

# Flashback...



## Redan School Days — 1920

Students and teachers at Redan School gathered for a class picture on the front steps in 1920. That picture has been preserved by Mrs. H.E. Philips of Redan. Shown in the front row, (l-r) are Margaret Leftwich, Udez Bryant, Audrey Pounds, Irene Duren, and Elsie Floyd; second row, Martha Floyd, Lillie Maude Owens, Eva Pearl Jenkins, Bonnie

Howell and Josephine Holt. In the third row are Curtis Rice, C.B. Walden, Ruth Burgess, Annie Ward Gresham and Ila May Jenkins; fourth row, Lyle Carr, Coleman Skelton and the teacher, Mrs. Jett Biffle. If you have pictures from the past suitable for Flashback, bring them to 739 DeKalb Industrial Way, Decatur, 30033. All photographs will be returned.

*DeKalb News Sun 7/5/89*



**World War 1 Vintage School Days**

School days in 1915 were captured in this photograph which shows seventh and eighth grade students at Redan School. The picture belongs to Mrs. J.C. George, pictured in her school days as Buna Loy Wellborn. In the first row (l-r) are Grace Holt, Catherine Johnson, Buna Loy Wellborn, Eugene Philips, Merla McMichael, Floy Gresham, Lucy Dinkler, Pauline Mathews, Mary Holt, J.B. Gres-

ham, Ruby Nolan and Cleo Nelms. In the second row are Carl Harris, Frank Philips, Charlie Philips, Latre Johnson, Coe McMichael, Lewis Matthews, Roy Waldron, and John Wagoner, principal. If you have a picture from olden days, bring it to Flashback, 739 DeKalb Industrial Way, Decatur Ga. 30033. All Photographs will be returned.

DeKalb News/Sun 5/8/85

# 400 Overcapacity Kids In 120-year-old Redan

By HELEN ORDNER

Redan Elementary School, according to its principal, is an old, old building, one addition on top of another addition.

"We've just worn it out," Dr. James Bryant said of the 120-year old building, one of the oldest of DeKalb schools. It was erected before the Civil War, back when Atlanta was called Terminus, and nearby Stone Mountain was called New Gibraltar.

It is also one of the most crowded of DeKalb schools. With 1,004 students and a staff of 72, it is 400 to 450 kids overcapacity, according to Dr. Bryant. Children and teachers shuttle in and out to nine portable classrooms added after interior space could stretch no further.

Despite the pupil/teacher ratio of 26-to-one which DeKalb strives for, one teacher there is more likely to be actually responsible for 28 children. Dr. Bryant could legally give a lower number, he said, following standards allowed for accreditation purposes, but 28 is the practical figure.

The kids just keep on moving in. Subdivisions with their decks and two-car garages in rows have risen where corn fields were before.

While Dr. Bryant doesn't recommend a school being so jam-packed, he is determined that crowded conditions won't dampen the program.

He recalled that his own child went to first grade with 94 in a room, and that by fourth grade those youngsters scored second

highest in the state. "My contention," he commented, "is that with dedicated teachers, you can do it. We're bursting at the seams, but we don't let that hold us back. Our philosophy is they are here, they deserve the best."

REDAN is the closest thing to a middle school DeKalb has at this point, according to Dr. Bryant. "Inside this old building are some of the most beautiful programs I've ever seen."

Redan is offering the pilot middle school program which includes two years of a foreign language, two years typing, home economics, media training, career education, photography and six hours credit in environmental education.

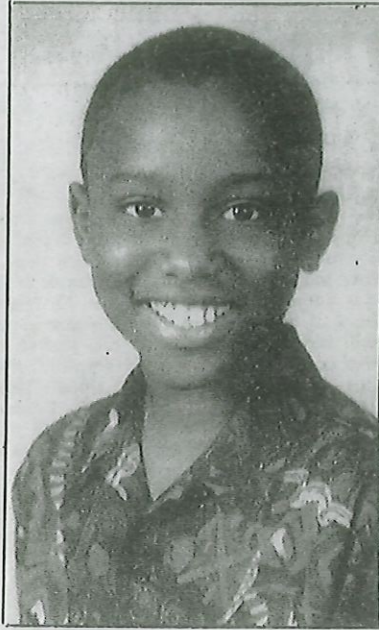
"Every child that leaves is going to have some positive experience to remember," Dr. Bryant said.

One factor the principal feels contributes to the school's success is community support. The PTA provided playground equipment costing \$35,000 and usually adopts a major project each year.

A creative, dedicated faculty also contributes to the school's success, Dr. Bryant said. Many of their ideas are spawned when the staff gathers for breakfast in the early morning. They represent 48 colleges and 18 states.

One advantage of a big student body, according to the principal, is the number of specialists and teaching aides to which the school becomes entitled.

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**Musical Talents  
Win Talent Show**

Redan Elementary fifth grade student James L. Cage, III won first place in the school talent show. The winning selection was the Grieg Piano Concerto arranged by Allan Small. James has studied piano for three years with Laurpearl Long at The Soapstone Center for the Arts. James is the son of James and Barbara Cage.

## **Mrs. R.F. Sipsy President At Redan School**

Mrs. Robert F. Sipsy was installed as president of the Redan Elementary School PTA at a meeting Monday night.

Mrs. Wendell Green was named vice president; Mrs. Jimmy Austin, treasurer; and Mrs. Steve Bozeman, secretary.

A gymnastics team composed of sixth and seventh graders performed on the trampoline, mini-tramp and bars. They have also presented programs at Rock Chapel school and Dunaire school.

It was reported that the PTA has raised \$600 for physical education equipment this past year. Fund-raising events included a spring festival and auction.

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