

FLASHBACK



The year was 1944, and it was the day that the entire faculty of the W.D. Thompson Elementary School on North Druid Hills Road would pose for a formal portrait. A little more than 30 years later, the school building would be demolished, making way for a new shopping center on the corner of North Druid Hills and LaVista roads. The teachers of that day 35 years ago were, sitting, left to right, Miss Randolph [grades 3 and 4]; Mrs. Joye [5-6]; Mrs. Harris, the school's principal and grade 7; Miss Star [1]; and Mrs. Niblack [2, 3 and 4]. The two women at top are PTA president Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Ashe, the lunchroom chief. It is believed that all the women have passed on [we'd like to know otherwise], and this information is centered on Mrs. Niblack, who was 84 years old when she died in 1973. The mother of Tucker attorney Thomas M. Niblack, Mrs. Niblack retired from teaching around 1960, ending a 35-year career. She and her husband, Carlton O. Niblack of Winder, raised two children, Thomas and Martha, who also resides in Tucker. Carlton Niblack, a cotton broker, died in 1935. Mrs. Niblack, whose family still gets telephone calls and letters from students scattered across the United States, was the daughter of J.M. Tumlin, a Methodist preacher, who, at one time, was pastor of the Decatur First Methodist Church. If you have further information on the women in this photograph, let us know. "Flashback" is a regular feature of this newspaper. If you have a photo to contribute, send it to Flashback Editor, c/o DeKalb News-Sun, 739 DeKalb Industrial Way, Decatur 30033. All photos will be returned.

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Subject File: School
 Elementary,
 W. D. Thomson

The Suburban Gazette
 March 18, 1959

They spent the Easter holidays talking through a closed door. Nevertheless, he is now her husband.

That ought to be quite an Easter egg hunt at the home of President and Mrs. Walter Martin of Emory Tuesday.

Youngsters from 3 to 12 — the sons and daughters of faculty members, staff members and students — will comb the spring grass at the president's home, 1722 North Decatur Rd., for the bright eggs.

Assisting the Martins in planning the big party are Mrs. William A. Beardslee and Mrs. L. W. Brock of the Emory Womens' Club.

The kiddies will be unleashed at 4 p. m. and roped again at 5 p. m. In case of rain, the hunt will be held the following day.

You would think he was doing it for a living when you see J. H. Lawrence, of 1123 Clairmont Ave., working eight hours a day in his yard.

But Mr. Lawrence, retired in his sixties from personnel work with the Southeastern Pipe Line, is only doing what he likes to do: cultivating and caring for 1,500 azaleas, 150 camellias and 100 roses, not counting bulbs and shrubs.

Even the dogwood blossoms on his acre-and-over place are exceptional. He once measured one five inches across.

Drama Tip of Day: Susan Snelling, of Medlock, will play the Dormouse in the Children's Civic Theater's presentation of "Alice in Wonderland" at the Atlanta Woman's Club Friday and Saturday.

John, a grand prize winner, although only a sophomore, spent seven week-ends in his sleeping bag on the floor of a Decatur veterinary hospital listening to dogs bark and getting up every hour by the alarm clock to check his dogs.

Two New Pools Will Open Here

You should have a few more yards of water to swim in this summer. Alleviation of crowded conditions in the pools is assured.

Oliver Humphries, director of DeKalb County Parks, says two new pools in this area will be ready for use when summer arrives.

One, back of the Kittredge Elementary School on North Druid Hills Rd., lies within a three-acre park being developed there.

A Little League ball field has already been graded on the site and will be ready for practice sessions next month.

"There is a possibility," said Mr. Humphries, "that a picnic area and grill can be added to this park, which is yet unnamed."

The Medlock Park pool will open on the 22-acre park tract near Medlock School. Little League and Babe Ruth baseball fields are both being prepared for use there this season. "There will be a picnic shelter ready for summer," Mr. Humphries said, "and a tennis court is up for approval by the county commission."

Both pools will be 50-by-100 feet and have wading pools. They will operate on the same basis as other county pools, with family or individual tickets available. They are scheduled to open the week after school closes.

in the interest of science.

John, a grand prize winner, although only a sophomore, spent seven week-ends in his sleeping bag on the floor of a Decatur veterinary hospital listening to dogs bark and getting up every hour by the alarm clock to check his dogs.

He experimented with inducing artificial hibernation in dogs by using drugs. On the hour, he checked the drugged dog for pulse beat, respiration, temperature, reflexes and reaction to light and sound. All of these findings he recorded.

A photographer for The Gazette, John also had developing work to do for the school annual at the same time.

"I practically moved over to the hospital," he said. "I took my darkroom equipment and set it up in the X-ray room. I

(Continued on Page 5)

Movie interests may build a theater on Clairmont Rd.

TREE-CLIMBING THIEF BREAKS INTO SHOP HERE

An agile broke into the North Decatur Pot-O-Gold the other night. "It must have been a monkey," said Joe Favero.

The thief entered by a small back window, never locked because it was considered impossible to reach, 40 feet straight up from the railroad track.

Theory is that he climbed a tree to reach the window while his partner pushed the tree toward the window. Broken branches led to this theory.

"A few rolls of silver were all they got from the cash register," said Mr. Favero.

Principal Of School 30 Years, She Would Do It All Over Again

Mrs. Julian Harris, principal of W. D. Thomson school, has held that same position with the school since its opening 30 years ago.

A native of Stone Mountain, where her grandfather from Massachusetts settled in 1849, Mrs. Harris was offered the job at the little three-room country school back in 1928.

"But how would I get there?" she asked. "I can't drive and I haven't a car."

