

New District Calls Self Cape Henlopen

REHOBOTH BEACH — Cape Henlopen has been chosen as the name for the consolidated school districts of Rehoboth Beach, Lewes and Milton.

The name was selected recently at an organizational meeting between the three districts.

The Cape Henlopen School District becomes a reality July 1, 1969 as mandated last month by the State Board of Education. Both the Rehoboth and Lewes districts had fought any consolidation other than with themselves.

The joint boards unanimously agreed on the name of the district, citing the historical significance of Cape Henlopen and the cape's importance as a focal point of the geographical area of the new district.

Rehoboth vote kills school merger plan

By PETE GAFFNEY

Sussex Bureau

REHOBOTH BEACH — A consolidated Cape Henlopen School District—a proposal originally advanced by Rehoboth Beach school officials — was killed for the present Saturday by that resort's residents.

While residents of the larger Lewes school district gave better than 3-1 approval to merging with the Rehoboth district, Rehoboth voters defeated the proposal, 399-295. In Lewes the vote was 505-143 in favor of merging.

Consolidation required approval of both towns, not just a majority of the total votes.

Dr. Robert L. Klingel, head of Rehoboth's board, said last night, "I don't feel it was such a terrible defeat. Judging by the small margin (104 votes), I'd say that if it is brought up again in a few years, it would stand a good chance of passing then."

THE school board president, who said he does not plan to seek reelection May 8, attributed the consolidation failure to "a few individuals in this town who are always opposed in general to any idea that the school board advances."

Dr. James Beebe Jr., head of the Lewes Special School District board, said, "Now we've just got to go ahead and start working towards getting a new elementary school built. We have no room left in the present one."

He said there was a request before the state board for funds in the matter.

If the two districts had merged, the Lewes board planned to drop the idea of a new elementary building and work with Rehoboth toward construction of a centralized high school.

LEWES now operates a 12-grade school on Savannah Road and an eight-grade elementary school on Du Pont Avenue. Rehoboth has a single 12-grade building.

It was the Rehoboth officials who first triggered interest in consolidating the two districts when the school went through a financial squeeze early last year. At that time, it lost state funds due to a drop in enrollment.

In August, letters were forwarded to Lewes and Lord Baltimore districts sounding out attitudes on a merger. The latter showed little interest, but the query sparked further talks with Lewes board members.

Beebe said that he thought there were several reasons why the merger plan had fallen in Rehoboth.

CHIEF among these, he said, was the fear that Lewes, with so many more voters, would dominate the school board of the consolidated district.

Another reason, he theorized, was that "there are a large number of older people in Rehoboth who pay taxes and are

not particularly interested in education." He said he was referring to retirees who have no children in school.

Schools—

(Continued From First Page)

Carryover for fiscal 1965 is expected to be approximately \$78,000.

BOARD members emphasized, however, they would not reduce any budget requests if by doing so the district could not continue to offer the same services and standard of education it now offers.

The board also approved a plan to reorganize the administrative structure of the school system, eliminating one assistant superintendent and creating two director's positions. There now are two assistant superintendents for education, one each for the elementary and the secondary levels. The new structure will combine those two positions into one office, to be called the assistant superintendent for educational programs, to be responsible directly to the superintendent.

The purpose of the change is to unify the educational programs of all schools in the office of one assistant superintendent. It will give him two directors for elementary and secondary education to carry on the administrative functions necessary to implement the instructional program.

First State's School Desegregation

32 of 52 Former All-White Systems Now Teach Negroes

(This is the first in a series of articles on the status of school desegregation in Delaware.)

By PHILIP M. BOFFEY

In just over a decade Delaware public schools have desegregated to a point where 32 of the state's 52 formerly all-white school systems have Negro pupils enrolled.

In the past four years the pace of desegregation in lower Delaware has quickened to include a majority of the "white"

school districts south of the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal.

Yet the whole process has taken place with but one major incident—the famous 1954 case in which demagogue Bryson Bowles and other segregationists burned enough crosses and stirred up enough people to prevent Negroes from attending white schools in Milford.

THE PROGRESS must be viewed against a legal background in which desegregation at all grade levels in all Delaware schools was ordered

effective starting with the fall of 1961.

