

SCHOOL TRANSFERS SOUGHT!!!!

Friday morning, August 25, 1961, 8 o'clock A.M. Three brave, forthright thinking young negro students undertook one of the most demanding feats in the history of Fayette County.

Miss Earline Dowdy, 17 year old daughter of Rev. and Mrs. June Dowdy, Vester L. Wright and Andrew Wright, teenage sons of Mr. and Mrs. Samford Wright are those daring young persons who, accompanied by their parents, and the Fayette County branch of the N.A.A.C.P. President, Professor Allen Yancey, Jr., went down to Fayette County High School, the local white school of Fayette County, seeking admission.

In an interview with Mr. Yancey, he summarized the adventure in the following words, "The group met this morning in the vicinity of McFerren's grocery and arrived at 8 o'clock at the school. Upon entering we went directly to the Principal's office. The Principal, Mr. Morton, was calm and showed no apparent excitement or visible surprise. He referred us to the County Superintendent, Mr. J.R. Martin, because the students did not, as he said, 'been assigned to the school'".

"We thanked him, and left immediately for the County Court House and the Superintendent's Office. Mr. Martin requested the group to write letters stating their reasons for wanting to transfer, and he would present those letters to the Board of Education in the next meeting." Mr. Yancey went on to say, "He promised that we would be notified on or around September 15, 1961 concerning the Board's decisions."

My. Yancey, a former Science and Mathematics teacher at the Fayette County Training School, is now employed by the National Sharecropper's Fund and will be employed as an instructor at Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee this fall.

When asked for comments, Mrs. Eunice Wright, mother of the boys had this to say, "I feel that my sons will learn more of the things that eventually they will need." She went on to say, "I am very proud of Clarence, my 19 year-old son who joined the Freedom Riders last summer."

She recalls the morning's experience by saying, "I had no fear at all, we live together so I think we should have access to the same things. My sons feel that they know how to do; I mean how to withstand all the pressures which they might face. The Bible speaks of equal rights and the days that are now at hand, so there is nothing that we can do but go along with it."

"She wanted to do it," was the statement made by Rev. and Mrs. June Dowdy when asked for comments on the matter of Earline's participating. They feel that she will be better prepared for college after graduation from the Fayette County High School. Rev. Dowdy was employed at the white school for 5 years before she became an active member in the Original Fayette County Civic-Welfare League, Inc. of which her husband is Vice President. Earline is an A student at the Fayette County Training School and her parents feel that she can "master the studies likewise at the White school."