

# Integration Came Peacefully Here ...And No Trouble Is Expected

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The game is integration, and Clemson University is an apparent winner.

Since Harvey B. Gantt became the first Negro to enroll at a white South Carolina college in 1963 to the present day, there has been no racial trouble on this quiet, isolated campus. "I received more publicity before I arrived at Clemson than (James) Meredith did before he arrived at Mississippi," Mr. Gantt said.

Gantt's arrival here in January, 1963, followed Meredith's stormy entrance into "Ole Miss." National publicity resulted as newsmen sensed there would be trouble here.

But there was none then, and there apparently is none now.

"We just don't intend to have any trouble," said University President R. C. Edwards. "Our expectations now are no different from those of four years ago. I never did think we would have a problem here."

From conversations with faculty, administrators and students, the consensus of opinion seemed to be:

—that Mississippi had an influence on students' actions when Gantt arrived.

—That no one can state an exact figure for the number of Negroes on campus.

—That Negroes have been accepted as having a right to attend Clemson.

—That the Negro students here have earned the respect of the student body.

—That Harvey Gantt made the transition from segregation to integration possible by being Harvey Gantt.

Dean Walter T. Cox, Vice-President for Student Affairs, said, "We had enough confidence in the students that while we thought many of them did not accept his (Gantt's) presence they would tolerate it."

Cox said, "We were concerned that someone—not a student—would attempt to take the law into his own hands. Our security forces and the state police were sensitive to strangers at the outset."

The dean called Gantt serious in his studies and attitude.

"Everything he said was true as it could be," he stated. "He wasn't interested in exploiting himself because of the publicity."

"He demonstrated that he was a good student and citizen—and he earned the respect of everyone that came to know him," he continued.

Dean Cox said he thought the students were determined that what happened at Oxford, Mississippi, wouldn't happen at Clemson.

President Edwards said that there were three characteristics necessary in the first Negro here in order that there be a smooth transition from segregation to integration:

—That the student be qualified for the academic job.

—That he be motivated and dedicated to get a good education.

History professor Jerry V. Real said, "No matter how you would like to say it (the presence of a Negro) doesn't effect you, you can't—and be honest."

Mr. Real compared his experiences with Negroes in his classes with that of his experiences with coeds.

"The first time I had a girl in my classes," he said, "I had to adjust my teaching style a little. And I was conscious of the fact that she was there almost all the time."

"It was the same when I had my first Negro student. But now they are just students to me. And I've found that they have the same ambitions and the same characteristics as my other students."

Mr. Real said the first time a Negro speaks up in class the

students are startled, but after that there is no reaction.

A Negro sophomore said this week, "I expected the worst when I came here, but I was shocked. Most of the students have been nice and courteous, and the atmosphere is conducive to study."

The student classified the response groups as:

Those who say "We have to put up with it, it's the law."

Those who say "He has a right."

And those who don't care, as long as the Negro doesn't bother him.

"I don't know the proportion between these groups," the student said. "I hadn't really thought about it."

Nobody else apparently had either.



**Dean McClure And Gantt Discuss Courses**

—That he did what he said he would do.

"Gantt contributed by being Gantt and made that transition possible," the president said. "In the intervening period, other Negro students have followed Gantt's example."