

— Integration Was Big News —

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cause their children had to ride 104 miles a day in school buses, 52 miles each way.

When the applications for transfer were made public there were rumors of Tennessee-type recommitments against them in the form of evictions from their homes. But most of them turned out to be salaried UNC employees.

On February 9 the County Board of Education denied their request, giving as its reason that no reassignment had been requested for the children within ten days of the time the parents were notified of their children's school assignments in June of 1960. The Board also said that by State law three of the children were too young to be assigned to any school.

The Board declared itself "not legally obligated to consider the applications for reassignment at this time."

At a March 6 hearing on the matter the children, now represented by Durham attorney Floyd McKissick, were again denied their request in a statement the Board had prepared before

the hearing. On April 4 A. H. Graham, attorney for the County School Board, recommended closing the White Cross School.

"It's a lost cause before we start," said Mr. Graham, and suggested that litigation over the matter, which seemed imminent, would be eliminated by consolidating the White Cross and Aycock elementaries. The County's 10-year school improvement program called for the eventual closing of White Cross School anyway.

On May 1 the County School Board decided to close the White Cross School at the end of the year and transfer its 75 white pupils to the Cameron Park School in West Hillsboro.

Meanwhile, four days after the White Cross controversy began, picketing began at the Carolina Theater.

Some local Negroes had asked the Chapel Hill Ministerial Association to negotiate with Carolina Theatre manager E. Carrington Smith for permission to attend a showing of the film "Porgy and Bess," which had an

all-Negro cast. Mr. Smith refused, but offered instead to reserve the last Saturday night showing of the film for Negroes only.

The Ministerial Association declined the offer, and 11 of its members, eight of them white, announced that they were boycotting the theatre—as individuals, not as members of the Association.

The picketing, by both white and Negro sympathizers with the Negro cause, began Friday, January 9. The next night two white UNC students who heckled the picketers were picked up by police. One was let off with a warning. The other was charged with public drunkenness.

The picketing continued, and negotiations with the theater managers began, and on January 19 Andy Gutierrez, manager of the Varsity Theater, announced that he would not integrate his theater. Mr. Smith also said he would stick to his non-integration policy.

On Sunday, February 12, about sixty Negroes marched down Franklin Street singing hymns and stopped in front of the Town Hall, where they prayed for an end to racial discrimination.

Except for some shouts from four UNC students, they drew little attention. They were escorted by police, who halted traffic while the parade crossed streets.

On February 23 a negotiating committee of picketers, who had formed themselves into a then-unnamed organization, failed to persuade either theater manager to integrate. The picketing continued.

In March there were two attacks on the picketers. Richard Proescher, a white UNC student, was attacked by two youths while picketing the Varsity. The police car which had been standing by to keep an eye on the picketers had been called away to investigate what subsequently turned out to be a false report of an exhibitionist at Spencer Dormitory. On March 29 J. M. Cudrin, another white UNC graduate student, was attacked in front of the Bank of Chapel Hill after having been relieved from the picket line. Roy Anderson Jones of Carrboro and James ("Hoot") Brockwell of Graham were arrested for the attack shortly afterward.

The next day the picketers, who had by then formed into the Citizens Committee for Open Movies, called an indefinite halt to the picketing. They had conferred with William Enloe, Mayor of Raleigh and district manager of North Carolina Theater Industries Inc., who said he would try to effect integration at the Carolina Theater but did not want to attempt this under the pressure of picketing.

Mr. Enloe said a few days later that he saw no possibility of an immediate change in the theater situation, but did not rule out the possibility of any change at all.

In mid-August two Negro UNC students attended "The Dark at the Top of the Stairs" at the Carolina. This marked the beginning of the Carolina's limited integration: UNC students only.

on presentation of ID cards. The Varsity made no change in its integration policy at this time. Mr. Enloe said the Carolina's integration was the first by a North Carolina theater.

