graduating class 366 in Douglass

Acting Mayor Price will present diplomas at Poly

Members of the last senior class to complete their high school education in the present Douglass High School building, will receive diplomas tonight, (Friday) at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, North Ave. and Calvert St.

Acting Mayor Arthur B. Price will present diplomas to the 366 members of the graduating class, the largest in the history of the school. Present plans call for Douglass to be moved from its present location at Baker and Carey Sts. to Western High School, Gwynns Falls Parkway and Pulaski St., in the fall.

By Rev. Williams

The invocation and benediction will be delivered by the Rev. Johnson Williams, pastor of Sharp St. Memorial Methodist Church. Music will be under the direction of Mrs. Georgeanna Chew, for with Mrs. Marion Smith at the piano.

The exercises will start at 8 p.m. Acting Mayor Price will be introduced by Dr. Houston R. Jackson, assistant superintendent of schools. Remarks will be made by the Douglass principal, Ralph W. Reckling.

The complete list of graduates follows:

Betty J. Aaron, Marie C. Adams, William L. Adams, Marion Alice Jean, Carol Viola Allen, Nelson Allen, Sylvia Allen, Joseph W. Allen, Mary E. Amey, Delores C. Anderson, Joseph E. Armstrong, Madalene Arnold, Sylvia F. Atkins, Bessie C. Ayers.

Robert Celaisie Bagley, Donald A. Bailey, James H. Baker, Lillian E. Barnes, Yvonne N. Barnes, Minerva E. Brackett, Bessie Jean Bell, Maxine Bell, Shirley Bell, John R. Bennett, Minnie E. Benjamin, Samuel Berry, Mary Frances Bishmore, Maris L. Black.

Anita L. Boardley, Nellie D. Bowers, Frank J. Bowman, Orlando Boyd, Blanche E. Bradford, James Alice Brandt, Nancy Ann Brown, Jack A. Bunge, Jerome Burgess, Jack A. Burke, Annie Mae Burrell, Ethel Bryant, Ellen Ford, James C. Ford, Carolyn Ford, Alice A. Foster, William Fraser, Lillian Frazier, Barbara Carolyn Gee, Betty Gibbs.

Clarice M. Gillis, William Gilliam, Ernestine Gilmore, Gladys Joy L. Green, Lillian E. Gregory, Bernice Gregers, Harold Mae Grey, Gregory Gaither, Gertie Freeman, Griffin, Marlene Guilford, Melvin Gaither, Gertie Hall, Marie C. Hand, Barbara Hardy.

Dorothy B. Hardy, Shirley M. Harris, Ann M. Harrison, Richard J. Harvin, Clarence Hawkins, Mary E. Hayes Jr., George D. Haywood, Gladys Hegner, Sandra Henry, Frank O. Hewlett, Viola T. Hewlett, Albertha L. Heyward, Ruth D. Hicks, Carol J. Hicks, Dorothy Shannon, Hilbert Hill, Mary Hill, Ann Hill, Holley, Rosetta M. Howard, Howard Howell, Mrs. Edna Hughes, Thelma N. Irby, Alfred Vernon Jackson, Ann R. Jackson, Marguerite Jackson, Mary Jackson, Melvin E. Jackson, Bertha Jackson, Ruth D. Jenkins.

Ruth C. Jennings, Audrey T. Johnson, Dorothy M. Johnson, Edward W. Johnson, James W. Johnson, Mary Johnson, Peggy Ann Johnson, Sylvia Johnson, Barbara J. Jones, Edward L. Jones, Gloria Jones, Ida Carnatha Jones, Sylvia J. Jones.

Junetta Jones, Marion Jones, Cecelia Selena Julius, Kensler, Gilbert Rush, James A. King, Leonard Knight, Annette M. Lake, William Lambert, Jacqueline E. Langley, Donald E. Lee, Father H. Lee, Louise Lee, Mildred Lee.

Ethel H. Lewis, Levi T. Lipscomb Jr., Margaret J. Lockleas, Edna E. Lucas, Helen M. Lucas, Howard E. Lynch, Iola Quantee Marshall, Ronald Marshall, Jerlamin Mason Jr., Donald R. Mason, Marlene B. Mason, Delores L. Massenburg, Hattie McBride, Hattie M. McDonald.

Dorothy McFadden, Christine S. McKeever, Phyllis Z. McKinney, Euridian McLaughlin, Glenn Meads, Claudette D. Mercer, Louis B. Miller Verna C. Mitchell, Cecelia L. Millner, Otho V. Mason, Walter A. Moore, Clifton A. Monk, Beverly Morris, Hesta Moryk.

Ella M. Morsk, Shirley A. Moton, Eugene J. Mosby, Annie L. Mobely, Juanita Murden, Judith A. Murray, Doris M. Muse, Naomi J. Nicholson, Beatrice G. Nimmons, Delmar E. Nelson, John McQueen Nelson Jr., Doris B. D. Oswell, Cadman Owens, Thomas Page.