The pattern of Negro-white school attendance breaks sharply at the canal. North of the canal the former "white" school districts are completely desegregated and to a large degree integrated. South of the canal just over half of the "white" districts are desegregated and there is no integration.

By "desegregation" is meant a situation in which there are separate facilities for whites and Negroes, with Negroes be-

ing able to attend the white facilities if they desire. By "integration" is meant a situation in which there is only one set of facilities, used by both Negroes and whites.

IN THEORY every school district in the state is desegregated under court order and every Negro student in the state can attend the "white" school in whose attendance area he resides simply by registering at the prescribed time. But in practice, for a variety of reasons, many "white" districts

have never enrolled a Negro and hence are desegregated in name only.

The first desegregation in Delaware occurred on the higher education level in 1950, when Chancery Court ordered the University of Delaware to admit Negro students because the facilities offered Negroes at Delaware State College were not "equal" to the "white" facilities required by the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The first desegregation in lower education took place at

the far northern end of the state in the fall of 1952, when Negroes entered the formerly all-white schools in Claymont, Hockessin and Arden.

THE NEGROES who entered Claymont and Hockessin (now part of the Alexis I. du Pont district) had first been denied admission and filed suit in Chancery Court. That court and the State Supreme Court found that the facilities provided Negroes in Claymont and Hockessin were not "equal" to the white facilities.

The courts ruled the Negroes must be admitted. The decision was appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court by the State Board of Education, but in the meantime Claymont and Hockessin went ahead and admitted the Negroes. Arden, which had Negro applicants of its own that fall, admitted them voluntarily.

Today all but three school districts north of the canal have Negro students enrolled in what were formerly all-white schools.

See **SCHOOLS**—Page 2, Col. 1

passing members of the American Legion at a meeting last night, according to a source familiar with Communist Party activities. The meeting, which was held at the home of a Communist Party member, was attended by a number of persons, including a number of persons who are active in the Communist Party. The meeting was held at the home of a Communist Party member, who is a member of the Communist Party. The meeting was held at the home of a Communist Party member, who is a member of the Communist Party.

Yesterday the Chinook and Apalachicola spent the whole day frothing the small tanker Seneca Sun from the ice to allow the Sun Oil Co. ship to come to the pier. The tanker, which was loaded with oil, was towed by the Chinook and Apalachicola. The tanker was towed by the Chinook and Apalachicola. The tanker was towed by the Chinook and Apalachicola.

Then, wagging his finger in a warning, Khrushchev declared that any attack on the Communist world would be met with a similar attack. The Communists would be met with a similar attack. The Communists would be met with a similar attack. The Communists would be met with a similar attack.

BUT KHRUSHCHEV insisted the Soviet Union prefers peace. The Soviet Union prefers peace. The Soviet Union prefers peace. The Soviet Union prefers peace. The Soviet Union prefers peace.

from HARRY Point on alternate days starting today, eastbound convoys from Baltimore start tomorrow, with the convoys meeting about alternate days at the Socialist camp. It is acknowledged that there are differences of opinion as to whether or not the convoys should meet at the Socialist camp. It is acknowledged that there are differences of opinion as to whether or not the convoys should meet at the Socialist camp.

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TEMPERATURES hit 35 below today, with a low of 20 below tomorrow. The temperature was 35 below today, with a low of 20 below tomorrow. The temperature was 35 below today, with a low of 20 below tomorrow.

The storm claimed at least 10 lives in Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey. The storm claimed at least 10 lives in Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey. The storm claimed at least 10 lives in Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey.

The combination of muddling cold and high winds made it the most uncomfortable weather in 10 years along the East Coast, according to the weatherman.

Ships reeled at sea before the tide, and one grounded in Long Island Sound, apparently carrying nine crewmen to a tragic death. Fire, inevitable had maiden of winter's cold, flared in several of the ships.

METROPOLITAN centers

will build 2,000 automobiles for the Army under a \$11,450,000 contract awarded yesterday.

The offices of Sen. John J. Williams, D-Ind., and J. Caleb Boggs, R-Ill., announced the Army Tank Automotive Command has awarded the contract for a total \$24.4 million to be completed in four years.

