

Snapfinger Principal Receives \$25,000 Award



(L-R) Crawford Lewis and State Superintendent of Schools Werner Rogers

Crawford Lewis, principal at Snapfinger Elementary School, DeKalb County School System, is the recipient of a 1994 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award and the accompanying financial award of \$25,000.

Lewis learned of the honor accorded him during a surprise visit from State Superintendent of Schools Werner Rogers, DeKalb County School Superintendent Robert Freeman and representatives of DeKalb County Schools.

Lewis is one of five Georgia educators selected this year by the Georgia Department of Education to receive this national award and one of 150 nationally to be similarly honored in 1994. Lewis had no idea he was being considered for a Milken Educator Award.

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Principal, Crawford Lewis Receives Award

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Lewis has been principal at Snapfinger since 1990. Prior to that time, he was a teacher, assistant principal and principal at Montgomery Elementary School in DeKalb from 1977 to 1990. He was recognized as DeKalb County Principal of the Year in 1993, a member of Leadership DeKalb class of 1993-94 and on the advisory committee for DeKalb 2000 in 1992-93.

Lewis is known as an exceptional planner. His school, a 1994 Georgia School of Excellence, is a science magnet in DeKalb County and has a waiting list for students wanting to enroll. Parental involvement at Snapfinger has increased to the point that the PTA must meet on two nights to accommodate the number of families who want to participate.

The Milken Educator Awards, an annual program established in California in 1987, are designed to give public recognition and financial reward to outstanding K-12 teachers, principals and other education professionals who make exemplary contributions to excellence in education. The program's goal is to elevate the entire profession by increasing public support and recognition of outstanding educators who make significant contributions toward the education of children.

The Milken Educators Awards program rotates annually between elementary school educators and secondary school educators. In 1994, recipients are elementary school educators; and, in 1995, awards will go to middle, junior high and high school educators.



SNAPPINGER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HISTORY

***1365 Snappinger Road
Decatur, Georgia 30032***

Snappinger Elementary School opened its doors for the first time in the autumn of 1964 with a staff of fifteen teachers. Since that time, it has increased in population and size to embrace 1200 students and more than 100 faculty members, making it one of the largest schools in the DeKalb County School System. It is also one of the few schools to offer instruction to students from pre-kindergarten through seventh grade. The Magnet Program at Snappinger provides an enriched curriculum of foreign language, mathematics, science, and technology studies for students in grades four through seven.

The philosophy at Snappinger Elementary School states that every child can learn regardless of personal circumstance or ability level, and every effort is made to assist students in achieving their instructional goals. This effort involves not only the staff, faculty, and administration of the school, but also members of the community and our adopters, Kaiser Permanente.

Snappinger Elementary was recognized as A Georgia School of Excellence in 1994, and as a National Drug Free School in 1995. Shari Britner, a seventh grade science teacher was the first teacher in DeKalb County to receive National Teacher Certification.

Mrs. Jacquelyne B. Carr is the principal, and she is assisted by Mr. Richard Reid, the assistant principal, Mrs. Kimberly Trankina, the instructional lead teacher, Mrs. Joyce Harris and Mr. Al Pride, the counselors.



162,000 increase in pupils expected

By BILL SCHEMMEL
Times Staff Writer

By fall of 1974, 440,000 students are expected to answer the sound of the school bell in Atlanta, according to figures released by school authorities. This would be an increase of 162,000 over the 1963 enrollment of 278,000.

Here is the growth picture—the data gathered from system superintendents:

City of Atlanta (largest system in the state)—Between 3 and 4 thousand pupils are added annually. Present size: 112,831.
Fulton County — Annual expected pupil increase: 1,700. Present size: 31,000.

