

CLARENDON SCHOOL

CLARENDON
SCHOOL
OSBORN DIST. NO. 8



DeWitt

CLARENDON SCHOOL 5

1225 W. Clarendon

Grades 5 - 8 Approx. 700 Students

C. J. DeWitt, Principal

Clarendon School students come from an area reaching north to the canal (Campbell Avenue), west to 19th Avenue, east to Central, one mile jog to 7th Street, and south to Encanto Blvd. at 7th Avenue. See map, page 15.

Photo by Lance Dunham

- Land was purchased from Phoenix Foundation, Inc. at a cost of \$62,600.06 in 1952. Located on 18.6 acres just south of Clarendon Avenue between Eleventh and Thirteenth Avenues.
- New school was to relieve Encanto's congested condition and provide for the seven classes held at Temple Beth Israel. It was to house 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades.
- Construction of Clarendon was financed with Federal funds in the amount of \$383,576, supplemented with district building funds. Estimated cost was \$425,000. There was a delay of one year due to obtaining approval of federal funds.
- The plant at first consisted of seven separate buildings, including the administration building, three classroom wings; a multi-purpose building, housing the lunchroom and serving as an auditorium; library, shop, arts and crafts building; and a garage to house busses for the entire district and to provide warehouse space.
- Clarendon School was started in July 17, 1953, and ready for occupancy in February, 1954.
- The school has always been a leader in instrumental music.
- World champion shot-put thrower **Dallas Long** graduated from Clarendon.
- Professional football player **Gordon Smith** is also a graduate.
- **C. J. DeWitt** was named principal in January of 1954. He was Encanto's principal five years previous and taught in the district 12 years previous to coming to the Encanto School.
- Clarendon was built to house 450 children, but 650 moved in on opening day.
- In 1955, six classrooms were added, and in 1962, when students came from Old Osborn, three more classrooms, a band room, and storage room were built.
- Named "Clarendon" because the new school faced Clarendon Avenue. Encanto youngsters entered a contest to name the sister school.
- Clarendon School pioneered many worthwhile projects such as "controlled reading" for upper grades; modern mathematics as a part of the curriculum; and the school's student body government by-laws and constitution have been copied by schools all over the nation. Mr. DeWitt wrote a thesis for his M.A. degree on this project.
- 2200 students have graduated during the last eleven years.