

Prospect Heights Middle School

From Jeff Poole at the *Orange Review*:

What's in a name? **A GRANDMOTHER'S LEGACY**

“While musing over the thought of selecting a name ‘Prospect Heights’ came into my mind. Considering the fact that the site is on a promontory and knowing that we are searching for a new and extended view, it is with this in mind that we are looking forward and expecting to gain new heights’.”

“More than 50 years ago, those prophetic words were drafted by Evangeline Z. Mallory on her entry to name the new consolidated African American School in Orange.

“Her granddaughter, Ruth Mallory Long, recently discovered the historic note among some family albums.

“‘We knew this but we never saw anything to that effect,’ Long said. ‘Then, when I happened to find this, I thought, ‘she was right! She did actually name Prospect Heights’.”

“Prospect’s first principal, W.T. Holmes, confirmed Long’s assertion. He had been the head teacher at the Orange Graded School and said Mallory’s entry was unanimously chosen among the final three names submitted. There was Prospect Heights, the Taylor School, named in honor of Gussie Taylor, then head of the county’s African American schools, and a third name Holmes said he couldn’t remember, but was never seriously in the running.

“The new Prospect Heights School opened in December 1956 and combined three upper elementary schools in the western part of the county, including the Gordonsville School, Orange Graded School and the Number 7 School near Barboursville.

“Holmes requested the school board allow Prospect to open just before the Christmas break, so school administrators and staff would have the opportunity to address any issues during the student holiday.

“Prospect Heights opened Dec. 17, 1956 with 346 students in grades 1-7 and remains today as the schools’ central office--the Taylor Education and Administration Complex, named in part after Gussie Taylor.

“The Dec. 20, 1956 *Orange Review* reports, ‘The building, which is of the most modern structure, was designed by Stainback and Scribner, architects of Charlottesville. There are 12 classrooms, 10 of which are in use. Each room is designed with an overhead skylight to give

natural lighting on blackboards and teachers' desks. There is also an auditorium, a library opening into the principal's office and a cafeteria, where on Monday, 144 lunches were served.'

"Meanwhile, Mallory and her husband J.B. Mallory were charter members of the school's PTA and integral in the early days of the new Prospect Heights School.

"The *Review* reported brief biographical sketches on the Mallorys, and fellow PTA members Lillian Ashby, secretary of the new school, Lawrence Dade, treasurer, (a post he soon ceded to Delma Brown because of health concerns) and PTA President Thaddeus Johnson.

"The *Review* reports J.B. Mallory as the PTA's chaplain, noting he 'was trained in the schools of New York City and is a minister of wide and varied experiences, having pastored in New York, Richmond, Louisville, Memphis and Albany, GA.' Mallory has been living in Orange County for the past 17 years and is pastor of the Calvary Seventh Day Adventist Church in Gordonsville.

" 'Mrs. Evangeline Z. Mallory is a native of Washington, attended the schools of that city and took courses from the Chicago School of Nursing and in child and infant care in New York City,' the *Review* reported.

"Long recalled her grandmother was born in Washington, DC in 1891 as one of seven children and moved to Orange with her husband in 1939 when he retired from the ministry. They chose to join the PTA because three of their grandchildren were in school at the time, she said.

"Long remembered her visits to her grandparents' farm as a child.

" 'We were originally from New York City,' she said, 'so when we came here, it was interesting. They didn't have indoor plumbing. They had all these chickens and animals and a huge garden.'

"Long said a favorite memory of her grandmother was of her making strawberry ice cream the old-fashioned way after sending the grandchildren out to pick berries.

"As much as Long enjoyed recalling warm memories of her grandmother, as an Orange County African American Historical Society board member, she acknowledges a broader context to her rewarding trip down memory lane.