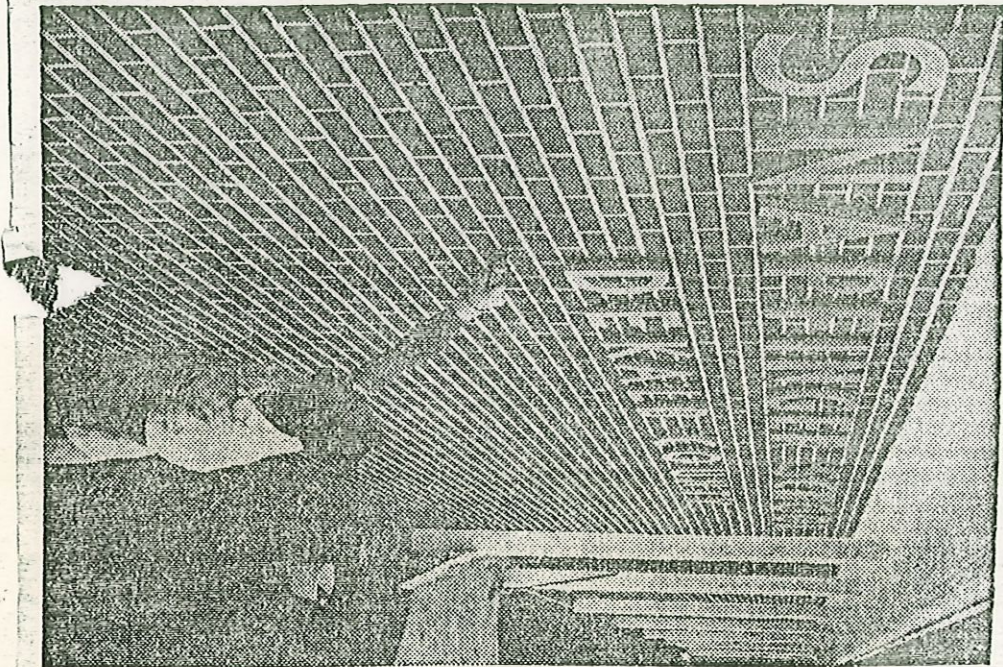
★ DeKalb County — Annual expected pupil increase: 5,000. Present size: 62,000. The system, second largest in the state, has grown 700 per cent since 1947 and, in years to come, is expected to show the largest per-

size: 11,500. Growth has been at nearly 12 per cent a year.

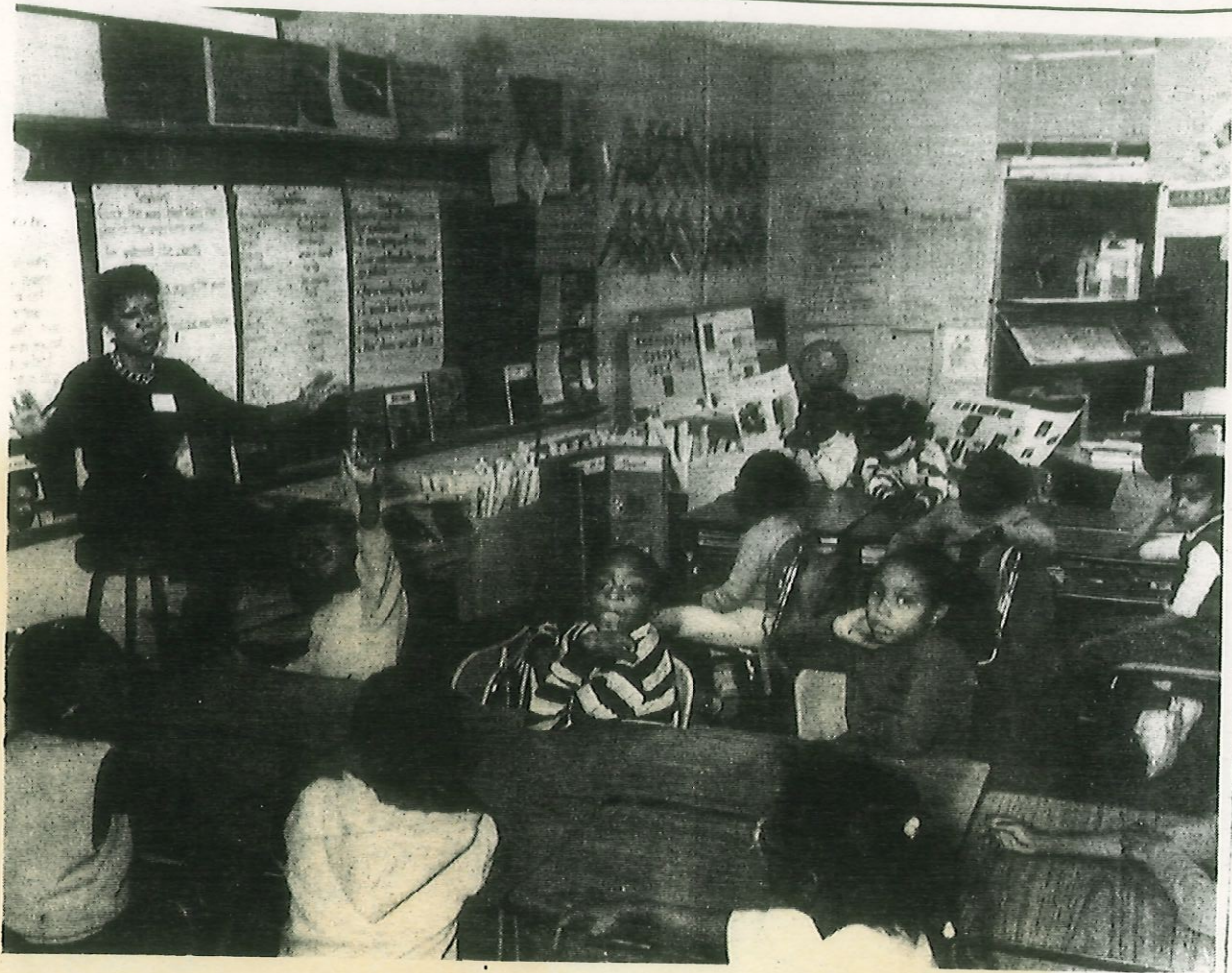
To meet this growth, school construction is progressing as follows:

