

Jerry finished his sophomore year of high school in 1953. When the school year started in the fall of 1953, the school board was moving the high school from Salt Lick to Owingsville. This did not set well with the students and most of the parents. The school went on strike, Jerry was elected the leader by his classmates. Although they stayed out of school for a couple of months the school board was successful in moving the high school to Owingsville. Jerry did not attend high school in Owingsville, instead he finished high school at home through the American Correspondence School of Chicago, IL. (By this time Jerry had already wrecked two automobiles).

Jerry joined the US Navy in July 1955, attended Boot Camp in Bainbridge, MD. After finishing Boot Camp he remained in Bainbridge for 6 months while attending radio school. In April 1955 he was transferred to the main Navy Communications Building in Washington, DC. and remained there until March 1, 1957. Jerry went on liberty to Salt Lick, KY to celebrate his 21st birthday (Feb. 25, 1957) with four of his Navy buddies. On March 2, 1957 Jerry had a wreck in a 1954 Chevy which belonged to his parents (as was the case with the other two wrecks) nearly killing his four Navy buddies, two other friends, and himself. Jerry spent 3 months in the Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, VA, and was then transferred back to Washington, DC.

In May 1958, he was transferred to San Diego, CA. aboard the USS Noble 218, a troop transport ship. He was stationed there until his discharge in July 1959. When he arrived back home in Salt Lick his mother was sick with Tuberculosis, and was hospitalized in Paris, KY. She was cured and sent home.

Rolfe Omohundro, Sr., his father, was managing a service station just east of their home in Salt Lick. He also was in bad health at the time. Jerry worked with him at the service station, while they began building a new service station beside their home.

About this time, Jerry married his first wife, Shirley Wicker m. March 15, 1960. This marriage did not last long but he was fortunate enough to have his first son, b. December 16, 1960, Jerry Tucker Omohundro, Jr.

On February 15, 1961, Rolfe Omohundro, Sr. died. Jerry opened the new service station and was there until 1965. He also married for a second time on November 24, 1962, Mary Lou Messer. They had three children, Jerry Anthony (Tony), Tina Marie, and Michael Shane.

Jerry and a friend bought a boundary of timber from Mary Lou's grandmother, and logged the timber. I remember going to the woods with Jerry as a child and mostly watching as they cut the trees and logged them with a mule.

He started surveying for Ruth Brothers Contracting and remained with them until 1967, then went to Whalen Construction Company until 1970.

Jerry begin working for the C & O Railroad in May of 1970, working out of Huntington, WV until his promotion to assistant track supervisor in September 1974 and moved to Myersdale, PA. Moved from Myersdale, PA to Cumberland, MD in 1976. He was promoted to track supervisor in 1978 and moved to Brunswick, MD. He divorced Mary Lou that same year. Moved again in 1978 to Hagerstown, MD and stayed until 1986, was transferred to Hanover, PA and remained there until he retired in 1988.

Jerry married for the third time, November 7, 1988 to Judith Traylor. No children.

After a couple of years in retirement, Jerry opened a restaurant in 1990, closed after 3 seasons in 1992. He worked at Twin Knobs campground on Cave Run Lake in

1993 & 1996. In the fall of 1996 he began working at the Outpost Campground, in April of 1997 he started as manager of the Outpost Campground.

Below are various newspaper articles that Jerry appeared in during a Strike at the Salt Lick High School. As you will read, Jerry was the leader of the students during the strike. Read on.

Lexington Herald 9-19-1953

Salt Lick Bus Drivers Refuse To Haul Students

SALT LICK, Ky., Sept. 18, 1953

Striking Salt Lick High school students received support today from Bath county school bus drivers who refused to drive their vehicles from Salt Lick to Owingsville High school.

The drivers rejected pleas of Lt. Homer Howard of the Kentucky state police and Sheriff Scott Roberts and his deputies to keep the buses rolling for those students who might want to go to Owingsville

Lindsay Ellington, Salt Lick principal, said the drivers apparently were conforming to the wishes of the people.

The students struck Wednesday, protesting the recent merger of their school with the high school at Owingsville, nine miles away. More than 100 parents have joined the students in picketing the school.

Bradley Sexton, county school superintendent, said at Owingsville today that he had no comment. He added he didn't "know the situation at Salt Lick."

Sexton has called a meeting of the county Board of Education for Monday night in an effort to settle the strike. Salt Lick residents said today, however, that they feel the board will not reverse its decision.

Students at Salt Lick have said they would not attend the Owingsville school.

Effort Slated To Solve Salt Lick Pupil Strike

(Courier-Journal 9-18-1953)

County Board To Tackle Problem Monday;

Adamant Students Blockade Buses Again

By JOE REISTER Courier-Journal Staff Writer

Owingsville, Ky., Sept. 17- The Bath County Board of Education will meet in special session Monday night to work out a plan to end the strike of 96 students from nearby Salt Lick High School.

Dr. J. W. Lester, School Board chairman, said Monday's meeting would be open to the public. "We hope to meet and arrange, a solution to this strike that will be satisfactory to both sides," he said.

