ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM — Mack B. Simpson Jr., principal and Anthony Kurek Jr., assistant principal.

THE NO. SCHOOL

ALL HAIL

Grove Park Elementary

By Elizabeth M. Oliver, City Editor

All pictures by Glasco Ryales,

Should you wish to visit an ideal Baltimore public elementary school or if you want your precious child to start out in an extra good school, consider Grove Park Elementary at 5545 Kennison Avenue.

You will not be disappointed and your mind about schools today will be changed from unhappiness to pleasure.

[illegible] Simpson Jr., one of the city's top educators, is a capable principal and it can be safely said, he has left nothing undone to make Grove Park what he calls "The No. 1 School".

Principal Simpson is proud that he has a No. 1 faculty of dedicated teachers who are expertly skilled in the task of developing children to the fullest extent in knowledge.

Look at the faces of the happy children in this special AFRO tabloid of 12 pages . . . and see for yourself, a group of 590 youngsters growing and learning.

Here is the list of teachers and the staff which keeps Grove Park Elementary in No. 1 shape:

FACULTY

Kindergarten — Miss Jane Oberndorf

First grade — Mrs. Joyce Wheeler and Mrs. Marylee Waxman

Second Grade — Mrs. Earlean Hairston, Miss Christine Leake and Mrs. Caretha Passmore

Third Grade — Mrs. Nina Luster, Miss Carol Connelly and Mrs. Ida Robinson

Fourth Grade — Miss Carolyn Thomas, Mrs. Joyce Lomax, Mrs. Lillie Grier and Mrs. Judy Santee

Fifth Grade — Mrs. Frances Edmondson, Miss Patricia Ryce and Mrs. Brenda Hubbard

Sixth Grade — Cycrel Galbreath (on special leave), Miss Sonja Bonds, Mrs. Adelaide Flamer and Miss Laura Vulgaris

Structured Learning Environment — Mrs. Diana Metzer Tuck

Language Learning Disability — Miss Mary Thorpe and Mrs. Cheryl Chamberlain

Office Staff — Mrs. Dorothy J. Hairston, Secretary and Mrs. Phyllis Cohen

Instructional Aides — Mrs. India Lemon, Mrs. Michele LeSane and Miss Deanna Diggs

Lunch Aide — Mrs. Cecelia Press

Cafeteria Staff — Mrs. Delores Briscoe, Manager, Mrs. Ruby Watty, Mrs. Ruth King, Mrs. Vera Shell

Custodial Staff — Mrs. Ruby A. Jones, Head Custodian, Jimmie Moore, Mrs. Elaine Chase, Mrs. Hilda Littlejohn

Engineer — Oliver Harvey

Special Education Teachers — Mrs. Mateenia Bottenus — Speech and Language Clinician

Mrs. Florence Johnson — Primary Language Resource Teacher

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Once Upon A Time

By Joyce Wheeler

Mack B. Simpson Jr.

Once upon a time where ennison Ave. now runs ere were bluebells, ows and jackrabbits but Grove Park School No. 24.

Nina Ramsberg retired rom Grove Park School 1973. She grew up on enhurst Ave. when a cow asture stretched from roveland Ave. East to e Western Maryland ailroad tracks.

Groveland Ave. ended the big white house here Mr. and Mrs. rtis Byrd and their aughters Lisa and elanie now live.

In those days, children alked to Howard Park or ter to Arlington Park. ows grazed on a gentle oping hill that goes down the railroad tracks.

Twenty - one years ago rove Park School hanged that slope. ouses were built east of roveland, Kennison Ave. as laid, Belle, Cadillac, addon and Crawford llowed. Families and ildren moved into these w houses built on rmland and children gan to walk to a new hool.

In 1958, Ida Gerber and ne teachers greeted ppy, excited children to new school. Today the ildren have changed d all the first teachers ave retired but happy, xcited children still ome to Grove Park chool.

The cow pasture has witnessed many changes ince Mrs. Ramsberg was child. This is the 25th anniversary year of the Supreme Court Desegregation Decision, Brown vs. The Topeka Board of Education.

Grove Park School and the surrounding community have witnessed block busting by real estate interests, the upheaval following the assassination of Dr. M. L. King Jr.

MRS. DOROTHY J. HAIRSTON secretary

MRS. PHYLIS COHEN secretary

The school, its staff and the community have been tried and tested during the hard times. The school is like a living organism. It has experienced both good and hard times.

Grove Park is on course providing an excellent education for the children.

