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## Recalling Brockport Normal

Blanche Southcombe March

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BROCKPORT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION APPRECIATION AWARD '93

RESPONSE: BLANCHE SOUTHCOMBE MARCH '29

WHEN I ENTERED THE TRAINING SCHOOL IN 7th GRADE THERE WERE ONLY THREE BUILDINGS ON CAMPUS. TRAINING SCHOOL, NORMAL SCHOOL AND THE PRESIDENT'S HOME. THE HIGH SCHOOL WAS LOCATED IN THE NORMAL SCHOOL. MR. THOMPSON WAS PRINCIPAL OF NORMAL SCHOOL AND MR. COOPER TRAINING SCHOOL.

ONE COULD ENTER THE BUILDINGS FROM MONROE AVENUE OR COLLEGE STREET. I REMEMBERED A CIRCULAR DRIVE GOING AROUND IN FRONT OF THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE, NORMAL SCHOOL AND TRAINING SCHOOL AND BACK ON COLLEGE STREET. HOUSES WERE ON BOTH SIDES OF MONROE AND HOLLEY STREETS AND ON BOTH SIDES OF UTICA STREET TO ADAMS.

HOW DID MY SISTER AND I GET TO SCHOOL, WE RODE WITH A GIRL WHO LIVED EAST OF US. SHE DROVE A HORSE AND BUGGY. THE HORSE AND BUGGY WERE PARKED IN THE DRIVE BARN ON CLINTON STREET. THE STONE BUILDING STILL STANDS BUT THEY HAVE ADDED ON A WOODEN STRUCTURE ON THE EAST END.

THE ONLY THING I REMEMBER ABOUT THE TRAINING SCHOOL WAS THE DOMESTIC SCIENCE CLASS IN THE BASEMENT AND SARA T. JACKSON WAS THE TEACHER. WE MADE COOKIES FOR TEAS AND LEARNED TO SET A TABLE AND EAT PROPERLY. WE HAD TO COOK A MEAL AND THAN EAT IT. WE ALSO HAD TO SEW. I REMEMBER AN APRON WHICH WAS A DISASTER. LATER IN THE NORMAL SCHOOL I HAD MISS JACKSON IN NATURE STUDY. I TOOK A GARTER SNAKE TO CLASS ONE DAY AND SHE WOULDN'T LET ME ATTEND CLASS THAT DAY.

TO GO TO THE NORMAL SCHOOL FROM THE TRAINING SCHOOL YOU WENT THROUGH A LONG PASSAGE WAY OR SOMETIME WE WENT THRU THE GYMNASIUM IF THERE WERE NO CLASSES.

IN HIGH SCHOOL WE HAD A VERY GOOD ACADEMIC PROGRAM. EVERY ONE KNEW WHAT THEY HAD TO TAKE IN ORDER TO GRADUATE. ALSO EVERYONE HAD TO TAKE FOUR YEARS OF ONE LANGUAGE OR 2 YEARS OF TWO LANGUAGES. WOE BE TO ME I CHOSE LATIN BUT I MADE IT. MOST OF THE HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES WERE ON THE SECOND FLOOR. EVERYONE HAD TO TAKE REGENTS EVEN IN THE 7th AND 8th GRADE. IF YOU FAILED YOU HAD TO TAKE IT UNTIL YOU PASSED.

I REMEMBER THE BASKETBALL GAMES AND THE DANCES AFTER. WE HAD A WONDERFUL MEN'S TEAM. I THINK I ATTENDED MOST OF THE HOME GAMES. THE HIGH SCHOOL'S GIRLS HAD A BASKETBALL TEAM. WE PLAYED BOY'S RULES ONLY BECAUSE HOLLEY AND SPENCERPORT INSISTED ON PLAYING THEM. I PLAYED GUARD. HOW DID WE GET TO THESE TOWNS WE WENT BY TROLLEY. WE GOT THE TROLLEY ON STATE STREET. IT IS NOW CIOLA'S PLACE - THE COLONIAL INN.

I HAVE MANY HAPPY MEMORIES OF NORMAL SCHOOL AND SO MUCH FUN. I WAS ASKED TO JOIN TWO OF THE SORORITIES BUT CHOSE THE ALPHA DELTA ALPHA. THEY SEEMED TO HAVE THE MOST FUN. MISS MANNIX, MISS VINAL AND MISS YALE ALSO BELONGED.

THE ONLY FRATERNITY I REMEMBER WAS THE PHI ALPHA ZETA.. (HAD MANY FRIENDS IN IT WHOM I KEPT IN TOUCH WITH FOR MANY YEARS AFTER GRADUATION.)

