

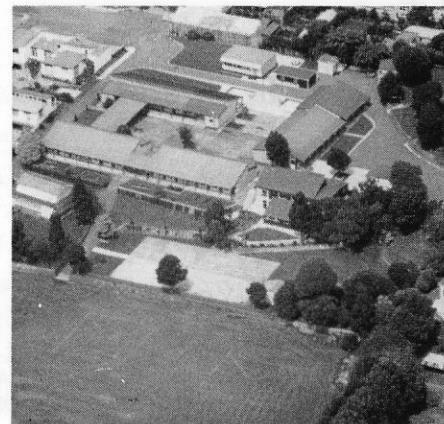
WEST END
SCHOOL
CENTENNIAL

1884—1984

WEST END SCHOOL

NEW PLYMOUTH

A Century of Education
1884–1984



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

JUNE 1st to 4th,
1984.

Published by the West End School Centennial Committee.

Printed by
Taranaki Newspapers Limited, Currie Street, New Plymouth.

PROGRAMME

FRIDAY EVENING:

*Registration and Get-together in Queens Hall from 7p.m.
onwards.*

SATURDAY MORNING:

School open for inspection from 10a.m.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON 2p.m.

School based Official Function.

*(If wet to be held at Queens Hall — Radio Announcement
over 2ZP.)*

ROLL CALL

OFFICIAL OPENING

*Centennial address will be given by Mr. D. V. Sutherland,
former Mayor of New Plymouth and former West End
School Committee Chairman.*

CUTTING OF CAKE

*Decade photographs taken and proofs will be available at
Cabaret, Saturday evening.*

SATURDAY EVENING 7p.m.

CENTENNIAL DINNER AND CABARET

*Queen's Hall complex. Continuous buffet meal for three
hours. Dancing, and an area for quieter seating and talking.*

SUNDAY MORNING 10.30a.m.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

*Service of Worship and Thanksgiving to be conducted by
Rev. G. J. Ginever.*

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WELCOME . . .

IT is a privilege and a pleasure to welcome all pupils past and present to our Centennial Jubilee of 1984.

One hundred years is a long time for a school to serve the community and with its past and present teachers has helped to build our proud nation of New Zealand.

Many changes have taken place in the school, as today very little can be seen of buildings that existed even 25 years ago at our 75th jubilee.

It was difficult to get the Centennial jubilee committee formed but after several public meetings and attempts by a few very keen ex-pupils a committee was formed and built into a hard working group which includes the school's present Headmaster Mr Hugh Hughes.

I hope that the programme set for the weekend will be much enjoyed by all the schoolmates as many hours have gone into its organisation.

I particularly would like to thank most sincerely our very capable secretary Mrs Barbara Smart who has executed many hours of work into the organisation of the jubilee.

I look forward to meeting as many past and present pupils as possible and hope you all enjoy your special weekend at West End School.

Eric Thomas, Chairman, Centennial Jubilee Committee

WEST END SCHOOL CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE: Back row: Messrs Gordon Mitchell (chairman Centennial Book Committee), Hugh Hughes (Principal), Russell Cottam, Phil Gerrard, Jim Fowler, Cyril Betteridge, Tom Roberts.

Middle row: Deric Woodhead, Mesdames Noeline Hoskin, Monica MacKrell, Jenny Mack, Val Rowan, Fledda Young.

Front row: Jocelyn Wood, Marion Walker, Messrs George Dobbin, Eric Thomas (chairman), Mesdames Barbara Smart (secretary), Diane Flavell, Christine Pool.



CONGRATULATIONS FROM . . .



Mr. J. F. Wards,

Chairman Taranaki Education Board

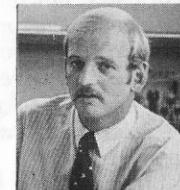
CONGRATULATIONS West End! One hundred years old and starting the second hundred with an almost new school. I'm sure it has a sound future ahead.

West End School has always been fortunate in having a caring community that has supported the school generously. The beautiful grounds set the school off and are a credit to all, staff, pupils, committee and community. On behalf of the Education Board I would like to thank you all and commend you for the wonderful work you have done over the years.

Schools are a much different place from what they used to be.

Education is ever-changing and we must be prepared for more changes as time goes by. I think the children passing through West End are being given a good grounding in a good environment which should stand them in good stead in their later lives. I have great faith in their ability to profit from their time at West End and play their full part in building a better world.

On behalf of the members and staff of the Board I would wish you all a very happy centennial celebration and best wishes for the future.



Mr. David Lean,

Mayor of New Plymouth

WEST End School holds a special place in the history of this City and rightly so. Perusal of archival material makes fascinating reading and this centennial publication highlights both factual and people related matters. Any school is only as good as the combination of people and bricks and mortar, and West End has maintained that marriage well.

On behalf of the People of New Plymouth I extend greetings, congratulations and very best wishes on the very important occasion

of West End School's 100th Birthday. It is appropriate to record our thanks and appreciation for the positive influence and input, pupils, teachers and parents from your School have made to the well-being of the City of New Plymouth. No doubt your Centennial Celebrations will be a resounding success and launch West End School into its second one hundred years with the start it deserves.

Congratulations and thank you West End School for a job well done.

**Mr. A. D. P. Friedlander,
M.P. for New Plymouth**



It is often said that our school days are the best of our lives and many of you will enjoy the opportunity of sharing with former teachers and classmates the good memories you have of your years at West End.

Most people look forward to events such as this with a great deal of curiosity, not just to measure the physical changes time has wrought on people they may not have seen for twenty or even fifty years, but also to talk together about the achievements and events which have shaped their lives since leaving school. You will, no doubt, have cause to reflect with gratitude on the lessons begun at primary school, which have fitted you for your chosen roles in adult life.

Both past and present pupils must also be thankful for the keen interest which local residents have shown in this school down through the years. West End has always had the support of farsighted and industrious school committees and this, as well as an enthusiastic teaching staff and stable rolls has resulted in the school being in good heart as it enters its second century.

My congratulations to all who have been associated with the school on reaching this important landmark. To those who are taking part in the centennial celebrations, I wish you every success for what will be, I am sure, a memorable occasion.



**D. V. (Denny) Sutherland,
Past Chairman School Committee.**

THIS is a time for "Congratulations" and "Best wishes for a successful Centennial." If however one has been involved — even in a very modest way — with some of the activity and progress that has occurred during the past one hundred years, there is an inevitable sense of pride for having been a member of the very large family who celebrate this great occasion.

Schools have always been the hub of the community — a meeting place and a focal point that has united families and communities for special occasions and events. This will always be so while parents and friends are involved in projects associated with the School and their needs.

When asked if I could contribute some comment for this publication my thoughts returned to the years when, along with other parents I had the pleasure of serving on the School Committee and the Parent-Teacher Association.

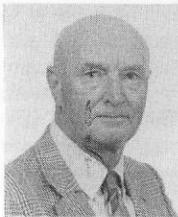
I recalled the teachers we worked with and projects such as annual gala days and the 75th Anniversary of the school. Above all I remember people. I will always remember Flo Evans the lady with such a remarkable relationship with the very young. I think of our principal teacher during the early days of my association with the school. The very gentle gentleman Mr George Davey — and that other head teacher — a ball of enthusiasm and dedication, Mr. Harry Thomas.

Who could forget our popular and efficient 75th anniversary chairman Don Brash who guided our celebration activities to such a successful conclusion.

We all remember with great affection the creator and guardian of the gardens of the West End School — The late Fred Parker. No parent, pupil or teacher had greater pride in the school than Fred Parker.

During celebrations such as this we all recall the many friends and acquaintances we have been privileged to know and work with during our term with the school. We look forward to the opportunity of meeting again with many of these friends during these Celebrations — of such stuff are anniversaries made.

Best wishes to West End for their Centennial Celebrations.



**Mr. D. G. Brash, pupil 1922-28,
Chairman 75th Jubilee Committee**

It is with great pleasure that I accept this invitation to extend congratulations to West End School in its Centennial Year. On occasions such as this we are reminded of the potent influences which our primary schools exercise during the important formative years of our future citizens, and West End can look back with pride to the contributions it has made in this respect over the past hundred years.

