



Celebrating the Campus School at Western, 1899-1967

The Campus Schooler

Issue 4
2007

Pool of Memory

"In the primary grades, even the boys had to wear girls swimming suits so that the instructors could hold onto them easier. We all had to wear bathing caps with our names prominently written across the front of them." — *Roberta ("Bobbie") Jaffe*

"I also remember swimming lessons with Ruth Weythman. She said I was doing well; my mother said I couldn't swim. Mom was right. I could move across the pool but never learned to breathe. — *Carol (Thompson) Urbanowicz*

"...Being scared to death that starting in third grade, you had to go off the diving board." — *Hugh Gregory*

"The swimming lessons with the old green and aqua colored wool suits were cool." — *Lynn Monahan*

"I do remember an underwater demolition expert who had returned from the war and was student teaching at the pool. He said he could swim the pool under water a number of times, and proceeded to do it 2 or 3 times, but then stopped underwater at the deep end of the pool. He just sat there on the bottom with everyone watching until someone said he's in trouble and dove in and pulled him out. As far as I know he lived." — *Charles Robert ("Rob") Hitz* ■



Have We Heard From You?

Telling Campus School Tales

The Campus Schooler is delighted to report that since 2005, when we began our memories collection effort, over 250 alumni, teachers and student teacher, and parents have completed questionnaires about their Campus School days. In addition, we have gathered almost 30 oral histories, including several also committed to videotape and disc. Your stories of learning, playing, making, growing, and just plain enjoying life at the Campus School constitute a priceless repository of personal experience that future historians of the school will find invaluable.

There's still time to contribute, so if you haven't yet filled out a questionnaire, please take the time to do so soon. You will find the questionnaires on our website, and can both complete and submit your questionnaire online. If you prefer to receive a questionnaire by mail, we can do that too; call Tamara Belts at 360-650-3193. We are also still very interested in collecting oral or video histories. Only you can tell your personal story—let us hear from you! ■



What Bulldog? That Bulldog!

Grrr. The Schooler has taken a lot of guff about this Bulldog business. So, listen up, you non-believers, here's the skinny, straight from the *Campus Finale* of 1952:

The Boston Bulldog "was officially elected mascot of the Sixth Grade Campus School in the very earliest of Spring 1952. He [is] on the cover of this annual, the January introductory sheet, the February introductory sheet, the May introductory sheet

and various others. Popular mascot—EH WHAT??

Some boys wanted Junior Vik to be mascot but the girls overpowered them. *The girls decided they wanted a Boston Bulldog. So they nominated a Boston Bulldog, voted for a Boston Bulldog, and elected a Boston Bulldog. Tricky? No! It just took brains!*

So there you have it: a CS girls power play. Case closed. ■

www.thecampusschooler.com

Remembering Miss Kinsman

“So Pretty, Warm, and Kind”

“Teachers have pet sayings they will use in class,” recalls Gwinn Dunham, CS student teacher in 1954, “and I used several of Miss Kinsman’s when I began my teaching career. One that she used makes me smile when I think about it. If a child made a statement to anyone that was hurtful, she would say, “Did you hear yourself?” The child would usually stop to think about what was said and then Miss Kinsman could help everyone understand about the hurt.”

Affectionately remembered for her ready smile, gentle manner, and snow-white hair, Priscilla Kinsman was born in Iowa in 1892 and educated at the University of Chicago, working for a time in its Kindergarten after receiving her degree. In 1924, she joined the faculty of the Training School of the State Normal School at Bellingham, where she initially taught “pre-primary,” as Kindergarten at the Normal was known. After obtaining her MA from Teachers College Columbia University in 1933, she taught 3rd grade for several years before moving up to 5th grade in 1948.

A “lighthearted and energetic teacher,” according to a brief profile in the college paper of Feb. 14, 1947, Miss Kinsman’s hobbies were said to include gardening and flower arrangement, “with this year’s project headed by an experiment in chrysanthemums.”

Following her retirement in 1959, Miss Kinsman worked as a consultant for the Highline Public Schools in King County before returning to Bellingham for a brief time. She eventually settled in Panorama City near Olympia, where she died on July 2, 1975. ▪



Kindergarten Story

“When I was at Campus School we did a unit on farms and since my parents ran a farm we took the class out there for a field trip. The children got to go on a wagon ride and attempt to milk a cow. In the follow-up discussion, I asked what was different about milk on the farm and [milk] that they bought in the store and one little boy said that on the farm the milk was round and store-milk was square—which was right but not the answer I was thinking about.” — *Blanche (Friend) Campbell, student teacher, Kindergarten, 1955.* ▪

The Campus Schooler Issue 4 2007

Marian Alexander, Editor
360-650-3283
Marian.Alexander@wwu.edu

Inquiries, comments, etc., to:

The Campus Schooler
WWU Libraries Special Collections
516 High St.
Bellingham, WA 98225-9103
(or, email the Editor)

Treasure Trove Showcasing Recent Memorabilia Additions

► *A handmade book of poems, “To Mother...May 1939,”* given by Suzanne (Rykken) Medlicott (6th grade, 1939)

► *A set of K-5 report “cards,”* given by Susan (Green) Haas (6th grade, 1949)

► *Photographs of Campus School class and birthday trips on her father Charles Countryman’s boat M. V. Osage,* given by Sidne (Countryman) Fuller (6th grade, 1947)

► *1940 “Festival of Thankfulness” program,* given by Patricia (Sutherland) Carver (6th grade, 1939)

► *“Poems We Like,” a booklet assembled by Catherine Montgomery,* given by Nancy (Wilson) Fite (6th grade, 1956)

► *Training School report cards and promotion cards,* given by John R. Kienast (Campus School, 1921-1929)

► *Autographed copy of the 1955 Campus School yearbook,* given by Anne (Hardin) Taggart (6th grade, 1955)

THANK YOU, ONE & ALL!