

# Calm Acceptance Marks Most Integration Moves

Here are some glimpses of integration highlights in various Kentucky areas, written by Courier-Journal staff writers and special correspondents.

## Integration In Floyd Works In Reverse

**PRESTONSBURG**—It's integration in reverse at the Floyd County hamlet of Tram, where five white pupils have been attending a Negro school since the middle of July. Children of the two races attend classes together, study together and play games together, paying no attention to color.

And the teacher is a Negro.

This is the first time in the history of the little coal town that white children of the district have attended the Rosenwald School, which is reached by walking a mile or so down the railroad tracks and climbing a steep hill.

Before the present school term started, the white children all attended a school which is reached by walking a mile or so up the railroad tracks and climbing a still steeper hill.

Both white and Negro families live in the Tram community, always getting along very well with each other.

### Two Families Involved

This year, with racial integration legal in the public schools, two white families at Tram decided to send their children to the school formerly limited to Negroes. They are the families of Lige Collins and Mrs. Susan Burchett. The Rosenwald School is in their district, and much closer than the Tram School (which so far has no Negro pupils). Attending the Rosenwald School, the Collins and Burchett children are close enough to their homes that they can go there at noon for a hot lunch.

Teacher at the Rosenwald School is Mrs. Jessie Honaker, a Negro who lives just around the hill from the school in a neat little cottage. She is as well-qualified to teach as are most white teachers.

Mrs. Honaker, in preparing herself for

her profession, attended Clark University at Atlanta, Ga., and received a bachelor-of-arts degree from Kentucky State College. She has had 15 years of experience as a teacher.

The Rosenwald teacher was a little surprised when the five white children enrolled in her school last July, but wasn't worried a bit about the unusual situation. She accepted the white children and they accepted her as their teacher without question. And the white children accepted their Negro school-mates.

"They all get along just fine together," the teacher said, "because they haven't been taught prejudice."

Rosenwald is a one-room school with 14 pupils this term, nine Negroes and five whites. Mrs. Honaker teaches all eight grades there when the children require those grades. She doesn't have a Third or a Fifth Grade this year.

### Enter High School

Negro pupils who completed the Eighth Grade last year have enrolled for the fall semester at the Betsy Layne High School, also in Floyd County, a few miles south of Tram on U. S. 23. Hitherto, the school has been for white pupils exclusively, the Negro pupils in the area attending a high school for Negroes at Hazard.

Elsewhere in Eastern Kentucky, Negroes are attending integrated public schools at Williamsburg, Greenup, Barbourville, Monticello and Carr Creek in Knott County. Ashland Junior College, operated by the Ashland Board of Education, also is admitting Negroes this year for the first time. So is Mayo Vocational School, operated by the State at Paintsville.

Gerald Griffin

### It's Color of Jersey That Looms Largest

**CARLISLE**—"Give me a hamburger," said the Negro boy.

The clerk looked at the boy, who had entered the restaurant with a group of white students from Carlisle High School,

then prepared the sandwich. He handed it to the boy and quietly said:

"Please take it outside."

The boy paid for the sandwich and took it out.

Thus were ended whatever hopes he might have had that integration in Carlisle High School had lowered the bars against Negroes elsewhere in the Nicholas County town.

The boy was one of 10 Negroes who had enrolled at the high school earlier in the day. All of them were assigned to white classes without incident. In past years, the Carlisle Board of Education had paid tuition and transportation costs to send Negro students to Western High School at Paris, operated only for their race.

The ease with which four of the Negro boys were accepted as members of the Carlisle football team is illustrated in a happening a few days before school opened.

During a football-practice session with the white boys, Coach Ed Wells told them Negroes were expected to enroll at the school. He asked the boys how they felt about Negroes coming out for the team.

Finally one of the boys replied, "Well, Coach, we don't care about the color of their skin as long as their jerseys are green."

A few days later, the four Negro players led the Carlisle team to a 19-0 victory in its season opener against the all-white Paris High School eleven.

James Goble

### Falmouth Integration 'Working Like Charm'

**FALMOUTH**—"You know, I believe the colored kids are going to like our school all right."

That's what a white Falmouth Grade School pupil told his father at dinner after the first day of classes.

And it added emphasis to Superintendent Lloyd Lutes's statement that integration at the school "is working like a charm." Eleven Negro children were enrolled at the school.

Lutes said he had started down the hall with a Negro lad to show him around, when

a white youngster rushed up, grabbed the Negro by the arm and began showing him the ropes.

Prior to the start of school here, school officials received word from Frankfort and Louisville that they should hold meetings to discuss integration. Meetings were held at the Christian Church, the school, and at the Rotary Club. Few people attended, and very little interest was shown. At last the Falmouth School Board decided against holding more such meetings.

Ruth Moore Craig

### Negro Family Objects At Dawson Springs

**DAWSON SPRINGS**—A slight hitch occurred in the integration program here, but it's expected to be worked out smoothly.

A Negro family objected to sending two of its children to the grade school for white children. The family asked the Dawson Springs School Board to continue sending the youngsters to a Negro grade school in the county outside the city.

However, a lad from the only other Negro family in town enrolled at Dawson Springs High School. He is expected to be a member of the basketball team.

Elsewhere in Western Kentucky, integration got under way at Marion High School in Crittenden County, where six Negroes were enrolled. One of the boys made the high-school team as a halfback.

Restrictions against Negroes attending the State vocational high school at Paducah also were removed this year.