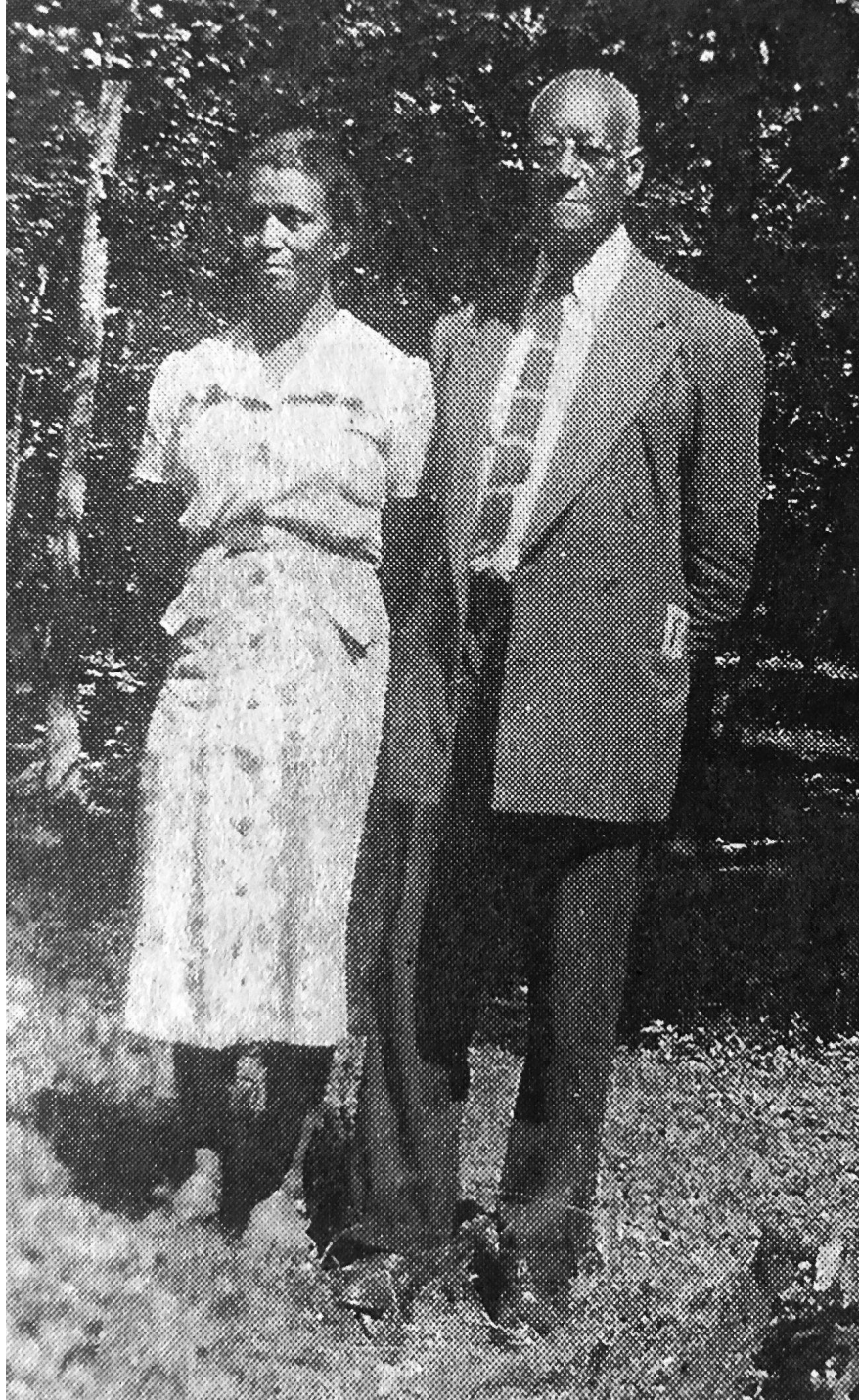
" 'People don't realize what history they have,' she said. 'Look at what you have--photos, clippings, letters. I want to encourage folks to see what they have and save it so they can learn about their family, their history and their community.' ¹

¹ Poole, Jeff. "What's in a name?: A GRANDMOTHER'S LEGACY." *Orange County Review*, August 26 2010. B1.

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Respectfully submitted,
E. Z. Malloy.

Mrs. Evangeline Z. Malloy's entry in the contest to name Prospect Heights Middle school.
Photograph is a copy of the original from the files of Ruth Mallory Long.

