

11 of Negroes

What Readers Have to Say

One Sees No Worth in The News' Series on "The Negro in Essex" to Four Who Do

Critic Criticized

To the Editor:

Sir—I have just completed reading the letter by Shirley L. Heller of Madison that appeared in The News April 28. As an American, who deeply believes in the concepts upon which our country was founded, I am disgusted and ashamed to see such profound ignorance displayed by a fellow American.

Mrs. Heller states that the Newark News is trying to make a not-so-serious problem a real one. She does not appear to realize that the United States is being judged and found wanting throughout Asia and Africa because of its attitude toward minority racial groups, such as the Negroes, Mexicans and Indians.

The assaults on Nat (King) Cole, Autherine Lucy and the murder of Emmett Till are front-page news items in newspapers all over Southeast Asia. Much of work of the U.S. Information Service has been vitiated by a very real racial problem.

Mrs. Heller asks, "Do you really believe all men are created equal?" In a democracy this term applies to equality before the law and equality of opportunity. However, it is undisputed among competent psychologists and anthropologists that the intelligence levels of the major races of the world are comparable.

Finally, Mrs. Heller uses the smear technique by stating that The Newark News might possibly be advocating communism. We have come a long way from the beliefs of Jefferson, Jackson and Lincoln when an American insinuates that a great newspaper is following the Communist line because it believes in equality of opportunity and political equality.

IRVING SCHWARTZBACH
Elizabeth.

Not Helpful, She Says

To the Editor:

Sir—Now that the series on "The Negro in Essex" has been completed, I wish to ask you, just what has been accomplished? Your readers were certainly aware that a problem existed.

Let's face it, there are refined and uncouth in every race, and there are good and bad in every race. Being a resident of an interracial neighborhood (Clinton Hill) I can honestly say that there are Negroes and Whites whom you either like or dislike as neighbors. This also holds true in the neighborhoods that are not interracial.

Many of the newspapermen, politicians and do-gooders who cry the loudest about discrimination against the Negro will themselves, I think,

discriminate against a nationality or even a religion other than their own. Articles such as yours will not help the situation.

Newark. HELEN BRADLEY.

Articles Commended

To the Editor:

Sir—I am writing in reference to The News' series of articles entitled, "The Negro in Essex." I found the articles to be factual as well as informative. I would like to commend you and I certainly hope and pray for more articles of this nature.

Newark. ADA F. HARRIS.

Stimulating

To the Editor:

Sir—I have just finished reading, for the second time, the fourth article of The News' series on "The Negro in Essex." Your report shows many hours devoted to careful study of the existing conditions. I am not going to attempt to supply any additional information, but this type of publication will, in no small degree, say to the Negro: "Wake up! Get prepared. We are beginning to be accepted in America. Let's make a better place in which to live."

This type of thinking, which is a refinement of the mind, is, in itself, an eradicator for delinquency. To the white, it stimulates the employer who has been reluctant to employ Negroes. And it encourages the employer who has practiced Negro employment.

Meanwhile, I wish to express my appreciation of the thoroughness with which the committee has tackled this big job. I am keeping each publication for treasured, informational, educational and inspirational reference. And I have no doubt that because of the wholehearted Americanism on your part, some worthwhile effects will be noted.

(MRS.) MOLLIE DAWKINS,
Assistant Administrator of Tenants Relation Department,
Newark Housing Authority.
Newark.

Answers Integration Critic

To the Editor:

Sir—According to the "Letters" section of *The News* Saturday, a woman reader objects to your series, "The Negro in Essex County," and also to integration, even here in the North. The degree with which Mrs. Heller cloaks prejudice behind fancy words does not necessarily improve her sense of logic.

To list the injustice, discrimination and violence that is meted out to Negroes to me would be a waste of space; nobody can deny that it exists; enough literature, pamphlets and just about every other medium has shown us that. I, for one, would rather question Mrs. Heller's reasons why such hatred should be allowed to continue.

The "comparison chart" suggested actually is a group of snide remarks about charity, car ownership, economic status and IQs. If the Negro's IQ does happen to be lower, it is because of centuries of cultural impoverishment, inflicted by whites. Economic status the same; that's no secret. So far as charity goes, since when is decency or goodness measured by the amount given to charity? That just happens to be one of our freedoms. Charity donations are voluntary, meaning you give what you please.

The word "equality" is completely misunderstood by Mrs. Heller. It does not mean that humans are born with equal mentality, looks, etc., but are born with equal rights and privileges. The variation within the human species—size, color, shape, has nothing to do with human rights. How can any sensible person assume that there is such a connection?

If people wonder why all the attention to the words "Segregation" and "Negroes" this year, perhaps it is a turning point in our civilization, a point when humans are really "growing up" and learning to love each other. The opposite to this was Mrs. Heller's letter, a hodgepodge of misplaced terminology, pure bigotry and obviously distorted sense of values. She wants to make a "basic equality" exist by "equalizing ingredients."

No equalization of physical characteristics, nor standardization of IQs or living conditions is possible in humans and would only lead to destruc-

tion, if ever attempted. What nonsense. Even if humans all had pale faces and certain definite predetermined shapes or whatchamacallits to suit Mrs. Heller, how would that make them all deserving equal rights? How does lack of such a ridiculous sameness warrant prejudice?