Ernestine A. Paige, Henry C. Pajardo, Alvin B. Palmer, Eurodia Parola, Delores L. Parson, Howard E. Patterson, Pearl L. Patterson, Mamie R. Perry, Jarmier V. Person, Florence E. Peters, Janet Pettigrew, Jean Pettigrew, Bettyann H. Phillips, Sylvia E. Pipkin.

Louise Porter, Ruth M. Posey, Janet E. Powell, Juanita Price, Lucille R. Pumphrey, Ralph D. Pye, Peggy A. Randall, Vera M. Randall, Howard D. Rawlings, Wendell Redmond, Donald W. Register, James M. Reis, Valerie Rhebottom, Bernard W. Robinson.

Delores M. Robinson, Gloria T. Robinson, Leon B. Robinson Jr., Delores Rogers, Elizabeth Rogers, Irvin Rogers, Mary L. Rober, Theodore J. Russell, Jean A. Sanders, Theodore Wilbert Savage Jr., Angela L. Scott, John Scott, William N. Scribner, Audrey M. Seabrook.

Milton R. Shelton, Yvonne G. Sherman, Veronica A. Shipley, Sylvia E. Short, Floyd Simmons Jr., James Donald Simmons, John E. Simms, Virginia B. Simms, Monroe S. Simms, Adrienne Smith, Dorothy Smith, Jessie E. Smith, James O. Smith, Mary W. Smith.

Mary F. Smith, Shirley Smith, Syrid H. Smith, William L. Smith, Inez M. Smooth, Gayle S. Spaulding, Mary E. Stanback, John Edward Stewart, Robert Strand, Walter Tilghman Strawn Jr., Walter L. Strickland, Helen D. Sturdivant, Rudolph R. Sullivan, Wesley L. Sullivan.

Clifton R. Sutton, Victor R. Talley, Clarice R. Tarter, Marian D. Taylor, Arlene Thomas, Catherine E. Thomas, Charles F. Thomas, Beatrice Thompson, Michael Thompson, Mary E. Thompson, Vernice Delilah Tisdale, LaGretta Toatley, Evelyn M. Todd, Gladys A. Todd.

Lawrence Todd, Ada Toney, June E. Torrence, Thelma Torrence, Carole A. Troy, Ida L. Tucker, Samuel C. Tunstall, Barbara Turner, Lorraine Turner, Joan Turpin, Joay Tyree, Richard Vance, Gertrude A. Walker, Weslee C. Wallace.

Minnie M. Warren, Geraldine Watkins, Joan Watkins, Grace C. Watson, Kenneth L. Webster, Dorothy Weems, Gloria M. Wesley, Luther West, Milton M. West, Charlotte Carrinne White, Leroy E. White, Wayman E. White, Ruth C. White, Shirley M. White, Ethel Wilkerson.

Jehonadab Jehh Whittle, Andre L. Whyte, Ruby Wiggs, Isamae S. Wilkes, Albert Williams, Carolyn Williams, Brian D. Williams, Joshua O. Williams Jr., Lena M. Williams, Marion L. Williams, Shirley R. Williams, Shirley M. Williams, Delores Williams, John Firman O. Wilson, Allen B. Wise, Eulalia A. Wingfield, Brenda Wood, Gloria Aretha Woods, Janet Woodson, Ann Wright, Charles Claudette M. Wright, Mable E. Wright, Patricia M. Yancey, Christine H. Yates, Richard Young, Hilbert T. M. Zachary.

Certificates go to 15 at 130A

Certificates were presented to 15 persons recently at the closing exercises of Evening School No. 130A, held in the auditorium of Frederick Douglass High School.

Receiving certificates for completion of the regular academic course were:

Certificates Given

Aileen Cooke, Helen Clark, Gradis Felder, Marie Golburn, Howard Green, Viola Harris, Mary Nock, Frank Topping and Esther Woods.

Certificates for completing the advanced sewing course were awarded to:

Ida Finney, Mary Grayson, Lois Hickman, Fannie Holmes, Mary Reese and Edna Wolfork.

The address was given by the Rev. Ward D. Verby, pastor of Perkins Square Baptist Church. Robert Williams, counselor of the Douglas Evening High School awarded the certificates.

Others appearing on the program were: Mrs. Marie Goburn, Gradis Felder, Mrs. Lillian Hannon, Mrs. Mary Nock, Mrs. Goldie Dubois, Howard D. Green, and Charles C. Mason, principal.

4 graduates at Knox Institute

Knox Institute commencement exercises and awards were held Friday at the YWCA with the Rev. Ward D. Verby as guest speaker.

The four graduates of the business school were Marlene Johnson, Gladys Smith, Ellen Beth Curtis and Daisy Westroy.

The Rev. Mr. Verby, pastor of Perkins Square Baptist Church, discussed the subject "Putting New Oil in Old Vessels."

New Ideas Methods

He emphasized that for progress in one's chosen field of employment, new and constructive ideas and methods must replace those of a few years ago.

