

# BANNOCKBURN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*IN NEWS  
AND  
PHOTOS:*

*1949 - 1972*

*Dedicated to all  
Bannockburners,  
past and present...*

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# Bannockburn in 1949

Evening Star

1/6/49

**\$20,000 for Bannockburn Site.**  
Bannockburn Elementary School  
site, \$20,000 on the former country  
club grounds now being developed.



Evening Star

5/23/51

**Bannockburn Elementary—A delay until the 1952-53 fiscal year in beginning work on an eight-classroom school, for which the Board of Education asked \$200,000.**

### Site Already Purchased

A site for the proposed Bannockburn elementary school, to house 240 pupils, already has been purchased. It would alleviate "alarming" overcrowding of the Somerset and Clara Barton schools, the board stated.

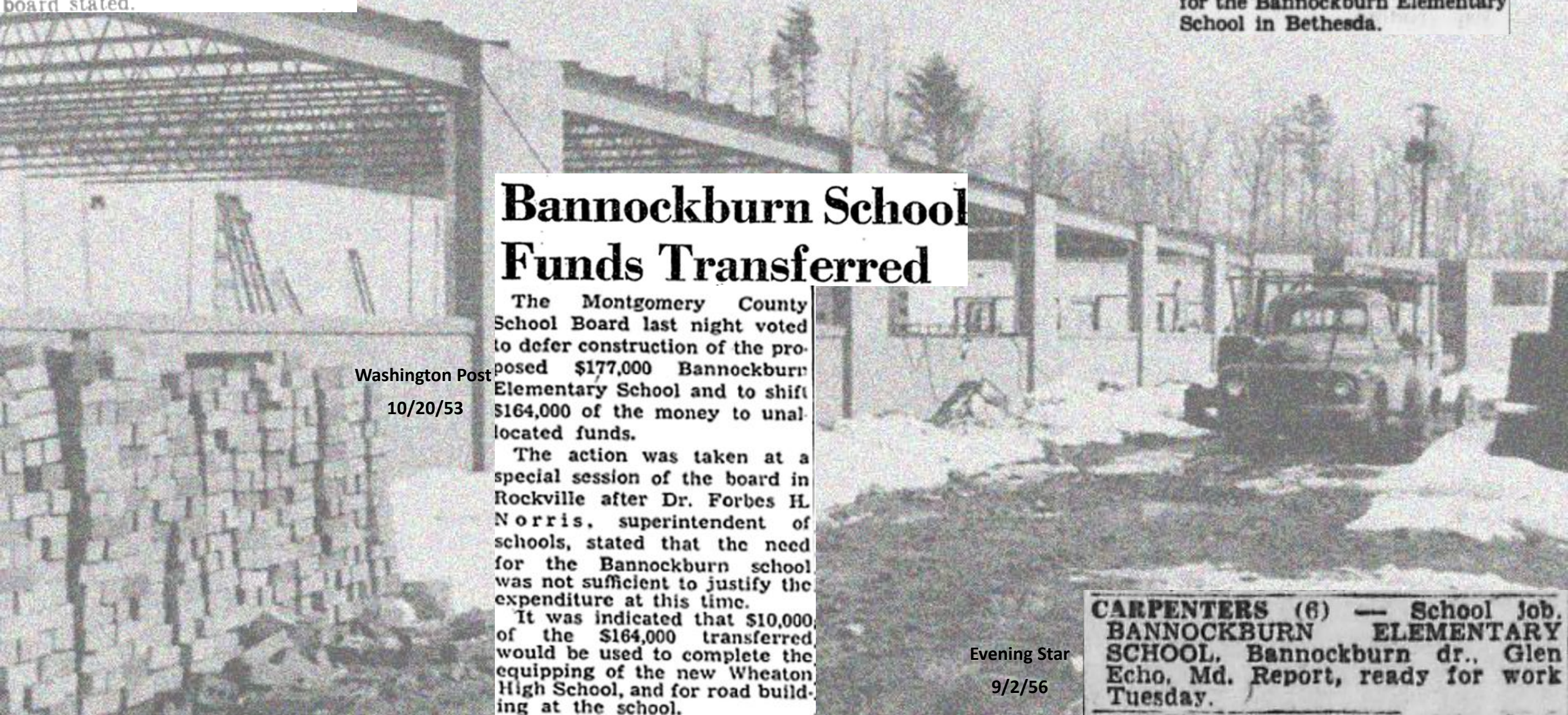
Times Herald

2/5/53

Evening Star

12/6/55

The board gave a go-ahead signal to Johannes & Murray, architects, to draw final plans for the Bannockburn Elementary School in Bethesda.



## Bannockburn School Funds Transferred

The Montgomery County School Board last night voted to defer construction of the proposed \$177,000 Bannockburn Elementary School and to shift \$164,000 of the money to unallocated funds.

The action was taken at a special session of the board in Rockville after Dr. Forbes H. Norris, superintendent of schools, stated that the need for the Bannockburn school was not sufficient to justify the expenditure at this time.

It was indicated that \$10,000 of the \$164,000 transferred would be used to complete the equipping of the new Wheaton High School, and for road building at the school.

Washington Post

10/20/53

Evening Star

9/2/56

**CARPENTERS (6) — School Job.**  
**BANNOCKBURN ELEMENTARY**  
**SCHOOL, Bannockburn dr., Glen**  
**Echo, Md. Report, ready for work**  
**Tuesday.**

Evening Star

2/12/57

## School Building Finished, But You Can't Get to It

Lack of Access Roads and Utilities  
Delays Opening Until September

By CHARLES A. McALEER



**READY OR NOT**—This new \$267,000 elementary school in the Bannockburn subdivision of Montgomery County is ready for use, but it won't be put into operation until next fall. Originally scheduled

for use this month, the new building is inaccessible because there are no roads to it. And gas, water and sewer connections have not been made.—Star Staff Photo.

A new \$267,000 elementary school stands in the Bannockburn subdivision of Montgomery County—its opening delayed because there's no way to get to it.

School officials originally had intended putting the school into use this month. It now won't open before September, even though construction of the eight-classroom building was completed February 4. There is no roadway to the school, and the pathways used by workmen now are muddy and impassable.

Lack of access has prevented the installation of desks and other equipment. The school also is without gas, sewer or normal water service, although through the courtesy of a nearby resident a long hose connection has been made to provide temporary water to operate the school heating system.

#### Heat Turned On

The heat has been turned on for two weeks. It was necessary so the inside could be painted and acoustic ceiling installed. Fortunately, the school got a full tank of oil before the frozen pathways thawed and their "bottoms dropped out."

James H. Sheldon, county supervisor of school construction, attributes the delay to "just one of those complications that goes with new development."

Mr. Sheldon said the county Department of Public Works hasn't built the roads yet because utility lines aren't installed. He said the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission won't start construction of water and sewer mains until house-connection charges are paid by the developer for 81 proposed lots surrounding the school.

At about \$300 a lot, that comes to over \$24,000. A sanitary commission engineer said award of contracts depends on how quickly these fees are paid. The developer has been notified that plans have been approved, the engineer reported, and he has until April 6 before the agreement expires.

#### Fees to Be Paid Soon

The commission identified the developer as the Selkirk Corp., a group headed by Ernest Cook, president, and N. Nathan Shapiro, secretary. Both are area builders engaged in development of a subdivision there known as Wilson Knolls.

Mr. Shapiro said the connection charges will be paid in full within the next few days.

He said the approved plans were received by his corporation only last week. He added the fees would have been paid then if the corporation had not been required to get a plumber to make individual applications, in quadruplicate, for each of the 81 lots.

Mr. Shapiro expressed doubt that failure to install sewer and water services by now has delayed the school's opening. Even if they had been provided, he said, the roads could not have been paved because of weather conditions this winter.

Officials of all three county agencies—the school board, sanitary commission and Public Works Department—agree the situation soon will be ironed out.

Arthur B. Parson, division engineer of the sanitary commission's plans and surveys division, said the topographic layout of the area requires water to come from the Bradley Hills storage reservoir side of the school. The sewer lines also are coming from the same side, although the completed development on the other comes to within 200 yards of the school.

# Bannockburn in 1957

This is because the school occupies property atop a hill at one of the highest points in what used to be the old Bannockburn Golf Course. It is just past the end of Bannockburn drive. The old Bannockburn Clubhouse is 400 yards downhill in the middle of the present Bannockburn and Fairway Hills developments. A few blocks away is MacArthur boulevard and the town of Glen Echo.

The Massachusetts Avenue Hills subdivision is on the other side of the school, but a deep ravine separates it from the high ground on which the school is built, making this an unlikely approach route.

## Road to Be Extended

Mr. Parsons said once the connection fees are paid, arrangements will be made with the contractor to hook up the school services first.

Meantime, the Public Works Department is rushing plans to extend Bannockburn drive some 800 feet to a projected part of Dalroy lane. The department also would improve 300 feet along Dalroy lane, with the subdivision developer being responsible for cutting this through to meet Benader drive to provide a second access road.

Both were part of a street improvement project, estimated to cost \$55,165, which was authorized by the County Council January 22. Under this project Bannockburn drive would be built 36 feet wide and Dalroy lane 26 feet, both with curbs, gutters and sidewalks.

Some \$21,848 is estimated as the county's share. Most of the rest will be borne by abutting property owners.

Some individual property assessments will be fairly steep. So will the grade of Bannockburn drive and some of the properties fronting on it.

John H. Light, aide to County Public Works Director Mason A. Butcher, said the terrain will require a road grade of from 11 to 12 per cent. The desirable

maximum under the county road code is 10 per cent, he said.

## Rights of Way Sought

Mr. Light said negotiations are underway to obtain easements and rights-of-way for the proposed roads. Getting these, he said, will require additional expenditures not included in construction costs.

The school's front entrance and driveway will be along Dalroy lane.

Mr. Light said the department expects to have the roads completed by summer and ready for use in September.

School authorities, meanwhile, are considering what pupils will be transferred there from other schools. The estimated enrollment will total 300.

The present structure will cost some \$267,140, according to Mr. Sheldon. Designed by the Silver Spring architectural firm of Johannes & Murray, it was built by the James Partelle Co. of Hyattsville.

A proposed addition of six classrooms and a kitchen may be started even before the new school is occupied, Mr. Sheldon said. It is part of the school board's budget request to the county council for 1957-58, he said.

"This is a time when the school was completed first," he explained. "In others, utilities were finished first. It could happen any time in a new development."



Evening Star

8/4/57

## **Bannockburn Difficulties**

# **Delayed Bethesda School To Be Ready on Schedule**

The new, 12-room Bannockburn Elementary School in Bethesda is to open on schedule this fall after all, Montgomery County School Board officials said yesterday.

For several months it was feared the \$225,000 building, completed last February, would stand idle in September, despite over-crowded conditions. There was no road to the school, and installation of sewer and water facilities was delayed.

The school is on the old Bannockburn Country Club grounds off MacArthur blvd. near Wilson lane at Bannockburn dr. and Halpert dr.

It was necessary to extend

Bannockburn dr. about 1000 feet to provide access to the school. The problems that confronted officials involved terrain conditions, the weather, negotiation with property owners and coordination among the School Board, the County Council and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.

Once coordination was established, bad weather delayed work and construction gangs ran into rock formations while extending Bannockburn drive.

Now officials feel certain the school will open on time although the road may not be completed until a week later.

Evening Star  
9/1/57

Two new schools and additions to seven others will be ready for the 62,539 students anticipated for Montgomery County public schools this year. This is an increase of 5,300.

The new schools are a part of the Edwin W. Broome Junior High School at Rockville and the Bannockburn Elementary School near Glen Echo.



Evening Star  
9/3/58

## Pupils to Move Into New Addition

Children at Bannockburn Elementary School in Montgomery County will be moved into the unfinished school addition tomorrow to avoid having double sessions, the County Board of Education announced today.

The classrooms are virtually completed, the Board of Education said, and the library, kitchen and playground will be completed in about a week.

Previously the school had been slated for double sessions. The change reduces the number of children involved in double sessions in the county from 1,706 to 1,466, the board reported.

The County School Board approved without comment a series of other appointments and transfers.

