



The following is a key excerpt from the text given by Chief Justice Earl Warren announcing the Supreme Court's unanimous decision on May 17, 1954 to abolish segregation in American public schools: Today, education is perhaps the most important function of state and local governments. Compulsory school attendance laws and the great expenditures for education both demonstrate our recognition of the importance of education to our democratic society. It is required in the performance of our most basic public responsibilities, even service in the armed forces. It is the very foundation of good citizenship.

How we got where we are: the first Supreme Court decision on school integration. First in a series of articles.

Today, it is a principal instrument in awakening the child to cultural values, the preparing him for later professional training, and in helping him to adjust normally to his environment. In these days, it is doubtful that any child may reasonably be expected to succeed in life if he is denied the opportunity of an education. Such an opportunity, where the state has undertaken to provide it, is a right which must be made available to all on equal terms.

We come then to the question presented: Does segregation of children in public schools solely on the basis of race, even though the physical facilities and other "tangible" factors may be equal, deprive the children of the minority group of equal educational opportunities? We believe that it does:

In *Sweat v. Painter*, supra, in finding that a segregated law school for Negroes could not provide them equal educational opportunities, this court relied in large part on "those qualities which are incapable of objective measurement but which make for greatness in a law school."

In *McLaurin v. Oklahoma State Regents*, supra, the court, in requiring that a Negro admitted to a white graduate school be treated like all other students, again resorted to intangible considerations: "...his ability to study, engage in discussions and exchange views with other students, and, in general, to learn his profession."

Such considerations apply with added force to children in grade and high schools. To separate them from others of similar age and qualifications solely because of their race generates a feeling of inferiority as to their status in the community that may affect their hearts and minds in a way unlikely to ever be undone.

Racial segregation with the sanction of law,

therefore has a tendency to retard the educational and mental development of Negro children and to deprive them of some of the benefits they would receive in a racially integrated school system."

Whatever may be the extent of psychological knowledge at the time of *Plessy v. Ferguson*, the finding is amply supported by modern authority. Language in *Plessy* and *Ferguson* contrary to this finding is rejected.

We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of "separate but equal" has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal. Therefore, we hold that the plaintiffs and similarly situated for whom the actions have been brought are, by reason of segregation compliance, deprived of the protection of the Fourteenth Amendment.

Because these actions, because of the applicability of this doctrine and because of the variety of local conditions, these cases present problems of considerable complexity. reargument, the consideration of appropriate relief was necessarily subordinated to the question—the constitutionality of segregation in public education.

We have now announced that such segregation, denial of the equal protection of the laws."

In reading the opinion, Warren cited arguments of particular import in their decision. The first was the testimony offered in cases in Carolina, Kansas, Delaware that segregation

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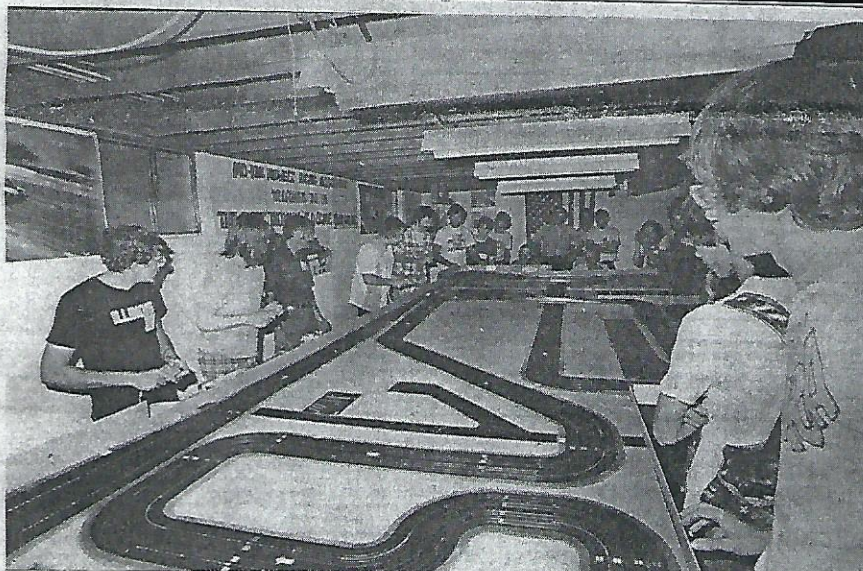
# INTER CITY NEWS

".....The only Homeowned Newspaper in Independence".....

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**FINAL HEATS** of the first national slot car races held here last weekend pitted contenders from Michigan, Canada, California, and Illinois in a gruelling race to the finish. The scale model cars

reach speeds that would be equivalent to 1500 miles per hour based on life-size standards as they travel a lap distance equivalent to two miles.

## Drama attends slot car nationals here

The engines don't roar, the tires don't smoke, and the drivers never get killed, but the fans of slot car racing generate the same excitement felt at the Indianapolis 500—in miniature, of course.

Last weekend about 100 slot car buffs descended on Independence for one of the biggest events in the sport's history—the first national "H.O. scale" slot car race. From California to Kentucky they came, with contestants entered from Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Connecticut, Indiana, Washington, Missouri, Kansas, and even Montreal, Canada.

In all, 33 hobbyists pitted their skills in the meet, with the uninitiated might consider it a "hot wheels" racing craze which swept the nation a few years ago.

Compared to slot cars, however, hot wheels are a poor cousin.

Precision workmanship and engineering design is of utmost importance in the construction of a slot car, and when the contenders arrived in Independence the "pit" area was soon strewn with jeweler's drills and lathes, micrometers, and a vast array of other finely tooled paraphernalia.

An exact scale of one to 87

was followed in all the design is of utmost importance in the construction of a slot car, and when the contenders arrived in Independence the "pit" was soon strewn with jeweler's drills and lathes, micrometers, and a vast array of other finely tooled paraphernalia.

An exact scale of one to 87 was followed in all the design of the entries, including the most minute details such as racing numbers or Champion sparuplug decals.

An 8-page booklet detailed the dimensions and running gear permissible for the event, even specifying

criteria for the car interior, to wit:

"All open cockpit cars must have a realistically appearing driver head and arms. The driver must be situated in an appropriate position with a realistically appearing interior. Open cockpit cars must also carry a head high rollbar that is strong enough to support the weight of the car."

Similar to the fiberglass bodies common on today's racing cars, the slot car bodies are generally made of clear light-weight plastic, with the most common body style being the Aurora A-FX. The maximum per-

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## State funds received by community theatre

The Independence Community Theatre has been allocated \$2,000 on a matching basis by the Missouri State Council on the Arts for technical assistance, including salaries of directors, designers and technicians.

Mrs. Shirley R. Odneal, theatre president, received notification of the funding from Ms. Emily Rice, executive director of the state council.

"This allocation answers a long-felt need for additional professional assistance," Mrs. Odneal said. "It will intensify our efforts to increase membership for the 1975-76 season, and to raise additional funds for costumes, sets and building improvements."

The theatre rents the Old Firehouse at Truman and Main from the City of Independence, scheduling five adult and three children's

plays each year, in addition to a Halloween play, continuous performance during the fall Santa Gon celebration of adult and children's s

The theatre has also plans to outlying school clubs in Eastern Jackson County. "Our purpose is to provide quality theater for an audience, and to develop appreciation of drama through training children and people. We provide an opportunity for artistic participation, communication between ages and ethnic groups, hope to add to our repertoire of special performance professional the groups."

The funding is for performance undertaken between July 1975 and June 30, 1976. Matching funds must be raised during the period