Program participants were Shannon Cashier, Ernest Young, the Rev. J. J. Barnes, the Rev. R. H. Harris, the Rev. Frederick Fuller, the Rev. James S. Scott, Mrs. Marjorie Butler, Mrs. Hovia Fuller, Mrs. Edna Dungee and Mrs. Ethel Perry.

Thomas Knox, attorney, is president of the Institute.

Henryton exercises on Friday, June 25

HENRYTON, Md. — Graduation exercises for the Henryton State Hospital Training School of Practical Nursing will be held here Friday, June 25.

A special bus will leave Baltimore at 2 p.m. from the corner Mosher St.

Proven 'Success' Shows Way to
LIGHTER SKIN
Lovely Creamy-Bright, Clear Complexion Wins Admiration
Don't let dark, dull skin hold you back. Palmer's SKIN SUCCESS Bleach Cream has proved it works wonders in just a few days to make skin look lighter, smoother, softer, younger.
PALMER'S
'SKIN SUCCESS'
BLEACH CREAM
Don't forget to vote In June 28 primaries.

A real citizen VOTES. Primary elections, June 28.

SAFE FROM HARM—This playground in the rear of the 1300 block Stockton St., represents the work of Joseph Brown of 1317 Stockton St., who became worried when he saw children playing in the street. (See accompanying story.)

Azikiwe feted by envoy from Britain

Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe and L. F. Ojukwu of Nigeria were entertained at a stag dinner by Sir Roger Makins, British ambassador, Saturday night.

Among the guests were some of Doctor Azikiwe's former professors at Howard University, Lincoln University and the University of Pennsylvania.

Leader of the political party that has just won the election in Eastern Nigeria, Doctor Azikiwe is slated to be prime minister of the region.

'54 grads feted at Metropolitan

Metropolitan Methodist Church invited 40 of its youth who are graduates of various schools this June to the Methodist Youth Fellowship on Sunday evening at 6:30.

After an unusually lively discussion on the topic Christianity and Other Religions, led by Clifford Brown, teacher at School No. 112, the group went to the social hall.

Here the pastor, the Rev. Kelly L. Jackson, presented each with a gift made possible through the efforts of the superintendent of the youth division, Mrs. Gladys Dixon, and the secretary of student work, Mrs. Edna Williams.

Mrs. Bessie Harmon, general superintendent, made fitting remarks and the new president of the Methodist Youth Fellowship, Miss Frances Jefferson, was present.

Mrs. Vacoustess Payne who graduated from New York University was presented as a grandmother as well as graduate.

Who Were Present

Graduates present were as follows:

Aline Walker and Irma Hankins, Coppin Teachers College.

Bruce Miller, Leon Knight, Walter Strickland, Howard Rawlings, Shirley Williams, Shirley Douglass, Douglass High School.

Frederick Edwards and John Edwards, Carver Vocational School.

Towson High

Thomas Bourne, Towson High School.

Marcia Taylor, Edwin Johnson, Marjorie Mooney, Leroy Pinder, Ellen Bay, Booker T. Washington Jr. High.

Shirley Dixon, Druid Junior High.

Vacoustess Edmond Payne, New York University.

Sampson Simmons, Ouandra Smith, Betty Anderson, Hermyn Edwards, Carver Vocational School, 6A Class.

Cardin gets plaque for safety measure

Maurice Cardin, local attorney and a candidate for re-election to the House of Delegates from the Fifth District, was recently presented a plaque from the Maryland Traffic Safety Commission in recognition of his sponsorship of a safety measure.

The measure which becomes effective July 1, provides for expanding the Statistics Division of the state police by giving a consolidated report on all accidents.

OPENS SCHOOL

ELIZABETH CITY, N.C. — Mrs. Cora M. Lewis, wife of the Rev. E. Everett Lewis, recently opened a school for adults here, to be run free of charge.

Builds free playground to serve his community

Take a liberal helping of love for children—mix it with the willingness to work for the benefit of the community—and you have a picture of Joseph Brove, 50, of 1317 Stockton St.

From vacant lots covered with trash and refuse, Mr. Brown built a playground in the rear of the 1300 block of Stockton St. He canvassed neighbors and merchants in the area and obtained donations to equip the playground.

Building a playground from scratch is no easy job, but when Mr. Brown was not looking for grass and appreciation, Mr. Murray attributed much of his success to the cooperative spirit of all associated with him in the school community.

Paint and service provided by Philip Timberlake and his catering staff were an outstanding feature of the evening.

Guests Listed

Guests attending were:

Mesdames Josephine Murray, Annie Murray, Velma Murray, Mildred M. Chapman, Jennie Washington, Margaret Chase, Urania Puttman, Thelma Adams, Ruth Smith, Elizabeth Cook, Thelma Murphy, Dorothy Watson, Vivienne Betters, Olivia Fassett, Mazie Roberts, Lula Smith, Jewel Rawlings, Catherine Chandler, Bernadine Evans, Virginia Parks, Pearl Burke, Pauline Pope, Bernice Ayers, Augusta Jackson, Annie Harris, Bernice Bell, Susan Redd, Joe Anderwood.

