THIS LIVING MEMORIAL

Designating this fine new school plant as the R. M. Marrs School returned to daily currency a name that had long enjoyed household familiarity and respect in Omaha.

It was by voice of the people that the name was chosen — people who remembered the man and grew in understanding and appreciation of his ideals as time added perspective to memory.

On this day of dedication, it is fitting that we weave a fabric of meaning from those memories, so that future generations may know what prompted this community expression.

Of Dr. Ralph M. Marrs, for 31 years principal of Omaha South High School, it is said by those who knew him best:

"He was a quiet man, a teacher and a scholar all his life.

"He was an educator with a working belief in democratic administration. That belief was there for all to read in the student-centered program he initiated and in the influence he exerted in the lives of many thousands of young people over his years of service in Omaha.

"For years, while the idea was still considered radical, he operated his school on the principle that a high school education was for everyone. Consistently, he reminded his teachers that their task was to provide the tools each young person needed to make him a useful, happy citizen.

"Throughout his career, he demonstrated the practicality and idealism that were his in striking combination.

"This was most clearly expressed in the Student Council he developed at South High School. Visitors came from all parts of the nation to see this program in action. In it they saw reflected a favorite idea of Dr. Marrs: 'Teach students to take responsibility by giving them responsibility.'

"Under the administration of Dr. Marrs, the school staff was free to teach in the ways they thought most effective. 'There is usually more than one way to do a thing,' he often said, 'and I usually get the best job done when I let a man do it in his own way.'"

This was the nature of the man whose name and influence a splendid new school is honored to carry forward in grateful acknowledgment.

Dr. R. M. Marrs
1883-1960

BIOGRAPHY

Personal Data: Ralph M. Marrs, born at Diller, Nebraska, February 26, 1883; died August 7, 1960, Fort Worth, Texas; married to Mary Edith Walford, December 25, 1911, Bayard, Nebraska; children: Walford D., Maxine May, Roy Merton, Ralph Eugene; church: Wheeler Memorial Presbyterian.


Professional Service (43 years): Rural school teacher, Jefferson County; high school principal and superintendent, Bayard, Nebraska, 1909-11; principal and superintendent, Bridgeport, Nebraska, 1911-15; principal, Lead, So. Dakota, 1917-18; Omaha South High School principal, 1918-49; associate professor of education and department chairman, Nebraska Wesleyan University, 1949-52; instructor in summer sessions, Kearney State Teachers College, Omaha University, University of Nebraska.
THE
R. M. MARRS SCHOOL
Opened September 4, 1962

Built to serve the specific needs of its attendance area, R. M. Marrs School encompasses two complete but separate school organizations.

The west wing is designed for elementary education, kindergarten through grade six, and for a capacity of 550 pupils. The east wing houses a complete junior high school for grades seven, eight and nine, and has a capacity for 550 students.

Adjacent to both wings and serving both in their separate daily programs is the multi-purpose section. In it are the administrative offices, conference rooms, workroom and central storage areas, cafeteria, kitchen, health unit, library, gymnasium and auditorium.

The selection and use of building materials reflect the consistent policy of the Board of Education to build for economy of maintenance over a lifetime of daily and hourly use by some 1,000 boys and girls.

Health and safety considerations are seen in the treatment of light, temperature, sanitation and elements to insure safety from fire. Natural and artificial lighting guards eyesight. Thermostatically controlled temperatures and hot and cold water are important health provisions. Acoustically treated ceilings reduce sound disturbances. Movable, adjustable seating assures comfort to growing children and flexibility in classroom use. Unobstructed wall surfaces and fire-resistant materials are conducive to safety. One-story construction reduces accidents and gives pupils faster, safer access to the outdoors. Kitchen and lunchroom facilities meet that same high standard that characterizes all Omaha school planning. By arrangement with the city, the site adjacent to Brown Park and its natural beauty gives R. M. Marrs pupils a delightful area for play and recreation.

The exterior design and materials reflect the architect’s care in providing a plan compatible with the school’s attractive neighborhood.

In every respect, the R. M. Marrs School is designed to be a valuable asset to the community and a reflection of worthy ideals in education.

OMAHA BOARD OF EDUCATION

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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Dr. Paul A. Miller

Alan W. Fries           Francis P. Matthews           Mrs. William C. Ramsey, Jr.
(Member serving January 1963 who served with the late superintendent,
Dr. Harry A. Burke, during the years of planning for R. M. Marrs School)
ADMINISTRATION
The administrative area is designed for the health and guidance services of the students. Parent and student conferences, health examinations, first aid, counseling services, and all data pertaining to the students are concentrated for efficiency in this area.

CORRIDORS Light, cheerful corridors make rapid movement possible between classrooms and from interior to exterior. With the gymnasium and auditorium, they form a public lobby which can function entirely apart from the classroom sections.
THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

This one of two kindergarten rooms is designed to prepare children to live and work cooperatively with others and acquire skills in the basic areas of education. Movable, child-sized equipment, easily maintained surfaces, excellent storage, space for diversified activity and excellent sanitary facilities make possible a rich, healthful learning experience.

ELEMENTARY SCIENCE AND ARITHMETIC

Freedom to move, to engage in a full day of activity in arithmetic, science, reading, music, language and other areas of learning in a classroom planned for flexibility is necessary to good teaching.

Hot and cold water, electrical outlets, exhibit spaces, classroom reading areas, storage and equipment for individual and group projects make conventional classrooms into laboratories for learning.