Groups of pupils in a series of classrooms do not themselves constitute a school. With gratitude let us also remember the supportive role of the parents of our students, those who served and are serving as teachers or as members of School Committees and Parent Teacher Associations and whose co-ordinated efforts have helped so significantly in building the reputation which the school enjoys today.

Well done, West End. May the quality of your past achievements continue as you enter your second century of service to our community.



**Mr. S. F. B. Simpson,
District Senior Inspector of Schools.**

WHEN a school reaches its centennial the time has come for memories to stir in the minds of the thousands for whom it has been "my school". West End has been the grounding and friendship place of so many who will open the centennial record and remember with affection those youthful days spent within the school's walls and on its playground.

There is a heritage of quality teaching, sensitive leadership and a pride in having been at West End School. It would be improper to mention names, for while there are many ex-pupils who have achieved considerable fame both in New Zealand and abroad, there

are also so many "West-Enders" who have contributed much to community and family life in this city.

Life at school has changed markedly over these one hundred years. While we value all the quality of the past, I believe we can look forward with confidence to the future. It is in good hands; the hands of today's teachers, pupils and committee — a combined team, well able to mould the traditions of West End's second century.

My congratulations to all who have organised this centennial weekend. Be assured that those many hours of meetings and organising are appreciated.



WEST END SCHOOL COMMITTEE, 1983. Back row: Messrs Hugh Hughes, Bruce Dalton, Ian Lamb, James King-Turner, Claude Sampson. Front row: John Foreman (secretary), Mrs. Jeanette Hasell, Mr. Ross Smith (chairman), Mrs. Liz Winters, Mr. Jim Willson (treasurer).

WHEN DID IT ALL START?

"June 10th 1927. School officially opened by Hon. Mr Wright, Minister of Education. Standards 4, 5, and 6 rooms cleared to entertain visitors and parents . . . June 11th. The Hon. Mr Wright addressed parents and children assembled in courtyard. Speakers, Messrs Wright, Bellringer, Wilson, the Mayor, chairman of the Education Board and headmaster. £2 1s 8d collected by sale of badges."

This brief statement, taken from West End's School logbooks, marked an important milestone in the school's history. It referred to the transfer of the school buildings from St. Aubyn Street (opened in 1884) to its present site in Bonithon Avenue.

Research into early records, which are scarce and sometimes discrepant, reveal that in fact the school's history may have begun 14 years before the "official" date, June 9, 1884.

FOR the first twenty or so years of European settlement in New Plymouth, children's education relied on church and private schools, fees for which were the responsibilities of parents. Times were hard and were made no easier by the flare-up of the Taranaki land wars and the province's attention was focused on life-and-death matters rather than education.

By 1861 the situation had improved and the Provincial Council had established a few public schools which were administered by the Board of Trustees for Public Reserves.

It was not until 1868 that the Council passed an Education Ordinance "to make better provision for the establishment of schools in Taranaki," reconstituting the Board of trustees as from July 1, 1871, as Taranaki's first Board of Education.

Up until that time some private schools had continued to operate. These included West Boys' School in Powderham Street near Mt. Edgcumbe Street which had opened in 1866 with Mr W. M. Earl as headmaster; and Kawau Pa School, founded the same year, run by Lydia Shaw and her niece Mary Ann Shaw. These two schools



The West End School on its original site in St. Aubyn Street, designed to accommodate 100 pupils.

continued to operate until the New Zealand Education Act came into force in 1878 and made education in New Zealand free, secular and compulsory.

In January, 1880 the Education Board, recognising the need to consolidate education in the town, decided to close down the various schools already existing and to consolidate the education system into two schools — a boys' school on Poverty Flat, opened in 1881, and a girls' school in Courtenay Street opened in 1883.

During this period a decision was made to establish a satellite school to cater for infants in the western part of the town, which was opened in 1881. It was built on two sections in St. Aubyn Street (the site of the present Jones and Sandford establishment).

Mr Earl's school in Mt Edgcumbe Street was closed and the building sold in 1883, and the Kawau Street school was closed a year later, to become integrated with the West End Infants School in 1884. Thus it would appear that West End's history really began in 1866.

Because the first headmistress of the West End school was Lydia Shaw, who founded the Kawau school, it is of interest to trace the history of the latter school. It was opened some time after 1852 as the Kawau Church School, and was held in a chapel on the corner of Gill and Currie Streets, with Mary Ann Shaw in charge. In 1872 its name was changed to the Kawau Primary School and then became Kawau Pa School. In 1878 Lydia Shaw took over the school, when it was moved to "the sandhills" north of Gill Street and became known as Gill Street Girls' School.

Lydia Shaw was in charge of it until 1884 when the building was demolished, when she was appointed the first head teacher at West End School.

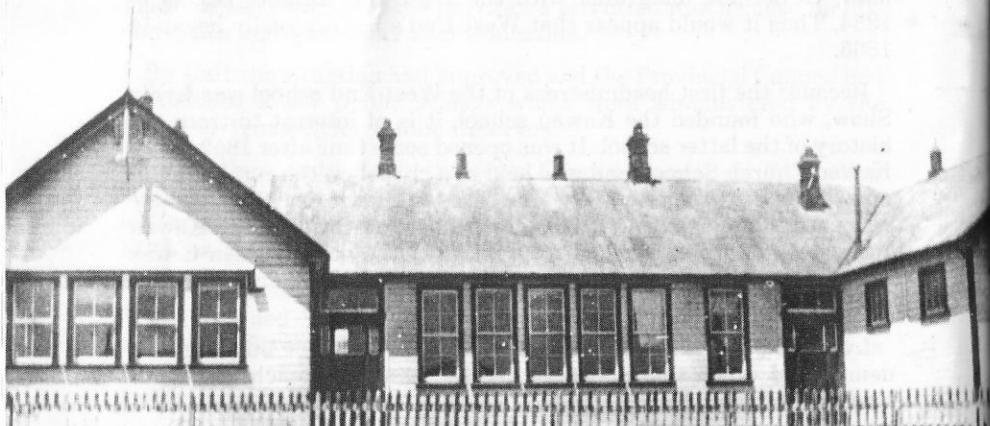
Lydia came to New Zealand in 1840 as a child of seven. Her father was James Thomas Shaw, who came to New Plymouth on the *Amelia Thompson* as schoolmaster and assistant surgeon. Lydia's education was a piecemeal affair as the times dictated, by attending the various private schools, with her father no doubt contributing to it. While still in her teens she was sufficiently qualified to open, in partnership with Mary Ann Shaw, the Kawa school.

She was still there when the West End School was opened and she was immediately offered the position of headmistress. It had taken several months to negotiate the purchase of the site, but once this had been achieved there was no holding back. In February 1884 the building partnership of Mofflin and Dingle successfully tendered for the erection of the school to accommodate 100 pupils. Four months later the school was opened, with a roll of 117. It had cost \$746 which included "fencing and a gate."

Lydia Shaw was in charge of the school for 16 years, during which time she saw the development of the town towards the west. Indeed, until 1912, West End School lay outside the boundary of the town. The school grew slowly, from 117 pupils on its opening day to a peak of 193 in 1900 when she retired.

By the turn of the century there were signs that the days of manageable growth were about to end, and West End was fortunate that Lydia Shaw's successor was a woman of equal ability — Mrs Mary Dowling. She had what was described as having the ability of being able to get the best, not only from her pupils, but also from the residents of the area, which was gradually becoming a popular residential district.

To cater for increasing rolls new classrooms were added by the turn of the century.



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By 1925, a few months before the school was moved to its present site in Bonithon Avenue, more classrooms had been added.

There was a growing feeling that the school should no longer be a "side school" of Central. But the Central School Committee was "utterly opposed" to the idea and the strong feeling became open agitation which led to a parent petition being presented to the Education Board. This was successful and in 1902 the Board created the West End School District and granted the school full status.

The school reached this status in 1905 by which time the roll had grown to 287 — and it continued to grow at a rapid rate. This, of course, placed a strain on a school which had been designed to cater for 100 infant pupils. New accommodation was added but it could not keep pace with the growth. For a time some of the children found themselves being taught in the nearby Methodist Sunday School.

