

# After 41 Years Of Service In School System Miss Alicia Swann, Crockett Principal, To Retire

EPT MAY 24, 1948

A decision in 1907 between Houston and El Paso teaching offers brought Miss Alicia Swann to West Texas. As a result, El Paso Public Schools have received 41 years of service as teacher, supervisor and principal.

Miss Swann is one of four elementary school principals who will retire at the end of the Spring term. The others are Miss Gertrude Higgins, Alamo; Miss Annie Grady, Franklin, and Mrs. Olga Wilson, Lamar.

Born in Tyler, Texas, Miss Swann took her first teaching job in Knickerbocker, Texas. After experience there and in Hutto and Tyler she came to El Paso as a teacher in San Jacinto School in January, 1907. She later became primary supervisor for the city schools when the central offices were in old Bailey School. From there she went to Highland Park School, now Fannin, as principal in 1911.

She served as principal at Vilas and Lamar Schools from 1913 to 1922. Her talent for organization took her back to the central offices where she organized Bowie as an elementary school. She was sent to Rusk School, soon after that area was annexed by the city, and then returned to Burseson when it was opened.

She came to Crockett, where she is still principal, in 1923. At that time, the Crockett grounds were "just a rack pile." The beautiful shrubbery and landscaping and interior improvements of the school have been Miss Swann's life work.

## FINDS TEACHING GRATIFYING PROFESSION

Teaching is a gratifying profession, and at the same time, it can be very trying. One of the greatest pleasures, Miss Swann says, is to see her former pupils running the city's government and to see "her girls" active in such women's organizations as the Junior League.

The bad moments of teaching included witnessing a small child fall from an acrobat bar and break both arms. Yet this didn't compare to a situation which arose during a school program.

One of the teachers ran to Miss Swann and said, "Guy has just been run over by a train."

Miss Swann hurried to the railroad tracks, which are near the school, and stood by helplessly while 11 cars rolled over the six-year-old child. He had received a blow on the head which fortunately knocked him unconscious. The train never touched him as he lay between the rails. In a few weeks he was back in school.

A new experience for Miss Swann was the enrollment of children of the German scientists who are working in guided missile warfare at Fort Bliss.

"At first, I dreaded it," Miss



MISS ALICIA SWANN.

Swann said, "but the children fitted in beautifully." And she can prove it by bringing the children to her office to meet visitors.

Peter, a sturdy blond fellow who is still losing his baby teeth, occasionally has to search for an English word, but he's crazy about America. Does Peter want to return to Germany? "No! Germany is cold, and there's no candy!"

## OTTO STILL RETAINS SOME MANNERISMS

Otto, who will enter Austin Junior High next fall, still retains a few continental mannerisms. He bows from the waist when he meets a stranger. But his talk is all American. His father has taken out his first citizenship papers.

Making Otto and Peter like Crockett School, their classmates—and America—has been a great project for Miss Swann. Her dealings with their parents and the children have brought praise from U. S. Army officials at Fort Bliss, who are proud of the adjustments made by the German families.

One of Miss Swann's greatest thrills in recent years was the dedication of the memorial stained glass window at the entrance of Crockett. Pupils worked at programs and donations to raise funds for the World War II memorial, dedicated to former pupils who lost their lives in the war. The window was dedicated by A. H. Hughey, superintendent, on V-E Day.

Though Miss Swann is retiring

this month, she doesn't plan to idle her time away. After an active and useful lifetime in the schools' service, she wants to find something to keep her busy.

Crockett School, with its extensive library, its beautiful grounds, will continue to remind pupils and school patrons of Miss Alicia Swann.