

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
 PERMITS IN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICTS  
 DECEMBER 14, 2020  
 HR-2020-178762  
 1406 WEST 29<sup>TH</sup> STREET

OLD WEST AUSTIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

**PROPOSAL**

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Construct an addition to the rear of a contributing building.

**PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS**

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- 1) Enclose second-floor window at main façade.
- 2) Partially demolish rear of residence and construct two-story addition. The proposed addition's compound roofline is visible above the ridgeline of the existing building. It is clad in horizontal siding to match the existing building, and it features irregular fenestration throughout. Its roof is clad in asphalt shingles. The proposed addition will partially integrate an existing rear addition.

**ARCHITECTURE**

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Two-story house with second-floor balcony and side-gabled roof, clad in horizontal siding. 1:1 windows with decorative wood shutters at main façade; fenestration varied throughout remainder of house.

**RESEARCH**

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The house at 1406 W. 29<sup>th</sup> Street was constructed around 1936 by J. A. Boyles. Its first owners were John and Pauline Singleton. John Singleton was a director at the Texas Board of Control. After the Singletons moved, the home was occupied by salesman Thomas McFarlin and his wife, Grace. By 1944, accountant John T. Davis and salon owner Mitzi Davis lived in the home, selling by 1947 to Mrs. J. M. Hooper; Hooper in turn sold the home to the Nelson family, a painter and bookkeeper. By 1952, 1406 W. 29<sup>th</sup> was home to the Carruth family. Irby B. Carruth, a former Waco superintendent, had moved to Austin in 1950 to take on the role of Austin's school superintendent. After the Carruths' departure, psychiatrist Albert D. Pattillo and his wife Charlotte occupied the house for several years.

**STANDARDS FOR REVIEW**

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The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation are used to evaluate new construction projects in National Register historic districts. Applicable standards include:

*2. The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.*

The majority of removed material for the proposed partial demolition is from the back of the house and includes mostly non-original materials.

*9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.*

The proposed new work is differentiated from the new by its vertical orientation, its massing toward the rear of the existing structure, its height and roofline, and its irregular fenestration pattern. Its position toward the rear of the property and significant setback somewhat mitigate its height and visible compound roofline, which would otherwise be incompatible with the existing building.

10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

If the addition were removed in the future, some work would be required to restore the essential form of the existing house; however, the main elevation would remain mostly intact.

#### **STAFF COMMENTS**

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The house contributes to the Old West Austin National Register Historic District.

##### *Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark*

- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building appears to retain high integrity.
- 3) Properties must meet two historic designation criteria for landmark designation (LDC §25-2-352). The property may demonstrate significance according to City Code:
  - a. *Architecture.* The house displays Monterrey-style architectural influences.
  - b. *Historical association.* The house is associated with school superintendent Irby Carruth and State Hospital superintendent Albert Pattillo; however, neither resided in the house long-term.
  - c. *Archaeology.* The house was not evaluated for its potential to yield significant data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region.
  - d. *Community value.* The house does not possess a unique location, physical characteristic, or significant feature that contributes to the character, image, or cultural identity of the city, the neighborhood, or a particular demographic group.
  - e. *Landscape feature.* The property is not a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city.




#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Comment on plans, encouraging applicant to reduce the height and visibility of the addition, and release the permit.

## LOCATION MAP



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 292'

## NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HR 20-178762  
LOCATION: 1406 W 29TH STREET



This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of property boundaries.

This product has been produced by CTM for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.



**PROPERTY INFORMATION***Photos*



*Source: Zillow.com, 2020*



*Source: applicant, 2020*

*Occupancy History*

City Directory Research, 2020. Post-1959 research unavailable due to facility closure.

1959	a. Vacant b. W Y. Allen Jr., owner
1957	Albert D. and Charlotte Pattillo, owners Physician, 510 Capitol National Bank Building
1955	Albert D. and Charlotte Pattillo, owners Physician, 510 Capitol National Bank Building
1952	Irby B. and Tip Carruth, owners Superintendent, Austin Public Schools  Bruce R. Carruth, renter Student
1949	Willie J. and Vera Nelson, owners Painter Bookkeeper, Firm Foundation Public House
1947	Mrs. J. M. Hooper, owner
1944-45	John T. and Mitzi Davis, owners Senior accountant, State Unemployment Compensation Commission Proprietor, Mitzi's Beauty Shop, 622 Lavaca Street
1941	Thomas B. and Grace D. McFarlin, owners Special representative, International Business Machine Corp.
1939	John V. and Pauline V. Singleton, owners Director, State Board of Control, Centennial Division
1937	Address not listed

*Biographical Information*

**MRS. ELLA M. KEEVIL**  
 Funeral services for Mrs. Ella M. Keevil of 1406 West 29th Street were held Sunday afternoon at Cook Funeral Home with the Rev. Lawrence Bash officiating. The body was sent to Wichita Falls for burial.