Elizabeth East, Pearl Curry, Odessa Williams, Annie Gale, Agnes Anderwood, Virginia Sents, Hall, Lillian Parrott, Thomas Coleman, Louise Powell, Margaret Yates, Deborah Young, Elise Coates, E. Thompson, Beula Caldwell, Hester Beale, Maryland Jones, Portia Burrell, Gertrude Malicoff, Mar. Hughes, Leon B. Toles, Douglass E. Bates, William Gresham, Margaret F. Johnson, Charles Hillery, Delores Tinkler, Delores D. Bogues, Mary E. Holmes, Barbara A. Lyons, Willie F. Magwood, Yvonne Hayes, Anna Lewis, Catherine E. Owens, Delores Summerville.

Charles Chestnut, Willie James Gasquer Jr., Donald Makel, John T. Scott, Gladys M. Hardy, Alice S. Lloyd, Doris E. Hainsey, Olivia M. Thompson, Catherine Jackson, Mamie Lee Yarborough, Vernon Payne, Gordon A. Stith, Luther W. Crawford, Vernon F. Mason, William P. Dixon.

Ralph E. Biggers, Thomas L. Hobbs, Augustus L. Henry, Charles L. Jenkins, John W. Smith, Nelson S. Taylor, Walter G. Wilson, Ernest Curtis, Charles Diggs, William L. Higgins, Edward King, Willard Webster.

Albert S. Williams, Melvin Colbert, Richard Jordan, Cleveland Blackmon, Elizabeth D. Broadnax, Alfred Goode, James H. Brown, Lloyd McNeil, Joseph J. Thompson, Willie J. Rollins, Robert Russell, Betty J. Stewart.

One of Mr. Brown's chief supporters is Officer James Watkins of the Northwestern District, who says the community should be proud of men like Mr. Brown.

Officer Watkins serves as an unofficial adviser to the playground and is firm in his conviction that the playground and the concern of Mr. Brown for the welfare of the children, have helped reduce juvenile delinquency in the area.

The parents also approve of the playground because they have their children play near home, rather than at a distant site.

At present the lot looks vastly different than it did a year ago, but Mr. Brown is not completely satisfied.

He would like to have additional equipment for the children. Two of the items at the top of his list are a small merry-go-round and a larger sliding board. With these items, Mr. Brown feels that the playground can serve more children, making their lives a little happier—a little brighter.

In Our Schools

At a recent testimonial dinner in School No. 138, Harlem Ave. and Monroe St., children, parents and a friend were honored. Edward L. Murray Sr., principal, and Mrs. Lily W. Stevenson, Mr. Murray is being transferred to School No. 137.

Mrs. Willa Bland's opening poem "Success" by James Blake was followed by the audience singing "Thanks and Just Good People." Mrs. Lillian Parrott and Mrs. Beatrice Rawlings spoke for the Department of Education.

Children from the primary and intermediate departments had contributed dimes for the purchasing of gifts. Patricia Smith, Cheryl Parks, Roberta Redd, James Ford, Walter Curry, Jacqueline Murphy and Bernadine Bell presented gifts from the children.

Mesdames Bernice Ayers, Edna Hurd, Elise Coates and Virginia Moore presented PTA gifts and scrolls to the honorees. Mrs. Maisie Burton, school stenographer, was given gifts by the PTA as tribute to her cooperative efforts. Mrs. Doris Smith made the presentation.

Children In Program

Children in the musical program were: Hansonia Caldwell, Joyce Beal, Patricia Reed, and Sondra Jones. Mrs. Johnnetta Jones accompanied by Miss Judith Murray sang "Little Things Mean a Lot" which was dedicated to Mrs. Josephine Murray.

Ralph Quay gave special thanks to Mr. Murray in behalf of fathers and pledged the parents whatever he promises the using of the school as a recreation center to fulfill one of Mr. Murray's hopes. Mrs. Marie Allen, president of the PTA, thanked Mr. Murray for his years of service.

Mrs. Portia Burrell expressed gratitude for Mrs. Stevenson's contribution to the welfare of the school and community.

Mrs. Stevenson thanked the audience for their expressions of praise and appreciation. Mr. Murray attributed much of his success to the cooperative spirit of all associated with him in the school community.

Paint and service provided by Philip Timberlake and his catering staff were an outstanding feature of the evening.

Guests Listed

Guests attending were:

Mesdames Josephine Murray, Annie Murray, Velma Murray, Mildred M. Chapman, Jennie Washington, Margaret Chase, Urania Puttman, Thelma Adams, Ruth Smith, Elizabeth Cook, Thelma Murphy, Dorothy Watson, Vivienne Betters, Olivia Fassett, Mazie Roberts, Lula Smith, Jewel Rawlings, Catherine Chandler, Bernadine Evans, Virginia Parks, Pearl Burke, Pauline Pope, Bernice Ayers, Augusta Jackson, Annie Harris, Bernice Bell, Susan Redd, Joe Anderwood.