In 1908 a gymnasium-community hall was built, which, of necessity was quickly pressed into service as an additional classroom. In a continuing effort to catch up on the accommodation side, recreational space had to be sacrificed and the logbooks of the school contain many references to playground accidents caused solely by congestion.

Mrs Dowling was moved to report in 1918 "The present school has not more than a quarter of an acre of playground and there have been two broken arms and one fractured jaw since the holidays on account of the congestion."

In 1919 she retired after 19 years' valuable service. She and Lydia Shaw had built a reputation as fine administrators during a period of immense difficulties. Both had reputations as brilliant teachers able to adapt to changing educational methods. They were the first — and last — of West End's headmistresses.

Mrs Dowling was succeeded by Mr D. P. Evans. Before his first year was over (he left on "promotion" to Central) he reported, much to his regret, that he "had found it necessary to ban the playing of cricket in the school grounds. Only last week (September 1919) two small children were injured by the ball and a window was broken."

This lack of space was a perennial headache for school authorities. From 1913 onwards efforts had been made; there were repeated representations from the school committees to the Education Board, a deputation to the Minister of Education, and much heated discussion among parents and teachers. Various new sites were considered, including part of the Glen Almond Estate which the Minister refused to grant; a site in Veale's Estate was also considered. Eventually, in 1925, the Education Board applied to the Department to buy two and a quarter hectares in Bonithon Avenue for \$7000. Jones and Sandford made an offer of \$2400 for the old school site, which was accepted.

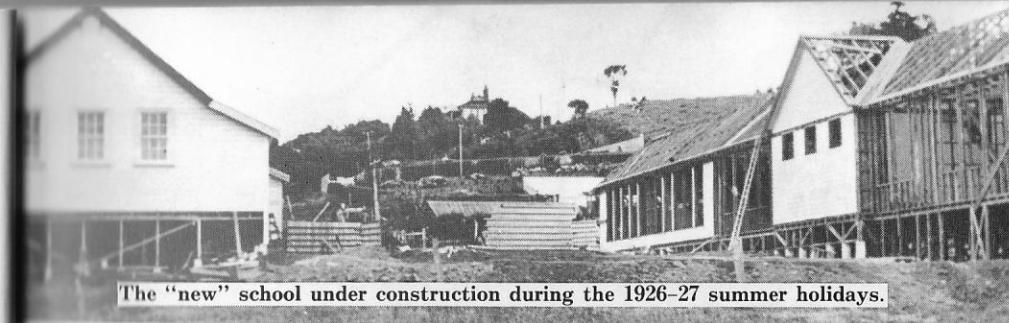
And so, after more than 13 years of requests, agitation and much negotiation, the school was transferred to its present site in its attractive gully off Davies Lane.

The move took place during the 1926 Christmas holidays, and when the Minister of Education Mr Wright, opened it in June 1927 he was "pleased to say that the school committee has faithfully carried out every promise it had made."

The staff of West End at the end of the period at the St. Aubyn Street site in 1926 was: J. W. Thomas (principal), Arthur Train, Charles Drader, Misses Elen Warren, Ida Taylor, Mildred Moss, Margaret Cameron, Laura Mynott, Amy Petch, Eileen Hollis and trainees Misses M. Drader, E. Giddy, L. Chapman and Mr T. Pepperil.

About \$4000 had been spent on making a good playground. Of this sum \$3000 came from a carnival organised by the committee and Government subsidy and \$100 from the RSA (doubled by the committee and subsidised by the Department) and the rest of the money was also raised. The school had a full-sized Rugby ground, two basketball courts and space for a tennis court as well as plenty of playground space. There was also great potential for an area of park-like grounds which since has been fully exploited.

This brief history is taken from many sources including Taranaki Education Board and school records; newspaper articles; "Taranaki Education Board — A Retrospect" edited by H. A. H. Insul, published in 1978; the programmes for the 1934 and 1959 anniversary celebrations; "The Industrious Heart — a History of New Plymouth" published in 1980 by J. S. Tullett, and research conducted by Gordon Mitchell, chairman of the 1984 centennial publications committee.



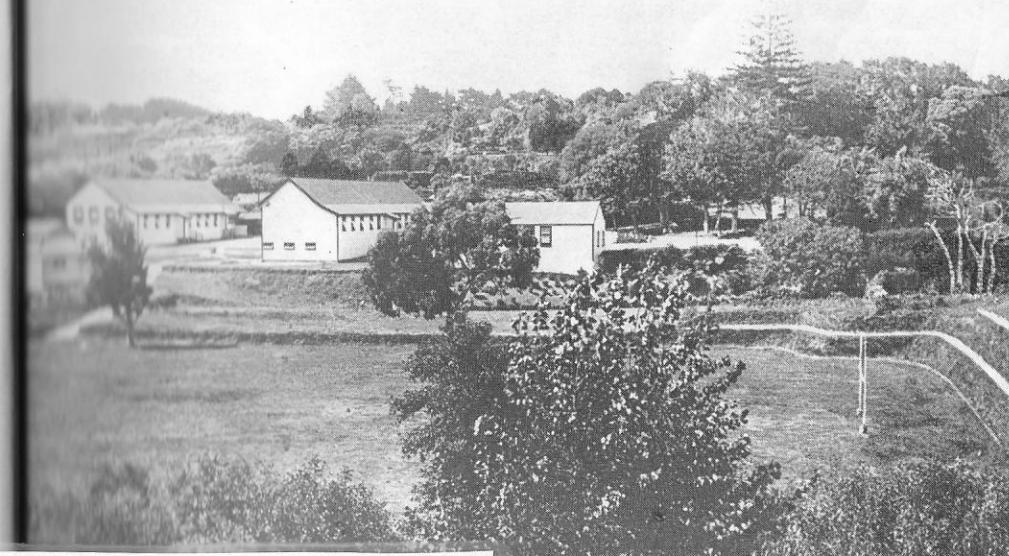
The "new" school under construction during the 1926-27 summer holidays.

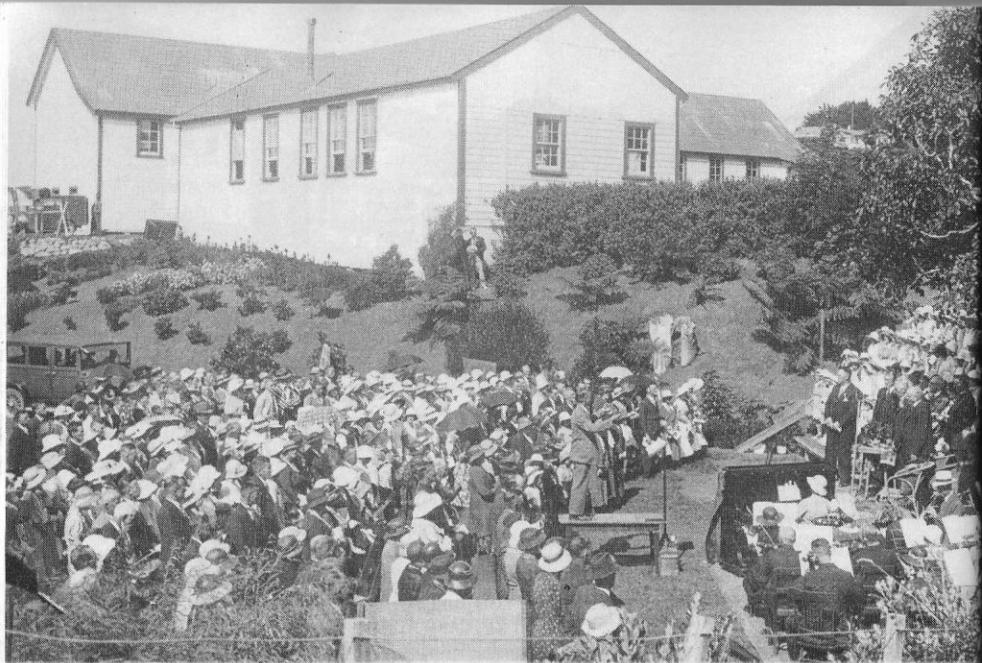
SCHOOL ROLLS

West End school had reached the status of Grade 7 by 1921 and maintained that position for some years, but with the opening of the Moturoa, Westown and later the Catholic School Heidelberg, the roll number 639 in 1922 was reduced. When the school was reopened on its new site in 1927 the roll stood at 449. For the next three decades it fluctuated, and it was not until 1953 574 pupils were registered. In 1958, when Devon Intermediate was opened, this meant a further reduction and since that time the roll has remained in the 300s.