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Jun 29, 1953*

# Nelson

## Rites Set

## For Today

Funeral for Willie J. Nelson, 59, a deputy with the Travis County Sheriff's Department, will be Sunday at 2 p.m. at Hyltin-Manor Funeral Home. Rev. B. C. Schmidt will officiate. Burial will be in Pond Springs Cemetery under the auspices of Hill City Lodge No. 456, AF and AM.



**WILLIE J. NELSON**

Nelson, a lifetime resident of Austin and Travis County, died in a local hospital Friday. Prior to his job as deputy sheriff, he had served several years with the Austin Police Department. For 10 years he was an investigator with the Texas Dental Association.

Nelson was a member of the Ben Hur Shrine and the First Methodist Church.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Vera Nelson, Austin; two sons, Bill Nelson of Austin and Dick Nelson of El Paso; two brothers, Paul Nelson and Wallace Nelson, Austin; three sisters, Mrs. Ethel Maynard, Miss Waldine Nelson, and Miss Florence Nelson, Austin; four grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be Carl Hardin, Dr. R. T. Weber, Tom Garner, Wallace Showalter, Arthur Smith and Charles Russell.

### **MRS. IRBY CARRUTH**

Mrs. Irby Carruth, 5 Niles Road, died in a local hospital Monday.

She had been a resident of Austin 4½ years and a former resident of Canyon. Mrs. Carruth was a member of the University Christian Church and had taught music, English and drama in Canyon. While she was in Canyon, she was active in the Presbyterian church and served as organist.

Survivors include her husband, Dr. Irby Carruth, Austin; one son, Stanley B. Carruth, Austin; one daughter, Mrs. Sally Brauer, Bryan; one brother, Mr. Fred A. Brewer, Arcadia, Calif.

Funeral will be 10 a.m. Wednesday at the University Christian Church, Rev. William C. Howland Jr. officiating. Services in Canyon will be 10 a.m. Friday at the Presbyterian church with burial to follow there. Local arrangements are under the direction of Weed-Corley Funeral Home.

*The Austin American* (1914-1973); May 8, 1966 and *The Austin Statesman* (1921-1973); Oct 16, 1973



## CARDS POSTED FOR WEDDING IN WACO

Invitations have been posted for a society event of much interest, the wedding of Miss Grace Prather Darden, daughter of Mrs. William Edward Darden of Waco, to Thomas Bush McFarlin of San Antonio.

The marriage will be solemnized Saturday evening, Sept. 12, at 8 o'clock in the First Presbyterian church in Waco, and after Oct. 1 the couple will be at home in San Antonio.

The bride is a graduate of the University of Texas, having received her bachelor of arts degree in June, and her family has been closely linked with Austin. Her grandfather, the late William L. Prather, was president of the university from 1899 to 1905, and her mother was a popular Austin girl. Mrs. Darden spent several winters here while her daughter was in the university.

Miss Darden is a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

Mr. McFarlin received his bachelor of business administration degree from the university in the summer of 1933.

The bride-elect is being widely entertained preceding the wedding.

## MITZI'S BEAUTY SHOP

1622 Lavaca St.

## Now Completely Air Conditioned

By

CARRIER

Weather Makers to the World

Correct Temperature—Correct Humidity  
At All Times

Expert Beauty Service under ideal conditions with perfect comfort assured.

Air Conditioning Equipment Installed by

AIR-CON ENGINEERING CORP.  
127 East 7th Austin, Texas

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Aug 27, 1936 and The Austin American (1914-1973); Jun 26, 1938*

## ★ TEXAS TOPICS ★

*By Raymond Brooks*

**COL. JOHN V. SINGLETON**, director of the Centennial commission of control throughout its functioning as a state agency, has been appointed regional administrator of the Group Hospital service, created under the hospitalization law sponsored by the Texas Hospital association.