Photo by Linda Carlton

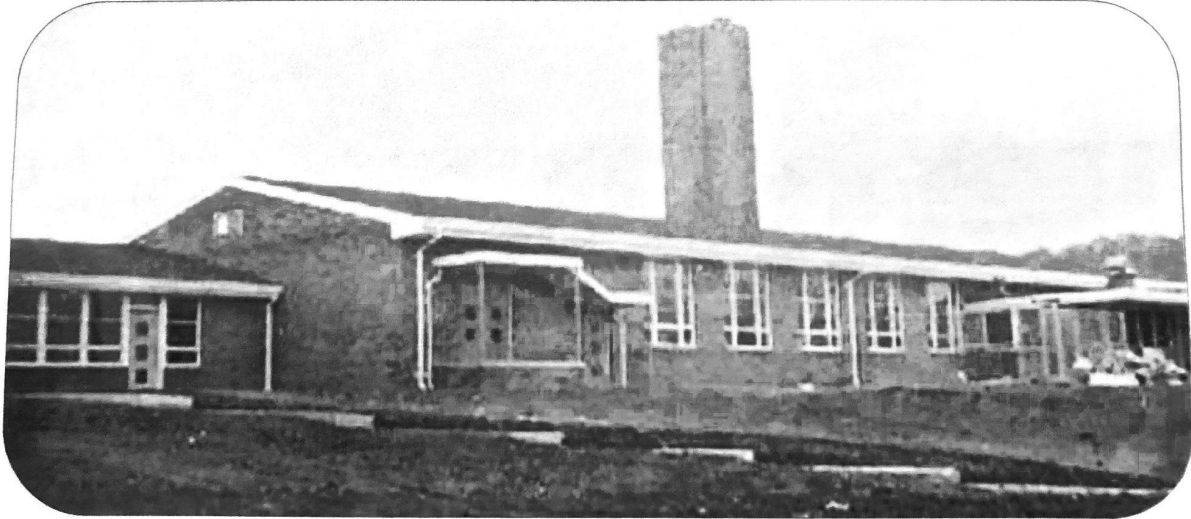


Mrs. Evangeline Z. and J.B. Mallory²

Photograph from the *Orange County Review*

² *Ibid.* , Original photographer is unknown.

Prospect Heights Elementary School Dailey Drive, Town of Orange



Opened in 1957, consolidating Orange Graded, Gordonsville and #7 schools

Circa 1957

Photograph from the *Orange County Review*³ and a copy is on file at the Orange County Historical Society

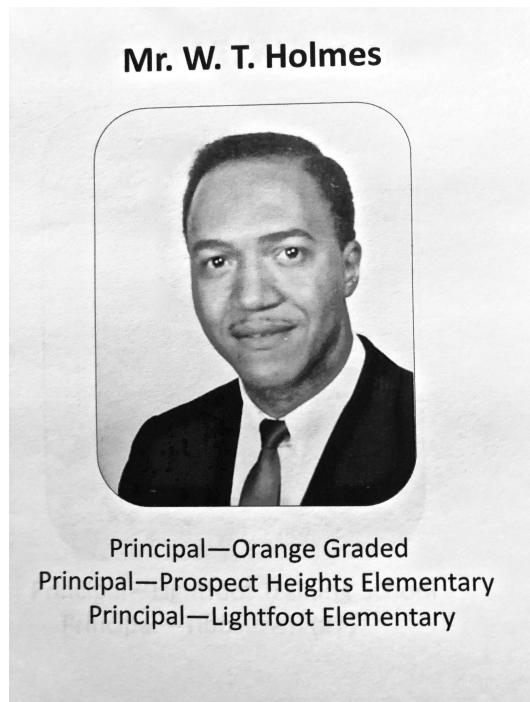
³ *Ibid.*, Original Photographer and location of original photograph are unknown.

Gussie B. Taylor was a long time educator and the Supervisor of Orange County African American Schools. Her service and leadership were the inspiration for re-naming Orange County school's central office the Taylor Education Administration Complex--the former Prospect Heights Middle School and originally Prospect Heights Elementary, an African American school consolidated from Orange Graded, Gordonsville, and Tibbstown No. 7 near Barboursville. ⁴