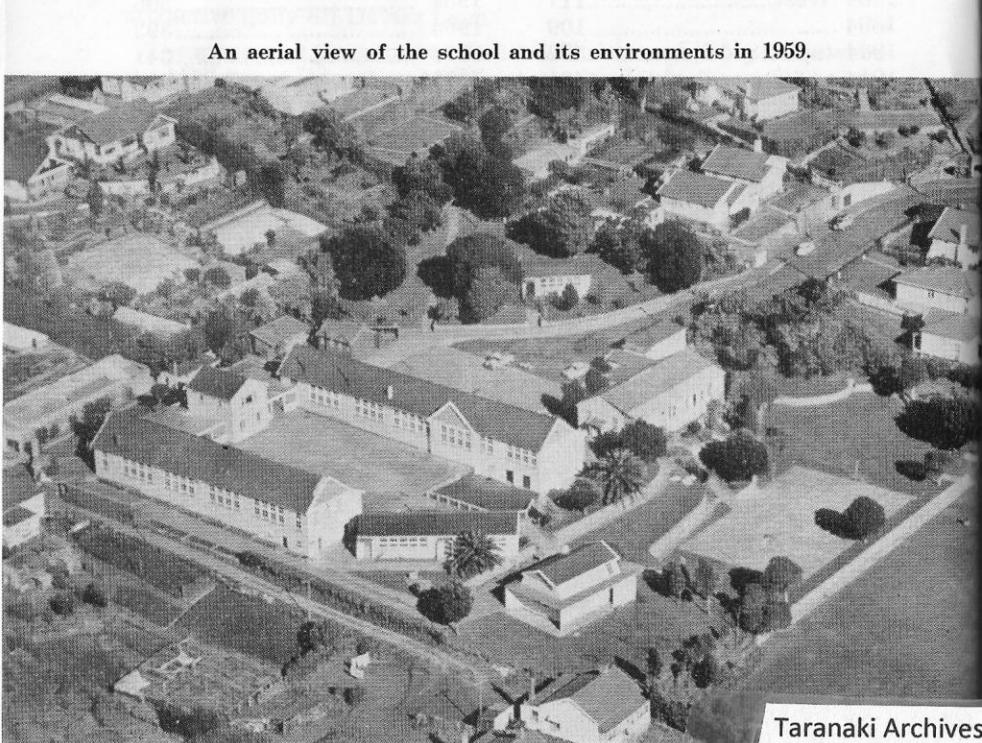
The following Roll figures for the school, in decades, are taken from Taranaki Education Board records:

1879 West (Boys).....	46	1934	364
Kawau (Girls).....	67	1944	425
1884 West.....	117	1954	506
1894	109	1964	393
1904 (up to Std 6).....	302	1974	341
1914	481	1983	336
1924	534		





50 years ago. Golden jubilee celebrations, March 1934.



An aerial view of the school and its environments in 1959.

A SENSE OF HISTORY



By R. H. Jackson, a pupil and later principal of West End; and now District Senior Inspector of Primary Schools, Nelson.

I had a very strong sense of history in moving from a relatively young school (Devon) to West End, one of the original schools of the inner city, and one with some family connections. My father, H. W. Jackson, had been acting headmaster for a term in the 1950s and an uncle, A. B. (Ralph) Barns, had been first assistant there in the 1930s. I had myself been a pupil there in standard three in 1934.

My first memory as in-coming principal is of a long and detailed explanation of the school finances by the retiring Mr Thomas, who took great pride in the efficient system he had devised and was operating for the school committee. It was too fearsome altogether for one who has problems balancing his piggy bank, so I was pleased to pass the whole lot over to Kai Thomson, the School Committee treasurer, who, as a chartered accountant had no problems at all!

Then there were gala days — the rooting out of stalls and wheels from under the school, the mounting piles of produce accumulating outside the office as The Day approached, the tension as one awaited the weather report, and the large crowds of generous parents and children spending furiously for three hours to see us through another year.

We decided to set up a central library in the hillside pre-fab no longer needed for a class and under the guidance of Noel Rose and the School Library Service, relays of mums typed cards and gummed pockets for days on end.

No doubt many tributes will be paid to the work of Fred Parker in developing the grounds. I should like to add my own. I believe the setting of West End School to be one of the finest in New Zealand. To have had the expertise and dedication of Fred Parker for so many years is no doubt the major reason. He has left a living memorial.

It was a trying period in the school's history as they began demolishing the rooms of the old building to begin building operations. Hammers and saws provided the "music" against which the teachers grew hoarse and the children became cranky.

I would also like to pay tribute to the faithful service of my deputy principal, Ray Fordyce, who has had such a steady influence on the school over a long period. I valued his support and advice and was always aware that in my absence the school would be looked after well.

WEST END — THE FRIENDLY SCHOOL



By Bryce R. Smith MA. Dip Tchg. (Principal 1969-1974)

THE year 1969 began with a change of Principal. It also saw the staged rebuilding programme commence. We were asked by the contractor if we could vacate the east wing before the August holidays as a good start might allow the new building to be completed and in use after Christmas. He was right, but it was after Christmas 1971! The delays that beset rebuilding continued and it

was some 10 years later that I was to represent the department at the opening of the final section — the hall and administration block.

Along with change in buildings were approaches. Ava McGregor and the PA. taught together in one of Taranaki's first open plan classrooms. Subsequently Maree Clough and several other assistants developed exciting open education programmes based in the open unit. Many children will recall the nights under canvas up the Pitone Road; and I'm sure the boys in one tent who at midnight still could not sleep, will remember for the rest of their lives the severe earthquake which roared, rumbled and shook about 10 seconds after I called out that I would take some action if they didn't quieten down.

Bill Maughan also came on the scene in time to build those broken rock walls using demolition materials. The start of a new grounds/garden lay-out.

Other changes were the establishment of the deaf unit — 5 deaf pupils travelling from as far as Eltham daily, the roll growing to a maximum of 17.

The adjustment class — which also caused us to adjust our thinking about how many disabled children could be absorbed into a school without the atypical changing, the basic nature of any organisation.

How many children recall the start of the school choir? Nancy Conn and Sally Jackson gave the school a special character when they set up early morning practices — children ran to school to be part of that group. Also, many elderly and sick people gained pleasure from the high quality singing the children produced. And this of course led to the production of two operettas which really developed us as a singing school. And Carols by Candelight in the Dell.

On the sports field children also excelled — rugby, soccer and netball all were areas of success, but perhaps the greatest spirit of team work developed in cricket where addicts would practise until 5 p.m. regularly and West End became an unbeatable combination — and everyone got a bowl.

During these changes two others occurred. Ray Fordyce, a friend to so many, acted as principal twice. On the first occasion while I was at Massey University — I remember returning in November, and being allowed to unwind by assisting the laying of the concrete forecourt — staff orders. And I recall Roy Holdt using his breakdown truck as a bulldozer to push those rocks into place as we set up the native tree corner.

An earlier conifer garden, built by Fred Parker outside the old office entrance, also had memories. The bricks for the surrounds came from the New Plymouth Post Office clock tower — Ray Fordyce and a group of boys collected them. Fred selected the conifers which grew beautifully, but to our surprise were upstaged by many begonia blooms — the soil had come from Parker's begonia houses.

I also remember the loyal support of staff members, how we discussed new ideas, brought change to the curriculum — slowly but surely — and watched proudly as “our children” moved through Devon and Spotswood College playing a full part in all fields of education endeavour.

Support also came from many Mother Helpers — in class-rooms, at banking, and in the library. And of course from the school secretary — she's still there. My handwriting was never the best — nor was May's shorthand. Peace was declared when it was agreed I would rephrase a sentence when May couldn't decipher her shorthand, as long as she could also ask me what my writing actually said.

Ray's second term as principal came about with my secondment to the Department of Education. I returned to West End for only one final term and a farewell school concert. This reminded me of one aspect of this school which will long remain — the old hall with its cheap-jack extensions, its sunken piles and doors which blew open, could also be the jolliest of places — stalls for gala days, auditorium for choral displays, theatre, bowling centre, and dining hall — a place where West End people ate, drank, danced and mixed freely in the friendliest way — this is my memory: the friendly school.

