



TO FEED THE HUNGRY

All over this racist decadent country they call America, hunger exists to a great extent among the poor and oppressed. The Black Panther Party has implemented a free breakfast for schoolchildren, aimed at giving innocent children a decent breakfast that has been

deprived them by racist, low-life, snake-in-the-grass, slimy, greasy, razor-back pigs. The Sacramento Branch of The Black Panther Party has made the breakfast program a reality in Sacramento. The breakfast program was begun on Wednesday morning May 7th

with 25 children at the Oak Park United Church of Christ at 33rd and 4th Aves.

By the end of the week we were feeding 150 children. The program itself aids in the education of the people in reference to this racist decadent oppressive system and

also the contradictions that exist in this class society they ask, (the pigs) about America (pigland) being the land of the free, and the home of the brave, and that everybody reaps the benefits. This breakfast program is something CONCRETE and not ABSTRACT,

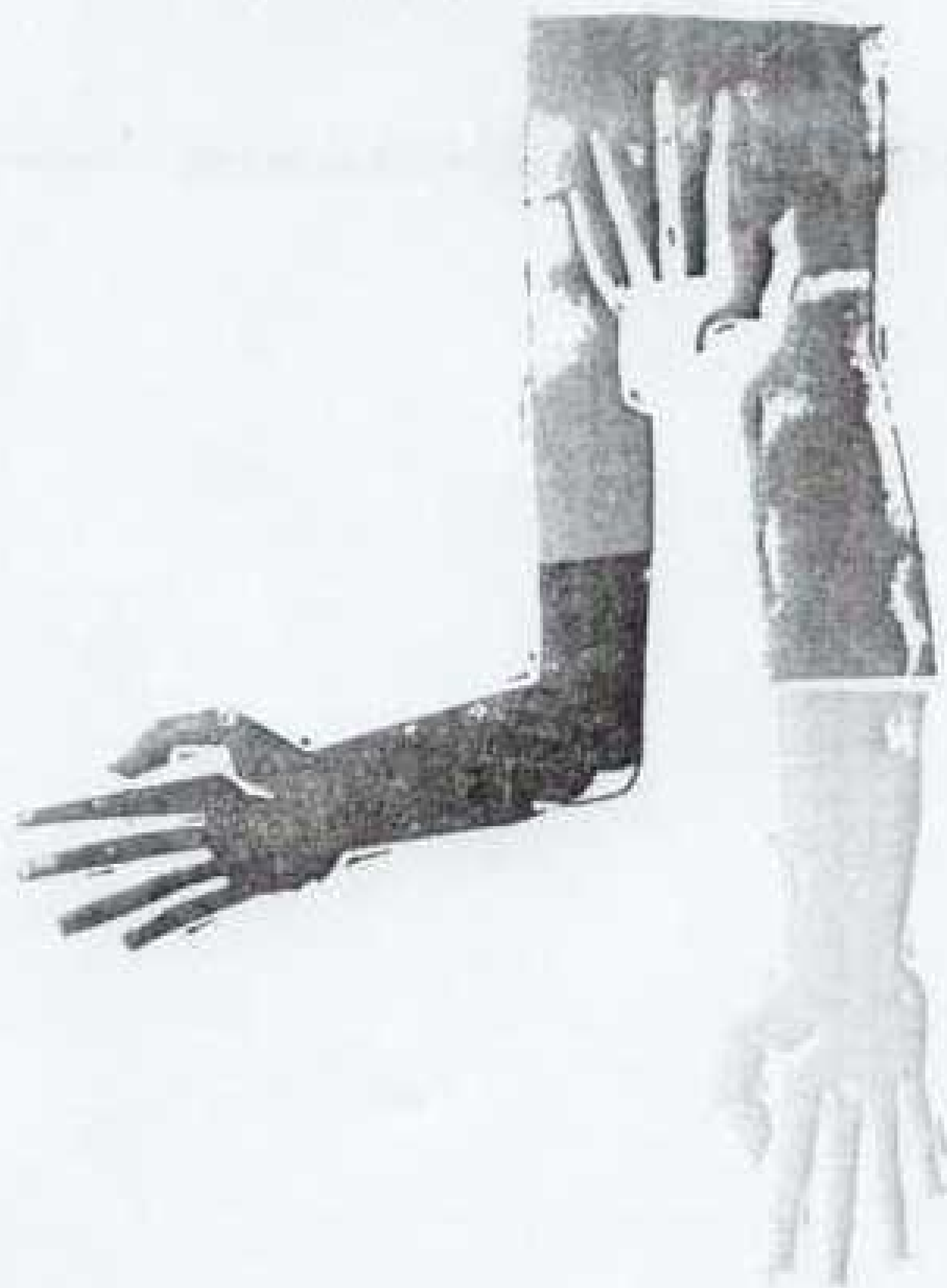
that was started to solve one of the people's many problems in the external world (the world in which people live) to insure the survival of the poor and oppressed masses.

ALL POWER TO THE-
DISPOSSESSED PEOPLE

The Sacramento Bee
a special report

BLACK BROWN

WHITE



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1969

Stanford Fire Illuminates Segregated Classrooms

Fire consumed the old Stanford Junior High School at 3545 Sacramento Blvd. the night of Aug. 17, 1963.

But the flames were to illuminate much more than the immediate need of making room for the 773 displaced students — two-thirds of whom represented minority groups and half of whom were Negro—in other schools in time for the start of the fall semester. For the Stanford fire focused attention at last upon the unspoken yet increasingly urgent problem of racial and ethnic imbalance — a polite term for segregation — in the city's schools.

