

L.R. Pools To Integrate

LITTLE ROCK, ARK. - The city's two swimming pools will be opened on an integrated basis this summer, according to an announcement here on June 2 by City Manager, Ancil M. Douthit.

The pools will be opened "as soon as we are physically able to," said Mr. Douthit at the City Directors meeting.

Both Gillam Park Pool and the "white" War Memorial Pool have been closed since an attempt to integrate War Memorial Pool last June.

"We wish to express our continuing interest in the decision to reopen the city's public pools We are sorry it took considerable public pressure to obtain this decision from the Board, and that it took the Board so long to act so reluctantly," said Jim Jones, State Project Director for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

A drive to obtain community support for the opening of the pools was initiated earlier by the Arkansas Council on Human Relations.

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Lincoln County Questions "Freedom of Choice"



THE STAR CITY MEETING ended with everyone joining hands and singing "We Shall Overcome."

STAR CITY, June 4 - Fifty people from Star City and vicinity conducted a mass meeting tonight to exchange opinions and experiences concerning the "freedom of choice" plan of desegregation of this area's public schools.

The Lincoln County Civics Club called the meeting, but many who were not club members attended and spoke. Reverend Ben Grinage of SNCC moderated the gathering at the New Macedonia Church.

"There really isn't a choice between the Negro and white school," reported several students who were present. "The Negro school in question is not accredited, while the white school is." Many parents reported that their children had been discouraged from registering to attend the white schools.

Nearly everyone at the meeting expressed the feeling that they had not been informed about the school board's desegregation plans. Many questions could not be answered because of lack of information.

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HARASSMENT IN LINCOLN COUNTY

FERNCLEFF, ARK. - At the People's Conference here on May 22 and 23, a bus driver from Lincoln County told of the harassment he faced after enrolling his daughter in a previously all-white school.

September will be the first time in many years that the ex-bus driver will not find himself behind the wheel of a school bus. The resident of Lincoln County said, "The superintendent told me that there were no more contracts and that maybe there had been a mistake made." But, later, according to the gentlemen, another bus driver was given his old contract.

"This is how the "freedom of choice" system of school desegregation works in the Arkansas Delta," commented one high school student who heard the story.

community centers

"The purpose of a community center or a freedom center," said Miss Nancy Stoller, "is to provide a place where people can gather for recreational activities, meetings and discussions." Miss Stoller is acting as coordinator for the 50 summer volunteers SNCC is sponsoring to aid in the freedom centers.

EVERYONE IS INVITED

These centers will be open to people of all ages, children and adults. Miss Stoller stressed that the people who attend the centers will plan the programs throughout the year. "Everyone who lives in traveling distance of a center is welcome to visit," she said, "and to join in the activities."

VOLUNTEERS AID IN PROGRAMS

SNCC is sponsoring several volunteers for each center. These volunteers have a variety of skills to help in starting programs and in providing supplies. "Their main purpose," said Miss Stoller, "is to assist communities in getting what they want."

All the community centers will include libraries. Other activities requested in some towns are tutoring in school subjects for students who desire help, and arts and crafts.

Communities or organizations who would like to have a freedom center in their area are urged to contact their local freedom worker or write Miss Nancy Stoller at the SNCC office, 700 West 9th Street, Little Rock.

THE COMMUNITY PLANS THE PROGRAMS GOULD

Mrs. Carie Dilworth has donated a building in Gould to be used as a community center. The two-story wooden frame building is in the process of being repaired by SNCC volunteers and Gould residents. This center will probably also serve as a place for several summer volunteers to live.

PINE BLUFF

Members of the Pine Bluff Movement and SNCC are trying to open a freedom center in Pine Bluff. Volunteers in this area will probably need housing in the community.

FORREST CITY

The Forrest City Youth Club is sponsoring a freedom center in Forrest City. The Youth Club, organized by Mrs. Kathryn Clay, holds its meetings in Clay's Chapel.

An old fire-damaged Funeral Home was donated for use as the freedom center. Volunteers are repairing the roof and walls and painting parts of the interior. This freedom center will probably house several volunteers.

WEST HELENA

The West Side Voters League in West Helena is sponsoring a freedom center to be operated in the Greater First Baptist Church in West Helena. They are also negotiating for a large tract of land with a swimming pool nearby.

SOUTHLAND

The Southland Voters League is sponsoring a second Phillips County freedom center. This center will probably be operated in the Springdale Baptist Church in Southland.

"The Hall" in Gould is being repaired for use as a community center.

Both Phillips County centers will sponsor sessions in Negro history, literacy, and other subjects along with extensive recreational programs.

Star City Meeting
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Two men and two women volunteered to go to the school board to try to get some answers. The committee of four said they would welcome any others who wished to join them.

Everyone decided to record their complaints about the school board's handling of the desegregation plan. The complaint will be in the form of a letter to the U.S. Office of Education listing particular grievances. A copy will be sent to the school board.