School No. 224 since its inception has been the Number One school in the pursuit and achievement of excellence.

All of Grove Park's six past and present principals are living in Baltimore.

Ida Gerber and Blanche Stark are now retired. Alex Vlangas teaches at Towson State University. Samuel Wilson founded and now heads the Arena Players.

Clifton Ball is the principal of Martin Luther King Jr. School No. 254. Mack B. Simpson Jr. a gifted photographer and musician, has been the principal since 1974.

In its 21 year history, the school has had only three secretaries, Bernice Radin Hart, now retired and living in the neighborhood, Bettye Willis whose two children attended the school and Dorothy Hairston who lives just off the school grounds.

Many of the past and current staff live in the

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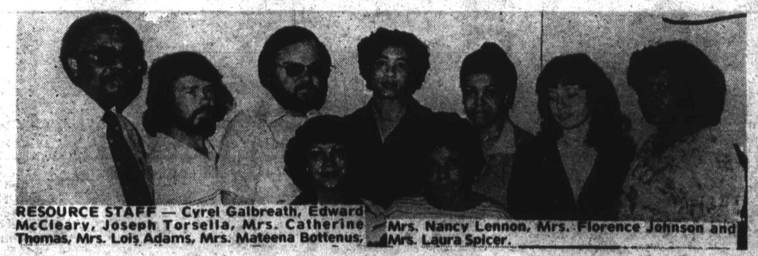

RESOURCE STAFF — Cyrel Galbreath, Edward McCleary, Joseph Torsella, Mrs. Catherine Thomas, Mrs. Lois Adams, Mrs. Mateena Bottenus, Mrs. Nancy Lennon, Mrs. Florence Johnson and Mrs. Laura Spicer.

Miss. [illegible] SKATES, reading specialist, teaches students who have problems in reading. She works with Miss Thomas' Fourth Grade Class everyday for one hour. Teacher, Miss Carolyn Thomas; Edward Baynard, Leta Byrd, Marcus [illegible]ter, Bruce Cobb, James Dickey, [illegible] Dunlap, Karen Fitzgerald, Sharon Fitzgerald, Lindsay Freeman, Towanda Harrison, Latisha Hillery, Karen Jefferson, Chanel Jones, Vonya Keich, John Lipford, Sherri Little, Sheryl Madden, Letrecia Mason, Ronald McPhaul, Falisu Moody, Inetta Rice, Michael Rogers, Marvin Scott, Shirley Thomas, Kim Wilson.

—Once

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neighborhood or very near.

Ida Robinson, one of the 3rd grade teachers, has received an honorary escort to school for many years.

"The doorbell rings each morning and a group of children is waiting to carry my books and materials to school.

"This tradition is handed on from class to class and I have had four or five children from one family bring me to school over the years," Mrs. Robinson says.

Elsie Baylus, a former 4th grade teacher, still comes each Friday for books and a chat with old friends on the staff.

Grove Park is building upon a fine tradition of academic excellence and community involvement.

Former students are now productive members of society. They have gone on to High School at Gillman, Baltimore Polytechnic and other schools.

Former students are in college at Drexel, University of Pennsylvania, Howard University, Morgan and Towson.

In the first year of the School for the Talented and Gifted, 14 students from Grove Park were accepted.

Grove Park art students have received city wide

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GRACE THREE — Teacher: Miss Carol Connelly; Donna Bates, Gary Campbell, Wanda Carter, Tracey Cromwell, Keith Crummedy, Pamela Curry, Leon Dickerson, Shawn Dickey, Dorceena Douglass, Alicia Dunlap, Vanessa Flood, Dorothy Gaither, Nicole Gibson, Mark Hicks, Joseph Hurtt, Lance Jefferson, Steven Jones, Sibylle Mangum, Angela McNeil, Monica Phipps, Chantel Queen, Bryan Reddick, Amy Spencer, Kyle Taylor, Mark Washington, Tyrone Williams, Holly Wilson.

OUR PLEDGE

We, the students of Grove Park, the Number one School, pledge ourselves to strive for excellence daily. We will uphold the code of conduct by sharing respect for all adults, courtesy to our classmates, and dedication to our studies.

SAFETY PATROL (FRONT-L-R) — Yolanda Burley, Alicia Turner, Shirley Thomas, Lori Richardson, Pamela Hairston. (BACK-L-R) Ronald McPhaul, Emanuel Bryant, Bruce Cobb, Darren Atkinson, Jonathan Dammons.