

# Desegregation Of Schools: Charlotte's Top Story Of '57

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Ask anyone — the newspaper reporter, the housewife, the man on the street — "What was 1957's biggest news story in Charlotte?"

You'll get one answer: Desegregation.

It happened here, in Charlotte schools, Wednesday, Sept. 4. Three of four Negro children, who were carefully selected under the state's Pupil Assignment Act, entered previously all-white city schools on that day. One of the three, Dorothy Counts, was booed, hissed and spat upon; and later was withdrawn from Harding High School by her father.

The fourth stayed away from Alexander Graham Junior High School on opening day but arrived unmolested a day later.

**FOUR AFFECTED**

Besides AG and Harding, other schools affected on that historic day were Central High and Piedmont Jr. High School.

Letting down of racial bars in schools here was a climax to these additional desegregation events of the year.

The park board's decision on Jan. 8 to open Bonnie Brae Municipal Golf Course to Negroes after over a year of court wrangles.

Segregationist John Kasper's welcome to Charlotte, anything but enthusiastic.

And the movement to organize a local White Citizens Council, whose initial meeting was attended by Negro spectators.

**PRIVATE SCHOOL**

Since the furor of opening day at Harding High has subsided, at least one man has urged Harding students to seek Negro education.

Dorothy Counts back. Dr. Frank Graham, former UNC president and now a United Nations mediator, made the request to the Harding student body on Dec. 6. Dorothy meanwhile has been attending a private school in Philadelphia.

Charlotte's news story number two was the longest running battle of the year. It concerned the proposed extension of the Charlotte city limits.

**30 SQUARE MILES**

A total of more than 30 square miles — the biggest extension in history — was proposed.

When the General Assembly went into session at the year's beginning, there were indications that a bill proposing extension would have a rough shot.

The bill sailed through the Senate, but the road was rocky in the House. Political forces led by the late Senator B. B. Bledsoe, who died in office, and it had two public hearings with scores of Charlotteans on the sides presenting arguments.

When the bill finally cleared the legislative hurdle, the fight was over. It merely authorized a vote of the people. The vote took place July 13 and the people voted in favor of a 1959 extension.

**BIG MAJORITY**

The majority was large, but it came only after thousands of workers, led by a Chamber of Commerce committee headed by Carl J. McCraw, contacted thousands of voters in an extensive, all-out campaign.

Fourteen days before the election, mail boxes failed to let literature.

A series of revelations of slacks in county government financial practices became Charlotte's top news story number three.

It began Sept. 30 when brand new county auditor Walker H. Busby launched an investigation into handling of the county's Poor Fund. He revealed a case where \$500 a year in the office of Mrs. Faye Brydges, Welfare Superintendent, Wallace Kasper's secretary, had received \$3,800 from the fund.

**MONEY NOT NEEDED?**

Mrs. Brydges' husband, J. B. Brydges, said he didn't know the money was coming into his home and that it wasn't needed. He said the family income averaged more than \$7,000 a year when the payments were coming in.

A state investigation of the case was called for, and State Welfare Commissioner Dr. Eileen Winston ruled the case had been handled properly.

Meanwhile Auditor Busby, a 31-year-old Marine veteran, continued to turn up questionable money practices over a five-week period. Several instances were found where allegedly unjustified car allowances were being used to supplement salaries of employees.

The young auditor even waded into one of his bosses when he refused to approve trunk rental payments to County Commissioner J. Herbert Garrison.

He said it was illegal for county officials to rent their private-owned vehicles to the county. Garrison later repaid \$216 in past payments.

**RAISE VOTED**

Mr. Busby finishes a six-month probation period Dec. 31. County Commissioners voted only last Monday to grant him an "automatic" \$500 a year increase.

This came as a surprise to some



(News Staff Photo by Tom Franklin-Franklin)

**Sputnik Watchers Chatter 'Moonwatch' Operation.**

Observers who had predicted three months earlier that he wouldn't be around to collect his raise.

For Mr. Busby, it had been a rather warm "trial" period.

Years behind other multi-channel cities, Charlotte finally got another television station on April 27, WSOB-TV, with a National Broadcasting Co. affiliation.

The station subsequently took the lead in offering educational television, now being used on an experimental basis in five city schools.

