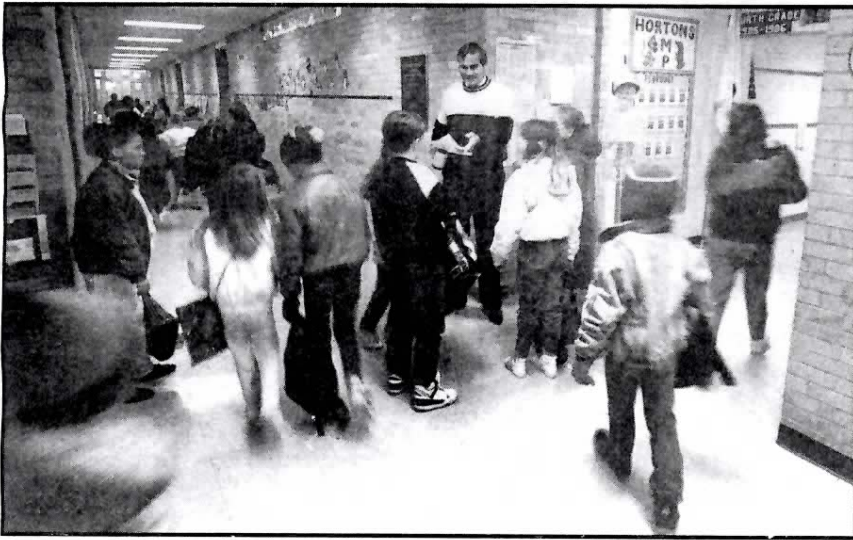




*Chad Knigge is one of secretary Janice Knigge's three grandchildren who stop by for morning bugs.*



*Clay Austin minds his post at the intersection of the school's three main halls.*

**Principal Clay Austin says the closest the school has come to a drug problem is a second grader he caught with chewing tobacco a few years ago.**

Glenn is busy teaching fifth graders how to use decimal numbers. "I just truly enjoy 10 year olds," she says. "They're still compassionate and kind. They're understanding."

Ms. Glenn, 38, has a bright smile and her brown eyes flash emotion as quickly as a student can whisper a secret or blurt out an answer. She calls her students "hon" and "honey" and has been known on occasion to slap a "high five" or two with youngsters who solve difficult problems in class. She is a prized member of the Two-Mile Prairie School family. In her 17-year tenure, she has seen the school building grow in size with additions in 1972, 1980, 1984 and 1987, and the student

population shift from farm kids to a group made up of children from the subdivisions around Columbia.

Ms. Glenn grew up dreaming of one day returning to teach in a one-room school. She started putting money away for college at age 13 and had earned enough showing and selling cattle to pay for all but one semester of school at the University of Missouri-Columbia. By graduation, however, the era of the one-room school was nearly gone. So she settled for the next best thing. Ms. Glenn set up shop in what was at the time a new fifth-grade classroom at Two-Mile Prairie. She has been teaching in the same room ever since.

"I've always thought my room to be very special because it looks out onto the original Glenn farm," she says, her eyes straying from time to time to glance out the small windows of her room. "My great-grandfather was raised on the farm. They lost the farm during the Depression. My father and brothers rent it now. I can see them working in the fields right now."

Across the hall from Ms. Glenn a new teaching career is getting started. Mr. Allen, 23, is beginning his first year at Two-Mile Prairie. He is young and bright and full of new ideas he learned at the University of Missouri-Columbia, but he lacks Ms. Glenn's