

Down Memory Lane

By Vin Bellew

Did you go to Main Street School?

Main Street School in old Tuckahoe was built in 1906. Before that time the school was at the end of Jefferson Place in Tuckahoe.

Today, Main Street School is the Tuckahoe Village Hall.

The first principal of Main Street School was Miss Horan, but I can't pick up the story until much later when I was a teacher at that school.

Who will ever forget Miss Margaret T. Hayes, principal of Main Street School?

The beloved Miss Hayes was a stern individual who believed strongly in the use of the rod when needed, and sometimes when not needed.

We can see that tall, stately figure moving around the school, with rod in hand, demanding 100% discipline and she got it. Miss Hayes had a cast in her eyes and you though she was looking at someone else carrying on, until you felt the rod across your bottom. Both the children and the teachers were frightened to death of her.

But please, don't think that Miss Hayes was without compassion and concern for the children.

She knew the poor children and their needs. Many a poor family had a good Christmas because of the generosity of this good woman. Her looks, actions and reputation belied the warm heart, only a few of us knew.

Remember Therese Stanton, the assistant principal. She was so sweet, loving and caring. She died so young.

Did you have your favorite teachers?

The roll call of teachers during our time included, McCarthy, Berger, Scanlon, Petrillo, Lemkau, Einhorn, Dalton, Carrol, Forkey, Casey, Nash, Freehill, Dinger, Murphy, O'Brien, Eibell and Meyers.

ment of teaching English to a class of Italian immigrant children. I was supposed to teach them English, at the end of the term they had me speaking Italian.

As I look back on those days and remember many of the families came from Italy and could not speak English. It gave me such pleasure in later years to see those children become our lawyers, doctors and teachers.

Back to Miss Hayes.

Miss Hayes was such an important figure in the Tuckahoe school system for her many years at the Main Street School. When Tuckahoe High School was built in 1931, Miss Hays was called upon for double duty and she was asked to guide the first steps of the new high school.

Miss Hayes was Tuckahoe education.

After a long career she retired and went back to her home in upstate New York where she spent her last days.

Along about 1950 or so, Main Street School closed down and Cottle School took its place. Cottle School was built close to the Tuckahoe High School so the system was closely knit together.

For a short time Main Street School was taken over by the Assumption Church as a parochial school.

Make no mistake, at one time Main Street School was the melting pot for the Village of Tuckahoe. That school and its teachers headed by Miss Margaret T. Hayes contributed greatly to the development of Tuckahoe. Many immigrants owe so much to the teachers of the Main Street School. Main Street School has its place in our local history.

Miss Margaret T. Hayes will forever be remembered by anyone who went to Main Street School