At one of the school-board meetings held in the fire's aftermath, Robert Tyler, now director of the City-County Human Relations Commission but then a member of the Congress of Racial Equality, put the problem succinctly:

"Stanford has been a symbol of de facto segregation in Sacramento," he told the board. "If the students can be distributed to other schools, we'd have an opportunity to develop a more harmonious community."

"The real issue is breaking up an intense pattern of segregation in Oak Park."

Decision Delayed

But the school board faced the immediate problem first. It decided to send the Stanford students to Peter Lassen Junior High School, 5022 58th St., until bungalows could be installed at the Sacramento Boulevard site, but it could not ignore the issue.

Scarcely a month after the fire, Attorneys Nathaniel S. Colley and Archie Harris filed the city's first school desegregation suit in Superior Court. The upshot was permission to install the temporary bungalows but to find a way of dissolving the racial concentration there by the start of school in September 1964.

To its credit, the school board had already charged a citizens committee with studying the problem of de facto segregation throughout the city's schools, meanwhile voting to disperse Stanford's student body among five junior highs.

Ethnic Survey

The board also ordered a survey — anticipating, in this, the State of California by two years — of the racial and ethnic distribution in city schools, a survey now made annually. This produced the first accurate profile of the number and percentage of students in these categories: "White-Caucasian"; "White-Caucasian (Mexican)"; "Negro"; "Oriental (Japanese, Chinese and Korean)"; "Other Non-White".

The original survey pinpointed the racially imbalanced schools and summarized the racial-ethnic proportions of the composite student body as follows: 71.1 per cent Caucasian; 8.8 per cent Caucasian-Mexican; 9.9 per cent Negro; 8.6 per cent Oriental. It showed the imbalance concentrated in the much more numerous elementary schools, the balance improving as these neighborhood schools poured their graduates into fewer and larger junior high schools drawing from larger areas and into the still-fewer, still-larger senior highs.

By comparison, the most recent figures, taken from the last school year, show the following racial-ethnic breakdown: 13.9 per cent Negro (up from 9.9 five years ago); 11.7 per cent

of Mexican extraction (up from 8.8); 8.2 per cent Oriental (up from 7.9).

In the intervening years, the citizens committee completed its study (in May 1965), and the school board directed Supt. F. Melvyn Lawson (since retired) to find a way of desegregating the most imbalanced of the elementary schools (those having more than half their students of one minority group).

Thus, as the 1966-67 school year commenced and 1,000 students, mostly Negro, were reassigned to mostly white schools, The Bee reported: "Sacramento quietly integrated its elementary schools today in the largest school desegregation plan so far conducted in California."

That observation somewhat overstated and simplified the case, however, for the problem of racial-ethnic imbalance had barely been touched — and only in its most obvious aspect. For the students still returned each night to their predominantly

MANUEL FERRALES, president, Sacramento Concilio, Inc.: We must avoid the kind of petty politics among poor people which causes taking sides along racial lines. We must love each other; we must find a way to instill the quality of love for one another, from the largest government agency down to the family unit. The family is the most important social group.



MAYOR RICHARD MARRIOTT: Sacramento might be said to be a community of surface equality. Discrimination in the economic sense is the base from which rise some of the more publicized evils. If the job market opened suddenly to minorities, in time there would occur an upgrading of housing for the minority communities. This would lead to an upgrading of education. In short, there would occur an upgrading of the standard of living, which is what it's really all about anyway. The naming of a city library in the memory of Martin Luther King is not the whole solution to the problem of prejudice in Sacramento. The job market is the answer. And that answer has not been entirely forthcoming.



JAMES MOTT, lieutenant of information, Black Panther Party: People have got to realize this is not a race struggle. It is a class struggle. Those who control the money oppress and exploit others of their own race. We must stop blaming one another, stop this idea that all blacks must hate all whites, and direct ourselves toward those moneyed people who are the real oppressors.



MINORITY GROUPS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT 1966-67 SCHOOL YEAR

DISTRICT	NEGROES	Students of MEXICAN Desc.	ORIENTALS
Sacramento Unified	13.9	11.7	8.2
San Juan Unified	0.3	2.1	0.6
Grant Joint Union High.....	10.2	9.3	1.3
Del Paso Heights Elementary....	71.2	11.3	0.2
Rio Linda Elementary	5.0	5.7	2.0
Robla Elementary	8.8	11.6	0.9
North Sacramento	7.7	15.5	1.7
Elverta Elementary	0.2	1.7	1.3
Center Joint Elementary	6.9	2.5	1.8
Natomas Union Elementary	1.1	15.6	13.3
Folsom-Cordova Unified	4.5	2.6	1.2
Elk Grove Unified	1.0	8.1	2.8
AVERAGE-12 DISTRICTS.....	7.5	7.1	3.5

"white", "brown" and "black" neighborhoods, and these continued to become "whiter", "brownier" and "blackier".

The city school district as recently as last year found that the minorities remain concentrated within its boundaries. It reported:

"Thirty-five out of every 100 pupils ... belong to some minority group.

This compares with less than 20 per 100 county-wide, and 25 per 100 state-wide."

Though Sacramento had taken steps for five years to alleviate imbalance in its schools, the district still found 32 schools exceeding state norms. Nonetheless, this figure marked a decline of two while the trend state-wide was up.

What Would You Do To

WILLIAM FOWLER, superintendent, Del Paso Heights School District: The American society wanted the moon. If it wants with the same vehemence the disadvantaged child to be educated, he will be educated, because America can do just about any blessed thing it wants to. The fact we haven't done it is a reflection on society and its priority system. It is not a reflection on the disadvantaged. By far the most debilitating disadvantage the child of poverty has is his inability to handle the English language. This will be true whether he comes from a home where Greek, Spanish or 'lower-class' English is spoken. This disability is reflected in the classroom in his inferior ability to listen, to read, to write, to spell and to speak.