**FLU ARRIVES**

Asian flu, which was 1957's biggest bugaboo, swept with force into the Charlotte area in October. Its complications brought death to five persons in Mecklenburg.

Despite widespread inoculations, city and county schools were hard hit. Queens College was hit by a huge influenza with one-third of the student body out of classes at one time. Davidson College was forced to cancel its homecoming festivities which were to include a football game with visiting Presbyterian College.

By late November, City-County Health Officer Dr. M. B. Bethel termed the epidemic past, but by this time Asian flu had captured the number five spot in the year's big stories.

Big business made the front page with a bang on Sept. 17. Merger of two of the city's respected financial institutions, Commercial National Bank and the American Trust Co. — was announced, sliding into sixth spot on the Top Ten list.

Now known as American Commercial Bank, the consolidation has resulted in a bank with capital funds exceeding 10 million and total resources in excess of 250 million dollars.

**SUPINIX SEVENTH**

Russia's Sputniks — the artificial satellites which captured first place in all the nation's news polls — filled October's newspapers with stories of man's conquest of outer space. Members of the Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club spent many early hours watching for Sputniks I and II.

Others, not members of any official club, also scanned the skies.

On the morning of Saturday, Oct. 19, their vigil was rewarded. The headline on 1957's seventh top story read "Local Gazers See Sputnik Shine." The accompanying account explained how



(News Staff Photo by Tom Franklin-Franklin)

**Sputnik Watchers Chatter 'Moonwatch' Operation.**



(News Staff Photo by Tom Franklin-Franklin)

**AUDITOR BUSBY**

A deeply-eyed high school senior, Nancy Hawkins of Fairfax Dr., first spotted Sputnik just east of the North Star at 4:42 a.m.

"Love Never Falters" was disproved by an event in February, which captured the number eight spot.

Mecklenburg Rep. Jack Love failed to win reelection as State Senator by a vote of 20-18 by attorney J. Spencer Bell in a voice vote at the Mecklenburg Democratic Executive Committee meeting Feb. 8.

New Senator Bell, one of the city's outstanding civic leaders, was picked to fill the unexpired term of Sen. F. J. Jack's Blythe, when the late Mr. Blythe resigned because of ill health. (Sen. Blythe died little more than one month later).

**BELL VICTORY**

The Bell victory opened another hole in the dike of Top Love's waning power as an annual Democratic Party commander.

But Mr. Love was a good loser. "I am not mad at anybody," he said, "I sought the Senate position and lost. That's that."

Schools again made the headlines on Aug. 28 with Charlotte's Advisory Committee gave the community college a 10-year-old birthday present, selecting an expansion site for a college campus. The school, which now shares a building with Central High School, will have



Carl McCraw (Seated) Surveys A Stack Of City Limits Extension Petitions.



(News Staff Photo by Tom Franklin-Franklin)

**John Kasper (foreground) Spoke At The Courthouse.**

His own plant on a 240-acre tract off Highway 49 on the city's northeastern edge.

The move to a campus of its own, however, will depend upon a \$925,000 bond issue and a bond election which has not yet been set. Carver College for Negroes will also have its own campus, at a site off Beatty's Ford Rd., if the bond election passes.

**SPORTS NEWS**

Charlotte's capture of the NCAA regional basketball playoffs captured tenth spot in the big story lineup.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association will bring the playoffs to Charlotte in March. The announcement came in July after a hectic campaign. Chairman of Commerce officials, John Beik, sports enthusiasts and sports writers in Charlotte had a big hand in swinging the biggest sports event in Charlotte's history.

And to ice the cake, the tickets were placed on sale here through a Chamber of Commerce allotment system; and in 24 hours the Coliseum was sold out. Teams representing the best in the East and South will play here for the right to go to the finals of the national championships.

The regional was the high spot in a good sports season. The Carrousel Basketball Tournament again attracted top teams, the Charlotte Hornets were strong. Davidson had a good football season and Myers Park High School went to the finals of the State AA football championship, led by an all-American named Ray Fariss.

**NEW SPORT**

But most successful of all were the Clippers of ice hockey fame. Charlotte's newest sport, ice hockey, was a tremendous success, and the lovable Clippers won the Eastern Hockey League championship to cap a great season. League attendance records tumbled, too, with Charlotte's home crowds over 100,000.