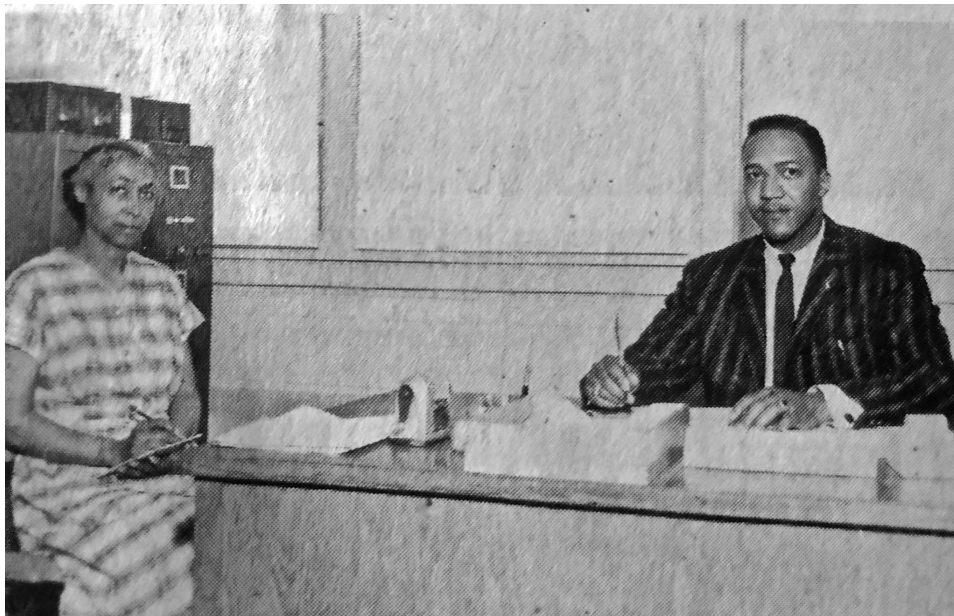


Copy of photo is on file at the Orange County Historical Society

⁴ Original photographer and location of the original photograph are unknown.



Copy of photograph is on file at the Orange County Historical Society.⁵



Prospect Heights first school secretary, Lillian Ashby, and first principal, W.T. Holmes⁶

⁵ Original photographer and location of the original photograph are unknown.

⁶ *Orange Review*, August 26, 2010, B1. Photographer is unknown.

In December 1956, Prospect Heights was opened. Students were consolidated from three African-American county schools: Orange Graded School, the Gordonsville school, and Tibbstown No. 7 near Barboursville.

Orange Graded School Near Prospect Heights Middle School, Dailey Drive, Town of Orange



Only Rosenwald School built in Orange County in 1925, Historical Marker 2014
Four rooms originally, one room added

Copy of photograph is on file at the Orange County Historical Society⁷

⁷ Original photographer and location of the original photograph are unknown.