Can't a child have the right to grow up without prejudice and hatred to make his life miserable, warp his personality and interfere with his career? It is easier, I suppose, to take Mrs. Heller's viewpoint, instead of trying to defend unfortunates from our otherwise well-meaning "friends" and co-workers.

Well, keep up the good work, *News*, with your Negro in Essex series. Yes, I'm white, but sometimes ashamed to say so.

Kearny. HELEN McKENNA.

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The Negro in Essex

No Bed of Roses

His Position Here Is Better—but

With the spotlight of national attention focused on the problems of segregation in the South, The Newark News assigned two staff reporters to look into the situation at home. The series, of which this article is the first, is the result of a six-week study of the status of the Negro in Essex County by these reporters, assisted by many other members of The News staff.

By LUTHER P. JACKSON and GEORGE KENTERA

Equality of citizenship and opportunity has not yet come to the Negro in Essex County.

Despite state laws which forbid racial discrimination, he finds his path toward social and economic betterment still beset with obstacles raised against his color.

The obstacles are neither so numerous nor so towering as they were a decade ago. They are nevertheless present to a degree that should give pause.

These are facts, borne out by findings of a survey conducted in Essex County by The Newark News. Prompted by current tension in the South over integration of public schools, and by such incidents as the Negro boycott of buses in Montgomery, Ala., the survey asked, "How does this area score in affording equal rights for Negroes?"

Good . . . but

The answer: "Good . . . but not nearly good enough."

Findings of the survey paralleled these words by Herbert H. Tate, Newark attorney, former Board of Education member and former cultural attache at the U.S. Embassy in Pakistan: "Conditions are considerably for the better compared to what they were seven years ago. But they are nowhere near what the Negro leader of the community wishes to achieve."

It should be emphasized that the situation in Essex County is not being compared to that in such areas as Mississippi or South Carolina. Increased eco-

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economic opportunity and greater personal freedom here are certified by the continued migration of Negroes from the South. One example is the steady rise in recent years of Negro applicants from southern states for teaching jobs in the Newark and Orange school systems.

The Negro in Essex County is, nevertheless, often severely limited in his social and economic mobility. The barriers he faces were identified over and over again by the scores of white and Negro community leaders — ministers, teachers, administrators, employers, social workers, politicians and private citizens—who were interviewed during the survey.

An Indication

A desire by the majority of them to remain anonymous was in itself an indication that problems exist. Some employers expressed fear of economic reprisals against their products if their views became public. Some teachers feared repercussions from their superiors.

In a couple of instances, Negroes expressed opposition to the survey.

"If you can't paint a rosy picture, it will give aid and comfort to the Crackers down South," said one of them.

The survey paints neither a rosy picture nor a discouraging one. Its findings show gains recorded by and for the Negro as well as instances for concern.

Discrimination in public housing, for instance, has been outlawed. Yet in the vastly larger problem of private housing, the Negro is still largely restricted to "ghetto" areas by widespread discriminatory practices.

Outright segregation in the public schools was abolished long ago. But there is not a Negro school principal or vice principal within the county, and Negro teachers in high schools number only about 15.

Police Problem

In the last few years increasing numbers of Negroes have been appointed to local police forces. Negro citizens, however, contend almost unanimously that white policemen treat them with undue harshness and contempt. The Negro is convinced that he is a systematic victim of "police brutality" in Newark and its suburbs and, indeed, throughout the country.

Restaurants, theaters, hotels and most motels, some of which turned away or segregated Negro patrons as recently as the pre-World War II period, now comply with the 1949 statute which forbids discrimination in places of public accommodation. But some of them do so with reluctance.

The Community Chest Day Nursery of the Oranges and Maplewood is justly proud of its integrated program, effected voluntarily two years ago by the merger of one white nursery and two which were almost exclusively for Negro children. Yet many whites express revulsion at the thought of social contact between the races at the adolescent level.

Public swimming pools are open to all. But the case of the East Orange High School pool, closed since 1934, is notorious among Negroes. They contend—and there is some evidence to support them—that it was shut down and boarded over to keep Negro and white students from using it together.

The rise in numbers of private pools and swimming clubs is also considered by most Negroes and inter-racial leaders to stem from the reluctance of many whites to get into the swim with Negroes.

Contrasts

Of such contrasts is the picture in Essex County composed. Succeeding articles in this series will take up in detail the

Negro's status in regard to housing, the public schools, employment, public accommodations and politics.

The News' survey concentrated on four municipalities which contain the great bulk of the county's Negro population of 105,383 as shown by the 1950 census. They are Newark with 74,065 Negroes, Montclair with 9,063, East Orange with 9,062 and Orange with 4,765.

Many Negroes, incidentally, are sure that the Newark figure is extremely low. They say that rooming houses crowded with two dozen or more Negro residents were commonly portrayed to the census takers as having but two or three occupants because the proprietors were wary of official questioning.

Interestingly enough, the elderly and well-established town of Irvington had only 90 Negro residents among a census population of 59,201. The number of Negroes there has scarcely varied during the last 10 years.

Sociologists have a ready reason for this seeming paradox. Irvington, they observe, has always been a middle-class community whose citizens were not financially able to afford domestic servants. They note that Negroes gained entry to Montclair and East Orange when domestic workers in those communities sought—and found—housing near to their jobs.