The senators' offices also announced award of a \$1,140,000 contract to the Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Co. of Chicago to build steel jetty at Indian River inlet. The project will rehabilitate inlet.

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School Desegregation Scores 32 of 52

Continued From Page One

The administrators of the three districts which don't—Mount Pleasant, Oak Grove and New Castle—will state that the Negroes of each area live with in the district. Then all districts north of the canal which contain Negro pupils have "desegregated."

THE BULK of northern Delaware's desegregation took place in 1954 and 1955 following the U. S. Supreme Court decision outlawing segregated schools and ordering a "prompt and reasonable start" toward abolishing them.

Delaware had a hand in the Supreme Court decision, since they were rendered in a consolidated case which included the appeal of the Clayton-Hockessin case plus many other cases.

After the 1954 decision, the State Board of Education asked each school what had to be done to desegregate. The State Board of Education asked each school what had to be done to desegregate. The State Board of Education asked each school what had to be done to desegregate.

TODAY most districts north of the canal are not only desegregated, they are integrated as well. Whereas in 1952 there were separate facilities for all Negro students, today only districts remain and the two largest are on the way out.

The three remaining "colored" districts are Millville No. 12, the Dunsmuir School, which enrolls about 100 students, mostly from the Hill-Minneapolis area, 13 nine grades; Newport No. 108 (the Abolition Jones School), enrolls about 200 Negroes, mostly from Newport and Marshfield; in nine grades; and New Hill No. 112, which has in its northern section of the "Newark" School District and enrolls 18 students in five grades.

Wilmington has several schools whose student bodies are almost completely Negro, largely because they are located in Negro neighborhoods. This type of segregation is permanent, and is a very different thing from the formal segregation of the past.

HOWARD HIGH, for example, used to have an all-Negro student body because it was in a Negro neighborhood. Today it is integrated, but for a long time it was not.

Except for Wilmington, none

of the "white" districts north of the canal contain a school whose enrollment is predominantly Negro. The "white" districts north of the canal contain a school whose enrollment is predominantly Negro. The "white" districts north of the canal contain a school whose enrollment is predominantly Negro.

Colored School Rolls

Excellent figures in the following table are as of Sept. 30, 1962.

NORTHERN NEW CASTLE COUNTY

NEW CASTLE COUNTY

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Totals and Dates Of Desegregation

Note: The figures on "colored" enrollment in this table are not official state figures. The State Department of Public Instruction collects such statistics, but has declined to release them. Unless otherwise indicated, the number of colored students enrolled was obtained directly from the local school administrators.

The information in the table should be understood as follows: Column 1 indicates the total enrollment for all schools that were "white" schools before desegregation. The figures are the official state enrollment figures as of Sept. 30, 1962. Column 2 indicates the number of colored students attending their "white" schools as of Sept. 30, 1962. Column 3 indicates the first year a colored student actually attended a previously all-white school, which is not necessarily the first year a district agreed to admit Negroes.

Colored District

Northern New Castle County

NEW CASTLE COUNTY

NEW CASTLE COUNTY

NEW CASTLE COUNTY

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NEW CASTLE COUNTY

NEW CASTLE COUNTY

NEW CASTLE COUNTY

NEW CASTLE COUNTY

NEW CASTLE COUNTY

Jan. 7-11.

The new count shows total

DRC 13

Negroes Shun Guinea Pig Role

Continued From First Page

seeking to desegregate schools, the pressures operating against them are too strong to be beaten.

Samuel S. Dodson, supervising principal at the Frankford Colored School, said in 1961 he offered two families \$50 apiece to register their children at the John M. Clayton and Lord Baltimore Schools but was turned down.

"I BEGGED the parents to show the whites that Negroes are capable of something besides scrubbing floors," he said. "I offered two parents \$50 apiece to take their kids over and break the ice, but they were afraid to do it."

"One of the girls was the most beautiful reader I ever heard. Now they make a 75-mile round trip each day to Jason (a "colored" school in Georgetown) and they pass Lord Baltimore, John M. Clayton, Millsboro and Georgetown High on the way."

Some Negro leaders say many Negro parents are reluctant to leave the easy-going ways of the small "colored" school, where tardiness is not uncommon and no great fuss is made if a child's face is dirty and his hair uncombed.

