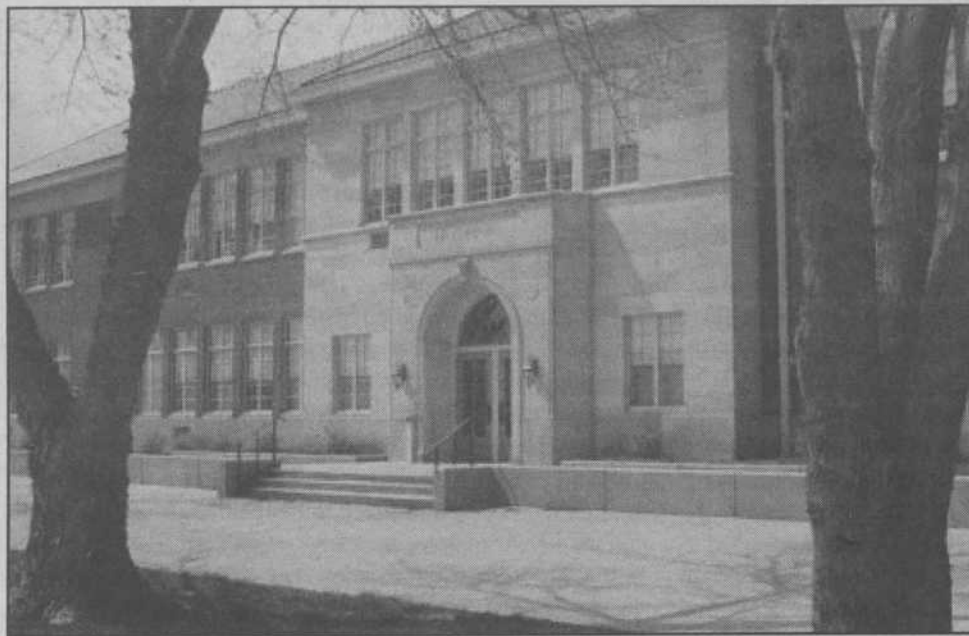


Historic school site shows civil rights struggle

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) - Film of jeering crowds and menacing dogs will surround visitors at an exhibit designed to reproduce the experience of Black youngsters who integrated American schools.

The exhibit is one of the most emotional at the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site, located at the former school of the daughter of the lead plaintiff in the landmark case.

The approximately \$11.3 million site opened Monday - the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that overturned segregated education and sparked a firestorm of conflict across the South.



The Monroe School now known as the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site in Topeka, Kan. The site will also hold data on desegregation cases from other states.

"We already acknowledge that a lot of people who visit here, when they leave, some people won't be happy," said LaTonya Miller, spokeswoman and education director for the site. "But they will on the other hand be glad that the story is being told."

On Saturday, about two dozen members of White supremacist and White power groups rallied near the site. The demonstration was cut short when about 100 counterprotesters moved in.

The story began in 1951 when several Black families in Topeka tried to enroll their children in White schools near their homes and their requests were denied. Thir-

teen Black families became plaintiffs in a case filed in federal district court in Topeka.

The Rev. Oliver Brown, the father of 9-year-old Linda Brown, was the lead plaintiff.

The site at the former Monroe School also will tell the stories of school desegregation cases from Virginia, South Carolina and Delaware that were also appealed to the Supreme Court and decided collectively as Brown. A similar segregation case in Washington, D.C., was decided at the same time in a separate ruling.

Additional space at the (See Struggle, Page 12)

Chambers

(Continued from Page 3)

Director of the Urban Chamber of Commerce (UCC). He emphasized that the purpose is to bring people together who represent a large part of the business community and have special needs that have to be met.

"Our mission continues to be to promote, encourage and support business growth in Las Vegas, Clark County and the State of Nevada. Our special emphasis is in the participation of African-American enterprises in local, national and global business markets," Overstreet added.

The historic event is expected to yield a "fruitful and productive exchange" between the participants and with the Governor, according to his spokesperson Greg Bartolin.

He said that Las Vegas is evolving into a world-class city. The needs of all businesses are important in the "evolution of Las Vegas" and its economic development.

Bartolin said the Governor will be able to hear the concerns and comments from the business guests and they will be able to hear what he wants to communicate to them.

