

Cedar Grove's new principal ready to work

By Donna Williams Lewis
Staff Writer

By the time Gyuri Nemeth turned 17 years old, he and his Hungarian family had been struggling for approval to migrate to the U.S. for more than four years.

Finally reaching the U.S. from Turkey in 1956, Nemeth overcame language barriers to eventually earn a doctoral degree in educational administration and work as an assistant dean at Georgia State University and then at the University of South Carolina.

But one of Nemeth's greatest career dreams will come true in September. At that time, he will become a DeKalb County high school principal.

"I have some fear, a lot of excitement and a lot of enthusiasm," Nemeth said.

It was somewhat difficult to leave the collegiate environment to work in a place "where the bell governs your lifestyle," Nemeth admitted.

"But it was important for me to

be involved in the real profession. The contribution that you make is far more realistic," he said. "Universities are somewhat removed. I'm trained to be an educator and I want to practice it."

As for the difference in paychecks, "If you're thinking of education, you should not consider salary," said Nemeth, whose two children attend school in the Redan district. "What I don't get in salary, I get in pride and public satisfaction."

But laughing sheepishly, he added, "I'm glad I received this promotion because it was getting kind of tight."

His plans for Cedar Grove High School were summed up in seven words.

"I want to make it a showcase," Nemeth said, smiling broadly but sounding very serious. "Unless you try to be the best, I don't think you should try it."

Nemeth paid his dues for the job he will take over in fall. He has worked as an administrative assistant at Tucker High School since 1980.

He said he liked his job there which often extended way into the night and on weekends.

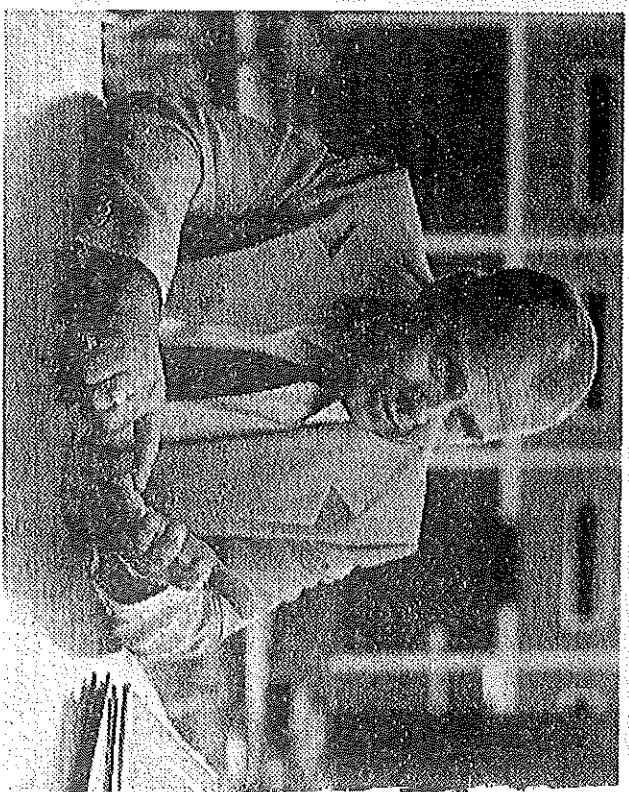
By attending almost every school activity and parent meeting, he eventually got to know more than half of the 1,500-member student body by full name and most of the other students on a first-name basis, Nemeth said.

"It took sheer hard work" to remember the names, Nemeth said. "There are no shortcuts."

The students remembered him, too. The 1983 graduating class dedicated its yearbook to Nemeth and the 1984 graduating class asked him to deliver the class baccalaureate address.

Other educators said they believe the faculty and students at Cedar Grove are going to be pleased with their new principal.

"I think a year from right now, they are going to feel that this is one of the best things that ever happened to Cedar Grove High School," said Alan Zubay, director of staff development for the school system.



Gyuri Nemeth is excited about his new post. (Photo — Billy Downs)

*DeKalb Extra
July 19, 1984*



'Keep It Clean' Playing At Cedar Grove

Bouldercrest Homemakers Club presented a video, "Keep It Clean," to Cedar Grove Elementary School. Betty Pothier, vice president, presented the video to Jim Lally, lead teacher, and Betty Smart, principal as students and club members looked on. Shown are front (l-r), Faith Sewell, Erica Arnold, Betty Pothier, Antonio Johnson and Ranriquis Smith; Back row, Marjorie Baker, Donna Hardin, Emma Ava Johnson, Jim Lally, Betty Smart and Elizabeth Light.