On November 12 picketing was begun again at the Varsity Theater only. There was no noticeable effect on attendance at the theater. On November 27 limited integration was put into effect at the Varsity, and the picketing was suspended.

As of now the months of negotiation between the Open Movies committee and the theater managers have resulted in unlimited integration at the Varsity, and admission of Negro students, their wives, families, and dates at the Carolina.

On July 2 the Chapel Hill School Board made the Chapel Hill School District the first in the Deep South to instigate voluntarily a purely geographical pupil assignment plan.

The news stories said "first-to approve" at the time, but while the plan was widely approved in Chapel Hill, it was not entirely approved.

Carrboro protested the plan strenuously, despite a motion by newly-elected School Board member Dr. Fred Ellis that the Carrboro School be assigned the smallest possible number of Negro pupils.

At that meeting the School Board tentatively accepted proposed individual school district boundaries suggested by Superintendent Joseph Johnston. At a July 7 meeting, however, new district lines were drawn, which the Board frankly admitted were gerrymandered to favor the Carrboro School. The new lines put 8 to 10 first grade pupils in the Carrboro School, 21 to 23 in Glenwood, 11 plus three second graders assigned as first graders last year in the Estes Hills School, and 13 white children at Northside. The new lines meant that Negro students living half a mile from Carrboro School were sent to the Glenwood School four miles away.

One eighth grade student, Ted Stone, was the only one of three in upper grades whose request for assignment to the Chapel Hill Junior High School was granted.

A delegation of Carrboro citizens at the July 7 meeting advised "more caution" in the plan, preferring token integration only.

It was also at this meeting that architect Herman Babh, who died the next day, was taken suddenly ill.

Glenwood district residents organized to protest the gerrymandering in the geographical plan, saying they were not against integration but were not in favor of Glenwood getting more Negroes than any other school.

The Human Relations Commission supported the plan. A group of ministers supported the plan.

A group of Carrboro citizens organized to oppose the whole geographical assignment plan, regardless of how the lines were drawn.

Within a few days there were two petitions circulating in the Glenwood area: one protecting the district lines (but not requesting specific action by the Board "at this time"); the other, backed by 12 to 15 people, supporting the Board's action.

On July 26, at a meeting of several hundred people, the School Board considered 59 reassignment requests. The results of their decisions brought integration up to the ninth grade level in the Chapel Hill Junior High School, and to the third grade in Glenwood.

Various pro and con feelings were expressed at the meeting from Glenwood citizens as a body and from individuals.

The geographical assignment plan is now in effect as originally drawn up by the Board.

In September the schools opened with a record enrollment of more than 8,350 in the county, and 3,796 in Chapel Hill. Within a week the Chapel Hill enrollment topped 3,800. The geographical plan worked smoothly. No incidents were reported.

Another "first" came as a result of integration in Carrboro, however. Carrboro watch repairman Reece Birmingham applied to the School Board for a State tuition grant to send his two daughters to a private school in Durham. The daughters had been assigned to the Carrboro School. After lengthy debate, the Board granted his request.

Mr. Birmingham's tuition grant request was the first in the State since the Pearsall Plan was enacted in North Carolina in 1954, and the State was not quite ready to act on it. A list of "accredited" private, nonsectarian schools in the State must be compiled first. This is under way now.

One other racial event was the one-man sit-in staged by Duke student Edward Opton the morning of June 19 at the Chapel Hill Bus Station Grill.

Leo Eliadis, proprietor of the Grill, found Mr. Opton drinking a cup of coffee in the Negro section of the Grill and asked him to leave. Mr. Opton refused. Chapel Hill police were called, and after Mr. Opton again refused to leave he was arrested and charged with trespass.

Legal complications delayed his trial until mid-autumn. Re-

order's Court Judge William Stewart heard the case and found Mr. Opton guilty of trespass. Mr. Opton, who was represented by Floyd McKissick, appealed his case to Orange Superior Court. His trial there is pending a U. S. Supreme Court ruling on a case similar to his and many others which is expected to set a precedent for deciding such trespass cases one way or another.

