



A NEW METHOD of parking in the Charlotte Coliseum parking lot was demonstrated by the driver of this automobile who entered the lot some time last night. The car was found this morning, fast in a ditch about 15 feet off Briar Creek Road on the far side of the unopened lot. Coliseum authorities said the driver apparently was trying to back out of the lot when the car went into the ditch.

Parents Not Present

7 Children Are Killed As Fire Sweeps Home

Four Bodies Discovered Still In Bed

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — Fire raced through a one-story cinder-block home eight miles northwest of here early today, killing seven Negro children who were alone in the house.

Fire chief Richard Campbell of Sylvania, whose men joined a Whiteford Township, Mich., company in fighting the blaze just north of the Michigan-Ohio border, said the father, John Cooper, 33, was en route with his wife, Laurel, 29, to a Toledo cafe where she works when the fire broke out.

Dead were Brenda Joyce, 9; Harrison Leonardo, 9; Jacqueline E. John, 4; Sherry Jean, 3; Georgia Marie, 2; and Carter Stephen, 18 months. Campbell said he believed Harrison Leonardo had been orphaned and was being reared by the Coopers.

Sheriff's deputies said Cooper was being held for investigation. The deputies said State Police wanted to determine why the children were left alone.

The fire chief said bodies of three of the children who apparently tried to escape were found sprawled in a hallway and at a door. The other four bodies were found in beds. They had been in two rooms of the six-room house Campbell said.

A neighbor discovered the blaze. She said flames spread so quickly that no rescue attempts were possible. Campbell said it apparently was a flash fire and had gained such headway that by the time he got there there was little that could be done.

Campbell was unable to say what had caused the fire, and he said the parents were in such a state of shock they were unable to give a possible cause. Little except ashes remained, Campbell said.

Cooper is employed as a foundry worker in Toledo. The couple has no other children.



Old Signs Are Disclosed By New Construction (News Staff Photo by Tom Franklin-Hunter)

City School Officials Face Problems Of Assignment

By DICK YOUNG
Charlotte News Staff Writer

Next month's assignment of students in the City Schools for the 1956-57 session will bring Charlotte school officials face to face with the problem of non-segregation under the ruling of the U. S. Supreme Court.

Selection of courses with subsequent student assignments for next year is already under way in the city's high schools, according to Dr. E. H. Granger, city school superintendent.

There was no school official who would comment on what plans will be initiated by the City School Board to conform with the court's ruling prohibiting the denial of admission to any public school on the basis of race.

THREE PONDERS

The City School Board has a committee of three of its members studying the problem of non-segregation of the races. So far no recommendation has been forthcoming from the committee for the board's consideration.

Since its inception last June 27 this special study committee has followed the policy of making no comment on the grounds that the responsibility of assignment of students rests with the full membership of the school board.

And now that the time is approaching for the routine assignment of next year's students, the board comes face to face with this complex social and school problem.

POlicies OF STATE

What little information that has been gathered about the scope of the study committee's work indicates that the local committee is generally being governed by the policies of the state as outlined by the governor's Committee on Education.

And reports here today were that the governor's Committee on Education was in session in Raleigh last Monday.

It was believed that this problem of assignment of students may be under present consideration.

And it was also believed that some hint of the expected policy is given in the disclosure in a brief filed by Attorney General William B. Rodman in the McDowell County school case.

INDIVIDUAL BASIS

The attorney general's contention in his brief is that assignment of students must be solely on an individual basis and the attorney general listed certain factors "that would naturally arise" when local school boards come to consider the assignment of a student to a school.

These factors listed by him are:

"Ability and capacity of the child and his potential adjustment to the curriculum and standards of the school.

"The age of the child in relation to the average age of other children in his grade and in the several schools of the unit.

"The probable psychological effect on the pupil applying for change of assignment and on the group to which he would be assigned."

See SCHOOLS on page 2-A

Reports On Red-British Talk Awaited

LONDON (AP)—Soviet Prime Minister Bulganin and Nikita Khrushchev began their farewell tour to Britain today. They placed a wreath on the grave of Karl Marx and talked it more than an hour with Labor Party leaders that Khrushchev had clashed sharply with Monday night.

The rest of their day was given over to a flying trip to Scotland, where Georgi Malenkov in his visit exhibited such a love of Robert Burns' poetry. On their return tonight, Bulganin and Prime Minister Eden were to sign a joint communique summing up the results of the talks they have held for the past week.

LITTLE PROGRESS

The general expectation was that they would report progress toward East-West agreement only on lesser issues.

The Russians' goody talk with the Laborites here apparently soothed some of the hard on their left by the earlier clash. Labor Party leader Hugh Gaitskell told newsmen the get-together was "good" and "ended on a friendly note."