Elizabeth East, Pearl Curry, Odessa Williams, Annie Gale, Agnes Anderwood, Virginia Sents, Hall, Lillian Parrott, Thomas Coleman, Louise Powell, Margaret Yates, Deborah Young, Elise Coates, E. Thompson, Beula Caldwell, Hester Beale, Maryland Jones, Portia Burrell, Gertrude Malicoff, Mar.

Responsible for the program were: Miss Mildred Kirkland, Mrs. June Thorne, Mrs. Camille William, Mrs. Florence Wimple, Mrs. Florence Kidd, Mrs. Ange Payne, principal.

Among the parents attending were Mesdames Dorothy Young, Mildred Montgomery, Ramona Stenner, Emma Thomas, Carrie Effort.

Members of the 3A Class at the school recently presented a program on China. The program was introduced by Elaine Whitehurst. Original poems were read by Vera Wiggins, Stanley Babb and Margie Taylor. Others on the program were:

Elmer Watson, Doris Pollard, Calvin Anderson, Mary Miles, Gloria Chambers, William Green, Lewis Kerniy, Martha Jordan, Ella Williams.

The 2A class recently presented a program of Indian life. Taking part were:

Chyrl Haney, Helen Jones, Edward Clark, Harry Wilson, David Mayo, Shirley Moore, Francine Howard, Ethel Hatten, Marian Wilkens, Michael Johnson, Freddie Peoples, Roxie Abron, Carolyn Boyd, Helen Jones, Ethel Hatten.

Cleo Smith, Gertrude Bess, Frances James, Adelina Perry, Bessie Weeiner, Mary Mitchell, Delores Richardson, Bernice Jones, Jamie Forville, Margaret Tubman, Jeanette Winegan, James W. Lewman, Mildred Richardson.

Mrs. Annie T. Dorsey, Stella Houston, Juanita Pulliam, Mazella Hemphill, Ann Jackson, Annie Smith, Mable Terry, Mary A. Henson, Louise Barnes, Marthina Green, Mary Brown, Fannie Bydume, Eva Bishop, Mable Terry, Dorothy Mon, Mary Cooper, Annie Wood, Minnie Summers and Evie Smith.

Also the Rev. J. Williams, Herbert Mitchell and Samuel Jackson.

CLOSING PROGRAM SAMUEL T. COLE SCHOOL

The sixth grade class at the Samuel Coleridge Taylor School No. 112 presented the closing program on Monday. The opening prayer was given by Elvin Randall.

A poem, "April Rain" was given by Brenda Montague, Twiah Jenkins, Virgie Church, chorus members were: Brenda Brooks, Sylvia Stanton, Almeta Jackson, Devora Jenkins, Patrice Sebbonh, Sandra Hutchins.

An original poem was recited by Brenda Brooks, Anita Smith, Sandra Hutchins, Marlene Skinner, Marian Jenkins.

Others appearing on the program were: Mrs. Dorothy M. Murphy, Devora Jenkins, Winfred Johnson, Janice Smith, Sandra Hutchins, Marlene Skinner, Eric Johnson, Melvin Powell, Glenola Jones, Kenneth Riddy, Andrew Weaver.

Mrs. Gladys E. Wallace.

Mrs. Bessie DeShong, Margaret Hutchins, Mrs. Calvin M. Montague, Almeta Jackson, Mrs. Bernetta Hux, Diana Wagner, Janice Smith.

Cast

Thelma Jackson, Verronn Thornton, Gloria Washington, Barbara White, Lorraine Harrison, Winifred Johnson, Pearleen Lee, Bertha Pryor, Vernon Thornton, Ralph Madison, Walter Melton, Robert Vaughn, Randolph Nichols, Ronald Parker, Ronald Parker, Ralph Madison, Walter Melton, Jerome Chester, Lawrence Lee, Charles Boykins, Bertha Pryor, Ralph Wilson, Vernon Graves, Thomas Thornton, Glenola Jones, Madison, Winifred Johnson, Jerome Chester, Pearleen Lee, Ronald Parker.

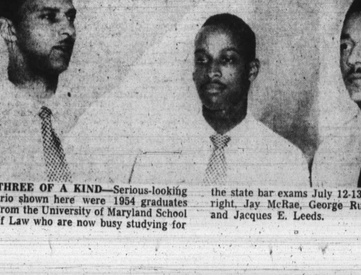
Thelma Jackson, Devora Jenkins, Glenola Jones, Paul Howard, Gloria Washington, Jackson, Walster Melton, Jerome Chester, Vernon Graves, Jackson, and Barbara White.

PROGRESSIVE CANDIDATE

The Progressive Party of Maryland has announced the filing of its candidate, Milton Bates, for Congress in the 3rd Congressional District. Mr. Bates, 32 years old World War II veteran, has been executive secretary of the party for the past two years and managed the campaign which won convention status in Baltimore for the Progressives in 1952.