Gala Day



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A group from Room 4 working in the library with Mrs. Mary McNair.

THE LIBRARY

THE West End School Library is an imposing feature. But it wasn't always so. Old records refer to “Books received from Board”, and “There is a growing need for a library,” but it was not until August 17, 1966 that the principal Ray Jackson recorded in the log book: “Mrs Drake, organising librarian called to see the new library and to start cataloguing of books.” Since then some notable features would have to include the library's mobility; the support it has received from parents, teacher-librarians, committees and the Education Board; and its growing importance to the school.

The mobility was due to its frequent shifts, (with associated disturbances to the silverfish that were active, “book worms” and the inhabitants of the old buildings) that were necessitated by the changing classroom requirements as rooms were demolished as part of re-development, and temporary accommodation for classes had to be found.

So it was moved from the prefab to the end of the old hall, and then later to the old Deaf Unit room where it had the luxury of a carpeted

floor (grand for silverfish). A tremendous amount of work was needed not only to shift the books, but also to keep them in some semblance of order after the enthusiastic efforts of the children who shifted the boxes; the removing of the wooden shelving, fitting these into the different sized spaces and then seeing if the books could be organised into the space; to be followed by the mammoth task of putting every book into Dewey or alphabetical order.

Finally came the shift to its permanent home on November 22 1979. This room had been planned to be converted in time into a library and after about 18 months of use as a classroom this took place. With steel shelving, new filing cabinet and furniture, our library came of age, with all the excitement and work of re-establishing not only the books but also the pictures, bulletins etc. It was obvious that weeding out was required so that books out of date, that were past their useful life were removed to make the library more attractive and relevant. A fish tank and fish were bought, cushions made etc.

The library owes much to teacher/librarians such as Ian Barnes, Noel Rose, Lynette Hepworth and others who have kept it operating and have given so much personal time to it. Valuable help has been given by the School Library Service. The staffing of the library daily by parents has been of real value as it allows children to exchange books regularly when they need to.

So the library has become a central feature of the school both as regards its position in the new complex and as an aid in the development of children and programmes.

H.H.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank the members of the Centennial Book Committee, Diane Flavell, Hugh Hughes, Cyril Betteridge, May and Stuart Tullett (editor) for the work they have done to make this publication possible. To acknowledge individually everyone associated with the preparation of the book would be impossible, as literally hundreds of documents, letters, photographs and personal anecdotes were received, many of which were unable to be included in the book. However, these are to be preserved by the school and will be on display during the celebrations. Special thanks must go to Charters and Guthrie Crawford and Associates Ltd. for their splendid photographic contribution, and to those who sent congratulatory messages and to Cyril Betteridge for his help in the printing of the book.

Gordon Mitchell
(Chairman, Centennial Book Committee)



Buildings — and the mode of dress — have changed since the days when the author of this article, Mr. Kai Thomson, attended the school as a pupil while it was sited in St. Aubyn Street.

64 YEARS' SERVICE RECALLED

by W. S. (Kai) Thomson

"The Headmaster, in his wisdom or otherwise, approached me to write what I could remember of my days at West End School, which commenced in 1916 at the tender age of 5 years," writes W. S. (Kai) Thomson. "Apparently someone had told him that I had a retentive memory and could recollect events of my early youth more clearly than what happened last week! I told Mr. Hughes that what I could write would not be of general interest. he did not agree and said something like this,

"The ranks of those who can remember events connected with the school prior to 1920 are fast thinning. Unless they are recorded now it is going to be too late. You write what you can remember. The Committee appointed to organise the centenary of the school will decide if any is worth incorporation into the school history."

"If any of what I have written is used in connection with the School's Jubilee it is clearly on the heads of the Committee and Headmaster!"

The Committee and the Principal are happy to accept responsibility of publishing Kai Thomson's story in its entirety. It will rest lightly on their heads, for it is the history of the school from 1916 to the present day, written by a man who has himself been a vital force behind it.

AND so to school in 1916. With a big school bag containing probably a slate and pencils, I presented myself to the infant mistress Miss Laura Mynott, who had also enrolled my two elder sisters and two elder brothers. She was in any language a lovely and magnificent person who served West End with great personal credit, and made a lasting impression on probably thousands of children. I was speaking to Bob Knott recently and he mentioned that his mother had been taught by Miss Mynott, then a pupil teacher. She later taught himself, his brother and sisters. It is of interest to note that her brother was H. J. (Simon) Mynott, who achieved fame as five-eight in the 1905 All Blacks on their tour of Great Britain. As a small boy, when I first became interested in rugby, the "Old Timers" used to talk of Hunter-Mynott combination. Even in later years I have heard competent judges say that New Zealand will never see their like again.

COLD AND DRAUGHTY

The school was on the South Road, the land now being occupied by Jones and Sandford Ltd. The buildings were typical of schools of those days — cold and draughty with high windows. A pole with a hook on the top was necessary to open the windows — that was the daily job of the 'class monitor'. The area in front of the school was tar sealed, the balance being clay — not a garden, shrub or any grassed area. Corrugated iron fences were erected on the eastern and western boundaries. The toilets were located as far away as possible from the main building — on the southern boundary overlooking the Mangaotuku Stream.

As infant supervisor Miss Mynott and her assistants had few of the teaching aids now available to teachers. The classroom walls were bare. Among other things we were taught the ABC, paper folding and we made designs with wooden blocks. She had a strap with a wooden handle. In all fairness I cannot remember her using same although it was always in a prominent place on her table!

The School was presided over as Headmistress by Mrs Dowling, known as "Mam" Dowling. She had quite a commanding personality and from what I remember was usually dressed in black. She had the services of some very efficient teachers, Miss O'Brien, Miss Jamieson and Miss Anthony come readily to mind, as does the first assistant, Mr Ted Barry. He was a man with a sarcastic sense of humour which was probably above the heads of some of the hard cases he taught. I could tell many stories of him which my elder brothers and sisters used to relate. I will content myself with one, because the pupil concerned is still alive — many of them prior to 1920 have now passed on. The Nodder family lived in Belt Road, Mr. Nodder had wagons in a cartage and contracting business. The horses at night, were grazed at Veales Estate, a large area bounded by Lorna and Doone Streets.

Ken Nodder was a pupil in Mr. Barry's class and each morning he was up and about at an early hour to collect the horses and harness same. He had the habit of being late for school and one morning Mr Barry addressed him thus, "Late as usual Nodder. Been in the land of Nod I suppose. Now where is the land of Nod?" He must have been surprised with Ken's answer, "Up Veales Estate Sir!"

Mrs Dowling when she retired was replaced by Mr. D. P. Evans who ruled the school with a rod of iron, ably assisted by a substantial piece of leather which he used to good purpose! He used to arrive at school at 8 a.m. and seldom left before 5 p.m. During the day he would visit several classrooms, place his strap on the teacher's table and take over teaching. The pupils were always pleased when the bell for the interval rang. At the end of each term he used to examine all classes in reading and comprehension. The class involved would line up alphabetically in the passage outside his office and he would hand you an open book and indicate the part you were to read. Thereafter he would ask you the meaning of some of the words you had read. He allotted the marks, which subsequently appeared on your term report.

WHISTLE

He had rather a novel way of commencing school in the morning, and after lunch and breaks etc. He would appear in the playground and give a long blast on his whistle. Whatever you were doing, you remained absolutely motionless. If for instance, you were standing on your head, you remained that way until he gave a further whistle blast. Then you moved in a quiet and orderly fashion to your class room.

In the early 20's Mr. Evans was appointed Headmaster of the Central School, a position he occupied until his retirement in 1937. Central School was then the largest primary school in New Plymouth, and probably Taranaki. At the time the majority of his pupils did not realise it, but he was unquestionably one of the great Headmasters of his era. On his retirement, and to recognise his devoted service to education he was awarded the O.B.E.

Dr. Elizabeth Gunn used to pay periodic visits to the School, whether she was employed by the Health or Education Department I do not know. Apparently she visited all the primary schools in New Zealand. She was a tall imposing figure, dressed in a white starched uniform. She must have served in the Army Nursing Service in the Great War, because she wore on her uniform ribbons indicating medals struck after that war.

