

Amidst the celebration of JOJ's 20th anniversary, the staff and students will bid farewell to an administrator who has helped build much of Johnson's legacy. To many, Mr. John Masterson is an integral part of Johnson High. It will be hard to imagine the halls of JOJ without him.

Mr. Masterson has been here from the onset. In 1971 Mr. Masterson began working full time on planning and organizing the opening of JOJ. Since the building was still under construction, Mr. Masterson and six teachers working half days, met in a trailer at the central office. In February of '72 when the building was under roof, Mr. Masterson brought a heater and set up a table in an unfinished teacher's lounge. From this make-shift office the legacy began.

Mr. Masterson grew up near Florence, Alabama where he attended high school. He received his undergraduate degree in history from UNA, and his masters degree and AA from University of Alabama. Mr. Masterson has studied at the National University of Mexico, at Rutgers, Purdue, Auburn, Howard, and Indiana University in Bloomington. His love of learning is evident in the advice he gives to students, "Read all you can; talk, look, listen, to learn how the world works:"

Mr. Masterson believes that teaching teams are probably the most appropriate approach to



Mr. Masterson, 1972

education. He explains that, "Students need continuity, someone to relate to, someone that takes an interest in them." Ideally, a team of teachers would stay with the same group of students for all four years. Mr. Masterson's advice for teachers is to "Keep talking to each other about teaching; keep reading and trying different teaching styles."

When Mr. Masterson leaves JOJ in July, his plans include, "Camping around this continent," staying about a year in Europe and Asia, living in the Southwest for three or four

months, and spending lots of time with the children and grandchildren. Mr. Masterson also plans to become more involved in local government by "tracking" the school board and the city council.

When asked to share his secret for enjoying his work, he offered this advice: "Don't bite off too much. Slow down; take small steps. If something doesn't work, turn another way; try something else, in another building, another place, another world." —