

STUDENT

MR. HENRY ANDERSON - Harrison Hot Springs

INTERVIEWED:

April 30, 1975

NOT ON TAPE

Bridgeport Public School 1917 or 1918

- Started school at five years of age.
- First teacher was Miss Jean McMynn.
- Mr. McIntosh was then Principal, followed by Miss McNeely.
- Public School was in the main building, the high school was in the three outside buildings.
  - Mr. Jerry Evans was the High School Principal.
- Miss McNeely taught entrance class. The entrance exams were written at Bridgeport School.
- The school was surrounded by a picket fence. There was a metal entrance gate. The sidewalk was wood, in the shape of a "Y" to the stairs of the main building. In the centre of the "Y", flowers grew.
- Toilets were on the first floor and were separated into cubicles.
- The lights hung from a cord with a shade, similar to the pool-hall type.
- The wooden desks were of a single nature in rows. Each desk had an ink well. The front of the desk was the back of the one in front, the seat lifted on hinges. The desks themselves had a cast iron frame, these were screwed to the floor.
- A hand bell was used to line up students who then marched up the stairs to classes. Each morning the Lord's Prayer was said, then the student sat down with his hands behind his back until lessons began.
- The school had garden plots of about eight feet by four feet. These plots were located across the street on Sexsmith Road. The garden was part of the curriculum and students were marked on same.
- Mr. Anderson recalls a school nurse visiting the school more frequently than once a year.
- The children had respect for authority and when discipline was required, it was either a strap or staying in after school.

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- The school did not supply any sport equipment at that time. Students brought their own equipment for lunch hour and recesses. The boys played nobbies, lacrosse, baseball and marbles. On rainy days the students played in the basement of the main building.
  
- Special Events -
  - May 24th - marched from Bridgeport School to Minoru for festivities
  - Christmas Concert - held in Miss McNeely's room on a stage. It was held at night, and the parents attended same. There was a concert and the students wore costumes.
  - Rememberance Day - November 11th - was a regular school day, except a two minute silence was observed.
  
- Transportation -
  - Each public school student was given two tram tickets daily, one to go to school and one to return home. Mr. Anderson walked from his home on Bennett Road at times and sold his tickets to the high school students. The senior students were responsible for their own transportation.

A.L.DYBALL