The Law

Although civil rights laws in New Jersey date back to 1881,

Negroes in Essex

	Non-white population, 1950	Population percentage	Owner-occupied dwelling units	Renter-occupied dwelling units	Negro teachers secondary schools	Negro teachers elementary schools	Negro police	Negro firemen	Appointed Negro officials
Newark	74,965	17.2	1,927	15,881	30*	140*	41	4	11
Belleville	777	2.5	70	128	0	2	0	0	0
Bloomfield	866	1.8	105	99	3	0	7	1	1
East Orange	9,062	11.5	835	1,252	1	13	20	0	3
Montclair	9,063	20.7	743	1,397	2	4	15	1	0
Nutley	444	1.7	31	70	0	0	0	0	0
Orange	6,765	17.9	373	1,332	0	7	8	0	2
South Orange	682	4.6	34	57	0	0	3	0	0
Verona	278	2.6	17	14	0	0	1	0	0
West Orange	143	0.6	3	7	0	0	0	0	0
All other municipalities	2,336	—	44	63	2	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	105,383		4,182	20,300	38	166	95	6	17

*Estimated.

real enforcement of them did not begin until 1945. That was the year new anti-discrimination legislation was passed and the New Jersey Division Against Discrimination was created. The DAD, a part of the State Department of Education, is the enforcement agency of laws which prohibit discrimination in public housing, employment, public accommodations, public schools and the State National Guard.

The laws are among the nation's most enlightened. Yet even in the very processes of government, Negroes sometimes get different treatment than whites.

One illustration is the juvenile division of the Essex County Probation Department. White probation officers, within their assigned districts, work

with juvenile probationers of both races. Negro probation officers, on the other hand, deal only with probationers of their own race.

Negroes think of things like that when they observe, sometimes in tones of irony, that the things the Southern segregationist fears most have not come to pass in the North. Negroes and whites rarely live in the same neighborhoods because of anti-Negro housing restrictions. No real violence erupted over school integration.

As for the segregationist's greatest bugaboo, intermarriage, Newark City Hall veterans say the city has not issued more than 100 licenses for mixed marriages in the last quarter-century.

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The Negro in Essex

No Fiery Crosses

But Housing Is His Big Problem

By LUTHER P. JACKSON and GEORGE KENTERA

No crosses burn on Essex lawns as a reminder to Negroes to stay in their place. There are no bombings or demonstrations. But the segregated pattern in private housing is rigidly maintained in most Essex County communities.

Negroes are mindful of increased educational and employment opportunities, but they find their money and education don't count for much when they try to buy a house or rent an apartment.

Their feeling that integrated housing is basic to full equality is shared by John P. Milligan,

Second in a Series

director of the State Division Against Discrimination.

He says: "If we solve the housing problem, then we've solved the other problems. When you get people living together as neighbors, the other problems disappear."

'Living In'

The Newark News survey shows there are no Negroes living with whites as neighbors in Livingston, Cedar Grove or North Caldwell because there are no Negroes in those communities.

All Negroes in Essex Falls or Roseland are employed as domestics. Negroes "living in" at the homes of their employers also account for much of the small Negro populations in Glen Ridge, South Orange, West Orange and Millburn.

The prices of homes in some communities place them beyond the reach of all but a few Negroes. Yet the middle class town of Irvington, with a 1950 population of 59,291, had only 90 Negroes, or 0.152 per cent. Negro populations in other middle class communities ranged from 1.7 per cent in Nutley to 2.6 in Verona. It is no accident that nine out of 10 of the county's 105,393 Negroes

live in Newark, Montclair, East Orange and Orange.

Livingston, the fastest growing of the county's 22 communities, is the best Essex example of a trend toward all-white towns which has been observed in all parts of the country.

It is this trend which supports the conviction of Negroes that the least progress in race relations has been made in the housing field. Indeed, some fear that the outlook for integrated housing is worse now than it was 20 years ago.

Tendency to Stratify

The exclusion of Negroes is a part of a larger tendency to stratify housing and its occupants. Public and private housers speak in terms of low-income, middle-income and veterans housing. Added most recently to this list is "housing for the aged," or as one federal housing official would have it, "housing for our senior citizens."

Negroes are wary of such stratifications, particularly the one which is designed for them—"minority group housing." One Negro noted that each year the National Assn. of Home Builders pledges to allocate 10 per cent of its construction to minority groups and each year the NAHB falls short of its quota.

Few builders even consider selling houses to Negroes in otherwise all-white developments. The only new interracial developments found in The News survey were a 52-unit garden project in Montclair, owned by a Negro corporation, and a four-unit development in South Orange.

I. Samuel Sodowick of Newark, who is a member of the NAHB Committee for Minority Housing, says builders run into opposition from town officials in land purchase for Negro housing. He describes land and mortgage financing problems as "murderous."

Huge Market

Sodowick feels there is a tremendous market for Negro housing up to the \$12,000 price level. This opinion is largely based on Sodowick's experience in constructing a 100-unit development in Union County.

"I have never seen people so happy to receive the deeds to their homes," he says.

The dearth of new construction for Negroes in Essex County is partly shown by the location of developments which have received mortgage guaranties from the Veterans Administration. VA guaranties have been obtained for about 60 per cent of the total dwelling units constructed in New Jersey since World War II.

