

Straight from the Shoulder — Right from the Heart of Duplin

VOL. 21, NO. 23 Section 1

KENANSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 1954

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The Non-Segregation Declaration Of The United States Supreme Court

The United States Supreme Court on May 17 handed down a 13-page unanimous declaration that race segregation in the public schools is unconstitutional and eventually must be ended.

Facts presented to the court showed that seventeen states have laws requiring separation of the races in the schools, plus three states permitting, but not requiring, segregation, plus the District of Columbia.

The states whose laws require segregation were listed for the court as Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia. States with permissive segregation listed as New Mexico, Wyoming and Kansas.

As the declaration of the court is a declaration of policy for future implementation, the court withheld a formal order and called for further arguments this fall on the question of how the declaration shall be carried out.

The court asked the Attorneys General of the United States and the twenty affected States to present arguments this fall on four questions.

The four questions submitted are: (1) Shall Negro children be admitted without further delay to schools of their choice? (2) Should school districts be allowed time for a gradual transition to a non-segregated status? (3) Should the Supreme Court appoint a special master to hear evidence and recommend specific terms of decrees to be entered by the court? (4) Should the high court send the segregation cases back to the lower courts with instructions to frame decrees for implementation of the non-segregation decision; if so, what procedure should the lower courts follow in arriving at specific terms of the decrees?

How many of the Attorneys General of the twenty affected States will present arguments to the court is a matter of conjecture. The court set October 1 as a deadline for filing briefs.

At present there is no order or view of the United States Supreme Court putting the non-segregation declaration into effect. And until such orders or decrees are promulgated the court decision stands only as a declaration of policy for future implementation.

The declaration of non-segregation came as a climax of about thirty years of effort by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to have the "separate but equal" idea set aside.

The NAACP based its argument against segregated schools on the fourteenth amendment to the constitution, which says that no state may deprive any person of the equal protection of the laws. The amendment was enacted in 1868, after the Civil War, to wipe out the Supreme Court's famed Dred Scott decision that a Negro was not a citizen.

The test cases were first argued before the nine Supreme Court justices in December, 1952. These cases came to the court from South Carolina, Virginia, Kansas, Delaware, and the District of Columbia, where the school system operates under laws passed by Congress.

Last June the court ordered more arguments dealing largely with the history and meaning of the fourteenth amendment and the court's powers under it.

The decision of May 17 overturned the segregation doctrine established by the Supreme Court fifty-seven years ago. The opinion, read by Chief Justice Warren, after reviewing a long line of decisions bearing on the "separate but equal" doctrine, said: "We come then to the question presented: Does segregation of children in public schools solely on the basis of race, even though the physical facilities and other 'tangible' factors may be equal, deprive the children of the minority group of equal educational opportunities? We believe that it does."

The court's opinion said: "We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of separate but equal has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal. Therefore, we hold that the plaintiffs (Negro parents) and other similarly situated for whom the action has been brought are, by reason of the segregation clause of the laws guaranteed by the fourteenth amendment. This clause makes unnecessary any discussion whether such segregation also violates the due process clause of the fourteenth amendment."

Chief Justice Warren, in the schools of those words, "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal" meant simply that no matter how equal the educational facilities, if they were kept separate, then, the quality of the educational opportunities could not be equal.

Robert Hamer Escapes Gas Chamber

Gov. Umstead yesterday commuted the rape-death sentence of Robert Hamer, 29-year-old Negro to life imprisonment.

It was the first commutation issued by the Governor on the recommendation of the three-member Paroles Board sworn into office last Aug. 1. Hamer was scheduled to die Friday.

He was convicted in Duplin Superior Court in September, 1953, of raping a teen-age housewife a few days after he had escaped from the Duplin County Prison Camp. The State Supreme Court upheld his conviction.

Judge W. A. Brame, a member of the Paroles Board, said an investigation showed the woman "didn't know whether she has been raped or not."

He said Dr. Clarence H. Patrick, head of the Paroles Board, and Johnson Matthews, personally investigated. They found, said Brame, that the house in which the attack took place "looked like a tobacco pack house, a place in which an escaped convict might try to seek shelter." He added it "might appear to be barren and vacant" to a man on escape and apparently the attack was "unplanned and unpremeditated."

A brief announcement from the Governor's office said Umstead had read the record of the case. "After reading the record the Governor requested the State Board of Paroles to make a careful and thorough investigation of this case. The board has done so and all of the members of the board have recommended to the Governor that the sentence of Robert Hamer be commuted from death to life imprisonment."

"Acting upon this recommendation the Governor today commuted the sentence of Robert Hamer from death to life imprisonment."

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Duplin Men Enlisted A.A.F.

