

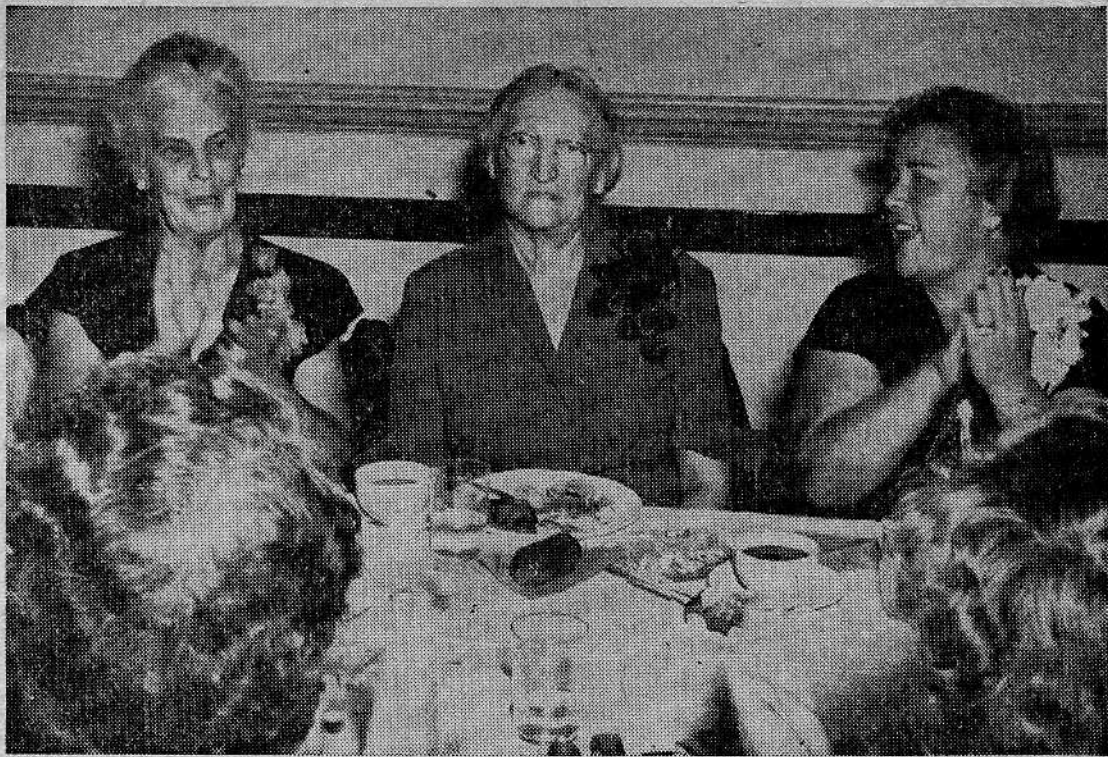
PRINCIPALS



MRS. MINNIE T. HEARD
January 1922--June 1953

MRS. MINNIE T. HEARD IS HONORED

In October of 1950, Mrs. Minnie T. Heard, Principal of Young Junior High School, was highly honored by being selected with a unanimous decision of the judges as Dothan's Woman of the Year for 1950. The contest was sponsored by the local Business and Professional Women's Club. Because the school takes such pride in the fact that this signal and merited honor has come to the school's first principal, a few of the pictures used and public tributes paid her publicly are here recorded.



WOMAN OF YEAR — Mrs. Minnie T. Heard, center, hears the judges have named her Dothan's Woman of the Year for 1950. This pictures her reaction as a large banquet group began to applaud. Mrs. O. S. Lewis, left, and Mrs. F. A.

Flowers, two of eight nominees for the honor are pictured, also. The scene is at Houston Memorial Library where the contest, sponsored by Dothan Business and Professional Woman's Club, was climaxed. (Eagle Staff Photo).

Mrs. Heard Chosen Woman Of The Year; Wins Loving Cup

By ED DRIGGERS

Mrs. Minnie T. Heard is Dothan's Woman of the Year.

She was the unanimous selection of judges and the choice of six Dothan civic organizations who nominated her.

Mrs. Heard has steered Dothan children and grown-ups alike toward the right objectives in life since 1921 as principal of Young Junior High School.

