

265 Others Injured

ST. LOUIS TORNADO KILLS 17

Suit Attacks Segregation In County

By BILL HUGHES
News Staff Writer

Parents of eight Mecklenburg Negro children filed a suit today seeking a federal court order to abolish segregation in Mecklenburg County Schools.

The suit specifically demands that the eight children be admitted to Drexia Elementary Junior High School and North Mecklenburg High School. The eight had sought admission to the previously all-white county schools in the fall of 1957 and again last fall.

Defendants in the suit are the Mecklenburg County school board, the North Carolina State School Board, and the North Carolina Advisory Committee on Education, and their individual members.

The suit asks that the local board and all other North Carolina school boards be "forever restrained" from operating segregated or partially segregated schools.

It also seeks to restrain the state agencies from "counseling and working in concert with the Mecklenburg board and other boards for the purpose of preventing desegregation or keeping desegregation to a minimum."

Attorneys for the defendants are T. H. Wycha of Charlotte, Conrad Pearson of Durham, Thurgood Marshall and Jack Greenberg of New York. Marshall is general counsel of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

No date has been set for a hearing on the action.

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The President was asked whether there had been occasions in which U. S. planes such as the unarmed transport reported shot down by the Russians last September had been trying to draw Soviet fighters into the air.

The President replied that he had issued very strict orders some time ago against any such tactics. And, he added, he believes false radio signals once in a while have drawn U. S. planes over Soviet satellite territory.

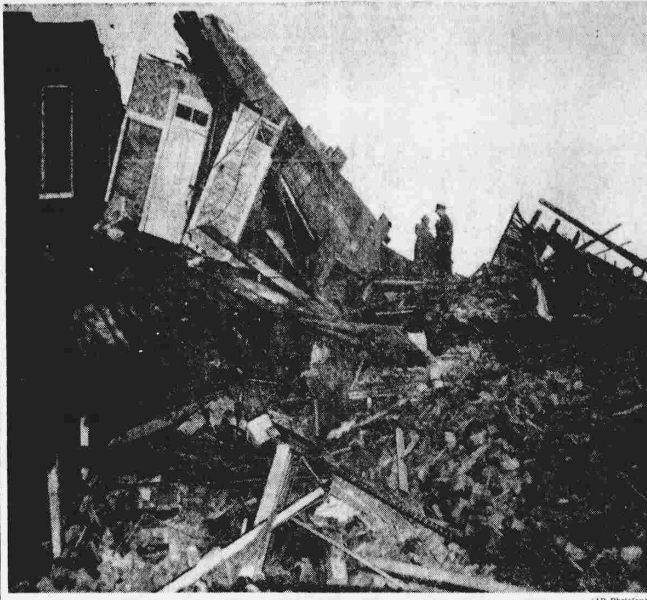
He touched on these other matters: DULLES — The President praised acting Secretary of State Dulles as the most valuable man he has ever known in the foreign affairs field. Eisenhower said that despite Dulles' new illness he looks for no delay in negotiation between the western allies and Russia regarding Berlin.

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EMPLOYMENT — Despite a recent increase in joblessness, Eisenhower said he looks for a business recovery in 1959.

GRANDVILLE, Ohio (AP)—Granville's jail is locked up tight to keep people out. Mayor Edson Rupp hoped eight transients out of the seldom used jail Monday after they had become rowdy in a local restaurant.

MORPHINE IS STOLEN — Gastonia, N. C. — Thieves broke into the Lowell Drug Co. at nearly 10 p.m. Sunday night, ripped open a safe, and stole 200 quarter-grain morphine tablets.



Police And Firemen Search Debris For Victims Of Tornado

Roar Of Engines Without Warning Twister First Hit City Tavern Area

ST. LOUIS (AP)—"I saw a bluish flash of light and I heard a terrible roar. It shook the ground. There wasn't any warning on the wind seemed to stay forever."

This newspaper vendor G. A. Gross, 62, described the tornado which smashed St. Louis early today. He was on a street in west central St. Louis hoping to sell a few papers to late work people roused in shouting that there was tremendous damage "just down the street."

A few minutes after the storm hit, said Mrs. Kuehner, excited people rushed in shouting that there was tremendous damage "just down the street."

Parsons of tavern poured into the streets to see if they could help. Actually the twister hung for only a few minutes.

Zeb Williams was sitting in his room in the top story of a three-story rooming house when the storm struck in that section.