The VA keeps no records which indicate whether dwellings are intended for white or Negro occupancy. But the agency's records do show that almost half of its 5,291 mort-

VA Housing

This table shows 15 Essex County municipalities with the number of housing developments (of five homes or more each) built under Veterans Administration mortgage guaranties since World War II. Also shown is the number of housing units included in the developments.

Developments	Units
Belleville	9 289
Bloomfield	17 757
Cedar Grove	22 905
Glen Ridge	1 10
Livingston	25 1,418
Maplewood	1 20
Montclair	1 24
Newark	2 34
North Caldwell	1 31
Nutley	5 76
Roseland	1 20
Short Hills	1 5
Verona	12 421
West Caldwell	10 366
West Orange	24 915
Totals	132 5,291

gage guaranties for multi-dwelling developments have gone to Livingston and Cedar Grove, where there are no Negroes.

Livingston leads all Essex communities with 1,418 VA guaranties for 25 developments and Cedar Grove is third (behind West Orange) with 905 guaranties for 22 developments. By contrast, only 55 dwellings have been constructed with VA guaranties for multi-dwelling projects in Newark and Montclair. No such VA guaranties were reported in East Orange or Orange.

Buying Old Houses

Yet Negroes are buying old homes in all-white neighborhoods in scattered sections of East Orange, Orange and Newark. Negroes are also spreading out from Montclair's Fourth Ward.

This movement has been peaceful, but some real estate brokers report instances in which whites have unsuccessfully sought to buy out the first Negro to enter the neighborhood. None of the real estate men, however, could recall a single recent instance of panic selling in the wake of a Negro "invasion." The whites have stayed long enough to get at least market value for their houses. One real estate broker estimates that white sellers are getting 10 to 20 per cent more from Negroes than they would from white buyers.

Negroes often buy old, rambling homes which whites have found uneconomical to maintain as one-family residences. This is particularly true in parts of Newark's Clinton Hill section, which are still zoned for one-family residence.

Acceptance

But initial resistance to Negroes in Clinton Hill has gradually turned into acceptance. The Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council is quietly working for racial harmony.

One Negro broker says the most gratifying phase of his business is the number of whites who refuse to be budged

by the old saw that Negroes depreciate property values, an opinion which has become fixed in the minds of most sellers of homes. It is even included in the Code of Ethics of the National Assn. of Real Estate Boards.

"A realtor should never be instrumental in introducing into a neighborhood a character of property or occupancy or use which will clearly be detrimental to property values in that neighborhood."

"Detrimental"

Before the legality of restrictive residential covenants was stricken by the United States Supreme Court, that ethic included the phrase "... members of any race or nationality whose presence will be clearly detrimental." One mortgage lender interviewed in The News survey, commenting on exclusion practices, lumped Negroes with funeral parlors and gasoline stations as "adverse influences" in neighborhoods.

The practice is spelled out by McMichael's Appraising Manual, a "bible" of real estate appraisers. The manual rates racial and national groups according to their desirability, with Negroes listed just above Mexicans as low men on the totem pole.

The exclusion policy was aided by the Federal Housing Administration, whose manuals once advised against introducing Negroes in white neighborhoods. FHA officials now say they encourage "open occupancy" housing but have no control over how private builders make use of FHA mortgage guarantees.

Some Negro real estate brokers—and there are none who are members of the county's real estate boards—also help perpetuate the policy by advising whites that they should sell because Negroes are buying into the neighborhood.

Small Wonder

Small wonder, then, that there are "For Sale" signs up in the neighborhoods that are "turning" from white to colored.

A striking refutation of the belief that Negroes always depreciate property values is the South End of Montclair—a quiet, tree-lined residential neighborhood whose residents are engaged in a pitched battle with the United States Army.

The neighborhood is a triangular section which straddles the lower end of Orange Rd. The cause of the six-month dispute is less than four acres of Orange Rd. land which the Army proposes to condemn as the site for a reserve training center.

Embattled residents of the neighborhood have filed a formal intervention in the United States District Court. Asking the government to divest itself of any interest in the Orange Rd. site, residents said:

"The selection of the site proposed to be condemned is arbitrary and capricious and will cause hardship and suffering to the defendant intervenors... inasmuch as they are Negroes and cannot obtain comparable

housing in any other community."

The Truth

The truth of their statement, for Essex County at least, is borne out by The Newark News survey. Equally true is their sworn assertion that "in the better class residential areas occupied by whites it is difficult for Negroes to obtain housing."

Those who would exclude Negroes from better neighborhoods in Essex County and beyond might take a look at the South End of Montclair. About half of the area is in the Third Ward and the remainder in the Fourth Ward.

The bulk of the population of the Third Ward is still white, but Negroes constitute about 75 per cent of Fourth Ward residents. The Fourth extends along the Glen Ridge line across Bloomfield Ave. to Walnut St. The ward's immediate area on both sides of Bloomfield Ave. is one of the worst blighted areas in suburban Essex.

Town building records, however, show that residents and businesses in the 4th Ward conservatively spent \$570,000 from 1931 to 1955 for additions and alterations to their properties. This exceeds by \$70,000 the total amount spent for improvements in the 1st Ward (Upper Montclair), long regarded as one of the wealthiest residential sections in the country. There is no doubt among

ments was made by Negroes living in the South End section.

