

THE SUMMIT

Your Souvenir Edition For The Mount Douglas High Re-Union May 3, 1969. Classes 1931 to 1959

(Published through the co-operation of Your Committee and The Saanich Dogwood-Star)

Hail, The Gang's All Here!

Well, maybe not all. But a fine turn-out of former Mount Douglas students at this remarkable, even unique gathering. Welcome! Perhaps you're wondering how and why the whole thing came about? It started, like most things, with an idea.

Victoria, at least this part of it, can still be called a small community.

You can hardly help running into former school-mates. It's truly surprising how many of us still live within sight of the old school.

The committee people responsible for checking incoming mail have found an overwhelming majority of the responders still live here, or live here again. There aren't many better places to live anyway.

WE'RE GROWING FAST

As this area is still small, but about to grow much larger, so the school population has already multiplied. For many years, certainly during your time, you'll remember that graduating classes averaged about 30, especially during the earlier years.

So, according to this idea, the total output of the school during its halcyon days, was probably not much more than 1,000 with most of those still in the land of the living, not far away.

Gerry Reimer was the prime mover. "I'm sure I wasn't first with the idea", he says. "A few people had thought about it but nothing happened. I'll claim responsibility for getting the reunion idea rolling and getting something positive done."

"But I want to make it quite clear that without the very hard work and enthusiasm of the committee, we wouldn't be here tonight. Their willingness and

cheerful acceptance of all they were asked to do, has been praiseworthy indeed.

"You'll probably get the chance of showing your appreciation during the evening. Don't spare your hands".

SNOWBALL

The first phone call was made in February. From then on the re-union snowballed. If the telephone company has noticed more flashing lights in the Gordon Head-Mount Douglas - McKenzie area than usual in recent months, now they know the reason.

Former pupils have written from Britain, from the United States and from all over Canada. There's a strong contingent living in Prince George just now. Of course it was too much to expect that these people could travel a great distance for just one evening, but we do have some people from the mainland. You're doubly welcome.

Your committee has purposely left the program loose so that as much time as possible can be spent renewing old acquaintances. We do hope you will enjoy yourselves. If there's enough support for the idea, who knows, we might do it again someday.

So now, here's to the good old days, and when the evening's done, let's get on with the good new days. Be seeing you!



MR. FORSTER led the school's war-time cadet force. Here's a very smart turn-out. See the background? Compare it with today's scene. Some difference!

Farewell To Eric Forster

By happy chance, tonight's re-union is well-timed for bidding farewell to a man who has had an effect on all our lives - Eric Forster. He has been principal of the school for 30 years, quite a record and one that's not likely to be beaten.

Mr. Forster is retiring at term's end, and at 64 years of age, he admits he's looking forward to a rest.

He looks back on a career which saw the end of one era of education, went right through another and has taken him well into a third. "If I had planned it, I don't think I could have selected a more interesting period," he observes.

BORN IN ENGLAND

He was born in Macclesfield, England, but came to Montreal with his family when he was five. His first school in Canada

was in a community where nothing but French was spoken. Soon however, the family moved to Verdun, near Montreal, then a mainly English-speaking town.

In time young Eric attended the High School of Montreal. He'd already decided to become a teacher and can remember precisely when the ambition crystallized.

An English teacher, "not a very good one", he recalls, "was reading Tennyson's 'The Brook'." "I thought to myself, 'If I was teaching this I wouldn't do it this way. I'm going to be a teacher'." Another teacher, later in Vancouver, a very good one

named C. H. Corkum, had created in me a great interest in mathematics. With both English and Mathematics, plus some ability as an all-round athlete, my future course was fairly well charted".

WINCHESTER BOUND

It could have worked out differently. The Forsters returned to Britain in 1916 with young Eric intended for Winchester, the famous English public school. War-time conditions interfered with the plans however, and soon after the family's return Mr. Forster senior was sent to Vancouver as credit manager of the Canadian Fairbanks-Morse Company.

In due course Eric Forster went to UBC and graduated from the

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Gerry Reimer, whose drive got the reunion rolling, with retiring principal Eric Forster.



Tom Gordon, who took care of the finances, with vice-principal Muir.

MOUNT DOUGLAS SCHOOL RE-UNION MAY 3rd, 1969 PROGRAM

M. C. - Ken Stofer

Mt. Douglas Senior Secondary School Band will play from 8 p. m. "O, Canada", A selection from the repertoire, "Hail hail, the gang's all here".

Welcome

Speakers - His Worship Mayor Hugh Curtis

Dr. Carron Jameson, Chairman, Greater Victoria School Board

Mr. Joseph Chell, Superintendent, Greater Victoria School Board

Introduction of Mrs. Nancy Craig (Leigh), who will make a presentation to Mr. Forster.

Cake cutting ceremony -- "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow".

Time to mingle and renew old acquaintances.

GREETINGS FROM DR. ALBERT BAILEY, MOUNT DOUG'S FIRST PRINCIPAL

Greetings from Dr. Albert E. Bailey, First Principal, Mt. Douglas High School on the occasion of the School Reunion, May 3, 1969.

I know of no archives upon whose shelves rests a documentary history of Mt. Douglas High School. Yet the fact that so many of you are gathered for this reunion indicates that such a history does exist, and that you are proud of it, proud enough to think again of that special past proud enough to join old friends and classmates. Yes, there is a history - a history made up largely of memories that need not be written down to keep them alive and vivid. And to each of us who at some time has walked these floors, sat in these classrooms, run on these playing fields, that history flashes into a very special focus, and we can lose ourselves in a hundred reveries all of which begin "I remember when..."

