

Desegregation Demands in Danville Remain Stalemated

By CHARLES E. FLINNER
Danville, Va. — (UPI)—Three months ago 30 or so Negro youths, some wearing Bermuda shorts and hobby sox, spilled out of the High Street Baptist church and marched the six blocks to city hall.

The temperature was in the high 80s, one of those stifling days that chases people to the shade of wide porches or to air-conditioned stores on Main street.

The date: Friday, May 31. The Time: Shortly after 4 p.m.

Police, who knew the demonstration was coming, provided an escort. The small group dispersed quietly.

More turbulent days lay ahead. Five days prior to the first march, the city's National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Danville Christian Progressive Association had met at the High Street church and voted to begin street demonstrations to achieve their desegregation demands.

Truce Called
It had worked in Birmingham, Ala., a few weeks earlier. A truce was called in the Alabama steel center and a start was made toward desegregation of downtown stores and job upgrading.

Similar steps toward racial peace were taken in Savannah, Ga., and Charleston, S. C. Whites and Negroes gradually got together to try to settle their differences.

Danville remains a stalemate. Its white and Negro leaders are at odds. Scores of Negroes have been jailed. Demonstrators have been clubbed. Fire hoses have been used. Shots have been fired at police cars cruising through Negro neighborhoods.

The four-story brick and stone city hall is barricaded and guarded. Sand bags are in evidence around the police department but this is a civil defense measure (a relic of the Cuban crisis) and has no bearing on the racial trouble.

Sporadic
The demonstrations, which still have not reached the proportions of those which shook Birmingham, have continued sporadically since the city passed a tough ordinance banning marches by groups of more than six persons younger than 18.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who urged the city's Negroes to fill the jails, calls Danville's resistance "the worst in the United States." It seemed to be a new label to replace the one King once gave Birmingham—"The most segregated city in America."

Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy, in testimony supporting the administration's civil rights bill, said: "Dogs can get better accommodations than a Negro passing through Danville."

Danville, halved by the Dan River, lies in the foothills of the Blue Ridge mountains. Jefferson Davis in 1865, fleeing from a fallen Richmond, chose a main street building for the last full cabinet session of the doomed Confederate States of America. The building, now the Confederate Memorial Library, was the scene of a civil rights battle three years ago.

Most of the people here work in one mill or another—Dan River's textile plant, the Corning Glass Plant, the H. K. Porter Tool Plant or the P. Lorillard tobacco processing plant. Negroes, most of whom live near the industrial-warehouse areas, fared well at the hands of the business community after sit-ins in 1960 but the city council stood fast, then yielded slowly.

After the sit-ins, lunch counters desegregated. Negro employment increased in plants with Federal contracts. Negroes became clerks in department store bargain basements.

The city council reluctantly reopened the library for limited service. Later tables and chairs were replaced.

Out of the library fight came the Danville Christian Progressive Association. After three years its president, the Rev. L. W. Chase, 45, told colleagues he was "fed up with the slow action."

"We feel now the fight is to be won in the streets," he said.

Negroes, mostly school children directed by Chase and the Rev. L. G. Campbell, went to the streets with these demands: A full-time principal for the Negro Langston High school, a desegregated police force, a desegregated city hall office force, more employment at higher levels in local businesses and factories and equal use of public accommodations.

Flushed with success in Birmingham, the Student Non-Violent Coordinating committee, the Congress on Racial Equality and the Southern Christian leadership conference all converged on Danville to join the battle.

The campaign stepped up. The city fought back. Gov. Albert S. Harrison sent

Two justice department civil rights troubleshooters came and left.

Issue Injunction
The city judge issued an injunction against demonstrations and meetings where they are advocated. The ordinance sharply curbing pickets was enacted.

Negroes countered with a voter registration drive and went to the federal courts with nine civil rights actions.

During the struggle, Dan River Mills became a focal point. The company loaned a public relations expert to the city. He returned to the plant when pickets showed up there and at the New York city sales office.

W. J. Erwin, president of the mills, ordered "white" and "colored" signs painted over and opened the plant cafeteria to Negro employees.

Erwin also organized a three-member committee that became the mayor's racial advisory committee to hear Negro demands.

Thirteen white ministers called for a bi-racial committee and later 45 of the 60-member white League of Women Voters urged good faith negotiation.

But the talks never got off the ground and the Negroes have called for a "worldwide boycott" against Dan River Mills. Its New York offices were picketed.

Sole Spokesman
Mayor Julian R. Stinson, bespectacled, oil company executive is the sole, official spokesman for the council. The council, the long-time mayor said, "will not talk with these criminals."

"We should not be called criminals until we have been proven guilty of some crime," said the soft-spoken Campbell. "After this is all over, we want to contribute our talents to the community at large."

Councilman John W. Carter, handsome, gray-haired lawyer, has labeled the Negroes "Mau Mau terrorists."

"We are American citizens—not outsiders," said Chase, father of five. Chase was arrested early this month in the pre-dawn hours and appeared in court the same day as he was arrested and jailed—barefoot and clothed only in a bathrobe. He walked to his office that way later.

"Even if the courts dropped all charges," he said, "we would not have accomplished very much. We'll go right back to jail until this thing is resolved."



