

"BUT WHY THEY DONE IT, BECAUSE THEY WERE GETTING GOVERNMENT COMMODITIES. AND I READ IN THE *FORT WORTH STAR TELEGRAM*, BEFORE THEY DONE IT, THAT IF THEY DID NOT INTEGRATE, (OPEN UP THE SCHOOLS AND LET THE CHILDREN GO IN), THEIR COMMODITIES WOULD BE CUT OFF. AND WITHOUT ANY PROBLEM ONE YEAR LEMME SEE, I CAN'T THINK OF WHAT YEAR, BUT IT WAS IN THE FALL.

"I HAD WORKED DOWN AT THE NURSING HOME WHILE SCHOOL WAS OUT THAT YEAR. AND A LADY WAS THERE FROM WICHITA FALLS. AND SHE SAID TO ME ONE DAY WHEN SHE PASSED FOR LUNCH, (THEN THEY WERE GOING IN THE DINING ROOM), SHE SAID, 'WHEN YOU LEAVE MAGGIE TO GO HOME, COME BY MY ROOM.'

"I SAID 'I WILL.' SO, WHEN I STARTED BY, I LIKE TO FORGOT. AND SHE WHISTLED AND I WENT INTO HER ROOM.

"SHE SAID 'I WANT TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.' SHE SAID 'I READ ALL IN WICHITA FALLS ABOUT THE RACKET THAT WAS CREATED IN MANSFIELD OVER THREE CHILDREN WANTING TO GO INTO THE SCHOOL.' SHE SAY 'YOU TELL YOUR PEOPLE TO BE QUIET. SAY THEY DON'T HAVE ENOUGH AMMUNITION AND THEY WON'T SELL 'EM ENOUGH, BECAUSE THE WHITE FOLKS HAVE GOT IT ALL.' SHE SAY 'BUT EVERY TIME THEY GET A CHANCE, TELL 'EM TO HAMMER ON THAT WITH PRAYER.' SHE SAY 'CAN YOU DO THAT?'

"I SAY 'I SURE CAN.'

"SHE SAY 'WELL, I BELIEVE YOU COULD DO THAT TOO.'

"I SAID 'I CAN HAMMER ON IT WITH PRAYER.'

M.M.: [CONTINUED] AND THEN, SAY FOR INSTANCE, THE LEWIS' THE WYATTS, THE LAWSONS. . . I THINK THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE LARGEST PROPERTY OWNERS IN MANSFIELD IN BLACKS; BECAUSE, I THINK THEY MIGHT HAVE GOT HUNDRED ACRES APIECE. YOU KNOW, EACH FAMILY HAD MORE. . . MAYBE OVER A HUNDRED ACRES. WERE ALMOST SITTING ON THE LEWIS' PROPERTY NOW. IF NOT, BECAUSE I THINK. . . LEWIS. I THINK HIS NAME WAS ED LEWIS. . . HE MIGHT HAVE HAD A HUNDRED ACRES OR MORE. AND THEN THE LAWSONS PROBABLY HAD A HUNDRED.

S.S.: "NOW, WAS THAT A PURCHASE?"

M.M.: "YEAH, THEY PURCHASED IT. IT WASN'T GIVE TO 'EM. THE SLAVE OWNERS WOULD GIVE YOU AN ACRE, A COW AND A SOW, A PIG AND A PLOW. AND THAT'S IT. . . TWENTY-FOUR HENS AND A ROOSTER. . . THEN YOU'D LIVE LIKE YOU USE TO."

M.B.: "EXCUSE ME FOR INTERRUPTING, BUT IF I MAY, I'D LIKE TO GIVE MANSFIELD A NAME--A GOOD NAME. DON'T MAKE IT ALL BE BAD. MANSFIELD FINALLY INTEGRATED THE SCHOOLS ON THEIR OWN WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS. AND THIS MUST HAVE BEEN ABOUT NINETEEN, SEVENTY-TWO. . . THREE. . . I CAN'T REMEMBER THE YEARS.

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S.S.: Stan Solamillo M.B.: Maggie Jackson Briscoe L.L.S.: Lillie Lawson Sheppard  
B.B.: Betty Benjamin M.M.: McClellon Moody (Mac) M.E.B.: Mary Eliza Burr  
F.L.: Fred Lawson S.W.: Shirley Larue Barton-Washington M.E.: Michael Evans