Over a 10-year period the amount spent for improvements in Upper Montclair exceeds the 4th Ward total by \$275,000 but the heaviest migration of Negroes into the South End section has been within the last five years.

New Construction

Upper Montclair far outdistances the 4th Ward in new construction with a reported expenditure of \$6,239,922 over the 10-year period. Yet with a new construction total of only \$182,000 in the entire 4th Ward, property values in the ward's South End section have not only held up but have increased in a number of instances. As one Town Hall observer put it:

"When it comes to Negroes and property values, people say this and people say that, but the deeds that come through here don't show any drop in value."

Montclair recognized an increase in South End values in 1950 when it rezoned sections of the neighborhood from second residential to first residential. Town Planner Robert Edwards recalls that the areas had been previously zoned down in anticipation of large-scale apartment house construction which never materialized. But he also credits South End property owners with seeking to protect themselves from conversions as a factor in the planning board's decision to rezone much of the neighborhood.

Then, as now, the motivating factor behind South End petitioners is pride in home ownership even though many of the houses are obsolete by modern standards. They are the best that Essex County Negroes can obtain.

An effort to make more housing available to Negroes was made last year by former Essex Assemblyman Edward T. Bowser of East Orange. Bowser introduced a bill which would prohibit discrimination in "publicly assisted housing accommodations," including all housing with VA and FHA mortgage insurance.

Died Quietly

The Bowser bill unanimously passed the Assembly, but quietly died in the Senate Judiciary committee. A similar bill was introduced this year by Essex Assemblymen Donald J.

Fitzmaurice and J. Vance McIver. The bill has not been reported out of the Assembly Judiciary committee.

The National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People is aware of the importance of integrated housing to its entire freedom drive, realizing that schools will remain segregated so long as racial housing patterns prevail. The NAACP has begun legal action in Philadelphia and San Francisco against discrimination in publicly assisted housing.

With only half of its battle against school segregation won, a call for free housing accommodations was sounded at the NAACP convention in Atlantic City last year. Delegates were warned against complacency

now that school integration is under way.

"As long as residential segregation remains," they were told, "we will have won a victory in theory but will have suffered a practical defeat."

Improvement

Money spent for building improvement in two Montclair wards:

Year	1st Ward	4th Ward
1946	\$ 120,829	\$ 38,935
1947	72,396	47,260
1948	118,497	49,950
1949	178,925	65,872
1950	117,821	60,396
Totals	\$ 608,468	\$262,413
1951	\$ 59,086	\$238,155
1952	12,228	21,575
1953	146,667	116,841
1954	110,621	113,620
1955	140,238	78,196
Totals	\$ 498,240	\$569,377
Grand totals	\$1,106,708	\$831,790

real estate men that the lion's share of 4th Ward improve-

77.77
April 24
1956

The Negro in Essex

Dissatisfied Pupil

Sees Segregation in County's Schools

By LUTHER P. JACKSON and GEORGE KENTERA

(Third in a Series)

The Negro is far from satisfied with his status in the public school systems of Essex County.

Most of his complaints, the school administrators insist, are not justified. Nevertheless, Negro charges

of discrimination in the field of public education are so serious in nature and of such long standing that they deserve scrutiny.

In large measure, the Negro's discontent is directed at the Newark system. This is to be expected, if only on a numerical basis. Newark is home to five of every seven Negroes in Essex County and employs more than 80 per cent of the county's Negro teachers.

By and large, Negroes (and some whites as well) have three major complaints:

The fact that not since 1909 has a Negro served as a principal or vice principal in the Newark schools.

The higher percentage of substitute teachers in Newark's predominantly Negro schools as compared to schools with predominantly white enrollments.

Their feeling that Negro students in Newark, East Orange and Orange often suffer from inadequate, uninterested guidance counseling and are being steered away from college preparatory studies and into industrial and vocational courses.

The Negro leader is also sensitive about the disciplinary problems which exist in some schools in the old 3rd Ward. His children comprise an overwhelming majority of the area's school population.

X Doesn't Equal Y

This problem prompts Dr. Edward F. Kennelly, superintendent of Newark schools, to make the following observation: "A school is a center of a neighborhood community. If you have X conduct in the community, you can't expect Y conduct in the school. It (the school) will reflect directly the ethical and moral standards of the community."

Rev. John Dillingham of 13th Avenue Baptist Church underlines, from a different viewpoint, this innate relationship of the community to the school. "The Supreme Court decision (outlawing public school segregation) doesn't mean too much," he says, "as long as the segregated ghetto exists."

Housing, then, with an assist from gerrymandering practices of years past, has given some schools very high ratios of Negro students. The Central Ward is not alone; other examples include Ashland Avenue School in East Orange, Glenfield School in Montclair and Oakwood Avenue School in Orange.

To such schools, Negroes complain, Negro teachers are often sent automatically. All seven of Orange's Negro teachers, for example, are at Oakwood Avenue School.

In East Orange, on the other hand, the 14 Negro teachers work in 10 different schools. And in Newark, such teachers are well dispersed, although Negroes say most are in the Central Ward and few teach in the high schools.