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Cedar Grove Elk

1/16/91

The Dekaik News Paper



She Remembers

Mrs. Fay Clark is a walking-talking history of the last 90 years of the still somewhat rural Cedar Grove community of south DeKalb. She remembers classes in the one-room school house near her home and hopes that the offer of the Cedar Grove Methodist Church to give the building to a new owner will save it for future years.



Once A School

Mrs. Fay Clark and her daughter, Mildred Pouncey, stand before the porch of the Cedar Grove Community Center, Bouldercrest Road, formerly the community's one-room school building. The building will



Boys On One Side, Girls The Other At Cedar Grove One-room School

By HELEN ORDNER

Kids everywhere are savoring the end of summer and preparing themselves for the return to classes.

Schools have changed, but kids have had these same mixed feelings since the days of the one-room schoolhouse, according to Mrs. J.W. Clark. A lifelong resident of the Cedar Grove Community, she can recall the anticipation of going back to school. A far cry from today's children, she spent the summers working with her family in the cotton fields.

Mrs. Clark, who was Fay Moore when she started school in Cedar Grove's one-room schoolhouse in 1899, lived just across the road.

all the brand name fashions to prepare for back to school then, but they had their own rituals.

For special occasions, young Fay's mother would curl her blond hair around paper strips fastened with straight pins. Later, there was a curling iron warmed in the glass chimney of a lamp.

Girls then wore layers of petticoats, "miles around," which were starched stiff and ironed with a flat iron heated in the fireplace — covering their one-piece "teddies."

Middy blouses were the fad, along with high-button shoes. She had one pair for school, one for Sundays. Her father attached new soles to shoes for his eight

school house is uncertain. Those who care for it hope to find a new owner who will move it — a happy ending like the one which emerged recently for the antebellum Towers-Fowler-Thompson house on Rockbridge Road. The church is willing to give it to a new owner.

"It's in the way of progress," says Bob O'Neil, chairman of the Cedar Grove United Methodist Church's buiding committee. The building will probably be demolished no later than October 1.

Anyone who can move the sturdy old building and find a new purpose for it may telephone Mr. O'Neil at 241-6333.

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BOYS SAT on one side of the building and girls on the other, back in those days. A partition ran between the two sexes, but it did not prevent their throwing wadded-up paper balls at each other, she recalls.

Girls had a bucket of well water and a dipper on their side of the room, as the boys did on theirs.

Up the hill was a "two-hole privy," a luxury provided only for girls.

Kids "were supposed to be studying" while the teacher taught other classes, Mrs. Clark said. She can recall, though, that seated near the long windows you could see droves of cattle being driven down East McDonough Road (now Bouldercrest) to market, or watch clouds blowing about in imaginative patters.

The teacher, a Mr. Jackson, sat on a raised stage at the front of the school, overlooking his whole domain. He maintained discipline with the free use of a switch and began classes with morning prayer and Bible readings.

Scholars in those days carried a tin syrup bucket with a cold sweet potato for lunch, or Mrs. Clark says, "they poked a hole in a biscuit and poured syrup in it." Her family had lunch at home as they lived so near.

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MRS. CLARK is now a spirited 91-year-old great grandmother and devoted Braves fan, who still lives within a half-mile of her birthplace and the school she attended for seven years.

She still does exquisite needlework which is evident throughout her comfortable two-story home. She had scant time for an interview as she was itching to be in the kitchen where she was in the midst of canning tomatoes.

Her roots are deep within the Cedar Grove community which was settled by her ancestors, the Morris and Moore families. Her life has revolved about the Methodist Church there and the school in its changing roles.

Believed to be the only one-room school still in existence in DeKalb County, it was formed after her grandfather, Garrett L. Morris, deeded property for a school for \$25 to the early-day Cedar Grove Methodist Church. It sits on the grounds of the church which was founded by another ancestor, John Morris.

In later years, the school has served as a community center, but membership has dwindled.