His district will be the area about Beaumont and Port Arthur.

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*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Aug 4, 1939*



# OPEN HOUSE

1-6 P. M.  
1406 WEST 29TH

Located in Brykerwoods we are proud to offer this lovely two story ranch style home consisting of eight rooms. Three nice bedrooms, two of these rooms have carpet from wall to wall. Master bedroom has a full tile bath. Other two rooms have adjoining bath. Just off the master bedroom is a large deck for your sun baths. Downstairs has spacious living room, dining room, and a very nice kitchen. Tile drain, lots of cabinet space, pantry and breakfast room. Across the back of the house is the rumpus room that is a honey. Asphalt tile flooring, cabinets, an ideal room for the kids. Half bath adjoining. There is plenty of closet room throughout house. Double garage attached. A large play room next to garage. Large lot landscaped. Trees, carpet grass. You may have immediate possession. Exclusive.

O. E. Roberts, Res. 2-2245  
Lucille Carlson, Res. 2-5037  
Jewel Zimmerman, Res. 8-1432

**FRANK REYNOLDS**

Your Real Estate Man

301 EAST AVENUE Phone Home 2-1340  
Office 2-6479

## Mrs. Davis Buys Stauffer System

Purchase of the Austin Stauffer System from Phillip Playter has been announced by Mrs. Mitzi Davis, former owner of **Mitzi's Beauty Salon**.

Plans for new quarters are now being drawn for the business, Mrs. Davis has announced. The new location will be at 406 West 17th Street, where work will be started about June 15 on the remodeling and air-conditioning of a one-story frame residence. A large parking lot for customers on one side of the building will be provided.

Mrs. Davis operated Mitzi's Beauty Salon at 1622 Lavaca Street for eight years.

*The Austin American (1914-1973); Jun 30, 1946 and The Austin Statesman, (1914-1973); May 18, 1947*

## I. B. Carruth Selected; May Take Over June 1

BY JO ANN EIDOM

Irby B. Carruth, Waco superintendent of schools, has been hired as superintendent of Austin Public Schools.

The announcement came Friday from R. W. Byram, president of the Austin School Board.

Byram said Carruth's appointment would be effective June 1 unless a replacement for him in Waco is found sooner.

The Waco School Board was to meet Friday to agree with him on when his release would be effective.

The new superintendent has been employed for three years, Byram said, with the starting salary of \$11,000 to be increased to \$11,500 the second year and to \$12,000 the third year.

Dr. J. W. Edgar, who resigned as Austin school superintendent to become the first state commissioner of education, was making \$12,000 a year. He became Austin school superintendent in July, 1947.

It was reported at Waco that the Waco School Board had offered to match Austin's salary offer. However, Carruth is said to have refused any counter offer from the Waco schools.

It was believed Friday that the Waco School Board would ask Carruth to stay at his Waco post until June 1.

The Austin School Board started its search for a replacement for Edgar several weeks ago. Early this week, Byram reported that the original field of 38 candidates had been narrowed to three.

Carruth has been with the Waco schools six years.

During that time he has worked with the Waco School Board, the faculties and other Waco citizens to get a new technical high school, to set a new tax rate for city schools, to consolidate contingent districts to the city school district, to vote a \$4 million bond issue for renovation of existing buildings and for a new building program and for in-service training for all Waco public school teachers.

Carruth received his bachelor of arts degree at West Texas state Teachers College in Canyon and his masters at the University of Chicago. He has done graduate work at Columbia University, Leleand Stanford University and the University of Texas. He studied in Europe in the summer of 1936.

He served the Canyon schools as teacher, principal and superintendent from 1928 to 1938 and had been superintendent of Bonham schools six years when he came to Waco in 1944.

(Continued From Page 1)

sociation and Parent-Teachers Association.

Carruth has been president of the Canyon, Bonham and Waco Rotary Clubs and is a member of the Karem Shrine in Waco.

In Waco he is a director of the YMCA, Salvation Army, City Park Board, Boy Scouts, and the Chamber of Commerce.

He and his wife have two children, Bruce, 17, and Stanley, 11. They are members of the Waco Central Christian Church.

Byram said Carruth was selected because "his background and experience seem to best fit him for Austin at this time."

