

51 Years A Teacher



George W. Biddle, 1326 N. Calhoun street, principal of Argyle-avenue school, who was retired on pension after 51 years service in the public schools. Afro Photo

CITY PAYS A TRIBUTE TO GEORGE BIDDLE

**Oldest Teacher Retired Af-
ter 51 Years In Public
Schools**

**BELIEVES SPARING
ROD SPOILS CHILD**

**Nearly Every City Principal
Was Once A Member of
His Faculty**

Baltimore City pays tri-
bute this week to George
W. Biddle, oldest public
school-teacher.

Mr. Biddle was retired last week on
pension by the School Board after 52
years of service, 37 of which were
spent in Baltimore City public schools.

Thursday night, Mr. Biddle was
honored by a reception, the faculty
of School 118 at the Community
House.

Friday night, he was the guest of
the Principals' Association, who pre-
sented him a gold watch.

Mr. Biddle was born in South Bal-
timore 72 years ago and educated in
private schools of the city. In that
way, he said, he went to school every
day in the year, Sunday, Christmas
and Fourth of July, excepted.

At the age of 20 he was given his
first school in Carroll County, after-
ward transferring to Kent County, and
later to Baltimore County and Wav-
erly. He became a part of the City
System when Waverly was incorpor-
ated with Baltimore.

FIRST PRINCIPAL

He was the first colored principal in
the city when School No. 9, on Car-
rollton avenue, was turned over to col-
ored people. Since that time he has
taught in seven schools in various
sections of the city. Wherever there
was an unmanageable situation it was
not unusual to find Mr. Biddle trans-
ferred to that school.

For the past 12 years he has been
principal of the Argyle avenue school.

COMPLIMENT

The finest compliment he ever re-
ceived, Mr. Biddle said, came from the
late Dr. J. H. N. Waring, at one time
in charge of colored schools in the
city. Dr. Waring said, "Graduates of
Mr. Biddle's school are the best pre-
pared students who come to our high
school."

FINISHED FIRST

In two cases Mr. Biddle remembers
that graduates from his eighth grade
finished first and second when they
completed the high school course. In
his opinion, Miss Fannie Barbour is
the best teacher in the city. She was
the first colored person who passed
the city teachers' examination, Mr.
Biddle said, and might long ago have
been a principal of a city school had
she not preferred remaining in the
high school.

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MORE BIDDLE

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CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

"Fifty-two years in the public schools convinced me," declared Mr. Biddle, "that corporal punishment is still needed in the school. If pupils understood that it might be used there would be little or no occasion to resort to it, but it would always act as a deterrent.

"My experience has also convinced me that an annual or bi-annual re-examination for the rating and promotion of teachers is the best means to keep them up in the subjects they teach.

He added that he would rather teach a class any day than supervise a school.

WOULD STILL TEACH

Asked what he was going to do now that he was retired by the School Board, Mr. Biddle declared that he didn't know, but that he would go into teaching as an ordinary elementary school teacher at a small salary if the Board would permit him.

"I haven't done anything but teach all my life," he said. "I don't know anything else and I'm going to feel lost without my regular duties."

Most of the school principals, including George B. Murphy, Howard Gross, William H. McAbee, William Anderson, George Owens, Harry T. Pratt, Mrs. Mary Rodman were once members of his faculty.

TAUGHT WHOLE FAMILY

There is one family in the city, every member of which has been at one time a pupil under Mr. Biddle. Twenty years ago Pearl Davenport and Kate Mahoney came to him as grammar school pupils. Later they married and little Kate and Pearl, Jr., were recently pupils under Mr. Biddle at Argyle avenue.