Specific complaints were voiced by a number of people. Students complained that they had been told by their high school

principal that they would be hung at the white high school, but that if they stayed at the Negro school they would have parties and socials.

They were told, the students said, that there was no room at the white school. The Negro school, they said was not only seriously overcrowded but was also falling apart.

One man on the committee to seek information remarked, "We all have to put our shoulders to the wheel. The time for the wheel to turn is NOW."

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PINE BLUFF POOLS



INTEGRATED NOW

PINE BLUFF, ARK. - Eight local Negro youths swam in the Oakland Park Public Pool for the first time here on May 31.

The city of Pine Bluff recently announced the opening of the city pools on an integrated basis. This was the first time Negroes have been allowed to swim in the "white" Oakland Park Pool.

The eight high-school aged Negroes reported no incidents more serious than insults and water splashing from the approximately fifty whites who were present. A small group of white on-lookers gathered but none of the whites in the pool was seen to leave.

First of Negro youths enjoy Oakland pool.

Summer Plans
Announced

LITTLE ROCK, ARK. - Summer plans for Arkansas were announced here by the SNCC office. These will include a voter registration drive, community centers, publicizing discrimination and segregation, and political organizing.

According to Jim Jones, SNCC State Project Director, about 50 Negro and white volunteers will be added to the summer staff.

The volunteers will aid projects operating out of Jefferson, Phillips, Lincoln, and Desha Counties.

The Pine Bluff Police Department was on hand to control any problems which might have developed.

Previously, separate facilities were maintained for whites and Negroes. Both city swimming pools were closed last year when an attempt was made to integrate Oakland Pool.

STATISTICS AVAILABLE

"The General Condition of the Arkansas Negro," a statistical survey, is available from your local SNCC office.

You Can Write For This Paper

Our Arkansas readers are invited to write letters, stories or poems about their own experiences. We are not worried about proper English grammar but we do want the people of Arkansas to write about what they feel is important. We want this paper to be the voice of the people of Arkansas.

One Phillips County housewife has already offered to write about the schools in her town.

Submit your articles to your local freedom worker or to:

Student Nonviolent Coordinating
Committee
700 West 9th Street
Little Rock, Arkansas

Out-of-state readers who would like to see this kind of work continue and expand can help by sending contributions of any amount to the above address.



PRAY FOR DEATH June 9, 1965

New, Easier Registration

LITTLE ROCK, ARK. - Voter registration will begin soon in 27 Arkansas counties according to Arkansas State Auditor, Jimmie Jones.

These 27 counties have priority in receiving the registration forms because they have special elections scheduled in the near future.

At this time there are no registered voters in the state of Arkansas. Under a new Arkansas law all persons who want to vote must register with the County Clerk at the County Court House.

Payment of a poll tax is no longer required for registration. The only requirements are: be at least 21 years old and live in Arkansas for one year, in the county for six months and in the precinct or ward for one month.

The 27 counties are as follows: Baxter,

Benton, Boone, Carroll, Clark, Clay, Cleburne, Crawford, Crittenden, Franklin, Garland, Grant, Greene, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lawrence, Lee, Lonoke, Marion, Mississippi, Poinsett, Pope, Saline, Sebastian, Sevier, Van Buren, and White.

Pulaski County registration will begin about June 22, Mr. Jones announced.

L.A. Fools Continued from Page 1

Local students and SNCC workers canvassed shopping centers and residential areas in all parts of the city. During a two day period they obtained about 1,300 signatures on petitions and post-cards.

An extremely strong response in favor of the petitions came from the Negro community. Two Negro youths drowned recently in Fourche Creek, an ominous beginning for a hot summer without supervised swimming. While the City Directors deliberated on the

Helena Hospital Discriminates

HELENA, May 31 - People in West Helena and Southland signed a petition today, complaining about racial segregation in Helena's public hospital.

The hospital has received a financial grant from the U.S.

'big loss,' financially, that Little Rock would incur by opening the pools, many in the Negro community mourned the death of these youngsters who never received a chance to learn swimming or water safety.

Jones also urged the Board "to correct the damage done to the community by the 'separate but equal' concept. Racial segregation has produced gross deficiencies in recreational facilities, where they exist, in predominately Negro sections of this city."

Government. Under the terms of this grant, the hospital is not supposed to segregate.

The petition stated that:

- Negro doctors cannot practice there.
- Negro patients are treated only on the first floor, regardless of crowded conditions.
- Negro nurses are not allowed to work on the all-white floors.
- Eating facilities are segregated.
- There are only a few Negro nurses on the staff.

Citizens of Phillips County who signed this petition said they plan to use whatever legal and other resources are necessary to end racial segregation in the public hospital.



SNCC
2905 Harrison
Gulfport, Miss.

PRAY FOR PEACE



Little Rock, Ark. - Citizens also asked to see petition urging the opening of city pools.