I, too, remember when - and my memories are happy and like yours, filled with pride for this school. Only a few of you here to night can walk the backward path to those days when Mt. Douglas opened its doors to students for the first time. The thrill of that experience has never left me, and the privilege of being the school's first principal taught me what I humbly believe to be the most valuable lesson of my life. Often when the school day had slipped its minutes one by one into the past that would soon become yesterday, I would walk into one of the vacated classrooms to face the rows of empty desks. And into my imagination flashed the faces of the students who occupied those desks, and I would think of the by-play that

had made up the educational experiences of the school day. And you know what? The emptiness of those desks would smother any sense of achievement, would drain me of the exhilaration of accomplishment, would deny me the joys of true inspiration. And suddenly I would realize that I wasn't really the teacher - I was the one being taught. Oh, I don't mean memorizing facts that supposedly constituted the knowledge necessary to pass an examination -- I mean learning how human beings relate to human beings. And in that sense my days at Mt. Douglas constitute a past that proved a prologue as all history must do. And if there is a bridge across the gulf of nearly forty years since I first set foot in these halls, it is that lesson of human values that my students taught me, and which, pray God, we mutually shared.

I join all of you in the tribute you pay at this time to your retiring principal Mr. Eric Forster. His days of relaxation have been hard-earned and well-deserved, and I wish him fulfillment of all his hopes and dreams for the time ahead. How in the world is it possible for time to fly by so quickly? I tender my fondest remembrances to all those of you who shared with me - my tenure at this school. And I put all of my memories together with my very best wishes in the context of a history that is memorable and glorious and will continue to be so for the years still to come.

Albert E. Bailey, Ph.D.
Director of Administration
Pennsylvania Department of Health and
First Principal, Mt. Douglas High School, May 3, 1969.



1956 HOCKEY TEAM



1957 TEENS

GEORGE J. ELLIOT REGRETS....

Dear Mr. Forster:

I was extremely pleased to be invited to the reunion of students and faculty members who attended Mount Douglas High School during the period 1931-1959.

Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend this particular function as I will be involved in a company business meeting that day. May I, therefore, take this opportunity to offer my sin-

cere congratulations and best wishes on your forthcoming retirement.

My memories of Mount Douglas High are pleasant ones, and while I am sure that at times you probably wondered what would come of your good intentions to educate me, all in all I did benefit greatly from your teachings and instructions. Kindest personal regards.

Yours sincerely,
George J. Elliot



GRADE 11B, 1958

.... FAREWELL TO ERIC FORSTER, RETIRING AFTER THIRTY YEARS IN OFFICE

old Fairview Buildings in 1925. In 1926 he completed his first year in education from the present UBC campus under Dr. G. M. Weir.

He took part in what is now known as the Grand Trek. It was a forerunner of the present-day campaigning march and was in favor of better accommodations and facilities for the University.

Dr. Weir was co-author of the Weir-Putman report which gave a new look to education by the establishment of Junior High Schools and the introduction of objective standards applied to testing in education.

He divided his first year of teaching between Fernie and Vancouver, then returned to UBC for post-graduate work in education. During the years 1928-31 he taught with Eric Dunn at Port Alberni High School. In 1931 he was appointed Principal of the North Saanich High and Elementary Schools.

During this period he took an active interest in sports besides attending the University of Washington in the summer months. In 1935 he was appointed as Supervising Principal of the consolidated area of Sidney, Deep Cove and North Saanich.

In 1939 Mr. Forster was appointed Principal at Mount Douglas, then a 5-room school enrolling 140 students, grades 9-12.

During the war years the enrollment at Mount Douglas dropped to a minimum of 89. In 1946

the Greater Victoria School Board was formed and for the next 23 years Mr. Forster has guided the educational interests of Mount Douglas with a staff of 5 in 1939 to 32 in 1969 and an enrolment of 673.

AUSPICIOUS END

Mr. Forster's teaching career ends, to quote him "at a most auspicious time" since another "new look" is being taken at the whole educational process. He feels great satisfaction that he has been able to participate in organizing the school, so that his successor may find the climate and machinery of organization prepared to meet future changing conditions.

Though he has spent most of his life in education he has worked in a bank; operated a soda fountain establishment, and holds a certificate for deep-seamanship.

In his high school days he held both the junior and intermediary Inter-Track championships of the Greater Vancouver schools. He has also coached a girls basketball team which won a B.C. championship and a softball team which won the Island Championship.

He is a collector of Canadiana of which he has an extensive library.

He hopes to spend some time in travel with his wife, Betty. His son, Michael, is in his 3rd year in Electrical engineering at UBC.



GRADE 12A, 1959



GRADE 12, 1955



Workhorse Ken Stofer has a lot in common with bandmaster Michaud. His son Mark plays trumpet.



Nancy Craig, who will make the presentation, with notable former student Geoff Vantreight.



GRADE 10, 1948



1952 HI-Y



Doug Hawkes, one of hard-working team.



Verna Giles got fine co-operation from art teacher V. Cianci with the decorations.



Dave Titterton, left, with Barry Bowman of C-Fax Radio, who gave invaluable assistance by spreading the word of the reunion on his morning show, Dave, director of Victoria's YM-YW, in addition to working on committee, made the Y's switch-board available to take incoming calls from people who had heard about the reunion and wanted to find out more. Is this the way you found out?

May we, the staff of the Saanich Dogwood Star, who have, and have had through the years, a deep interest in Mount Doug., congratulate you all on your reunion? We are glad to have been able to lend our support. Our main aim is to serve the community in every way we can.

Good luck to you all!



Norm Lidstone congratulates Phys. Ed. Instructor Gill on the school's fine record.



Betty Emery, in charge of catering, with Y-Teen president Lauren Taylor.



GRADE 12, 1945



DIVISION 1, 1941



DIVISION 2, 1939



1942 HOCKEY TEAM

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