

Sat.

1A

Dear Mom + Dad -

Nov-Dec 1971

Well another busy week gone by.

Tues. P.m. the phone jingled for me all P.m.

Several people that I've worked with, dropped a nice little problem into my lap. They all had water backed up in their apts.

The property is owned by one man - but managed by a realty co. I imagine the sewer pipe is inadequate for the building - but the owner is too cheap to put a new pipe in. I've called the city plumbing inspector in - but that probably won't do any good. The tenants of these 10 units are exploring the possibility of withholding their rent. This can be sticky business

but really they have no other recourse. It's a real shame.

Our battle with Model Cities & the (15)

Housing Authority continues. There are several hundred temporary units (ie. trailers) floating around that were meant for families displaced by urban renewal. We have gotten the Dept. of Housing & Urban Dev. to agree that now anyone living in an "unlivable" dwelling can qualify for one. Now the hang-up is - what is unlivable? These mobile homes have been hidden away on the Federal Prison property for 7 months without being installed. It's interesting to watch these people trying to bluff their way out of that. They tell the most blatant lies.

---

My teenagers group is going great guns. We're going to put on a bake sale & also sell Christmas candles & leather.

goods at a suburban shopping center. (2A)

The kids will do the work & then use the proceeds for their club.

I've been trying to do something to get the kids interested in having a Christmas project over at Our Lady of Perpetual Care - a free cancer hospital operated by the Dominican sisters. It sort of went over like a lead balloon - but one of the girls came back the middle of this week and was all enthused about it. She had talked it over with her mother. You never can tell with 12-14 yr olds.

Oh - the Catholic church is taking its collection for this Sunday & using it to fund organizations that are working for the poor that don't qualify for federal funds. I'm applying for a grant for my jr teens

(23)

Keep you fingers + toes crossed. If you  
interested - we get operating  
expenses - house payments, utilities -  
and Father's salary from the Diocese of  
Atlanta - all the rest of the salaries  
+ costs are paid by private donors.

I'm going partying tonight. All of  
us were invited out to Frances Pauley's -  
she's the ch. compliance officer for  
Mississippi that I wrote you about.  
Should be a good party

Sunday P.M

Well, I had a good time at the party  
last night. Good conversation, food, + liquor

Oh - we have a new problem afoot in the  
neighborhood. Last wk. a 3 yr. old boy  
who lives about 5 blks from here was  
taken to the health center & diagnosed

with mumps Monday he took a turn  
for the worse + was rushed to Grady Hosp.  
+ died. It turns out the kid died of  
diphtheria - The health dept has yet to  
do nose + throat cultures on the kids that  
came in contact with it or vaccinate or  
anything. They haven't even announced it  
officially. We have contacts at Grady  
Hospital. One damn thing after another.

This promises to be a busy wk.  
work as usual plus getting ready for the  
festivities

Love  
Dave.

P.S. - Life down here seems like one crisis  
after another - and it is! But have no  
fear it is also a happy place. The highlights  
come across a little spin - but its  
a real challenge - You have to

approach these problems with the idea that you'll do what you can - but you'll nail the bastards responsible to the wall.

Interesting note. In Ford has cultivated a philanthropist who is donating us some \$\$\$. Her vast bundle was inherited from her father - who operated a chain of houses of ill repute. Do you figure this is what the old boy had in mind? If he'd had an inkling the dough probably would have been buried with Pop.

Thurs. Pm.

Feb 18

Dear mom & Dad -

Feb 18 1972

I'm doing fine. Been real busy. Right now I'm trying to mobilize about 200 welfare recipients - We're having sort of a rally at the State Capitol. The governor is trying to increase welfare payments by a little bit - but the House appropriations committee turned it down. Should be interesting to see what will happen.

I've worked two nights this week with Sister Elaine at St Thomas More on trying to get volunteer programs rolling in Breckin. It looks hopeful. She has already started ~~at~~ a free clinic. It looks

like the Notre Dame sisters may be pulling out <sup>145</sup>  
of the school in Decatur. Most of the sisters  
feel that parochial education - as it now  
exists - for middle class whites who have  
perfectly good schools - is a waste of time.  
St Thomas More is their only convent in Georgia.

We had a little excitement this  
afternoon. [REDACTED] - one of our troublemakers -  
got shot - not far from here - by one of our  
other local troublemakers. When I came  
in this afternoon - he was stretched out  
in our front hall with blood all over a  
lowel. the bullet went through his hand.

Oh - one of the blind men I'm working  
with - Mr. [REDACTED] - is doing nicely. When I  
started with him he was nearly helpless - but  
since I got him into rehabilitation for the  
blind - he's been doing real well.



