Two attend Clay school for 3rd day

(AFRO Correspondent)

CLAY, Ky. — Two colored children attended classes Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at the Clay Consolidated School.

They did so in the face of mob threats, economic pressure and community isolation. They faced a barbed wire classroom and at times were the only pupils in their classes.

James and Theresa Gordon have exploded the school system of Webster County, Kentucky.

Teachers have walked out of classrooms. Pupils have stayed home. Parents have called frantic meetings and the mob has gathered around the school.

MOST IMPORTANT, the National Guard has come to town. All because two children, aged 10 the other 8, have decided to attend school.

The mayor of the town is ashamed. The chief of the police force of the town is against them. The citizens are against them. The National Guard is not for them. It simply protects them.

The other colored families are against them, for they feel the actions of the children involve violence and the "white folks will burn our homes."

Their father is not with them in their efforts to go to school. He would rather that they withdraw. They stand alone—except; and a big exception that is—for their 28-year-old mother and her 76-year-old mother, who is white.

And so, under the eye of machine guns and tanks, James Jr. and Theresa Gordon are going to school. They will study spelling, arithmetic, geography and health. They will draw pictures on the blackboard. They will eat in the school cafeteria.

* * *

THE HOWL of the mob will be loud. The loudest voice will be that of H. Z. Clar, a segregationalist, and mayor of the city.

"The Guard is here illegally," he shouts. "We didn't ask for them. They can't stay here forever and we are going to make our school an all-white school like it has been."

Gov. A. B. (Happy) Chandler says he sent the Guard in because the mob attempted to overturn Mrs. Gordon's car two days ago and then molested a British newsreel team.

He says the Guard will stay there, and Commander J. B. Williams says he will see to it that the children go to school.

"The men are breaking the law," Mayor Clark says. "We have the Day Law in Kentucky and it forbids integration. We are going to file a suit to see if the Supreme Court decision supercedes the law of the State of Kentucky."

"THE SUPREME Court may be the law of the land, but we here in Webster County feel that the law of the land is the law of Kentucky."

And so when the sun rises each morning over the old coal mine at Wheatcroft, a convoy of troops will move out. Based in will be the petite Mrs. Gordon, driving her children to school.

At 8 o'clock each morning they will sit at their desks, and continue their quest of an education.

Warn Ky. cleric against sermons on integration

STURGIS, Ky. — A prominent white minister has been warned against preaching sermons favoring integration.

Rev. Somter Logan, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Henderson, 30 miles southeast of here, called for peace and integration in his sermon last Sunday.

He said: "After my sermon, some of my elders told me they did not want me to give any more 'n—a' lectures."

However, the minister, accompanied by three other white clergymen, was in Sturgis Monday and gave assistance to colored pupils attending the controversial Sturgis High School.

THEY ACCOMPANIED the pupils to and from school. They also accompanied two of the parents to Owensboro, where an initiated attempt was made to get a federal injunction restraining the mob.

The ministers also paid the traffic fine of Tony Caraan, a soldier who was arrested for reckless driving while bringing a female student home for lunch.

Carran is the suitor of Miss Shirley Beatty, one of the pupils. Caraan is from the Philippines and is now stationed at Fort Knox.

The ministers accompanying the Rev. Logan were the Rev. Theodore Brown of Henderson Evangelical and Reformed Church and Robert L. Cannon of Nashville, Tennessee Methodist connection.

NAACP legal counsel arrives in Sturgis

STURGIS, Ky. — James H. Crumlin, a Louisville attorney and legal counsel for the Louisville chapter of the NAACP, on Wednesday talked with parents of children in-

Rusebrings Clay school —Eisenhower

(Continued from Page 1)

their orders and then have U.S. marshals to take violators in custody.

THE FEDERAL court must determine whether there is someone in contempt of its orders, Mr. Eisenhower said. He knows of no other way such matters can be determined, he explained.

But when the local (Federal District) court makes such a determination and calls upon the Attorney General, that officer will assist in the proper way, Mr. Eisenhower added.

Earlier, Mr. Eisenhower was asked whether he considered the situation at Texarkana, Tex., a proper one for intervention.

Texas Rangers rejected a plea Monday for Ranger escort for two colored students seeking to enter Texarkana Junior College.

If the Texarkana situation was not a proper one for Federal intervention, Mr. Eisenhower was asked to give one.

REPLYING, Mr. Eisenhower outlined a situation where a Federal District Court issues an order for the entry of a colored student into a certain school.

