

TEACHING

MRS. KAY ALEXANDER - 942 Odlin Rd., Richmond, B. C.

INTERVIEWED:

March 20, 1975

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Qualifications

- Trained in Manitoba
- Received Degree from U. B.C.
- Taught Grades 1 - 10 (total 22 years in Richmond - since 1946)
- Presently teaches at J. N. Burnett Junior High School

General Currie School

- On General Currie
- Original one room schoolclass still in use, with extra classrooms in a more modern structure with covered play area.
Parent school (in 1948) was Bridgeport, under principalship of Kate McNeely
- School Sports Day
 - a disappointment of May Day celebrations at Bridgeport...the ice-cream was eaten before General Currie School arrived. The small school made their own sports day.
- Primary Entry Stage
 - no reading readiness test at that time, nor was a birth certificate produced, thus the odd child was pushed through
 - now government backed kindergarten (since Sept./73) prepare a child to become a member of the social group and help him read
- School served children of central Richmond.

East Richmond School

- On River Rd. & No. 8 Rd., along South Arm of Fraser River
 - three miles from public transportation
- Mrs. Alexander was acting principal, then taught under Mr. Leversage of Mitchell School.

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East Richmond School --continued

- The new building, Grades 1 - 3:
 - flat roof, ground level structure, with a large window wall.
- Original building, built in early 20's, Grades 4 - 6:
 - frame building, cottage roof, porch and windows above eye level of busy students within. Steep steps that had to be bolstered on cement blocks in 1956 lead to front door.
 - below, eight foot high ceiling basement, which had two single cubicle lavatories, as well as furnace.

On rainy days during recess, tag was played between 2 supporting posts -- there is where physical education classes were held -

equipment: low wooden benches for balancing and a rubber tire hung from the rafters.

- fire bell was near the ceiling, out of reach of children - had to be rung once a month.
- Also had Junior Woodworking classes -- produced small items
- Chestnut trees bordered one of the two acres, along the front and down half of its length
- Fraser Valley Regional Library - after 1955 the van came once a month to exchange books
- Student participation -
 - found school very interesting
 - few disciplinary problems - older students looked after the younger ones
 - boys in the elementary school baseball league
 - 3 of 4 Grade 6 students eligible for accelerated Grade 7 classes at Cambie Junior High School
- Civil defence plans -
 - children asked by the Board to assist the count of cars owned by the family. One boy asked why boats were not counted, remark was passed to Mr. Windrim, then Principal of Lord Byng -- the next week boats were counted.

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East Richmond School --continued

- P.T.A. - organized about 1955. The highest percentage membership in Richmond

School Board Policy

- Both trustees and teachers subject to Department of Education directions
 - at teaching level often policy dictated by politics and economics
 - 1950's - bus costs
 - 1960's - heating costs

Junior High Schools

- To prepare students for senior secondary education
- The classes have become smaller, but apparently necessary as a stable community changes to a more mobile society -- special courses only a small cure
- Talks of special education, teacher reports, and the new teacher
- During the tape, mentions some of the pupils she has taught.

A. L. DYBALL