"The School Board wanted a superintendent who was thoroughly familiar with the school situation in Austin."

Carruth has visited Austin and the local schools many times in the last few years, Byram said, and has studied the school curriculum and building program here.

His most recent contract with Austin school personnel was in Waco last weekend at a district meeting of the Texas State Teachers Association, Byram said.

"Carruth is nationally known as a school administrator and is recognized as a leader in that field in Texas," Byram said. "For this reason, the Austin School Board feels certain that Carruth will provide the kind of leadership that will assure Austin public schools a good school system and one that the community as a whole will respect."

T. N. Porter will continue as acting superintendent until Carruth assumes the job, Byram said.

The 49-year-old educator is a member of the executive committee of the American Association of School Administrators and past president of the Northwest Texas, North Texas and Texas Associations of School Administrators.

He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, the Texas State Teachers Association, National Education Association.

(Continued on Page 14, Col. 5)

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Mar 17, 1950*



**BIG JOB**—Irby B. Carruth, right, Austin's new superintendent of schools has a big job ahead. Between now and June 1, when he takes over as superintendent, he will try to learn all the details possible about the rapidly

expanding Austin public school system. He started learning Monday with an afternoon-long visit with T. N. Porter, left, acting superintendent.—(Neal Douglass Photo.)

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Apr 11, 1950*

# Schools Should Inculcate Democracy, Carruth Says

"The purpose of public school is to teach children the privileges and responsibilities of democracy."

This was the assertion Tuesday morning of Irby Carruth, new superintendent of Austin Public Schools, in his first civic club speech here. It was at the weekly meeting of the Enfield Breakfast Club at the Hitchin' Post.

"Democracy," Carruth said, "is a two-sided affair. There are privileges and responsibilities. We are careless in the use of both. Public schools exist to teach our children to share in the privileges and to obey the laws."

Carruth underlined his concepts of democratic education in terms of the conflict between democracy and communism.

"The schools can serve as a bulwark against communism by teaching democratic values. Instruction in technical skills is not so important as instilling an appreciation of the dignity of the individual and an understanding of the democratic form of government," he said.

"Public schools," Carruth continued, "are often criticized for the broadness of their programs. But one of our functions is making socially literate adults—teaching how to live and get along with people."

"There are more important things than the three R's," he added.

"Education is a vital force in the world today. It has helped build this country into the most powerful and influential nation on the globe," he concluded.

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Jun 27, 1950*

## CARRUTH TELLS PLAN OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS

This is the last of a series outlining the contents of eight bond issue propositions which will be submitted in Monday's special election.

The most ambitious public school building program in the city's history was rolled out for voter inspection Thursday by City School Superintendent Irby Carruth.

The program contemplates spending \$12,225,650 in the next five years, 10 million dollars of it depending on passage Monday of the school system's share of the bond issue.

ALREADY ON HAND is \$2,225,650 in bonds remaining from a 1946 issue.

School officials claim 388 classrooms must be built in the next five years to adequately house the city's booming scholastic population.

Either that, they say, or scores of schools will be forced to hold classes in two shifts. Several are now doing it.

The program sets up funds for construction of three high schools, three junior high schools, 10 elementary schools and completion of two elementary schools now being built.

It earmarks \$4,300,000 for new elementary schools, \$3,150,000 for two white high schools, \$658,000 for a Negro high school, \$2,416,650 for three junior high schools, \$1,016,000 for improvement of existing buildings, \$460,000 for furniture and other equipment, \$150,000 for purchase of new school sites, and \$75,000 for preparation of existing sites.

These proposed general locations for elementary schools were named by Carruth:

On Taulbee Lane in the vicinity of the old University Airport, on Bolm Road east of the present Govalle School, on Webberville Road in East Austin, on the old Bastrop Road east of Parker Lane in South Austin, on Balcones Trail between Highway 29 and Highland Park, in the St. Elmo district on the south side, in Highland Park on Fairview Lane, on Redwood Street south of the Municipal Airport, and in the east side's Bethaney district.

The program includes completion of the Maplewood and Brentwood elementary schools now under construction in the northwest and northeast. Only small sections of these two schools are currently being built.

Two of the three proposed high schools—in East and South Austin—are set to be started early next year. There is as yet no construction date for North Austin's McCallum High.