And so, the Top Ten for another year, 1957.

There were many other "big stories" which kept News readers aware of the Charlotte scene — like the Duke Power Co. announcement of plans for a \$14 million dam on the Catawba River; the fall of circus performer Lili Kristensen from a trapeze in the Coliseum; arrest of 30 protesters for alleged violation of the city's Sunday "blue laws"; and resulting Council action; the Carolina Carrousel on Thanksgiving Day; the "secret" City Council session; the roadblocks set up by local police for

Washington, England (P)—Motorsists blundered as a small truck weaved through the traffic here, apparently without a driver.

They watched as the truck scraped against the wall of a police station and skidded to a halt. Then the driver got out.

The driver was Jim Brennan, 37 years old and four feet high.

He had driven the truck, which belonged to his uncle, 14 miles along busy streets, around five corners, across a railroad crossing and up and down three steep hills.

He couldn't see over the driving mirror. He had great difficulty reaching the pedals. And he had no idea how to stop.

It all happened because Jim went to his uncle's house on an errand and missed the bus home. His uncle was out. He saw the truck standing there and climbed in.

Starting, accelerating and changing gears were all easy. He had watched his uncle do it. As for stopping — well, he hoped that when he got home his uncle would be there to show him how.

A policeman was slightly surprised when Jim crashed the truck into the station.

He took his name and address and drove him home in a police car, but couldn't do anything more about it because under British law no one under eight years old can be prosecuted.

Jim's father, however, was under no such restrictions. He spanked young Brennan and cancelled a present of a new bicycle.

**Firemen Got Fireworks Along With The Fire**

MANORHAVEN, N. Y. — Firemen had more than a blaze to contend with yesterday while battling a house fire. The heat of the flames sent 100 rounds of rifle and revolver ammunition flying in all directions. No one was hurt.

The blaze occurred at the home of Nicholas N. Skarefoll, 48, Skarefoll and his son Michael, 18, were burned, but not seriously. Skarefoll is a member of a gun club.



(News Staff Photo by Tom Franklin-Franklin)

Harvard students attending the Harvard holiday luncheon yesterday were (left to right, front row) Thomas L. Robinson Jr., a freshman; Andrew Ho Kang, first year Medical School; Kenneth A. Pruett Jr., a senior; (back row) David C. McSwain Jr., a freshman; Ernest W. Franklin Jr., Princeton senior entering Harvard Medical School next September; George M. Basley, 3rd, of Monroe, a senior. Absent when the picture was taken were: William J. Bellows, a junior; Carl G. McCraw Jr., second year, Business School; Calvin Mitchell Jr., first year, Business School; and Nicholas C. Matalas, graduate student, Engineering School.

## Harvard Financial Drive Stressed At Club Luncheon

Sixty-one men attended the annual Christmas season luncheon of the Harvard Club of Charlotte, which was held yesterday in the ball room of the City Club. In addition to alumni of Harvard the group included men from this area now attending the university as well as students interested in enrolling at Harvard during the next two years.

Charles Raveland of Charleston, S. C., star quarterback of the Harvard Freshman football team, was the guest speaker. He discussed the academic, social and athletic aspects of student life at Harvard College.

Immediately after the luncheon a motion picture was shown of the recent Harvard-Yale Freshman football game, won 29 to 10 by Harvard. Raveland gave a commentary during the showing of the film, describing various plays in the vigorously contested game.

The Harvard Freshman team, coached by Henry Lumar, had a season's record of six victories and only one defeat.

**PRESIDENT**

Thomas L. Robinson, president of the Harvard Club, presided at the meeting and introduced Charles Raveland.

Mr. Robinson spoke enthusiastically about the "Program for Harvard College," an effort currently underway to raise \$12.5 million to meet the most pressing needs of Harvard College.

In his remarks Mr. Robinson made a strong appeal for the alumni to send him financial pledges for the "Program for Harvard College" prior to December 31 of this year in order to have the advantage of including them in the current income tax year.

