



Children from different grades at the Military Road Elementary School get a few pointers in addition from teacher Doris

Tracy. The pupils are, from left, Theresa Laverne Tyson, 10; Lawrence Jones, 8; Carol Lightfoot, 6, and Leon Carpenter, 8.

One School Still Clicks To Hand Bell

Washington's last country-style school is Military Road where 32 pupils go to their two classrooms to the tune of a brass handbell.

The narrow crackerbox building faces Military rd. at the point where Missouri ave. and 14th st. meet. It is one of the few District schools with land enough for a garden.

Although the building has four classrooms, only the two on the first floor are used by the Negro youngsters.

Miss Doris Tracy teaches grades one through four in one room. She has three first-graders, two second-graders, five third-year pupils and three fourth-termers.

Across the hall, Miss Norma F. Johnson instructs 10 fifth-

graders and nine sixth-graders.

"Teaching a multi-graded class isn't any different than teaching a regular one." Mrs. Eudora H. J. Winters, principal, explained. She pointed out that the youngsters, in either case, are divided into groups based on the rate at which they master such subjects as reading and arithmetic.

In addition to Military road, Mrs. Winters also is principal of Gage School, 2d and U nw. "When I first was assigned to Military road, I couldn't find it," Mrs. Winters said. She shuttles between the pair of distant schools.

School officials have continued to operate Military Road School because the handful of

children has no place else to go. The closest Negro grade school is overcrowded Park View, Warder and Newton sts. nw.

The present Military Road School was built in 1912. The first Negro school in the Brightwood area was a one-room frame building, the Rock Creek Ford Road School.

Later on, a two-room frame school for white children was built a little to the east and south of the present structure. This building, subsequently transferred to Negro use, was called Military Road School because the road was used to transport soldiers and materials to nearby Fort Stevens during the Civil War. The present brick school replaced the frame building.