PARENTS OF BOY

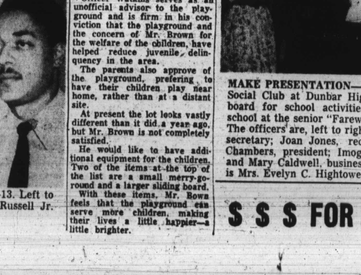
ELIZABETH CITY, N.C. — Mr and Mrs. John Blount became the parents of a boy, John Jr., recently.



THREE OF A KIND—Serious-looking trio shown here were 1954 graduates from the University of Maryland School of Law who are now busy studying for the state bar exams July 12-13. Left to right, Jay McRae, George Russell Jr. and Jacques E. Leeds.

General Vocational commencement exercises

GENERAL VOCATIONAL GRAD Melvin Colbert receives diplomas during graduation exercises from Carl J. White, supervisor of vocational education. Young Colbert was one of 156 grads. He specialized in mechanical and automotive assembly.



MAKE PRESENTATION—Officers of the EKA Girls Social Club at Dunbar High School hold a bulletin board they recently presented to the school at the senior "Farewell" assembly on Tuesday. The officers are, left to right: Shirley Smith, secretary; Joan Jones, recording secretary; Angie Chambers, president; Imogene Reed, vice-president; and Mary Caldwell, business manager. Club sponsor is Mrs. Evelyn C. Hightower.

S S S FOR YOUR TAGS

Here's complete text of Dr. Fischer's address

Here is the complete text of the address given by Dr. John H. Fischer, superintendent of Baltimore schools, who addressed 3,000 teachers, principals and administrators on Monday and Tuesday at special assemblies held at Polytechnic Institute. At both meeting, teachers of both races applauded long and loud.

By JOHN H. FISCHER (Supt. of Schools, Baltimore City)

My fellow teachers:

Only the most urgent reason could justify calling you to an extra meeting in this busy final week of the school year.

I think you will agree that what brings us here today is of the greatest importance.

What I want to discuss with you is the recent action of our Board of School Commissioners eliminating racial segregation in the Baltimore Public Schools at the beginning of the next school year.

It would be better for us to talk about this in a conversational fashion, but the size of our staff denies us that pleasure here. I have no alternate, therefore, but to lay before you some of the major implications of this action for us as teachers, and to invite you to discuss the subject freely among yourselves in your respective schools, or with any of us on the central staff.

No Subterfuge

Without fear and without subterfuge our Board has met its responsibility. Paraphrasing the words of Robert E. Lee, we cannot now do more than our duty, we shall not want to do less.

The case in which the Supreme Court handed down the historic decision of May 17 were before the Court for about two years. There was much speculation, as you well know, upon the probable decision and yet it appears extremely doubtful that any student of American history or culture could have been truly surprised when the decision was finally read.

Not Unusual

What happened in Washington on the 17th of May, 1954 was not unusual for America. The whole course of our history as a nation is marked by such actions, actions which one by one have destroyed barriers that stood between the ordinary man and a richer life.

Prophets Proved Wrong

Those of you who know well the history of democracy will recall how the prophets of doom warned against every one of these forward steps.

In advance of each one, our ancestors were assured by the viewers with alarm that it would undoubtedly lead to the most awful consequences.

And each time a strengthened people proved them wrong.

It was so when each shipload of optimists set sail for the New World.

It was so when we determined to separate our colonies from the British crown.

It was so when property qualifications upon voting were removed.

It was so when manhood suffrage was adapted, when child labor was outlawed, when compulsory school attendance was instituted, when slavery was abolished.

And always there have been the satisfied sustainers of the status quo.

Why The Change

In this present instance they are represented by those of both races who say, "But why should we not continue to provide equal separate schools for our children? We have not done quite well under that doctrine?"

Listen, if you will, to the words of Court; a court frequently divided in its decisions, but in this one, unanimously decisive.

Can't Turn Clock Back

"In approaching this problem, we cannot turn the clock back to 1868 when the amendment was adopted, or even to 1896 when Plessy vs. Ferguson was written.

"We must consider public education in the light of its full development and its present place in American Life throughout the nation.

Education Most Important

"Today education is perhaps the most important function of state and local governments.

"Compulsory school attendance laws and the great expenditures for education both demonstrate our recognition of the importance of education in our democratic society.

"It is required in the performance of our most basic public responsibilities, even service in the armed forces.

"It is the very foundation of good citizenship.

"Today it is a principal instrument in awakening the child to for later professional training, cultural values, in preparing him and in helping him to adjust normally to his environment."

"In these days, it is doubtful that any child may reasonably be expected to succeed in life if he is denied the opportunity of an education. Such an opportunity, where the state has undertaken of provide it, is a right which must be made available to all on equal terms.

Segregation Detrimental

"Segregation of white and colored children in public schools has a detrimental effect upon the colored children.