ON THE MARCH — Singing, hand-clapping Negro youths march through downtown streets during a desegregation rally last June in Danville, Va. (UPI).

Travel Bug

McNeil Points Out Places Of Interest for Tourists

Editor's Note — "Travel Bug" is sponsored by the Oregon Welcome committee. Purpose of the column is to provide readers with a weekly calendar of events and feature highlights of "places and things to do" in Oregon. Interesting activities, events, travel news, comments and questions may be sent to Travel Bug, 522 Pittock Block, Portland, Ore.

Just a reminder for persons who haven't yet seen the 1963 Oregon Shakespearean festival at Ashland. Each evening through the remainder of the week players will be on-stage and final presentation of the season, "Romeo and Juliet," is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 7, beginning at 8:45 p.m.

Talked to Dan McNeil, manager of the Medford Chamber of Commerce. He reminded "Travel Bug" that in addition to final week of the festival, Jacksonville's famous museum is open and attracting hundreds of visitors daily. McNeil mentioned the Doll House, a comparatively new feature of this southern Oregon city. "Some of the dolls are over 300 years old," he said. "And there's always a sportsman in the crowd," he suggested. "don't forget to tell them about the run of fall steelhead in the Rogue river. They are around Agness now, and hitting flies like mad," he exclaimed.

Tourist business in southern Oregon? McNeil tied in a compliment for the state's Tourist Information division with his answer to this. He said the Medford office has had a 300 per cent increase in tourist inquiries since the Tourist Information program was initiated this year. "The directional signs pointing out location of our information office did the trick," he suggested.

The Britt Music Festival at Jacksonville, recently concluded, made such a successful debut that the association is already planning the 1964 program. Tentative dates have been set for Aug. 9 through 22.

Friday, Sept. 6, D'Ann Fullerton, Miss Oregon of 1963, will appear on Bud Collier's "To Tell the Truth" program. Channel 6 will carry the show here in the Northwest. Check television listings for exact time.

Oregon State Fair at Salem has a lot of exciting tremendous crowds this year. Dennis Clarke, director of the state's Travel Information division, says "It's the best fair yet." He commented on the variety of educational and informational displays. "Of course the Jimmy Rogers review isn't bad either," he said. Fair closes Saturday night, Sept. 7.

Other places in the state we have the Harney County fair, rodeo and race meet at Burns, Sept. 5 through 8. Annual Yaquina Art center show opens Saturday at Newport for two days, and the Wheatley Elks Memorial Golf tournament starts at Gearhart Sunday, Sept. 8.

Next Week's Events
Next week it's the Pendleton Roundup and Happy Canyon Pageant, starting Wednesday, Sept. 11, and running through Saturday, Sept. 14. The Sherman County fair and rodeo opens Thursday, Sept. 12, at Moro and continues through Sunday. On Saturday, Sept. 14, don't miss the Indian Style Salmon bake at Depot Bay.

Upcoming events that you may want to plan for include North Marion County fair at the National Guard armory in Woodburn, Sept. 19 to 21, and the annual Redmond Potato festival — one day, Saturday, Sept. 21.

First college football clash of the year schedules University of Oregon against Pennsylvania State on Saturday, Sept. 21, at Multnomah stadium, Portland. Next Portland game will be Sept. 28 when OSU faces Colorado at the Multnomah stadium.

Special recreation suggestions this week include these reminders — The Oregon coast is never more attractive than during the month of September and part of October. Normally, you'll find warm days with no wind and parks and recreation areas not quite so crowded. Fall salmon fishing is running "hot" in most bays and rivers. The ocean has been flat and peaceful.

Game commission information officer Milt Guyton, reminds us, too, that dove and pigeon season is open through Sept. 30. Blue and ruffed grouse opens Saturday, Sept. 7, and runs through Sept. 22, east of the Cascades, and through Sept. 15, west of the Cascades. Sage grouse, chukar and Hungarian partridge season opens Saturday, too, and general deer season Sept. 28 through Oct. 20. Elk, Oct. 26 through Nov. 11. That in itself includes a big bit of real recreation potential.

For further information on "places to go and things to do" in Oregon call your Chamber of Commerce office or your local Oregon Welcome chairman.

Awards Authorized For State Workers
Salem — (UPI)—Cash awards totaling \$1,500 have been authorized for state workers, the Board announced Tuesday.

Maximum award of \$500 each were presented to two employees. One went to Louise Bates, Salem, a clerk for the Industrial Accident Commission.

The other went to William C. Keefer, Salem, an employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

RESIGNATION ACCEPTED
McMinnville (UPI)—The city council Tuesday night unanimously accepted the resignation of Police Chief Roy Brixey, 41.

College Thing Plans Lunar Probe Package
College Station, Tex. — (UPI) — A Texas A&M college scientific team is working on an instrument package to analyze the moon and report its findings back to earth.

Working under a grant from the Atomic Energy commission and the National Aeronautics and Space administration, the researchers hope to solve weight and size problems through miniaturization to get the package small enough to fit a rocket to the moon.

The package will work by bombarding a small area of the moon with neutrons, recording the rays given by elements in the area, then identifying the elements by analyzing the package's "report" to earth.



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