Politically, too, it was a busy year in Chapel Hill.

A round of elections began on March 13 when Orange County voters approved a \$1.5 Million school bond issue as the first step in the ten-year plan for bringing Orange Schools up to both par and date.

The bond issue passed by 2,837 to 1,513. Chapel Hill and Hillsboro voted favorably. Carrboro and the County's 12 rural precincts voted against it.

Chapel Hill's 56 per cent share, \$840,000, will be used to build a new junior high school, an elementary school in the Smith Level area, and to renovate Northside School.

Hillsboro will use its \$660,000 to build a consolidated County high school.

The ten-year plan actually calls for \$71 million, but the remaining \$4.5 million will be provided out of current funds at a rate of \$200,000 a year.

Chapel Hill also elected town officials this year. On February 27 Mayor O. K. Cornwell announced that he would not run for re-election and within a week Sandy McClamroch, then in his first term as an alderman, announced his candidacy for mayor.

During succeeding weeks George Barclay, Joe Page, Robert Pace, and Hilliard Caldwell announced their candidacies for alderman; and incumbents Mrs. Harold Walters, Paul Wager, and Hubert Robinson announced for re-election.

William Stewart bid for re-election as Recorder's Court Judge. School Board candidates were Dr. Richard Peters, Dr. Fred Ellis, Mrs. Ross Scroggs, William Cherry, Earle Wallace, Mrs. Jesse West, and B. A. Hof J.; incumbent Richard Jamerson also put in his bid.

In Carrboro, the political field shifted and grew. Gordon Fisher, A. B. Poole, Wiley Franklin, Noble Tolbert, Carl Bradshaw, and Robert Tilden announced their candidacies for the Board of Commissioners. Before the election, Mr. Tilden withdrew and was replaced by E. Bynum Riggsbee. Incumbents Mayor C. T. Ellington and Commissioners Ralph Morgan and E. O. Hardee also announced.

The results:

Mrs. Scroggs, Dr. Ellis, and Dr. Peters were elected to the School Board. Mr. Cherry lost by two votes.

Mrs. Walters, Dr. Wager, and Mr. Robinson were re-elected as aldermen.

Mr. McClamroch was elected Mayor (there were some interesting write-in choices of other people), and Mr. Page was chosen by the Aldermen to take his place on the Board.

In Carrboro, Mayor Ellington was re-elected without opposition; Mr. Morgan and Mr. Hardee were re-elected Commissioners; and Mr. Franklin and Mr. Poole were elected to replace the other two incumbents who had not filed.

In the same election, Chapel Hill approved \$160,000 in bonds for the alteration of the Town Hall, purchase of the triangular lot between the Airport Road, North Columbia Street, and Stephens Street, and the construction there of the first unit of a new municipal center. The aldermen officially agreed on August 13 to make the purchase.

The third appearance of voters at polls this year was on November 7, when Chapel Hillians turned out to be among the few in the State to approve the proposed \$61.5 million Statewide bond issue.

In spite of weeks of publicity and committees drumming up support, the rural areas all went against all ten items in the bond issue—though the County as a whole carried 8 of the 10.

Passage of the bond issue would have meant the expenditure of about \$6 million in improvements and expansion of the University, and a University payroll increase of \$1.5 million.

Some of the University's improvements and expansion projects will be carried out despite the failure of the bonds.

Among the most heated—and intricate—controversies of the past year were those arising out of zoning and land use problems. There were four major incidents in this category: the Morgan Creek bridge dispute, the Town House apartment project dispute, the Duke Power line dispute, and the Masterbilt Homes commercial-housing project dispute. The latter two are as yet unresolved.