The list included the appointment of Margaret T. Jones as principal of the Bannockburn Elementary School. She will be the first Negro to head a predominantly white school in Montgomery. Mrs. Jones replaces Alexander Gottesman, who was promoted to administrative assistant to School Superintendent C. Taylor Whittier.

Washington Post  
7/15/59

Evening Star  
7/17/59

## Negro Principal Move Protested

The Maryland Petition Committee, Inc., segregationist group, has filed a protest with Montgomery School Supt. C. Taylor Whittier over appointment of a Negro as principal of an all-white school.

The school board approved without comment yesterday the appointment of Mrs. Margaret C. Jones as principal of the Bannockburn Elementary School in the Bethesda area.

The segregation group sent a telegram to Dr. Whittier putting itself "on record in opposition" to the appointment.

The telegram was signed by Robert L. Wiseman, president of the petition committee. The committee also said it wanted to be heard if a hearing was scheduled on the appointment.

No such hearing has been scheduled.



Washington Afro American  
7/18/59

**HEADS SCHOOL** — Mrs. Margaret Jones, who has been appointed principal of Bannockburn Elementary School which has an all-white student body in western Bethesda becomes the first non-white in Montgomery County so assigned.

# POLL FAVORS SCHOOL PLAN

## Bethesda Residents Back D.C. Busing Program

By SANDY ROVNER  
(Sun Staff Correspondent)

Bethesda, Md., Aug. 28—The results of a neighborhood canvass taken this weekend indicate strong community support for a program to enroll some Negro youngsters from Washington in the lower grades of the Bannockburn Elementary School here.

However, the unexpectedly heavy enrollment at the school, along with administrative and legal technicalities will probably not permit the program to start when school opens next week, according to Jerome Freibaum, president of the Bannockburn P.-T.A.

Mr. Freibaum said that responses from about half of 272 families contacted showed about 80 per cent of the parents of the school's 500 pupils in favor of the busing program.

He added, however, that the replies emphasized that approval was contingent on maintaining the high quality of education at the school.

Mr. Freibaum said a report is being prepared based on the canvass, and the group's next steps are being planned.

**FUN FACT:**

The author of this Baltimore Sun article, Sandy Rovner, lived in Bannockburn for more than 50 years!

Washington Post

8/30/67

## Plan for Bannockburn Elementary School

# Bethesda P-TA Seeks to Invite Ghetto Pupils

By Claudia Levy

Washington Post Staff Writer

Parents in the Bannockburn section of Bethesda are seeking approval from the Montgomery and Washington School Boards for a plan to enroll about a dozen District of Columbia ghetto students in the Bannockburn Elementary School this year.

The school's Parent-Teacher Association, headed by Jerome Freibaum, has begun preliminary negotiations to allow a small group of children from Washington to attend first, second- and third-grade classes at the suburban school on an experimental basis beginning

sometime this current school year. Freibaum said yesterday that three-fourths of the school's parents surveyed so far have supported the proposal.

Under the plan, which has not been formally presented to either Board, tuition of about \$750 per pupil would be funded through sections of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act covering underprivileged children. No more than three District of Columbia students would be enrolled in each Bannockburn class.

Montgomery School Superintendent Homer O. Eisleroad

said yesterday that he is "receptive to the idea of trying out a small pilot project in a school if the community is receptive," but added he would not favor any plan that would mean "sacrifice or undue crowding" for any school.

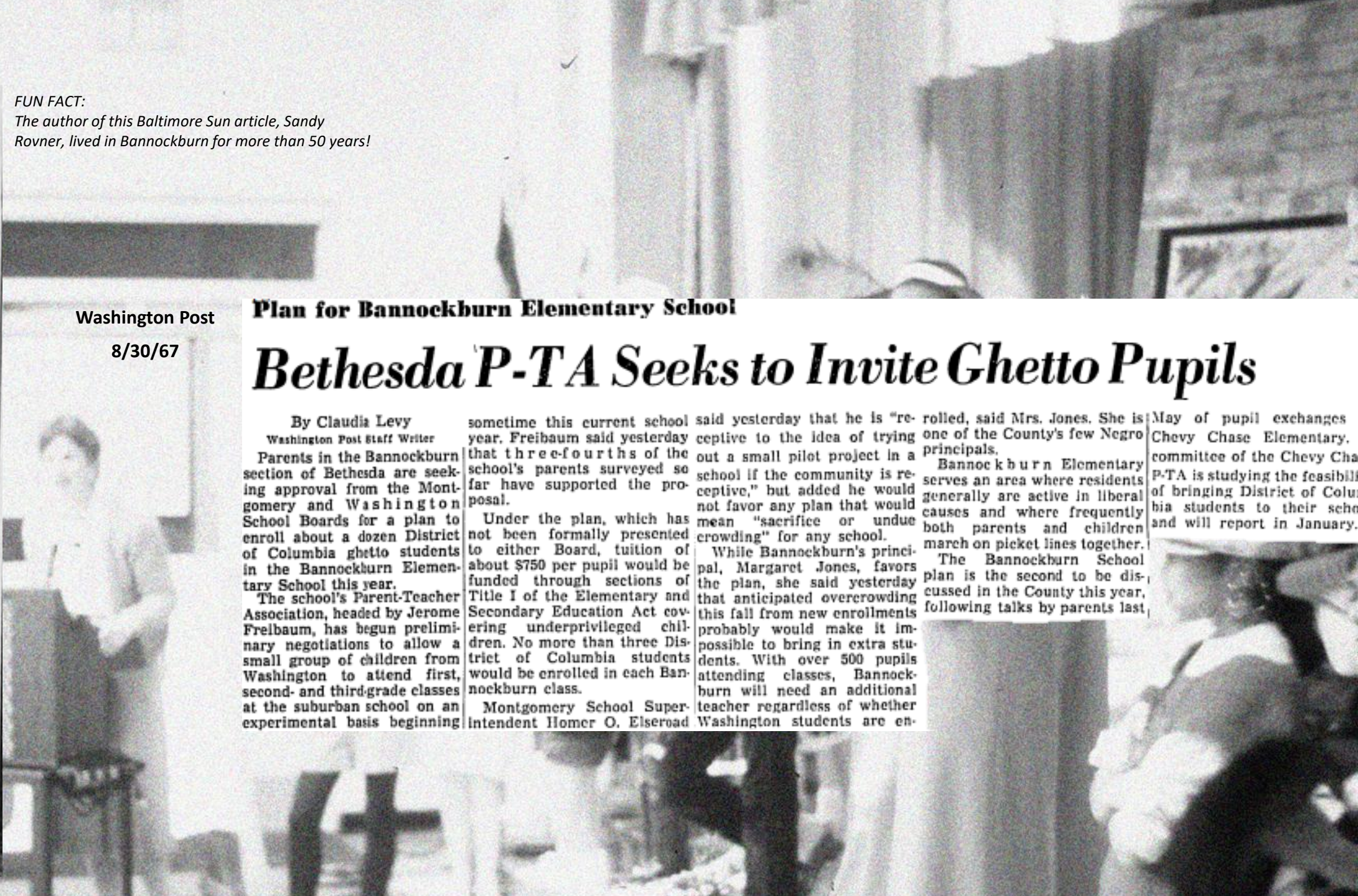
While Bannockburn's principal, Margaret Jones, favors the plan, she said yesterday that anticipated overcrowding this fall from new enrollments probably would make it impossible to bring in extra students. With over 500 pupils attending classes, Bannockburn will need an additional teacher regardless of whether Washington students are en-

rolled, said Mrs. Jones. She is one of the County's few Negro principals.

Bannockburn Elementary serves an area where residents generally are active in liberal causes and where frequently both parents and children march on picket lines together.

The Bannockburn School plan is the second to be discussed in the County this year, following talks by parents last

May of pupil exchanges between Chevy Chase Elementary and a committee of the Chevy Chase P-TA is studying the feasibility of bringing District of Columbia students to their school and will report in January.



# BUSING POLL IS ACCEPTED

Baltimore Sun

11/30/67

## It Gets Slim Margin At Heated Bethesda Meeting

[Rockville Bureau of The Sun]

Bethesda, Md., Nov. 29—At a raucous, virtually uncontrolled meeting here tonight, members of the Bannockburn Citizens Association voted by a slim majority to accept the results of a community poll that found 174 families opposed to and 64 in favor, of a proposal to bus some Negro youngsters from Washington to a local elementary school.

The meeting, which was attended by about 200 persons, was held in the community room of a Bethesda church and was marked by catcalls at speakers and at least one exchange blows between two women.

### 84 Have Children

The 64-to-61 vote of confidence in the poll came after about two hours of bitter debate, during which the poll's integrity was challenged because it was preceded by a letter from the association president enclosing an editorial opposing the plan from a weekly newspaper.

It was also pointed out that, although the Bannockburn Elementary School, for which the busing project was proposed, has 512 pupils, only 84 of the families in the citizens association's area had children in the school.

Washington Post

12/15/67

## A Generous Gesture

It is a pity—and indeed something of a shame—that such a hullabaloo has been stirred up over the proposal to bus 20 to 30 Negro children from central Washington to classes in the Bannockburn Elementary School in Bethesda. The fate of the proposal is to be determined by a secret ballot, conducted by mail, to be completed by tomorrow. Every consideration of generosity and common humanity suggests approval.

The proposal has been carefully safeguarded to avoid any undue burden on the Bannockburn school, any additional expense or any crowding of its classrooms. In simple truth, nothing more than a generous gesture is involved. Bannockburn's hospitality cannot of itself make more than a ceremonial dent in the problem of the Washington ghetto schools. But the gesture would have significance nonetheless. It would say to the people of the ghetto that the more fortunate people of the suburbs are not indifferent or insensitive to ghetto needs. And it would afford some insight, perhaps, into the impact of transfers of public school pupils on a larger scale across urban-suburban boundaries.

It might even be that it would point a way toward a solution—impossible within city limits—of the blighting problem of racial segregation. It is not inconceivable that such a solution would work to the benefit and enrichment of education for urban and suburban children alike. Only fears and prejudices argue against the experiment; courage and kindness speak for it.

Washington Post

12/30/67

## P-TA Votes For Busing Of Students

By Claudia Levy

Washington Post Staff Writer

Parents of children at Bannockburn Elementary School have voted by a strong majority to request permission to bus 20 to 30 Negro children from the District of Columbia to the Bethesda school.

In a 359 to 188 secret ballot vote counted Thursday night the Parent-Teacher Association agreed to formally request permission for the project from the Montgomery County Board of Education and the County's school superintendent.