ZA

The first time I ever saw him - in October.

he was nearly helpless - it was a chore  
to get him to the van from his house.

Last wk when I took him to the hospital  
he walked from the car to his front  
door all alone. His whole mental attitude  
has changed. Makes me feel like I make a  
difference in somebodys life around here - after  
all.

Also - I've been working with a Mr +  
Mrs [redacted] for several months. Mr.

[redacted] is on welfare - he was in a  
mental institution for nearly 20 yrs. His

apt is really horrible - No heated water  
stove didn't work, etc - Well

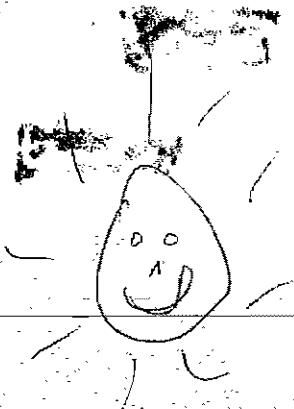
2B  
we've horsed around for several months  
& finally withheld rent last month.

The landlord settled out of court for  
partial payment of rent AND fixed  
everything in the apt.

Well - so long for now.

Lol

Dave -



Summer 1972

Sat afternoon -

Hello again -

We had a really frightening episode here last night.

After our senior teenage program Gene + Susan (one of the summer staff) + Debbie Shields (a volunteer) went out for a ride. This is standard operating procedure when Debbies around - except the rest of us usually go to. Anyhow we were all beat so it was just the three of them.

They went to buy a six pack of beer & then went & got some food. On their way to the Tasty Dog on Ma. Ave a police pulled them over - Supposedly for "improper lane change". At any rate Debbie did not have her license so they were loading her into the paddy wagon.

As they were doing that they found the unopened 6-pack & proceeded to arrest Sue + Debbie for violation of beer + wine ordinance + Gene for contributing to the delinquency of minors.

The whole thing never would have happened save for the fact that it was

two white girls + a black man. To cut someone off to jail for not having a license in their possession is unheard of (though apparently legal) & certainly what is wrong with a minor riding in the same car with some unopened beer remains a mystery. Anyone with kids is guilty of that.

We all trotted down to court with them this A.M. & while those of us who weren't with them were waiting for the hearing - I looked over the 15 or 20 policemen that were hanging around & said to one of the other staff "I'll bet that's the arresting officer," pointing to a heavy-set chortling Cracker. ~~It was~~ with a police badge tattooed on his arm. It was really eerie - sure enough he was the cop involved.

Jane + Sue + Debbie were given three months probation. The entire court was just absurd. It really left me without any respect for the police - not that I had much. They don't need one shred of evidence to arrest anyone. - Well more later -  
Love Dad

Dear mom & Dad.

I am at sort of a low  
ebb today. Yesterday I was  
rolling at 8AM with kids &  
had a very full day - summer  
school & swimming with the children  
& Six Flags with the jr. teenagers  
I finished with the kids at

Summer 72

1130 PM - It was good - but  
exhausting - Sister gave me the  
day off so I slept most of  
the AM

This afternoon I discovered that  
Sugar Hill (a privately owned  
horrid group of apts) - just a  
block from here on Cap. Ave.  
has been condemned - so in about

six weeks 30 families will be without  
any housing. Pete got overly zealous  
& got the code inspectors out. At  
least horrible housing was better  
than no housing - Dennis & I both  
warned Pete about this possibility.

This P.M. I learned that  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ - who I think you met - may  
have to move back to the country  
(continued)

(continued from card)

He came here from south Ga. about 2 1/2 years ago & his situation there was largely the reason for his screwed up development. His brother - who is now caring for the blind grandfather that used to be [redacted]'s responsibility - is now in Atlanta escaping the law - so [redacted] may have to go. That will be 20 giant steps backward.

I found the [redacted] wedding announcement to be amusing - the big card for the reception & the small card for the ceremony - a case of misplaced priorities?

I got a nice note from [redacted] today - I'll write her

The summer program is going well. As for the trip to Washington - I guess we'll pull it off. I'm looking forward to a week at camp on the 18th of Aug.

So much for now -

Love

Dave



Summer 1971

Monday

Dan, Mom & Dad -

It was good talking to you the other night. This has been a busy week.

Sat we went sailing with the older

tenagers at Lake Kanier - the Rascals

(you met them at Fr's party) have a

beautiful boat. Sun. we went swimming

at a friend's pool. It has been hot &

streamy.

I'm enclosing one of the products of the Summer School. The days are exhaustive but also very rewarding. It's great work with the children.

