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Staff Photo—Marion Crowe

HISTORY EXHIBITS WILL HANG IN SCHOOL HALLS  
Principal Joe Renfro Examines Documents

# Halls Will Teach At Heritage School

By DOROTHY NIX

"A child can't learn much walking down a bare hallway looking at chnderblock and tile," says Joe Renfro, principal of Heritage Elementary School, a new DeKalb school scheduled to open its doors this spring.

He plans for the hallways of the school to be as much an instruction area as the classrooms. Students at Heritage will be able to read the history of their community, their state and their country as they walk down the corridors.

The idea of making the school a showplace for history came from the name of the school — named for its location on Heritage Drive in the Echo Woods neighborhood.

"I was amazed at the response I received when I began writing here and there for material," Mr. Renfro says. Already he has received hundreds of items including copies of documents, letters, maps and portraits.

"THESE WILL be hung in chronological order so the child can see where he is located in respect to history."

A collection of 28 documents called a "Freedom Shrine" which has been assembled by the Exchange Clubs of America will be hung in the main hall of the school. These include the Mayflower Compact and other documents down to the surrender of the Japanese in the Pacific in World War II. They have been given through the Breakfast Exchange Club of Atlanta.

ing all a new school needed in the way of equipment was a well bucket and a broom.

AS A FURTHER link with the past, the principal is training a group in square dancing. They'll be known as the Heritage Chloggers. Dressed in authentic costumes of early America, the children will dance the old square dances of the past.

He also hopes to re-enact some of the customs and traditions of old-time schools such as "The Turn-Out" when the schoolmaster was barred from the school. This would work out ideally on the annual Field Day which most schools hold in the spring, he believes.

Mr. Renfro said a group of mothers has organized to learn the art of decoupage so that the copies of documents can be made to look old and authentic. He said Mrs. Daniel R. Boltz will teach such a class. Mothers assisting in the work will be Mrs. George L. Bullard, Mrs. James L. Mitchell, Mrs. Simen Hidding and Mrs. James P. Byrd.

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