THE THREE NEW junior high schools are proposed by Carruth in Allandale in the northeast, at Webberville Road and Goodwin Street on the east and on city-owned park land north of Pease Park on Lamar Boulevard.

To make the third site available for school use an election amending to the City Charter will be necessary. The charter now limits use of the land to park and residential purposes.

The million dollar allocation for improvement of existing buildings includes renovation of the Austin High School and renovations and additions to the Robert E. Lee Elementary School, Anderson High School, and Kealing, Baker and Fulmore Junior High Schools.

Funds are set up to convert Anderson High into a junior high school when a new Negro high is built.

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Nov 3, 1950*



## Irby Carruth Faces New Problems in 1951

Irby B. Carruth, an educator who believes that standing still is synonymous with moving backwards, ended one of his most trying years last week.

It has, however, been an interesting one for him, this first year as school superintendent for Austin. And as far as the people who have worked with and for him are concerned, he has come through in a breeze.

He's had his share of meaty problems.

For instance, he came here last June, a time when the city schools had just lost a great superintendent. Dr. J. W. Edgar had stepped up into the post of state commissioner of education, and some people were frankly dubious that the City School Board would be able to find anyone who could wear his scholarly shoes.

**THEN THERE WAS** the problem of Austin's classrooms. They were crowded—in some schools, every room and every desk was taken, and the crowds were getting larger instead of smaller.

There were also policy problems which cropped up from time to time. Carruth generally wasn't to blame, but he had to deal with them just the same.

However, he managed to justify the confidence the School Board had in him from the start, and he led those who were at first dubious to believe that it's possible after all to have two great superintendents in a row.

As for crowded classrooms, he went to work with the School Board, the administrative staff, and the people of Austin. Because of their combined efforts, it looks as though the schools here may not burst at the seams after all.

The policy problems weren't exactly fun at times. There was the time, for instance, when a number of Austin parents descended upon the school system in great wrath because some of their children weren't learning how to lead.

Carruth merely stood his ground, looked the situation over, and acted quickly. The result was that reading centers were set up in several elementary schools for retarded readers. And the parents, who had held Carruth blameless from the start, applauded him even more loudly when the dust settled.

Nothing mentioned so far, however, has come even close to being his biggest problem.

"Any superintendent's biggest problem during his first year is just getting acquainted," he says in a Western drawl. "He has to know



IRBY CARRUTH

the program, the policies, the faculty and the people of the town. Then he can really do what he's there for."

The new superintendent beat that one, too, partly because he's had a lot of experience as an educator and partly because he learned how to get along with people a long time ago.

He started getting along with people 50 years ago, when he was born in Comanche. He started becoming an educator when he was graduated from West Texas State Teachers College in Canyon.

Carruth stayed in Canyon to teach elementary school. He later became the high school principal there, and then moved up to the job of superintendent. He's been a superintendent ever since, and has also found time to get his master's at the University of Chicago, and

to do additional graduate work at Leland Stanford University, Columbia, and the University of Texas.

In 1936, Carruth moved to Bonham, where he stayed as school superintendent for six years. He went to Waco as superintendent in 1944, spent another six years there, and then came to Austin. You know the rest.

A man who wears his achievements well and with modesty, Carruth doesn't think that he is alone responsible for what the school system here has accomplished during this school year. On the contrary, he believes that he's had the advantage of being at the helm of one of the best systems in the nation.

"It's been a satisfactory year because of a good Parent-Teacher Association, a good School Board, and fine school personnel," he will tell you. "And the finest thing has been the cooperation I've received."

Right now, Carruth is busy thinking about next year, a period when his task isn't going to get any easier.

**HE HAS QUITE A** job cut out for himself and his fellow workers, especially since he wants to see the schools improved both internally and externally.

Externally, there will be the expansion program, an effort which will give the city's schools a long needed face-lifting.

Internally, he intends to get into the core of a school improvement program. The project will really get underway with a workshop this summer on promotional policies, reading and report cards this summer. It will continue throughout the next school year, and spiral into a wider range the next summer.

"We're starting to re-think," is the way he puts it. "That's what every system needs to do periodically to see what it has and what it needs."

Austinites are feeling luckier all the time. They don't like to stand still either.

# SCHOOL TEACHERS MUST SIGN NEW NON-SUBVERSIVE PLEDGE

Austin's public school teachers will sign a non-subversive oath sometime next week, City School Superintendent Irby B. Carruth said Friday.