# SUMMER SCHOOL NEWS

EMMAUS HOUSE SUMMER SCHOOL

VOL. I

ISSUE 4

JULY 13, 1971

## ABOUT DRAMA

was Toto and Coca was Dorothy. Gary was the lion. Derrick was the scarecrow. Alicia was the good witch. James was the tinman. Rufus was the Wizard of Oz. The bad witch was Constance. Chappelle was the extra. We acted out the Wizard of Oz.

-Sweet Pea

My I like to go to Six Flags. Most of all I like to ride the train and the boat and the roller coaster. Also I like to look at the flowers. The flowers has pretty colors.

-Alicia Shackelford

Harriet Tubman was a woman negro freedom fighter who lead the Underground Railroad. The Underground Railroad was nothing but several houses leading to freedom. Nat Turner led a slave revolt on land. He told the black people to put a drop of blood on the front porch or he would come and chop their heads off. By doing this Turner was able to tell the blacks from the whites. That night Turner and his men came and all the drops of blood he saw Turner went to. Joseph Cinque led a slave revolt aboard the ship called the Amistad.

-Terry Pace

*one of my students*

I could spend the day at Six Flags I would like to ride the little cars. I would like to go on the roller coaster and ride the train. I would buy some ice cream and a hot dog.

-Larry Subanks

I went to the base ball game. It was a special night. It was the fourth of July. There were fireworks everywhere. I did not like the fireworks. They hurt my ears.

-Quovadis

RACISM IS TODAY'S PASSWORD

My name is Anthony Hudson. I ride the bus. I sit good. Ralph drives the bus. Ralph drives the bus to swimming. He almost drowned at Piedmont Park.

-Anthony Hudson

The cat is asleep. When he wake up he walk around. He eat catfoot. He drink milk. in the morning. He per and he play outside. He take a bath every day. The end of my story.

-Timothy Body

About me, by Rodney Trice. Sometime when go home I look at TV and then I go outside. I play with my friends. and I bring my bike. and I let my friends ride it.

-Rodney Trice

The Georgian highway. I drew a picture to the Highlights magazine. A picture about 2 truck and car and tractor. I hope it will be published. Anybody can do it.

-Alphonso Hill

I like Six Flags. We have a good time at Six Flags but you can go to Six Flags. I am going to Six Flags.

-Constance Vaughn

This is a story about Gerbil. The gerbil is a funny little animal with a long tail. Gerbil are between 4 and 5 inches long, not including their equally long tail. Gerbil stand on rocks. And pretty furry hair. They have whiskers like cats. They have four legs.

-Lisa Taylor

## AFRICA

1. king ride on his horse
  2. queen help the king.
  - I trade my clothes
  4. family live together.
- That what I learn in black history.

-Sharon Hudson

ATLANTA WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION

WILL HAVE AN

IMPORTANT MEETING

ON

WEDNESDAY, MAY <sup>31</sup>~~29~~

at

8:00 P.M.

Emmaus House

1017 Capitol Avenue, S.W.

CALL 525-5948 FOR A FREE RIDE

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FREE HENRY WHITLOCK!

Henry Whitlock is a young black man who lived with his parents in Decatur. On the evening of January 17, 1971, a Decatur policeman was killed, while Henry was with his family at home. Later the police arrested Henry Whitlock and beat him up. He was charged with killing the policeman.

After being in jail for over a year, Henry Whitlock was brought to trial and found guilty. He was sentenced to the electric chair. THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM.

Help Henry Whitlock get a new trial. People will be asking you to sign a petition for a new trial. Please sign it. There will be rallies in support of Henry Whitlock. Listen to WAOB radio for more information.

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REGISTER TO VOTE

There will be an important primary election in August. You can choose your representatives. YOU MUST BE REGISTERED TO VOTE BY JUNE 16 in order to vote.

If you are NOT registered to vote, you can register at the Emmaus House. Come and register on Wednesday nights or Saturday afternoons.

Dear Mom + Dad -

Spring 1972

This week started out normal - busy + ended with a boom. (literally). The enclosed clipping explains it pretty well. We picketed the hospital last P.M. + the folks who passed the night at the vigil last night said it was uneventful. - Thank God.

The picket line last night was reminiscent of the days of Dr King. The police were there - about 30 strong - supposedly to protect us - but they had their billyclubs in hand.

There was some reason for fear after dark - but everyone sang freedom songs + the spirit was good. We saw 13 ambulances go in + take patients to other hospitals + the place will probably close tomorrow - its sad that the city will lose hospital beds - but until poor people can be treated with dignity + respect things will have to go that way.

