

## MORE ON ST ANSELM'S

Michael Darney  
(With an afterword by Joe Jaroslowski)

Joe, I also went to St. Anselm, but in 1954. I came to Canada in November and started grade four at the school down the block from our Bercy street triplex.

I remember little of the experience. A Mother Superior as principal, I had a run-in with her during lunch one day. Those children who were orphaned by a pair of working parents, were allowed to eat lunch in an unused classroom. She came in this day to check us out and saw I had a 7up, she picked up the bottle and gave us a lecture on the evils of "pop". I took offence and went home for the rest of the day, agonizing over what to tell my parents. They took my side for some reason, and the incident blew over, but thereafter my sister and I went home for lunch, either by ourselves or with a grandmother present. Mother Superior got her innings though; a number of the bigger boys (I was tall) were regularly sent over to the residence to clean up the garden.

The Fifth grade teacher was a man (fiftyish, I guess), who smoked cigars in the classroom after a beer or two at lunch. He was a great ear-twister, copy book tearer-upper and book thrower. Things must have come to a head that year because one day he came in after lunch much subdued and wished us well, we never saw him again. In his stead we got a saintly young nun - what a change!! I often think about the cigar smoker, he wasn't ancient, what did he do after St. Anselm, did he move on or just fade away, I'll never know.

The sixth grade teacher was a classic teaching professional, the kind they make movies about, I can't remember her name, again maybe fifty, with a serious case of rheumatism. She had a real problem walking, her hands were twisted wrecks, but she had great skills and the patience of Job.

Seventh grade was Mr. Jantzen, who was legless, he worked on the top floor (there were four I think), took him forever to get up the stairs on his artificial legs. Again a great teacher but so strict after the preceding teachers it was a shock.

Other memories: Christmas concerts with new carols and dances and singing in Polish, Dom Polski trained. A room on the top floor was for Banking, the kids ran a bank, sponsored by Bank of Montreal. All the kids spoke English, French and Polish. Michael Darney.

## AFTERWORD (scroll...)

Hi Mike,  
Wow, what a small world! My wife went to St. Anselm's right through to grade 7. She was a year ahead of you. I will find out the name of the Mother Superior as my wife doesn't remember. All I know is that she was a Holy Names sister. The other nuns who taught there were from another order, Ukrainian, I believe. The sixth

grade teacher was Mrs. O'Haggan. My wife says that she was very crippled with arthritis yet managed to teach the girls the Irish jig while seated. The seventh grade teacher was Mr. Isadore Janusus. Issie had one wooden leg. He was the originator of school banking for the English sector and eventually worked at the school board just administrating the banking. The bank they dealt with was the Montreal City and District Savings Bank. When I worked at the school board around 1970, his cubicle was right next to mine.

Joe Jaroslowski