In the certain circumstances, violence, for example, the colored student cannot enter. The Supreme Court decision, then must decide whether it believes someone is in contempt of court, Mr. Eisenhower said.

At that point, he added, it is customary for the court to call upon the Attorney General's department to assist in presenting evidence.

If anyone is held in contempt, Mr. Eisenhower said, he assumed that the U. S. marshal would take him into custody.

* * *

NO ONE COULD deplore violence more than he does, President Eisenhower said. "I think violence sets us back years," he said, adding that he thought youngsters who were indulging in violence were not being counseled properly at home.

Apparently, this latter remark was—intended to clarify the statement he made at his press conference on Sept. 5 when he was asked if he had any message for the nation's youth.

At that time, Mr. Eisenhower said it was difficult through the use of law and force to change a man's heart.

He urged that all Americans seek to bring about a change in spirit so that extremists on both sides will not interfere with the broad principle of

Clay pupils

(Continued from Page 1)

pal, who permitted the children to enroll.

AFTER THE CHILDREN and their mother had made the move, colored citizens urged the NAACP to come to their aid

B-U-L-L-E-T-I-N!

Adj. Gen. J. J. B. Williams announced late Thursday night that Gov. A. B. Chandler was not at the state capitol and that he (Williams) did not expect any new developments until late Friday. This means that the Gordon children will attend school Friday, under armed guard.

and place the dispute under Federal jurisdiction.

It was the hope that a Federal court would agree to consider the case and issue a temporary order that would keep the children in school until the case was decided.

Two citizens meetings were held, and funds were raised to defray the legal fees. NAACP officials from New York and Louisville did not arrive, however, on Thursday.

Sturgis citizens were told that an NAACP attorney from Louisville, Sturgis and Clay Thursday. A state of alert was maintained by colored citizens in Sturgis and Clay, and stayed home from the mines to confer with NAACP officials.

* * *

LATE THURSDAY afternoon Kentucky State Atty. Gen. N. Fergerson issued an opinion at the request of Webster County School Superintendent Wilbur Collins.

He said it appeared that the registration of the two Gordon children was "premature."

He suggested that Mrs. Gordon's redress was a Federal Court ruling as to whether the violence that was occurring in certain localities with the peaceful changeover from segregated to unsegregated public schools in Louisville, Ky.

MR. EISENHOWER called attention to the fact that Dr. Omer Carmichael, superintendent of schools in Louisville, had carried on an educational program for two years before integrating Louisville's school population of 50,000 children, of whom 12,500 are colored.

"Mr. Carmichael must be a very wise man," the President said. "Because he pursued a policy I think must bring success." He added that he hoped to meet and talk with Dr. Carmichael.

Asked whether he considered the school desegregation order issued by a Federal judge in the Texarkansas Junior College case, Mr. Eisenhower replied that he had.

He said Attorney General Herbert Brownell had obtained a copy of the order and sent it to him with the comment as it which he had made concerning contempt proceedings against those who violate such orders.

Militia costs Ky. $1,500 every day

STURGIS, Ky. — Militia-enforced school integration is costing Kentucky, at least that is the way it looked this week.

Kentucky authorities said Friday that it costs the state $1,500 a day to keep 15 officers and 185 men at Sturgis. The number of officers and men will soon be tripled.

Tennessee authorities reported that the overall cost of having the National Guard in Clinton was upwards of $12,000 a day.

The Federal Government does not pay the bill. The state must pay as long as any troops are on state business. — LOMAX said.

Dunbar High teacher robbed

Burglars broke into the home of Mrs. Ernestine Y. Jones, 2 Druid Hill Ave., on two occasions this week.

The Dunbar High School teacher reported to police that the robbers made away with a number of valuable articles and mementos she secured on a recent European trip.

Romance infuses lighter touch to grim happenings in guarded Sturgis

By LOUIS LOMAX

STURGIS, Ky. — Teen-age love was caught in the web of integration this week. Love won. Then lost. But it has survived.

The lovers are Miss Dorothy Mae Burks and Dudley Bishop. Both are 17. Both are colored high school pupils of Sturgis.

When the group decided to enter the previously all-white high school both Dorothy and Dudley decided to go along.

However, Dorothy discovered she would be the only 12th grader to enter the school. All the other 12th grade colored pupils said they would return to Dunbar in Morganfield, where they have been enrolled all their school lives.

DUDLEY, a 9th grader, stuck to his decision to enter the Sturgis High School, and the lovers were separated.

For the first week it was hard on them both. They sat in classrooms pining and sighing across the tanks, troops and miles that separated them.