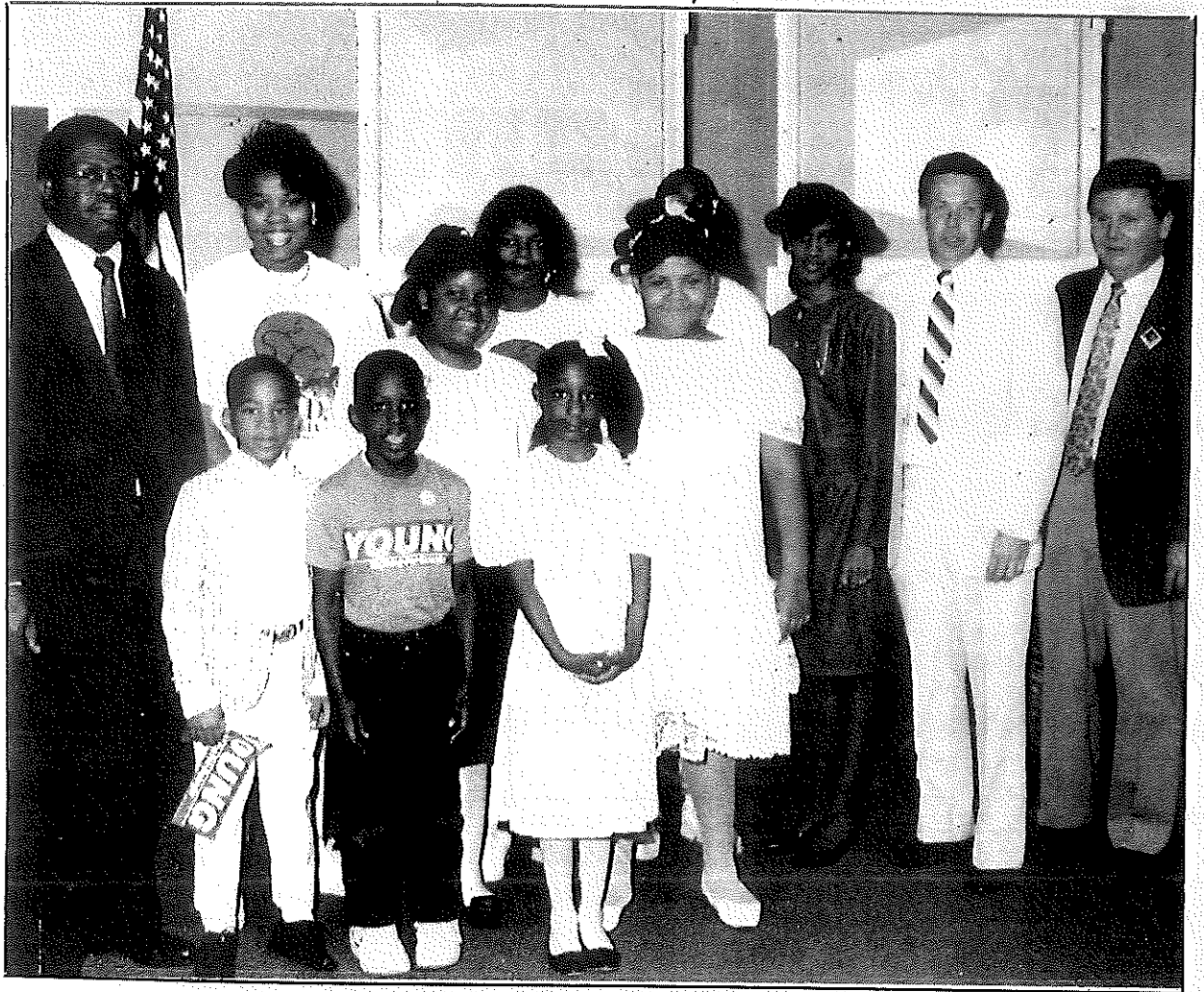
Mrs. Clark shares recollections of school days with her former classmate, Maud Moore Hardin of Cedar Grove, Mrs. Hardin's husband, Arnold, and her sister, Ruth Moore Dobbs. They have seen Cedar Grove change from an insulated community of dairies and farms, as suburbia has continued to edge into its once-open fields.