First And Last

Housing and education coincide again, if only incidentally, in the controversy over Negro principals and vice principals in Newark. The name of James M. Baxter, who died in 1909, is borne by a public housing project. He was the first—and last—Negro principal in Newark.

Dr. Kennelly asserts strongly that no discrimination is involved in the selection of school heads, nor in any other process of the Newark system.

"I have only one criticism," he says. "I want a good school system. Newark has the highest professional standards in the state, and I'd say they compare favorably with any system in the nation. When a Negro candidate meets the standards he will get the appointment—and I'll be very happy about it."

Negroes are not convinced. Among them are Mrs. Grace Fenderson, daughter of James M. Baxter and a Newark teacher now retired after 42 years; Mrs. Mary B. Burch, Board of Education member from 1951 to 1954, and some current teachers. They think it "curious" that no Negro has passed the promotional examinations for principal or vice principal since they were begun in 1946.

"We are not satisfied," says Sam Haynes, editor of The New Jersey Afro-American and president of the Newark NAACP. "There are Negro principals in Philadelphia and New York. Certainly we feel something is wrong here. We are not accepting the board's continuous excuse that no Negro teacher could pass. Nor do we take the attitude that we should have a Negro principal just because he is a Negro."

No Vice Principals

Dr. Kennelly says only about a dozen Negroes have taken the promotional examinations in the last three or four years and most of those tried for vice principalship. Negroes reply you must be a vice principal of five years' standing, or the equivalent in a supervisory capacity, to qualify for the principals' examinations, and they point out that Newark has no Negro vice principals.

They also note that William H. Watson, who holds a doctorate in education and is principal of a junior-senior high school in Raleigh, N.C., took the most recent tests for principal—and failed to pass.

Another issue troubles Mrs. Fenderson, a board member of the national NAACP. She observes, as do others, that white teachers often regard assign-

ment to Central Ward schools as appointments to "Siberia."

Dr. Kennelly acknowledges that this attitude by some white teachers has posed an administrative problem in staffing those schools. The situation is reflected in the relatively high percentages of substitute teachers in many schools in the ward. Educators agree that substitutes—as opposed to permanently assigned teachers—tend to bring an undesired instability to teaching staffs.

Figures supplied by the New-

ark system show that, by June, the 62 schools (excluding special schools, such as those for the handicapped) will have 305 substitute teachers. Some 45 per cent, or 133 substitutes, will be in 17 schools with large Negro enrollments, although some predominantly white schools also face similar situations. The picture will be considerably eased by next fall with appointment of about 100 new teachers from applicants who passed December's examinations.

Touchy Subject

Newark administrators were not so ready to discuss another touchy subject—the number of Negro teachers assigned to high schools. Some school heads would not give the information, even off-the-record, unless authorized to do so by superiors. The authorization was not given. (Negro sources say Newark has 12 or 13 Negro teachers regularly assigned to the high schools.)

One of the strongest critics of the Newark schools is Mrs. Burch, the recent Board of Education member. She is also a former Camden teacher, former member of the board of managers of Clinton Reform-

atory, and director of the Leaguers, Inc., a group of almost 500 Negro high school and college students which she founded to promote their social and educational welfare.

Mrs. Burch asserts that many Negro students are "misguided or neglected" by high school counselors and that too often their expressed ambitions for higher education are discouraged. Dan Anthony, director of the Mayor's Commission on Human Relations, says he has received informal complaints of like nature from Negroes. Similar charges from Newark, East Orange and Orange have also come to the attention of the Essex County Intergroup Council.

The charges are categorically denied by Dr. Carrie Losi, director of guidance for the Newark schools; by Fred Landolph, her predecessor and now principal of South Side High School, and by Miss Pansy Borders, a Negro who is coordinator of good will and understanding in public relations for Newark schools.

"Where youngsters have ability," says Dr. Losi, "regardless of color, they are urged to pursue their education and helped, where necessary, to get scholar-

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ships and financial assistance. Our basic philosophy is to encourage youngsters to get as much education as possible."

Dr. Losi declares that whenever she has investigated such complaints, she has found them unjustified. In any case, she says, the final choice of any course of study is up to the student and his family. Landolphi adds that the guidance counseling program at South Side, which is 50 per cent Negro, was rated excellent two years ago by the Middle States Assn. of Secondary Schools and Colleges.

"In many instances, and this may give rise to misunderstandings, youngsters have unrealistic views of their abilities and vocational goals," says Dr. Losi. "We bend over backwards trying to be fair and just in all cases."

Some former students, now members of the Leaguers, Inc., do not agree. Two girls, for instance, who graduated from different high schools in January, say they are now taking algebra at night school to qualify for nurses' training this fall. Both claim their counselors mistakenly informed them in high

school that they did not need algebra to enter nursing schools.

Mrs. Burch asserts that many similar cases can be found among Leaguer membership, which indicates to her that Negro students are getting less than their due in the counseling and scholarship programs. She adds: "The fact that so many Negro students graduate from high school without a plan and unprepared for anything specific certainly indicates that the area of guidance needs careful scrutiny."

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The Negro in Essex

Good Jobs Aplenty

Employment Barriers Tumbling

By LUTHER P. JACKSON and GEORGE KENTERA

(Fourth in a Series)

New job openings in the Essex area for Negroes with high skills are coming up so fast it is often difficult to find persons to fill them.