Every child was examined, and if a complaint was serious a note was handed to you for delivery to your parents. She had on the table beside her a supply of wooden instruments, which I am told are called

spatulas. If you had loose teeth requiring attention, she did not stand on ceremony! With a spatula and a flick of the wrist the offending tooth was soon but a memory. She would be the author of Tooth Brush Drill in schools — I am not aware of how long it continued. I vividly remember one of my sisters bringing home a note from Dr. Elizabeth to the effect that she was a goitre suspect. My mother of course packed her off to our family Doctor, David B——. He was highly amused! I still recall his comment to my mother. "Tell Dr. Elizabeth she also has goitre, but it is somewhere in the back of her head!"

My wife is of the opinion that on her retirement a stamp was struck in her honour — if so she richly deserved same.

TUCK SHOP

Across the road from the School on the western side of the Methodist Church, George Blanchard conducted a grocery business. The site is now occupied by flats. In many respects it was also the tuck shop for the school pupils — pennies, in those days, perhaps it was 3d if it happened to be your birthday — not the \$2 and \$5 notes children produce these days. George was called "Chalkie" by both adults and



Winners of the McHardie and Weston Shields and Walker's Cup, 1929, conducted by the North Taranaki Primary School Swimming Association. (All were pupils of West End.) Boys: D. Gayton, R. Meredith, S. Lett, G. Suhr. Girls: N. Fox, J. Lawrey, G. Herdman, A. Blair.

children. To the latter he was of course Mr. Blanchard. At one stage he was the school caretaker and at this time acquired the name of "Chalkie".

My father was chairman of the School Committee — I am not certain of the years. I remember him telling this story: It would be about 1918 and in those days the election of school committees could be "slanging matches" and bitterly fought. "Chalkie" put up a rival ticket to oppose the existing committee. The scrutineers announced that 180 were entitled to vote. (In my later years as chairman of West End I would count it lucky if we had 15 present at similar meetings.) "Chalkie's" ticket was soundly defeated. My father used to recall that he received 179 votes, then he remembered that he had forgotten to record his own vote!

WALTER NASH

His secretary at this point of time was Walter Nash, later to be Prime Minister and to receive a knighthood. Despite his Labour inclinations my father always held him in high regard, for his sheer efficiency. At this time Walter Nash was secretary of Modern Tailors Ltd. who operated businesses in New Plymouth, Waitara and Inglewood. The other shareholders were W. H. Besley, E. G. Pearce and G. Townley. I do not think the business prospered.

The accounting firm with which I was later connected was involved with Modern Tailors Ltd. and after the demise of the company the minute book was still in our strongroom. There were pages and pages of minutes, all hand written by Walter Nash. Mostly they concerned profit-sharing schemes with the staff which apparently was a subject near to Walter's heart. The shape of things to come?

Because my father purchased a farm at Everett Road, Inglewood my brother Jim and I had a year at Waitui School on the road to Kaimata. The following two years saw us back at West End. In my final year at West End in Standard 4, our teacher was one Mr. King, who was very prominent in scouting activities. I don't know whether he was the most popular teacher that I remember. "Barney" Marr was a fellow-pupil, his father Walter was the Moturoa carrier. Barney seemed to be on the receiving end of Mr. King's strap, almost on a daily basis.

At the end of 1922 those of the pupils who lived to the west of the Calvert Road were zoned to the newly established Moturoa Primary School. Barney decided as a parting gesture to end his duel with his arch enemy Mr. King — he cut up his strap. Children of course talk, and poor old Barney was escorted back to West End to receive his final hiding from Mr. King.

West End School, I believe, was renowned for the excellence of the annual concert. Dedicated teachers, with Miss O'Brien at the helm,

composed and produced some magnificent shows. At a later stage Mr. Jack Hoskin produced concerts with his own son, Gerald, billed as the Boy Comedian. The popularity of same merited its performance in the now defunct Empire Theatre.

The Thomson and Evans families were close friends. I am aware that D. P. Evans was a martinet at school; he was also the absolute monarch in his own home. For some years he was headmaster at Okato where one of his pupils was to achieve fame as probably the greatest Minister of Lands, Forests and Maori Affairs in the history of New Zealand. I refer of course, to E. B. Corbett. Another of his pupils when at Okato did not rise to such dizzy heights — Bob Gray was a hard case. He had a tough time at school as learning did not come easily to him.

FISHING

Time heals all wounds, or so I have been told. The years had rolled by and Mr. and Mrs. Evans were holidaying with a life-long friend, who farmed near the beach on the Pitone Road. Bob had a lovely farm on a nearby road. "By a strange set of circumstances" "D. P." and Bob met in Okato and greeted one another warmly. Bob said that he had a dingy with a motor, "Would you like to have a day's fishing with me Mr. Evans?" "D. P." said that he would accept the invitation with great pleasure — fresh schnapper for his evening meal?

The Tasman Sea was on its best behaviour when they took off from the beach and proceeded to the fishing grounds. They had landed several nice fish when "D. P." turned a delicate shade of green and was violently ill. He lay on the floor of the boat and begged and implored his former pupil to return to the shore.

"No way" said Bob. "At school you belted hell out of me you old..... This is my chance to even it up. I will take you back exactly when it suits me! I am enjoying myself and am in no hurry whatsoever!"

At the end of 1922 I packed my bag for the last time at West End because I would be a Standard 5 pupil at Moturoa when the term started in 1923.

I was on sub-committees when the School celebrated its 50th and 75th years of service of the western district of New Plymouth. At the latter reunion an occurrence which could have had serious consequences happened. Decade photographs were being taken from a terrace overlooking the main sportsground. Temporary seating had been hired and erected — the ladies occupying the front rows and the men at the rear. Suddenly the structure started to sway and the front part collapsed altogether. The men at the rear, on the top tier — I was one of them — jumped to safety and started to help the ladies who were caught in the timber. Other than laddered stockings, and a few barked shins and bruises there were no serious injuries. I was helping

one lady (her maiden name started with D, she was then Mrs. C---) who apparently was not in need of my services. Her comment was, "I am O.K. — get your bloody big foot off my new five guinea hat!!"

When my children became of school age the obvious school for them to attend was West End. I gave what assistance I could to the affairs of the school by liberally supporting gala days and other fund-raising activities. At the same time I knew that the day of reckoning would arrive and I would be asked to take my turn on the committee and make a contribution to education. I was not surprised when one evening two members of the then committee who wished to retire arrived at my home armed with a nomination paper which required my signature. They told me that because of another retirement I was the obvious choice as secretary of the committee. This did not particularly worry me, as for most of my life I had been involved in secretarial work.

SCHOOL RECORDS

At this particular time the headmaster of the school was Harry Thomas, to whom I paid a visit soon after my appointment to do what I thought was necessary — to take over the minute book, financial books etc. To my surprise and eventual pleasure he told me that all of the school records were under his control and were kept at school. Because of the problems which he inherited when he became headmaster, he wrote up the school cash book, certified the accounts for payment, and either he or the secretary would write the cheques for payment and for confirmation at the monthly meeting. My job was principally minutes, correspondence etc. Harry Thomas had the full and dedicated support of "Bernie" Dick, who was the groundsman, caretaker etc.

The chairman of the committee was Bruce Hay and with Harry we had a close working arrangement. He told me that an agenda for the monthly meeting was unnecessary — all matters to be discussed would arise from the Headmaster's report. The secretary's job was surely a sinecure?

Harry took over as headmaster at a most difficult time in the school's history. Make no mistake about it — Harry was of the old school, firm but fair, school discipline was at all times close to his heart.

During my period he retired and he was replaced by Ray Jackson, formerly 1st Assistant at Devon Intermediate. Presentations were made to Harry Thomas at a farewell function arranged by the committee.

The School was in a wonderful position when I became secretary thanks to the work of previous committees. The grounds were in an

immaculate condition — beautifully landscaped and planted thanks to the dedicated services of the late Fred Parker. Additionally the school had a substantial bank balance which we could use in any way to assist teachers in the education of the pupils.