**LOCAL GOAL**

"We have a goal of \$5000 to reach in Charlotte in this campaign," declared Mr. Robinson, "and we are most hopeful of some substantial gifts so that we may go over the top." He explained that ten of the twenty-three Harvard College alumni in the Charlotte area have already contributed a total of \$3800.

Guests at the meeting now attending Harvard and home for the Christmas holidays included: Kenneth A. Pruett Jr., a senior who will be entering next autumn the Harvard Medical School; George M. Basley, 3rd, of Monroe, a second year student at the Harvard Business School; Nicholas C. Matalas, graduate student in Engineering; Andrew Ho Kang of Sores, a graduate of Wake Forest College now in his first year at the Harvard Medical School; Ernest W. Franklin Jr., a senior at Princeton University who has been accepted for entrance to the Harvard Medical School next autumn.

**LIGHT RAIN SEEN TODAY WON'T LAST**

Winter is here, and the Weather Bureau says the near freezing temperatures of the past few mornings are normal for this time of year. For instance, average temperature yesterday was 43 degrees, with the normal for this time of the year 42 degrees.

This morning the mercury hung at 37 degrees, and it will drop 25 tomorrow morning. High today will be 33 degrees, lower than yesterday's 50. Tomorrow will cool to 50 degrees.

Occasional rain is also seen for today, but the weatherman says no rainy season is foreseen at this time, with the rain being blown away tonight by a 15-mile-per-hour northwest wind. Tomorrow will be partly cloudy.

**STUDENT GUESTS**

A group of local high school students, who have expressed a desire to enroll at Harvard, but whose plans and applications are still indefinite, were guests of the Club and each one was introduced by Mr. Robinson.

Robert G. Blake, who graduated from Harvard College in 1956, and Harry Leigh Griffin who graduated in 1957, attended the luncheon. Both of these students won financial grants from the Harvard Club. John E. Harvey Jr., another recent Harvard graduate now attending the University of North Carolina Medical School, was among those introduced.

Other special guests included Dr. Roland T. Bellows; Everett K. Van Allen, an attorney of Rochester, N. Y., and father of William K. Van Allen of Charlotte, a graduate of the Harvard Law School; Dr. Jack Horner, president of the Myers Park High School; and Bob Quincy, Sports Editor of The News.

**TROY LOST BATTLE WITH FIRECRACKER**

WAYNESVILLE — Troy Battle of Asheville, RFD 3, said the State Highway Patrol, was riding along in the Maggie Valley section near here lighting firecrackers, from a cigarette and tossing them out of his car window.

You guessed it. Battle lit a firecracker, tossed the cigarette out of the window and lit the firecracker in his mouth.

The damage: Jarred teeth, a cut lip and a mouth that's all puffed out, the officer said.

**That'll Larn Him To Stop Thievery**

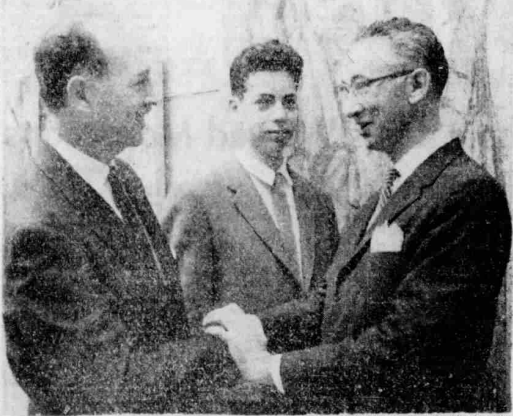
NEW YORK — The thief who snatched a box from young Allen Barnett should come to the conclusion that crime does not pay.

Barnett, 16, had the box grabbed from him yesterday in a subway train just before the doors closed at 43rd St. The thief escaped.

The box contained a four-foot long baby box constrictor and a number of iguana lizards, Barnett, a high school student and reptile collector, had been en route to a pet exhibit at the Coliseum.

**Mint Features Artist, Son**

Leon Gutmann (right) of the Gutmann Galleries meets artist Jack Lubin (left) and his son Steven. Ten years ago Mr. Gutmann exhibited Lubin's works and said they showed great promise and originality. The month new Lubin art is on display at the Mint. His son will give a piano concert at the Mint at 3:30 p.m. Sunday.



(News Staff Photo by Tom Franklin-Franklin)