But judges had to look beyond "an attitude of modesty and reluctance to admit her accomplishments, a tribute to her character." One nominating club spoke those words for her.

Another said, "Mrs. Heard's greatness lies not only in what she is herself but in what she makes of others."

Mrs. Heard was honored last night at Houston Memorial Library during the Business and Professional Woman's Club banquet. The banquet climaxed National Business Woman's Week.

Mrs. Addie A. Wilson, 1949 Woman of the Year, broke the news to the quiet lady by reading a report from judges in the B and PW Club - sponsored contest. Then the applause started.

Mrs. Heard was presented a huge silver loving cup which is hers "for keeps." Tomorrow she'll ride in the Festival Parade in a position of honor.

Dothan's Woman of the Year is a deaconess of First Christian Church here. This year she was co-chairman of the Houston County Junior Red Cross drive. She is supervisor of instruction for Dothan's four elementary schools, one of which is named for her.

During the year, Young Junior High School, under her guidance "adopted" a French war orphan and has sent it more than \$280 in cash and clothing. Mrs. Heard also is a member of the Advisory Council for Girl Scouts.

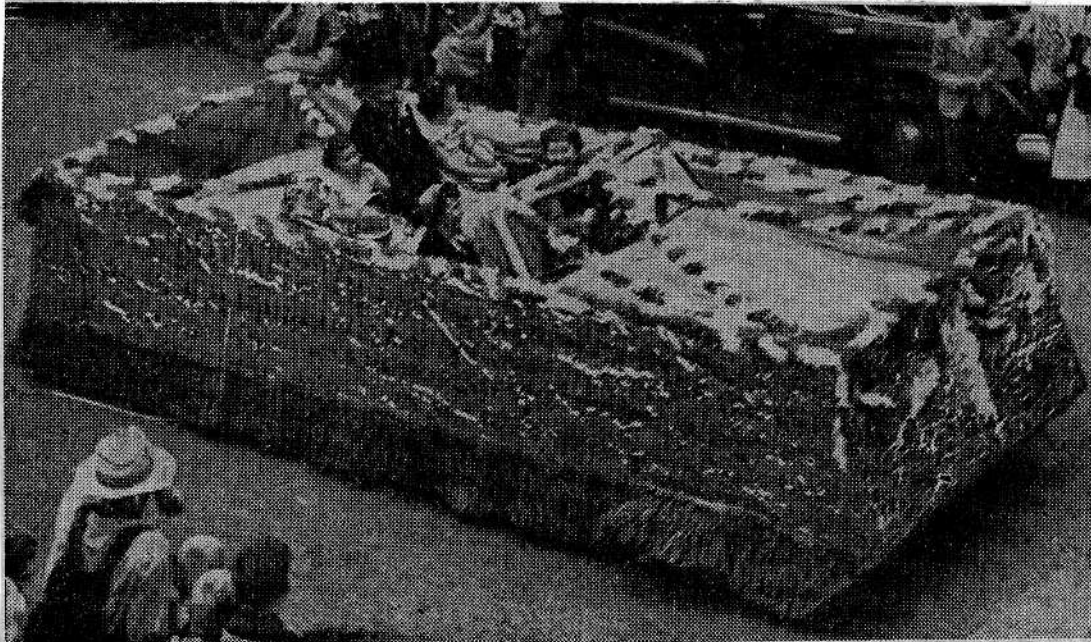
Another club in its letter portrayed Mrs. Heard as one who not only "gives her alms on street corners but gives quietly and generously to her church causes."

B and PW Club officials point out the annual contest is sponsored to focus attention on women who contribute to the civic, cultural, and political advancement of their community but receive no public recognition otherwise.

Mrs. Heard was one of eight women nominated this year. Others were Mrs. Evelyn Mullen, Mrs. F. A. Flowers, Mrs. Frank Covington, Jr., Mrs. O. S. Lewis, Mrs. Claude Cotton, Mrs. Clifford Schwalb and Mrs. C. W. Johnson.

Mrs. E. J. Whiddon, a guest of honor at the banquet, was nominated but is a resident of Ashford Highway — not in the city limits — and could not be considered because of rules governing the contest. She headed the Houston County Cancer Crusade this year.