"The impact is greater when it has the sanction of the law; for the policy of separating the races is usually interpreted as denoting the inferiority of the colored group.

"A sense of inferiority affects the motivation of a child to learn.

"Segregation with the sanction of law, therefore, has a tendency to retard the educational and mental development of colored children and to deprive them of some of the benefits they would receive in a racially integrated school system

"Whatever may have been the extent of psychological knowledge at the time of Plessy vs Ferguson, this finding is amply supported by modern authority Any language in Plessy vs. Ferguson contrary to this finding is rejected.

"We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of separate but equal has no place. Separate education facilities are inherently unequal."

Masters Of Creation

In an editorial published the day after the decision, the New York Times pointed out that the Constitution and the Bill of Rights can be hard masters.

The New York Times might have added is that these are masters of our own creation.

From our earliest days as a nation we have set down from time to time in historic documents the high principles by which we mean to govern ourselves.

Often these statements have run ahead of our usual behavior but they remain our deliberately established goals and our own freely chosen standards.

It is when we become aware that our daily conduct is inconsistent with these statements of purpose that we begin to rise above our past. It is on these occasions that the American dream comes more nearly true for more Americans.

Affect Daily Lives

In one of these pivotal chapters of American history we are now privileged to become active participants.

To a greater degree than most historic events the abolition of segregation in public schools will affect the daily lives of individuals.

Because it has to do with long established patterns of association, it will raise questions with emotional overtones. To ignore these aspects of the problem would be unwise and irresponsible.

Being teachers and, therefore, students of human behaviour we need to understand these things, and to bring them to bear upon our own attitudes with as much objectivity as we can muster.

As instructors of children and leaders of community thought, we must be sensitive to the anxieties which some feel and we should prepare ourselves to be helpful in allaying them, to assist in clarifying misunderstandings and providing reassurance.

No Race Designation

Let me review some of the questions that are being asked, and let me give you such information as I can bearing upon them.

"Will the school system be reorganized to integrate all pupils?"

The answer to that question is "No."

There will be no such reorganization.

All of our present policies for admitting or transferring pupils will remain in full effect, except that no child shall be denied entry to any school on the basis of his race.

The application of white and Negro schools will, of course, be discontinued, because every school will now receive children of both races. But no effort will be made deliberately to transfer children in order to achieve the purpose of "mixing" schools.

No Division Of Colored Schools

"Will there be any last of placing children anywhere for racial reasons. Hereafter every child will be placed in the full development and its present place in American Life throughout the nation.

The Division of Colored Schools will cease to exist, but no pupil will be assigned to this division will suffer any loss of status because of this administrative change.

No Large Number of Transfers

2. Will there be a large number of pupil transfers in September?

There should not be.

The same high-minded policy of our Board and our City Government, colored and white schools in Baltimore were operated according to equal standards.

In the construction of buildings and their maintenance, in professional examination of teachers, in the allocation of funds for books and supplies there have been no racial distinctions.

It is no secret that we have many crowded schools, or that most Baltimore children attend school in buildings that are in about as old as the homes in which they live. But this statement applies to children of both races.

Transfers Will Be Granted From Colored Schools

When a nearby school offers advantages to any pupil, white or colored, over the school he now attends, and the parent requests a transfer, the request should be granted. But only in rare instances should a young child be sent far from his home to another school.

At the secondary or vocational level, distance is less important, but in such cases a pupil in the middle of a three year program should be transferred only where it is clearly advisable for him to do so.

No Teachers Discharged

3. Will teachers or other staff members be discharged as a result of the new policy?

Again, the answer is "No." As in the past, vacancies which occur in the future will be filled with a scrupulous regard for relative merit. There will be one eligible list for each type of position.

Whenever a vacancy occurs, one of the applicants of the five standing highest on the list will be selected for employment.

As in the past the specific requirements of the position and the total qualifications of each available candidate will determine who is assigned.

Whether we are dealing with transfer or initial placement, or promotional positions filled by selection by the Board of Superintendents, no one will be discriminated against because of his race. Nor will his race entitle anyone to preferment over another who is better qualified.

No One Required To Attend Particular Schools

4. Will children be required to attend particular schools?

No, and again I refer to our present policy. Baltimore does not insist that any child attend the school in whose district he lives.

Of our 175 school units only two are districted.

In these cases, children living within a prescribed area have the right to attend the districted school and others are excluded.

But if a child living in any district wishes to attend elsewhere he may do so if the school of his choice is not itself districted and if there is a good reason for transferring.

High Schools

No secondary school except Garrison and Lake School is now districted and every other one is accordingly available to any qualified student.

As population changes occur in Baltimore, more will be so be districted, and if this happens the regular policy will apply. No child will be deliberately assigned to any school because of his race.

Will It Work

5. The question perhaps most frequently asked is, "Will it work?"

The only guide we can have for the future is our experience of the past.