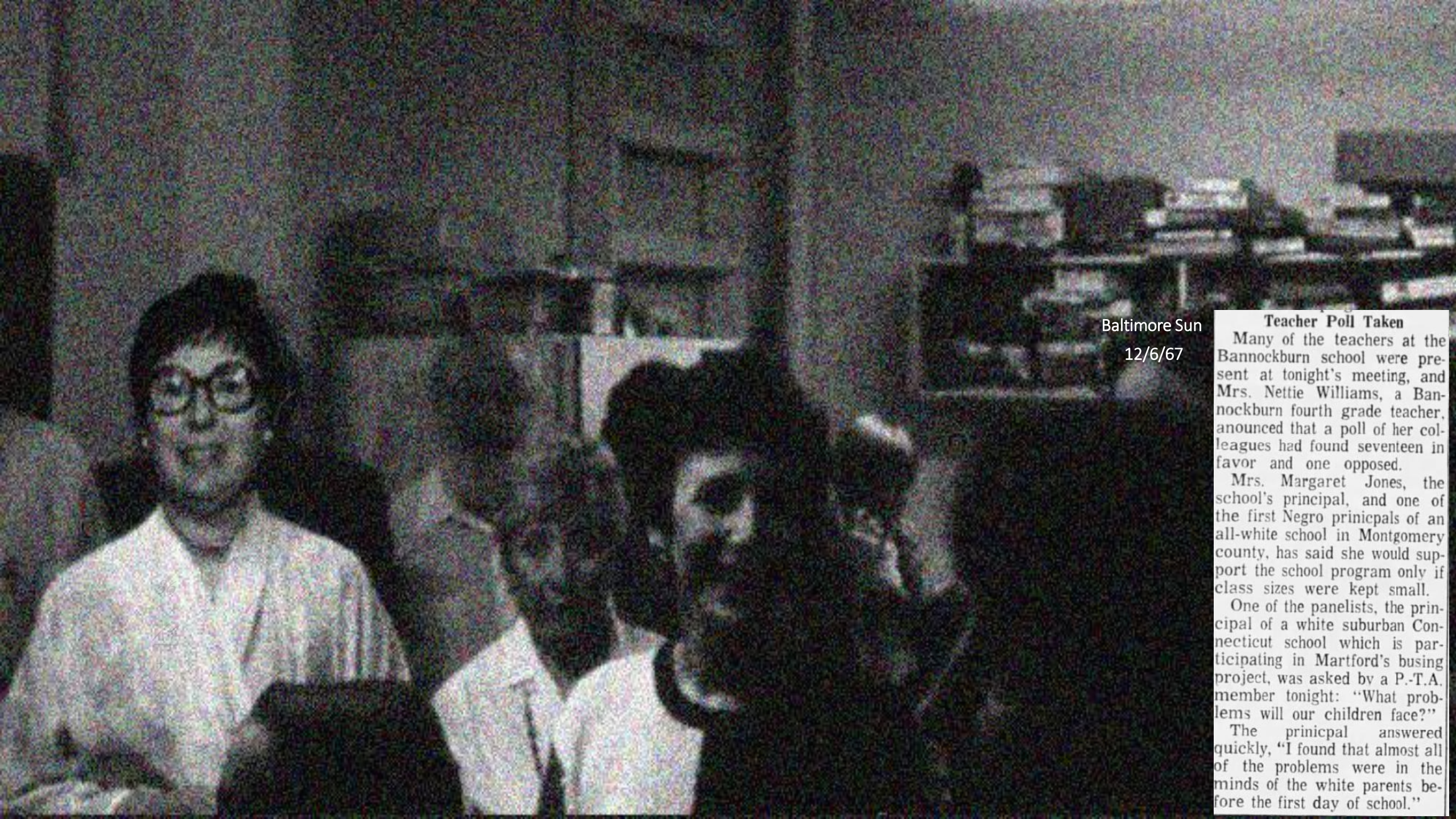
The Board has said in the past that while it will not initiate or finance busing programs, it would not oppose these projects when undertaken by individual schools with support of the parents.

Under the proposal, children from the inner city would be enrolled in the first three grades at Bannockburn next fall. All costs would be paid by the District, probably out of funds given the District under Title I or III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Final approval of any plans to bus children to the suburban school still would have to come from the District Board of Education.

Bannockburn parents first proposed the "open school" plan last August, for which a poll of P-TA members indicated support. Preliminary negotiations were begun with officials of both school systems.

If approved, it would be the first busing project in the area. The P-TA at Chevy Chase Elementary School, also in Montgomery, talked about busing Washington pupils last spring, but the idea has been under study by a group which is to report next month.



Baltimore Sun  
12/6/67

#### Teacher Poll Taken

Many of the teachers at the Bannockburn school were present at tonight's meeting, and Mrs. Nettie Williams, a Bannockburn fourth grade teacher, announced that a poll of her colleagues had found seventeen in favor and one opposed.

Mrs. Margaret Jones, the school's principal, and one of the first Negro principals of an all-white school in Montgomery county, has said she would support the school program only if class sizes were kept small.

One of the panelists, the principal of a white suburban Connecticut school which is participating in Hartford's busing project, was asked by a P.T.A. member tonight: "What problems will our children face?"

The principal answered quickly, "I found that almost all of the problems were in the minds of the white parents before the first day of school."

Washington Post

2/14/68

# Bethesda Poll Rejects Busing Plan

The Bannockburn Citizens Association has polled residents of its Bethesda neighborhood and found them opposed to a proposal to bus Washington school children to Bannockburn Elementary School next fall.

In a letter to Montgomery County Board of Education President Lucy Kecker, the Association reports that 173 families reached by telephone were against the proposal, 67 favored it and 44 had no opinion.

Of the members contacted who have children in the school, 48 were opposed and 27 were in favor. The proposal was approved overwhelmingly by voice vote of about 400 parents at a meeting of the P-TA last December.

The Bannockburn busing program, which would involve about 20 or 30 District children, is being considered by school boards of both jurisdictions.

Washington Post

Letter to the Editor

2/18/68

## Bannockburn Poll

Your Feb. 14 issue reported that a poll taken by the Bannockburn Citizens Association showed a majority of its members opposed to the Bannockburn Elementary School's proposal to enroll 20 to 30 Washington Negro children in Bannockburn next fall. Because of what your story did not say, it could be seriously misleading; and as a member of the Citizens Association and of the Bannockburn P-TA Executive Board, I hope you will give me the opportunity to set the matter in context.

At the outset it should be pointed out that the Citizens Association poll was taken almost three months ago—during the week of Nov. 20, 1967—and that this was a month prior to the approval of the busing proposal by Bannockburn parents by a vote of 343 to 183 in a secret ballot conducted by mail. Moreover, the Association's membership is but a small segment of the local community. Despite its name, the Bannockburn Citizens Association is only one of five general civic organizations within the Bannockburn School district. Only a small proportion of its members have children in the Bannockburn school—by its own count, 84 of the 25 families included in its poll.

The manner in which the Citizens' Association poll was conducted, moreover, rather clearly you shadowed its results. The vote was taken by phone following distribution of an announcement placed in members' mailboxes to which was attached a local County newspaper editorial opposing the busing proposal. The proposal itself was nowhere described, but the material did contain several misleading innuendos. The way the poll was conducted so disturbed some Association members that a subsequent membership meeting came within two votes of rejecting the results of the poll as invalid—as *The Washington Post* reported on Nov. 30.

Subsequently, the P-TA distributed a thirteen-page analysis of the busing proposal to Bannockburn parents, and held a three-hour P-TA meeting, administrators and research specialists discussed the proposal and answered questions from the floor. At the end of the evening, the meeting voted overwhelmingly to submit the busing proposal to a secret vote of parents and P-TA members. The result of this ballot was, as already mentioned, an almost 2-to-1 endorsement.

The busing proposal contemplates the enrollment of between 20 and 30 volunteering District children in the first three elementary school grades, at no cost whatever to the County and subject to County class-size standards. It is a small but, to some of us important experiment, and a "generous gesture" as you termed it in your December 15 editorial. We have had generally excellent coverage in your newspaper and are sure it will continue.

ROGER . KUHN

Bethesda



# Md. P-TA Gets Busing Fund

The Bannockburn Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association had raised enough money from private organizations to finance a program to bus 21 Washington youngsters to the Montgomery County school at no extra cost to the District school system.

The PTA sent telegrams Saturday to House and Senate conferees who will meet this week on the District revenue bill, urging them to delete a rider that would prevent the use of District appropriations for the busing program.

PTA President Jerry Frelbaum said six private organizations have guaranteed up to \$16,500 so the District will not have to pay more than \$800 per pupil. The average per pupil expenditure in D.C. schools was \$797 this year.

The House District Committee attached the rider to the bill, saying it was disturbed by the cost of the project.



Washington Post

7/29/68

# 19 District Pupils Start Busing to Suburbs

Washington Post  
9/4/68

By Ellen Hoffman

Washington Post Staff Writer

Nineteen District of Columbia children descended sedately from a bus yesterday morning and filed into their new school in Bethesda.

Their 25-minute ride from central Washington to the Bannockburn Elementary School inaugurated the first experiment in busing school children across the District line.

They were among nearly 500,000 children who started school yesterday in Washington suburbs. Schools in the city and in Alexandria open today.

Although Bannockburn is an integrated school, a great majority of its students are white. The group from the city included 17 Negro children, one white and one Oriental.

Congressional critics—who have opposed busing to achieve integration—tried to prevent the exchange by prohibiting use of District



Meyer students were reportedly evaluated and handpicked for the Bannockburn busing program based on high academic standing.

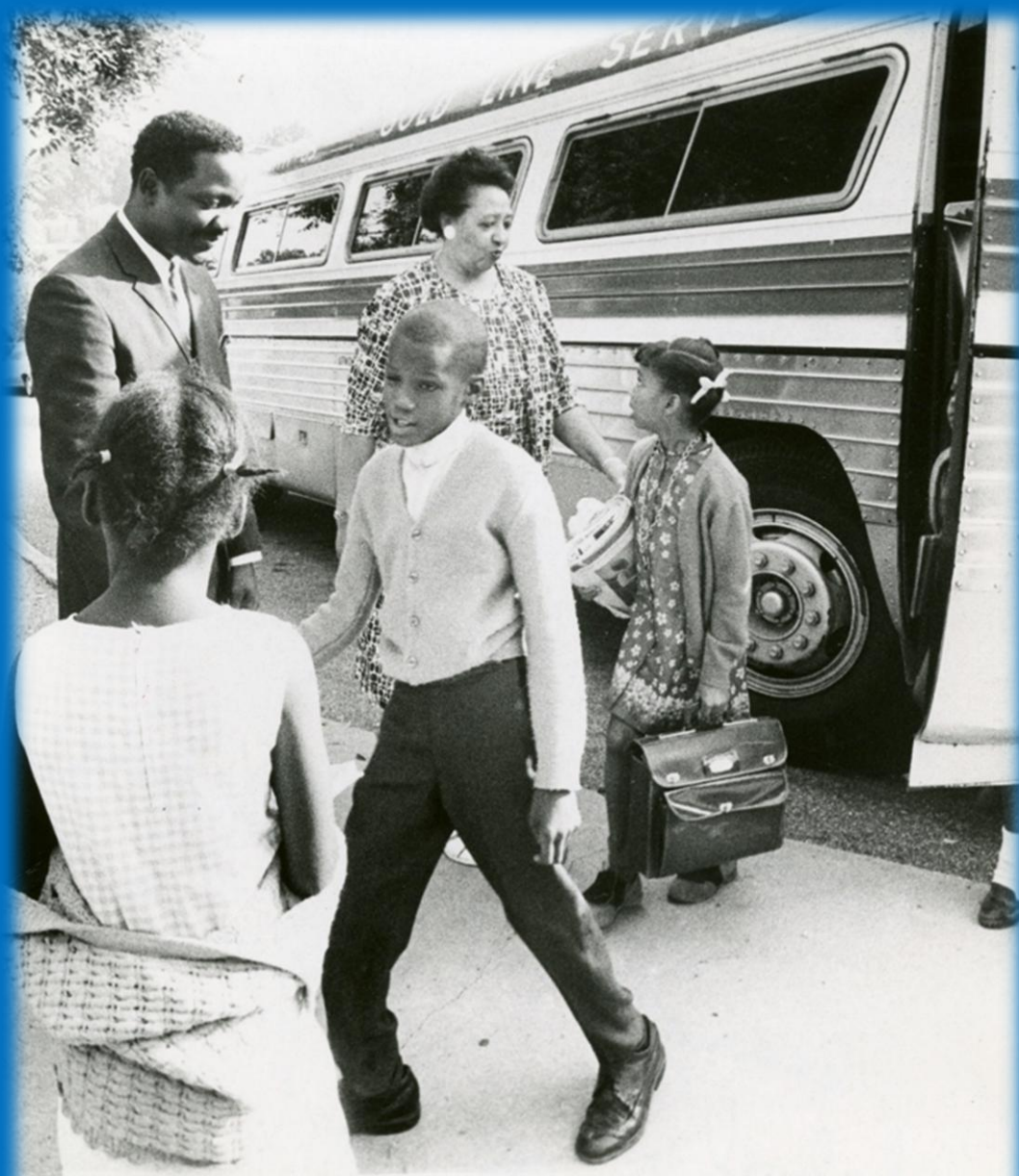
funds for compulsory bus-  
ing. The program, however,  
is being financed out of the  
District's allotment of Fed-  
eral education funds and  
foundation grants.

The 6- to 8-year-olds from  
Meyer Elementary School at  
11th and Clifton sts. nw.,  
will attend classes at Ban-  
nockburn daily this aca-  
demic year.

A total of 21 youngsters  
from Meyer are expected to  
participate. Yesterday morn-  
ing the 19 lined up in the  
principal's office to receive  
room assignments, and were  
guided to their classes by  
Bannockburn students. The  
Meyer youngsters were div-  
ided among seven Bannock-  
burn classrooms.

