



Celebrating the Campus School at Western, 1899-1967

The Campus Schooler

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The Education of a Street Urchin

By Jerry H. Gill, 1941-48

I entered the Campus School in the summer of 1941 at the request/demand of my second grade teacher at the Franklin School as a requirement for moving on into the third grade—how does one fail second grade, anyway.? I was pleased with my experience that summer, so my mother arranged for my regular enrollment in the third grade. For the next four years, I had Miss Kinsman, Miss Merriman, Miss Odom, and Miss Channer for teachers.

My mother, Virginia McGinnis, operated various restaurants in town so we mostly lived in nearby hotels, specifically the Columbia, the Cissna, the Bellingham, and the Leopold, while I was in school. Since my mother worked all day and there was no father in the picture, I was free to wander around downtown, playing in the alleys, hotel banquet rooms, and garages. My teachers were regularly and rightly concerned about my lack of a normal home life and resultant irregular eating habits.

Being a rather high-strung and overly rambunctious kid, I was notably a classroom problem for my teachers. I clearly recall being asked/told “Jerry, would you please sit down and be quiet.” Although I was not much interested in our studies, as was regularly reflected in the grade reports, I loved to go to school because that’s where my friends

YOUR GIFTS GO TO WORK

Cheers for Our New Scanner!

The *Schooler* is thrilled to announce the arrival of our newest helper for Special Collections’ Campus School initiatives. It’s a brand-new, feature-rich Microtek ScanMaker 9800XL scanner. Marian Alexander and Peter Smith welcomed it with a raucous round of sis-boom-bahs after which it was immediately put to work creating digital content for your enjoyment and research. This fantastic purchase was funded entirely by the Campus School Memorabilia Preservation Fund. Now we can scan not only photographs, including very large prints, but also negatives and slides. And, we will be able to make high-quality scans of text documents such as fragile, fast-fading CS student publications. In addition to the scanner, Special Collections is using the Fund to purchase preservation items such as acid-free boxes and photo sleeves, so that original resources can be safely stored. These purchases would not be possible without your help. Thank you, one and all! ■



Patsy Miller Makes Our Day & Year!



Just as 2007 turned to 2008, your *Schooler* (pretty hard to impress) was knocked flat by news of a wonderful surprise. Patsy Miller Hosman, through the Dale and Patsy Hosman Family Foundation of Omaha, Nebraska, sent a gift that effectively doubled the total of the Campus School Memorabilia Preservation Fund to over \$20,000. Wow! Here is Patsy pictured in *Echoes of '31 to '41*. She was president of her

7th grade class, played violin in the orchestra, collected agates, glass dolls and shoes, went on to Mills College, married Dale Hosman, went to live in Omaha, and is now a Campus School benefactor whose extraordinary generosity will long be remembered. Thank you, Patsy! ■

Street Urchin cont'd

were and where my social life took place. I also recall that my teachers, especially Miss Kinsman, were generally patient and kind, even though I was regularly disruptive.

I was in love with sports and talked incessantly about them. Nearly all the books I read were about sports, especially those by John R. Tunis and Clair Bee. Being on the Western campus was an added attraction, and



Baseball instruction, 1946-47

throughout my years at Campus I attended nearly every college game, especially those in football, basketball, and track. Moreover, I participated in all of these sports myself and hardly ever got home before dark. Several of my buddies, such as Bob Alton, Dick Clement, Galen Freeberg, and Bob Scheldrup frequently joined me on the field or in the gym.

My excellent junior high teachers were Miss Hunt, Mr. Bremer, and Mrs. Shephard. Our basketball team hardly won any games, and I clearly remember once getting beat by Fairhaven 44 to 4. One does not forget a score like that! One of our coaches was Pinky Ericson and another was George Foster, both of whom were student teachers from Western. In track we were no better, even though a few years later I did manage to be on the high school track team that won the State Championship.

At our high school graduation there were six of us on the stage as special speakers. Two had attended Whatcom, one came from Fairhaven and three of us were from Campus Junior High. This was significant because

Campus had about one-tenth the number of students as the other two schools. Diane Griffith and Georgia McCush were valedictorians, and I snuck on as an elected "Class Speaker." I'm sure this came as quite a surprise to Mrs. Shephard, who had recommended that I do the ninth grade over again!

There were many outstanding people and students at the Campus School while I was there, and I am extremely fortunate to have been part of its grand history. In addition, the teachers were as skillful as they were pleasant, and in my case they were exceptionally patient. Since later I earned a Master's degree from the University of Washington and a Doctorate from Duke University, I surmise that their skills and efforts were not completely wasted. However, I am certain they were afraid that they were laboring vain during the years when they were trying to get me to "sit down and be quiet!"

The Schooler thanks Jerry for his story. Do you have one to share? If so, send it to Marian at either address, above. Coming up: A gift to remember—John Sonneland and the Snake Man. ■

Mystery Pix

Do these scenes look familiar to you? We are not sure if they show the Campus School, or of the year(s) they were taken, nor do we know who the children are. Can you help? Send any info or even good guesses to Tamara.Belts@wwu.edu, or call her at 360-650-3193. ■



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Recreating the Campus School Library

Many of you have asked what became of the extensive Campus School library. A recently initiated project to reorganize Western Libraries' Children's Literature Collection is allowing us to recover at least some of the books that used to constitute the library you remember.

The children's collection located in the main library—domain of Miss Snow—was transferred to the Campus School building in 1963. It came back to the main library, substantially increased in size, after the Campus School closed in 1967. There, it became the nucleus of the present Children's Literature Collection. Many of the books still bear stickers, stamps, and other markings indicating their previous CS affiliation. As the reorganization project proceeds, these books are being relocated to the "Campus School Collection" in Special Collections. So far, we have recaptured about 80 books in this way.

Many books were given to the CS Library in 1962 by the Brown family in memory of their little Schooler, Clayton Brown, who died of leukemia. These books still contain the memorial bookplate created especially for this gift at that time. Clayton's Dad was Dr. Don Brown, who supervised student teachers in the CS for many years. Dr. Brown died in late 2007. It is a particular pleasure to recover these titles, so lovingly dedicated more than 40 years ago, in memory of this fine educator. ■