

## MEMORIES OF ST. BRENDAN'S (1939-46)

by Eamonn O'Sullivan & Don Dooley

GRADE 1- Miss Caron: Even we kids recognized that she was quite a looker. Mr. Joe Turner was often at the classroom door. We believe they eventually married.

GRADE 2- Miss Degnan

GRADE 3- Mr. Pat McKeever (we think)

GRADE 4- We had many teachers that year. One of them left with the pen-knife I got by saving Fudgsicle wrappers. One teacher returned for a visit in his Air Force uniform. We believe his name was Mr. McCarran.

GRADE 5- Mr. Pat Murphy: Grade 4 was such a messed up year with so many teachers I went to St. Dominic's for a few days in frustration but transferred back to St. Brendan's before the week was up. Mr. Murphy was liked by every kid. I believe he had something wrong with one of his legs.

GRADE 6- Mr. Ed Levins: Mr. Levins had an elaborate system of giving out X's for maintaining discipline. He charted every misbehavior on the board. I later ended up working for Mr. Levins at St. Joseph's in Beaconsfield.

GRADE 7- Mr. Girard and Mr. Joe Turner. I had Mr. Gerard and Don had Mr Turner. There might have been other double grades, but since we had been in the same classes we don't remember.

Principals- Mr. Mike Dunn on the boys side. Mr. Dunn often had a group of boys outside his office standing by the wall in the concrete floored hall. It was recognized by all, that rubbing your hands on the rough wall lessened the sting of the strap.

Miss Dwyer on the girls side. The boys and girls sections operated like two different schools. Never the twain did meet.

Other memories:

Don't go into the field in front of the school as the "needle man" will get you and sew up your mouth.

Two to three foot weeds in the gravel school yard after the summer holidays.

Ink splashes on the cream colored exterior brick at the boys' entrance. At school's ending in June some students would throw their ink bottles at the school.

Tests every Tuesday morning from the Board. Answers to Music tests were written on the board. Some still managed to fail.

Mr. Girard playing for St. Patrick's Day marching practice in the school hall.

A student strike in which the students threw paper and books out the third floor window into the schoolyard. They were forced to pick them all up and to put them back. We sat with our class at mass on Sunday. The class teacher checked us in. Catholic Charities. We were forced to sell tickets.

First Friday Confessions. We were marched to Church.

Annual play. We only remember the one where we had to blacken our faces and sing 'Bill Bailey'.

Lunch hours. 1.5 hrs. Everyone had to leave the school and excuses for being late were not accepted.

At the end of recess or lunch break Dunn would ring the hand bell. First ring we were all to freeze and on the second ring we were expected to line up by class in front of our teacher.

Aleeveo- the spelling is mine. This is a game that was often played in the school yard. Where the foundation met the brick there was a slant and a student would throw the ball at the slant in the wall and others would try to catch it as it came towards them. There was a Mr. Hyland but I can't place him in any class. Perhaps he taught a double grade 4, 5, or 6.

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