COLOR DAY WAS AN OUTSTANDING DAY WE ALL LOOKED FORWARD TO IT. IT WAS HELD IN MAY. THE PROGRAM WAS THE SAME EACH YEAR. IN THE MORNING EACH CLASS HAD TO PUT ON A STUNT IN THE NORMAL SCHOOL AUDITORIUM FOR VISITORS AND OTHER STUDENTS. THEN DR. COOPER AND HIS ASSISTANTS PUT ON THE LUNCHEON. THE LUNCH COST \$.35. AFTER THE LUNCH THE NORMAL STUDENTS PUT ON A PAGEANT, THEN THERE WAS BASEBALL AND OTHER GAMES. WE ENDED THE DAY WITH A DANCE.

THE CLASS OF 1929 PUBLISHED THE FIRST ANNUAL SAGA WHICH PUBLISHED ONLY NEWS OF THE NORMAL SCHOOL. EDITOR OF THE SAGA STAFF OF 1929 WAS CHARLES PARISH. BUSINESS MANAGER WAS ROBERT PALMER.

THE BLANKET TAX WAS INTRODUCED SOME TIME DURING MY THREE YEARS. I THINK IT WAS \$35.00. THIS HELPED TAKE CARE OF THE EXTRA THINGS.

THE STUDENTS WHO LIVED FAR AWAY DID BASKET BOARDING WITH BROCKPORT FAMILIES, CAME BY TROLLEY OR JUST LIVED WITH FAMILIES.

~~Two~~ MAJOR THINGS THAT GOT ME MY FIRST JOB TEACHING,  
 GOOD PREPARATION AND THE ABILITY TO EAT SOUP CORRECTLY.  
 DR. BOYNTON, THE SUPERINTENDENT FROM ITHACA CAME TO  
 BROCKPORT TO INTERVIEW TEACHERS. HE CHOSE SEVEN BUT BEFORE  
 HE GAVE THE FINAL WORD HE TOOK US TO LUNCH AND AFTER HE TOLD  
 US WE WERE HIRED BECAUSE WE ATE OUR SOUP CORRECTLY. (HOW WEIRD.)

TEACHERS I REMEMBER -

ORA VAN SLYKE: I DID PRACTICE TEACHING FOR HER IN 4th  
 GRADE. WE DID ALL OUR PRACTICE TEACHING IN THE TRAINING  
 SCHOOL. WE HAD TO MAKE LESSON PLANS. DIVIDE THE PAPER IN  
 HALF. OUR GOALS WERE AT THE TOP. THE QUESTIONS ON ONE SIDE  
 OF THE PAPER AND THE ANSWERS WE EXPECTED ON THE OTHER SIDE.  
 I SPELLED THE WORD VILLAGE WRONG. TO THIS DAY I ALWAYS  
 HESITATE WHEN I WRITE THE WORD. I WANT TO PUT AN I BEFORE  
 THE A.

WHEN I CAME BACK TO BROCKPORT IN 1945 WE AGAIN BECAME  
 FRIENDS. I REMEMBERED TAKING HER TO SEE A MAN IN BUFFALO  
 ABOUT PUBLISHING HER BOOK OF POEMS - TO THE DENTIST, THE  
 DOCTOR, ETC. I VISITED HER IN THE NURSING HOMES AT LEAST  
 THREE TIMES A WEEK. MISS VAN SLYKE TAUGHT ME THE LOVE ~~FOR~~  
 POETRY.

ALLETTA EDWARDS, OUR ENGLISH TEACHER. IN THE LAST 64 YEARS SHE HAS COME TO MY MIND HUNDREDS OF TIMES AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO WHEN I HEAR SOMEONE SAY "I'M POSITIVE". WHEN SHE INFORMED ONE OF THE YOUNG MEN SHE HAD NOT RECEIVED HIS PAPER, HE INFORMED HER HE HAD HANDED IT IN. AFTER TELLING HIM A NUMBER OF TIMES SHE DID NOT HAVE IT, SHE POINTED HER FINGER AT HIM AND SAID, "ONLY FOOLS ARE POSITIVE". WHEN I HEAR SOME ONE SAY IT, I WANT TO TELL THEM WHAT MISS EDWARDS SAID, SOMETIMES I DO. HOWEVER, SHE WAS AN EXCELLENT TEACHER - VERY STERN BUT KIND.

MEMORIES OF BROCKPORT NORMAL SCHOOL BRING BACK MEMORIES OF HAPPY DAYS AND I APPRECIATE ALL THEY DID FOR ME AND I HAVE HAD A VERY SUCCESSFUL TEACHING CAREER.

Saturday, July 17, 1993