

# The Greensboro Outlook

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## FRED CUNDIFF, NEGRO, TO ASSUME POSITION OF ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF CITY SCHOOLS

By Owen Lewis  
Greensboro Public Schools



FRED CUNDIFF

"I view this new assignment as the most challenging of my life, and certainly I will do everything physically possible to justify the confidence placed in me by the board."

That's what Fred Cundiff said as he reared back in his chair and chewed on his glasses. On Aug 18, he will assume the position of assistant superintendent of administration in the Greensboro Public Schools. He is the first Negro to hold an assistant superintendency in the local school system, and he is one of a select few in the state of his race who hold positions at that level.

Cundiff, 43, has directed federal programs for the disadvantaged in the city schools since 1966 as director of Title I programs under the U. S. Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. Elementary counselors, school social workers, reading teachers, special education for emotionally disturbed children, cultural enrichment activities, free lunches, psychological services and nurses have been provided in 14 schools under Cundiff's direction.

Cundiff is five feet eight inches tall and has a wiry appearance at 164 pounds. He has a cafe au lait complexion, close cropped hair and a thin mustache. He is a natty dresser, who likes bright colors. His chief diversion is golf — "an avid duffer" he calls himself. He is soft-spoken and deliberate in his conversation. His sense of humor is keen, and he enjoys an occasional practical joke.

In the assistant superintendency, Cundiff will administer the city schools' freedom of choice pupil assignment plan, coordinate student teaching assignments, complete state and federal reports relative to the operations of the school system, conduct long range planning and take on a variety of admini-

strative responsibilities that fall outside the range of duties of the other three superintendents, whose areas are instruction, personnel and business. The four positions are coequal.

In response to questions concerning student unrest, Cundiff commented, "When we attempt to hold children to think critically, analytically — even creatively — and they demonstrate an attempt to do this, we cannot tune them out."

"I do not feel that they are saying, 'We want to run the school,' but I do believe they feel they are entitled to a genuine opportunity to be heard, and that their opinions will be considered in the decision-making process," said he.

A native of North Wilkesboro, Cundiff worked in Chatham Manufacturing Co.'s blanket mill in Elkin before serving in Burma in World War II as an Army staff sergeant in the Corps of Engineers.

After the war he attended Ohio State University. Then his childhood sweetheart, Hyla, lured him back to North Carolina and he got his degree from Winston-Salem State University. Later he earned the M.S. in education from A&T State University. Mrs. Cundiff teaches the fourth grade at predominantly white Vandalia School, and they have two sons, Freddie, 15, and Roderick, 8. They live at 1816 Curry St.

Cundiff taught at Washington Elementary School from 1953 until he took the Title I directorship in 1966. He taught in all the upper grades, because the principal, the late John Leary, wanted him to have a variety of teaching experiences.

"As I reflect on the things that have happened to me, I would say that Mr. Leary was the moving factor in my getting a graduate degree and continuing in education. He saw something in me. He always pushed me, always expressed confidence in my ability. He persuaded me to take the Title I directorship when Mr. (Philip) Weaver (late superintendent of city schools) offered it. I missed him when this opportunity came, but I think I did what he would have advised. He was great — a human relations expert."

Cundiff has been a member of the predominantly black N. C. Teachers Association since 1953 and served two years as vice president of the Greensboro unit. He is a member of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, St. James Presbyterian Church, the board of directors of Hayes-Taylor WMCA and of Greensboro Little Theater. He also serves on the education sub-

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## Black Soldier Denied Burial In Hometown White Cemetery

Birmingham, Ala. — The 16 year-old widow of a 20 year-old black soldier, killed during a search and destroy mission in Vietnam, has been told that she may not bury his remains in an all-white Alabama cemetery.

The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF), through cooperating attorney Oscar W. Adams, Jr., this week asked for a preliminary and permanent injunction here in U. S. District Court.