Principal speaker was Mrs. J. C. Knight. Mrs. W. W. Avery was toastmistress. Farm agents and other agricultural workers from Houston, Coffee and Geneva Counties were recognized at the banquet. Charles McNab and Virgil Adkins were guests and gave a musical and dance program.



DOTHAN'S WOMAN OF THE YEAR, Mrs. Minnie T. Heard, principal of Young Junior High School, rode the Business and Professional Woman's Club decorated automobile which won sec-

ond prize in the civic division. Mrs. Heard was greeted with applause all along the route. (Eagle Staff Photo).

A MERITED HONOR

There is rejoicing and applause in the selection of Mrs. Minnie T. Heard as Dothan's "Woman Of The Year" and a countless number of Dothan residents, as well as many who formerly lived here but are following pursuits elsewhere, are

finding personal satisfaction in the honor that has come to her.

The admirers of Mrs. Heard are legion, for they are present and former students in the City school system as well as parents of students. Students who have come under the influence of Mrs. Heard are the better for it, and the imprint that she has made on young lives has been visible and appreciated by parents.

Mrs. Heard has been more than a supervisor of school children. She has been a counselor, example and inspiration. She has moulded characters by the thousands through gentleness, understanding and moral leadership. The esteem in which she is held is reflected in the intense loyalty that her former students have for her.

One of the most fitting tributes to Mrs. Heard was found in these words from the civic club that nominated her: "Mrs. Heard's greatness lies not only in what she is herself but in what she makes of others."

Mrs. Heard, who has been a supervisor in the City school system since 1921, has run a sort of factory—a factory turning out good citizens. Her craftsmanship in this respect is recognized and has been an enrichment to this community.

We salute Mrs. Heard, Dothan's "Woman Of The Year", and we congratulate the Dothan Business and Professional Women's Club, the sponsor of the award on its selection for this annual honor. It could not have gone to a more deserving person, as attested by so much enthusiastic applause.

Dothan Eagle, Oct. 20, 1950

The following resolution was adopted by the Dothan Teachers Association at its regular meeting December 4, 1950, as an expression of appreciation and commendation to Mrs. Minnie Taylor Heard for the honor she has received in being selected for the annual award of Dothan's Woman of the Year, sponsored by the Dothan Business and Professional Women's Club:

WHEREAS, We, the Faculty of the Dothan City Schools, feeling keenly the honor that Mrs. Heard's selection reflects on our entire organization,

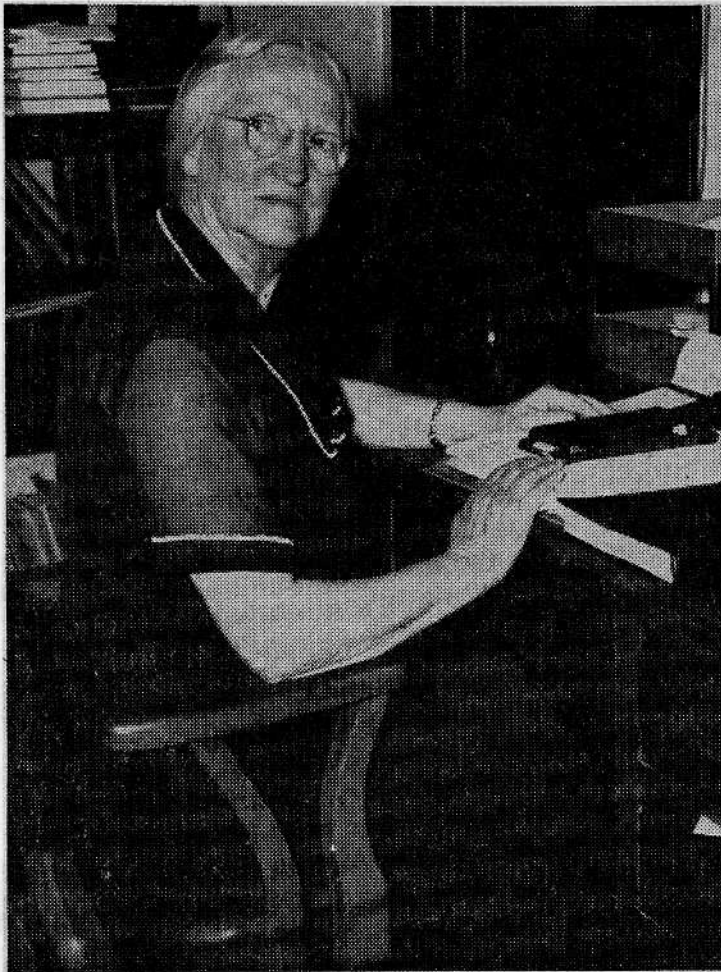
RESOLVE, That the Dothan Teachers Association take this opportunity to express to our co-worker, Mrs. Minnie Taylor Heard, the pride we feel in the great honor which she has received in being unanimously chosen Dothan's Woman of the Year.