PROBLEM

We had but one problem and this came to a head when I followed Bruce Hay as chairman. The school buildings were in an ageing condition, after all they were principally the same as those formerly erected at South Road. Window sills etc. were rotting and it was impossible to keep windows properly closed. The Taranaki Education Board, Graham Harvey as chairman and Peter Mercer as secretary, were most helpful and aware of our problems. They did their best, but to no avail. West End school would die — it was situated in an area where there was no possibility of a population increase or maintenance of existing levels. This of course was the opinion of the "Planner" in the Education Department, Wellington. We did not accept this view and fortunately the committee was absolutely right. As homes occupied then by elderly couples came on to the market, they were purchased by young couples and the school roll (for obvious reasons) did not remain static for very long.

I received a telephone call one day from Peter Mercer to extend an invitation for the committee secretary (then Bruce Horsup) and myself to have morning tea the following morning with the chairman of the board and himself. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the possibility of having the school buildings replaced. Their advice was fair and simple — they could do no more — make a political football of the issue. We accepted the challenge.

Soon thereafter George Gair (then an undersecretary, possibly education, certainly not a Minister) paid a visit to New Plymouth with some of his senior officers from Wellington. With Board members etc. they paid a visit to West End at 9.15 a.m. and the committee escorted them round the grounds and other amenities. It appeared that the visit was about to be terminated, the school and classrooms had not even been looked at! Mr. Gair was loud in his praise of the beautiful grounds and of the work of present and past committees.

Then the following conversation took place.

"I understood that the purpose of your visit Sir, was to discuss the school buildings. I would like you now to make an inspection."

"Sorry — my timetable is very rigid. I am already overdue to have morning tea with His Worship the Mayor."

"I am sorry I am going to insist — that is why you are here. The Mayor will not even be in any way upset. Denny Sutherland is a former chairman of the School Committee."

We walked round some of the class rooms and I poked my finger through some of the weather boards and window sills! The party was about to leave. The senior officer accompanying Mr. Gair, was I believe the then Director of Education from Wellington. He walked to the gates. Out of the corner of his mouth he made the comment, "Good on you. You have a very strong case and you must come out on top eventually".

The headmaster at the time of this visit was Bryce Smith, who had replaced Ray Jackson on his appointment as a School Inspector.

INSTANT SUCCESS

As headmaster Ray Jackson was an instant success. I remember after one of our monthly meetings he tried to explain to me the "new maths" system. In this field he was freely acknowledged to be an expert. I told him that I was too long in the tooth to learn new methods — $2 + 2$ would always be 4 !! It was clear that Ray Jackson would have a limited period with us and on his appointment as above, Bryce Smith was appointed, and he still occupied that position with credit to himself and of benefit to the school, when I stood down from the Committee.

Perhaps the headmasters I have mentioned were extremely lucky in that they had the dedicated services of Ray Fordyce as 1st Assistant. During their periods at the school Ray Jackson and Bryce were absent quite a lot on special duties associated with education. In his own quiet way Ray Fordyce assumed the mantle of acting head with dignity and efficiency. I have often wondered why he did not have his own school? That of course is none of my business!

I was still chairman when the decision was made to replace the school buildings by instalments. The first block, east-west and overlooking the sportsfield was quite magnificent, and the envy of the other teachers who still had to be content with the old classrooms.



Ray Fordyce

In addition to the ageing school, the committee had one other pressing and persistant problem. The entrances to the school both in Davies Lane and Bonithon Avenue were traffic hazards of the worst types. It is a wonder to me that no child was not killed at the Davies Lane entrance. On wet mornings, mothers in particular, used to bring their small children to school by car. "Debussing" is an army term. Young children are not expected to know these rules. The children used to dart out of and in front of approaching cars. I made a visit to the school quite recently. Both of the entrances were high, wide and handsome!

One final observation. When it became obvious that we would have a new school, the replacement of the assembly hall, which had also given service on South Road and altered and changed to suit changing conditions, became a matter of urgency. I knew that I would be standing down and that my successor was a young man with drive, energy and enthusiasm who would accept the challenge. I adopted a no decision attitude! The building of a new assembly hall under the incoming committee was no problem whatsoever.

A glimpse of the new School Administration/Assembly block completed in 1979



A FEW LINES FROM AN OLDIE

Mrs M. C. Sampson, of Maratahu Street, was 87 when she wrote the following notes last year. It was decided to publish them unabridged.

ONE of my earliest memories of West End School was getting there. I started when I was six and in those days we lived between Morley Street and Belt Road in Devon Street, so of course we went up Cutfield Road. In those days we crossed a bridge and then climbed up a steep round-about pathway, not a good road like it is today. On very wet days in winter I remember the water ran over the bridge and it was very muddy each side but child-like we wouldn't go the Morley or Belt Road which was further; we would go through the mud and the bigger boys would carry we small girls across.

In those days there were tall pine trees growing on the east side of the boundary and we small girls always spent play times making gardens with pine needles which the boys always broke up.

Rounders was the game we enjoyed playing most except perhaps hop scotch and marbles. For exercise we used to drill in the front of the school up and down sideways etc. Then we were very thrilled to be told we were to be given clubs but sad to say that didn't last long as if two knocked together the heads fell off.

Once a week as the Kawarua Baths were opened we went to have a swimming lesson. We always wore our neck-to-knee suits underneath our other clothes so we could get in the water quicker. To learn we had to put each arm through hoops which were attached to a pole and we soon learned to go on our own.

I remember one time the school had a concert in the opera house and I was in one song which was called 'Caller Herring' and we had fish baskets in which were some herrings netted I think by a fisherman who gave them but unfortunately the night of the concert it was very wet and as at that time there were no cars like today and no way of getting there dry and it had to be put off for a week. By that time there was no need to sing 'Caller Herring' they called themselves which we didn't think was at all funny. The boys sang and were given imitation guns and chased each other across the stage which they did with great gusto.

Hoping these few lines may perhaps be some help from an oldie.

FANCY DRESS COSTUMES

By Diane Flavell

WHO among you, can remember, during the 1940s-1950s, going to an address in Hine Street, to choose a fancy-dress costume to wear to the ball? Well, that 'smiling face' lady, Mrs. Henderson, is still residing in that very same house 40 years later.

She shifted to New Plymouth in 1944, with her family. Her four children, Lois, Donald, Ian and Heather all attended West End School. Lois was Dux in 1946. Some of her grandchildren and great grandchildren have also attended West End.

She was encouraged to make all her fancy dress costumes by Beryl Quay so she set about designing a collection. These were the only fancy dress costumes available in the New Plymouth district. The charge was 30c for hiring a costume.

Mrs. Henderson gave much more than just the costume. If you really wanted to look the part she offered a "make-up" service, free of charge, on the night of the ball, the children often lined up waiting for the appropriate scar or rosy cheeks, long eyelashes and red lips.

This complete interest on the part of Mrs. Henderson probably stemmed from her long association as wardrobe mistress for the operatic society and her love and understanding of children.

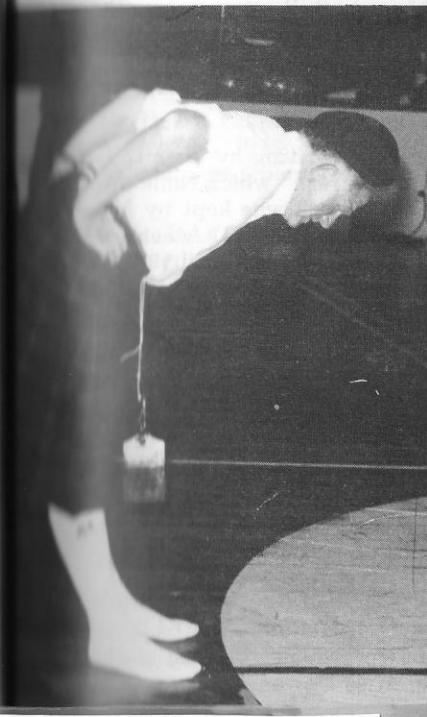
'Oh' — the excitement of the ball. Practising for weeks and weeks. Perfecting the Grand March, and the choosing of the all-important costume.

During the 1940s, 1950s fancy dress balls were held in the Queen's Hall. The infants in the afternoon and the standards at night. Later the infants were to hold their ball in the old school hall, with the standards continuing at the Queen's Hall. The children danced the veleta, the maxina, the waltz, the military two-step and the all-important Grand March. The children paired off in 2s, 4s and 8s.