But authoritative sources said neither Khrushchev nor the Britons indicated any change in their feelings about Jews and Social Democrats (Socialists) imprisoned behind the Iron Curtain.

The Monday night dinner row was one of the dramatic highlights of the Russians' 10-day visit.

At the Laborites' suggestion that Jews and Socialists were being persecuted behind the Iron Curtain, Khrushchev angrily brushed aside the questioning as "nonsense." He said there was no Social Democrats in the Soviet Union, and what happens to social Democrats anywhere else was no concern of his.

From all signs, both the British and Russians stood fast on their own policies toward the major issues.

City's Past Uncovered

By HAPPY SHUFORD
Charlotte News Staff Writer

Charlotte as 50 years ago attending an evening vaudeville show at the Airborne Theater were probably reminded by a big white sign on a building wall that the Lubin Furniture Co. had just gone out of business.

The big white sign, along with several other painted advertisements on the wall of the building next to the open air theater, were later hidden by a brick building, replacing the theater.

Progress marches on, and now the signs on the brick wall have been uncovered again. They are located on the wall of the building a few doors up from the corner of Church and Trade Sts. And the progress that has uncovered them came in the form of demolition of buildings in the way of the new Wachovia Bank Building on that corner.

OLD IRM

First building to come down for the new bank building was the Southern Hardware, one of Charlotte's oldest firms, that stood square on the southeast corner of Trade and Church Sts.

Next to the hardware store, in the early 1900's was a vacant area, occupied by the Airborne Theater. Here, people watched the grandstands, frequently vaudeville shows, staged at the south end of the lot.

At the street side of the theater—under the stars area was Tony's fruit stand.

Going on down Trade St. toward the Square was the New York Cafe, run by Shapiro Attens, who had the reputation for turning out some of the best pineapple pie anywhere.

Demolition Work Reveals Old Signs

But back to the signs; they were painted on the wall next to the outdoor theater in the same way that people now put up signs around the outfield or a ball park.

The Great New York Lunch Co. took top billing on the big new wall, a paint medicine, Ointol (a household necessity—for all inflammation) came next.

And then there was the advertisement for the slightly simplified name of Charlotte Steam Laundry.

The laundry, still in operation under the slightly simplified name of Charlotte Laundry, is now located on E. 2nd St. Back at the time the sign was painted, however, it was in the second block of S. Tryon St., about where Thacker's Restaurant is today.

The name actually hasn't changed much. In those days all laundries using mechanical equipment were known as "steam" laundries, and had "steam" in the title. This was to distinguish them from the "hand" laundries.

Court Silent On Bus Rule Clarification

WASHINGTON (AP)—Banning T. Whittington, press information officer of the Supreme Court, said today, "There is no comment as far as any clarification from the court is concerned" in the South Carolina bus case.

Whittington gave this reply to a written request for comment in clarification of last Monday's brief order by the high tribunal.

The court order, by simply dismissing an appeal, left standing a Circuit Court decision that (A) South Carolina's law requiring race segregation on buses is unconstitutional and (B) the U.S. District Court at Columbia, S. C., should proceed to try the suit of a Negro woman seeking damages for enforcement of the law.

In the view of some lawyers, the order left an area of doubt, however, as to whether the effect was to outlaw segregation on all public transportation. Some think it did. Others question that it went that far.

Whittington, the court's information officer, said the only way clarification might come from the court would be as the result of a request by the parties involved in the case. No such request has been filed. If it were filed there is no certainty that the justices would respond with any explanation.

On Board's Side

Rodman Files Brief In Old Fort Case

RALEIGH (AP)—Atty. Gen. W. B. Rodman Jr. has joined the McDowell County Board of Education in asking the State Supreme Court to dismiss the petition of a group of Negroes asking that their children be admitted to a white school at Old Fort.

A brief from the attorney general's office taking the side of the McDowell County Board in the crucial school case has been filed with the court.

Rodman is expected to ask the court next Tuesday for permission to take part in the case which will furnish the first court interpretation of the assignment statutes passed by the 1955 Legislature.

The state is relying heavily on the assignment statute to preserve segregation generally in North Carolina's public schools. The law gives local school boards the power to decide which school a child should attend.

WRONG METHOD

Rodman joined the McDowell board in contending Negro parents employed the wrong method when they sought admission for their children and others in a group instead of proceeding individually.

He told the court:

"This is the first time the assignment statute has been presented to the court. It is thought important for the court to interpret the statute. It is devoutly hoped that the court will make it crystal clear that one who seeks assignment and enrollment must do so by virtue of his own rights and that the boards cannot be called upon... to consider applicants for mass assignments."

