

"Average Town Folks"

Editor of the Daily News:

I see by the paper that Mayor Roach wants to know what Greensburgers think about those "protest" demonstrations at lunch counters in the city recently.

I am not a citizen of Greensboro, but during the several months that I have lived and worked there, at different times, I learned that people who live in Greensboro are just about average North Carolina "town folks."

That would mean that there are a few congenital do-gooders among them who would take sides with the devil, if they thought the old boy were being imposed upon, and some Bible-quoters who "search the Scriptures" for passages that can be used in their arguments.

There are also some, as everywhere, with their eyes focused on the main chance, people who are careful to note on which side their bread is buttered. But the great majority are level-headed persons.

These are people who believe in North Carolina and Greensboro and respect the state and city laws, customs and regulations. They do not condone trespass simply because the trespassers happen to be Negroes.

If a band of white persons should organize and invade private property for the purpose of forcing its owners to comply with demands of the organization, the average Greensboro resident undoubtedly would demand that the trespassers be arrested.

They recognize the right of any person to protest verbally against any law, and to try to convert others to his point of view, but they would hardly concede anyone the right to protest by disobeying the law.

A band of white people pursuing the same tactics that were employed by Negroes at lunch counters reserved for certain customers would have no federal protection, such as the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which was designed to override state laws for the special benefit of Negroes.

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