The oath is now being mimeographed, he explained. As soon as that task is completed, it will be

distributed to the city's 800 city school teachers.

Technically, a teacher could go along without his pay, since Attorney General Price Daniel ruled last month that all teachers must take the oath in order to receive salaries which are paid in part

from state funds. In view of Daniel's order, State Education Commissioner J. W. Edgar sent out a letter a few days ago advising school administrators that their teachers have to sign to get paid.

Actually, city teachers here have been signing an oath for a number of years. It is a more generalized one, however, and only calls upon them to support the state and national constitution. It is the same oath that public officials take when they are elected to a post.

The new oath, which was passed by the State Legislature at its last session, goes like this:

"I do solemnly swear that I am not a member of the Communist Party. (The term "Communist Party" as used herein means any organization which (a) is substantially directed, dominated or controlled by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics or its satellites, or which (b) seeks to overthrow the Government of the United States or of any State by force, violence or any other unlawful means); and that I am not a member of any organization, association, movement, group or combination which the Attorney General of the United States, acting pursuant to Executive Order No. 9835, March 21, 1947, 12 Federal Register 1935, has designated as totalitarian, fascist, communist or subversive, or as having adopted a policy of advocating or approving the commission of acts of force or violence to deny others their rights under the Constitution of the United States, or as seeking to alter the form of government of the United States by unconstitutional means; and I am not a member of any "Communist Political Organization" or "Communist Front Organization" registered under the Federal Internal Security Act of 1950 or required to so register under said act by final order of the Federal Subversive Activities Control Board.

# New Handbook Is Ready For State School Boards

A "tentative handbook" for Texas school board members, compiled under the chairmanship of City School Superintendent Irby Carruth, has just been published and is ready for distribution throughout the state.

The 64-page booklet represents three years of study and research. It was prepared under the direction of "The Texas Committee of Ten," a joint committee of the Texas Association of School Boards and the Texas Association of School Administrators.

Four thousand copies of the preliminary edition were printed. Of that number, 2,000 are to be mailed to the membership of the school board association, the rest to county superintendents and rural high school superintendents. Only common school districts will be missed in the distribution of the tentative handbook.

The first edition will undergo revision based upon suggestions made

by the readers, and will be republished in a more detailed form.

Carruth, chairman of the handbook committee, was one of five school superintendents working with the group. One of the five members from boards of education was Mrs. O. D. Weeks of the Austin School Board.

Advisors to the committee included at least seven other local people: W. I. Kocurek, president of the Texas Association of School Boards and president of the local board; Mrs. Warren Freund, representing the Texas Congress of Parents and Teachers; Joe R. Humphrey, acting director of administrative service for the Texas Education Agency.

Also Bascom B. Hayes, secretary to the committee, executive director of the Texas Association of School Boards, and project coordinator for the Cooperative Program in Educational Administration (CPEA); H. F. Alves, director, CPEA; Roy M. Hall, associate director, CPEA; and Sam M. Gibbs, research associate, CPEA.

The handbook contains information on school board organization and operation, school board-superintendent relationships, and special functions of the board. In addition, it has appendices setting forth frequent legal questions, answers; a table of board and superintendent jobs; data on conducting community survey; a sample agenda and minutes; and suggested readings and references for board members.



# In General, City School System Good

(Third in a Series of Articles)

BY MARK BATTERSON

Irby Carruth is a city school superintendent who also happens to be a reasonably modest and moderate man. He—along with other administration officials and City School Board members—like to think of themselves as being economical, too.

Well, then, why does it cost so much to educate youngsters like Johnny in Austin? Are Carruth and the board members presiding over a system garbed in a bunch of frills, or does Austin have a school system which is merely well-dressed and nothing more?

AS CARRUTH SEES it, Austin's yearly cost of \$233 for each student amounts to that much not because because of what is needed here and of frills, not because of waste, but because of what Austin gets.

Since he's reasonably modest, he declines to say that Austin has the best school system in the state, no matter what he may think. At the same time, however, he is quick to say that there is nothing of which to be ashamed either in the cost or the system.

"This isn't boasting," he says, "but Austin has one of the outstanding school systems in the state. It costs more because we're paying for it."