Principals and parents  
from both schools spoke in a  
news conference yesterday  
of their reasons for support-  
ing the student exchange.

"Since we live together  
... we should know each  
other," said Sarah P. New-  
ton, principal of Meyer. "We  
feel we will have a much  
better city and a much bet-  
ter community."



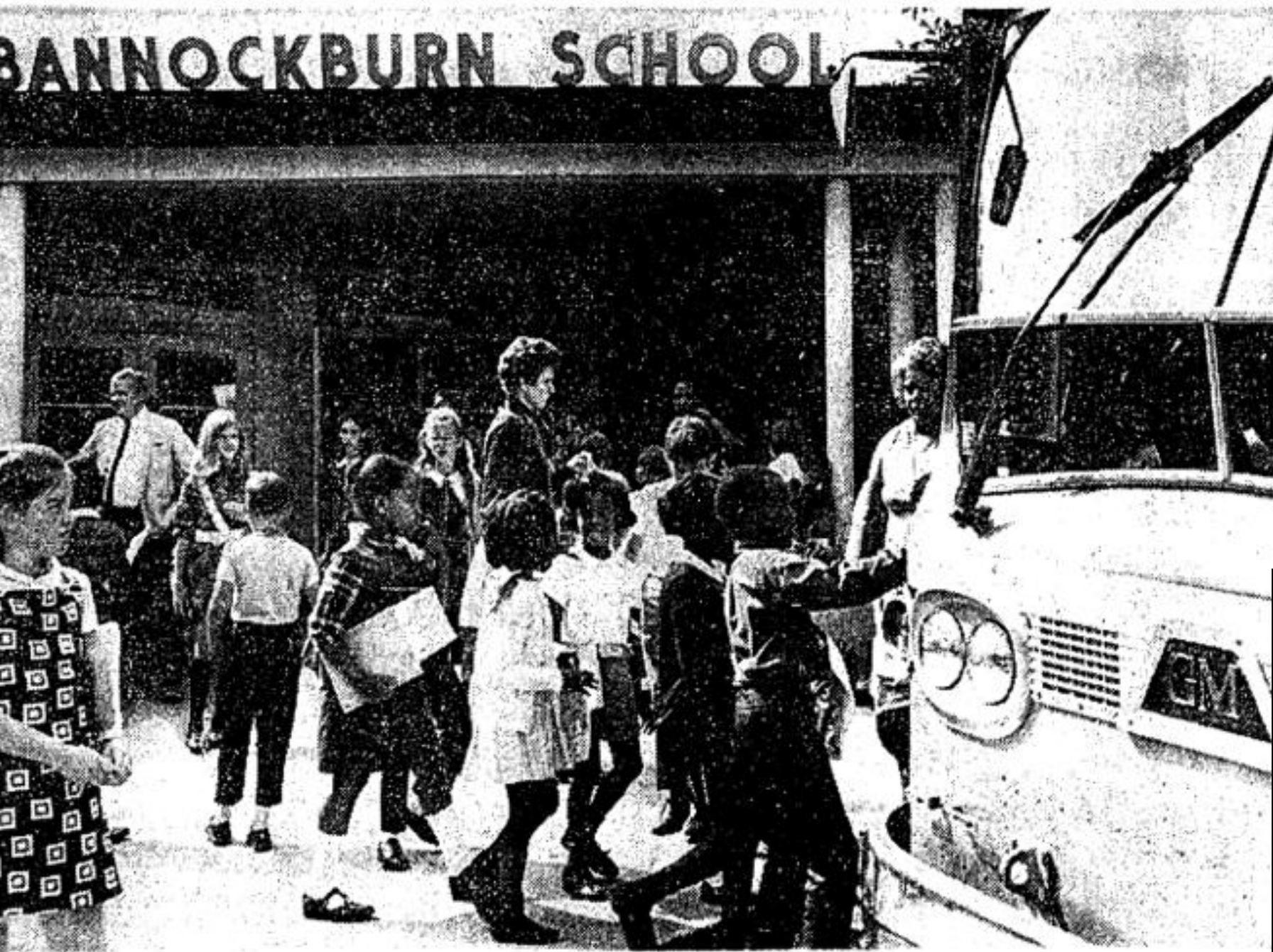
Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1968 - Bannockburn Principal Mrs. Jones greets  
Meyer students as they arrive for their first day at BES.

The unidentified man might be Meyer's Asst. Principal.

Bannockburn Principal  
Margaret T. Jones said,  
"This is a year of relevance.  
If we are going to teach  
children about man and his  
world, we have to make it  
relevant."

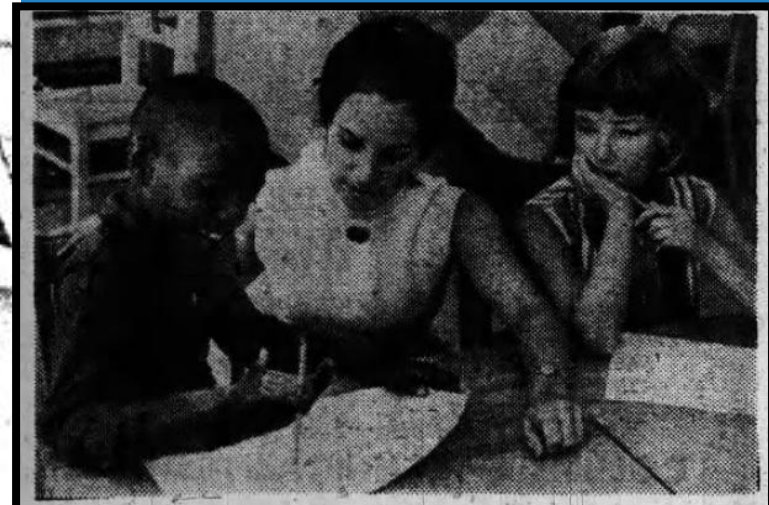
The exchange was ap-  
proved by the District and  
Montgomery County school  
boards for one year. A num-  
ber of families from both  
schools got acquainted last  
month through meetings  
and informal get-togethers.

Bannockburn families  
have volunteered to serve as  
hosts for children from the  
District who stay after  
school for activities or who  
encounter emergencies.



Washington Post  
9/4/68

Washington Daily News  
9/4/68

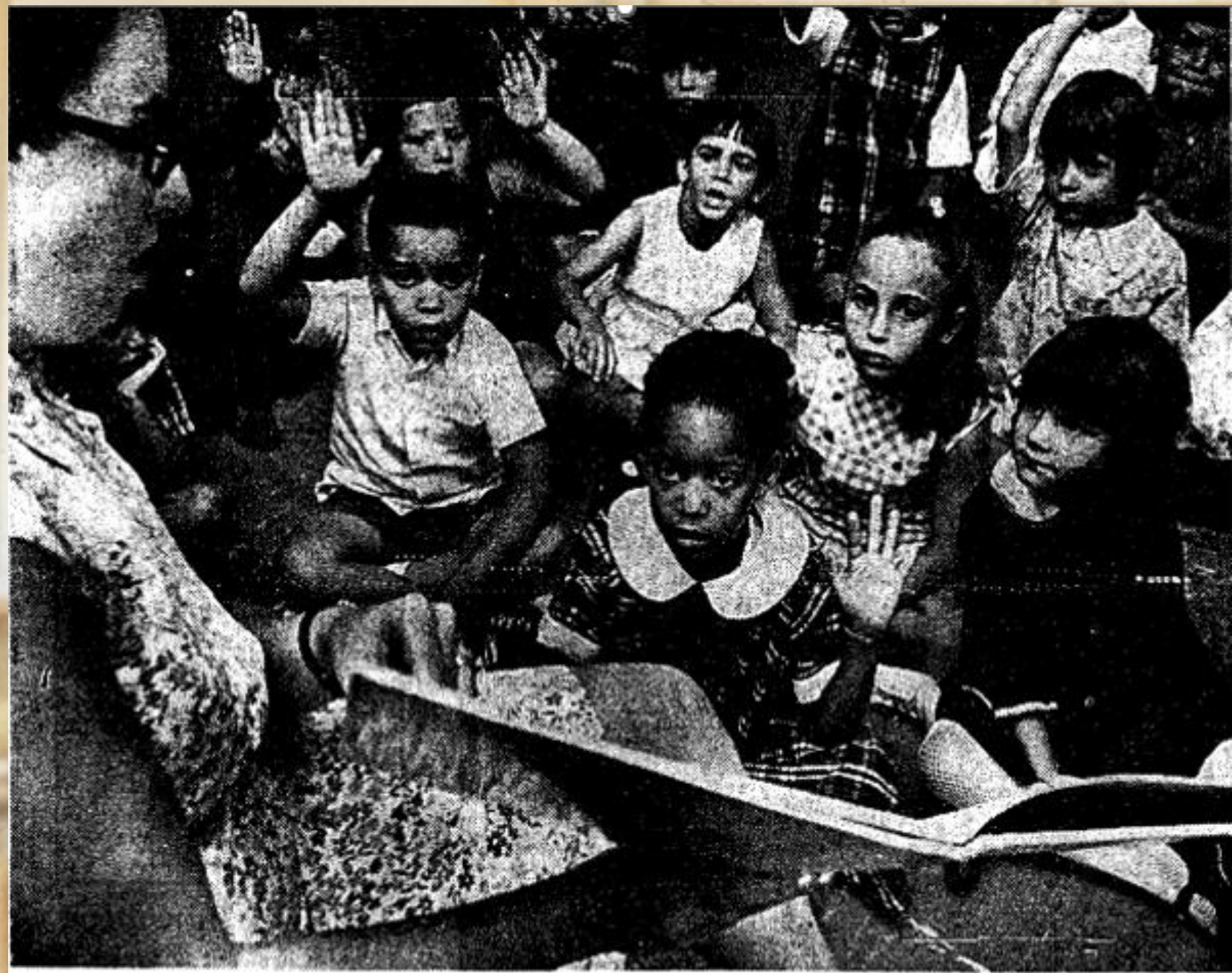


—Photo by Wellner Streets

Second grade teacher Joy Littman looks over the paper of Cardozo resident Cecil Lerkins, 7, while Shawnee Heyn, also 7, looks on.

By Harry Naltchayan—The Washington Post

District children board bus for return to city after first day of classes at Bethesda's Bannockburn Elementary.



by Margaret Thomas—The Washington Post  
Francine Zucker of Bannockburn Elementary reads to first grade class, including pupils bused from the District.



### *MORE FUN FACTS:*

*“Mrs. Zucker” taught 1st Grade at Bannockburn from 1967 to 1990. As of 2023, she was 88 years old, sharp as a tack, and still living in Bethesda!*

*Although efforts to reconnect with Meyer students (Geraldine Faison and Sharon Dawkins; both in the 3<sup>rd</sup> row) have proved unsuccessful so far, 4 other Meyer students reunited with their Bannockburn friends and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher “Miss Sheldon” in Fall 2025.*

*The girl in the red dress standing in front of Mrs. Zucker, Marina Moehring Alman, still lives in Bannockburn.*

*Jonathan Baron (seated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> row, third from the right), ran as a Democrat for Governor of MD in 2022.*

*In the back row wearing the hideous striped shirt is the creator of this slideshow who still lives on Bannockburn Drive.*

# Test at Bannockburn 'A Human Experience'

By Ellen Hoffman

Washington Post Staff Writer

MORE THAN three months ago 21 children from Washington's inner city filed out of a school bus and looked shyly at their new, suburban school and classmates. The children—19 Negroes, one Oriental and one white—have made the round trip to Bethesda's Bannockburn Elementary School nearly 100 times since September.

Oblivious to the social and legal controversy over their attendance at Bannockburn, the youngsters are all doing well academically and their attendance rate is nearly 100 per cent.

The youngsters were volunteered by their parents to participate in what is called the "Bannockburn experiment," the Washington area's first program of busing children from the inner city to attend a suburban school.

Opponents of the Bannockburn program call it "social experimentation." Supporters call it "a very human experience."

Parents and teachers of the city and suburban children believe they are all learning from their contact with one another.