Fair employment policies in industrial North Jersey compare favorably with those in any section of the country. Barriers remain—even for trained Negroes—but they are tumbling with increasing rapidity.

This bright picture is presented by personnel directors and private employment agencies. It is backed by the State Division Against Discrimination and the Urban League of Essex County, a social agency developing job opportunities for minority groups.

The opportunities, of course, are greater in those fields in which there is a general shortage. Or, as one personnel director commented: "If we found an engineer who walked on his hands, we'd hire him."

Find Security

Negroes are no longer the "last hired and the first fired." True, they still have more difficulty finding a job but their seniority often protects them from layoffs. Once most Negroes find a good job they are less apt to go searching for a better one.

But Negro floaters in the labor market are still in trouble. Any Negro applicant for a better job is likely to be rejected if he is vulnerable as to character, appearance or training. One employment agency man said that, to ease the way for a Negro client, he finds it essential to first call the firm say, "I have a clean-cut Negro."

Harold A. Lett, assistant director of the state DAD, reports that there is far less discrimination now than there was in 1945 when the division set about its work as the enforcement arm of the state's civil rights laws. He adds that discrimination is becoming more difficult to detect because of more plausible excuses given by employers. Some private agencies state that companies often hesitate to employ Negroes because of the reaction they fear among white employees.

Lett, however, comments that the DAD experience has been that "the rank and file worker responds to the rules of the game as laid down by the bosses." He blames anti-Negro demonstrations in the South on the reluctance of officials to take a firm stand.

"Invitation to Demagogues"
"Vacillation on the top level," he adds, "is an invita-

tion for the demagogues to take over."

Lett cites an example in which management broke discrimination in a union. The employer hired Negroes over union opposition. When the Negroes applied for union membership—as required by the union shop contract—they were turned down. An appeal to the DAD resulted in the Negroes being accepted by the union. No trouble since.

Although some unions promote fair employment through their locals, others bar Negroes and some whites through formal apprentice programs. This is traditionally true in many craft unions.

James A. Pawley, executive secretary of Essex Urban League, says that Negroes are just beginning to obtain jobs in certain industries, citing breweries and the airlines as outstanding examples.

Still Tough Climb

Pawley also finds that it is more difficult for Negroes to step up the promotional ladder despite the state anti-discrimination law. He adds:

"There is a reluctance to give Negroes supervisory jobs over white workers regardless of the Negroes' skills and ability. In jobs where supervision is not important and skill is essential, such as research chemists and metallurgists, chances for Negro advancement are greater."

But Pawley is quick to point out a number of exceptions in which Negroes have acquired supervisory positions. Moreover, the Urban League is shifting its emphasis from job placement to guidance counseling as a means of urging Negroes to prepare for their increased opportunities. Some jobs have gone begging because the league could not come up with qualified applicants.

The News survey found Negroes in supervisory jobs ranging from group leader in production to assistant vice president in the front office. Other top jobs held by Essex Negroes are chief fiscal accountant for one of the nation's biggest specialty firms and personnel director in another specialty house.

Scores of Negro engineers and chemists are employed in plants in the North Jersey area. One plant contacted in the survey checked all its divisions and found Negroes in all areas

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processing and mechanical work. In addition, many Negroes are employed as departmental supervisors, research chemists, chemical engineers, stenographers, mechanics, carpenters, chefs and guards.

Banks Hold Out

G. Douglas Pugh, industrial relations secretary of the Urban League, finds a reluctance to place Negroes in jobs in which they are placed in contact with the buying public. Pugh says Negroes are hired as sales clerks, however, in all but one Newark department store. In another store Negroes are also employed in the merchandising and display departments. None, however, is employed as a teller in Newark banks.

DAD records show that Negroes are being upgraded if the division's complaints can be used as a yardstick. The division received 54 upgrading complaints in 1945 and only two in 1955. Yet Negroes are proportionately fewer in supervisory and administrative positions. Some of this is due to discrimination, but some of it

is attributed to the Negro's willingness to "settle for less."

This tendency to limit themselves has been observed by Arthur Chapin, human relations director of the State CIO. Chapin says many locals urge Negroes, along with whites, to bid for jobs based on their seniority and ability but find that many Negroes fear being turned down. Chapin adds that Negroes often "fear pushing themselves where they are not wanted."

Few Owners

Another possible limitation on many Negroes' ambitions is the small number of thriving businesses that they see owned and operated by Negroes. Several of those interviewed pointed out that Negro business in many Southern communities has outdistanced its Northern counterpart.

Arthur G. Clement, manager

of the Newark Branch office of the North Carolina Mutual Insurance Co., says that some Negroes hesitate to believe that the 50-million-dollar corporation is owned by Negroes. Since the company opened its Newark office three years ago, Clement frequently has been asked, "Who are you fronting for?" This indicates a belief that any such lucrative business would have to be backed by whites.

Lett blames the housing problem for placing early limitations on the Negro's ambition, especially in such places. He says: "The Negro child is guided by what he sees around him. He makes distinctions between the status of Negroes and whites at an early age. He does not see Negroes in impor-

tant positions. His horizon is limited by what he sees."

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The Negro in Essex

Money and the Vote

In These He Is Equal With Whites

By LUTHER P. JACKSON and GEORGE KENTERA

Last in a series.