Charles Street, Town of Gordonsville

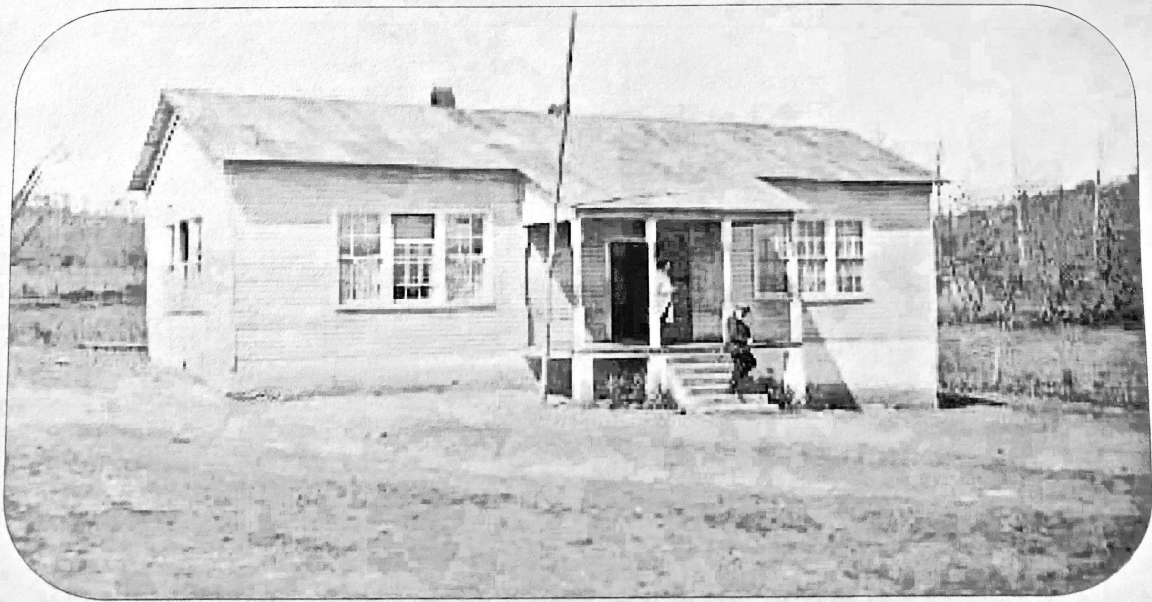


Built in 1925 with additions in 1928 and 1930, four classrooms

Copy of photograph is on file at the Orange County Historical Society⁸

⁸ Original photographer and location of the original photograph are unknown.

Tibbstown (Number 7) School Route 20 Barboursville



Built in 1920, two classrooms

Copy of photograph on file at the Orange County Historical Society⁹

⁹ Original photographer and location of the original photograph are unknown.

From the Orange Review, Thursday, December 6, 1956:

Author Unknown

‘Prospect Heights P.T.A. holds first Meeting at New School’

“Meeting for the first time at the new Prospect Heights graded school, officers of the Parent-Teachers Association of that school met last Thursday to discuss plans for moving into the new building in the future. A discussion of arranging the cafeteria, office equipment and other physical details was made along with regular business of the executive board.

“Nine officers and associates of the P.T.A. were present for the meeting including Mrs. Evangeline Z Mallory, who gave the school its name, “Prospect Heights,” which the P.T.A. adopted.

“This new building will consolidate three upper elementary schools in the county. They are the Gordonsville School, Number 7 School near Barboursville, and the Orange Graded School. The Lightfoot School at Unionville accommodates the primary age children.

“The Prospect Heights P.T.A. was formed last March in preparation for the consolidated education system. Officers were elected earlier and meetings were held, but Thursday marked the first day meeting at the new quarters.

“Mr. Thaddeus H. Johnson, President of the Prospect Heights P.T.A. is a native of Orange County--father of five children--and member of Little Zion Baptist Church where he serves as the assistant chairman of the deacon board. Mr. Johnson has had charge of the kitchen at the Gordonsville Community Hospital for eight years and has been active in school work for twenty-five years. He is assistant Deputy Director Grand Master of the Twent- Fourth Masonic District.

“Mrs. Lillian B. Ashby, secretary of the Prospect Heights P.T.A. is a native of Baltimore, Md. and was trained in the schools of that city and Washington, D.C. Mrs. Ashby and her husband, bvNathaniel E. Ashby, came to Orange in the year of 1936 at which time Mr. Ashby was principal of Orange Graded School. For the past eight and a half years, Mrs. Ashby has been working with the medically indigent in connection with the Gordonsville Medical Aid which is an auxiliary to the Gordonsville Community Hospital under the direction of Dr. H.C. McCoy and Dr. J.G. Bruce, Jr.

“Elder J.B. Mallory, Chaplain of the Prospect Heights P.T.A, was trained in the schools of New York City and is a minister of wide and various experiences, having pastored in New York, Washington, Richmond, Louisville, Ky., Nashville, Tenn., and Albany. Elder Mallory has been living in Orange County for the past 17 years and is the pastor of Calvary S.D.A. Church in Gordonsville.

“Mrs. Evangeline Z. Mallory, a native of Washington, attended the schools of that city and took courses from the Chicago School of Nursing and in Child and Infant Care in New York City. For three and a half years, she was a nurse at the City Home Hospital in Richmond. Mrs. Mallory and her husband, Elder J.B. Mallory, came to Orange County some years ago. At a regular meeting of the P.T.A when names were being submitted for the new consolidated school, the name ‘Prospect Heights’ was suggested by Mrs. Mallory. This name was chosen from the list submitted by members of the P.T.A.

“Mr. Lawrence Dade, first treasurer of the Prospect Heights P.T.A, is a native of Orange County. He is the father of four children, three having completed Carver Regional High School and one at present a student at Carver. Mr. Dade is a deacon at Bethel Baptist and has been interested in school and church work for 25 years. He has been employed by the Kentucky Flooring Company of Va for 27 years and is still with this firm. Due to physical disability, it was necessary for Mr. Dade to resign as the treasurer of the P.T.A. and Mr. Delma H. Brown was chosen as his successor.