POLICE CHIEF RAY W. DEHNER: Greater employment of minorities would be a big improvement. Police Department programs include sending officers to special schools, in-service training courses, and instruction of recruit officers in minority-group problems. Our Community Relations program is doing a fine job. I intend to expand and improve these efforts. Parental involvement could be greater. The Parent Patrol (of Del Paso Heights) has done its best to assist, and has, but I understand they could use more help.



STEVE WHITMORE, Sacramento State College student body president: Whites who doubt the existence of racism should read, for starters, "Man-Child in the Promised Land," "Soul on Ice," "Black Rage" and "The Invisible Man." People are going around patting themselves on the back, saying they're "good white liberals" when they're really racists. And these books should bring that fact home to them. The overt racist we can deal with; it's the covert racist we have to worry about.



GEORGE CHOUNG, founder, Sacramento Congress of Young Adults: The day that America allows itself to be laid out on the operating table and have that cancer taken out — that racial hatred, prejudice and discrimination — that is the day we will start to solve the problem. As a beginning in Sacramento, members of the "establishment" should sit down with the people who live in the ghetto to find out what the real problems are. These people might call them names and come up with English that isn't too cool. But until they are willing to sit down at a table across from these people and risk that abuse, they will still be in the dark about what the problems are.



SHERIFF JOHN MISTERLY: We have a good racial climate here. I know minorities have problems in jobs and housing, but this is not a police matter and there is nothing we can do about it. We hire officers of minority groups the same as other officers, and the officers do the same jobs. We have not had one incident of racial disorder in the county area.



Closing Of Washington Causes An 'Earthquake'

If a fire in one school drew attention to the problem of ethnic-racial imbalance, the possibility of an earthquake in another focused it on the more complex if fuzzy one of "relevant" education and racial-cultural pride.

Washington Elementary School, at 1716 E St., stands in the heart of Sacramento's Mexican community. It is old, rapidly deteriorating and — the coup de grace — it is not impervious to earthquakes. Also, with more than half its 200-odd students of Mexican parentage, the school's student body violates city-state norms of racial-ethnic balance even more dramatically than did Stanford Junior High.

Washington Closes

As a result, the school board voted to close the school and, because of the Latin concentration in the area, not to replace it.

Last year, kindergarten and grades 1 through 3 were dispersed among Piny Express, John Bidwell, Caroline Wenzel and Freeport Elementary

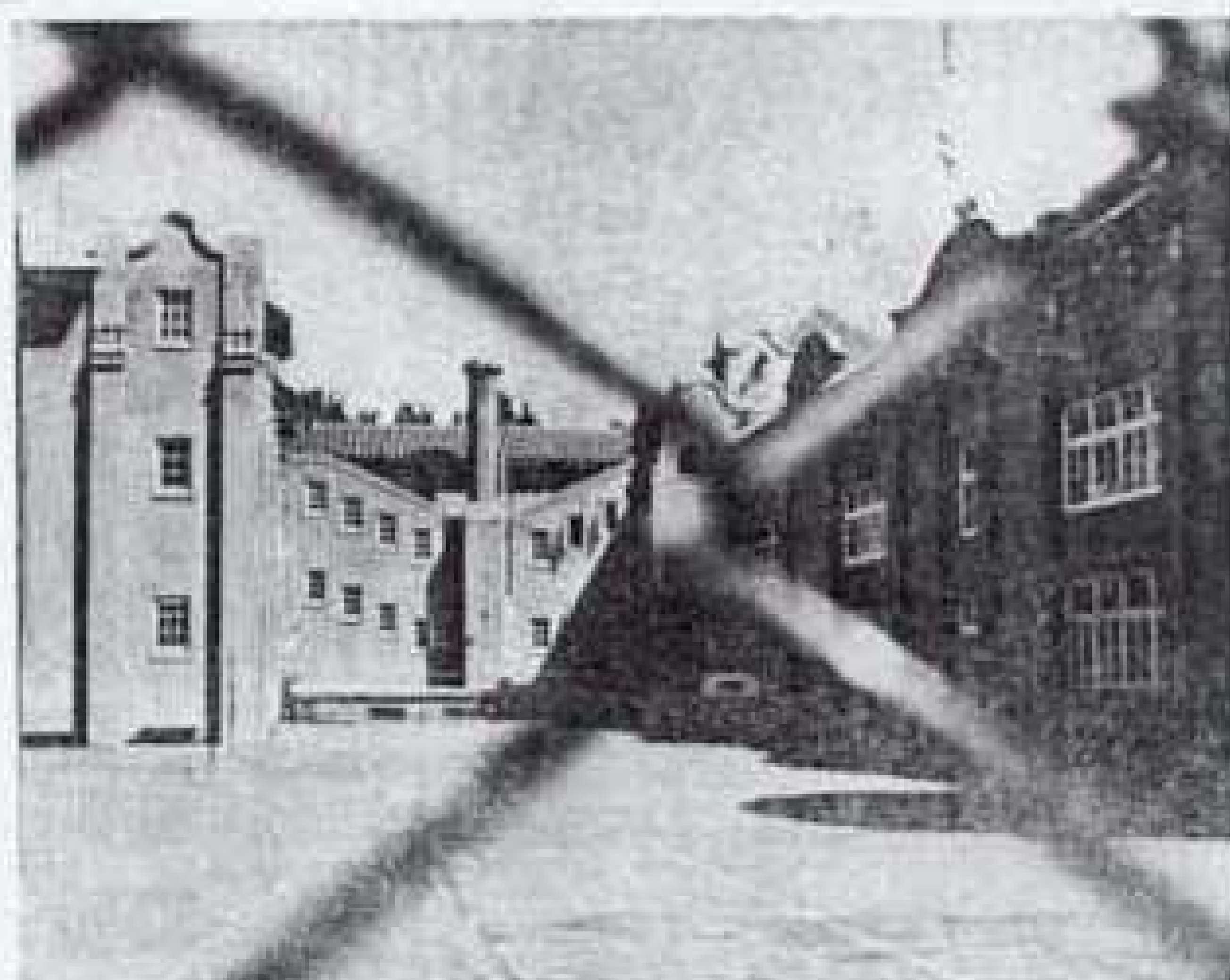
Schools. This month, the remaining three grades were moved out.

