

ONLY 3 HIRED

# Dorothy Guy Earned \$4 Day as Beginning Teacher

By TISH YOUNG

Dorothy Guy wasn't hired by the Atlanta Public Schools system right after she graduated from the Atlanta Normal Training School.

That was in 1928. And Atlanta was only hiring three teachers that year.

So the 19-year-old Atlanta native went to DeKalb County and taught school there for \$50 a month until the next semester, when she was offered a position for \$4 a day in an Atlanta school.

"THAT MEANT \$80 a month," Miss Guy said. "That was quite a jump back then, from \$50."

Now, 45 years later, the veteran teacher and principal is preparing to retire at the end of this school year. And

though she bemoans some of the technological paraphernalia teachers must deal with these days, things really weren't all that different back when she began, she said.

"We have an awful lot of meetings, and paperwork and talking to do now," Miss Guy said. "Meetings seem to last for hours, and when you're finished you see that everything could have been put down on one piece of paper and mailed."

"But there were just about as many meetings when I first started. Hardly a week passed by that we didn't have to go to a meeting on a new teaching technique, or a demonstration by an excellent teacher of a particular grade," Miss Guy said.

"And if we didn't go to a meeting,



Staff Photo—Billy Downs

## DOROTHY GUY RETIRES Atlanta Hired Three Teachers in 1928

we lost part of our salary. So we went to every one."

In addition, new teachers back then were "very much supervised," she added. "A supervisor would regularly come watch us teach — then would mark down in a notebook how we did."

"OF COURSE we were as nervous as we could be," she said. "We could only hope we didn't have too bad a report. And then, in a day or so, the principal would call us into the office to go over that report."

She shook her head. "Some of those supervisors just couldn't see anything right. Then there were others who praised us, and pointed out all the good things they could see. We learned what to expect from each one."

Miss Guy was a graduate of the Girls' High School in Atlanta — one of only four high schools in Atlanta at the time. She went on to the old Normal Training school for two years, and was graduated from there when she was 19. Since then, she's been either a teacher or a principal in Atlanta schools.

"I received my bachelor's degree from taking courses at the old Georgia State — then it was a branch of the University of Georgia at Athens," said Miss Guy.

SHE WENT ON to earn master's degree from Oglethorpe College, including courses from Columbia University.

The 63-year-old teacher for 10 years taught music, dancing and tumbling to all the grades in two schools — the Joel

Chandler Harris School and the old Williams Street School, which was torn down when the expressway was built.

She became a principal in 1956, at the opening of the West Manor School on Lynhurst Drive in southwest Atlanta. Then in 1967, she came to Cascade School, where she has been for the past seven years.

The veteran teacher said she will regret leaving school. But some parts of it — like the increasing computerization — won't be missed by her at all, she added.

"Those computers! First you bubble one thing in, then you bubble another thing in for a different answer," she complained. "By the time you bubble a certain number, you're almost cross-eyed!"

## Club Honors Dorothy Guy

Pilot Club of Atlanta has honored Dorothy Guy as the teacher in Atlanta schools with the longest service.

Cascade Elementary School. She has been a teacher the past 45 years in Atlanta schools. Mayor Maynard Jackson proclaimed Dorothy Guy Day in Atlanta, and she was honored at a banquet given by the Pilot Club.