The first through third graders live in the inner city neighborhood around Meyer Elementary School at 11th and Clifton sts. nw. Meyer is a relatively new school — six years old — but a crowded one. In some cases two teachers share a regular classroom to teach 40 youngsters.

Bannockburn, located in an upper middle class, forested area near the Potomac River, is overcrowded by Montgomery County standards of 25 students per classroom. But the sprawling, well-lighted building gives the impression of greater space and children have access to more books and supplies than their city counterparts at Meyer.

"It's a very human experience. The kids are getting to know each other as people," believes Mrs. Charles Rippey. She and her family serve as the "host family" for first-grader Katrina Morris.

Katrina and the Rippeys' daughter are in the same class and take ballet lessons together after school one day a week. The Rippeys invite Katrina to their home, and Mrs. Morris and Mrs. Rippey have attended Parent-Teacher Association meetings together.



Katrina's father, Howard Morris, says "she enjoys going out there—she seems to be liked."

He thinks Katrina will receive a better education at Bannockburn than at Meyer: "There are more facilities out there, a better library, movies, etc.," he explained.

Each bused child has a host family responsible for taking care of him in an emergency. In addition, some host families have been inviting the city youngsters to their homes for meals, birthday parties or just to spend an afternoon playing.

"Everything has worked out. The children are now part of the Bannockburn community," according to Betty Coleman. Mrs. Coleman, a resident of the Meyer neighborhood, is one of two aides who ride the bus with the children, assist Bannockburn teacher during the day, and ride back to the city with the children in the afternoon.

Calvin Butler, a third grader, talked about his new school as he attacked a plate of spaghetti at lunch one day recently. What he does not like about Bannockburn, he said, is "I have to get up so early" to ride the bus. As he spoke, his classmates at the table eagerly told a visitor: "Calvin is the best runner in the class."



Another city student was having trouble with arithmetic, according to her teacher. "Then she won election as class treasurer," the teacher said. The job entails counting milk money and the number of children who get milk every day.

"She went home and studied," the teacher said, "and now she's in the highest (most advanced) arithmetic group."

Teachers said that the city youngsters came to school in the fall with about the same academic background as children who attended Bannockburn last year. They did not require any special attention or remedial work, but fit in easily with their classmates' pace.

In contrast to the Bannockburn children, the city youngsters come from families with non-professional backgrounds. The bused children are probably highly motivated, since their parents volunteered to have them participate in the experiment in the hope that they would receive a better education.

Julie Languasco, a second grade teacher, says "I haven't had any problems. If they hadn't told me these children were from D.C., I'd never have known." She added that "they are won

# 'Bannockburn Experiment' Is Working

**SCHOOL, from F 1**  
derful students—they go out of their way to share things with the class.”

The Bannockburn parents who initiated the idea of busing believed their children would benefit from contact with youngsters of varied backgrounds.

A Bannockburn mother tells of the time she and her husband drove their city “daughter” home one evening. The mother admits she was “uncomfortable” when she saw the streets crowded with people.

But her own daughter gave her a new perspective on the

city. She said: “Isn’t it nice to have a neighborhood where everyone knows everybody else?”

The Bannockburn parents won a neighborhood battle and then convinced the Montgomery County and Washington school boards to endorse the busing projects.

They raised foundation funds to pay the cost of the bus and the salary of the two aides.

When the busing started last fall, the opponents went to court to try to kill the experiment. They argued that State and County funds were being spent to educate non-residents.

Although race was not an ex-

PLICIT issue in court or in the neighborhood, there were racial overtones in some of the arguments against the busing.

The suit was not accepted by the court and opponents are now seeking State legislation that would prohibit such programs.

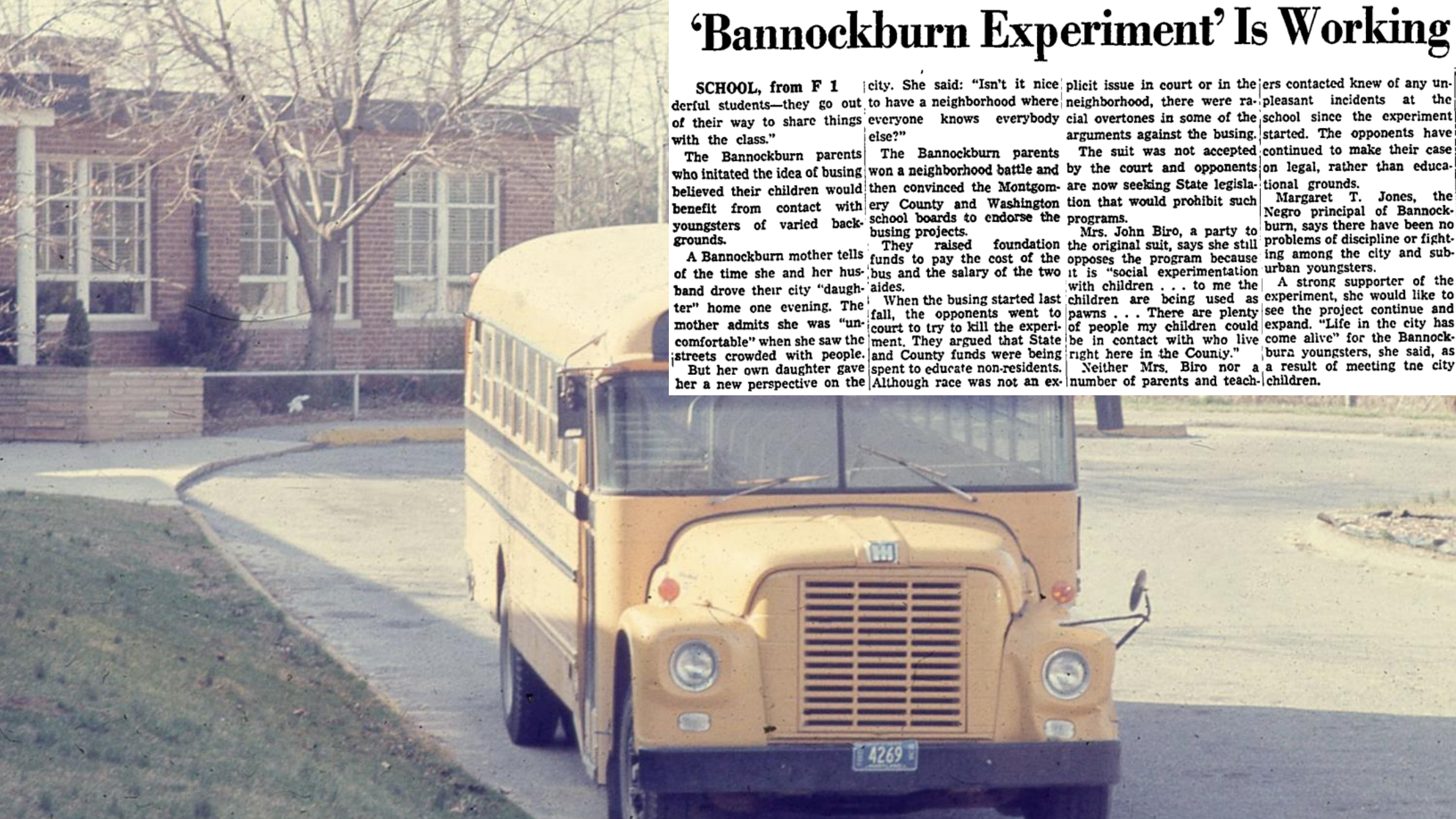
Mrs. John Biro, a party to the original suit, says she still opposes the program because it is “social experimentation with children . . . to me the children are being used as pawns . . . There are plenty of people my children could be in contact with who live right here in the County.”

Neither Mrs. Biro nor a number of parents and teach-

ers contacted knew of any unpleasant incidents at the school since the experiment started. The opponents have continued to make their case on legal, rather than educational grounds.

Margaret T. Jones, the Negro principal of Bannockburn, says there have been no problems of discipline or fighting among the city and suburban youngsters.

A strong supporter of the experiment, she would like to see the project continue and expand. “Life in the city has come alive” for the Bannockburn youngsters, she said, as a result of meeting the city children.



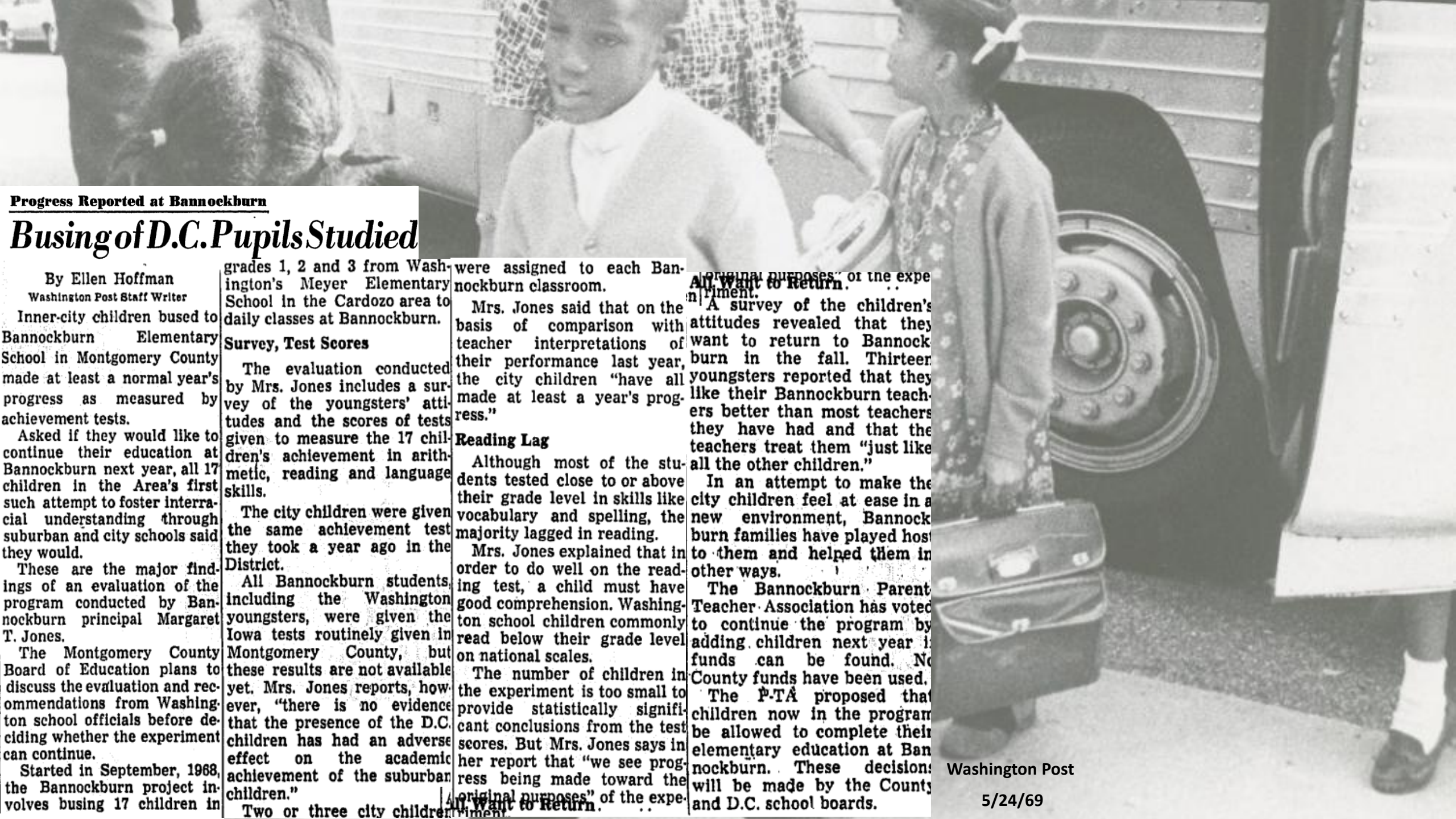


By Tom Kelley The Washington Post

*Virginia Shunkle conducts a reading lesson for her second grade.*



*Bus rider Geraldine Faison listens to Richard Gelderman read. At right is Julia Schoenfeld.*



**Progress Reported at Bannockburn**

# Busing of D.C. Pupils Studied

By Ellen Hoffman

Washington Post Staff Writer

Inner-city children bused to Bannockburn Elementary School in Montgomery County made at least a normal year's progress as measured by achievement tests.