The photographs were taken by Crago Studios and then the supper was ready. While parents danced, the children marched two-by-two into the supper room and indeed what a supper. Jelly and icecream, sandwiches, cakes and drinks. Most of the supper was donated by the parents, and 'put-together' by members of the school committee. 'Oh what a Special Time in a child's life'.



Children always enjoy the annual fancy dress balls . . .



. . . And so do the teachers



LOG BOOK HISTORY

The oldest surviving West End School Log Book, in which daily running of the school is recorded, covers the period January 26, 1903 to 1926.

PROMINENT among the entries — apart from frequent visits by the Truancy Officer, occasional lapses on the part of pupils, and visits by the school committees — are holidays. These seemed to occur with great frequency and for a number of reasons. In the first term of 1903 the school was closed for "an excursion to Toko"; for a "picnic on South Road"; for the "anniversary of Province"; for "Empire Day"; and for "Prince of Wales Birthday". In July the school was closed for two weeks "owing to prevalence of measles"; in August there was no school "for the unveiling of Troopers' Historic Monument"; for the "School Bazaar" (two days); in November a holiday was given for King Edward VII's birthday. This was an annual occasion until the King died on May 10, 1910 and for the "Proclamation of King George V", and on May 20 school was closed for the late King's funeral; on May 4th it was "Empire Day, Flag Saluted, School closed"; on June 3 the new King's birthday was celebrated with another day off. The annual Winter Show, the Agricultural Show, Arbor Days; School Inspectors' visits were other occasions for holidays, and on June 22, 1911 "children came to school and each one received a medal to commemorate the Coronation of King George V; school then closed."

This log book was written in meticulous handwriting by Miss L. E. Mynott until her resignation of "Infant Mistress" which came into effect on January 31, 1927. A separate log book was kept by Mrs Dowling, the head mistress from January 1900 to 1919 when she handed over her duties to Mr D. P. Evans who served until 1923.

Subsequent log books from which the following extracts were taken were kept by successive headmasters.

Mr. J. W. THOMAS (1923–1929)

April 20, 1925: "Owing to the opening of the Westown School about 80 pupils left this school"
 March 3, 1927: "School closed. Visit of Duke and Duchess of York"
 March 17, 1927: "Holiday granted by Duke and Duchess"
 June 9, 1927: "Some 70 children attended picture in Opera House. Cobham's Flight. Lecture by Gladstone Hill."

Mr. J. E. SHIMMIN (1929–1933)

June 13, 1930: "Visit of Lord Bledisloe. Half Holiday granted."
 February 13, 1932: "Miss Valentine of Department attended at the Special School which is in the charge of Miss Downs."

Mr. W. A. BROWN (1933–1935)

June 1933: "Began distribution of soup this week in which I was greatly helped by Mr F. Hay's energy in securing soup from Devon, Egmont and Adams' Restaurant in provision of mugs and an oval boiler for heating it." At the monthly meeting of the Committee Mr Thomas said thanks were due to the boys who collected the soup and to the girls who washed the mugs.

November 23, 1933: "Plunket Day effort: 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ dozen eggs; 1s/3d cash; one pot jam."

March 29, 1935: "Had a serious talk today to pupils re evasion of life's responsibilities under headings of family loyalty, loyalty to school, national loyalty." And on May 10, 1935: "Last day as H.M. at West End School. A warm-hearted lot of scholars and teachers and committee men. They gave me a great run during my two years here."

Mr W. L. WAGSTAFF (1935–1937)

June 18, 1937: (No names recorded) "One stroke to --- for persistent unpunctuality; ditto for --- for bullying P1 children . . . 3 strokes for damaging tree and throwing stones; Four strokes for continual bad behaviour and disobedience to his teacher."

November 2, 1937: "First day of milk supply. Pupils enthusiastic. Only two or three unable to drink."

R. S. BULLEN (1937–1942)

April 28 & 29, 1940: "The school was closed on account of the death of the Prime Minister Mr. Savage."

September 23, 1940: "An incident of stabbing reported verbally to the Board. Culprit excluded. Welfare Officer notified of the incident."

March 24, 1942: "204 children attended matinee performance of 'Aladdin' at Opera House."

G. H. DAVEY (1942–1953)

September 14, 1942; "Introduced house system to the school"
 December 16; "House concert resulted in a donation of £3 to Patriotic Fund."

July 5, 1943: School assembled in town for reception to General Freyberg.

April 24, 1944: Anzac Day ceremony observed. Speaker Col. N. J. Jones.

August 15, 1945: "School closed at noon for VJ Day. Ceremony (flag) held for Peace Day."

April 18, 1947: "Poppy Day collection £7 16s 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d."

September 15, 1948: "Battle of Britain Day observed with flag ceremony."

April 28, 1950: "Cutting back of oak tree caused comment."

November 23, 1950: "Eleven fountain pens disappeared from Form 1 room. Called in police."



The old Memorial Gates, unveiled in 1952 and removed and re-dedicated later because they were too narrow to allow new classroom units to be brought in.

May 4, 1952: Memorial Gates unveiled. Dedicated by Canon W. E. W. Hurst.

Mr. H. M. JACKSON (September 1953–December 1953)

November 30: "The children in Stds 1 to Form two attended the screening of the Everest picture today."

Mr A. C. BARNES (1953–1957)

November 11, 1954: "Trevor Clegg broke his leg at the ankle while practising at the jumping pits this morning. The grounds were adequately supervised at the time and everything possible was done for the boy." (This was one of nine accidents to children recorded in 1954.)

September 11, 1956: A very successful junior ball was held in the Agricultural Hall . . . The Ladies' Committee did a fine job with the catering.

May 7, 1957: "Today the City Council completed the new water supply . . . There is now abundant pressure in all taps."

November 5, 1957: "Technicians from 2XP visited the school and recorded singing and verse-speaking from various groups."

Mr. J. H. THOMAS (1958–1966)

February 3, 1958: "School reopened today as a contributing school. F1&2 pupils attending the new Devon Intermediate Organization." February 11, 1958 "School closed — Visit of Queen Mother."

May 7, 1958: "An Inter-school fixture between West End and Westown: 4 teams each of football and basketball took place, West End winning six of the games and losing two."

September 19, 1958: "Polio injections to new entrants. Boosters to all other pupils."

April 11, 1963: "School closed for Easter vacation, during which time a report appeared in the local paper which reported that an eight-year-old pupil of the school Lea Grant Neumann, had died of burns. He had, according to the report gone home from school on the Thursday and it was while experimenting with methylated spirits that the accident causing his death occurred. Mr. Thomas recorded in the log: "The pupil concerned had not attended school on the Wednesday or Thursday, so the report is incorrect . . ."

Mr. R. H. JACKSON (1966–1968)

June 6, 1966: "Visited hospital class and museum to establish contact with Mrs Wharehoka the newly appointed museum teacher."

April 19, 1967: "Decimal currency issued by Education Department."

Mr. B. R. SMITH (1968–1975)

March 21, 1969: "Returning from a five-day camp at Eltham a bus load of children, teachers and parents were involved in a serious accident when the vehicle struck a bridge abutment at Inglewood. All 43 passengers suffered shock and several were treated at hospital. Sharon Flannery received head injuries and remained in hospital. It was a miracle that the children got off so lightly considering the damage to the bus."

July 29, 1969: "Tender let for four new infant classrooms."

February 16, 1970: "Pedestrian crossing installed at Lorna Street."

March 20, 1970: "Royal Tour. All pupils to Bell Block. All staff volunteered to attend."

February 25, 1971: "Heavy rain . . . Civil Defence Emergency declared."

June 10, 1974: "The school extends congratulations to Mr. Fred Parker on his being awarded the MBE for his services to schools and community in the field of horticulture over a period of 50 years."

Mr. H. R. HUGHES (1975—)

February 21, 1979: "First sod turned for new \$100,000 assembly hall."

November 22, 1979: "Official opening of new complex."

January 28, 1980: "Congratulations to Mr. John Murtagh for winning National Singles Bowls Championship."

Overleaf: West End School from the air — 1983.

