

This letter was sent by Mr. Bob Andrews, who lived at 708 Moncton Ave.

He wrote this for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Salisbury School.

I attended Salisbury School from 1930 to 1940. There were two schools then known to us kids as "the big school" and "the little school". Classes ran from Grade One to Grade Eight. The Grade One classroom was the room in the north east corner of the small school. It was one large room, but later was divided into two smaller rooms. Before being divided, it was used as a hall with a stage for concerts and plays put on by church groups and others.

The teachers during my years there seemed to remain pretty constant. Mr. A.J. Anderson was the school principal and also taught Grade Eight. Other teachers were Miss Ablett, Miss Leach, Miss Asseltine, Miss Mc Morran, Miss Portigal and Mr. L Wiley. Mr. Mc Wee was the caretaker on call 24 hours a day 7 days a week except for a couple of weeks off in the summer.

The one disruption in the teaching staff occurred when I was in Grade 7 or 8. Mr. Anderson was transferred from Salisbury to Polson School in exchange for a Miss Cook. As a result of the move, the students in the upper grades went out on strike. Parents were unhappy with this change and it was resolved quickly with Mr. Anderson being returned as principal of Salisbury. A visit from John Colvin (truant officer) and Murdoch Anderson (school board member) to our homes also helped speed things up.

Speaking of Mr. Anderson, I remember he drove a 1928 Essex which he parked along the east wall along side of his classroom. I think he was the only teacher who had a car at that time. The others had to walk from the Morse Place street car #32 which used to terminate and turn around at Munroe Ave. and Raleigh St. which meant quite a walk for them, especially in the winter.

No pupils were allowed in the school before the bell ringers came out at each end of the school at 9 A.M. Then the various classes formed in the hall and, accompanied by a teacher playing the piano, sang a patriotic song before marching to their respective classrooms. There was a different song every morning starting with "O Canada" on Monday, followed by "The Maple Leaf Forever", "Rule Britannia", "Manitoba (here we rise to greet you) and ending with "God Save the King" on Friday.

A special service was always held on Armistice Day, November 11<sup>th</sup> with poems read by the students and special music.

Christmas was also an exciting time. About two weeks before Christmas The Hudson Bay Store had a choir which sang Christmas Carols for half an hour before the store opening to entertain customers which they allowed in early. This program was also broadcast over the radio. During this period we were allowed to go into the school at 8:30 and listen to this program and sing along if we wished.

As coal was used to heat the school, there was an accumulation of cinders from the boiler room which were wheeled out by Mr. Mc Wee and dumped around the grounds surrounding both schools. It was a sure sign of Spring when the snow melted and holes could be made in the cinders by twisting the heel of your shoe around for playing marbles. Nearly all the kids carried a bag with marbles and alleys (glass) in them.

In the early thirties, after completing Grade 8, students from Salisbury had to walk over to Lord Wolseley School for Grade 9. There were no school buses in those days. Later an annex was built at Polson School and they were able to accommodate Grade 9 students from Salisbury. I was luckier still as a Grade 9 class opened in Salisbury the year I completed Grade 8. We only had to go to Polson one morning a week for shop training (woodworking or machine shop). Mr Remple was our instructor. Also, when I was in Grade 9 a special French teacher was brought in. A Miss La Porte, by name. I'll never forget how upset she was when it was announced that Paris had fallen to the Germans in the Second World War.

Except for a 15 minute recess twice a day, we had very little time out of the classroom. A special treat was on Arbour Day when we were let out a couple of hours early to clean up around the school grounds.

A few of the extra jobs pupils were chosen for were cleaning the blackboards and banging the brushes together to get the chalk out of them. Also, filling the inkwells in each desk and distributing a new pen nib and blotting paper once a week..

Also, the odd time, someone was chosen to go to Anderson's Red and White Store on the corner of Moncton and London (it was named Wallace Street then) and pick up some groceries for the teacher whose turn it was to make lunch that day.

On the east side of the school there was a wooden box with a tap in it which required a special key to turn on the water. This was used by the people across the field on Consol Ave. to get pails of water for use in their homes. At that time just Moncton Ave had sewer and water and a few homes on Munroe, Government and Prince Rupert Avenues.