



A BOOK issued in 1899 attracted the interest of three girls in the regular fifth-grade room at Warren Avenue School, who were helping inventory and sort schoolbooks to be removed from the building. Colleen Dixon, left, and Kathy Rudd, right, listened as Carol Henley read from a copy of "Lives of Presidents of the United States," oldest book found in storage.



RHONDA NELSON, 6, one of Warren Avenue's sightless pupils, "read" with her fingers a braille label marking a classroom. Rhonda wore an identification tag, a braille watch and a purse with her lunch money. She is a first-grader.

had been started in the basement of Gethsemane Lutheran Church at Ninth Avenue and Stewart Street. In January, 1944, the school district, which had been supplying a teacher since the previous September, moved the children to Warren Avenue. They were installed with a teacher, housekeeper and physiotherapist in a portable annex set up in wartime for a play center.

The building was adapted to the wheel chairs of spastic pupils by the addition of two ramps. Parents transported their children the first year, but after that state money was obtained to send them by taxicab to and from their homes.

NEXT newcomers to the building were the blind. The old halls echoed with a new sound, children pacing, counting steps, so many from the lunchroom to their class. Soon they were at ease, moving rapidly with no fumbling.

Most obvious indication of the blind children's presence in the building has been small squares of white paper near door knobs, giving the identities of rooms in braille letters.

Coming of the blind children brought gadgets unknown in other departments — "talking books," braille writers, typewriters and black "slates" on which to work arithmetic problems with braille-number squares of mosaic.

With sight-saving classes, which followed on the heels of the blind, other equipment was added, such as reading machines to magnify print.

Next development was the arrival of electricians to wire rooms for group hearing aids. A few years ago the completely deaf, who have to lip-read, and the hard-of-hearing, who are helped by hearing aids, were separated. Warren Avenue received the latter. Their room has a microphone and racks of headphones.

Warren Avenue School has at-

tracted a higher percentage of visitor-observers than other buildings. With the cerebral-palsy unit expanded to five classrooms and working with pupils through the ninth grade, teachers from other countries and other states have asked permission to watch how so much progress is achieved.

Seattle was one of the first cities west of the Mississippi River to have such a unit in a public school.

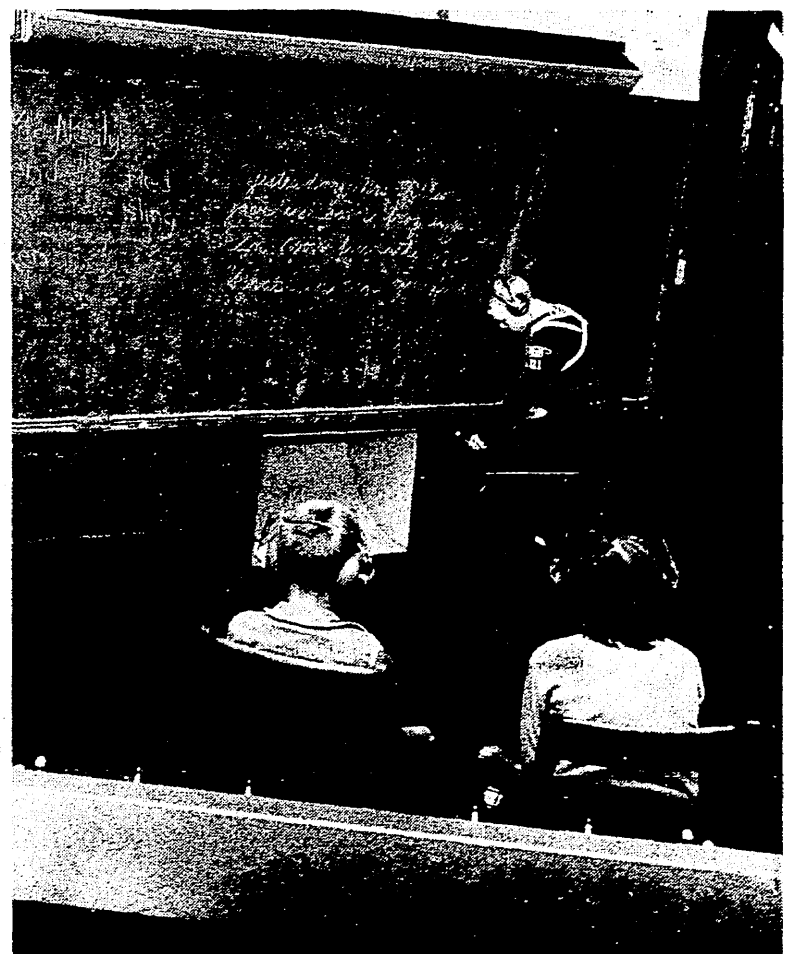
University students, cadet teachers and nurses have spent weeks in the building familiarizing themselves with the unusual programs and their professional application.

Warren Avenue has been a place where the exceptional child was at home with schoolmates in the regular classes; where the small spastic, wearing a football helmet and clattering on "duck shoes" to keep her balance, shared playground or social-studies lesson; where sighted boys experimented with closing their eyes, to learn the sensations of their blind playmates.

Those who attended school in Warren Avenue in recent years absorbed lessons in human relations which were not in the curriculum. The old wooden building will be missed.



CHILDREN in a class for the blind worked arithmetic problems on "slates" divided into squares to hold numbered mosaic pieces. The pupils were Gordon De Witty and Alco Canfield. The school is equipped with braille writers, typewriters and other special equipment for the blind.



DUANE OXBERG plugged in his headphone in a class for hard-of-hearing pupils. John Price and Marcia Nichols watched from their seats in front of a rack of headphones. Parts of the 1902 ventilating system were visible above and below the blackboard.—Present-day photos by Roy Scully, Times staff.