I have one image that sticks in my mind. I looked toward a policemen's car + at that point the lights went on + I saw the

feet of a patrolman + dust.  
It was eerie.

As for other news -  
I went to the Morris  
Branden 1st grade  
program yesterday -  
Havent had as much  
fun since the courthouse  
burned. The kids ~~was~~  
were so neat. It shows  
what can be + is  
such a sign of hope.  
I couldn't help but think  
about those old men  
in "Montgomery to Memphis"  
who wore the "Never"  
buttons.

CALL 3

JE, SW.

5

Will do much for here.

He call before you get

this.

T 26

ORGANIZATION

Love

Dave



P.S: I sent your book  
about church symbolism -

# Busing Comes to Summerhill

Late last summer when it was announced that the Atlanta School Board would provide transportation for children to be voluntarily bused from one school to another under certain conditions, many families in the dreadfully crowded Summerhill section of Atlanta expressed a desire to take advantage of the offer. Despite the difficulties of sending their children across town, Summerhill parents coveted for their children advantages of education under less crowded and more adequate circumstances than were available in Summerhill.

In response to these parents' expressed need our church's mission, Emmaus House, undertook to coordinate a busing project. Fr. Ford, the Emmaus House director, thought perhaps one busload of about 60 children would be involved. But—the Summerhill parents were so thrilled with the opportunity and willing to make the extra effort required that in almost no time at

all 280 children were signed up. This overwhelming response was and continues to be a surprise to many. And, of course, the



Mrs. Dolores Holt directs the children onto the bus. Mothers of children ride on buses daily.

response points out that there is a deep and passionate desire among the poor parents of Summerhill to obtain for their children some advantages that they never had. Further, the sudden influx of children into the E. Rivers and Morris Brandon Schools in northside Atlanta has thrust new problems and new challenges upon citizens of those school areas. And, still further, because of the problems and, no doubt, because of the suddenness with which they came, there has been some consternation and misunderstanding about this

School Board project and Emmaus House's part in it. Currently, however, all indications are the program proving gloriously successful.

In the interest of clarifying the Church's part in this project, we are printing on this page a story by a young man who is volunteer staff member Emmaus House. This account tells about the project from the inside. Along with the story is a set of photos taken by Virginia Templeton that show scenes of people involved in the busing program.

## Emmaus House Aids Students

By DAVE MORATH

Dave Morath, Emmaus House volunteer who helps coordinate busing program.



In late July, the north Georgia federal district court ordered the Atlanta Public Schools to provide bus transportation for any child who wanted to transfer from a school where he was in the racial majority to a school where he would be in the minority. The city was to provide a special bus if there were 40 children from the same neighborhood transferring. In early August, a few members of the Emmaus House staff visited parents in some of

the public housing projects and explained this new option. The

The deadline for transfers was the Wed. before the opening of school. Dr. Hume, Area III Supt., informed the principals that they would have these children in attendance the week before school opened. That week many of the mothers went out to visit the schools and meet the principals.

The short time allowed to arrange the transfers was regrettable, but the long term educational advantages outweighed the initial confusion. The parents of these children saw an opportunity to send their children to schools that were uncrowded and that enjoyed excellent academic reputations, and they reacted as any parent would by enrolling their children.

On opening day, the principals arranged for members of the P.T.A. to be on hand to assist in getting the children settled. Members of the Emmaus House staff were also on hand to offer their help.

The reaction of the children has been quite good. They enjoy the bus ride because they have a chance to finish up homework, and learn new songs. On the first day, one of the children remarked how clean the food was, referring to the clean kitchen and attractive school lunches. They are also quite happy with their new teachers and classmates.

The mothers feel that the inconvenience of distance is a small price to pay for a superior education. They are riding the city buses regularly, to settle disputes between the children



Bus driver Mr. Alan Jordan and school child Linda Brown. This school bus transports children from Englewood to E. Rivers School.

## Fr. Austin Ford Receives Urban League Award

The Director of our Church's Mission in Peopletown in Atlanta, the Rev. Austin Ford, has received a signal honor in recognition of his gloriously humble and gloriously effective work. On November the 19th the Atlanta Urban League observed Equal Opportunity Day 1971. Along with William Holmes Borders and Andrew J. Young, Father Ford was given an Equal Opportunity Award.



Father Austin Ford

and to maintain contact with the school. Many are riding the Emmaus House bus to Tuesday evening meetings of the P.T.A.