Some costs, Carruth adds, will probably be eliminated in a few years. A big reading program which costs between \$40,000 and \$50,000 a year, was installed a few months ago, for instance, with the idea being to correct a reading deficiency which had developed here. That cost will be by the boards a few years from now, he thinks. In the meantime, however, Austin is paying to teach its youngsters how to read better than anywhere else in Texas.

Carruth is also quick to point out that most of Austin's extra education cost is because of instruction portions of the budget. He's right, too, since this city pays \$109.50 out of each \$233 for instruction, while a city like Amarillo pays only \$168.14 and a city like Houston pays only \$154.76.

A look at salary scales shows that while teachers here still don't get paid what they deserve, their pay envelopes are a little heavier than they are in most of the state's other cities. And since planners of the local budget include \$5.39 in the instruction portion which goes for school supplies which other cities don't furnish, the discrepancy begins to look smaller.

TO SHOW YOU JUST what a difference some extra note-tablets can make, compare Austin and Houston. In the 1950-51 school year,

Austin spent \$83,850 on supplies. Houston, with five times as many children, spent \$103,000.

As for administration costs—remember, they're almost three times as high here as they are in Houston but less than two-thirds as high as in Amarillo—school officials have something of an answer for that, too. They point out that the larger a city is, the less administrative costs are. They also say that some cities have their teachers do some administrative jobs in addition to their regular duties. That system is looked upon very darkly in these parts.

What about custodial costs here, where they're among the highest in the state? Well, the boys in the Hickler Building administrative offices say that these are higher in Austin because (1) children aren't called upon to do custodial jobs they do in other cities; and (2) school buildings are simply kept cleaner here than in other parts of the state.

Probably the strongest argument on the side of the school officials is the one having to do with special education and special services. That is high here, all right, but there

hasn't been an expert who has visited Austin in years who hasn't showered compliments on the special education efforts here. They like what they see, and local officials see no reason to flinch when that part of the budget is mentioned. They have a point, and as has been said, it's a strong one.

That's the administration's story, then, and all in all, it's at least superficially pleasant. It gives the impression that all is just as it should be, and that the high cost of educating a boy like Johnny in Austin is something that can't be avoided.

AT THE SAME TIME, however, there are weaknesses in those very strengths. The explanations, it seems, are just a bit too generalized for comfort. They give the impression that too much has been generalized here, and that too much has been generalized there.

In other words, it's possible that there haven't been enough dealings with specifics. It's an easy habit to fall into, this business of not dealing with specifics, and a very human one to boot.

But does that make it a good habit?

# AUSTIN'S SCHOOLS OPEN DESPITE FLU

## State Tries To Identify Virus Type

City School Superintendent Irby Carruth said Wednesday that schools here won't close because of the influenza epidemic unless absences get close to the 30 per cent mark.

So far, he pointed out, absences have been well under that figure. A complete report from the city's schools wasn't available, but absences hovered around 15 per cent of the total enrollment. A higher percentage of teachers was absent, however.

Meanwhile, County School Superintendent I. W. Popham reported that rural absences so far have accounted for about 12 per cent of the total enrollment. Hardest hit was the new I. W. Popham School, where 16 out of 34 were absent Wednesday.

At the University of Texas, officials at the Student Health Center said that 80 patients are now bedded there with flu.

Dr. James C. Dooley, acting president of the University, agreed with Carruth and Popham. He said that the state school won't close until the number of flu cases reaches epidemic proportions.

While Travis County school administrators were keeping a check on absence percentages, state health officials were running tests on virus specimens recovered from three Austinites in an all-out effort to "type" in the infection.

Commercial vaccines may be available to combat the spread of the virus. State Health Officer Dr. George Cox, however, said the influenza was of "a mild form, but a mixed infection—much more difficult to treat."

Schools in at least 18 Texas towns were closed, including those at Lockhart, San Marcos and Gonzales. Taylor, like dozens of other communities, was considering closing its schools. Elgin reopened its schools this week, but the city health officer there said there was "still lots of flu—particularly among the adults."

Meanwhile, Cox and Austin City Health Officer Ben Primer urged citizens to avoid crowds and to "take care of yourselves." If you feel ill, they said, go to bed. Don't take a chance on pneumonia.

Austin's crowded hospitals continued to admit patients as readily as beds became available. Spot checks on Austin schools showed that a higher percentage of teachers are ill than students.

