

A Quiet Denouement

What began quietly at a Greensboro variety store lunch counter six months ago—and then mushroomed into the South's most explosive issue—ended quietly at the same location this week.

At the strictly local level Greensboro and several other Southern communities faced up to the lunch counter crisis. But ultimately the decision to serve customers at all counters regardless of race came from management. It was a top-level decision based on economic considerations. There was no fuss and furor. Negroes did not request service en masse. They came as individuals and they were served as individuals. The sky did not fall.

What can the community learn from this episode?

It can learn that what appear to be

tough, insoluble problems often work out with the passage of time.

It can learn that community leadership properly exerted and extended is indispensable.

The community owes thanks to the Mayor's Advisory Committee, a group of wise businessmen who saw the need for change and made their beliefs known with courage.

The community owes thanks to the forbearance and patience of leaders in the Negro community who worked across racial lines for moderation and understanding.

And finally the community can congratulate itself for providing an environment in which even the toughest human relations problems are discussed with candor and, more often than not, are solved in an atmosphere of good will.