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Court To Hear School Integration Suit On Sept. 26

BY TOM HIGGINS
Record Editor

Whether or not there will be further integration at Burnsville Elementary School will apparently

be decided at a Federal Court hearing in Asheville Sept. 26.

This action seemed assured Tuesday following a brief session here between the Yancey County

Board of Education and the parents of six Negro children who are seeking reassignment from Oakcrest School to Burnsville Elementary.

Oakcrest is attended only by Negroes. There is one Negro student attending classes at Burnsville Elementary. Both Yancey High Schools, Cane River and East Yancey are totally integrated.

The Board of Education originally denied the reassignment applications in August, and did so again Tuesday.

The hearing in Asheville will apparently be held before U. S. District Judge Wilson Warlick, no stranger to Yancey school integration suits.

Warlick issued in 1950 an order permanently restraining the Board of Education from all action regulating assignment of students on the basis of color.

However, last August Warlick granted the Board another year to perfect school integration plans.

Tuesday's hearing in the Yancey County Courthouse was attended by Board of Education members Raleigh Radford, Ben Wilson and R. G. Deyton, Superintendent of Schools H. D. Justice, and the Board of Education's attorney Bill Atkins. Parents of the Negro students attending were Mrs. Soleda Griffith, Mrs. Peggy Wilson, Mrs. Genevieve Lottahall, James Griffith and Junior Wilson. Lawyer Reuben Bailey of Asheville represented the Negro students.

The Board, explaining its denial of the reassignment applications, said that Burnsville Elementary is already extremely overcrowded, that reassignment would cause problems of transportation and that the location of the Oakcrest school best served the students in question.

It was further pointed out that Oakcrest is being operated with 17 or 18 students and with two teachers, both of whom have Masters Degrees. The Board added that the texts used are the same as those in other Yancey Schools, and that Public Library facilities are open to all.

Atkins further pointed out that the Oakcrest School is modern in every way, attractively located and has an excellent playground. The Negro parents reiterated, however, a preference to have their children assigned to the

same school as other children in the district in order that: "(1) The same system of teaching be available to them... that is, one teacher per grade; (2) the same opportunities and facilities be available for all; (3) their children's rights as citizens to equal treatment be respected; (4) assignment, which is now on a basis of race since white children living nearer to Oakcrest are assigned to Burnsville Elementary, be standardized; (5) the unsanitary practice of transporting lunches from Burnsville Elementary to Oakcrest in a car be discontinued."

The parents further charged that the problems of teachers at Oakcrest was complicated by alleged enrollment of underaged children. In his 1952 order granting a delay, Warlick stated, "The court reiterates again that the Board of Education of Yancey County begin immediately a determined study

of the school situation under its jurisdiction and that at the beginning of the school year in September, 1963, it have plans ready to use every available space under its jurisdiction for students' benefit and that its attention is called to the fact that the two-room Oakcrest School with only 18 students, as of this time, represents a failure on its part to utilize all existing factors."



Do You Remember?

Remember when Charles L. McPeeters built his home. The house took three years to build, and understandably.

When it was finished, Yancey Countians said that there was nothing like it anywhere in this section. There still isn't.

McPeeters, a Marshall merchant, moved to Yancey County in 1895 and constructed the mansion, with which he is pictured above, in the years between then and 1900.

The unusual home was located on 'Possum Trot on a huge tract of land McPeeters purchased from the Proffitt clan of Yancey County. The structure still stands, and is in an amazingly good state of preservation.

The home has a full basement—an unusual feature for that era in Yancey—into which sev-

eral teams of horses could be taken to unload cargo. There are 16 rooms on the second and third levels. On the fourth level McPeeters had his canning quarters, where he personally prepared the foods raised on his land and placed them in tin cans.

McPeeters was known far and wide for his unusual dwelling, and that probably was a big factor in his being easily elected to represent Yancey in the 1893 legislature.

A Raleigh Observer of that year described McPeeters as "... the efficient and popular Democratic member from Yancey." It said that he was "one of the most attentive listeners in the legislature and carefully inspected each measure before casting his vote."

It was McPeeters who led a fight that prevented passage of a

bill that would have lopped off one of Yancey's townships and placed it in Mitchell County.