The elementary classrooms illustrate the truth: "A good building does not make a good school, but a good building does make a good school possible."
THE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Classroom Laboratories: Whether designed for individual experimentation in science, creative work in art, or communication in a foreign language, the classrooms reflect the philosophy that learning is an active, doing experience.
INDUSTRIAL ARTS Two units, one a general shop in industrial arts and the other a graphic arts shop, enlarge the practical curriculum for boys in grades 7, 8 and 9. Here students practice the safe and efficient use of basic tools and machines. The shops make it possible for students to apply their knowledge of science and mathematics, learn the language of industry, and become acquainted with the basic fields of woods, metals, electricity, mechanical drawing and printing. Here, instruction is by teachers who have specialized in these fields.

HOMEMAKING Two all-purpose rooms and a living room provide a modern laboratory for family-type experience in homemaking.

Sewing, marketing, cooking, serving, laundering, entertaining, decorating and budgeting are the major household responsibilities practiced here under teachers prepared in this special field. Both gas and electrical appliances are provided.
LIBRARY  The library is used at different times of the day by both elementary and junior high school pupils. The library facilities show that the aims of instruction are to familiarize pupils with library usage everywhere.

Light, airy and acoustically treated, the library encourages study, research and good reading habits.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION  This gymnasium, another shared facility, with adjacent park areas, provides for intramural sports and a full program of physical education. An electrically operated divider door permits the gym to be used separately or simultaneously by boys and/or girls. Equipment rooms, laundry and showers complete the facility.

CAFETERIA  Designed to serve hot lunches to 1,100 students daily, the cafeteria and kitchen are also classrooms for practicing good nutrition and social conduct.

Lifetime stainless steel equipment reduces maintenance and eliminates replacement costs. Dishes are mechanically washed in 160° and rinsed in 190° water.
The classrooms and special facilities pictured in this brochure illustrate the policy of the Omaha Board of Education to provide for instruction in the general and specific background required of today's young people.

R. M. Marrs Junior High School is the eighth in the program to blanket the Omaha School District with a broadened curriculum for boys and girls in grades 7, 8 and 9.

The junior high school development in Omaha has made it possible for students to enter the senior high school at a higher level of performance in each grade than heretofore. This, in turn, makes it possible for senior high schools to advance their goals accordingly.

CONSTRUCTION COSTS
Exclusive of site development and architect's fees:
Site and Building Costs $1,727,163
Equipment $ 115,000

BUILDERS
LEO A. DALY CO., architects
MAINELLI CONSTRUCTION CO., general contractor
NATIONAL ELECTRIC CO., INC., electrical contractor
THE RAY MARTIN CO., mechanical contractor

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
LEO A. DALY COMPANY—Dedication brochure
FLORAL TRIBUTES—South High School and South Omaha community organizations

DEDICATION PROGRAM
January 27, 1963
2:30 o'clock
Auditorium

Richard Swenson, Presiding
Member, Board of Education

PRELUDE ........................................... R. M. Marrs Junior High School Band
Noyes N. Bartholomew, Director

PRESENTATION OF COLORS ....................... South High School ROTC Color Guard
"AMERICA" .................................... Audience and Chorus
(on first stanza only)

INVOCATION ..................................... The Reverend Robert A. Murphy
Pastor, Wheeler Memorial United Presbyterian Church

R. M. MARRS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS .......... Mrs. Bess Larsen, Director
INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS ......................... Robert G. Cunningham
Member, Board of Education

PRESENTATION OF BUILDING
Transfer of keys .................................. Leo A. Daly, Architect
Charles A. Peters, Member, Board of Education
Dr. Paul A. Miller, Superintendent of Schools

ACCEPTANCE OF BUILDING
For the school staff ............................. Fred Widoe, Principal, R. M. Marrs School
For the pupils ................................... Robin Sealf, grade 4 and Linda Johnson, grade 9
For the community .............................. Alfred J. Swoboda, President, P.T.A.

TO DR. R. M. MARRS in TRIBUTE ............... Richard C. Krebs, Principal, South High School
South High School Vocal Ensemble

BENEDICTION .................................... The Right Reverend Monsignor Francis Barta
Pastor, Assumption Church

Guests are invited to tour the building following the dedication program

SCHOOL STAFF
Fred Widoe, Principal

PROFESSIONAL
Elementary School
Judith Adamo
Catherine Becker
Leona Brewer
Helen Burns
Jean Circi
Gladya Dooman
Mary Halik
Minnie C. Judy
Patricia Kutlicz
Sandra Mitaluka
Sara Pitzer
Jerri Ann Schieffel, R.N.
Lucile Wiles
Junior High School
Noyes N. Bartholomew
Janet Benda
Sally Burke
Dave Carlson
Sandra Craig
Junior High (cont.)
Marilyn Curran
Mary Davis
Imo Gash
Frank W. Hanel
Winifred Hookaback
Alvina Holy
Mildred Hoag
Julie Karstens
Jennie Krebs
Bess Larsen
Henry Little
Valerie Pasek
Katherine Sandin
Clerk
Carol Kowalski
Cafeteria
Leona Alex
Shirley Elliott
Jeannette Frey
Cafeteria (cont.)
Viola Novy
Bernita Pipal
Judith Risley
Ella Swany
Barbara Swoboda
Custodian
Vera Chavez
Mary Hartman
Robert Keeling
Edward Nestor
Edward Urzendowski

PTA Officers
Alfred J. Swoboda, President
Mrs. Harold Hunter, 1st Vice-President
Mrs. Ernest F. Heinz, 2nd Vice-President
Mrs. Harold W. Noble, Secretary
Mrs. Conrad Przem, Treasurer