The Washington Community split on whether the school was more important as a focal point for their activities and a potential booster of "Chicano" culture, or a millstone prohibiting their youth from swimming in "Anglo" society.

A spokesman for the first viewpoint expressed it this way:

"If you are going to transfer the children all over the place, you are making unhappy children. Why not improve the quality of education at Washington? Integrate the school with Mexican customs. Bring in mariachi music. You would be making school a happy experience for those children whose first experience with 'Anglos' on arriving from Mexico is their first day at Washington."

The Washington School faction lost, but they made their point and drew attention to the special problems their youngsters face in school. As one mother explained to a school official:



"Washington School"—By Owen Breuer

"We don't have a language, and we don't have an identification, because we speak half English and half Spanish."

A man close to these problems is

the Rev. Keith Kenny, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church at 711 T St. He told reporter George Williams:

"Education in California as a whole has failed the vast majority of Mexican-Americans. Not only has it failed to educate them in and make them proud of their own rich and varied culture, but it has failed to give them the best of American culture."

"All too often, rather than bridge the cultural gap, these young Americans have been relegated to the 'bone-head' classes simply because they were not viable in the majority culture."

There is increasing evidence that such children can be severely misjudged in the school system. A study made last May of 47 youths of Mexican descent in the San Joaquin Valley and Santa Ana area, for example, revealed that 39 of them, who had been classified as "mentally retarded" on the basis of IQ tests, moved out of that category when the same test was given in Spanish.

It is on this level of "relevant" education that the Negro and Mexican causes merge in Sacramento.

While an awareness of the particular needs of these students is growing, the minority students are impatient as they watch their own high school and college years pass. On Mexican Independence Day this month, students of Mexican descent took part in a one-day boycott of classes here, presenting the Board of Education a list of 11 "demands" to make their schooling more "relevant."

Why impatient? Well, until this month, children learning to read in California did so from a series of books, published in 1961, that portrays white youngsters, exclusively, moving about an exclusively white-skinned world that is far removed indeed from even most white children's experiences.

This semester — and only this semester — inaugurates the general use of a new reader, called The Harper & Row Series. It is "integrated" from its cover through the simple episodes of "Janet and Mark" and "Outdoors and In."

Further, it was only two years ago, after several years of controversy, that a new eighth-grade history text, "Land of the Free," was introduced in California schools. The new book corrects a Caucasian bias in American history.

The Sacramento City Unified School District is stepping up its efforts to reach all its youngsters.

There is resistance among some white parents to the idea that the history they learned in school ignored the black man and other minority groups, except to treat their roles in

Continued on Page 6

Improve Racial Climate Here?

ABEL CHACON, president, Sacramento Single Men Self-Help Group, Inc.: The problem all comes back to the same thing.

Money. We seem to have enough money to send a man to the moon, and enough to protect us from Communists. To say there is not enough to properly feed us, to properly house us, to properly educate us, is wrong. We must put money in the right places. As someone said: "What is money but God in action?"



CLARENCE L. AZEVEDO, former Oak Park businessman and mayor: The minority problem is concentrated

in the 14-25 age group. These young people must realize that nothing can be accomplished by destruction. Education and jobs are needed. I honestly don't believe there is a race barrier in employment here if a minority person is capable of performing the job required. The applicant must be capable and willing to perform, have sufficient education for the job, be neat, able to converse and get along with people.

RICHARD ROSE, president, Washington Community Council: Sincerity. Willingness to sit down and listen to what the problems are.

Action based on conscience instead of self-interest. Minorities must be allowed to participate in governing their lives. I believe the answer lies with young people; they have not yet formed the biases which plague the adult world.



NATHANIEL COLLEY, western regional counsel, NAACP: White people have to realize that the disadvantage

of hundreds of years of slavery and racial discrimination can never be overcome unless we are willing to take new approaches — such programs as compensatory education and finding some way to achieve a dramatic breakthrough into the building trades and crafts and political life. We're going to have to find ways of demonstrating now that Negroes can participate in the full life of the community. On the other hand, Negroes have to understand that it will be a disaster for us to simply counter white bigotry with a more vengeful kind of black bigotry.



GRANTLAND JOHNSON, SSC student: Ethnic minorities in Sacramento say this city is as racist in nature as any town in Alabama!

This fact must be openly admitted. However, racism here is of a covert nature and, consequently, difficult to point out. Nonetheless it exists. Also, where there are heavy concentrations of minorities, they must be allowed to vote in a bloc. The recent defeat of the proposed City Charter amendments thus dealt a hard blow to ethnic minorities' political determinism. Ethnic minorities are also demanding that they be allowed to better their economic plight. Inadequate education and closed trade unions have successfully stifled any attempt by ethnic minorities to make a significant impact economically.



WALTER COULTAS, superintendent, Los Rios Junior College District: This whole city is covered by splinter groups. One thing that could help

would be to have one overall body that pulled all these things together — employment, housing, education, all of it. Until we have active participants working in some kind of central organization we will have groups working against each other. Splinter groups exist in both the majority and the minority community.