The following Duplin County men were enlisted by Sgt. E. H. Allen, local Army and Air Force Recruiting Sergeant.

Wilbert W. Kennedy, Route 2, Faison; Johnnie R. Artis, Warsaw and Gerald D. Hardison, Wallace. The above men were enlisted in the U.S. Army for three years and were sent to Fort Jackson, S. C. for basic training.

Robert L. Beatty, Warsaw, was re-enlisted in the Regular Army for three years. He formerly served two years in the Army including some time in Japan and Korea. He was sent to Fort Jackson, S. C. for further assignment.

Poultry Field Day Willard - June 16th.

Poultry Field Day will be held at the Coastal Plain Station, Willard, North Carolina on June 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Lectures, discussions and demonstrations will be given by well informed persons. Dinner will be available at the Test Farm. The morning session will be under the direction of J. W. Sumner, Assistant Director in Charge. Opening remarks will be made by J. W. Sumner. Controlling Diseases lecture will be given by H. W. Garren; What to Buy for Layers by E. W. Glazener; Cage Layers; My Experience by Harvey Whitley; As I See Them by T. B. Morris; Airing Your Problems by R. S. Dearstynes.

The afternoon demonstration will be in charge of C. F. Parrish who will conduct the tours. The speakers are: Housing for Poultry in Eastern Carolina, W. G. Andrews; Controlling Cannibalism, W. L. Blow; Preparing Eggs for Market, W. T. Chaffin, Jr.; Finishing Turkeys for Market, W. C. Mills, Jr. with Special Interest Demonstration; Judging Poultry by T. B. Morris.

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Graduates Davidson

Alfred D. Wells of Albemarle received the B. S. degree at the 117th Commencement Exercises held at Davidson College, May 21.

Wells is the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Wells.

Chancellor Rufus H. Fitzgerald, president of the Association of American Colleges, delivered the Commencement address and the degrees were awarded by President John R. Cunningham.



"EMBRACING" WESTERN IDEAS—Some of the 1450 political prisoners of Nationalist China throw their arms wide during morning exercises on their prison island off the coast of Formosa. The detention camp, known as "Home of the Reborn," houses the one-time Communists, suspected Communists, and fellow-travelers until their political re-education is completed.

A Success Story

The story below was taken from a State Rehabilitation magazine. When he was nine Paul fell, breaking his back, an accident which was to change his entire life. He was not old enough to realize the full import of being paralyzed from the waist down, a condition known in medical terms as paraplegia. Seven years later when he was discharged from the North Carolina Orthopedic Hospital at Gastonia, this word and all its drastic implications were fully understood. Paul was never again to run and play as is the normal right of every American child. Instead, he was to become all too familiar with operating rooms and the surgeon's knife. It is pretty rough to leave home and the family at the age of nine, especially to enter a distant hospital alone, with Mom and Dad not there to give assurance. The outlook seemed hopeless to a small boy. However, at the hospital, in addition to the medical treatment rendered, the understanding care of Dr. Bill Roberts and his capable staff did much to alleviate his fears and make life bearable.

Paul was molded of the stuff of which champions are made. He had bad moments, but he never gave up. At times life seemed hopeless but faith in his doctors and nurses, and their faith in him pulled him through. He was able to continue his school work while in the hospital without much loss. Several major operations were performed and endless hours of physiotherapy were endured during his stay at the Gastonia Orthopedic Hospital.

When he returned home to his family and friends in Mount Olive, he was again with his old gang. True, he could not play and actively engage in sports but he was not to be left out. The basketball team elected him manager, and on the bench he played just as hard as the players. However, his troubles were not over. He developed decubitus ulcers which required surgery. He began the first of many long treks back to the hospital that were to drain off his father's savings and utilize the limit of hospital days that could be provided by Vocational Rehabilitation. The going was hard. About this time Paul began to realize, too, that sometimes, somehow, he would have to make it on his own. "Some people make a living without legs or hands," he reasoned. "Why can't I? It's the mind—how well it's trained and in what channels it is directed—the 'courts'!" This proved a wise philosophy for Paul and carried him far.

While he was writing for the high school paper, the sports writer of the Goldsboro News-Argus asked him for write-ups of games. Later he wanted more, so Paul became a space writer, and a good one. In time the editor became interested and engendered in Paul a desire to go to college. Vocational Rehabilitation then entered the picture. Acquaintance had been made with Paul through Dr. Roberts and the counselor was only waiting for the opportune time to start a rehabilitation program. Paul now wanted to go to college. His amateur success in journalism had provided the spark to ignite his imagination, but he needed help to keep it burning.