Asked if they would like to continue their education at Bannockburn next year, all 17 children in the Area's first such attempt to foster interracial understanding through suburban and city schools said they would.

These are the major findings of an evaluation of the program conducted by Bannockburn principal Margaret T. Jones.

The Montgomery County Board of Education plans to discuss the evaluation and recommendations from Washington school officials before deciding whether the experiment can continue.

Started in September, 1968, the Bannockburn project involves busing 17 children in

grades 1, 2 and 3 from Washington's Meyer Elementary School in the Cardozo area to daily classes at Bannockburn.

## Survey, Test Scores

The evaluation conducted by Mrs. Jones includes a survey of the youngsters' attitudes and the scores of tests given to measure the 17 children's achievement in arithmetic, reading and language skills.

The city children were given the same achievement test they took a year ago in the District.

All Bannockburn students, including the Washington youngsters, were given the Iowa tests routinely given in Montgomery County, but these results are not available yet. Mrs. Jones reports, however, "there is no evidence that the presence of the D.C. children has had an adverse effect on the academic achievement of the suburban children." Two or three city children

were assigned to each Bannockburn classroom.

Mrs. Jones said that on the basis of comparison with teacher interpretations of their performance last year, the city children "have all made at least a year's progress."

## Reading Lag

Although most of the students tested close to or above their grade level in skills like vocabulary and spelling, the majority lagged in reading.

Mrs. Jones explained that in order to do well on the reading test, a child must have good comprehension. Washington school children commonly read below their grade level on national scales.

The number of children in the experiment is too small to provide statistically significant conclusions from the test scores. But Mrs. Jones says in her report that "we see progress being made toward the original purposes" of the experiment.

All want to return.

A survey of the children's attitudes revealed that they want to return to Bannockburn in the fall. Thirteen youngsters reported that they like their Bannockburn teachers better than most teachers they have had and that the teachers treat them "just like all the other children."

In an attempt to make the city children feel at ease in a new environment, Bannockburn families have played host to them and helped them in other ways.

The Bannockburn Parent-Teacher Association has voted to continue the program by adding children next year if funds can be found. No County funds have been used.

The P-TA proposed that children now in the program be allowed to complete their elementary education at Bannockburn. These decisions will be made by the County and D.C. school boards.

# Involvement Starts In Kindergarten

Washington Post

10/16/69

By Lawrence Feinberg

Gwen Geiger, a middle-aged motherly kindergarten teacher, came to class yesterday with a black arm band wrapped around the sleeve of her green dress.

Two of her students, at Bannockburn Elementary School in Bethesda, also wore black arm bands, pinned on by their mothers.

"The other children asked what it was about," Mrs. Geiger said. "And I told them it was for peace. They're not too young to begin to understand."

Bannockburn is in an upper middle-class neighborhood that prides itself on its liberalism. Its activities marking the moratorium were among the most extensive for elementary schools in the area.

Some of the sixth grade girls — age 11 — already wear slacks and miniskirts at Bannockburn. Yesterday there were blue peace buttons on their blouses and black arm bands on their sleeves.



### **Principal Wore Band**

A few of the boys wore peace medallions around their necks. They said they bought them on Saturday in Georgetown, which they reached by riding their bicycles along the C & O canal path. On Tuesday, 74 fifth and sixth graders signed an antiwar petition. Yesterday, seven students came to school with picket signs — smaller than those carried by high school and college protesters, but carrying the same carefully-lettered message: PEACE, End the War Now.

The principal, Margaret Jones, who wore a black arm band herself, persuaded them not to picket, but when they returned to their sixth grade class, they refused to join the other students in a science lesson and retreated behind a movable partition.



### Student Discussion

Anthony Ian, the 26-year-old teacher, who also wore a peace button, started a discussion about Vietnam that lasted all day. Gradually the protesters joined in.

Ian read them Nicholas von Hoffman's column in yesterday's editions of The Washington Post. It said that protests would force the President to end the war. The students discussed what it meant.

In a fifth grade class, there was a debate.

"I'm a hawk," one boy declared. "If we pull out of Vietnam, we'll lose, and other countries will become Communist. Do you want the United States to become Communist too?"

"What are we proving there, anyway?" a girl with blonde hair replied. "If we pull out, we'll have something else to do with our own country instead of using up all those people over there."



### Mother's View

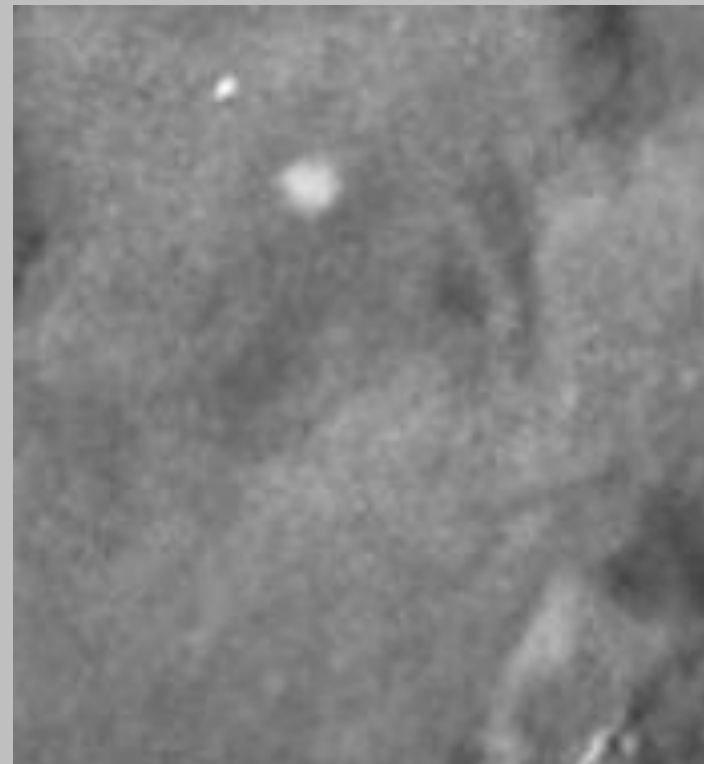
Outside the school one mother said, "They all want to protest, but they don't know what they're protesting about."

"I think it's good for them to say 'I'm not going to class. You can't force me,'" Ian remarked. "This thing of student unrest is filtering down from the colleges to the high schools to the junior highs and to us—I don't want to isolate them."

# Bannockburn in 1970



# Bannockburn School Grounds 1949 - 1970



1949



1957



1970



# 'Relevant' Sixth-Grade Studies

By Jeannette Smyth

Those old Puritan legends about the Pilgrims and the Indians have gotten short shrift from Mel Blankenship's sixth-grade social studies classes at Bannockburn Elementary School in Bethesda.

The students are spending this year studying what some believe to be the most "relevant" American social problems of the '70s. Unit by unit, the students study environmental pollution, poverty, the population explosion and drugs.

Because there are no formal textbooks and programs of study in these areas,

Blankenship and his students are learning in unusual and innovative—and apparently successful—ways.

Teacher Blankenship explains his problem with sources: "For our study of contemporary social problems, we began with nothing and collected material from every conceivable source—books, magazines, newspapers, pamphlets, etc."

Yesterday, the students shared their knowledge and observations on the subjects by performing their own skits for each other and reading essays they call "editorials."

There's something in children which is bred out of

grownups. They're excruciatingly candid, and so sensible that adults who have forgotten how to be sensible laugh at such children. They spoofed us yesterday.

One girl walks up to another and says, "I'm a representative of People Against Pollution and I'd like your contributions."

Two other girls reply, "Are you kidding? I don't wanna pay extra taxes for that. It's just a waste of money."

"But you must think of the future citizens of America."

"Aw phooey. By the time it gets to be real bad, we'll all be dead."

A second skit has two girls pretending to be housewives. They are seated opening an elaborately padlocked medicine cabinet. It was a play, they said, about "how some people don't even know they're addicted" to drugs.

Housewife No. 1 gushes, "Oh, I just love your new green dress! What size is it?"

"I just took two of these," says Housewife No. 2, handing her biddy-buddy some pills, "and in one week I was a size eight!"

"What size were you before?"

See *STUDIES*, C3, Col. 1

Washington Post

2/5/70

Social skits at Bannockburn Elementary: Lorry Delaplain (left) and Neal Ross read from the *Diary of a Drug Addict*. By Frank Hoy—The Washington Post.

## STUDIES, From C1

"That's none of your business."

While most of the girls chose to do skits, most of the boys read editorials. They showed a sophisticated grasp of pollution and population statistics. One boy

told the group that 40 percent of the light in Chicago is reduced by smog. Another said that each person in the United States uses vicariously 30 million gallons of water to make the products that he uses.

Teacher Blankenship's approach is simply to present

the students with what material he can find. Then the students draw their own conclusions.

"An interesting incident," Blankenship recounts, "was the students' reaction to the sight of hungry children watching TV in dilapidated shacks on what appeared to

be modern and expensive television sets. 'It is wrong,' they said. 'Their parents should not spend money for TV sets when their children are hungry.'"

Feeling that this was too narrow and Puritan a reaction, Blankenship tried to sensitize the children to the

situation. "With some groups," he continues, "our rather in-depth discussion of high interest and easy credit . . . and the idea that TV offered some relief and escape from the misery of their lives helped some of them to gain an insight into human behavior and the human condition."

One of the boys summed up in his editorial about the Potomac River: "If it were more clean," he piped, "it would be more fun."



## Open School Project Extension Approved

The Montgomery County board of education approved yesterday a one-year continuation of the Bannockburn-Meyer open school project under which up to 28 students from the District of Columbia will attend Bannockburn Elementary School this fall.

The project was begun in September, 1968. During the past two years, according to board figures, 21 students previously enrolled in grades one through four at the Agnes and Eugene Meyer Elementary School, 11th and Clifton Streets NW, have been transported by bus to Bannockburn in Bethesda. The project is funded by the District board of education with \$49,200 in federal impact aid.

When the District board of education approved the continuation of the project on July 30, it asked that an equivalent number of Montgomery County children be transported to the District in the school year 1971-72. The Montgomery board did not discuss the District's request yesterday.

Washington Post

8/12/70

# Suburb Elementary School Finds Itself Without 'D.C. Kids'

By Lawrence Feinberg  
Washington Post Staff Writer

When a group of parents at the Bannockburn Elementary School first suggested that Negro children be bused to their school from Washington, they wrote a report, reassuring their neighbors in Bethesda.

"Opening Bannockburn to a handful of Washington children will in no way jeopardize the fine education our children are receiving," the report said, "but it is expected to make a significant impact on the achievement level of the Negro child."

The report was written in November, 1967. A month later, the Bannockburn PTA voted to endorse the busing. So did the Montgomery County school board, with the stipulation that it would pay no money for the program.

The Washington school board approved it readily, and in September, 1968, the first 21 children made the nine-mile bus ride to Bannockburn from the Eugene Meyer Elementary School at 11th and Clifton Streets NW.

Despite the apprehensions of the project organizers, most of the whites at Bannockburn seemed glad to have the newcomers.

Ironically, though, the Washington school board, with a black majority, became more and more dubious about the program.

On Wednesday, despite an appeal by board president Anita Allen, the D.C. board voted 6 to 5 to cancel it.

Five of the Negroes on the board voted against the busing program; three to continue it. Two of the whites favored it; one was opposed.

After three years, the project—now with 31 children—was still the area's only program in which inner-city Negro students were being bused to a nearly-all white suburban school.

D.C. board member Edward L. Hancock said he didn't want it unless the busing was two-way, with whites from Bannockburn being enrolled at Meyer, but the leaders of the white Bethesda group had said their children wouldn't go.

"That's not equality," Hancock said.

Whether the Cardozo children did better at Bannockburn than they might have done in their neighborhood school was never shown.

When they arrived at Bannockburn most seemed bright and eager to learn. No systematic report on their progress has been completed.