The meeting will be held in the office of Bradley Sexton, Bath County school superintendent, beginning at 7:30 p.m. (C.S.T.).

Protest Merger

The students struck yesterday in protest of the merger of the upper division of their school with the high school here. At that time, they refused to allow school buses to leave

the Salt Lick school grounds. Drivers of the buses had reported there to bring students here.

The students refused again today to allow the buses to leave Salt Lick School. This time, however, two State highway patrolmen were on hand. Sgt. Billy Lykins and Policeman Jack Cobran told the students they would not be interfered with so long as they remained on the school grounds.

The striking students complied with the patrolmen's request, but blocked driveways leading in and out of the school grounds. There was no disorder.

A few minutes later, drivers of the buses and the two patrolmen left the scene.

Some Carry Placards

The strikers then paraded along the street in front of the Salt Lick school. Some carried placards bearing such titles as, "Don't let them take our school away from us," "We want to stay here," and "We're on strike for S.L.H.S."

Betty Williams, an 18 year old senior at Salt Lick told a reporter she and the other students were on strike "because it isn't overcrowded here (at Salt Lick school) as they say. We have plenty of room here and we want stay."

Miss Williams referred to a statement made yesterday by Sexton that the high-school pupils were being transferred here from Salt Lick "to avoid over-crowding at the school there and to comply with a request made some time ago by a delegation of parents who appeared before the board of education."

I

Intend To Stay Out

Jerry Omohundro, chosen as leader of the striking students, said the group "had no intention of attending classes in Owingsville tomorrow or any other day. We intend to stay out on strike until they allow us to go to classes here," he said.

Dr. Lester said a large delegation of parents of Salt Lick students appeared before the board "early last spring." The parents, he said, asked that courses in home economics, agriculture, and commercial subjects be offered at Salt Lick. The School Board chairman quoted the parents as saying that if such courses couldn't be offered at Salt Lick the high school students there should be sent to Owingsville.

Merger of the high-school divisions of the two schools was voted recently by the School Board.

Parents Petition Reported

Some newspaper stories published today stated that a petition bearing the names of 300 residents of Salt Lick was sent last month to Frankfort and presented to State Superintendent of Public Instruction Wendell P. Butler. The petition protested the merger. Later, Butler was quoted as saying the petition would be presented to the State Board of Education. I

Two residents of Salt Lick said today that the petition actually carried- the names of 686 persons. The two, Chris Johnson, Jr. and Jack Frizzell, both businessmen, charged that "politics" was "the real reason for this strike."

"Most everyone here in Salt Lick believes the merger was political in nature because Otto ShROUT is the only member of the board from Salt Lick," Johnson said. "He (ShROUT)

is voted down every time anything pertaining to Salt Lick comes up in front of the board."

Dr. Lester said he was "at a loss to explain the charge of politics in this matter. Perhaps some light will be thrown on that subject at Monday night's meeting."

In addition to Dr. Lester and Shrou, members of the board are Henry L. Orme, Owingsville; Arnold Miller, Preston; J.W. Hazelrigg and Curtis Ramey, both of Sharpsburg, and Lee Ledford, Bethel.

Bath County School Superintendent Freed Unharmed By Striking Pupils
Lexington Herald - 1953

SALT LICK, Ky, Sept. 16 (AP)

County School Superintendent Bradley Sexton was released unharmed by 96 striking students after they had held him hostage for several hours this morning.

His release came only after Bath County sheriff Scott Roberts had gone to the Salt Lick High school, recently merged with the nearby Qwingsville High school, and talked with the students.

The striking students, protesting the merger of their school had earlier refused to let Sexton leave the grounds to call a board of education meeting. They also refused to let school buses, which had reported at the Salt Lick school to take the students to Owingsville, leave the ground or let anyone enter the buses.

Approximately 120 high school students in the Salt Lick area were affected by the merger. Grade school students are not affected.

The sheriff said he was called to the school after the strike had developed and after a fight had reportedly developed on the school grounds. The fight was reported between students but the official said he was unable to learn the cause.

Others reported the disturbance started when some students wanted to enter the buses and go to the Owingsville school. No one was hurt and the disturbance ended a short time later.

Lindsay Ellington, Salt Lick school principal, said several parents were among the crowd of students blocking the school busses and that eight or 10 students went to Owingsville in private automobiles.

At Frankfort, state police headquarters said Bath county officials had requested aid and that two state troopers would be sent to the school Thursday morning to keep the busses moving.

Striking students paraded through the streets today bearing placards which read "Salt Lick Students On Strike."

Merger of the two schools was voted recently by the county board of education. A petition bearing the names of 300 persons was sent last month to Frankfort and presented to Superintendent of Public Instruction Wendell P. Butler. The petition protested the merger.

Salt Lick's Grade Classes Dismissed
As Outgrowth of High-School Strike

(1953)

Parents Call For Action

By JOE REISTER

Courier-Journal Staff Writer

Owingsville, Ky., Sept 22.-All elementary classes were dismissed today at nearby Salt Lick School in the latest development in the strike of 96 high school students there.