THE FUTURE of the old

Cedar Grove

DeKalb News/Sun

8/15/90



Winners Of Essay Contest Honored

Students from Cedar Grove Elementary School recently visited DeKalb College to collect awards they received as winners of an essay contest sponsored by the college's South Campus. In the first row, from left, are Rajae Mujahid, Kelvin Perryman and Dawn Gordon; second row: South Campus Associate Dean Harry Holley, Student Government President Vivian Dozier, Jovita Gardner and Dan-

ielle Pearson. In back are student government representatives Jill Brewer, Linda Streater and Chandra Etchison, Instructional Lead Teacher Jim Lally of Cedar Grove, and Dr. Fred Hill, DeKalb College Dean of Development. South Campus has adopted Cedar Grove through the Partners in Education program.

8/15/90 *Dakota News/In*

Cedar Grove students to don uniforms this fall

By Dot Baker
Cedar Grove Elementary School in Ellenwood may begin a fashion trend when the doors open later this month. Its students will be the first in DeKalb County public schools to wear uniforms.

According to Mrs. Lucretia Davis, the idea for uniforms originated when she and several other parents began talking at a school event. "We all agreed that we'd like to get the children's minds on academics, instead of their being concerned about what they were wearing."

Mrs. Davis said some schools in New Jersey began requiring uniforms two or three years ago, with gratifying results. "Snobbery does exist. Even children in kindergarten are aware of brand names. And that child wearing the brand name clothes may think he or she is better than those who aren't."

"With uniforms, the 'haves' won't know who the 'have-nots' are. Everybody will be on the same level."

A survey, taken last September, revealed that 74 percent of the parents favored uniforms. Mrs. Davis said, "We considered that a high percentage and with that in mind, we went for it." Working with her on the uniform committee were Mr. and Mrs. Michael Ingram and Pat Lee.

A questionnaire sent home to the parents noted that "some parents and faculty have expressed concerns over the numerous distractions affecting our children's ability to focus on academics... The purpose of the uniform committee is to address the issue of peer pressure in keeping up with the latest fashion trends."

The parents were asked to express their opinions on whether they would "strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree" that uniforms might: 1. Reduce peer pressure. 2. Give pride and dignity for one's school. 3. Give pride and dignity for one's self. 4. Ease in recognition. 5. Be cost effective. 6. Teach a sense of responsibility. 7. Sense of community.

Most "strongly agreed" that uniforms would reduce peer pressure, and "agreed" that they would give students a sense of pride, dignity, and community, and that they were cost effective.

A majority of the parents were in favor of school uniforms.

The Backhead Men's Shop was asked to bring several uniform choices to the school, and at the April PTA meeting, the parents selected the yellow and navy combinations that will be worn by the students, beginning August 22.

The boys will wear tough-skin navy pants and yellow polo shirts.

The girls from kindergarten to third grade will wear yellow blouses with Peter Pan collars, navy blue-yellow-and-white plaid jumpers, navy socks and dark shoes.

Girls from fifth to seventh grade will wear pale yellow Oxford blouses, with kick-pleat skirts and dark shoes.

The fourth grade girls have a choice of jumpers or skirts. The jumpers that parents buy when their girls begin kindergarten are practical. They're designed to be worn three years, by letting out tucks. Some parents may want to invest in skirts for their fourth graders, to be ready for the next year.



Photo by Dot Baker

Amanda Johnson, daughter of Herman and Gloria Johnson, is ready for kindergarten, and Michael Davis, son of Ernest and Lucretia Davis, is all set for first grade, in their new Cedar Grove Elementary School uniforms of navy blue and yellow.

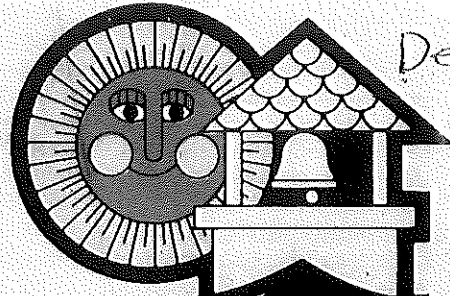
The girls will wear ties with their outfits. The boys have the option of wearing ties.

It's expected that two uniforms will take a child through the school year. Mrs.

Davis said, "I can't help but think that uniforms are going to be a relief to lots of parents. They'll save time shopping, and in the long run, they're more economical."

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8-22-84



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