

I attended Salisbury School from 1933 to 1943. There were two schools, the "Big" School and the "Little" School. The "Big" School was demolished in 1987.

Mr. A.J. Anderson was the school principal. Miss Ablett was my Grade One teacher. Some of the other teachers were: Miss Isabel Leach, Miss Laura Asseltine, Miss Portigal, Miss Leus, Miss Mc Morran, Miss Dyma and Mr. Wiley.

When I started school I was completely left handed. I can remember Mr. Gordon (the school inspector) and Miss Ablett standing over me forcing me to write with my right hand. To this day, I am left handed in everything but writing. I can remember crying my eyes out having to change hands.

Miss Ablett was a kind teacher and well liked by her pupils. When she left teaching (women didn't work outside the home after marriage in those days) and got married and had a baby, she invited my mother and me to her home on Atlantic Avenue to visit her and the baby. I remember that when I held the baby it wet on me. She married Mr. Johnson, a blind piano tuner. He was said to be the best in his field in Winnipeg.

In the early grades in school, especially Grade One, I would get upset and cry every time we had a bad thunderstorm. The teacher would let me go home. Mr Mc Wee (the caretaker) lived down the street from us and he told my mother as soon as I got out of school and started for home. I wasn't afraid to walk in it, no matter how bad it was as long as I could go home.

Not all the houses had sewer and water in those days. When we went to school on the day after Hallowe'en night it was not an uncommon sight to see someone's backhouse sitting in front of the school door (the Little School) facing Prince Rupert Avenue.

The school nurse came regularly and each student had to stand in front of her. She would look in your mouth and then go through your hair with little sticks looking for "cooties" (head lice). You would have to show her your hands so she could check the palms and also the backs.

Miss Doreen Jackson, Mr. Albert Mastin, Mr. David Small and Mr. Norris Belton joined the staff the last few years I was at Salisbury. Mr. Arthur Lilley replaced Mr. Mc Wee as caretaker.

During the War 1939-45 the boys had a cadet corps. They carried rifles made out of wood for drills. The school also had a war savings stamp programme. The last couple of years that I attended Salisbury School, I looked after it. The stamps sold for twenty-five cents each and you would buy them and stick them in a booklet. Each booklet would hold up to five dollars worth of stamps. I would go to each room to find out how many stamps were to be purchased and who bought them and collect the necessary money. I would then go to Anderson's Red and White Store on the corner of Moncton and Wallace (now London) buy the stamps and then deliver them to each room along with my list of purchasers. I got a nice letter from the government thanking me for doing this after I left school.

Mr. Belton was our Grade Nine teacher. Ours was the first class to have a graduation party. It was held at my parent's home at 839 Government Avenue. We figured we should be able to have a little wine for the toast. Mr. Belton said, "No!" For one thing, he said that we were too young and the other thing was his mother belonged to The Temperance Union. Most of the students from the class and the teachers and their spouses attended.

I have many wonderful memories of good times and life long friendships which all began at Salisbury School.

Written by Mary Thomson , nee Patrick

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She sent this letter for the 75th anniversary of Salisbury School in 1990.