OTHERS SAY the average Negro adolescent, at an age where social contacts are important, is unwilling to attend school in a predominantly white situation.

But whatever the reasons for not registering in the white schools, Dodson said, "every

Negro basically wants integration. He has accepted segregation as a second choice because of the difficulties and pressures involved."

There is some evidence that whites have used pressure to keep Negroes out of their schools.

In the southeast corner of Sussex County, below the Indian River, lie five "white" districts which have never enrolled a Negro pupil. One of these is the Lord Baltimore School, a 12-grade facility serving the Ocean View-Millville area.

OFFICIALS AT Lord Baltimore claim no Negro has ever tried to attend the school, but in the spring of 1960 a Negro student appeared during registration period and was registered along with the whites. Subsequently the boy's name was removed from the lists and he is now attending school in Wilmington.

Full details of the Lord Baltimore case are not known, but the general outlines of what happened can be gleaned from the testimony of participants.

Mrs. E. G. Collins of near Frankford said she took young Harveylee Jarmon, whom she was raising, over to Lord Baltimore in the spring of 1960 to register him for the second grade.

She said she had been given permission to do so by the boy's mother, Mrs. Madge Jarmon.

THREE DAYS later Mrs. Collins learned that the boy's name

had been removed from the list. She said she contacted Mrs. Jarmon and learned that she had not removed the boy's name, but that she appeared to be accepting the situation.

"I don't know what happened. I don't know what they told her that caused her to let it stand. But I'm sure it's the people she works for," Mrs. Collins said.

Fred Graef, supervising principal at Lord Baltimore, said the boy's name was removed because the boy's mother did not want him enrolled.

Graef said Mrs. Jarmon did not tell him this directly, but that Harold E. Dukes, a member of the family which employs Mrs. Jarmon as a housekeeper, "called for her and told us to take him off."

DUKES, who had family ties with two members of the school board at the time, acknowledges that he made the call, but said it was at Mrs. Jarmon's request.

"Madge didn't want her son to be a guinea pig," Dukes says.

"She didn't know the boy had been registered. Mrs. Collins had no right to register him without the mother's knowledge. They have a nice school of their own down here."

Mrs. Jarmon was evasive when interviewed.

"We've got to work in this town," she said, in explaining her reticence. She said she had given permission for the boy to be enrolled at Lord Baltimore, but on the understanding other Negroes would also be there.

"I DIDN'T WANT him to go there alone," she said. "Can you imagine what it would be like going there alone?"

The Lord Baltimore case is the only one known in which a Negro got as far as actual registration before being forced to back down by white pressure.

It is no secret, however, that a large segment of southern Delaware's population is opposed to desegregation.

One southern administrator said his school board was so hostile to desegregation that one of the members threatened physical violence to the first

Negro that dared to enter. (The threat was never carried out when Negroes finally did enroll).

PRESSURES from the white community are seldom overt enough to attract attention. Littleton Mitchell, president of the Delaware branch of the NAACP, says he knows of several cases in which Negroes believe they were in effect told to stay in their own school if they wanted to keep working. But the threats are usually couched in such terms, Mitchell said, that it is impossible to tell if the white employer "implied" them or if an anxious Negro employee "inferred" them.

The result is usually the same, however — the average Negro takes no chances.

ON THE WHOLE, pressures from the white community in some areas have taken the form of creating an atmosphere in which Negroes are reluctant to enroll. No cases — with one possible exception — have come to light in which school districts have used subterfuge to set up regulations designed to keep out Negroes.

The one possible exception — and it is by no means clear cut — involved the Rose Hill-Minquadale District in New Castle County. A court decision last summer held that an attendance area plan in the district must be presumed unconstitutional unless school officials could justify it as rational and non-discriminatory. The district is currently working on a new plan.

Tomorrow's article will deal with two special cases — teacher desegregation; and Wilmington.

Hot Springs, Va.

Malevolence

regroupment of our units and services in view of a possible world conflict, will increase France's power."

From Africa came a vision of total independence and unity from Ghana's President Kwame Nkrumah, who predicted progress there in free education that eventually will wipe out illiteracy.

Behind the Iron Curtain, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev exchanged greetings with Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia, and called for a

Thousands of Poles ushered in the New Year at private or public all-night dancing and drinking parties. Thousands of others trudged through cold and light snow to church services.

