

JANUARY 20, 1998

# Former schools official Finley Bown dies at 73

By Gail Wesson  
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## RIVERSIDE

Finley Bown, who was a walking encyclopedia of Riverside Unified School District facts and top assistant to several superintendents, died Tuesday of heart disease at his Riverside home. He was 73.

During more than 35 years with the district, he moved from classroom teaching up the ranks through site administrator jobs until he became administrative assistant to the superintendent, a post he held for 15 years.

Mr. Bown drafted most of the district's policies and rules for trustee approval at a time when district officials decided to put longtime practices in writing, said Joseph Rile, executive director of administrative services for the district.

Even after he retired in 1985, Mr. Bown "was the one whom everybody turned to for historical perspective on the district," said Rile. Mr. Bown left helpful notes in a drawer to guide Rile, who succeeded him in the post.

Mr. Bown started with the River-

side district as a mathematics teacher in 1950 at what was, then University Heights Junior High. He was named vice principal there in 1956. In 1959, he became principal of Alessandro Junior High in what is now Moreno Valley. When the Moreno Valley Unified School District formed in 1962, he transferred to the Riverside district headquarters.

The Hollywood native earned a bachelor's degree at UCLA and a master's degree at Claremont Graduate School in 1960.

He was a cryptographer in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II.

He enjoyed reading, gardening and traveling. He belonged to First Congregational Church in Riverside.

Memorial services will be at 3 p.m. Sunday at First Congregational Church. Burial will be private. Acheson and Graham Garden of Prayer Mortuary is handling arrangements.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Elizabeth; two sons, Richard Bown of Riverside and the Rev. Ronald Bown of Wellsville, Ohio; a daughter, Barbara of Pacific Grove; two grandchildren; two sisters, Alice Bown of Hollywood and Marian Pure of Rialto; and several nieces and nephews.

The family suggests memorial contributions to the First Congregational Church.



**Bown**