Washington Post  
9/17/71

## At Bannockburn: 'Can't We Help?'

By Jim Mann

Washington Post Staff Writer

"If we want the people back, why can't we help?" asked Laura Adler, a sixth grader at Bannockburn Elementary School. "Why can't we raise the money?"

Bannockburn, a modern brick school with spacious playground surrounded by high trees in Montgomery County, unexpectedly found

itself without its "D.C. kids" yesterday.

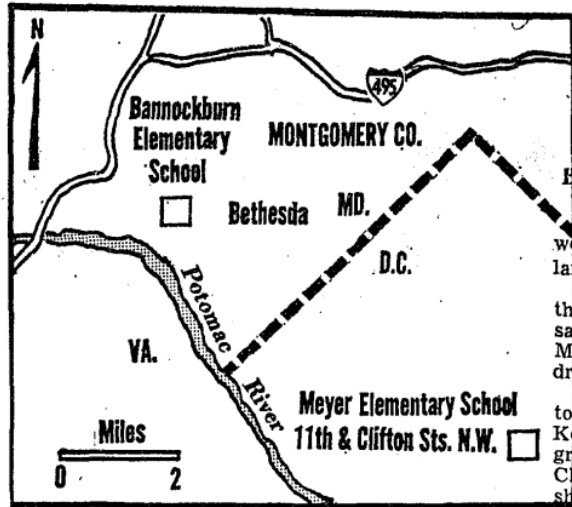
Bannockburn's new principal, Naomi Plumer, announced to the faculty before the start of school that the children from Eugene Meyer Elementary would be coming for one last day. But it was not to be: The D.C. children went to Meyer yesterday.

They had not had time to clean out their desks at Ban-

nockburn, say goodbye, or break the after-school dates arranged with Bannockburn students.

About 400 suburban children left at Bannockburn reacted with hope and optimism, some of them refusing to believe that the decision was final and searching instead for their own solutions.

See Bannockburn, C6, Col. 7



September 16, 1971  
Map shows locations of Meyer and Bannockburn schools

## Pupils Want to Help At Bannockburn

Bannockburn, From C1

"Could they pay half and we pay half?" asked Tim Silard, a fifth grader.

No, a reporter explained, the District's school board said the problem was that Montgomery County children would not go to Meyer.

"Why don't we volunteer to go to Meyer?" suggested Kevin Wear, a stocky sixth grader wearing a Bethesda-Chevy Chase baseball T-shirt. "I really wouldn't mind going."

But then, on reflection, Kevin was not sure that he wanted to go to Meyer. "I heard there is a lot of bad stuff and I wouldn't want to be beat up or anything," he said. "I don't think it's very organized there."

Kevin also was not sure his father would approve. "He works in Washington, and a lot of times he's been robbed," Kevin said.

Another boy in the crowd of sixth graders had a more direct explanation: "Some people," he said, carefully excluding himself, "don't want to be with all black children."

At one point, a slender boy with neck-length hair,

striped bellbottoms and a "smile" T-shirt, puffed his chest and announced, "We think it's rotten . . . We are going to have a protest tomorrow in front of the school."

But one of his classmates whispered to the reporter, "He always says he's going to do things he never does."

Talking about the Meyer children, the Bannockburn youths at first dwelt in such specifics as, "I liked Cecil Perkins."

Some said they liked all the D.C. children; some said they liked none; most agreed that some were good and some bad.

There were some curious characteristics, the sixth graders reported: the D.C. pupils didn't like being wrong in class, seemed scared of dogs and couldn't swim well.

With the encouragement of their parents, the Bannockburn children frequently invited the Meyer children into their homes after school or overnight. (Some of the Bannockburn parents were specifically assigned by the PTA to entertain a child from Meyer.)

Sometimes, a Meyer child



Some of the Meyer children would Bannockburn by driving into the District. When Clark Goodpaster visited Malcolm Smith, in the District, he found, "He had seven brothers and sisters . . . There were tough guys around there. One kid pulled out a switchblade. That's why D.C. kids were tough, you gotta be or it'll get to you."

Mrs. Plumer said there are now "about five or 10" remaining black students who attend because they live in the area.



9/17/71

# Bannockburn busing ends--no time for goodbys

By DONNA McKEOWN

Fourth grader Sabrina Jacob doesn't want to be a Girl Scout at Meyer Elementary School in her inner-city Cardozo neighborhood.

That's where she and 30 other youngsters attended school yesterday — some for the first time in four years.

"No," Sabrina said, adamantly shaking her pigtails, "I'd rather be a Girl Scout at Bannockburn."

Bannockburn is a modern elementary school, in the center of affluent Bethesda, and "home away from home" for Sabrina and many of her friends.

Since 1968, when a group of Bannockburn parents at a cocktail party evolved their good neighbor policy, pushed it and sold it to the District and Montgomery County boards of education, a tiny band of Cardozo children have been bused to Bannockburn every school day.

Wednesday night, the Bannockburn project abruptly ended.

## 6-5 TO END IT

The children had started the school year at Bannockburn, but the D.C. school board voted 6-5 to end it. The project was worthy, but the price — \$58,000 for tuition — was too high, they said. In addition, integration should be a "two way street — whites coming into the inner-city as well as blacks going out to the suburbs, they said.

Mrs. Mattie Taylor, one of the six board members who voted against the Bannockburn project, explained the money could be put to better use sending handicapped children — many of whom can't afford special training — to school.

She feels certain the board would okay the project — if Montgomery County would bear part of the cost.

"They paid nothing. They were not even willing to give them lunch. We had to pay an aide to ride the bus — had to pay for the bus plus \$1,200 tuition."

"I don't think they ought to take the attitude they are so superior we ought to pay thru the nose for the privilege of sending 31 children to their school," she said.

"It doesn't seem to fit — not when the goal is teaching equality and mutual respect."

## DISAPPOINTED

Mrs. Katherin Whitten, of 714 Fairmount-st nw, found out at midnight her daughter Stephanie, 11, would no longer be taking the nine-mile bus ride to Bethesda, beginning immediately.

She and her husband, a porter for the AFL-CIO were "very disappointed. We were hoping she would finish this year."

Altho dubious when Stephanie started four years ago, Mrs. Whitten "went along." Stephanie, an above average student, did well.

"It proved they learned," said Mrs. Whitten. "And it not only helped her, it helped the other kids too."

The kids got together after school, called each other on the phone and met for lunch.

"The kids are really more turned around (about it) than the parents," Mrs. Whitten said. "I guess it's just one of those things."

## NOT GIVING UP

Jerry Freibaum, engineer, Bannockburn parent and chairman of the open-school project, is not giving up on the idea. He hopes federal money can salvage the program.

It was an experiment in understanding that apparently worked — "But the real test will come 10 or 15 years from today in their attitudes as adults," he said.

There were hints of success.

"One boy from Cardozo moved to New Jersey two years ago. He came back here the past two summers so he could go to camp with one of the boys at Bannockburn," he said.

## SLEEPING OVER

Some children took turns spending nights at the other homes, one night in Bethesda, the next in the District. "That shows the barriers were breaking down, doesn't it?" asked Mr. Freibaum.

Ninety-five per cent of the District children stayed after school to join Brownie troops, baseball teams, and other projects. "Actually we encouraged them to miss their bus," he said. Bannockburn parents either took them home, or to their houses to spend the night when their parents couldn't pick them up. The District mothers got involved too and volunteered to help out in the projects.

"It's a case of do you want to cut off the chance of people learning to live together and understand each other," Mr. Freibaum said.

Yesterday, at Bannockburn, Mrs. Nettie Williams' fourth grade students brought in a newspaper clipping about the board's decision to discuss in current events.

"They were very surprised. They didn't understand how it could happen. They were very upset," she said.

Principal Naomi Plumer "had hoped to have time to help them make the adjustment." They didn't even have a chance to say goodbye.



# Interview Outdated by Move

Washington Post

9/17/71

Washington Daily News

9/17/71

Hanging on a bulletin board in the hall of the Bannockburn Elementary School is a written interview with Tawanna Quattlebaum, a sixth grade student who, until yesterday, was bused to the Bannockburn School.

The interview was written by Jenny Georgia, another sixth grade student. It reads, in part:

"Tawanna is an inner-city black girl who is being bused to Bannockburn in the Busing Program. (She's glad she is.)

"She is a thrifty, quiet, hard-working girl and she likes school . . .

"She is fairly keen on relevant issues. She is against the war and favors immediate withdrawal. She op-

poses President Nixon's views.

"Tawanna feels we should help stop pollution by cleaning up, and encouraging more people to ride bikes . . . She has said that if she had the chance, she would not demonstrate."

"She has brown skin, dark brown eyes and black hair. She's 11, was born in D.C. and is 4 ft. 5 in."



Above, Marion Barry celebrates his 1971 election to the DC School Board, shortly before voting against continuation of the busing program.



— News Photo by Wellner Streets  
Former Bannockburn students Sabrina Jacob, Katrina Morris and Geraldine Fason on their first day back at Meyer.

LUNCH MENU FOR SEPT MBER 1971

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

NOTE: The final day for "the Meyer kids" at Bannockburn was Wednesday, September 15, 1971.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		1 Hot Dog on Roll F.F. Potatoes Cole Slaw Apple Crisp	2 Salisbury Steak Whipped Potatoes B. Green Peas Peach Slices French Bread	3 Pizzaburger B. Green Beans Watermelon
HOLIDAY	7 Hamburger on Roll ✓ B. Corn B. Spinach Applesauce	8 Tomato Juice Grilled Cheese B. Yellow Squash Fruit Jello	9 Lasagna Tossed Salad Sl. Cantaloupe French Bread	10 Fishburger w/ tartar sauce ✓ Tator Tots Cole Slaw Purple plums
13 Orange Juice Hot Dog on Roll Potato Chip Garnish B. Green Beans Peach Half	14 Meat Balls & Gravy Whipped Potatoes Apple-Raisin Salad Cornbread	15 Sloppy Joe Carrot-Celery sticks Pineapple Tidbits Sugar Cookie	16 Spaghetti Tossed Salad Fruit Jello French Bread	17 Tuna Salad w/ tomato slices Cole Slaw B. Green Peas Apple Crisp Buttered Roll
20 Barbecue on Bun B. Broccoli B. Lima Beans Pineapple Crunch	21 Country Fried Steak B. Rice & Gravy Cole Slaw Peach Half Hot Rolls	22 Beef-a-roni ✓ Tossed Salad Orange/Grapefruit French Bread	23 Chicken & Gravy Mashed Potatoes B. Carrots Raisin Bread	24 Fish Fillet w/ tartar sauce ✓ F.F. Potatoes B. Spinach B. Cornbread
27 Hot Dog on Roll ✓ Cole Slaw B. Green Beans Apple-Rice Dessert	28 Spaghetti Tossed Salad Apricots French Bread	29 IN SERVICE DAY	30 Hamburger on Bun ✓ F.F. Potatoes B. Succotash Citrus Fruit Cup	Oct. 1 Tomato-Rice Soup Grilled Cheese B. Mixed Veg. Peach Slices



## ***Court Rules Against D.C. Pupil Busing***

The U.S. Court of Appeals here yesterday refused to revive a school busing program that allowed some Washington children to attend the predominantly white Bannockburn Elementary School in Montgomery County.

The program, which involved daily busing of about 30 children from Meyer Elementary School at 11th and Clifton Streets NW, was discontinued by the D.C. board of education on Sept. 16.

In denying a preliminary injunction against the D.C. school board, a three-judge panel found that the main reason the school board ended the program was a "concern that the Bannockburn arrangement had not cultivated a two-way educational experience."

White pupils from the suburban school were not sent by bus to the predominantly black Meyer school.

Washington Post

11/4/71

## Court to rehear busing case

The U.S. Court of Appeals yesterday decided to hold a full hearing to reconsider a three-judge panel's January ruling upholding a law barring the use of congressional funds to bus black school children from the District to the Bannockburn Elementary School in Bethesda.

Judge Spottswood W. Robinson III angrily attacked two fellow judges in that decision, claiming their decision would "sound the death knell for all similar (busing) arrangements." He said the voluntary program "has represented the first and only step" toward giving integrated education to District and Montgomery children alike.

The majority opinion, written by Judge George E. MacKinnon, held that the constitutional questions raised by parents from both schools were "insubstantial" and didn't deserve a full airing in court.