In September, following high school graduation, Paul enrolled in Mars Hill College to further his journalistic aspirations. His career lay ahead, but there were many, many hospital days and numerous surgical procedures to be undergone before he could reach his goal. This did not keep Paul from entering into many extra-curricular college activities. He served as president of the Glee Club, wrote for the college paper, took part in public speaking, and was a member of several school organizations. In spite of spending much of his time in the school infirmary and at Duke Hospital, he finished his two years at Mars Hill with a "B" average. Paul is a born fighter!

After finishing Mars Hill, he transferred to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He continued to do good work in school even though he still had to spend much time in the hospital. During one of his hospital ordeals he met a pretty little nurse named Ann Sarait. As Paul puts it, "Ah was not pills, needles, and knives." For some reason he got special attention from this one particular nurse, and after leaving the hospital he kept in touch with her by mail. During his next stay she spent all of her spare time with him. This, as might well be expected, led to the inevitable wedding.

Paul engaged in many student activities at Carolina, too. He wrote for The Daily Tar Heel, took part in campus politics and was a member of several student organizations. As if he hadn't already had more than his share of set-backs, he was prevented from graduation with his class due to recurrence of his ulcers and made another trip back to Duke. However, he re-entered school the next year and received his degree.

After countless hardships, Paul is achieving his early ambitions. He has been employed for a long time by the Goldsboro News-Argus as farm editor and columnist. The secret of his many friends has been his unflinching good spirit and cheerful friendliness to others. He has endured many tribulations along the way and will doubtless encounter many more, but if they come Paul will go out to meet them. As he stated, "I have a mind, an education, friends, and a wife who loves me. I don't know what the future holds, but I know I'll take it as it comes."

Vocational Rehabilitation played a vital part in Paul's achievements. It is true, but success would not have come had he not been endowed with an indomitable spirit that kept him going in the face of almost insurmountable odds. It is fellows like Paul that make rehabilitation the wonderful and worthwhile job that it is. We are justly proud of him and wish for him all the success he so richly deserves.

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Check Forger Being Returned To Duplin From California

Deputy D. H. McKay left Monday afternoon for California to bring a Duplin County man back to the County to stand trial on forgery charges.

The first communication on the case came from Texas and later a call came from law enforcement officers in California stating that a man named Futrell has surrendered himself to them and confessed that he was wanted in Duplin County for giving worthless checks.

Futrell has eight warrants against him for forgery.

Annual Meeting Of Duplin Red Cross To Be Held June 15

The Duplin County Chapter of the American Red Cross will hold its annual meeting on June 15, at 8 o'clock p.m. in the Chapter Office. Visitors are invited to attend.

HARE-RAISING EXPERIENCE — Kirre, the rabbit, is so dumb bunny. Clover, grass and garden vegetables aren't for him. At last, he begs for milk from owner Lidor Soderqvist, of Stockholm, Sweden, and at right Kirre reaches for an apple, his favorite fruit. Soderqvist acquired his pet after Kirre's mother was killed during the hunting season.

WITH OUR BOYS IN SERVICE

PVT. ALVIS W. DENNING
KAISERSLAUTERN, GERMANY
—Pvt. Alvis W. Denning, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Denning, Rt. 3, Mt. Olive, is now serving in Germany with the 408d Engineer Group at Kaiserslautern.

Units of the Seventh Army form a major part of the strong cordon of American defense forces stretching across the U. S. Zone of Germany.

Denning, a mechanic in the 966th Engineer Field Maintenance Company, entered the Army in September 1953, and completed basic training at Fort Jackson, S. C.

PVT. CHESTER R. HUNTER
IX CORPS, KOREA — Pvt. Chester R. Hunter, 20, son of Mrs. Bessie V. Hunter, Route 1, Wallace, is now serving with the IX Corps in Korea.

The IX Corps, one of three in the Eighth Army, coordinates an intensive post-trace training program for UN units under its control.

Private Hunter, a member of the 212th Military Police Company, entered the Army last August and completed basic training at Camp Gordon, Ga.

SGT. HUBERT D. HAYES
7TH DIV, KOREA — Sgt. Hubert D. Hayes, son of Mrs. Annie K. Hayes, Route 1, Wallace, N. C., recently arrived in Korea for duty with the 7th Infantry Division.

Men of the "Bayonet" division are undergoing intensive training to maintain the peak combat efficiency displayed by the unit from Pusan to the Yalu river.

Sergeant Hayes entered the Army in May 1952 and was last stationed at Fort Jackson, S. C.

THOMAS K. FIGFORD
Thomas K. Pigford, teleman seaman, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hicks Pigford of Calypso, is aboard the support aircraft carrier USS Leyte, participating in a major anti-submarine development exercise.