Only the triangular roof of that building remained after the storm, and it was left in the street out in front.

Williams was dropped into soft ground nearby. He only had a few scratches and declined medical attention.

A priest gave the last rites of the Catholic Church to a woman who had been pulled by police from the rubble of a nearby building. But the stunned padre said "I don't even know if she was dead. It's all happening so fast. I just couldn't tell."

A man standing nearby said "This must look like London during the blitz."

Small tornadoes hit areas of Indiana and Indianapolis.

Business Classified Comics Crossword Puzzle Earl Wilson Editorials Obituaries Radio-TV Serial Social Security Game Sports Theaters To Your Good Health Women's Clinic Worry Clinic

Evening Prayer Our heavenly Father, Thou knowest all things. Thou knowest the dangers we face. As Thou hast been our help in the past, grant us victory over the fears and uncertainties we face today. In the blessed name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour...

Early Morning Dark Scene Of Destruction

ST. LOUIS (AP)—A tornado struck a deadly blow at the heart of St. Louis in the pre-dawn today without warning. Seventeen were known dead. Another 265 were injured, 55 seriously.

Numerous persons were trapped in homes and apartments which crumpled under the storm's blows.

The storm took the same path of this city's worst tornado which killed more than 100 in 1927.

Searchers worked throughout the night, turning over rubble in frantic rescue efforts.

At dawn they renewed their methodical hunt for the dead and the living caught in falling bricks, concrete and lumber.

The tornado hit at 3:12 a.m. (EST). First it hit two suburbs, Brentwood and Crestwood in southwest St. Louis County, then moved northeast into St. Louis.

St. Louis was lashed by torrential rains for hours before the tornado struck.

The tornado delivered its hardest blows in a section of tenement houses occupied mostly by Negroes.

All but three of 16 bodies taken to the city morgue were those of Negroes. Seven of the dead were children under the age of 11.

Five dead were from 4802 Delmar Blvd., where 14 were trapped in a three-story house which caved in. Four dead were pulled from the wreckage at 3862 Page Blvd.

On all sites there was tragedy and destruction. One father was pulled from the rubble, his dead son in his arms.

HOSPITALS SWAMPED — Both City Hospital and Homer G. Phillips Hospital were swamped with the injured.

Thirteen were dead upon arrival at City Hospital, and four at Homer G. Phillips.

All police and fire equipment was rushed into the area. Streets were barricaded. Live electrical wires curled in the streets. Power was cut off to the stricken zone.

Police patrolled the darkened streets with flashlights.

The 575-foot tower at television station KTVI was toppled in St. Louis. It fell across two houses but no one was reported injured.

The 385-foot tower at radio station KLVN also crashed. It fell on part of the station where Bob Hetherington, the general manager, and four others had gone to inspect flood damage.

William McAllister was just closing up a filling station when he was caught in the path of the tornado.

ROAR OF ENGINES — "There was a terrific howl of light as if a cloud was illuminated and there was a sound like the roar of a tremendous automobile racing its engine," he said.

Within two minutes the sound of the storm had passed and there was a terrific silence.

The Civil Defense went into full-scale operation for the first time since it was organized here in 1951.

Brig. Gen. Francis P. Hardaway (left), St. Louis Civil Defense head, pushed coordination of both rescue and rehabilitation work.

Hardaway reported some looting.

See ST. LOUIS on page 3-A

More Weather Data on Page 3-A



Grimacing In Pain, A Man Is Pulled From A Wrecked Building

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Mother, Four Children Die In Home Fire

ASHEBORO (AP)—Four Negro children and their mother died early this morning in their blazing home near here while firemen fought in vain at the Dawson Massenburg home burned.

The four children, Alice, 11; Joe, 10; Mary, 7; and Helen, 6, perished with their mother, Mrs. Inez Massenburg, 40. Dawson Massenburg, 52, and his 13-year-old son, Dawson Jr., escaped unharmed.

All but the father were reported sleeping in the second story of the home when Dawson Jr. said he noticed fire coming from behind the refrigerator and alerted his father. The North Asheboro Fire Dept. received the call at 3:05 this morning but lost considerable time in locating the address at 516 Woodlawn St.

Dulles Ready For Surgery

WASHINGTON (AP)—Secretary of State Dulles, walking slowly but smiling, checked into the hospital today for a hernia operation.