The busing project has proved to be an educational experience for the teachers at E. Rivers and Morris Brandon. They are gaining insight into the problems that poor, black families face: inadequate health care, crowded living conditions, lack of adequate transportation, and subsistence incomes. The teachers have found many bright children who have never learned to read, write, or do simple arithmetic. Parents and teachers have been working to provide individual attention in reading—establishing tutoring programs and communication laboratories.

The teachers and parents are learning that providing a quality education for all of Atlanta's children should be a major concern of everyone in the city—and they are working together toward this goal.



Children from the Summerhill area. In the center the lone white face is Mabeth Settlege, Emmaus House volunteer.

### PORTER-GAUD SCHOOL

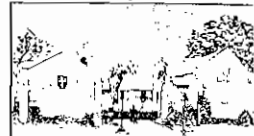
A distinguished Episcopal preparatory school for boys, founded in 1867. Boarding grades 9-12. Limited openings. High standards with emphasis on character and scholarship. Graduates enter leading colleges. Interscholastic sports. Social, cultural events. New, modern buildings on 70-acre campus. For catalog write:

Dr. Berkeley Grimbail,  
Headmaster  
Albemarle Point Road  
Charleston, South Carolina  
29407

reception was very enthusiastic and many of the parents decided to transfer their children. The Emmaus House staff members had to go to the child's old school to get ID numbers and arrange for the transfer of records.



From these homes, about 30 E. Rivers students come. This is Primrose Circle, privately owned rental property, two families to a house.



EPISCOPAL  
THREE-HOUR  
PRAYER  
MEETINGS  
with Holy Communion

Every Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.  
Every Friday, 7:30 p.m.  
Every Sunday, 7:00 p.m., Holy Communion, Silent Prayer, Evensong, Benediction, Program, Compline  
CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR  
1068 North Highland Ave., N.E.  
Atlanta, Ga. 30306  
HOLY COMMUNION  
Every day, 7:30 a.m.  
Every Sunday, 7:30, 9:15, 11:15 a.m., and 7:00 p.m.  
CONFESSIONS  
Saturday, 5:00 to 5:30 p.m.



# Hospital Labor Spat Leaves 2 Men Shot

By ORVILLE GAINES

A labor dispute at Holy Family Hospital erupted into violence Thursday night when a church pastor and another person were shot and wounded, police said.

The shootings touched off rumblings of unrest among black Atlantans. And Mayor Sam Massell issued a statement deploring the violence and took steps to mediate the labor dispute.

One of those wounded was the Rev. Arthur Langford, 22, who along with three other civil rights leaders had planned to fast until the dispute is settled.

According to homicide investigator F. L. Reeves, Langford, who is co-pastor of the Free-For-All Missionary Baptist Church, and Willie Ricks, 29, of 3020 Delmar Lane NW, were wounded by gunfire while standing in a tent with the Rev. Joseph Boone, executive director of the Metropolitan Atlanta Summit Leadership Conference, at about 10:45 p.m. Thursday.

The shots, apparently came from a car, police said.

The tent had been set up in front of the hospital at 501 Fairburn Road, SW, for the civil rights leaders to carry on the fast.

Holy Family Hospital is a 128-bed predominantly black hospital supported by the Roman Catholic Church. It is in the extreme southwest section of Atlanta.

**DETECTIVE** Reeves said the church leader was wounded in the left side of his chest, the second man in the right side of his stomach. The officer said that both victims were admitted to Grady Memorial Hospital in fair condition.

Extra security measures were taken at Grady later Friday after an unidentified person telephoned the hospital and stated someone was coming there to finish the job on the wounded pastor, police were told.

A detective also was informed a hospital security guard was stationed on the floor on which the pastor was recovering from his wound.

Following the incident two unidentified blacks reportedly called on predominantly black high schools in the city Friday morning, encouraging students to stage a citywide school boycott at noon Friday.

The pair was told to leave Price High School, authorities said, and two school detectives answered a police summons to Harper High School shortly before noon when a group of students walked out.

**THE FLYERS** handed out to school students stated that last night (Thursday) on the site of the protest vigil at Holy Family white racists shot with

## SHOT

Continued From Page 1A  
brothers, these freedom fighters. . . .

The leaflets urged a citywide school boycott and mass rallies in protest.

One of the wounded, Langford, was quoted as saying he heard a car pull up outside the tent at the hospital just before several shots were fired. It sped away, after the gunfire, he said.

Boone told the investigator that he rushed out of the tent after the gunfire and didn't see a car leaving the scene.

Police said they did not receive a call to investigate until 12:15 a.m., a lengthy delay from the reported time of the

shooting. By that time, the victims had already received emergency treatment at Grady.

The two men were loaded into a private car following the shooting, Reeves said, and were transported to a local funeral home where they were then carried to Grady in an ambulance.