City of Atlanta—An \$18-million bond issue was approved last year. Seven elementary and two high schools, including Howard High and Vine City High, are in various stages of development. The Atlanta Vocational-Technical School is scheduled to open in September, 1966.

Fulton County — A \$3-million bond issue will be voted on in January. The Eva L. Thomas High School for Negroes in College Park and the final unit of the North Roswell Elementary School will open in September. New elementary schools in Sandy Springs and College Park will be finished in January.
DeKalb County — In September, five elementary and four high schools will be added.



File
SCHOOLS
SNAPP FINGER
ELEMENTARY



Snapfinger students examine careers

Students at Snapfinger Elementary got a chance to think about what they want to be when they grow up at the school's Career Day. Among those participating

were Lynn Vaughn of Cable News Network, who spoke to this class about life as a television journalist. (Staff photo by Richard Bowles)

DeKalb's Crawford Lewis receives national honors

DECATUR DEKALB NEWS/LEADER 9/19/94 PG. 9A

By DEBBIE STRICKLAND

DeKalb County - Snapfinger Elementary Principal Crawford Lewis ought to be used to awards.

His school, which houses a science and technology magnet program, has been honored as one of the top 21 math and science schools in the Southeast and as a Georgia School of Excellence and a national Program of Excellence.

He himself was named the DeKalb County School System's Principal of the Year for 1993-94.

Yet Lewis never experienced anything like the events of last Thursday. The next day, using words like "stunned" and "incredible," he was still smiling about the \$25,000 National Educator Award he received from the Milken Foundation.

Surprise announcement

State Superintendent of Education Werner Rogers had cooked up an elaborate scheme to surprise Lewis with the award.

In arranging the presentation, his staff told Lewis a misleading yarn about the superintendent's wanting to tour Snapfinger as part of a kick-off to the new school year.

"I was totally in the dark," said Lewis.

When the tour group, which included DeKalb officials and six Snapfinger teachers, reached their final stop, at the school's media center, Rogers said, "Let me tell you why we're really here" and presented Lewis with the award.

Lewis has not quite decided how he will spend the \$25,000, but he's certain he won't be buying a car he received a brand new Toyota Camry when he was named Principal of the Year last year.

Educational 'investments'

He said he intends to put some of the money back into the school, perhaps by purchasing media-center equipment or setting up an outdoor classroom, but before making any decision he will seek input from teacher and student committees.

"I want to find a way everybody can benefit," he said.

In addition to investing in the school, Lewis is also considering a personal expenditure to furnish his family's recently purchased Stone Mountain home.