The training began on April 26 and involves over 50 air, surface, and submarine units operating in the area between Bermuda and the Bahamas. Designated ASDVEKX 1-54, the operation was planned and scheduled by the Operational Development Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet, under the command of Rear Admiral Harold D. Baker, USN, to explore the tactical application of specific new developments in anti-submarine warfare. The exercise covers the various phases of convoy protection and detection of submarines by Hunter-Killer Groups.

Raleigh Woman Injured In Wreck

Miss Virginia Frankie Compton of Raleigh received injuries on her right leg and abrasions of her right shoulder as the result of the wreck, which occurred about midnight last Sunday on the town limits of Kenansville.

Miss Compton, traveling toward Camp LeJeune, was blinded by the bright lights of an oncoming car which caused her to run off the side of the road into a light pole. The right front fender and left rear fender of her car was damaged.

Miss Compton was treated by Dr. R. F. Willis and released.

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EDITORIAL

A NEW SCOUT HUT FOR KENANSVILLE
Through the generosity of Vance Gavin, local attorney, and a drive sponsored by the local Lions Club last fall, a new Boy Scout Hut is nearing completion here.

The building, a concrete block structure, is 16 X 32 feet, outside dimensions. It contains one large room with a large fireplace. The building is located just south of the Town Spring, at the rear of the law offices row. Mr. Gavin gave the lot and \$500 in cash. To date a total of \$909.00 has been raised including Mr. Gavin's \$500. The building committee has spent and obligated together a total of \$1212.62, according to John Hall, local Scout Master. The wiring is yet to be done. He says the committee is planning to borrow enough to pay off all bills when completed and, no doubt, the good citizens of Kenansville will come to their rescue and raise the difference. Mr. Gavin is certainly due a vote of thanks from the people here for his unselfish act and its meaningfully more when one considers that Mr. and Mrs. Gavin have no children. It was an unusual good gesture in the interest of the young folks in town, and speaking for the town we say, thanks to everyone who has had a part in the project thus far.

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Social Security Agent Here June 15

N. A. Avera, Manager of the Wilmington Social Security office, would like to call your attention to the fact that you can meet a representative of the Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance in the Court Room of the Court House on June 15, between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. for help in claiming your Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Benefits; checking your Social Security Account or getting full information about Old-Age and Survivors Insurance. Your Post Office has application blanks for Social Security Account Number Cards. These completed applications may be mailed to the Social Security Administration, P. O. Box 1490, Wilmington, N. C.

Simple speeding (over 50 mph) does not require revocation of driving privileges for the first offense nor does reckless driving which held second place in the report with 1,093 convictions.

Driving without an operator's permit was in third place with 893 convictions.

Falling to yield the right of way resulted in 186 convictions, falling to stop for a stop sign 327, faulty equipment 299, improper passing 159, following too closely 136, and driving on the wrong side of the road 197.

Miscellaneous offenses brought the May total to 7,973 convictions, all North Carolinians.

Out of state violators added another 1,823 to the guilty list.

3 Stills Captured By Sheriff's Dept.

During the past week Sheriff Miller and his deputies captured three stills. On June 3, a still of 100 gallon capacity and 10 barrels of mash was picked up by Sheriff Miller and Deputy W. C. Houtton. The still was located 3/4 mile north east of Paul Grady and Ralph Waters service station. No arrest was made.

The following day about 1 mile east of the same location of Grady and Water's station a 60 gallon copper kittle and two empty barrels was picked up by Sheriff Miller and Deputy D. H. McKay. No arrest was made.

On June 3, near Warsaw, a 50 gallon still and 2 barrels of mash was confiscated by Deputy T. E. Revelle. No arrest was made.

Arrest Made On Breaking And Entering Charge

Sunday afternoon, Sheriff Miller and Deputy Houston arrested J. D. Autry on the charge of breaking and entering the home of Carliss Miller of near Kenansville.

On arrival at Miller's home, Autry was found drunk and asleep in Miller's bed.

Autry was released under bond for appearance to Superior Court.

Accident Summary

Accident Summary for District Five Troop "B" May 31st through June 6th, 1954:

DUPLIN COUNTY
8 accidents, 0 killed, 9 injured, \$4,025.00 property damage.
SAMPSON COUNTY
8 accidents, 0 killed, 3 injured, \$1,950.00 property damage.
WAYNE COUNTY
4 accidents, 1 killed, 0 injured, \$1,825.00 property damage.

TOTAL
20 accidents, 1 killed, 12 injured, \$7,800.00 property damage.
Cpl. T. G. Brooks,
State Highway Patrol

United States hog production is declining for two years; is now on the increase and is likely to continue upward into 1955.