McPeeters was one of the first from Yancey to ship crops to faraway markets.

He was most famous for his apples. In the 1900 Universal Exposition in Paris McPeeters' Possum Trot apples won a first prize.

McPeeters died in 1930 at the age of 89.

A daughter, Mrs. Helen Dillingham of Oklahoma City, donated this picture to The Record. A son, Francis, resides in Detroit.

Two of McPeeters' grandchildren, Mrs. L. V. (Bob) Pollard and Byrd Gillespie, still reside in Yancey. A third grandchild, Mrs. Lucille Brown, is a former Burnsville resident. They are the children of McPeeters' third child, the late Mrs. Mary Gillespie.

Yancey Roundup

Paul Burton Awarded Grant To Wisconsin U.

Dr. Paul R. Burton of Northfield, Minn., a native of Burnsville, has received a one-year, post-doctoral grant for study of electron microscopy at the University of Wisconsin.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Burton of Burnsville.

Dr. Burton will take a one-year leave of absence from Northfield's St. Olaf College, where he is a member of the faculty, to accept the grant. His wife and two children will move with him to Madison, Wis., where the university is located.

Burton, a graduate of Burnsville High School and Western Carolina College, was awarded his Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina in 1960. He had also previously attended the University of Miami, (Fla.).

At UNC Burton was winner of the coveted William Chambers Coker award for the best dissertation in the field of natural sciences. The award is presented annually by the Elisha Mitchell Society.

Dr. Burton has just completed a two-year research project on parasitology, made possible by grants from the Atomic Energy Commission. During the study he had several articles published in national scientific journals covering research on radioactive substances.

Ralph Robinson, a Yancey County native, has been awarded a \$2,000 grant by the State Depart-

ment of Public Welfare for a year of study at the University of North Carolina.

Robinson will begin his work in September at Chapel Hill toward completion of the requirements for a Masters Degree in the field of Child Welfare.

He is the son of Mrs. Cora Robinson of the Bald Creek section of Yancey County. Robinson graduated from Bald Creek High School in 1955 and from Berea (Ky.) College in 1959.

Since his graduation he has been employed by the Forsyth County Welfare Dept., in Winston-Salem.

The Toecane Ranger District of the U. S. Forest Service will conduct a tour of its facilities on South Toe River Sept. 11.

The tour, which will be conducted by District Ranger Harvey Price, will emphasize recreational facilities.

Area businessmen specifically urged to participate but any others who are interested are invited to go along, too.

Price said that the party will leave the town square at Burnsville at 1 p. m.

Yancey Countians with connections to the Burbank Free Will Tenn., have been invited back to Baptist Church at Roan Mountain, annual Homecoming services Sept.

Rev. Holt Harrell of Relief, pastor, said dinner will be served



BIG GIRL HAS BIG HOPES—Jeanne Swanner of Graham could be in the midst of realizing a big ambition this week. She hopes to be named Miss America in Atlantic City Saturday night. If the current Miss North Carolina takes the title she will be the tallest contestant to do so. She is 6-2.

ASC Candidates Are Announced

Ballots were mailed Tuesday to voters eligible to participate in the annual election of ASCS community councilmen.

J. T. Randolph, new Yancey County ASC office manager, said that the election will be held by mail this year, and he urged voters to have their ballots back in the office or post-marked by Sept. 13.

Candidates for various communities:

PRICES CREEK—Creed Austin, Ewart Banks, Bill Buckner, Armin O. Eneland, Hunter Maney, Jack McIntosh, Merritt McPeeters, Mack Robinson, Mack Styles, Kenneth Westall;

RAMSEYTOWN—Darius Hensley, Britt Halkway, O. C. Honeycutt, Hoover Johnson, Reece Murphy, Niram Phillips, Otis Robinson;

EAST BURNSVILLE—Edd Banner, Arnold Briggs, Edward Harp's, Echid Hunter, Jim Riddle, Joe Woody;

UPPER EGYPT—Crate Bailey, Levi Bailey, Max Higgins Jr., Carl Hylemon, Lige Hylemon, Troy Mathis, Avery Silvers, Russes Silvers;

LOWER EGYPT—Chap Fender, Eldon Fender, Edd Hensley, Nealie Ledford, Robert Mide, Carl Wilson;