Since 1921, Mrs. Heard has been associated with the Dothan City Schools. She has served during this time as both Grade Supervisor and Principal of Young Junior High School. In this dual capacity, she has come in contact with most of the students, the parents of students who have passed through our schools, and the vast majority of the teachers who have instructed these pupils. Her enrichment to the community can not be estimated, for as Bernard Baruch says, "A teacher affects eternity."

The selection of Mrs. Heard for this signal honor brought forth expressions of pleasure from every walk of life. This is just another evidence of the esteem in which she is held by those who have felt the imprint of her nobility of character.

She has taken every opportunity "To pluck a thistle and plant a flower," and is a most outstanding example of Public Relations Ambassador of our profession.

Be it further RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be recorded by being attached to the minutes of the Association, and that a copy be sent to Mrs. Heard as evidence of our regard.



AS MANY HAVE SEEN HER—Mrs. Minnie T. Heard gazes from her desk at Young Junior High School toward the door, a scene familiar to thousands who have benefited from her guidance and compassion. After 31 years as principal of the school, the beloved "Mother to Many" is retiring from the position at the end of this term.—(Eagle staff photo)

'Mother To Many' To Leave Position

By **ABBY ELLARD**
Eagle Staff Writer

American thoughts today are turned gratefully toward mother. But many Dothanians—past and present—have reserved a corner of their hearts for a white-haired, energetic lady who for more than 30 years has been a second mother to them.

To Mrs. Minnie T. Heard, principal of Young Junior High School for 31 years who is retiring from the position after this term, more than 17,000 former pupils can say, "Thanks for the helping hand."

Good fortune came to Dothan in 1920 when Mrs. Heard moved here from Gadsden where she had been principal of 11th Street School. When Young Junior High School opened early in 1922, she became its first principal.

No Plans

Her retirement as principal was announced this week end by Bruce Flurry, city school superintendent.

Future plans? Right now she's too busy with the closing of school to give much thought to the future. But it's safe to say youngsters and their problems will claim a major share of her attention.

A grandmother in her own right, Mrs. Heard more than fulfills the requirement suggested in the lines by Dorothy Canfield Fisher:

"A mother is not a person to lean on but a person to make leaning unnecessary."

Because of her understanding of them, many problems that beset the youngster in the vital junior high stage, this educator — and she's that in the true sense—is truly a stanchion of understanding upon which children might lean until they learn to stand alone.

Understanding

Never too busy to give absolute attention to the perplexities of her children, Mrs. Heard knows that when she deals with them honestly and sincerely, she will invariably get the same consideration in return.

"All children make mistakes but in making those mistakes, he makes a man," she observed. "All those children ask is a square

deal, so we're honest with them and they with us."

Many a child has come to Mrs. Heard's office confused, worried and unhappy. After an undisturbed heart-to-heart talk, things are brighter. The weight of the world has been lifted from the immature shoulders and seemingly placed on those of the beloved principal.

"Many of the pupils in school now are children of former pupils," she points out. "In some families," she proudly adds, "both the mother and father attended school here."

Many Honors

Mrs. Heard has been the recipient of many honors. Her selection as Dothan's Woman of the Year for 1950 and the elementary school which bears her name are but two examples which symbolize the devotion felt for her.

The mention of Mrs. Heard's name in Dothan invites such comment as this from Mrs. Jeff Hudson, a member of the first class to finish Young Junior High:

"I've never seen anyone who can bring out the honesty and build character in a child like she can."

Sam Behrman: "She's wonderful and as fine as they come."

Such expressions are the rule where Minnie T. Heard is the topic of conversation.