The secretary entered the Army's Walter Reed Medical Center at 10:30 a.m. He was met by the hospital commandant, Maj. Gen. Leonard D. Heaton.

Heaton, a surgeon who will do the operation, told newsmen he expected it would be done either Friday or early next week. He said there was no rush since it is not an emergency.

"Good morning," Dulles said to Heaton. "This is getting to be familiar ground."

Dulles laughed at his own joke about his recently frequent trips to Walter Reed. He underwent surgery for cancer of the lower intestine two years ago, was treated for a colon inflammation in December and for a virus infection in January.

Heaton said it would take about two weeks for Dulles to recuperate from the operation.

MAYOR BOOTS 8 PRISONERS OUT OF JAIL

GRANVILLE, Ohio (AP)—Granville's jail is locked up tight to keep people out. Mayor Edson Rupp hoped eight transients out of the seldom used jail Monday after they had become rowdy in a local restaurant.

Legally, the jail cannot be used for prisoners. State fire laws require a jailer when a jail is in use and Granville has no such person.

Vagrants and transients had been using the two-cell jail. Police here use the county jail in nearby Newark.

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'Lenten Guideposts' Bonus Reading Series

During the 40 days of Lent, beginning tomorrow, The Charlotte News will publish the all-new "Lenten Guideposts" for 1959 — 40 true, inspirational stories by 40 interesting authors.

Such well-known personalities as movie and TV stars Robert Young and June Lockhart, gospel singer Mahalia Jackson, baseball pitcher Fred Snodgrass, night club singer Roberta Sherwood, sax hallback Frank Glendon, RCA executive David Sarnoff — all these, and more, tell their own true-life stories of religion in action.

"Lenten Guideposts" was a popular feature with readers of The Charlotte News during the last Lenten season. It has been popular with many leading newspapers throughout the United States for the past nine Lenten seasons. Each story in the 1959 series is a new one. Not one has appeared in a previous Guideposts series. Be sure to follow "Lenten Guideposts" beginning tomorrow, Ash Wednesday, as a bonus reading feature in The Charlotte News.

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He'd Been In Tornado Once Before

ST. LOUIS (AP)—"I was in a tornado once before and I knew this was one as soon as I heard it coming. I shouted to my wife, 'Grab the kids and head for the basement!'"

So Charles Tibbs described the terrifying moment in which a tornado roared through his block near Bush Stadium, the home of the St. Louis Cardinals.

"I grabbed one of our children and my wife the other," he said. "But we didn't make it to the basement."

The storm crashed through a row of brick apartment houses across the street from Tibbs' home. It blew out the windows of his place but none of his family was seriously injured, only dazed and shaken.

Police credited cab driver Bill Purcell, who lives in the same block, with saving the life of a motorist by warning him to stay in his car which was covered by downed electrical wires.

Purcell said he was standing on the front porch of his home when the storm struck.

Stunned, he hadn't moved when a car came driving along, just like nothing had happened.

"It drove over the wires and they curled around it like snakes," he said.

LIKE A FLARE — "Boy, it was dark but when that car hit the wires it lit up like a flare."

"I hollered for the guy to stay in his car. I yelled that if he got out he was a dead man."

A police officer showed up moments later. He helped Purcell to convince the motorist of his danger.

Linenmen arrived eventually at the scene of the area safe. The driver, no doubt one of the luckiest men in St. Louis today, disappeared into the confusion.

Small Tornadoes Hit Areas Of Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Small tornadoes hit the north edge of Mitchell in southern Indiana and a small area south of Indianapolis in a flood season 1943 were building up in the upper Wabash River valley.

More than 20 expensive homes were damaged badly in a three-block suburban area nine miles south of Indianapolis in a little twister that hit shortly before daybreak.

There were no reports of injuries, although the violent storm blew out the walls of some homes.

Our Weather

Mostly cloudy, warm and windy with scattered showers or thunderstorms this afternoon and partly cloudy and becoming cooler tonight. Wednesday partial clearing and turning colder.

Low this morning 44
High tomorrow morning 81-88
High today 81-88
High yesterday 81-88
High tomorrow 81-88
Sunrise today 7:14 a.m.; sunset today 6:01 p.m.

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Town Name Duplication Confusing

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Obituaries	4B
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Serial	7B
Social Security Game	6A
Sports	9-10A
Theaters	10A
To Your Good Health	5A
Women	2-3B
Worry Clinic	7B
Radio Series	12B