

Five Negro Children Attempt Admittance At Old Fort School

Large Crowd Of White Observers Watch Situation Peacefully

Five Negro children of Old Fort, accompanied by Albert Joyner, an adult Negro also of Old Fort, attempted to enter the white school at Old Fort yesterday morning, when the school opened for the fall term.

According to Melvin H. Taylor, county school superintendent, the children were: Richard and Norma Greenlee, children of Thurmond Greenlee; Thomas Lowder, son of Mrs. Lucille Lowder; Audrey Logan and Teresa Murphy, who live with James Bryson.

Taylor said that about ten minutes until nine, Joyner and the five children approached the school and walked unmolested through a large crowd of white onlookers to the school steps, where they were met by Taylor.

After he had asked the location of the registration office, Joyner was informed by Taylor that the principal of the school, P. W. Greer, had received instruction from the county Board of Education, not to enroll any student, regardless of race, who was a transferee from another school.

Taylor further informed Joyner that the Board had ruled that all transfers must be approved by the board members. He told Joyner that he had a right to appeal the assignment of the children to their schools, but that he did not believe it would do any good because the Board had already ruled that there would be no integration of the races in the schools this year. Taylor said he thought that the matter of integration should be settled by the integration committee, the Board of Education, and the courts, as peacefully as possible.

At the conclusion of his talk with Taylor, Joyner and the children departed peacefully from the scene, Taylor said.

In regard to the situation, Taylor said, "I should like to commend both races on their conduct. I think that the Negroes requested admission in as good a way as they could have asked, and that the white people conducted themselves correctly in the situation."

Sheriff Ashby Robinson and deputies of the McDowell Sheriff's department were present at the school opening, but it is reported that there was no agitation.

At press time Wednesday, no other reports of Negroes attempting admittance in the county schools for the white children, had been made.