In his brief Rodman listed a number of factors which would "naturally arise" as a board considered the assignment of a child. These included: aptitude and capacity of the child; his age in relation to the age of other students; the probable psychological effect on the child assigned and those

At Least 28 Die

At least 28 persons, 23 of them children, perished in North American fires since Tuesday.

Today Thursday seven children were burned to death in their Michigan home, a few miles north of the Ohio village of Sylvania. The parents of the children, Negroes, were not at home at the time.

In Philadelphia early Tuesday, six children and three women, all Negroes, died.

Corner Brook Newfoundland Tuesday night: eight children lost their lives.

New York City Tuesday night: two Negro children died in a tenement blaze.

Warren, Pa., Wednesday night: two guests died in a hotel fire; two other guests still were missing.

Evening Prayer

O God, from whom men and nations come and unto whom they shall return, remind us that all flesh is as grass, but he that trusteth in Thee abideth forever. Enable us to believe that he who would lose his life for Thy and shall find it. In Christ's name we ask it. Amen.

How's Your Memory?

Do you know the difference in the spelling of the name Francis? Is that the boy's name or the girl's? To remember which is which, see Sigmond Blomberg's "Improve Your Memory" column now on Page 1-B.

Mecklenburg Farm Leaders Agree Local Farmer In Bad Shape



George Hoover Farm: Cows Graze While Highway 29 Night-of-Way Is Cleared

By JULIAN SCHEER
Charlotte News Staff Writer

Men who know Mecklenburg farms and farming best took a look at the local situation today and agreed that the farmer is in dire shape.

They reiterated The News' contentions yesterday that farming is slowly dying in Mecklenburg because of (1) high value of land which is prey for the urban developer, (2) high costs, and (3) lower farm prices.

A roundup of opinions from some of the county's leaders of these views on the situation:

COTTON TYPICAL

N. M. Craig, president of the farm Bureau group and a leading farmer in the county, said "The situation was covered well. Particularly true were the statements about cotton. This year we'll farm about 25 bales of cotton or 25 acres, while 20 years ago it was about 2,500 bales. The allotments have been

down that production, but labor is the big factor. You can't afford to pay three dollars a hundred pounds to have cotton picked by hand.

"Land is expensive and it is getting to the point that it is smarter to develop it than plant it. That is true in this area, Sharon Township, close to town.

"Because of this, the farmer is being pushed out."

"The overall picture is simply that there isn't much incentive in farming anymore."

INCOME DOWN

Herbert Bradford, a farmer with 120 acres of cotton and corn east of Davidson — "Can't help but agree with the story. Land value has tripled itself in three years. Income has been reduced on the farm and labor is very high. It cost 100 much last year to be a producer and it looks like it is going to cost more this year."

Sid McAllen, chairman of county commission — "The main

trouble, it seems, is that the farmer can't get a good price for his stuff. Property values are going up and in the long run, he may come out all right if he can hold on to his property."

Boyer Knox has 81 acres in the northwest corner of the county with 25 acres of cotton. "It is just the high cost of living. So many jobs in public work pay more. I've been here a long time. Been farming all my life — I'm 61 years old — and I'll stay with it as long as I can."

SEES NO HOPE

W. O. Bradford is a dairyman and a distributor with a farm three miles east of Huntersville. "I see no hope for the cotton farmer. I don't see any hope for the man who said he transferred five acres. After his labor and time and cut with the property owner, he'll make less than \$300."

"Take the dairy farmer with a one-man operation of 20 cows. Select FOREMOST Milk Products at your favorite store.—Adv.

His investment is about \$1,200 a milk cow, or \$24,000. He'll gross \$7,000 on that probably and out of it he'll pay taxes, seed and feed, equipment, etc. That's a pretty poor living, whereas the man in public work on the average can make from \$2,000 to \$4,000 a year with no investment."

SOME ANSWERS

"It is the big man versus the small man. A big operation can survive, but the smaller operation can't."

"There are some answers, like better producing cows, artificial breeding and other things. He says he ran through about 5,500 broilers in 13 weeks — very good. But he figured he made about 70 cents an hour for his work. So he works as a bricklayer, too."

RETIRED PEOPLE live well at the Dixie Inn, Vass, N. C. (Adv.)

Our Weather

Mostly cloudy today, warmer this afternoon, tonight and Friday.

Low this morning 46
Low tomorrow morning 48
High yesterday 67
High today 67
High tomorrow 67
Sunrise 5:30 a.m.; sunset 7:04 p.m.

More Weather Data on Page 2-A

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