In at least two significant respects, the Essex Negro stands level with the white man: He has money to spend and a vote to cast.

The improving economic status of the Negro and the 1949 statute outlawing discrimination in places of public accommodation have brought him acceptance—if sometimes less than warm welcome—at virtually all restaurants, hotels, theaters, bowling alleys and the like. It was not

always so, even as recently as pre-World War II days.

Indeed, Negroes still are discriminated against by some motels. A state survey last year by the Division Against Discrimination showed that 13 of 45 motels investigated in North Jersey had never housed a Negro guest.

Highly Encouraged

By and large, however, Negro leaders are highly encouraged by the situation in the field of public accommodations. Sam Haynes, president of the Newark NAACP, says he can't recall a single complaint in the last five years about discrimination by restaurants and hotels.

He is seconded by Rev. William P. Hayes of Bethany Baptist Church, for whom a Newark housing project is named: "Changes are taking place to an encouraging degree. The millennium is not here. But there is more good will in Newark today than ever before in its history."

The economic status of most Negroes, while improving, is still such that many never use expensive restaurants and hotels, despite the 1949 statute. In addition, many say they are "made to feel unwelcome" by cold receptions from clerks and waiters. Such receptions do occur. On the other hand, some Negroes—among them Haynes and Mrs. Grace Fenderson, board member of the national NAACP—acknowledge that a

Negro customer, conditioned by years of discrimination, sometimes suspects prejudice where none exists.

Haynes feels that employees in places of public accommodation would benefit from instruction in human relations such as the Newark police department received in 1954 from the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations.

Businesses Fail

As for the Negro businessman himself, it was noted earlier in this series that in Essex he generally does not get the kind of support from his own people that Negroes get in other parts of the country.

One prominent Negro notes that, during his three decades of residence in Essex County, only three all-Negro enterprises were started that even approached the minimal definition of "big business." They were Community Hospital, a small loan association, and a building association.

All of them failed.

The Negroes' progress in politics has not matched the gains in the economic field. In such areas as housing, education, and employment, Negroes are making headway, however, that Democratic and Republican politicians alike are becoming increasingly aware of his voting potential.

Thus Newark has Negro representation on all major boards and committees with the exception of the zoning board. Dr. James Lee is chairman of the Central Planning Board. Marvin Robinson is the first Negro appointed to the Atlantic-Bergen County Central Board. Theodore Pettigrew is a member of the Newark Housing Authority, and there are three Negroes on the 17-member Mayor's Commission on Group Relations. Walter Chambers, a Negro, is the paid assistant director of the commission.

James Abrams, an assistant corporation counsel, is the first Negro to get a full-term assignment in the city's law department, and Clyde Mitchell serves as executive secretary to Mayor Leo P. Carlin. Harry Hazelwood is a legal assistant to Essex County Prosecutor Charles V. Webb Jr.

In Suburbs Too

In East Orange, Negroes have been appointed within the last two years to places on the zoning and recreation boards, and in Orange they hold seats on the planning board and municipal housing authority.

Only one Negro has been voted to a municipal governing

body in the county. He is Councilman Irvine I. Turner of Newark, elected in 1954. His supporters regard him as a militant representative in the field of civil rights who "prods" city and state officials for greater recognition.

Two things in particular arouse Turner—the lack of a Negro magistrate in Newark and the absence of Negroes in principal and vice principal posts in the public schools. He has been vocal—and unsuccessful—in demanding such appointments.

It has become customary to have Negro representation on the Newark Board of Education, and Verner Henry is the current member. Negroes have also been recognized with the recent appointment of Roger W. Yancey to a District Court judgeship and selection of Miss Barbara Ann Morris as an assistant U.S. attorney.

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In county elective posts, Republican James A. Curtis and Rev. Raphus P. Means, a Democratic incumbent, have held seats on the Essex Board of Freeholders. In addition, Curtis served the policy committee of the county GOP and Mrs. Rosamond Marrow on the GOP screening committee which selected candidates for this year's county ticket.

Not Satisfied

Negroes feel, nevertheless, that their political status in this area is below what it should be in comparison with other states, notably New York. Oliver W. Brown, editor of the weekly New Jersey Herald News, attributes this lag to the state's "southern exposure" and recalls that New Jersey was the last northern state to abolish slavery.

Another well-known Negro, who prefers to remain anonymous, puts forth a different reason. Despite Newark's heavy Negro population, he declares, Negro leadership has been poor in comparison with other large cities, and white politicians have traditionally been able to divide the Negro vote.

"If 15 persons ran for City Council," he says, "every one of them could get a Negro leader."

Lack of Negro political success in Montclair was partially attributed by Negroes there to a similar reason—too many separate factions.

Psychological Boost

But Brown, as well as other Negroes, predicts an increased awareness of the vote.

Negroes everywhere have been given a big psychological boost by the successful, peaceful—and unified—bus protest in Montgomery, Ala.

Church leadership here, as in Montgomery, is a strong factor among Negroes. It may therefore be significant that Mr. Hayes and Rev. John Dillingham of 13th Avenue Presbyterian Church agree that Montgomery might prove a unifying force among Essex County Negroes.

Says Dillingham: "I think that Montgomery says this to all of us: Instead of getting mad and making soapbox speeches, we should study, organize and work for constructive improvements."

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