In early April 95 residents of Kings Mill Road, Sourwood Drive, Ashe Place, Coker Drive, and Morgan Creek Road all petitioned the Planning Board to forbid construction of a bridge across Morgan Creek to Ashe Place. The bridge was part of a preliminary sketch of developer William Hunt's proposed Laurel Hill subdivision and would have

made major accesses out of unpaved roads in a residential area.

The petitioning residents claimed access could be provided to the subdivision from the Farrington Road.

In early May engineer Robert Ayres, representing Mr. Hunt, submitted another preliminary sketch to the Planning Board, in which the bridge was not shown and access to the subdivision was provided via Farrington Road. At the same meeting, however, Pearson Stewart asked the Planning Board to approve extension of the Chapel Hill Thoroughfare Plan into the Morgan Creek area. The Thoroughfare Plan also provided access to the Laurel Hill subdivision, but it and Mr. Ayres' road did not coincide. Mr. Hunt had indicated, but had made no commitment, that he favored the Thoroughfare Plan, but the Planning Board sent Mr. Ayres back to persuade Mr. Hunt to decide exactly what he planned and re-submit that at a later meeting.

At the end of May the Planning Board approved another sketch with the stipulation that provision for the bridge be included, but only as a possibility, to assure buyers in Laurel Hill that they could have access to their land.

On June 12 the Board of Aldermen approved the sketch but refused to accept the Planners' stipulation as to the bridge since, it turned out, no right of way had been provided across the 20-foot strip between the end of Ashe Place and Morgan Creek.

In the meantime, the Town House tussle was already in progress.

On May 8 it was revealed that Durham developer Abe Greenberg had contracted with the Harris Land Co. to buy 13.2 acres in the wooded valley at the east end of East Rosemary Street as a site for a \$1.1 million development. The development would have housed 104 apartments in 13 two-story buildings.

Immediately opposition appeared. An appeal by attorney John Manning for residents of the area brought revocation of the building permit for ten of the 13 buildings, because there was insufficient square footage in the site to accommodate the buildings proposed under the requirements of RA-10 zoning.

Other nearby residents requested upzoning the area to RA-20.

The developers changed their plans to reduce the number of units and the revoked building permit was reissued. But the Board of adjustment, appealed to by the residents, upheld the

appeal and the developers resorted to application to the Aldermen for a special use permit.

The bone of contention was whether the buildings conformed to RA-10 square footage requirements. If covered walkways, which were planned, could be considered sufficient to render 13 buildings as one, the project conformed. If not, it didn't.

Late in May the Planning Board recommended denial of the upzoning request, saying it was apparent that the reason for the request was to prevent a landowner from using his land as presently zoned.

However, the Aldermen, after referring the developers' request for a special use permit to the Planning Board, declined the Planners' recommendation on upzoning and approved the upzoning of the Tenney Circle area from RA-10 to RA-20, thus preventing construction of the Town House as it was planned.

On June 27 an ordinance to this effect was passed. But by then the entire Planning Board had resigned, questioning whether the present planning system (still in effect with a new Board) served a useful purpose, and claiming that many of their recommendations in the past had been ignored.

They recommended that a four-man planning sub-committee be appointed to assist a professional, full-time planner.

At the end of June the Aldermen appointed a brand-new, ten-man Planning Board.

On July 7 the new Planning Board recommended denial of the requested special use permit. On July 11 the Aldermen upheld the recommended denial.

On August 15 the Board of Adjustment upheld an appeal against the building permit for the remainder of the Town House.

The developers then took out a new building permit for a new site, between the Airport Road and Hillsboro Street. Progress at this new site was momentarily delayed while G. S. Baldwin and John Manning objected; differences were ironed out, however, and construction went ahead at the new site. During the summer the Duke Power line dispute began.

The University agreed to cooperate with Duke Power in bringing in additional power for Chapel Hill via a power transmission line. Duke Power settled on a route which ran close to the south bank of Morgan Creek. Morgan Creek residents objected. Duke Power began condemnation proceedings against the residents, since it was unable

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