

For first grade, circa 1938, there was a lovely young southern lady named Leila Smith. She later married a John Canada, and that fact has stuck in my mind all these years, I know not why. Also teaching first grade was Miss Elizabeth Becker. Second grade was taught by Miss Nina (pronounced as in "nine") Hughes. Her sandy-haired sister, Miss Frances Hughes, taught third grade, and for a period of time, both second and third grades were taught in the same classroom, a fact that always seemed curiously amusing to us kids.

For fourth grade, there was Mrs. Virginia Southwell. For fifth, I had Mrs. Alice Van Fleet. I can still recall her "proper", quite long, black-and-white polka dot dress. Mrs. Van Fleet too was an outstanding teacher, and taught us much about our country. She also read to us frequently, and related stories of her own childhood. It was not until years later that I finally figured out why she would always preface her stories with, "When I was a little boy." She was just letting us know that she'd been a tomboy.

Also teaching fifth grade was Miss Mildred Slack, reputed by the children to be very "strict"! For sixth grade I had Miss Laura E. Taylor, a pencil-slim lady with short red hair. Sixth grade had also been taught, early on, by a tall, kind but stern lady named Miss Marion Egan, and she doubled as school principal, as well! Imagine, a WOMAN principal! Miss Lois vom Lehn taught kindergarten. All excellent teachers, each and every one.

Miss Egan was later succeeded as principal by Mr. Leo G. Fuchs, and later, Mr. Charles Wilgus. Miss vom Lehn later married Mr. Wilgus.

The school "dress code" (which never seemed to be an issue) was, for the most part, for boys, corduroy knickers, long argyle socks, and cotton shirts, and dresses, only dresses, for the girls, with nearly always some type of bow or ribbon in their hair. Long braids were also "in" for the little girls of the time who got to have long tresses!

Around the third, fourth, and fifth grades, the children in School #4 did a great deal of studying of the Lenni Lenape Indian tribe, which figured so significantly in local history. We had long "sand tables" where we could create wonderful Indian villages and the like. Mrs. Van Fleet read us the story, Ride the Wind, the Story of Little Red Feather. We were mesmerized!

Then there were the SPELLING BEES! Spelling always having been my "strong suit", I always enjoyed participating, and nearly always "spelled everyone down" in the class. (Would that I had excelled as much in