HENRY TEICHERT, contractor and chairman of the Sacramento Metropolitan Urban Coalition: We must refuse to let the size and complexity of the problem discourage us.

Each concerned person should inform himself of the problem and become acquainted with the forces that are working toward a solution. Then he should take action on a daily basis, within the limits of his energy and resources, to assist those attempting to improve the situation.



ERNEST J. PERAZZO, superintendent, Oak Park Branch Post Office: Establish a welfare office as close to the Post Office as possible.

We constantly get complaints we can't answer because it concerns welfare, and the persons get angry when we say we can't help them. It might be helpful, too, if there were an employment office right in Oak Park. One way we try to help is by conducting tours of our new postal station.





"Liberation School"—By Ken Pollard

THE SACRAMENTO E



The Father's Day I

On Sunday evening, June 15, at the beginning of the nation's quietest summer since the Watts conflagration in 1965, Sacramento's most serious confrontation between city inhabitants and their police erupted in Oak Park. When it was over, 20 persons had been wounded, 38 arrested, a reporter kicked, stabbed and beaten, stores firebombed and more than a hundred shots fired.

The police say they responded to calls by residents to subdue a riotous situation.

Young Negroes caught in police sweeps to clear 35th Street view it as a calculated raid aimed at them generally, and members of the Black Panther Party are convinced that the real target was their headquarters at 2941 35th St.

But few lessons are to be learned from probing either the provocation or the brutality. For the real lesson of the Oak Park incident does not stem from those charges. The real lesson is that what has happened so tragically elsewhere can also happen here.

Before And After

The events of Father's Day 1969 do not mean that relations between po-

Once, It Was Joyland . . .

"I grew up in Oak Park," an old-timer recalls. "Although we were poor, we took pride in the fact that Oak Park was our city. We had everything the downtown had — and maybe a little more."

Community feeling has been strong in Oak Park since its subdivision in the 1880s, when the wheat fields and vineyards yielded to streets and houses. Thirty-fifth Street was already a distinctive shopping area in the 1890s. Land next to it was developed into an amusement park, which became known as Joyland — a place where trolley-car excursionists could ride the scenic railway, merry-go-round and the "cat o' nine tails" or take in a vaudeville show.

A year before Oak Park joined Sacramento in 1911, it was virtually a city, counting almost 7,000 inhabitants, two churches, two grade schools, a large pottery works, two lumberyards, a knife-and-tool factory, a large windmill-contracting firm, three plumbing companies, two dry-goods stores, two drugstores, ten groceries, four meat markets, a furniture store, a hotel, a bank, two laundries and a number of smaller enterprises.

The Pace Quickens

Then, one night in the 1920s, Joyland went up in flames. To many, the old Oak Park had died.

But, a few years later, Mr. and Mrs. V. S. McClatchy bought the 17 acres where Joyland had stood and donated the land to Sacramento for a park in memory of James McClatchy, founder of The Sacramento Bee. Addition of a swimming pool and other athletic facilities made the park a sports center by the 1930s.

Oak Park, whose houses and stores date mostly from before 1930, aged with relative grace into the war years. Then the pace quickened.

The war had generated jobs, attracting many Negroes West along with other job-seekers, and a number were easily absorbed by Oak Park. Later, however, when redevelopment in the west end destroyed relatively inexpensive housing for many more low-income Negro families, many of them resettled in Oak Park. The percentage of renters grew as more affluent and larger families followed the housing boom to the county, speeding deterioration.

The 1960 census revealed that 3,708 Negroes lived in the Oak Park area with 10,475 Caucasians. Four years later, there were 5,482 Negroes and 7,032 Caucasians. The 1970 census is expected to show a continuation of that trend.

The Slide Toward Ghetto

The slide is toward a ghetto — a "neighborhood" without an exit. And as the walls of a ghetto seem to close in, pressure inside mounts. A police problem develops, outsiders fear going into the area, businesses begin to move out — the slum spiral is set into motion.

"It is rare to find a quaint and pastoral setting where one can go with a feeling of closeness to all that surrounds you," says another old-timer sadly. "I bid farewell to my dream of yesterday, my town, my friends."

Thirty-fifth Street today is a shadow of its once-prosperous past. A recent closure was that of Steen's Corner, a tavern opened in 1892 at 35th and 4th Avenue. "I am closing," owner Fred Steen explained at the time, "because my customers are no longer safe to walk the streets of this area." He blames the city.

"It's a crying shame, and that's what makes me angry. The city deserted Oak Park, and now it's getting its just desserts."

Steen's words recall those uttered 58 years ago by Rev. William Ellis of the Oak Park Catholic Church, in urging annexation:

"Oak Park is a child of Sacramento, and the child needs the parent."

—Tom Arden

Renting Or Buying . . .

There is no skirting the fact that it is illegal by state and federal law to discriminate in renting housing—nor that such racial discrimination exists in urban Sacramento and always has.

A 1965 survey conducted at apartment houses within a 40-block area of downtown Sacramento by an organization known as State Employees for Equality (SEE) found that fewer than one of every 10 apartments available to a Caucasian would be rented to a Negro.

When the SEE survey was made, Proposition 14, which voters approved in November 1964, had just nullified the state's Rumford Fair Housing Act, passed the previous year. The California Supreme Court then declared Proposition 14, which permitted owners to decide to whom to rent (and thus provided a legal basis for racial, religious and ethnic discrimination), to be unconstitutional.

In 1966, the Rumford Act was reinstated.

Nonetheless, the existence of federal and state legislation outlawing discrimination in housing has not opened up housing much in urban Sacramento, more recent surveys reveal.