THE NEW YEAR'S celebration in Paris was described as the merriest and wildest in 25 years.

At New York, the traditional crowd that welcomed 1963 in Times Square at midnight was described as the smallest in many years, and

Advertisement

Concise answers to your questions

All-winter Skiing in Virginia



First State's School Desegregation

Some Negroes Resist 'Guinea Pig' Roles

(This is the second in a series of articles on the status of school desegregation in Delaware.)

By PHILIP M. BOFFEY

Fear that their children will be made "guinea pigs" has led some Negro parents to reject cash offers to enroll their children in "white" Delaware schools.

Other Negro parents have kept their children in "colored" schools not only because of pressure from the white community, but also because of the urgings of Negroes who are actively seeking to keep their race in segregated schools.

And, in at least one Sussex County district, a Negro student who was enrolled was subsequently removed from the pupil list—not by his parents, but by a white employer.

THE INSTANCES in which

Negroes appear to be working against desegregation should not be interpreted as reflecting the attitude of the entire Negro population. These incidents are part of the data discovered during a Morning News survey of several school districts in southern Delaware.

Despite court-ordered desegregation there are 20 school districts in the state that have never enrolled a Negro in the historically "white" schools. The question that suggests itself: Why?

In four of the 20 districts, the answer is easy. The administrators at three northern New Castle County districts—Mount Pleasant, Oak Grove and Richardson Park, and at one Sussex County District—Blades, say there are no Negroes of school age residing within the district boundaries.

BUT THE OTHER 16 all

have Negro students within their boundaries. To find out what forces are slowing desegregation in these and other communities, the Morning News took soundings in various districts, some of which have desegregated, some of which have not.

No attempt was made to examine every district which has not yet desegregated, nor was an attempt made to explain fully why any particular district has not desegregated. The aim was solely to discover forces that might be at work in all Delaware communities.

Although pressure from the white community might be expected, little attention has been given to that minority of the Negro community that has a vested interest in maintaining segregation and is exerting pressure to keep its fellow

Negroes in the "colored" schools.

EVERY ONE of about two dozen Negro teachers interviewed south of the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal said that many Negro teachers oppose desegregation because they fear they will lose their jobs and status. The white community may accept Negro students, they reason, but it is a long way from accepting Negro teachers for white children.

Some of the smaller "colored" school districts are dominated by locally powerful individuals or families that are reluctant to lose power by closing the school.

The "strong man" in Lincoln No. 194, a Negro district south of Milford, is Harvey Young, who owns a store in Lincoln. Young is a member of the school board, holds the school

bus contract for the district, and also acted as school custodian until that was ruled a conflict of interest. He also rents the land on which both teachers at the school live.

LESLIE FREEMAN, a leader in the successful fight to desegregate the Lincoln "white" school this year claims Young advises Negroes to stay in the "colored" school and that Young made a private deal to keep Negroes out of the Lincoln "white" school after fire had destroyed half the "colored" school. Young refused to discuss his views on desegregation.

Not far from Lincoln is another "colored" district—Milton No. 196. The "power" here is Mrs. Viola Piper, the principal. She has family ties with all four school board members. Lynwood Eley Sr., the first

Negro to send his child to the Milton "white" school, claims Mrs. Piper advised him not to do it. Mrs. Piper denies this. Eley also claims he lost half his barber shop clientele because of disapproval in the Negro community of what he had done.

"They thought I was making my boy out to be better than the others," he said.

IN SUMMING up the situation in the southern part of the state, Lorenzo Chandler, vice president of the Sussex County chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, charged that "bad leadership dominates. The men who could help knock down segregation fear they will lose their jobs. We're fighting ourselves in this area."

Even in many areas where Negro leaders are actively

See SCHOOLS—Page 3, Col. 5

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School board shuts 5 Negro 1-roomers



David Mervin, *Editor*

Preschool splash

What better way for Cool children to enjoy their last day of school-less freedom than a refreshing romp in a Wyoming neighbor's pool? The Cools are, at first, shy. 17, and just coming in for a land-

ing, 9-year-old Ken. They're the children of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Cool. Partially hidden is Becky Harmic, 12, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Jay L. Harmic.

