

African-American parents having to pay for the transportation of their children to the schools in Fort Worth was one of the many issues which finally precipitated community action. One man stated, "T.M. Moody, John F. Lawson, Buck Wilson, Wilbur Lawson--several of the deacons of [Bethlehem Baptist] Church decided that if we had to pay taxes in Mansfield--school taxes, property taxes, county taxes--and we still had to pay for transportation. . .to go to Fort Worth, why should we have to pay double for an education when we could go right across the street?" [31]

The situation was temporarily remedied with the provision of paid bus passes in 1954 to cover the fare for students commuting to Fort Worth's segregated high schools. Four years earlier, following the continued efforts of the sub-trustees, Mansfield Negro School was finally provided with its own 24-passenger school bus, and replaced with a larger model in 1951 [32].

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pictures were drawn in them. You just couldn't read them and couldn't come up to date with your education. . ." [24].

Although legislation had been passed allowing local boards of education to appoint trustees for local Negro schools in Texas as early as 1905, the Mansfield School District did not provide for African-American trustees until the late 1940s. During the 1948-1949 academic year, the school board finally appointed several members from the local community as "Sub-trustees". However, their role was an unofficial one and was subject to the decisions of Anglo school board members. They "were invited to attend all meetings of the board and. . .the members of the board welcomed their suggestions relative to the needs of the Negro school" [25]. The first African-American trustees included T.M. Moody, John F. Lawson, and Mark Moody.

A writer for the *Mansfield News-Mirror* stated forty years later that, "unlike many other school districts in Tarrant County, Mansfield always owned its own buses. . .From World War II to the early 1960s, Mansfield ran six school buses, each making two trips. This mean[t] that buses left before sunrise and often returned after sunset" [26]. Unfortunately, this was only for Anglo students.

Few of Mansfield's African-American families had the use of automobiles. One man stated that as a result, elementary school-age children walked from home to their school. This often became an opportunity for humiliation because Mansfield's Anglo students often rode past the walking children. He said, "When the school buses came by, we'd have to get off the road, because the white kids on the school bus would throw whatever they had at us--rocks, pencils, anything. . .You know we had to walk. . .we walked there, to eight grades in one building" [27].

A woman stated, "We would have to get up and leave early. And during that time, sometimes we would leave early and we would go down to the highway--walking and taking a chance on catching a ride. A lot of times, Mr. Ralson Bennett. . .would be driving a cattle truck. And he would pick us up and drop us off" [28].

Mansfield's African-American high school students could not attend school locally. They had to travel by bus daily to downtown Fort Worth to attend two Negro secondary schools which served students from several counties. Students in the ninth grade attended James E. Guinn School, after which they transferred to I.M. Terrell High School. One woman stated, "I came out of (finished) I.M. Terrell High School. . .I had to get up every morning before daybreak and walk down to the red light. . .The buses. . .ran from Ennis to Fort Worth. And then we. . .caught the Trailways bus. . .Later, there were enough kids to run a bus from Mansfield to Fort Worth [29]. According to other informants, African-American students paid their own bus fare to and from Fort Worth. The woman continued, "We had to pay. We would buy cards. . .and when you would get on the bus they would punch it. . .We wouldn't get to go to school if we didn't have it" [30].

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