A decision by the full court here could affect the national anti-busing issue in Congress, according to lawyers for the plaintiffs. If the decision stands, they feel it may be seen as a legal precedent for Congress to put restrictions on the use of funds for busing. A date has not yet been set for the review.

The experiment involved the busing of about 30 black children from Meyer Elementary School to the predominantly white Bannockburn school. The plan — which survived two full years of operation — was approved in 1968 by District and Montgomery school officials.



## SOURCES AND CREDITS

### PHOTOS/ARCHIVES

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- Mrs. Zucker's First Grade Class 1969
- The Lewis Family
- The Morris Family
- The Heilprin Family
- The Krivit Family
- "Origin of Bannockburn Elementary"

(excerpted from *Bannockburn: The Story of a Cooperative Community* (1978))

### NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

- Evening Star
- Times Herald
- Washington Post
- Washington Afro American
- Washington Daily News
- Baltimore Sun

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END!

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RESEARCHER/COMPILER/CREATOR

Sam Johnston

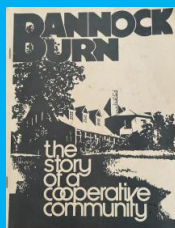
sjbethesda@gmail.com

# BANNOCKBURN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

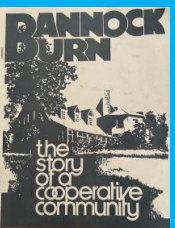
*IN NEWS  
AND  
PHOTOS:*

*1949 - 1972*

*Dedicated to all  
Bannockburners,  
past and present...*



# ADDENDUM



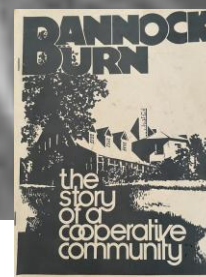
# The Origin of Bannockburn Elementary\*

Although the county had purchased the school site from the Bannockburn co-op in 1951, and the school board had included the school in its proposed 1953-54 budget, it was only because of the vigilance of Bannockburn area residents and their organizations that the plans for the school were finally realized.

Early in 1954 the school board withdrew its plans for the school because the county manager and the county council had slashed the board's proposed budget, forcing the board to set up a priority list. Available school census figures gave the board the false impression that the need for a school in the Bannockburn area was less acute than in some other areas of the county.

When this disturbing news reached the community, Jack Tourin, president of the Bannockburn Civic Association (BCA), Jeanne Goldman, chairman of the education committee, and Joyce McDonald, education chairman of the Bannockburn(Heights) Citizens' Association, met with Montgomery County School Superintendent Dr. Forbes Norris. His figures on expected school enrollment showed that other areas had a more urgent need for schools than the Bannockburn area. At that time the Bannockburn children were attending the Clara Barton Elementary School in Cabin John, and the superintendent expected that the crowded conditions there would be alleviated when the Brookmont School (under construction) was completed. He assured the delegation that the Bannockburn school would be put back into the budget when the need for it was demonstrated.

In the fall of 1954 BCA's new education committee (cochairmen Jeanne and David Goldman, Irene Orkin, Milton Chase, Seymour Berlin, Melvin Brethouwer, and Stacey Brooks) learned of two important developments: the imminent construction of 135 homes on the Bannockburn tract and the overcrowding at Somerset Elementary School (near Kenwood). The committee decided to make a speedy survey of potential school enrollment in Bannockburn and neighboring communities.



\*Excerpted from an article written by Bannockburners Sidney Orkin and Stacey Brooks in

*Bannockburn: The Story of a Cooperative Community* (1978)

Bannockburn  
Elementary  
School

Mrs. Colip, Clara Barton's principal, and Mrs. Bricker, Somerset's principal, provided school census data; concerned parents conducted a door-to-door nose-count of preschoolers; and various builders supplied figures on the number of houses they were planning to build in the area. This information gave the committee a reasonably accurate picture of what the expected enrollment at Clara Barton and Somerset would be in September of 1955 and 1956. The committee took its preliminary findings to Dr. Norris, who was by then aware of local developments and promised that the Bannockburn school would be included in the school board's 1955-56 budget.

On behalf of the civic and Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) groups in the Bannockburn area a letter was sent in December 1954 to Dr. Norris, presenting a conservative analysis of the committee's findings on the school census and the impact of residential construction on school enrollment as of November 1954 (actual) and anticipated enrollment as of September 1955 and September 1956. The net result would be an excess of 100 pupils at Clara Barton and at Somerset by September 1955 and 200 excess pupils the following fall. Somerset was already using its auditorium, its stage, its library, and a hallway to accommodate its pupils, and some were being transferred to the Radnor Elementary School. Similar overcrowding was anticipated for Clara Barton by September 1955 and even worse conditions by September 1956.

Copies of the letter to Dr. Norris were sent to the school board members, together with a covering letter informing them of the Superintendent's promise and urging them to give priority consideration to the needs of the Bannockburn area. This letter was signed by Jack Tourin, BCA president, the presidents of the Bannockburn Heights and Fairway Hills citizens' associations, a representative of Country Club Village, and the mayor of Glen Echo.

At the March 1, 1955 meeting of the Clara Barton PTA, Dr. Maxwell A. Burdette, director of research for the county schools, and school board members Helen Scharf and Lathrop Smith spoke on school problems. Dr. Burdette's figures on the growing school population were considerably lower than those of our BCA education committee, which were presented by Jeanne Goldman. As a result of this disclosure, two things happened: (1) the education committee made a resurvey of the homes under actual construction and confirmed its original figures; (2) a committee, consisting of Melvin Brethouwer, Milton Chase, and Joyce McDonald, met with Dr. Burdette, who, although sympathetic, said it was too late to change his original report to Dr. Norris. He also said that the committee's figures would be taken into account in determining the size of the school.

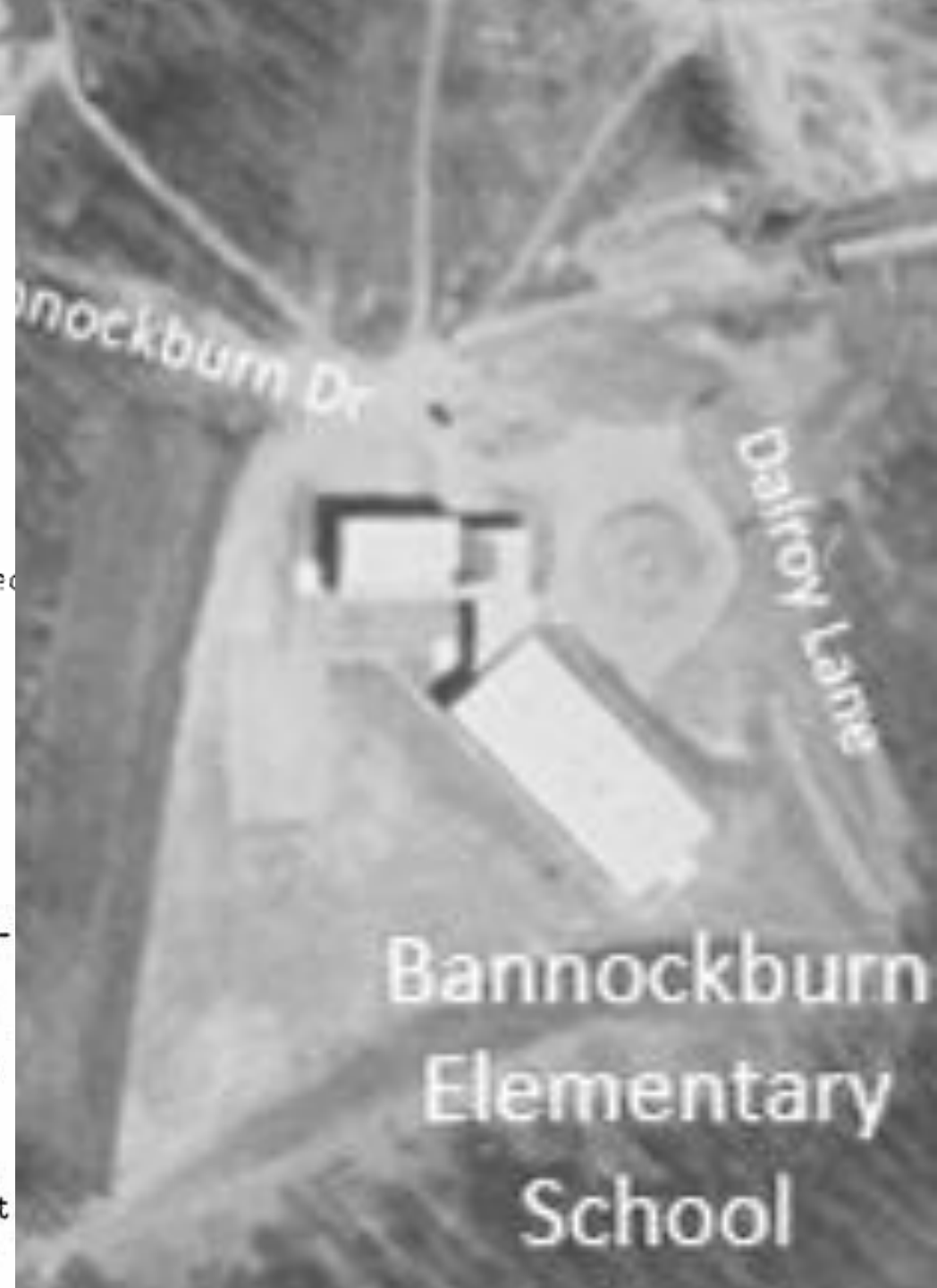


In April 1955 the schools committee of the Montgomery County Civic Federation voted to recommend deletion of the Bannockburn school from the budget. The committee had based its decision on the school board's original low figures. Sidney Orkin, our new BCA president, and Seymour Berlin, our new education committee chairman, supplied updated and more realistic figures, and the committee changed its vote in our favor.


The June 1955 issue of the Bannockburn Newsletter carried a special two-page S.O.S. (Save Our School) message from Sidney Orkin and Seymour Berlin, urging residents to write to county council members and the press and to attend the council's budget hearing on June 10. Many Bannockburners attended the hearing at the Richard Montgomery Junior High School gym in Rockville. Those who stayed long enough heard Seymour Berlin speak (after midnight) on behalf of the various local civic groups. Edward Wenk, Jr., representing local PTAs, was called upon to speak at 1:05 a.m. The county council also received a flood of letters from this area.

All these concerted efforts finally brought victory, and the council approved the Bannockburn school appropriation in the 1955-56 budget. But then there was still another setback. The engineering problems presented by the hilly and rocky school site caused Dr. Norris to start looking for an alternate site. One difficulty was the necessity of pumping water up to the school; the other was building a driveway on the steep grade from the street to the school. So again Orkin and Berlin conferred with Dr. Norris and obtained his assurance that every effort would be made to overcome the engineering problems.

Early in September Dr. Norris informed us that the school would finally be built on the Bannockburn site. At about this time another crisis arose when the superintendent's plans were presented to the school board for approval. Two board members questioned the desirability of going ahead with the Bannockburn school when other areas appeared to have a greater need. But Orkin, Berlin, and Wenk were there and persuaded them that our information on anticipated enrollment was reliable and realistic and so convinced them to support the construction of the Bannockburn school.



Bannockburn  
Elementary  
School



In December 1955 it was expected that the school would open early in 1957. But in January 1957 the news was that the site difficulties would delay the opening until the fall.

Toward the end of 1956, while the school was under construction, the problem of districting arose. The BCA board went on record as opposing any plan that would separate the children of our community by sending them to different schools. A committee was appointed to present our views to school board officials.

On September 5, 1957 the long-awaited Bannockburn Elementary School became a reality, with 8 classrooms and an all-purpose room for 270 pupils and 10 teachers. Its first principal was Alexander Gottesman, who had been teaching at Bradley Elementary School.

As our projections of enrollment had indicated, the school was overcrowded at the time it opened, and it was necessary to use the all-purpose room (including the stage) for classroom space.

The superintendent was aware of the overcrowding and had already requested funds to build an addition of six classrooms and a kitchen. This was completed in the spring of 1963.