"You can buy a car and you can learn to drive," was the

(Continued on Page 7)



MRS. HARRIS

Decatur High auditor 8 p. m. March 28.

Of the 16, there is a blonde, Gail Karnett, of Dale. The rest are brunettes. No redheads. Last year was only one blonde, to Crutchfield, of 224 Scot and she won the title.

Sponsored by the Jaycees, the 1959 page seriously expected to be best yet. Chairman Jol Allister, of 3421 Glensto predicted.

Bob Parris, of 405 Lane, heads the Contest Committee which has viewed all the girls.

"One hard thing about getting girls to enter," he "is that they have to contract not to get married a year."

The entries also must have been married and between the ages of 18 and 24.

Mr. Parris said that necessary sometimes to a girl because her part talent had already been for.

Talents include pantomime singing (from pop to piano), and dramatic recitation. Two girls will show a swimming film which they may they will be judged on presentation of the film as well as for their swimming.

There are seven contestants among the beautiful, two Georgia students, three DeKalb attending out-of-town colleges and four high school students.

The winner will receive a \$250 scholarship and qualify for the Miss Georgia Contest in Columbus early in the summer. Miss Georgia will compete for the Miss Atlantic City crown in Atlantic City.

NARDIN DRUG CO.

succulent family, also called sedums, which will run over

BACK GARDEN

PRINCIPAL

(Continued from Page 1)
 answer. And that is exactly what she did.
 She learned to drive in one week's time. She recalls the early days. "The roads weren't paved past North Decatur Rd. One of the other two teachers rode with me from Decatur in the old 1928 Ford. She would hold onto the door handle ready to jump at any moment. I remember telling her, 'don't do that, I'm just as scared as you are.'"
 But with the aid of chains she made it every day to the little school of 88 pupils in spite of the fact that it rained every day for the first two weeks.
 Chic, 57-year-old Mrs. Harris, wife of Commissioner Julian Harris, has seen the school grow from 88 stu-



Something new has been added at Decatur High for spring football practice by Coach Charlie Hall. The contraption above is composed of two attached inner tubes. One player pulls one way and one the other, cleats digging, in this competitive leg exercise. Decatur's two captains (l. to r.), Rocky Ross and Doug Dillard, take their turns.

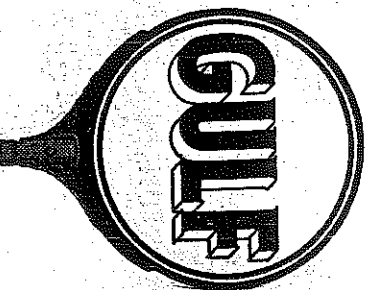
Staff Photo by John Baker
 dents to 1,400, the total last year, before new schools sent the figures back to a comfortable 700 this year.
 Of the early days, Mrs. Harris recalls, "There were only three houses in sight of the school building, made up of three classrooms and the auditorium (still the central part of the building.) The children's fathers were farmers and dairymen.

"The big difference in children of that day and now is that they didn't have so much and therefore appreciated everything the school did so much more. They were much more easily disciplined."

A.P.T.A. was organized early at W. D. Thomson and the first project was to serve hot lunches for the children. The first \$10 raised by the P.T.A. went for the purchase of a used electric stove and the mothers took turns furnishing the materials and labor to prepare hot soup for the students.

Mrs. Harris now is teaching the children of her first pupils. She calls them her grandchildren. She said, "The greatest satisfaction from this job comes in seeing your former pupils succeed in their professions or jobs and to feel that you had a part in it."
 Mrs. Harris, who has spent more than half of her life at

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Easy access either from Briarcliff Rd. or new Northeast Expressway — first exit after Clairmont going north on Expressway, across from Catholic High School.

SPECIAL! Pink Dogwood, 2-3' \$1.50

White Pines, 9-12' tall	\$5.00	Seisugeki Sasangua, 4-5' tall	\$7.50
Boxwood Holly, 18-24"	\$2.50	Cleopatra Sasangua, 2-3' Double	\$10.00
Bullata Holly, 24-30"	\$3.49	Pink Mine-No-Yuki, 3-4'	\$3.49
Helleri Holly 20-24"	\$4.50	Burfordi Holly, 3-3 1/2'	\$10.00
Helleri Holly, 1 gal.	\$1.49	Burfordi Holly, heavy, 4-5'	\$5.00
Helleri Japonica, 2-3'	\$5.00	Wax Ligustrum, 5-6'	\$3.00
Cleyera Japonica, 3-4'	\$7.50	Wax Ligustrum, heavy, 3-4 1/2'	\$2.00
Cleyera Japonica, 4-5'	\$12.50	Wax Ligustrum, 2-3 1/2'	25c and up
Cleyera Japonica, 4-5'	\$12.50	Dwarf Gardenias	\$8.50 each
Loquat, 8-10' tall	\$2.98	Taxus Yew, 3'	
Loquat (Light)			

You Must See The Quality And Color Of These Plants To Realize Their Value.
"ALWAYS THE BEST FOR LESS!"

Mary and then had their children come along. It is very interesting to watch these youngsters when you've known their parents at the same age."
 "I wouldn't have it any other way if I had my life to do over," she said. "I can't remember when I didn't want to be a teacher. I played school as a little girl and I was always the teacher."

After they had squirmed comfortably for some time asked, "What do you think should do with children (Continued on Page

Attention! Little Leaguers

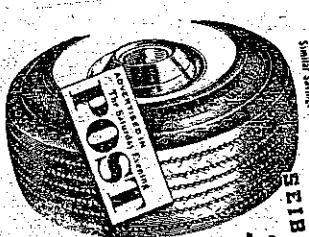
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15-50-14	80.00	45.81

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 2127 N. Decatur Rd.