Another Survey

In 1966, a writer for the Catholic Herald discovered that only 10 per cent of the rentals available in the area bounded by Madison and Howe Avenues and Fair Oaks Boulevard, would rent to Negroes.

A recent spot check by Bee reporters Sigrid Cayting and Rich Harris, using techniques similar to those employed by SEE, was hardly encouraging. The survey concentrated on large, established apartment houses prominently displaying signs advertising vacancies of various sizes at various rates.

Of 20 such buildings surveyed, 15 definitely would not rent to the Negro inquirer, the remaining five would do so only hesitantly — and clearly preferred not to.

Refusals (and evasions) assumed a variety of forms, as in the earlier, more thorough and systematic samplings:

—In one large, expensive apartment building in the south area, the manager informed a Negro inquirer that no vacancies were available or expected. The white inquirer, while likewise told that no immediate vacancies existed, was volunteered the information that one was expected within two weeks.

—In a moderately priced building off Arden Way in the north area, the Negro found no vacancies, while the Caucasian was informed of two vacancies immediately available and noted an eagerness to rent on the part of the manager.

Receptions Varied

Receptions varied, too. Never was the Negro invited into the manager's apartment; the Caucasian usually was. Only once did a manager offer to show the Negro an apartment; hostility, if not outright rudeness, was the rule rather than the exception.

Sacramento State College's new student body president, Steve Whitmore, says a serious campaign will be mounted against racial discrimination in apartment houses in the campus area. A survey made by the Associated Students last spring prompted the drive. Teams visited apartments within reasonable commute distance from the East Sacramento campus, asking managers if they discriminated by race and urging them to display signs advertising their nondiscrimination.

Sacramento, California

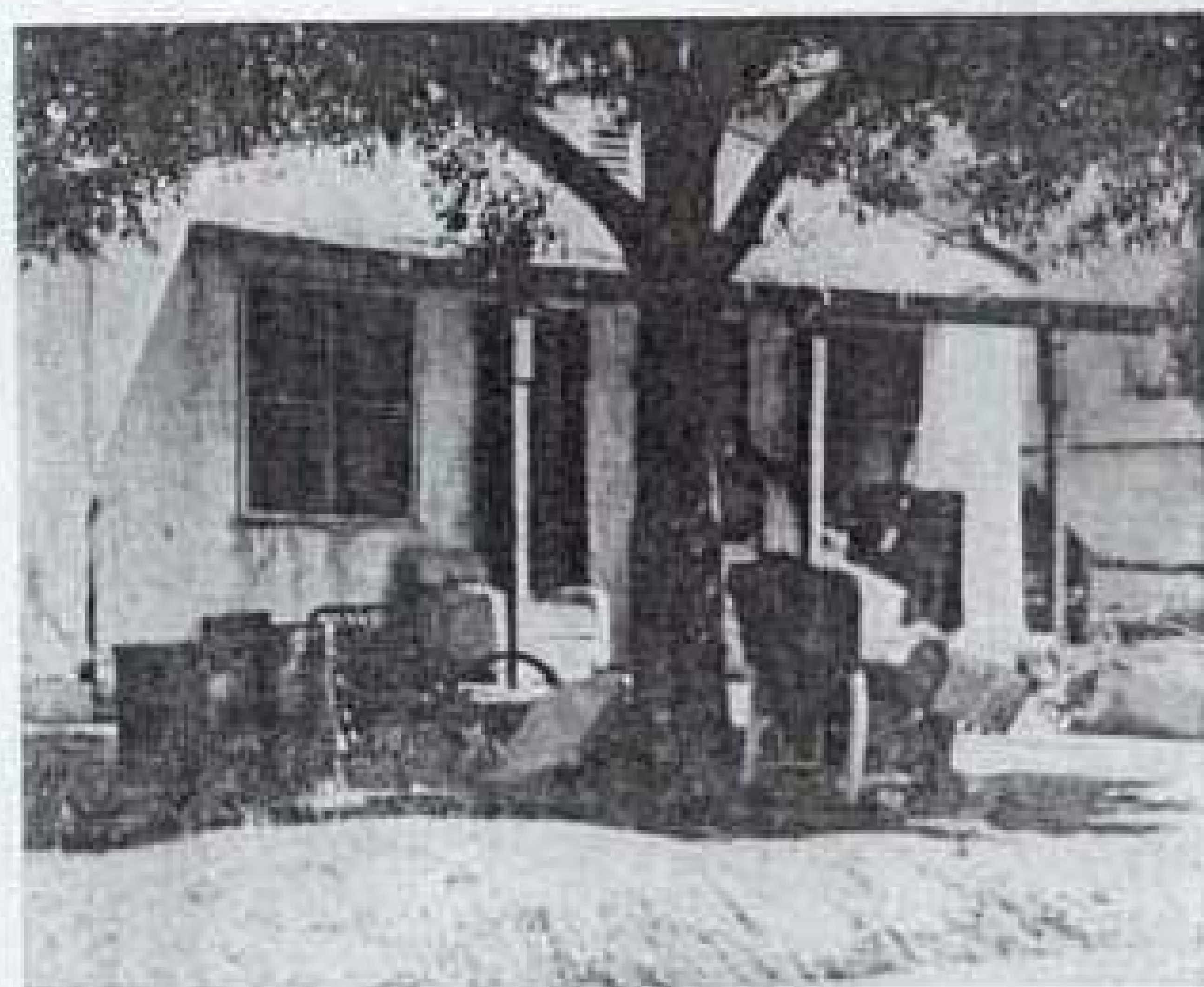
A check later showed that only one had posted a sign — and that in a laundry room.