A few Negroes are attending Paducah Junior College. However, this is the second year Negroes have enrolled at that school.

Harry Bolser

### Changeover Quiet In North Kentucky

**NEWPORT**—For the more than 38,000 students enrolling for classes in Kenton and Campbell Counties, school opening meant only that the Three R's have once more taken the place of baseball and the bamboo pole. With no fanfare whatever, desegregation moved in.

Approximately 160 Negro children of school age live in Newport. Sixty of these enrolled in desegregated schools, 27 in high school, the rest in kindergarten and the Seventh and Eighth Grades. Previously, such students had been sent to Covington.

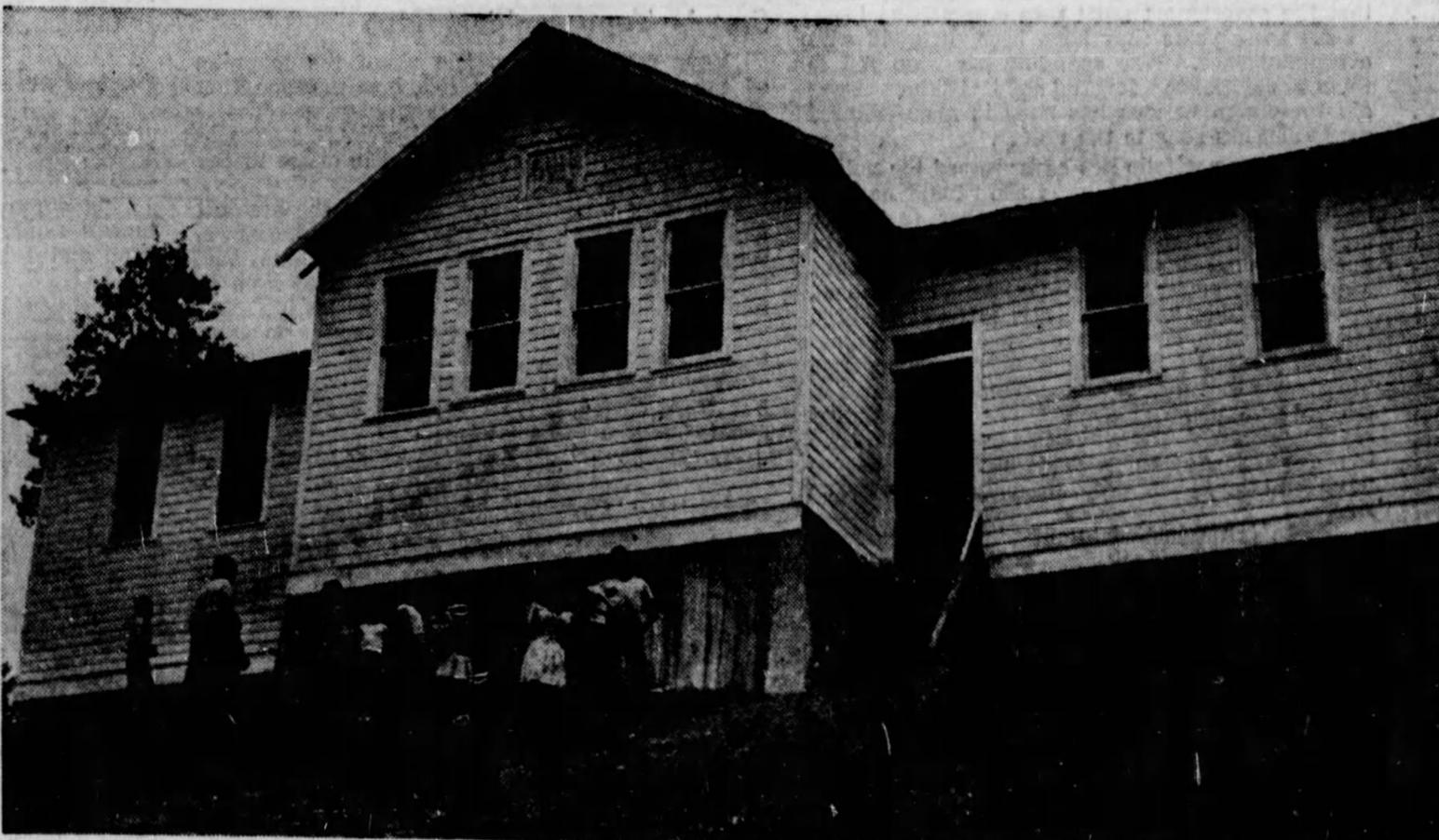
In Newport, the Southgate Street School, with classes for the First through the Sixth Grades, will be maintained this year as a segregated school for Negroes. Plans are under way to do away with segregation for all grades by next fall.

In Covington, Negroes are fairly well taken care of in their own schools. No mixing of Negroes and whites was reported, except in the schools of the Catholic diocese. Catholic schools in the Covington-Newport Diocese began operating on a desegregated basis last year.

The schools of Erlanger, Fort Mitchell, Park Hills and Fort Thomas report no Negro registrants. The explanation is a simple one—no Negro children are in these areas.

Two Negroes are reported at the Boone County High School in Florence. Boone County's Negro children of grade-school age are transported to an elementary school for Negroes at Burlington.

Clarice Susan Munro



Courier-Journal Photo by Gerald Griffin

The Rosenwald School at Tram in Floyd County is a bit crammed for level playground space. White pupils are attending the school this year for the first time. Five of the total of 14 students are whites.