

Newsletter299

Keith's Corner/McGill News

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Old and New School Buildings

When I started Kindergarten in September of 1941 at the McGill Grade School, my classroom was on the first floor of the 3 story building. The building at that time was called the 'old building' and had the K-5 classes.



The ‘new building’, as we called it, had the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classes.



Our ‘old building’ has been replaced with the ‘new building’. Our ‘new building’ is now the ‘old’ building’ and is not being used. Confusing? At least to my generation.

When I started Kindergarten in September of 1941, my classroom was on the north side of the building on the first floor. When you entered the school from the uphill or east end, you were on the fist floor. There were classrooms of equal size on both sides of the of the wide aisle. The entire first floor was devoted to Kindergarten thru 4th. The top floor held the two rooms of 5th graders.

My Kindergarten teacher was, Mrs. Marjorie Carlson. My 1st grade teacher was Miss Gerogia Van Wie. She left McGill just after the school year ended (1943) and joined the U. S. Military in some way. I think maybe Air Force. She sent me a card later that year.



Miss Roberta Maxwell was my 2nd grade teacher. Here is a photo of her with our class in front of the old school building.



The building was painted a light orange. Some of the paint was coming off at the left side of the photo. If my memory is correct, the previous color was a light blue. Funny how a photo can trigger crazy memories. The 3rd grade teacher was Miss Jeane Conrad. Mrs. Thelma Ireland was my 4th grade teacher. She wrote poems professionally under the pen name-Brownie. All of these classes were on the first floor.

Then we went up to the top floor. There were two classrooms for the 5th grades.

I was in the one on the north side of the building, overlooking the area where the gym is at now. My teacher was Mrs. Florence Carlson. Her husband owned the dry cleaner shop on main, south of the old Victory Club. The building is still there.

That photo last week was of a wooden match holder that was usually hung on the wall near the wood and coal stoves in the kitchens. You could put a whole box of matches in it.