At the staff level we have been working for many years, in groups assembled without regard to race. In workshops, in committees, in staff conferences of all kinds we have helped and complemented each other.

In the Public School Teachers Association, the Teachers Union, the Principals Association, we have been the pattern for many years.

In our staff we know it has worked.

In many of our schools colored and white pupils have visited each other to exchange assembly programs, to engage in debates, to discuss common problems. This has worked.

Red Cross

For several years, the Junior Red Cross has conducted summer workshops in which white and colored pupils have worked and played side by side with pleasure and profit. This has worked.

Poly

Here at Poly colored boys were admitted to the "A" Course in 1952. The faculty and student body decided at the outset that there would be in this school only one class of boy—the Poly boy.

The colored students, now some 40 of them, participate in every phase of school life. Here it worked. The first boy is scheduled to graduate next June. You might ask him or his white classmates who refer to him as a "good guy."

Adult Education

In our adult education program for a number of years, without headlines or fanfare, colored and white students have studied in the same classes and within the month, in this very building we have organized an adult center in which the faculty and the student body both include white and colored members, in about the same proportions as our total school population.

And this is working so well that the viewers - with - alarm couldn't have been more wrong.

Parents

But, some say, what about the parents How will they react?

Since 1947 when our Coordinating Council of Teacher Organizations was formed, it has been a unified group.

Established on the basis of councilmanic districts, the executive board of the Council has included every year men and women of both races. Has it worked? The record of the Council's accomplishments is proof enough of its success.

Will It Work

Will it work? Review, if you please, every activity of our school system for the past fifteen or more years in which colored and white children, adult students, or staff members have been associated.

You will discover that without exception, every one has succeeded.

The policy of the board, Dr. Fischer said, was laid down on June 3 when the commissioners voted unanimously to comply with the Supreme Court rulings ending segregation in public schools.

During his talk, Dr. Fischer read a letter which James G. Carroll, principal of two elementary schools had addressed to his teachers urging them to behave as educators, using discretion and wisdom in making the transition to integration in their buildings.

Mr. Carroll is principal of Mt. Henry School No. 10 at Hollins and Schroeder Sts. and of Poe School No. 10-A at Fayette and Greene Sts.

Dr. Fischer said that the letter expressed his sentiments exactly.

The complete text of Dr. Fischer's address was first published in the Tuesday edition this week. It is reprinted in this edition on this page.

DR. JOHN H. FISCHER

Superintendent of public schools made historic talk on school integration.

Teachers applaud Dr Fischer's talk

2,400 crowd Poly on Tuesday, hail school integration plans

There was extended applause from the 2,400 principals, teachers and school administrators of both races who crowded Polytechnic Institute on Tuesday afternoon to hear Dr. John H. Fischer, superintendent of schools, tell how integration of races will be handled in Baltimore schools beginning in September.

Personnel was crowded the auditorium came from schools in the city located north of Charles St.

A similar standing room only audience composed of administrators from schools west of Howard St. had been given the same auditorium on Monday afternoon.

Applause on both occasions was spontaneous and extended.

No Racial Designations

In his talk Dr. Fischer explained that beginning Sept. 1, all racial designation will be abolished in the school system.

There will be one eligible list for teachers and they will be appointed on merit. Similarly pupils will be registered and transferred in schools on the same basis.

Dr. Fischer also assured his administrative audience that none would lose their jobs.

He also pointed out that everybody in the school system is there on a voluntary basis and is expected to abide by the rules and philosophy of the board.

How It Will Work

Specifically Dr. Fischer answered these five questions:

1. Will the school system be prepared to integrate all schools?

"No. There will be no such reorganization.

"All of our present policies for admitting or transferring pupils will remain in effect, except that no child shall be denied entry to any school or class because of his race.

"The designations of white and colored schools will be discontinued because every school will now receive children of both races. But no effort will be made deliberately to transfer children in order to achieve the purpose of 'mixing' schools."

Not Many Transfers

2. Will there be a large number of pupil transfers in September?

"There should not be.

"When a nearby school offers advantages to any pupil, white or colored, over the school he now attends, and the parent requests a transfer, the request should be granted.

"But only in rare instances should a young child be sent far from his home to another school.

"At the secondary or vocational level, distance is less important, but in such cases a pupil in the middle of a three year program should be transferred only where it is clearly advisable for him to do so."

Teachers Retained

3. Will teachers or other staff members be discharged as a result of the new policy?

"Again, the answer is 'No.' As in the past, vacancies which occur in the future will be filled with a scrupulous regard for relative merit. There will be one eligible list for each type of position.

"Whenever a vacancy occurs, one of the applicants of the five standing highest on the list will be selected for employment.

"As in the past the specific requirements of the position and the total qualifications of each available candidate will determine who is assigned.

"Whether we are dealing with transfer or initial placement, or promotional positions filled by selection by the Board of Superintendents, no one will be discriminated against because of his race. Nor will his race entitle anyone to preferment over another who is better qualified."

No School Assignments

4. Will children be required to attend