Two Will Sue

Clarence Williams and Willy Williams, seniors at SSC, believe they can make such a good case of racial discrimination against one north area apartment house that they have retained Attorney Clarence Brown to file suit against it. They were refused an apartment there in June, and claim to have statements from white students promised an apartment there shortly after.

They already took their case to the State Fair Employment Practices Commission in San Francisco. The FEPC processes complaints of discrimination in housing under the Rumford Act, which was passed in 1963.

The FEPC decreed that discrimination had indeed been done. But, it ruled, because it had been committed by the husband of the designated apartment manager, and not by the manager herself, the owners of the building could not be held responsible under the Rumford Act.



What Clarence Williams and Willy Williams encountered has been experienced by many minority-group students.

Faced with such a reception, was a

Negro college student unjustified from making the observation, after a summer's futile search for an apartment, that "whether it's Birmingham or Sacramento, it's all the same"?

. . . House-Hunting Is Frustrating Work

How do you build a ghetto?

One possibility is reflected in a report on Sacramento County's racial composition prepared by the State Department of Employment for Walter Slupe, Sacramento's assistant city manager for community development. Do nothing.

In explaining how it estimated the current population breakdown by minority groups, the department observed: "This method simply says that the 1968 minority population is living in the same areas as the 1960 minority population, only a little closer together and, furthermore, that some white people moved out of these areas during the 1960-1968 period."

A ghetto has been defined as a neighborhood you cannot escape from.

As the county's distribution of students from minority groups proves, for many the doors are not locked, but they are not really open either. Access to housing is not for everyone equal. Last month, when the U.S. Department of Justice filed its first housing-discrimination suit on the West Coast, the case involved not Los Angeles, not San Francisco, not San Jose, but Sacramento.

Rent Or Buy

The question differs depending whether a person seeks to buy or to rent a home. The federal case mentioned involves discrimination in renting and is based upon the 1968 Civil Rights Act.

In buying, the crunch comes in finding housing for Sacramento's middle-income Negro population, which is spurred by employment opportunities in the federal and state government offices here, military installations and such specialized firms as Aerojet-General Corp. This segment could normally be expected to settle in the suburbs as often as their white colleagues.

But as one prominent Sacramentan, born in the Deep South, notes, his only experience with discrimination personally was here, not there. "I had trouble getting a home in Fruitridge," he says. "It took 13 months for

me to get a house in South Land Park."

A Sacramento State College sociologist, Leonard D. Cain Jr., studying the economic gains made by Negroes here in the 1950s and 1960s, noted the existence of "a sizeable middle-class Negro population." But, he added: "It is this group that has been effectively blocked from movement into new subdivisions, and many other middle-class neighborhoods."

Serve Anyone

A spokesman for the Sacramento Board of Realtors denies that its members discriminate. "We as Realtors pledge through our Code of Ethics and Code of Practices to serve anyone who wishes to be represented in purchase or sale of home and real property, regardless of race, color or religion."

And he cites the fact that, since 1965, the Multiple Listing Service refuses to carry racial preferences or limitations.

Certainly, such an attitude reflects progress from 10 years ago, when the major sources of housing for Negroes were limited exclusively to Oak Park, Del Paso Heights and two streets in South Land Park. It is progress, too, from the board's stand in favor of Proposition 14, against equal-opportunity housing (though it denies a racial motivation).

Cain, who has followed the housing situation here for a number of years, observed that agents tended to blame the sellers for any discrimination, but he concluded otherwise.

"Information provided by Negro real estate men and a number of individuals who have met with rebuff while seeking to purchase a home in 'white' neighborhoods have convinced me that this is a ruse, that the real estate and lending agencies themselves are responsible for most of the discrimination."

'Little Concern'

What 1970's census will reveal about how housing patterns have evolved in Sacramento County leaves Asst. City Manager Slupe apprehensive.

"I think we'll find that Sacramento is sort of a reflection of all the problems of urban America," he told reporter Steve Gibson. "I think we'll see in Sacramento that (the whites) left old Sacramento for Citrus Heights and Carmichael . . . with minority groups and low-income people concentrating in the old inner city."

What would seem to be emerging is a trend toward a "colored" central city ringed by white suburbs, which are now exploring possible incorporation.

"Most people who get in their cars at night and drive 10 miles out of downtown to home really aren't even aware of the Del Paso Heights situation," says Slupe. "I think the thing most frightening about the situation is not within Del Paso Heights, Oak Park and the framework of the total community, but of how little concern people outside of these areas show about what's happening."

"I think somehow more people have to get concerned and feel the answer is not to arm every household with a handgun and hire hundreds more policemen and turn every city into an armed camp."

A Measure Of Relief

The increase in public housing and the prospect of a new form of urban renewal hold some promise of a measure of relief for the central city areas now deteriorating.

Four housing projects containing 521 units are now under construction. Negroes comprise from 12 to 20 per cent of the occupants of existing units (reflecting the desegregiated nature of poverty).

The new urban renewal approach is called the Neighborhood Development Program. The city is actively seeking federal funds under it to inject new life into such neighborhoods as Del Paso Heights, Washington, Oak Park, Glen Elder, Southside and Gardenland. The NDR approach is to build upon what is there, remove the worn out, improve the run down.

In Arvondale, next to Glen Elder, the city was prodded to move to install street and gutter improvements, for example, despite opposition from absentee landlords.

Incident Proved 'It' Could Happen

This summary of the events of Father's Day, 1969, in Oak Park is the product of an investigation by four reporters who sifted through accounts, interviewed witnesses and checked rumors. The four are George Williams, Rich Harris, Sigrid Cayting and John V. Hurst. John Berthelsen put their accounts together.

