

# Mrs. Mitchell To Retire As Cascade School Principal

Mrs. O.M. Mitchell, principal of Cascade Elementary School, will be honored at a reception at the school auditorium on Sunday, April 30, from 2 to 5 p.m. Mrs. Mitchell will retire at the end of this school year, marking the end of her career in teaching which began in 1923.

Mrs. Mitchell began her career as a teacher in Fulton County in 1923 as principal of Crossroads School, with only two other teachers in the school. She then went to Mason School, which had three teachers and was principal there until 1927.

Mrs. Mitchell then became the first principal of Cascade School, where she has worked and watched over its growth for almost 40 years. She watched it grow from an enrollment of 80 children when it began as a small rural school to an enrollment of 1,100 students in 1952. The Cascade School is the parent school of four other large elementary schools in the area.

Mothers who accompanied their children to class on the first day of school in the Fall of 1928 didn't question the new teacher about her educational background. They were interested only in whether or not she had long hair.

One mother declared, "If you had bobbed hair, I was going to take my child out of school." Mrs. Mitchell did not bob her hair until her job was secure. She recalled that the first P.T.A. thought she was crazy when she asked for a Victrola for the classroom.

She graduated from high school at Young Harris in 1920, from State Normal in Athens in



MRS. O.M. MITCHELL

1923, received her AB degree from Oglethorpe in 1937, and her MA degree from the University of Georgia in 1955.

In 1927 she married Olin Maurice Mitchell, now deceased, whom she met at a friend's swimming party at Mozley Park. They moved into their new home at 2171 Cascade Road on July 4, thirty-five years ago. With no children of her own, Mrs. Mitchell has poured out her love and helpfulness upon other children believing them all to be good.

Mrs. Mitchell is listed in 1959 - 60 Who's Who in Education; is a member of the National Education Association; a past president of Alpha Nu

Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma; a member of Kappa Delta Pi; the National Elementary Principal's Association; Georgia Education Association; a life member of the Georgia Congress of Parents and Teachers.

She is a director of the Association for Childhood Education; past-president of the Fulton County Principal's Association; a member of the Atlanta Teachers' Association, Fifth District Principal's Association; and 1962 board of directors of the Family Service Society.

In 1960 she was named "Teacher of the Year" by the Fifth District of the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs. She was elected first Honorary Mayor by the Cascade Merchants' Association in 1958. The American Veterans' of World War II national auxiliary presented its distinguished service award to her; the first ever given to an educator.

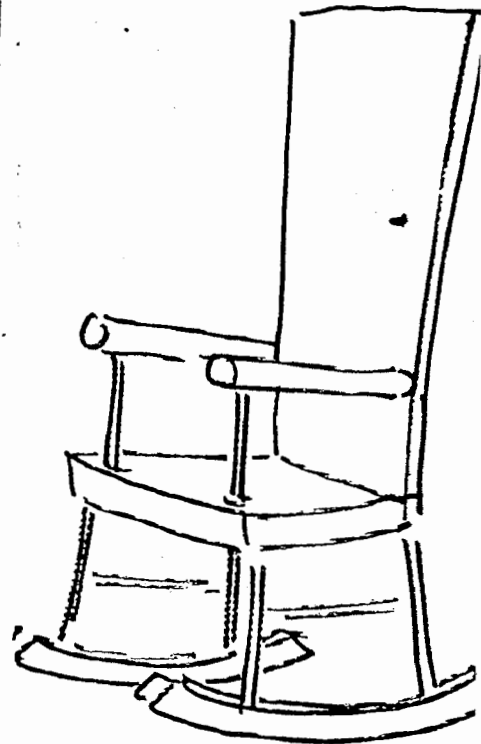
One of her prized possessions is a Red Cross Citation signed by former President Harry S. Truman.

Mrs. Mitchell is a charter member of the Cascade Women's Club, Cascade Garden Club and Beecher Hills Baptist Church.

During the early days of Cascade School, there were no churches in Cascade Heights. Three denominations began their organization at different times in the school auditorium, where services were held until a church was built. They include Beecher Hills Baptist, Audubon Forest Methodist, and Cascade Road Presbyterian. Each church has been used since for overflow classes from Cascade School while awaiting the construction of more classrooms.

Cascade was the first school to be rated superior by the Georgia Accrediting Commission and has retained this rating each year.

Mrs. Mitchell will be honored for her long service to the Cascade School and the entire community at the reception next Sunday. All former students at Cascade School have been invited to attend this reception



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in Georgia.

THE WEEKLY STAR

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Cascade PTA

The Cascade School PTA invites the friends and former pupils of Mrs. O. M. Mitchell, principal, to a reception in her honor on Sunday, April 30, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Cascade Elementary School auditorium. Mrs. Mitchell will retire at the end of this school year, after having served in the field of education for 44 years.