Following investigation, Reeves learned that an unidentified male caller telephoned a security guard at the hospital about an hour before the gunfire and asked if Rev. Hosea Williams' tent was down in front of the hospital.

The guard said he told the caller that it was in front of the hospital and he, the guard, then was asked if he was a "son of a bitch." When told no, the caller asked if the guard was black or white. The caller broke the connection when the guard answered he was white, Reeves said the guard told him.

Leaders of the dispute against the hospital say the strike has been settled, but resulting 100 fired employees with back pay. The dispute has been going on for several weeks.

**FROM NEW ORLEANS** where he was once speaking, St. Martin Massell deplored the violence and encouraged the hospital to ask Andrew Young, as

chairman of the Atlanta Community Relations Commission, to step into the labor dispute as a mediator.

Specifically, Massell said he asked Young to assume the leadership in this situation immediately and to convene the parties at the earliest practical date in order to hear from both sides.

Massell also said he was calling on Police Chief John Thomas to sign such additional police service as might be necessary to protect both hospital personnel and those picketing the hospital.

In any event, said the mayor, the chief was to make sure that we maintain peace and order in the area with all parties protected.

Massell was briefed by telephone on the situation by Nat Welch, executive director of

the Community Relations Commission. He then dictated his statement to his press secretary, Roz Thomas.

In his statement he said:

**"OF COURSE** I was very disappointed to hear of the disturbance out at Holy Family Hospital and I deplore any violence in any labor dispute, as does the citizenry of Atlanta in general.

But at the moment I think we want to first of all express our sympathy to those who were wounded and wish best wishes for their early and complete recovery.

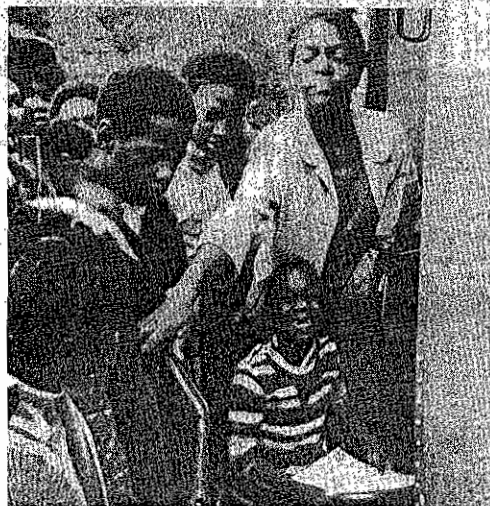
But the immediate problem I think is to try to bring the parties together on both sides of this labor dispute to see if in fact some third party cannot help them reach some agreement."

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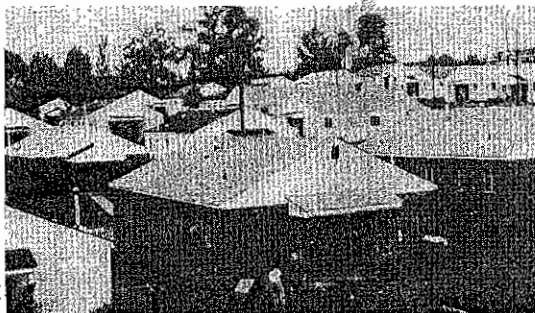
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Bus driver Mr. Alan Jordan and school child Linda Brown. This school bus transports children from Englewood for E. Rivers School.

## Fr. Austin Ford Receives Urban League Award

The Director of our Church's Mission in Peopletown in Atlanta, the Rev. Austin Ford, has received a signal honor in recognition of his gloriously humble and gloriously effective work. On November the 19th the Atlanta Urban League observed Equal Opportunity Day 1971. Along with William Holmes Borders and Andrew J. Young, Father Ford was given an Equal Opportunity Award.



Father Austin Ford

and to maintain contact with the school. Many are riding the Emmaus House bus to Tuesday evening meetings of the P.T.A.

The busing project has proved to be an educational experience for the teachers at E. Rivers and Morris Brandon. They are gaining insight into the problems that poor, black families face: inadequate health care, crowded living conditions, lack of adequate transportation, and subsistence incomes. The teachers have found many bright children who have never learned to read, write, or do simple arithmetic. Parents and teachers have been working to provide individual attention in reading—establishing tutoring programs and communication laboratories.

The teachers and parents are learning that providing a quality education for all of Atlanta's children should be a major concern of everyone in the city—and they are working together toward this goal.

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# Busing of Blacks to Northside Stirring Anger of White Parents

By JUNIE BROWN

Atlanta Journal Education Editor  
They're called "M-to-Ms."  
And it hasn't got anything to  
do with sugar-coated candy.