Police and Negroes in Sacramento were cordial before the first club descended on the first Negro's skull or the first rock struck the first white crash-helmet. No, the Oak Park confrontation, like other such riots, had its beginnings long before that.

James McClatchy Park has been a gathering place since the 19th century, when city trolley cars brought excursionists to amuse themselves in "Joyland." With the first soft days of summer 1969, idle youths found themselves attracted there in their turn.

The Panthers claim that Negroes were denied use of William Land Park, which increased the crowds at McClatchy Park. Both the police and the City Recreation and Parks Department deny this, and residents of the park's west side tell of rowdiness by Negro youths there Sunday nights. Further, some officers speak privately of threats to the police to stay out of Oak Park or face a 35th Street lined with guns — which police intelligence reports indicated the Black Panthers possessed.

In any case, tension did not dissipate after the first serious outbreak two years earlier. Last summer, white softball players were driven out of McClatchy Park. The situation continued to deteriorate.

tired, announced increased patrols, but he denies that the sign incident, as such, prompted the move. Though the Police Department declines to reveal how many men were put into Oak Park that weekend, a number of policemen have spoken of leaves having been cancelled.

By noon Sunday, the temperature was well on its way to the day's high reading of 93 degrees, and youngsters aged 8 to 15 gathered in the park "to bug the local Gestapo," as one resident put it. The police went about their work, cruising, ticketing cars that were double- and triple-parked, telling raucous youths to move on.

They were met with jeers, catcalls and, in some cases, missiles.

Tension grew. As the police swept along 35th Street a second time, violence erupted and, for the next six hours, the night would be full of fleeing figures, the sound of gunfire, panic and confusion.

Police Reports

"Officers checked Oak Park shortly after 1600 hours," reads the police report. "There were . . . large numbers of people . . . milling about. Officers were able to keep both 35th Street and 5th Avenue clear of double-parking and pedestrians until approximately 2148 (9:48 p.m.), at which time the crowd on 5th Avenue overflowed into the street and began throwing rocks and bottles.

"Officers formed a skirmish line at 34th and 5th Avenue."

A lieutenant, the report continues, interpreted the gathering as an "unlawful assembly," and announced this through a bullhorn. The response? "They began shooting at officers from east on 5th Avenue, from the park . . ." the report continues.

The police moved down the street in earnest. The confrontation was joined.

"They had a whole line of police, a whole squad," said Charles Brunson, the Black Panther Party's ranking officer in Sacramento until the Oakland headquarters drummed him out in mid-August. "They were trying to 'program' the people, to drive them right down the street. It was impossible to run off the street. They were telling people to disperse, but they were trying to corral them, you see."

The police report puts it this way:

"Officers moved west on 5th Avenue. The crowd moved south into the park, east on 5th Avenue, and a large number moved north on 35th Street. Officers were under nearly constant gunfire."

Police Cite Complaints

Police maintain that they had, in the year since, deliberately limited their presence in Oak Park in response to community leaders. The result, they say, was increasing complaints of lawlessness—most concerning young Negroes at the park.

Officer Ron Jackson of the police community relations unit says, for example, that adults and merchants complained of parking violations tying up traffic, cars being driven on the park's turf, and hostile and profane language being loudly bandied about at passers-by.

Then an incident happened that was barely noted in the press at the time, perhaps because it did not seem particularly significant: A group of militants "changed" the name of the park to "Brotherhood."

The "change" was accomplished June 12, when a group of black activists nailed a professionally made sign to that effect over that of the park. Two hours later, police arrived, removed the sign and tossed it in the back of a squad car.

End of incident? On the contrary. More than one Oak Park observer suggests that the incident furnished a catalyst for what happened later; for the city's sign, rightly or wrongly, was taken by the youths as a synonym for the "white establishment," and they resented their act of defiance being, as they saw it, taken lightly.

A Rocky Reception

Shortly after, in any case, the original sign caught fire. When police and fire crews responded, a few rocks and bottles mixed with the jeers that greeted them. The stage, in the eyes of residents, was set.

The city's response was to tighten up law enforcement in the area. Police Chief Joseph E. Rooney, since re-

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Guards Are Posted

The police say they saw flashes of gunfire coming from the storefront office of the Black Panthers, though the Panthers deny this.

At any rate, at about 9:55 p.m. two men were posted in front of the Panther office "so that officers' backs would not be exposed to gunfire." Inside were men, women and children. "We tried to get all the offices on the street to open their doors," Brunson says. "We went out and pulled people off the street . . . and taking them in the Panther office."

The police report says people were noticed inside the office, were ordered out, but refused to comply, "so the glass on the front door was broken and Mace was squirted inside." Those inside agree.

Then, the police charge, "someone inside began shooting at the officers with a rifle," and officers returned the fire and lobbed tear gas grenades inside.

"The building was entered," the report states, "but no one was found at this time."

The Panthers say those inside, far





from being gunmen, were screaming and weeping; hysterically trying to avoid being shot, they fled through the unguarded rear door.

The invading officers confiscated rifles, a shotgun, bayonets and more than a thousand rounds of ammunition before returning to 35th Street to resume the clearing operation. The Panthers blame the police for the shambles their office had become on their return.

Outside, the police report they were stopped along 35th Street by gunfire gunfire from houses east of

36th Street, adding that two cars were parked so that their headlights spotlighted the advancing police. A flanking party was dispatched, but ran into "heavy gunfire," resulting in wounds from shotgun pellets, the police say.

Finally, reinforcements arrived from the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office and the California Highway Patrol. Order was restored though heavy patrolling continued until 5 a.m. Monday.

The Father's Day fury was spent.