In his three years at Snapfinger, Lewis has spearheaded development of an honors program, along with new clubs for students interested in computers, French, drama, 4-H, and Junior Beta. All these clubs

needed leaders, so he started a program to train students to become effective leaders.

Lewis was quick to share credit for his and the school's accomplishments: "I have the best group of teachers that a principal could hope to work with. They are professional, they are creative, and they help me make decisions and chart the course for the school."

He also cited the student body and Snapfinger's strong PTA, which had to meet on two nights because of the crowds.

Even though at 40 his career is going very well, Lewis has further ambitions. He said he would like to move up to the school system's central office, and mentioned the idea of becoming a superintendent has crossed his mind.

Since graduating from Clark College in 1977, he has never veered from his career in elementary education. He was a teacher at Montgomery Elementary School before becoming assistant principal in 1982 and principal in 1984. Lewis became Snapfinger's principal in 1990.

While teaching and working as an administrator, he earned complete three graduate degrees: a master's degree in education at Georgia State University in 1981; a specialist in education degree in 1985 at GSU and a Ph.D. in education in 1990.

Snapfinger Teacher Nominated To Fernbank Honor Roll

As part of activities associated with National Science and Technology Week 1991, Fernbank Science Center has chosen to honor a local school teacher.

Shari Lynn Britner of Snapfinger Elementary School was chosen by the instructional staff at Fernbank Science Center for her efforts in preparing her students for their visits to the science center and in following up on their visits in her classroom instruction.

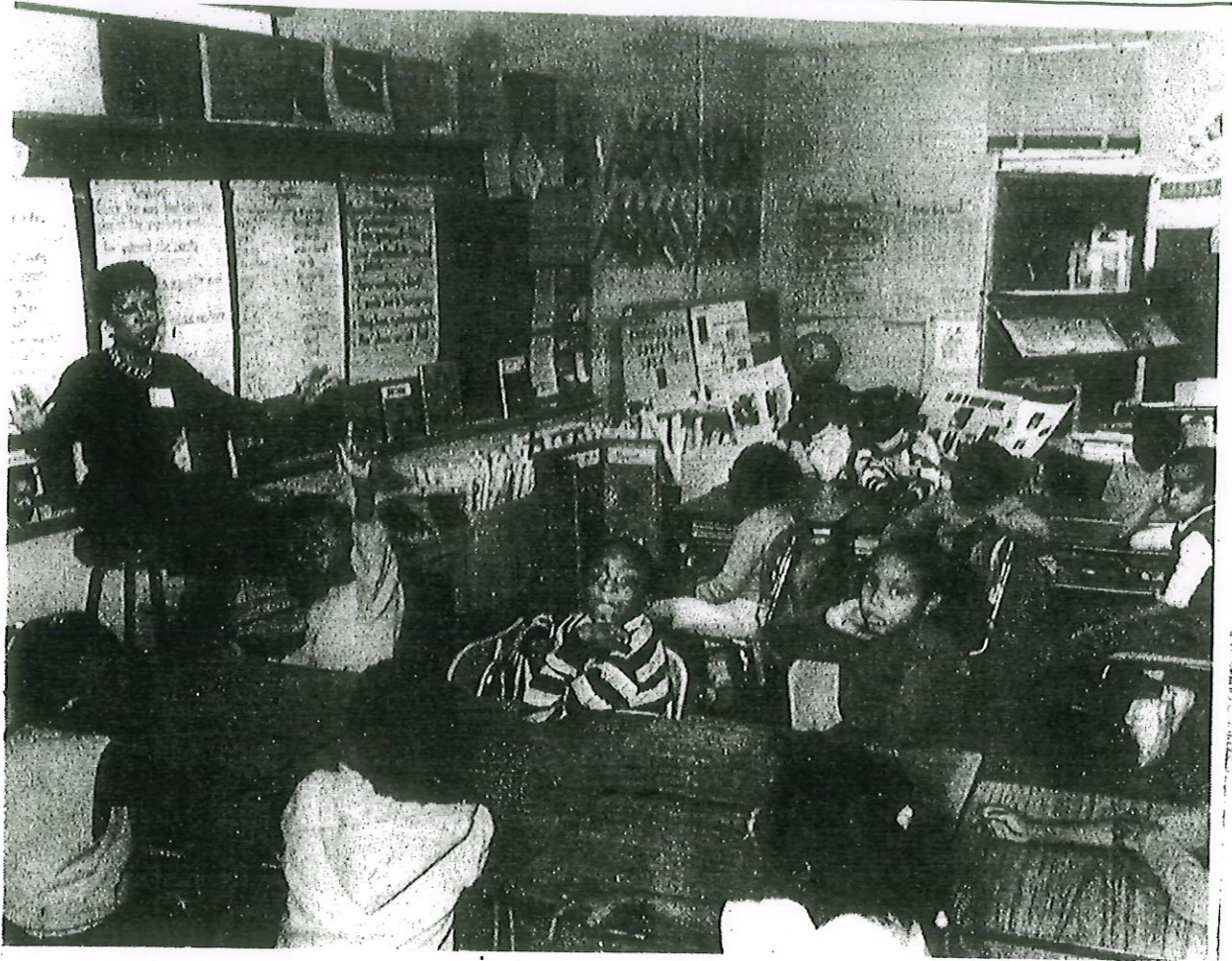
Ms. Britner taught at Wadsworth Elementary School for eight years and is currently teaching 6th grade science in the Snapfinger Academy of Math, Science and Technology. In addition to local honors, Fernbank has