The "M-to-Ms" are black  
Atlanta youngsters who have  
been transferred by their par-  
ents from black schools to  
white.

A fairly high percentage of  
them are attending classes in  
schools on Atlanta's exclusive,  
white northside. They are  
there largely at the instigation  
of an Episcopal priest who  
has become the target of  
scathing white outrage.

"M-to-M" stands for  
"majority-to-minority." The  
Atlanta school system is re-  
quired to pay the transporta-  
tion costs of any student,  
black or white, who chooses to  
transfer from a school where  
his is the majority race to a  
school where his—or her—  
race is in a minority.

This year, 2,054 of the 69,663  
black students in Atlanta's  
public schools are M-to-Ms.

A SHARP INCREASE in  
the numbers of M-to-Ms has  
taken place on the ritzy north-  
side. Last year, there were  
277 black youngsters attending  
two northside schools. This  
year, there are 668 black stu-  
dents enrolled at seven north-  
side schools.

While it definitely is not  
true that all reactions to the  
flux of black youngsters there  
has been negative, the drop in  
white enrollment in the seven  
schools speaks for itself. Last  
fall, there were 1,968 white  
children in the schools, com-  
pared to 1,739 this year.

The sharp increase of M-to-  
Ms in northside schools can be  
traced directly to the Rev.  
Austin Ford, director of  
Emmanuel House, an inner-  
city mission maintained in  
part by the Episcopal Diocese  
of Atlanta.

The mounting outrage to  
Ford's activities has led to the  
formation of a committee at  
the Cathedral of St. Phillips,  
perhaps the city's most presti-  
gious Episcopal church, to  
look into the role of Emmanuel  
House in the busing of M-to-M  
youngsters to the northside.

"I'm not in a popularity  
contest," says Ford in a mas-  
terpiece of understatement.

By far, the largest single  
block of M-to-Ms for whom  
the school system must pro-  
vide transportation is that  
organized by Ford.

THE CHILDREN come from  
a number of inner-city neigh-  
borhoods: Thomasville, Edge-  
wood, Leila Valley. Because  
of their transfers, seven north-  
side schools now are 20 to 40  
per cent black.

Birney has a total 202 stu-  
dents, 84 of whom are black;  
Brandon has 356, 148 black;  
Jackson has 413, 83 black;  
McIntehey has 240 total, 49  
black; Rivers has 570 of which  
191 are black and Smith has  
55 blacks out of 261 students.  
The new Sutton middle school  
has 68 black and 397 white stu-  
dents.

There a few schools in the



Staff Photo—Billy Downs

## BLACK STUDENTS DISEMBARK AT MORRIS BRANDON SCHOOL ON NORTHSIDE White Enrollment at Seven Schools Drop as Blacks Transfer In

northside which remain all  
but untouched: Garden Hills  
with 11 black students, R. L.  
Hope with 15, Margaret Mit-  
chell with 34 and Rock Springs  
with 9. One educator theorized  
that black youngsters avoid  
these schools because they are  
relatively old and many of the  
black students transferred out  
of new, showcase schools.

"The discipline problems  
we're having are normal  
inner-city discipline problems  
— such as threats, name-call-  
ing or carrying a knife — but  
they are not normal for this  
section of town," said Sutton  
Principal Robert Morrison,  
who last year worked in an  
inner-city school.

"We have had some severe  
discipline problems, pretty  
much weighted toward the M-  
to-M students.

"We've really had trouble  
with only about 10 of them,"  
he added.

MORRISON SAID the real  
problem is mixing the two  
economic extremes — chil-  
dren from homes with six-fig-  
ure annual incomes with chil-  
dren from welfare homes.

"It is much more difficult  
to run a school with the two  
extremes than to run either  
one," he said. "I would have  
less problem with totally low  
income school than with Sut-  
ton."

And there is the difference  
in grade levels. "On the  
whole, the M-to-M students  
are several levels behind,"  
Morrison said. "It will make  
us have to do some teaching,  
that's all. "We're going to  
have to teach on different

levels without discrimina-  
ting," he said.

"What I have is two schools  
under one roof and no materi-  
als for one school," said Jack-  
son principal Mrs. Marie  
Smart. "The problem is how  
to manage. That no child has  
his ego damaged," his pride  
hurt or his individuality tram-  
pled.

"We are trying to make  
things as comfortable for  
them in an emotional situation  
as is possible," said Mrs. Alda  
Cannon, principal at Sarah  
R. Smith School on Old Ivy  
Road.