Lindsay R Ellington, Salt Lick principal, said he ordered classes dismissed "until the Bath County Board of Education does something to settle this strike." I

"The children in the elementary grades were sent home after their parents appealed to me to take such action," Ellington said. "I felt their request was justified in the light of the situation."

Board Takes No Action

Ellington's action resulted in an unscheduled holiday for the 373 pupils in the first eight grades of the school, 10 miles from here.

The 96 students struck last Wednesday in protest against merger of the upper division of their school with the high school here. Grade-school pupils continued to attend classes until today.

Last night, the Bath County Board of Education adjourned a special meeting without acting to end the strike. Discussion of plans to end the strike may be brought up at the board's regular meeting tomorrow night, Dr. J. W. Lester, School Board chairman, said today.

"Right now, the situation is stalemated," he said. "I am at a loss to say what action we will take to end this serious situation, which obviously is becoming more serious each day."

At last night's meeting, Dr. Lester asked persons present to express their opinions concerning a "peaceful and satisfactory settlement to this strike."

He called on Miss Betty Williams, an 18-year-old senior at Salt Lick, for her opinion. "The situation here (at Owingsville High School) is very crowded," she replied. "We have more room at Salt Lick than we have here and we want to stay there."

Jerry Omohundro, leader of the striking students, agreed with Miss Williams' statement. "I don't see why the board won't let us stay at Salt Lick," he added.

Jack Frizzel, Salt Lick businessman, was spokesman for the group opposing the merger. He told the School Board that the majority of people at Salt Lick, "want the school to stay there. A child can learn better if he is enrolled in a school he likes rather than have one crammed down his throat.

At the close of the hour long public hearing held in the Circuit Court room of the Bath County Courthouse here, the board adjourned to the nearby office of Bath County School Superintendent Bradley Sexton.

Parents Reject Proposal

At the request of board members, Frizzel returned to the public meeting with an alternate proposal agreed on by them. This proposal stated that any student who so desired could continue to attend classes at Salt Lick High School if the parents would agree to allow a school bus to be operated for the "convenience of those students who want to attend classes here (at Owingsville High School)."

The parents and students at the meeting voted against the proposal. About 600 persons attended the meeting.

In the meantime, five of the seven board members went home. A member of the board, who asked that his name not be used, said, "I am going home I feel that our counter proposal was fair and that they (Salt Lick residents) have had sufficient time to consider it. If they do not accept it, I don't know what else we can do."

Says Salt Lick Asked Merger

Merger of the high school divisions of the two schools was voted recently by the School Board. The merger was made. Chairman Lester said, at the request of a delegation of Salt Lick residents.

"These people came to us and asked that their children be sent to a school where they could get certain agricultural, home economics, and commercial subjects," the chairman said.

Bath School Superintendent Denies Being Held Hostage

By JOE REISTER

Courier-Journal Staff Writer

Owingsville, Ky. Sept. 16

Bradley Sexton, Superintendent for Bath County Schools, tonight described as "fantastic" published reports that he was held hostage today by striking students at nearby Salt Lick School.

"The students didn't hold me hostage in any sense of the word," Sexton said tonight.

"They merely blocked the driveway at the Salt Lick School when I attempted to leave there about noon today. There was no disorder nor any threatening remarks of any kind made.

"In order not to possibly injure anyone by attempting to force my car through the group of some 150 persons, including students, I telephoned Bath County Sheriff Scott Roberts.

"Scott came out, told the students to allow me to pass through, and they complied. That's all there was to it. I got a big kick out of the stories that I was held hostage. There's absolutely no truth to it. I don't know who dreamed up that story."

The students struck this morning to protest the merger of Salt Lick High School with Owingsville High School, nine miles away.

Sexton said about 150 persons prevented a school bus from leaving the Salt Lick School grounds this morning. The bus carried 18 students on their way to classes at Owingsville High School. Some of the persons in the crowd blocking the driveway were adults and younger persons not enrolled in the school, the superintendent said.

Denies Situation Serious

The group of students on the bus got out and found other means of getting to their classes here.

"About 25 of the total of approximately 100 students from Salt Lick attended classes here today. They came in private cars, interurban buses, and some even hitchhiked."

Sexton said.

"The story about my being held hostage apparently grew out of the incident later in the morning when I attempted to drive away from Salt Lick school. I certainly do not consider this situation as being as serious at all. I believe it will work itself out all right."

Telling the background of the strike, Sexton said that all high school pupils enrolled at Salt Lick School were transferred here by order of the Bath County Board of Education. The merger was effected this summer.

The board, Sexton said, ordered the merger after a delegation of parents appeared before it and requested the move. These parents asked that the curriculum at Salt Lick School be broadened or that the pupils be sent to Owingsville High School.

"At the high school here we have adequate facilities to offer courses in home economics, agriculture, and commercial subjects. There are no such facilities at Salt Lick. In addition we had to rent a storeroom at Salt Lick in which to hold three classes. Now that all high-school pupils there are coming to Owingsville High School we no longer need to rent the storeroom.

"The Board of Education has stated several times that it appeared unwise to attempt to enlarge the physical facilities at Salt Lick.