Britner

had Ms. Britner's name on a national Honor Roll compiled by the Association and Technology national organization centers. The names of winners from all over the country are being read into the Congressional record in Washington on April 24 as part of the National Science and Technology Week in the capital.

5/1/91



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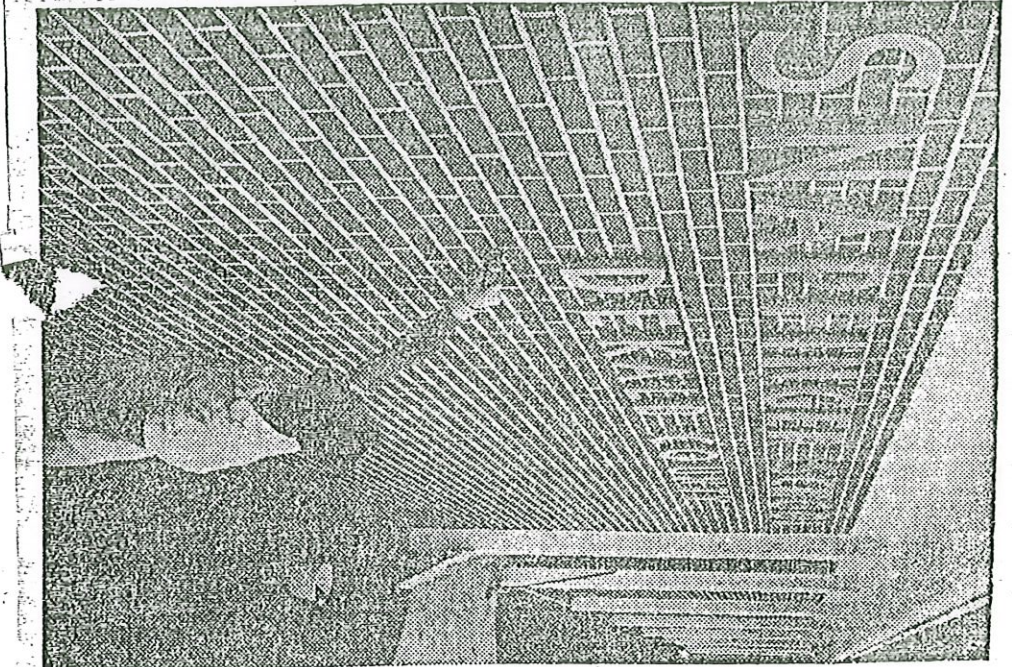
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Snapfinger School Names Officers

Mr. and Mrs. B.E. Card have been installed as co-presidents of the Snapfinger Elementary School PTA.

Mr. and Mrs. Rod Gilardi were named first vice presidents; Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Gastley, second vice presidents; James Deemer, treasurer; Mrs. Paul Pandolfi, recording secretary; and Mrs. C.E. Tolbert, corresponding secretary.

Fourth and fifth grade students, under the direction of Mrs. Jo Grodzicki, presented folk dances for the group.