But probably the most fitting analysis of this "Mother to Many" is a brief sentence found in the letter which nominated her for Woman of the Year:

"Mrs. Heard's greatness lies not only in what she is herself but in what she makes of others."

Retiring School Principal Honor Guest At Banquet Given By Elementary Teachers

Mrs. Minnie T. Heard who is retiring as principal of Young Junior High School, was guest of honor Monday evening at a dinner party given at the Houston Hotel.

Teachers in the four elementary schools in the city were hostesses.

Receiving informally with Mrs. Heard were the elementary school principals and Miss Mary Jeter and Mrs. Dwight McInnish.

The banquet tables in the main dining room were decorated with arrangements of red roses, Admiral Byrd daisies and Queen Anne's lace. Marking the honoree's place was an exquisite design of gladioli and snapdragons in shades of yellow and gold. Soft lighting was from white candles burning in crystal candelabra. Background decorations included large clusters of gladioli in vivid shades.

Miss Madge Page was program chairman and the following teachers related humorous experiences in the classroom: Mrs. Byron Gwaltney, Mrs. Robert Yarbrough, Mrs. Philip Hamm, Mrs. Howard Gullage, Mrs. Myrtice Corbitt, and Miss Ruby Sherer. Miss Page sang two vocal numbers and she was accompanied at the piano by Mrs. B. C. Word.

Miss Dora Cook presented Mrs. Heard a beautiful silver tray which was a gift from the elementary school teachers. Miss Cook paid tribute to the retiring principal for her many years of service and success with the Dothan teachers and students.

Assembled for the occasion were Mrs. Heard, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Flurry and the following members of Highland, Southside, Rose Hill and Minnie T. Heard schools: Highland school: Miss Emmie

Thompson, Mrs. Ernestine Anderson, Mrs. Sara Baxter, Miss Audrey Damian, Miss Willie Griffin, Mrs. Elizabeth Gwaltney, Miss Bertha Howell, Miss Mary Jeter, Mrs. Neida C. Johnson, Mrs. Hilda W. Kerlin, Miss Esther Ligon, Miss Madge Page, Mrs. Ruth Pelland, Mrs. Frances Woods, Mrs. Ethel J. Robinson, Mrs. Irma A. Wynn and Mrs. Evelyn Ellis.

Southside: Miss Alice Elliott, Miss Henri Bruner, Mrs. Eunice O. Folkes, Mrs. Dorothy Garcia, Mrs. Ruth Harwell, Mrs. Ruby Lawrence, Miss Irene Mobley, Mrs. Evelyn Mullen, Miss Frances Richards, Miss Ruby Sherer, Miss Frances Whigham and Mrs. Reba Buffkin. Rose Hill: Mrs. Sadie B. Word, Mrs. Louise Crammer, Mrs. Evelyn Hamm, Mrs. Betty Hughes, Mrs. Jean McInnish, Mrs. Dorothy McPhaul, Mrs. Minnie Will Weeks and Mrs. Merna Griffin.

Minnie T. Heard: Miss Dora Cook, Miss Joyce Anderson, Miss Jewell Cauley, Mrs. Charles Clearman, Mrs. Myrtice Corbitt, Mrs. Claude Cotton, Mrs. Robert Cullver, Mrs. Howard Gullage, Miss Jessie Holland, Miss Emily Slocomb, Mrs. Charles Smith, Mrs. Grady White, Miss Bernice Woods and Mrs. India Yarbrough.

Retiring Principal Feted At Party; Faculty Group Entertains At Hotel

Mrs. Minnie T. Heard, who is retiring this month as principal of Young Junior High School, was guest of honor Wednesday evening at a dinner party given by the Young Junior High School faculty and the four teachers who were transferred to the high school when the ninth grade moved into the new annex.

The high school teachers serving as joint hostesses were Miss Mary Willie Jones, Miss Mary Baker, Miss Margaret McCall, and Miss Bobbie Doss.

Decorations followed the circus theme and musical recordings of appropriate selections were played during the dinner hour. Adding a note of interest to the table decorations were miniature clowns, animal figurines and clusters of balloons.

A musical feature was a vocal solo, "The Man on the Flying Trapeze," sung by Miss Essie Mae Smitherman, who was accompanied at the piano by Robert Livingston.