Last weekend the break came. They couldn't stand it any longer. (What self respecting love struck teen-ager could?)

The lovers talked and decided that Dorothy, too, must attend the local Sturgis school.

HER PARENTS were willing that she join the other eight children and go to the local school. But fate, as the lovers it always does, dealt them a cruel blow.

The last day for registration had passed. There was no way Dorothy could enter the school.

So it was a sad parting. Monday morning, Dorothy and Dudley stood on the corner near Robinson's grocery store. The school bus would take her to Morganfield and the National Guard would take him to Sturgis high.

They held hands and pledged their love until day's end.

* * *

AND SO each day the National Guard leaves Dudley at the corner of Sixth and Pike Sts. There he awaits the school bus that will bring Dorothy from Morganfield.

Arm-in-arm they fade away to take juke box jives and dance the Be Bop as Elvis Presley belts out "Heartbreak Hotel."

Asked by the AFRO-AMERICAN if they plan to get married, they gave a look of amazement. After all they are much too much in love to give a thought to anything so utterly adult and restrainingly realistic.

Texarkana College mob bars students

TEXARKANA, Texas — Monday, a jeering crowd of some 300 adults and male students massed in front of Texarkana College and turned away a colored boy and girl who sought to enter.

The applicants, Miss Jessalyn Gray, 18, and Steven Poster, 17, after being booed at and called vile names for 15 minutes, climbed into a taxicab and were driven away.

Economic pressure seeps in Kentucky racial issue

WHEATCROFT, Ky. — Economic and personal pressure against colored persons who insist upon the exercise of their civil rights took a new turn here Wednesday night.

It was revealed by Mrs. Louise Gordon, mother of the two children entered in the previously all-white Clay Consolidated Schools, that she and her family have been deprived of water because of the integration issue.

Mrs. Gordon and her family have no running water on their lot and since the home sits on an abandoned mine, it is impossible to dig a well. For years she has been buying her water from a firm in Sturgis at $6.50 per 1,500 gallons.

8 pupils at Sturgis High seem to be there to stay

By LOUIS E. LOMAX
(AFRO Correspondent)

STURGIS, Ky.—Eight of the 18 colored pupils registered at Sturgis High School are now there to stay. One has withdrawn and enrolled at Dunbar in Morganfield. One has left town to attend school in Champlain, Ill.

The Kentucky arm of the National Guard is here. The white students are absent. Less than 60 attended Monday and less than 40 were reported in school Tuesday. The mob has all but dispersed.

The feeling grows that the dispersing of the mob and the absence of the pupils are part of a long-range plan by the White Citizens Council to return the school to its previously all white status.

IF THE CONJECTURE is sound, and it seems to be, the plan is to create an atmosphere of peace and quiet and thus force the guard to withdraw.

"Watch and see what happens then," one white rabblerouser told them Tuesday morning.

The same idea was alive in Clinton, Tenn., but was less prophetic.

County of Lincoln's birth desegregates

STURGIS, Ky. — La Rue County, in which Abraham Lincoln was born, integrated all but one of its schools last week.

The La Rue Board of Education approved Superintendent Taylor of Knoxville spoke clear and loud. He has made permanent an injunction restraining anyone from molesting the pupils in pursuit of an education.

BUT STURGIS is without Federal District Court backing. Once the troops are withdrawn, the pupils stand alone. Some act of violence or plan and present danger must occur before additional aid can be mustered.

As a lull falls over the town, officials are asking, "Why did it happen here?"

Why did it strike in Kentucky? In Sturgis and Clay? Why, when integration of public schools is working without incident in nearby Calloway County, should tension and quasi-violence explode in Union County so near the Illinois-Indiana state lines.

Part of the answer lies in the lack of planning on the part of officials of the state board of education.

THIS WAS the year that Kentucky was supposed to start desegregating its public schools. But little preparation was prepared no definite desegregation program. The cities and counties were left to work out their own problems.

Some county boards, anticipating no colored transfers, made no provisions for them. Other boards, in an effort to operate colored schools even though the enrollment fell below the 100 required by state regulation, Union County was such a county,

They knew the Dunbar High School for colored pupils in Morganfield, would have an enrollment of less than 85, but made no integration plans.

* * *

IN ADDITION, many colored parents asked that the Dunbar school be kept open. Keeping the school open also relieved the already crowded conditions at the Sturgis school.

In keeping Dunbar open, the Union County Board announced that it would be crowded with students regardless of race, creed or color. However no white pupils have applied for entry.