Hoopes Reservoir to be tapped today

[illegible]

GROOT said the water table in the Sandusky River and the Niagara River basins are all low but don't approach the levels set in the worst drought. He is optimistic that the situation will improve, as they low but not critical conditions.

Downingtown, which has a small reservoir on Copeland Run, has to supplement it by drawing from Beaver Creek about 10 months of the year. Downingtown is looking forward to the completion of the Marsh Creek Reservoir in two years, when it can switch to the larger East Branch of the Brandywine. Struble said work should begin on this reservoir late this year or early next year.

CHANDLER SAID the relatively normal consumption for a dry period appears to result from the lackluster attitude of suburbanites toward lawn care late summer. Most seem to have given up on the battle, he said.

The worst recorded drought in the Brandywine was in 1937 when the flow at Henry Clay

Court drops Burton charge

New Castle County Family Court yesterday dropped a contempt of court charge against William H. (Dutch) Burton, 4th Ward Councilman and Independent Democratic candidate for state representative.

Barton, 44, of 612 E. 4th St. was cited for contempt last week after court officials said, he fell behind by about \$100 in support pay-

The charge was dropped, however, after the recipient yesterday waived rights to

White districts in Kent, Sussex to take pupils

By LARRY VAN GORTEM
Savannah, Georgia
Five one-room Negro schools—four in Sumter and one in Kent—yesterday were ordered closed immediately by the State Board of Education.

Those would be all-white or predominantly white schools nearby — Hartly, Milford, Laurel and Seaford.

WARWICK 301, Warwick 224, Lockwood 218, Ross Point 210 and Lockwood 102, all standard units, were dissolved by the action, said Small.

Small said the board members voted unanimously in a telephone caucus which he conducted late yesterday afternoon in Wilmington with Dr. Richard P. Gotha, state superintendent of public instruction.

The resolution will be approved formally at the regular state board session later this month, Small said. Each school board of trustees had requested the ruling, he said.

"THIS IS basically a question of small schools not having teachers to teach their classes," Small said. In some cases, he added, no teachers were available. On this subject, some

The resolution states: "Whereas, because of lack of teaching staff and proper educational facilities and the dissimilarity of the school boards an educational program will be performed more efficiently if it is performed centrally, it is resolved that a

"All of this broke on us very unexpectedly," remembers

DISCOUNTING THE racial aspect. Small asserted, "As far as I'm concerned this is a very routine matter."

Blackburn and Bass Pinn were scrapped last month by the Laurel and Sealed board of education respectively.

Closing requests from Mill Warwick schools in the Millbury 23 District, were received yesterday. Lockwood requested the closing Aug. 25. Small said he added that Gumbel was a

...to the Harby School; Warwick to Milbourn St.

ASKED IF doors would be closed on every night event, including this year, Small indicated he hoped not. But he said his personal opinion is that any small affairs during the week should be handled by the school this school year—June 20.

A sixth Sioux emigrant, Rabbits Ferry in Indian River District, is remaining open with 17 children this year, and one of its trappers, Clarence

forward indicated the Board expects a replacement.

TENTATIVE conclusions are

Stacy said the transportation was worked out by the school yesterday. A number of students

she will be asked to provide
for the transfer.



Staff Photo by Chuck McGowan

MODERN FACILITIES—The up-to-date facilities at Jason will fit right into the program of the community college. Next year, where these

Jason typing students sit, others like them will be studying typing skills at the new community college.

An Era Exits With Jason Grads

The stroke of 8:15 p.m., June 8, marks the beginning of the end of one and the prelude to a new era in Delaware education.

The occasion will be the start of commencement exercises at the William C. Jason Comprehensive High School in Georgetown.

The era ending will be the dual system of education in Delaware—separate school districts for Negro and white youngsters. The period about to begin will be of the public community and technical college in Delaware.

THROUGH Jason remains at the last vestige of segregated school districts in the state, the school itself is relatively new. It was not opened until 1950. It will have graduated more than 1,500 Negro students when the program June 8 is ended.

The numbers by themselves don't mean much. Their meaning is in the change they represent, the impact on the people whose lives they have involved. Dr. John L. Parker, supervising principal of the district, has been at the school since it was opened. In the first years he was a mathematics teacher. He moved to assistant principal in 1957 and to his present position in 1962.