Miss Carolyn McCallum presented a gift of silver to Mrs. Heard from the hostess group.

Mr. Bruce Flurry, superintendent of the city schools, and Mrs. Flurry were special guests.

Others attending were: Miss Florene Daly, Mrs. Zona Baxter, Mrs. Verdie Boomer, Miss Laura Lee Ferguson, O. L. Gilstrap, Miss Pauline Jernigan, Miss Carolyn McCallum, Mrs. Merle Peterson, Mrs. Donald Robinson, Mrs. C. E. Segrest, Miss Essie Mae Smitherman, Mrs. E. W. Walker, Miss Matha Ward, Mrs. Frank Whitesell, Mrs. Edith Burdeshaw, Mrs. Bob Mixon, Mrs. Nina Spurlock, Miss Leila Stuckey, Mrs. Grace Williams, Miss Alena Faye Barr, Miss Fannie Mae Faulk, and Robert Livingston.

YJHS Class Pays Tribute To Mrs. Heard, Principal

Young Junior High School's Junior Two class put a lump in the throats and tears in the eyes of their fellow students, teachers and parents in their tribute to Mrs. Minnie T. Heard, Thursday.

The occasion was the annual "Junior Two Day" at the school, an event during which various rooms of the class presented acts of entertainment with the crowning of a king and queen as the concluding highlight.

But yesterday, they said fare-

well to Mrs. Heard, principal of Young Junior High School since its opening in 1922.

Queen Mary Ann Chalker pinned a corsage on the principal and King Fields Bailey presented a gift to her.

The modest, white-haired lady who retires this month from active work in education, was every inch queen as she opened the package to bring forth a silver goblet.

In a quiet, perhaps slightly unsteady voice she read the inscription "From Your Last Junior Two Class — 1953." It also bore the large initial "H."

The applause was deafening as Mrs. Heard walked down the aisle to step up on the stage as members of the cast joined in expressing their love for the teacher who has been a "school mother" to them.

Theme of the program was a court production, with pages announcing each event in a rhyme.

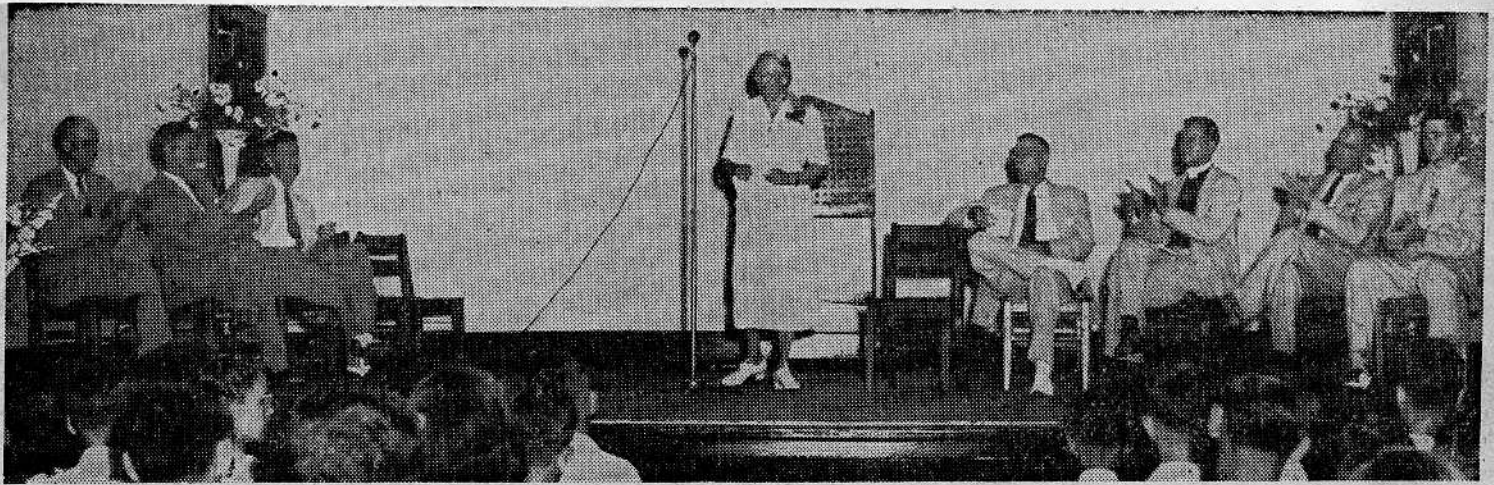
Members of the court were Sylvia Snead, Ellen Crawford, Martha Ellen Sweatt, Harriet Moseley, Melinda Merrill, Dorma Huff, Beverly Blumberg and Gayle Phelps.