The county school superintendent apparently had no idea that colored pupils from Sturgis would attempt to enroll at the Sturgis High School, But they did just that.

It is not known why they did it or who advised them. It is known that it was a spontaneous decision by the "club" where the young sisters gathered for debate and recreation.

AFTER TALKING with all of the pupils several times, it seems clear that there was a general feeling that they had a right to go to school in Sturgis, and the spark was born.

Two of the pupils, Herman Bishop and his brother, Dudley, called Supt. Carlos Oakley a week before registration and told him they wanted to go to school. He told them to go ahead and register.

The first news Union Countians had of the impending registration was when the pupils appeared at the school last Friday (Aug 31) for registration.

Oakley was caught like a prairie fire and by the following Tuesday enrollment had run riot. School principal H. Larle Evafs, admitted the pupils.

* * *

ON TUESDAY, Gordon Upton, a man with a mine union organizer's background, mounted a box and exhorted the citizens of Union County to drive the colored pupils away from the school. That was the initial agitation.

Oakley was summoned and spoke to the crowd. He told them the colored pupils had every right to attend school and asked the crowd to accept the fact.

The incident was reported in the press and Gov. A. B. Chandler had ADJ. General J. J. B. Williams take a plane to Sturgis and survey the situation. Williams conferred with city and county officials and called in the guard.

Williams is bitterly critized for being "n—r happy" by city and county officials, who say they did not request the guard. They also say the guard is here illegally because there was no formal request by local officials.

THEY ALSO say Chandler is attempting to use Sturgis as his arch political foe, Sen. Earl C. Clement, who is from the Sturgis area.

In the meantime, county officials had met with colored parents and they had agreed to send their children to Dunbar school next year.

However, after the guard moved in, the parents insisted that their children attending Sturgis High School, and thus the integration fight was set.

There is no turning back now. Sturgis High is an integrated school. The next move is that of the mob.

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Sturgis, Clay incidents surprised Ky. educators

STURGIS, Ky. — State educators, surprised by violence at Kentucky schools, expressed hope that troopers will continue to permit integration to proceed calmly as it has for the past eight years.

The week of registration, State Superintendent of Schools Robert Martain said he anticipated no trouble as nearly all Kentucky school districts begin mixing students.

Eight years ago the University of Kentucky began admitting colored students. Today all Kentucky state colleges are integrated. So are many of the grade schools.

In 1955, schools integrated without incident. Colored athletes competed with and against white youths. There was no trouble.

In spite of the Sturgis and Clay incidents, Martain expressed hope that the integration process will proceed without further incident.

There are 45,000 colored students in the state's 221 school districts.

"NOW THAT integration has proceeded smoothly in Louisville, it will have a healthy effect in the other schools," Martain said. He added:

"The solution is for local people to realize they have a responsibility to be law abiding."

NAACP to play legal role in Sturgis disorder

STURGIS, Ky. — The NAACP entered the Sturgis integration case Tuesday.

It was revealed that the Louisville chapter of the NAACP has been asked to give legal assistance to the eight colored pupils now attending the Sturgis High School.

Although the students attended the classes Tuesday without incident, the feeling grows that there will be trouble once the NAACP move into the Sturgis picture.

Unlike Clinton, Tenn. the colored students do not have the backing of a Federal Court order. It is this additional legal protection the eight families are now seeking.

THE NAACP has been asked to have its Louisville legal staff go into the Federal District Court and pray for an injunction restraining persons from interfering with the eight pupils.

Colored citizens of Sturgis will hold a mass meeting Wednesday morning in the local Presbyterian Church to complete arrangements for having the NAACP move into the Sturgis picture.

The Louisville NAACP has said it will pay the legal fees involved. The citizens of Sturgis will be asked to pay the initial court costs, which have been estimated at $75.

The injunction will forbid the gathering of the mob that has menaced the school children since they began school last week.

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Vital Statistics Roundup

(Continued from page 25)

TUESDAY

Eloise Hankins, 3, 2011 Herbert St., pain, left ear; Angelo Shorter, 2, 3038 Smyrna Place, fever; Mrs. Zelma Anderson, 21, 1301 Poplar Grove St., pain in right side; Mrs. Ida Talley, 12, 2723 Edmondson Ave., injured left knee; Gladys Jones, 2, 3014 Rayner Ave., rash, right foot.