Pvt. Bill Henry Terry volunteered to serve in the U. S. Army in September of 1968; six months later he was shipped to Vietnam.

He was dead four months after arrival overseas and less than a year after volunteering.

### Anticipated Death

Pvt. Terry, father of an 11 month-old son, had a premonition that he would be killed and asked his wife, Margaret, and his mother Mrs. Jimmie Lee, to see that he be buried in Birmingham's Elmwood Cemetery.

His body was returned to his native Birmingham under the customary military escort.

"The military," the LDF said in its complaint, "learning of the deceased's wish to be buried in Elmwood Cemetery, escorted the body there in the company of the plaintiff mother and plaintiff wife."

The grieving women asked to purchase a grave site.

They were turned away.

"Having no alternative and having already made arrangements for the funeral," the LDF told the court, the women "arranged to have Bill Henry Terry, Jr., buried at a Negro cemetery on July 19, 1969."

LDF Attorney Adams said that the deceased's body will be exhumed "if this court declares that Elmwood Cemetery wrongfully abridged plaintiffs' rights."

## Bethel News

### Holy Communion Service

The Holy Communion Service will be conducted at Bethel Church Sunday, August 10 at 11:00 a.m. The service was postponed from Sunday, August 3, the first Sunday in the month, due to the absence of the Pastor, Rev. L. S. Penn, Sr. who was on vacation.

### Laymen's Meeting

Among the Laymen of Bethel Church attending the Eleventh Biennial Session of the Connectional Laymen's Organization were Mr. and Mrs. Comey Enzlow. The session was held August 4-9 in Memphis, Tenn. Guest Speaker at Bethel

The Rev. T. Campbell, the Pastor of St. John A. M. E. Church, Fairmont, N. C. will be the guest speaker at Bethel Church, Sunday, August 10, at

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## Crowning of Trinity Mother Raises \$1,177.65



Mrs. Julia Stradford Crawford was crowned Trinity Church Mother recently in a contest held at Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church. She was crowned by Mrs. Nettie Houston who was Trinity Mother of 1968

## CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION ANNOUNCES EXAMINATION

The Civil Service Commission has announced a new examination for filling Treasury Enforcement Agent positions. These jobs are in the Bureau of Customs, U. S. Secret Service and the Internal Revenue Service, and are located in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. The positions at Grades GS-5 (\$6,176) and GS-7 (\$7,639).

All competitors are required to take a written examination in several subject matters. About four hours are required for the test.

The minimum age limit for these positions is 21.

The examination announcement containing the description of the work, education and/or experience, and physical requirements and application forms are available in the Civil Service Office, Room 231, U.S. Post Office, Greensboro, N. C. 27420.

Applications will be accepted by the Interagency Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners in Atlanta until further notice, and the examination will be scheduled from time to time as applications are received.

Mrs. Julia Crawford lives at 302 Huffman Street. She was born in Chester, S. C. From her first marriage with Rev. E. D. Stradford were born five children, four of which are living. They are: Mr. Eddie Stradford, Jr. of Greensboro, N. C.; Mrs. Magalene McLendon of Baltimore, Md.; Mr. Willie Stradford of Charlottesville, Va.; and Mr. Allen Stradford of California. Mrs. Crawford later married Mr. H. Crawford.

Mrs. Julia Crawford is very active in religious and civic organizations. She is president of Stewardess Board Number One and is a member of the Finance Board of Trinity Church. She also has regular attendance in the Church Sunday School and is a member of the Courts of Calanthe.

In the contest, Mrs. Crawford raised \$419.25. The other contestants in the contest were: Mrs. Florence Henderson who raised \$225.25; Mrs. Eunice Caldwell who raised \$216.25; Mrs. Aimy Foster with \$214.50; Mrs. Beatrice Carelock who raised \$79.65; donations of \$22.75. The total amount raised was \$1,177.65. Rev. Cecil Bishop, pastor.