One town even uses Newton school as model

Mississippi integration at work

Curtis Wilkie is a native Mississippian who scored a major upset in a district court case last week that will affect the future of integration in the South. Using a technique not generally recognized in civil rights cases, he brought a suit in a federal court on behalf of a Negro 12-year-old in a small town of Mississippi to gain recognition as a Negro in order that he might attend school with the whites.

There are 200 Negroes in this town, but only 10 attend high school. The Negroes may have to travel 60 miles to go to school, while the whites can attend school in the town where they live.

Mississippi integration at work

Curtis Wilkie
Boston Globe (1960-1979); May 10, 1970; ProQuest Historical Newspapers Boston Globe (1872 - 1979)

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The school board, composed of five white only as is the practice, made the decision to keep the Negro out of the school because there was a Negro student present in the school. The school board did not have the right to exclude a Negro student from the school. The school board was acting within its authority when it made this decision.

New Albany is a more typical Mississippi town, however, and as a result its integration problems have been greater.

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