Acts in the show included "Sparkling Peggy Jane," a duet; "a black-face routine; The Human Xylophone; a monologue, the Crystal Gazer, a solo by Miss Essie Mae Smitherman; a "One

Word" sketch; the bunny hop and the last will and testament of the class.

THE DOTHAN EAGLE,
Sunday, May 24, 1953

Mrs. Minnie T. Heard Gets Check From Grateful City



HONORED FOR SERVICE—Mrs. Minnie T. Heard is shown above at the microphone just after receiving from George Y. Malone, an envelope containing a check for \$2,133.50. The gift was a token of appreciation from friends and former students for her 31 years of service as Young Junior High School principal. On the stage (left to right) are Fred Moseley, chairman of the City Board of Education;

Ray Hayes and Jeff Hudson, board members; George Y. Malone, the Rev. Ben Meginniss, rector of the Episcopal Church of the Nativity; City School Supt. Bruce Flurry, and Jerry Davis, president of the DHS Louise Pelham Chapter of the National Honor Society. —(Eagle staff photo)

That European trip, arranged for Mrs. Minnie T. Heard by former students, parents of former students and friends of the beloved educator as a gesture of appreciation for her years of service to Dothan children as principal of Young Junior High School, must wait its turn on her busy schedule.

A check for \$2,133.50 was presented to Mrs. Heard Friday afternoon at the climax of her 31st year at Young Junior High School. George Y. Malone, speaking for her legion of friends, made the presentation, telling Mrs. Heard that "it is our way of expressing our love and admiration for you and what you have done for Dothan."

Junior high school graduates, their relatives and friends who packed the school auditorium Friday for the exercises greeted Malone's announcement of the gift with a storm of applause.

Expresses Thanks

Holding the envelope in hands that trembled lightly, Mrs. Heard said "I deeply appreciate this gift and accept it with humble gratitude. Dothan is a wonderful place and it has been awfully good to me.

"This afternoon I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the people of Dothan for their wonderful cooperation and I thank them for the fine things they have done for me.

"This gift means more than just a trip to me; it means that during 33 years I have been here I have been able to keep the friendship, and respect, faith and trust of these friends. That means more than any

trip could.

"In the future, wherever I go or whatever I do, a large part of my heart will be here in Dothan with the children I've taught and loved," she concluded.

Yesterday, having recovered from the excitement and thrill of the 31st graduation, Mrs. Heard said that the trip would have to wait until later this year.

"I'll be in Dothan for another month, "cleaning house" at the school and getting everything in order to move. Then I'm going to St. Louis, Mo., to spend some time with my son and his family and await the arrival of another grandchild," she explained.

Family Reunion

Last on her crowded summer schedule is a family reunion in Tennessee, which she doesn't intend to miss.

Malone's presentation address centered about a graduation card sent to Mrs. Heard in care of The Dothan Eagle.

Explaining to the audience that Mrs. Heard did not know about the card, he said "this shows the great respect in which she is held by all."

The card was written by Dorothy Dix, Geneva, daughter of the late Gabe Dix, caretaker at Young Junior High School for a number of years.

Prior to the gift presentation, Mrs. Heard officiated for the 31st time at a Young Junior High School graduation, presenting diplomas to 168 students.

Harriet Moseley and Michael Gregory were recognized as the outstanding boy and girl in the class. Jerry Davis, president of the DHS Louise Pelham Chapter of the National Honor Society, presented the annual chapter trophy to the two all "A" Students.

Prior to awarding the diplomas, Mrs. Heard read her annual list of "grandchildren." The list is composed of students who had one or both parents attend Young Junior High School under Mrs. Heard's supervision.

The Rev. Ben A. Meginniss, rector of the Episcopal Church of the Nativity, gave the invocation and City School Supt. Bruce Flurry introduced Malone.

George Watson Turk became principal with the beginning of the
1953-1954 term.