student at the University of North Carolina and a newsman for the Charlotte News for two years.

pared with the previous year. Presumably, if the progress is not felt sufficient, other changes might be required after school begins in the fall. Unless any such changes would preclude it, as of now plans for Hertford County schools are to operate on the basis of the freedom of choice requests students made last spring when county schools open in early September. The Bertie court order is not expected to effect these plans so far as Hertford County school officials know now.

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