He said it's "important" to have this type of dialogue among all its participants, and that is why the Governor accepted the invitation to speak. All chambers of commerce are established primarily to foster healthy business development in their cities and regions.

The objectives of chambers are generally the same. The prime purpose is that of advocacy for economic growth in their cities. Nearly all have some type government affairs and political action focus, such as IMPACTO, for Latin Chamber members.

"We are the three most active (of the minority chambers)," according to Yu. "If this (the UCC, LCC, ACC joint meeting) goes well, it will be an annual event," Yu added. His views reflected comments expressed by the other organizers who say that the success of this meeting sets the stage for future collaborations.

Chambers promote economic development, business education and political action in their members' best interest. Those that are ethnic specific are better able to address the needs of their respective constituents and their community development, organizers said.

Each serves the interest of their members and works toward overall economic advancement in the city. Collectively, the three chambers represent thousands of local business owners and employers.

Business chamber membership consists largely of owners of companies—from the largest corporate employers, to some of the smallest, including home-based entrepreneurs and professionals. Many major corporations and agencies join, and members can belong to multiple chambers.

For more information about the joint luncheon or other events sponsored by the Urban, Latin and Asian Chambers, visit their Web sites at www.urbanchamberlv.org, www.lasvegaslatinc.com and www.lvacc.com respectively.

Did White teacher spit on Black student?

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice
WASHINGTON (NNPA)

— It was a pleasant morning recess at Haw River Elementary in Burlington, N.C. Fifth graders from three classes were just starting a game of softball around 9:30 as a half dozen teachers milled about.

Asia Wilson, 10, who loves sports, was playing outfield when a classmate slammed the ball through the air towards her. It was bouncing on the ground when she bounded after it, grabbing the ball just as a White classmate, Rebecca Allen, also an outfielder, reached for it, too.

"I got it and Rebecca was trying to get it from me," Asia says. "So, Ms. Allen, Rebecca's teacher, came over there and she crouched down and said to give the ball to Rebecca or to her. So, I gave it to Rebecca and all the teachers crowded around me."

She cringes and her voice intensifies as she recounts what happened next.

"Then, Ms. Allen spit in my face. Then, when I got up, I wiped it off and I said, 'Why did you spit on me?' And she



"Ms. Allen, Rebecca's teacher, came over there and she crouched down and said to give the ball to Rebecca or to her. So, I gave it to Rebecca and all the teachers crowded around me. Then, Ms. Allen spit in my face."

— Asia Wilson

said, 'Go up there to the office.' And so, when I was walking up there, Mr. B [George Boschini, the principal] met me half way and took me by my arm and grabbed me and took me up there to the office."

She says Boschini grabbed her hand so hard that he injured her wrist.

Asia said the principal scolded her for aggressive behavior in the April 9 incident. She used the office phone to call home in search for her parents, but her sister, Sharissa, an adult education student at Alamance Community College, answered the phone.

"She was upset. It sounded like she had been crying, but

she wasn't crying at the time," Sharissa recalls. "She said the teacher spat in her face. So, I said, 'I'll call Mama and tell her. I got upset, too. Somebody spat in my sister's face? That's like the nastiest thing you can do to somebody.'"

She contacted her stepmother, Gladys Wilson, on her cellular phone. The stepmother picked up Asia's father, Lewis Wilson, at work and headed for the school.

Wilson says he was so angry with the principal that he did not immediately grasp the magnitude of Asia's charges.

"When I got to the school, Asia was crying and saying, 'Daddy, she spit on me.' But, I was more interested in the

fact that he had grabbed Asia by the arm. I thought Asia was saying she had spat on her by talking. You know how somebody gets in your face and they'll be talking."

Asia's parents had left the school and were en route to the hospital to get her arm checked when the gravity of Asia's statement sunk in with her father.

"I said, 'Asia, did she purposely spit on you?' She said, 'Daddy, she spit in my face.' That's when I realized what Asia was saying. I felt that, of course, if Asia had explained that to me while we were still at the school, I'd probably be in jail now."

Allen, the teacher, provides a different version of events. In a written "Student Discipline Referral" report, the teacher says: "Asia wrestled with another child to get a ball. When I asked her to return the ball, she refused. She then walked away from the playground and I followed her to the office," she wrote.

Neither Allen nor George Boschini, the school's principal, (See Teacher, Page 13)

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