Margarete Burris

Before the integration of the public school system in the mid-1950s, Margarete Burris taught at the Douglass Elementary School, which was part of the Herculaneum School System. Mrs. Burris began her career at Douglass in 1930 and continued to teach children in grades 1-8 until 1942. From 1942 to 1945, Mrs. Burris was not allowed to teach due to the fact that she was married. When the law changed in 1945, she was rehired to teach again at Douglass. She continued to teach there until 1957, when Herculaneum Elementary School finally integrated. After the closing of Douglass Elementary, Mrs. Burris taught at Herculaneum Elementary until her retirement in 1968. Mrs. Burris taught in the Herculaneum schools for a total of 35 years.

The hiring of Mrs. Burris at Herculaneum Elementary School was important to the smooth transition from a segregated school system to an integrated system. It is hard to imagine the challenge she accepted and conquered successfully; she was a highly-respected educator.

Mrs. Burris enriched her students with her fascinating stories of travels and other cultures. Her classes were always working on projects, actively involved in the learning experience, always discovering new things. She was loved and respected by her students; she gave them so much love and taught them to respect others. Mrs. Burris was the absolute favorite elementary teacher of many, many students. The Herculaneum District was truly fortunate to have her as a devoted educator.