

# Decatur To Build New School Despite Protest

BY JAMES H. PURDY, JR.

DECATUR, Ga. - (SWS) -- Despite the protest meeting attended last Thursday evening by more than 100 Decaturites, O. L. Amsler, superintendent of Decatur schools, announced Wednesday that the construction of the proposed new \$195,000 elementary and high school for Negroes should begin within 30 to 60 days.

A group of white Decaturites held their protest meeting against the erection of the Negro schools and adopted a resolution protesting the construction, contending that the proposed school would be too near Ponce de Leon School, a white school.

Copies of the resolution were to be presented to Decatur City Commission as of last Tuesday. At the time of the protest, Roe Callaway, president of the group said:

"We are also sending copies to the Board of Education and the American Legion, which donated Ebster Park property to the City of

Decatur."

In commenting about the adopted resolution of protest by the group O. L. Amsler, school superintendent, said later that the proposed building would be no nearer the white school than the present School on Herring Street.

He said he saw no reason for the complaints against the proposed site and emphasized that Ponce de Leon School is located on W. Ponce de Leon Avenue about a block away, across Waters St., on Atlanta Avenue.

The superintendent said the park

(Continued on Page 1 Column 3)

# Decatur To

(Continued From Page One)

area had to be utilized so the New Negro school would be accredited. The new school is necessary as a part of a program to equalize white and Negro school facilities in Decatur, he added.

## FALLING PLASTER STRIKES STUDENT

Amsler's announcement that the new school would be constructed, came on the heels of complaints that falling plaster in the Herring Street School, built in 1913, had struck and caused scalp wounds to a second-grade pupil Monday morning.

A reader of the World, a Mr. J. H. Shanks, informed the World, that on Monday, March 31, Jimmy Baker, age 7 the son of Mrs. Eddie Mae Baker of 214 Cemetery Street, Decatur, was hit by falling plaster while sitting in his classroom at Herring Street school and was treated for scalp wounds at a local hospital.

Patrons of the school said that little Jimmy Baker was the third youngster to have been hurt this year by plaster falling in the same room. All were sent home and treated by physicians.

"The Herring Street building is in a very poor condition," Amsler said, "and plans to replace it have had high priority on our bond building program. The injury children in classrooms is, of course, regrettable."

## AUDITORIUM BEING USED

The superintendent said the class in the room where the plaster fell had been transferred to the auditorium until repairs can be made.

Steel for the construction of the new school is already on the school grounds and actual construction probably begin before the end of the present term. The plan is to build a new high school and then raze the old building. Then a new elementary school would be constructed in the new Negro housing areas, Amsler said.