WEST BURNSVILLE—S. J. Bennett, Craig Franklin, Burnie Pittman, Carl Rice, George Wheeler, Willard Wright;

LOWER JACKS CREEK—Landon Briggs, Frank Evans, Johnny E. Fox, Sherman Fox, Emory Laws, Gene Thomas, Jack Webb, J. B. Wheeler;

UPPER JACKS CREEK—Ray English, John Evans, Hollis Honeycutt, Carl Jobe, Leroy Silvers, Lark Wright;

CANE RIVER—Jess Buckner, Tommy Buckner, Nealie Edwards, Eugene Holmes, J. W. Tomberlin, Rex Yelton;

BRUSH CREEK—Brown Gortney, Harrison Gortney, Kenneth Johnson, Elmer Peterson, Yates Randolph, Elmer Sparks, J. B. Thomas;

EAST CRABTREE—Louis Bartlett, Andrew Bishop, E. W. Huskins, Sherrill McKinney, Biss Young, Guss Young;

WEST CRABTREE—Mark Hall, Scotty Hughes, Crawford Jones, Horace Jones, Thad McCurry, Guy Young;

GREEN MOUNTAIN—Luther Ayers, Worley Ayers, Andy Edwards, Clyde Fox, George King, Clessen Letterman;

UPPER SOUTH TOE—Eugene Harrison, Walter Taffer, Oscar

(Continued on back page)



Blue Sea Falls on Cane River (Man in photo unidentified).

Two Escape Injuries In Tumble Over Falls

Two Florida youngsters were miraculously unhurt last month when they were swept over 75-foot Blue Sea Falls on Upper Cane River.

Dr. W. A. Y. Sargent of Burnsville Wednesday confirmed reports that the incident had occurred.

Dr. Sargent said that last month he examined Mary Fay Nicholes, 17, and Leo E. Schnupp Jr., 18, both of Miami, after they had tumbled over the high fall.

"They had a few bruises and scratches. That's all," said Dr. Sargent.

Young Schnupp's parents are long-time summer residents of Yancey's Cattail Community.

He and several other young people from Cattail were taking Miss Nicholes, a house-guest of the Schnupps, on a sight-seeing tour around Yancey when the mishap occurred.

The group had gone to Blue Sea Falls on the Wilson Boundary in Southern Yancey to make pic-

tures. Miss Nicholes climbed a steep path around the edge of the fall and waded into the river to make a picture of her companion standing below. She had made the picture and was wading back to shore when she lost her footing and fell.

A few feet above the falls she grabbed a limb on an overhanging bush and hung on. Schnupp climbed the path and waded to her rescue, but when she released her hold on the limb the swift current swept both over the falls.

Veteran wardens on the Wilson Boundary said that to their knowledge no one had ever gone across the falls before.

Others familiar with the area said it was "pure luck" that the two were not injured. "They apparently went across right at the midpoint of the river and fell into a deep pool below," explained one. "They had to...to either side of the center of the fall there are boulders as big as a house just below the surface of the water."

Dr. T. F. Hahn Assumes Duties Here

Dr. Theodore F. Hahn assumed duties this week as Health Director of the Yancey and Mitchell County health departments.

He succeeds Dr. W. B. Stryker, who resigned last summer.

Dr. and Mrs. Hahn and a son, Richard, who has enrolled in the senior class at Cane River High School, are residing on Shepherd Way in Burnsville.

The Hahns have three other children, two of them married and a daughter, Jennifer, who is a senior at the University of Florida.

Dr. Hahn comes to Burnsville after practicing medicine for 30 years in Deland, Fla.

However, he is no stranger to

Western North Carolina or to Yancey County. The Hahn family lived in California, New Orleans, New York City and Scranton, Pa.

Following graduation from high school in Scranton, Dr. Hahn entered Yale University where he obtained both his B. S. and M. D. degrees.

He interned at Grady Hospital in Atlanta and at Lankenau Hospital in Philadelphia.

He then went to Florida and set up a practice in Deland. Mrs. Hahn is the former Helen de Mohr of Palatka, Fla.

Dr. Hahn was born in Mexico, where his father was serving as a Presbyterian missionary.

After the Mexican government

FOOTBALL REPORTS
Sports coverage this week is on page four.