

RANGERS CALLED IN RACE DISORDER

Shivers Acts When a Mob
in Texas Keeps Negroes
From School Registration

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MANSFIELD, Tex., Aug. 31—

Texas Rangers moved into this angry town today to help county sheriffs preserve order.

The threat to peace arose from a determination of white citizens to prevent Negroes from enrolling as students at the local high school.

[In Clinton, Tenn., a crowd that had attended a pro-segregation rally turned into a mob. It chanted, yelled and shouted and blocked traffic. No one was reported injured. The disorder followed sentencing of John Kasper of Washington to a year in jail for interfering with Clinton school integration.]

Gov. Allan Shivers, at Austin, ordered the Rangers, the state's criminal enforcement agency, into Mansfield, a town of about 1,450 persons. It is about twenty miles southeast of Fort Worth in North Texas. He acted after a crowd of about 400 assembled early this morning on the grounds and in streets adjacent to the high school. However, no Negroes appeared to register.

Two Rangers were on hand at Mansfield and more were ready to move in if the situation warranted. Governor Shivers told the

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Associated Press Wirephoto

EMBATTLED TEXAS OFFICIAL: Assistant District Attorney Grady Hight (at left, back to the camera) is surrounded by angry residents of Mansfield during violence over the admission of Negro students to the local high school. He had to be rescued by policemen.

Two Contrasting Scenes in a Tense Tennessee Town



Members of an angry mob in Clinton, Tenn., try to overturn a car containing Negroes. The incident occurred last night on U. S. Highway 25-W, during a demonstration. The rioters were not successful, however, and the car sped from the scene before doors were opened.



Associated Press Wirephotos

Earlier in the day these Negro youths walked through peaceful corridors on way to classes at Clinton High School. Integrated recently, the school has been scene of demonstrations.

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Rangers to cooperate with local officers and "to arrest anyone, white or colored, whose actions somnolent in the hot August sun. The crowds had dispersed except for a few knots on street corners. The only turbulence of the morning had been quelled by deputy sheriffs. A tense situation that had existed for two days appeared likely to lessen, outwardly at least, until Tuesday. The schools will open then for the fall term.

No one who mingled with the residents today could doubt that they had made up their minds what they would do if Negroes attempted to enter the white school.

One leathery plainsman was asked, "What would you do if a Negro came on the school grounds?"

"You just hang around and see," he answered.

The townspeople have ceased to be emotional about the situation. They know what they intend to do. But they refuse to talk when strangers ask questions.

Two events of the morning evidenced the temper of the town.

Shortly before 10 o'clock Eugene Biddle, Chief Assistant District Attorney of Tarrant County, Grady Hight, an Assistant District Attorney, and another county official arrived at the high school grounds. They alighted from their car and moved toward the crowds.

Angry townsfolk started milling around Mr. Hight. They grabbed hold of him and begun hauling and tugging at him. He struggled to keep his feet.

Three deputy sheriffs broke through the mob and rescued the badly shaken official. All three of the District Attorney's men entered their car and drove rapidly back to Fort Worth.

A leader of the group that had manhandled Mr. Hight remarked:

"Anyone with a silk shirt and fancy pants who comes down here and tells a man in overalls what to do, he is looking for trouble."

In one version of how the turbulence started, Mr. Hight was said to have made remarks indicating that he was seeking evidence to prosecute leaders of the mob.

After he returned to Fort Worth, Mr. Hight, in a radio broadcast, denied the language attributed to him.

While the fracas involving Mr. Hight was going on, a photographer named Gordon Yoder, representing Telenews, was grinding away with his camera. Angry townsfolk surrounded him and tried to stop his taking pictures. Finally, one of the mob grabbed the camera and it fell to the ground.

Mr. Yoder said: "This is public property. You will go to court for this."

Some in the mob attributed to

him more vigorous language.

While Mr. Yoder was reassembling his shattered camera,

someone in the crowd shouted:

"He didn't break your camera, you threw it on the ground yourself."

A score of voices broke in with, "We'll swear to that."

Yesterday there was one effigy of a Negro swaying from the school flagpole. This effigy was still there this morning and another had appeared hanging over the school doorway.

Yesterday was the opening day for the enrollment in the high school. Only students from the town were registered the first day. Today country students were to enroll. The rural areas are, where the Negroes live and about a dozen had been expected to register. The first day 142 students enrolled, today there were seventy-seven. All were white.

R. L. Huffman, superintendent of schools, ordered the bus drivers to follow last year's routes. That meant that one bus driver would pick up only Negro high school children and take them to Fort Worth for enrollment there. Negro students from the Mansfield area have been attending that school. It was later reported in Mansfield that five Negroes had registered at I. M. Terrell High School in Fort Worth.

No bus brought any Negroes to the Mansfield High School.

During the morning Mr. Huffman received a telegram from L. Clifford Davis, a lawyer in Fort Worth representing the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The telegram asked enrollment of Nathaniel Jackson, Floyd Stephenson Moody and Charles Moody in the Mansfield school. Mr. Huffman said that on advice of counsel he had refused to accept the telegraphic registrations. Enrollment must be in person, he asserted.

Meantime, Mr. Davis also telegraphed Attorney General Herbert Brownell Jr., in Washington, asking Federal intervention to protect the civil rights of Negroes in Mansfield.

While the crowds milled around the high school here, J. A. Gooch, attorney representing the Mansfield School Board, was in Houston. He was endeavoring to obtain from Judge John Brown of the Federal Court of Appeals a stay of the mandate issued yesterday by Federal District Judge Joe E. Estes ordering integration of the Mansfield schools. After consultation with other members of the appellate bench, Judge Brown refused to stay the mandate.

Mr. Gooch announced that he would endeavor to get in touch with some member of the United States Supreme Court and obtain a stay pending an appeal to the highest Federal tribunal.

But townsfolk, seated under spreading trees lining the school yard or gathered in the grounds on the dry brown grass, proclaimed that no court order nor anything else could make them integrate.

A leader of the group asserted, "We ain't going to go to school

with niggers until we have to."

Another remarked:

"They will be a long time making us do it."

A third declared that Texas had been admitted to the Union as a states rights state and "it is still in the Texas Constitution that Negroes can't go to school with whites."

The first speaker piped up with, "It's all just filthy politics." When a man in the crowd shouted, "It's communism," the first speaker came back with, "What's filthy politics but communism."

The crowds began assembling around the high school before 8 o'clock this morning. There were no signs of guns except in the holsters of the deputy sheriffs. There was no talk of guns as there had been yesterday.

The most formidable objects in evidence were a pet alligator, a toy rifle with a rubber bayonet brandished by a small boy, and a broken baseball bat in the hands of another youngster.

Registration began at 8 o'clock. As the hours wore on and no Negroes appeared the crowd began melting away. By 11 o'clock less than a hundred remained.

When W. Lee (Pappy) O'Daniel, an independent candidate for Governor, arrived about 11:30 o'clock with a sound truck he was able to assemble less than fifty to hear his political oration.

Doors of the high school closed promptly at noon. They will not open again until Tuesday morning.