"THE NUMBER of tele-  
phone calls from concerned  
parents is greatly reduced this  
week over last week. I got  
quite a few last week," said  
Dr. Mark Huie, the area  
superintendent in charge of  
these schools. Still, Huie said,  
"it is not as bad as last fall."

"I have received some  
phone calls from parents  
whose schools are the subject  
of majority-to-minority trans-  
fers this year for the first  
time," said School Board  
Member Jerry Luxemburger,  
who has his two children at  
Rivers.

"The hostility (of the call-  
ers) has all been directed to  
Austin Ford who I understand  
is responsible for the busing  
of these children," he added.

"I consider all the fears to  
be a subject for the school  
board's concern," Luxem-  
urger said. "When a parent  
reports that her child has  
been threatened, or that her  
little girl has been talked to in  
an obscene way, that is a very  
valid, threatening disturbing

event that cannot be excused  
by cultural differences.

"I think the view held by  
those who encourage majority  
to minority transfers that it  
will result in a greater educa-  
tional achievement by the  
minority pupils is not support-  
able by all the research ef-  
forts that have been carried  
out to date," Luxemburger  
said.

There is a brighter side to  
the northside story.

THE SCHOOLS which had  
Emmanuel House children last  
fall are calmer and more  
confident than those who are  
getting their first big dose of  
desegregation. Brandon and  
Rivers began the 1971 school  
year with M-to-Ms and Birney  
got a bus load at the begin-  
ning of the second quarter.

"Our knowing what to ex-  
pect and knowing the children  
already has been invaluable,"  
said Mrs. Zerah Baggett, the  
Brandon principal. "We made  
friends last year.

"We know better how to go  
about testing. We had the  
materials to use which we did-  
n't have last year. We just  
started out testing new ones  
immediately and we already  
know about these we had last  
year.

"It's just such a thrill to  
watch these children as they  
come out and bloom," Mrs.  
Baggett continued. "The  
teacher just almost pops at  
the seams. I know we made  
every mistake in the book, but  
you've got to do something  
and we tried. We have a staff  
that is eager to do as much  
for every child as they possi-  
bly can. We want to do a good  
job."

"We had some we were not

able to do anything with and I  
would be lying if I told you we  
didn't," said Clyde Kimball,  
Rivers principal. "But we  
have some individual suc-  
cess stories I think are very  
exciting. And approximately  
100 returned this year."

"One problem we just can  
not hide is the fact that there  
are discipline problems on the  
buses," Kimball said.

PARENTS AND volunteers  
who were riding the buses to  
maintain order have not last-  
ed long.

"If Emmanuel House has the  
authority to transfer children  
they ought to assume the re-  
sponsibility for their welfare,"  
said Mrs. Smart. "Some child  
is going to be seriously hurt."

"We're just going to have to  
put some aides on these  
buses," said Atlanta Assistant  
Supt. Dr. Ed Cook. "Disci-  
pline problems are rampant.  
A man was hit in the head  
with a rock thrown from one  
of the M-to-M buses this  
morning.

"What we are going to end  
up having to do is take the  
students off the bus who are  
causing it, give them bus to-  
kens and let their parents be  
responsible for getting them  
to school."

Another serious problem  
this fall is the lack of the  
Federal Emergency School  
Desegregation Program  
(ESAP) funds which allowed  
the M-to-M schools to hire  
extra staff people and buy  
materials to meet the special  
learning needs of their new  
students.

The funds were not renewed  
because Atlanta refused to  
transfer a number of teachers  
to set up the teacher ratio in  
each school the program re-  
quired.

The schools are not eligible  
for Title I Elementary and  
Secondary Education Act  
(ESEA) funds which are  
based on the over-all income  
level of the community and  
the school, but Dr. Huie hopes  
he will be able to get some  
money under Title IV to help  
solve the needs.

THOUGH THE children had  
the advantage of all the extra  
programs provided by Title I  
for low income schools in  
their old neighborhoods, they  
are learning more in their  
new schools, say Emmanuel  
House staffers.

According to one spokes-  
man, the parents of M-to-M  
youngsters are a "just very  
pleased" with the progress the  
children made last year and  
the children are "very jolly  
about the whole program."

Still, Ford, the man who  
organized Atlanta's largest  
busing experiment draws fire.

"I prefer to call him mis-  
ter," snarled one principal.  
"He's no priest in my estima-  
tion."

"I don't think one person  
ought to have this much power  
to arrange the lives of so  
many children. There is some-  
thing behind it that is not hu-  
mane. I feel very sorry for the  
children."

Thanks for the good letter!!  
Hill is still helling around here  
as you see

Love

James