Dr. Harry Frey, director of the Williamson County Health Unit in Georgetown, estimated the number of cases there at about 300, including 80 students at Southwestern University.

"The disease seems to be just getting under way here," he said.

With Lockhart's schools closed down, City Health Officer Dr. A. A. Ross reported "not nearly so many cases."

Dr. T. S. Barkley in Rockdale estimated about 100 cases of influenza were reported to his office each day.

"It seems to hit a family and go right through it," he said. "I treated nine in one family a few days ago."

Dr. Edmond Doak in Taylor said the disease there was in "epidemic scale," with "just about the whole town" being ill with the malady at one time or another. Dr. Doak said officials were debating on whether to close the schools.

From Dallas, the Associated Press reported that physicians there said the outbreak approached the severity of the 1917-18 epidemic when Texans died by the thousands with the disease.

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); October, 1952*

## Rotarians To Hear Mental Health Talk

Three speakers on mental health will be presented Tuesday at the Driskill Hotel by the Austin Rotary Club.

Making talks will be Dr. Sam Hoerster Jr., superintendent of the Austin State Hospital; Dr. William C. Adamson, director of the Community Guidance Center; and Dr. Albert D. Patillo, former superintendent of the Terrell State Hospital who is in private practice here.

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Sep 12, 1955*

# Treatment Ordered In Threats Case

By AL WILLIAMS

A 42-year-old man once investigated for threatening President Kennedy and former Texas Governor W. Lee O'Daniel was ordered committed to a mental hospital for treatment and observation Friday by a County Court jury.

Winfree W. Meachum III, who according to testimony has had two previous commitments to the Veterans Administration Hospital at Waco, was found to be mentally ill and in need of

treatment at this time by the six-man jury.

Meachum, a former West Point cadet, University of Texas government graduate and former law school student, denied on the stand that he had ever threatened anyone. He said someone else must have written letters as part of a plot and signed his name.

He said he once wrote a letter to President Eisenhower's wife which she never got after first writing to Eisenhower. He said

Eisenhower had him investigated at one time.

A San Antonio Secret Service agent, Robert Lockwood, who instituted the sanity proceedings, said Meachum had been investigated for writing a threatening letter to Kennedy on Sept. 16, 1961.

Lockwood said an investigation showed that Meachum was arrested in October, 1947, by Austin police in the 800 block of Congress Avenue with three loaded guns in his possession. Police reports at that time said Meachum told them he was going to kill two FBI agents and Gov. O'Daniel, Lockwood testified.

Two psychiatrists, Dr. David Wade and Albert Pattillo, testified that Meachum was suffering from schizophrenia of the paranoid type. They said a person in this condition was suspicious, felt persecuted and suffered from delusions.

Dr. Wade said Meachum had no antagonism for President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Meachum said Johnson helped get him out of the service in January, 1946, after World War II.

Testimony offered by Dr. Wade showed that Meachum was admitted to the VA Hospital in Waco in 1947 — where he spent 11 years — and again in 1961. He was furloughed last year after his 1961 commitment, said Wade.

## Pattillo Takes Over At Hospital

Dr. Albert D. Pattillo takes charge of Austin State Hospital on Wednesday as acting superintendent. He has been assistant superintendent since May 1966.

Dr. Clarence G. Miller, superintendent, starts on leave Wednesday but continues as consultant to Pattillo. Both are psychiatrists.

Dr. Miller, who will be 75 in January, plans to retire at the end of this year.

Pattillo took pre-medical courses at Baylor University in Waco, graduated from Baylor Medical School in Dallas in 1933. He interned at Methodist Hospital at Dallas. He was on the staff of San Antonio and Wichita Falls State Hospitals, had a general private practice in East Texas, and returned to Wichita Falls State Hospital for three years until 1940.

He was in the armed services from 1940 through 1945 and supervised overseas general hospitals in Hawaii, Saipan, Okinawa and other Pacific areas.

Dr. Pattillo returned to Wichita Falls as assistant superintendent for a year. He was superintendent at Terrell State Hospital after that until 1953.

He then joined Dr. David Wade at Austin in practice of private psychiatry. He was associated with Dr. Wade in operating the private Oakridge Sanitarium. It has become the Catholic-owned St. Jude's hospital.

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Jan 3, 1964 and Nov 8, 1967*



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