“Mr. Delma H. Brown, treasurer of the Prospect Heights P.T.A, is a deacon at Bethel Baptist Church and has been interested in church and community work for 25 years. Mr. Brown was unable to attend the first meeting at the new school.”¹⁰

¹⁰ Author unknown, “Prospect Heights P.T.A Holds First Meeting at New School”. *Orange Review*, Thursday, December 6, 1956.

From Tuesday, August 18, 1972 Orange Review:

Author Unknown

Prospect Heights Middle School To Open with Over 1000 Students

“On Monday, August 28, Prospect Heights Middle School will open with remainder of Orange County public school classes. The start of Prospect Heights this year, however, will be one of the largest changes in Orange County school organization since consolidation of OCHS in 1952.

“Prospect Heights was constructed in 1956 as an elementary school for students from grades one through seven. Because of growth in the county school population, the building was converted to only sixth grade students in 1967 and became known as half of the intermediate school plan. The other half was a seventh grade that attended the old Orange High School building on Belleview Avenue.

“After one year of construction and renovation which about tripled the size of Prospect Heights, it will become a middle school this fall with over 1000 students in grades six, seven and eight.

“Prior to 1967, the pattern of school organization in Orange County consisted of first through seventh grade elementary schools and eight through twelfth grade high school. There was no provision for middle, intermediate or junior high programs. As the county gradually replaced older elementary school buildings with newer facilities, it was realized that much could be gained from a one through five organization for elementary school children.

“Besides creating more homogeneous age groups for instructional programs, the formation of elementary, middle and high school divisions solved an overcrowded situation at OCHS. For the first time since 1952, the eighth grade will not go to Orange County High School this fall. This will reduce the enrollment there to about 1200 students. Prospect Heights will become the second largest school in the county with over 1000 students.

“The term middle school was adopted to indicate a program for students in the middle of their school years, not elementary and not high school. With securement of federal funds, several methods were employed here to study the needs of students in this age group. School personnel visited many other school divisions in several states to note what was being done. In addition, numerous consultants visited Orange County and worked with teachers, parents, and students. School official Warren Widmyer was appointed as head of the research project.

“ ‘We found that we had to take a more in-depth look at Orange boys and girls,’ Widmeyer said. ‘As a result of the study, several things became apparent. Obviously, the building in which the program was housed was unsatisfactory.’

“Widmyer said that an additional two years of study was made and many new ideas were implemented within the program. Some of these ideas included an initial phase of team

teaching, the development of a health services pupil personnel team, the employment of a home-school coordinator and the initiation of a school learning center.

“One of the innovative aspects of new Prospect Heights Middle School will be the open space. Carpeted floors and acoustical ceiling prevents the spread of noise and while no walls are in evidence, furniture and black boards will be available to give some stability to the area. The open space will be primarily used for math, English and social studies classes. Science, the arts, special education and physical education and reading will be held in more traditional situations. While the concept of open space is new to Orange County, many other schools as near as Richmond have had it for several years. Culpeper County is going with the plan this fall also.

“Team teaching is another new system to be used at the middle school. Although the idea is not completely new, in Orange County, it will be expanded at Prospect Heights. Teams will be developed in the areas of language arts, social studies and science-math. Each team will consist of four or five teachers at one grade level. The teams will have responsibility for grouping and regrouping students, for providing instruction and for coordinating these subject areas.

“ ‘While many of the means of instruction at Prospect Heights will be new, the philosophy concerning student expectancy will not,’ Widmyer added. ‘School officials will continue to promote and expect good discipline throughout the building. The standardized testing program, as well as supplementary tests, will be administered frequently to note students’ progress and it is hoped that the new means of organization will enable students to learn more and thus score higher on their tests. By providing more learning situations, it is felt that students will be able to learn more on an individualized basis thereby providing a program for individual differences of students.’

“Widmyer said that school officials also feel that the new approach to instruction as well as the new learning techniques will improve the morale of students at the middle school level.

“A side effect of the program will be the inclusion of the eighth grade level in a textbook rental system. Students in grade eight this year will purchase only two books--English and history. All other books will be provided on a rental basis with charge of a flat fee which will cover both books and materials.”¹¹

¹¹ Author Unknown. “Prospect Heights Middle School To Open with Over 1000 Students.” *Orange County Review*, Thursday, August 10, 1972.