BEFORE Jason was opened, Parker says, "there wasn't any high school (for Negroes) in Sussex County." The closest a Negro could come to a diploma anywhere in the county was the 11th grade in Seaford, Laurel and Georgetown. To get that diploma, a Negro student had to go to the high school at Delaware State College or Howard High School in Wilmington, he explained.

Not many did that, Parker says, pointing to the obvious difficulties of going to school 50 or 100 miles from home—18 years ago.

THE first year Jason was open, it had about 250 students, including a ready-made senior class from the three 11th grades in the county. And when June came around, 60 students were graduated.

From that beginning, the school grew to a peak enrollment of 1,200 youngsters in grades 7 to 12—that two years ago, he says. Then came the

phase-out schedule, until there were only 279 students in the 11th and 12th grades when the school opened for its last year in September.

The impact of the school has been tremendous, Parker says. He recalls when he first had to fill out forms for accreditation and one of the questions requested the percentage of the students whose parents had high school diplomas.

"WE had such a small percentage that I was ashamed to put it down," he says.

Now he has no shame. "We're now educating some of the chil-



QUIET—The once-bustling, 1,200-pupil Jason School isn't quite so bustling any more, at least, not in terms of numbers.

dren of our own graduates," he explains.

The impact of the school has not only been on its students, however, Parker says. It's been on their parents and other members of their families. "You can see a rejuvenation and relearning for an entire family because one or two of their kids have graduated from here and then gone on to college."

And many have gone to college. Over the years, Parker says, the number of Jason graduates going to college has been between 35 and 40 per cent. Last year, at 30 per cent, the college attendance was the lowest in recent years, he says.

ANOTHER change has been the branching out into different careers by Jason graduates, Parker goes on. "For years, the only thing Negroes knew about was going to college to become teachers. . . . Jason graduates have become doctors, lawyers, ministers. . . ." This interest in new professions has grown mostly since the school opened, he says.

Parker recalls his pride in the school's "excellent chorus," and, "for the last four or five years, excluding this year, we've had one of the better marching bands in the state," he says. "We may not have looked as good as some because our uniforms weren't so new, but . . ." he adds.

HE remembers also a year when he was teaching math. Some of his students were the high scorers in the state in a math contest sponsored by the University of Delaware. He describes also the school's diversified program—three classes every year in chemistry and two in physics, for example—possible because the school has had a large enrollment.

The closing of Jason, however, has involved change—change which Parker says he thinks has been "worthwhile," but over which he has concerns.

One concern is the difficulty some Negro youngsters have had in moving into integrated schools. "They haven't been accustomed to the associations in integrated schools," he says, suggesting that any problems which do arise might be alleviated if the remaining schools

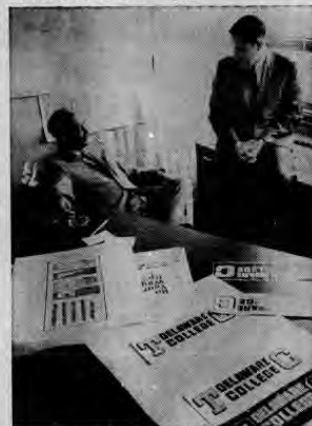
were hiring more qualified Negro teachers.

ANOTHER concern is the effect of integration on the drop-out rate of Negro students. "I think we'll have a lot of students that will drop out," he says. "We have records now of over 50 11th graders we can't account for."

He explains that last year's 19th grade class at Jason had about 225 students; this year, fewer than 100 of these students are in the 11th grade at Jason and "no more than 50" in other Sussex County high schools. Where the others are, he doesn't know.

Why? "Your guess is as good as mine," he says. But he offers a hint: "I've had kids come in here and cry and say if they can't go to Jason, they won't go anywhere."

BUT next year, there won't be



THINGS TO COME—It's only an office in the Jason School now, but Paul K. Weatherly (left) and John R. Kotula are working toward the September opening of the Georgetown Branch, Delaware Technical and Community College. Weatherly is executive director, Kotula a counselor.

Department of Integrated Project, Wilmington, Del., May, 1967