Charles Johnson, 47, 3135 Leeds St., injured leg; Jo Jones, 2, 1 Lexington, 20 months, 2626 Pressury St., swallowed safety pin; Gladys Boyd, 1, 2321 Ridge Ave., swelling in neck; Angela Cottrell, 20 months, 723 N. Appleton St., injured left arm; Richards Johnson, 3 weeks, 2810 Presbury St., abdominal pain; Jose Gomez Sye, 36, 5200 Gramercy St., chest pain; Larue Hill, 5, 2516 Rayner Ave., stiff right arm.

Floyd Robinson, 56, 3011 W. Lanvale St., abdominal pain; John Campbell, 39, 2569 Edmondson Ave., lacerated right ankle; Robert McDaniel, 19, 613 N. Bruce St., abdominal pain; William Brown, 2, 1 N. Belmont Ave., stomach upset; Dennis Jones, six weeks, 2 N. Belmont Ave., stomach upset; Stillman Butler, Jr., 1, 1835 Haven Ave., irritated right eye; Rufus Simmons, 8, 1835 N. North Avenue bleed.

WEDNESDAY

Lula Lewis, 76, 2412 Calverton Rd., chest disorder; Myra Leach, 2, 11 N. Wheeler Ave., abdominal pain; Mildred Lewis, 2, 1 N. Bond St., sore throat; Ronald Watkins, 8, 2321 Ridge Ave., injured wound in foot; Norma Davis, 11, 2328 Pinderhughes St., pain; Mrs. Bertha Smith, 45, 2030 Clifton Ave., injured finger.

Willie Curtis, 20, 2817 Lanvale St., injured left knee; Mrs. Ida Lee, 2813 Gwynns Falls Pkwy., pain, left side; Theresa Augusta, 2, 2008 Dennison St., dog bite, right leg; Carol Sanders, 2, 2008 Dennison St., sore throat; Anna Gibson, 27, 2705 W. Pratt St., pain in abdominal pain; Gwendolyn Askew, 16, 1614 Gwynns Falls Pkwy., injured right wound, left hand; Pamela Fulton, 9, 2808 Brunt Ave., injured foot; Gregory Johnson, 10 months, 612 N. Franklintown Rd., punctured wound on head.

Ruth Ann Meadows, 2, 2006 Rayner Ave., injured toe; Gregory Davis, 2, 2018 Mosher St., pain in ear.

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'That's the law of the jungle'

"Something they think if they hadn't wasted time they have not been convicted.

"That's the law of the jungle."

Michael Freedman, attorney, was explaining in Youth Court Tuesday, why his client, Clarence (Pootie Pie) Sweet, testified he had no criminal record although he had received a one-year suspendered sentence for burglary and a fine for disorderly conduct.

Sweet, 18, 600 block W. Fairmount Ave., and four other youths were on trial for robbing Julius Wilson, 622 W. Lafayette St., of a pair of shoes on August 13.

Other defendants were Earl (Slo) Jackson, 18, 1300 block Whatcoat St.; Nathaniel (Stick) Wooden, 22, 1700 block Pennsylvania Ave.; Louis (Louie) Grant, 18, 1800 block Brunt St., and Mitchell Anderson, 18, 1600 block Brunt St.

THE VICTIM, who testified he had been drinking when he was robbed at Mosher St. and Shields Pl., was beaten by the youths, he said. The incident took place at about 2 a.m., according to testimony.

"This is an extremely serious case," said Judge James K. Carter, who found three of the youths guilty of assault. Two others were found not guilty.

Judge Cullen imposed sentences of not more than two years each in the Maryland State Reformatory for Males on Jackson, Sweet and Grant.

Charges against Anderson and Wooden were dismissed.

Sgt. Robert Cohen, Northeastern District, said when the boys were apprehended minutes after the incident "we observed one of them drop a pair of shoes."

* * *

ALL OF the defendants but Anderson gave written statements to police.

I told the officer the reason I didn't sign a statement was because I didn't have nothing to do with it," testified Anderson.

In his statement Jackson admitted taking the shoes from the man.

"I gave them to Grant," Jackson related in the statement. "I'd seen Grant at Delbert Spindle, guilty 3rd count, 1 year in Maryland State Reformatory.

Larceny — Robert A. Scovens, pleaded guilty, 5 years in House of Correction, sentence to run concurrently with other sentence; Joseph L. Scovens, pleaded guilty, 5 years in Maryland State Reformatory, August 10th; Herbert S. Martin, pleaded guilty, 5 years in Maryland State Reformatory from August 29 to run concurrently with other; Ernest Carroll Scovens, pleaded guilty, 2 years in Maryland State Reformatory from August 3rd, to run concurrently with other sentence; Lester Scovens, pleaded guilty, 2