

## Jet Airliner Misses Runway

AMSTERDAM (AP) — A Pan American World Airways DC8 jet airliner overshot the runway when landing at Schiphol Airport today. It ploughed an 800-foot furrow across the grass but airport officials reported that none of the crew or 20 passengers was hurt.

# Negro Boy, Girl Here Quietly Attend VSC

## First Of Race Enter School Without Any Disturbances

By TENNEY GRIFFIN

Almost 300 freshmen, including two Negroes, have started their college careers at Valdosta State College. The Negro boy and girl are the first of their race to attend the school here.

Freshmen reported Tuesday afternoon for their first assembly program and the Negro students quietly took their places among white students.

There were no demonstrations or disturbances as George Pierce, 18, and Drennell Thomas, 17, were first to desegregate the four-year unit of the Georgia University System.

Both of Valdosta, the two Negroes arrived at the college gymnasium at 2 p.m. Tuesday after most of the other students had taken their seats in the VSC gymnasium.

They were brought to the rear of the gym by a Negro adult, but went alone to near the front entrance of the building. There Dr. Louis Sosbee, dean of students, escorted them into the building.

Pierce took an aisle seat on the back row and Drennell sat immediately in front of him on the next to back row. On their left were white male students.

Both were neatly dressed. The boy had on a dark suit and the Negro girl wore a pink cotton dress.

This morning they attended an assembly program of the school's Student Government Association, this time taking seats nearer the front. Today and Tuesday they kept mostly to themselves.

Most of the VSC students appeared unconcerned, that their class was the first to be integrated at the college.

College officials, however, were concerned but this later gave way to nervous relief when for all outward appearances it was just another routine start of the college year.

Pierce and Drennell were voluntarily admitted to VSC. There was no court order forcing college officials to accept them.

Valdosta State College is the third school here to accept Negro students this fall. The Valdosta Area Vocational - Trade School admitted two Negroes on Sept. 5 and a parochial school, St. John the Evangelist Catholic School, admitted five Negroes on Sept. 3. There have been no disorders at either of these schools.

In greeting the freshman class of 288, VSC President Dr. J. Ralph Thaxton urged tolerance and acceptance of the young Negroes.

As he told the students of the See Attend VSC — Page 2

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Negro Boy and Girl Sit Quietly Among White Students at VSC Freshman Assembly Program — Times Staff Photo

# Chamber Leaders Back Bi-Racial Committee

## 3-Pronged Endorsement Given Unanimous Approval

By REMER TYSON

The Chamber of Commerce board of directors here today gave unanimous support to a bi-racial committee in Valdosta.

The chamber directors approved, without a dissenting vote a three-pronged endorsement of the group formed recently to solve racial problems here peacefully and in the best interest of both Negroes and white persons.

The motion commended those persons responsible for formation of the bi-racial committee, work already done by the group, and pledged cooperation toward the committee's success.

The endorsement came at the request of Comer Cherry, who served as moderator of the first meeting at the bi-racial committee.

Cherry told the 20 chamber di-

rectors at the meeting that public reaction to the bi-racial committee surprisingly has been overwhelming favorable.

"The deeper I get into this," said Cherry, "the more I see it is tied to our economy, our pocketbooks, as well as our culture."

He pointed out among primary purposes of the chamber is to promote industrial development and community selling.

Cherry declared, "We feel the time will come, and it will come soon, when we will need the community to know we are backed by the Chamber of Commerce, the

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## WHAT'S WHAT?

*A Valdosta teen-ager is taking pains to see that polio is not going to interfere with her wedding bells.*

*A pretty 19-year-old Valdosta file clerk went to work today with her arm suspended in mid-air.*

*She had just come from the doctor's office where she received her polio shot booster.*

*The young lass is planning to tie the matrimonial knot in December. If anything halts the occasion its not going to be the lack of polio shots.*

## CAB Is Asked To Approve Airline Route

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

The Valdosta Chamber of Commerce has asked the Civil Aeronautics Board to approve a proposed Southern Airways schedule to give Valdosta east-west flight service.

The chamber's board of directors today adopted a resolution requesting the CAB to approve a regularly scheduled flight between Jacksonville, Fla., and New Orleans, La.

The resolution called for stops between the terminal points at Valdosta, Tallahassee, Pensacola, Mobile, and Gulf Port, Miss.

# VOTED LIECE



# —Attend VSC

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first desegregation, Dr. Thaxton said, "This is the most serious comment I have ever made to a group of students."

He said the college accepted the Negro boy and girl because they met all the qualifications for a d m i s s i o n. About 20 Negroes sought admission to VSC, said Thaxton, but the others did not meet scholastic qualifications.

He said, "We decided to go along with the reputation Valdosta has gained in racial relations," and pointed out the quiet desegregation of the public library here and trade school.

Thaxton reviewed the history of college desegregation in Georgia and pointed out that since a federal court order forced integration of the University of Georgia, several other units of the system have voluntarily accepted Negro students.

The VSC president told the freshman assembly, "There has been no problem with race relations here in Valdosta and I am thankful nothing happened and this program got underway without incident."

He said, however, college officials are ready to deal with any problem. There were two Valdosta police officers on the campus Tuesday, but other law officers were alerted on a standby basis.

Thaxton pointed out he was brought up in the Southern tradition of segregation but believed in adherence to law.

Following preliminaries, freshmen took tests and were given instructions for beginning classes on Monday. Freshmen are to register on Thursday.

Both the Negro students were graduated with honors this past June from Valdosta's Pinevale High School for Negroes.

According to Dr. Thaxton, Pierce is interested in taking a pre-dental course and Drennell will take a course in social studies.