



Cornucopia

Volume 26 • February 2010

Central Division • RTANL

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CENTRAL DIVISION
Executive 2009-11

PRESIDENT
Philip Patey
Lewisporte

VICE-PRESIDENT
Tom Kendell
Grand Falls-Windsor

PAST PRESIDENT
Jim Dobson
Grand Falls-Windsor

TREASURER
Malba Butt
Gander

SECRETARY
Gerald Giles
Port Blanford

GANDER REPRESENTATIVE
Don Carter

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE
CUSTODIAN
Jim Dobson
Grand Falls-Windsor



**Welcome to
All New Retirees**

We extend a warm welcome to all new members of our Association and encourage you to get involved. You'll find participating in Division activities is an enjoyable way to begin your retirement, especially since so many of your friends are already members.

Editor's Note

Greetings and best wishes to all our readers. A special welcome to those new to retirement and receiving their first CORNUCOPIA. This year we are publishing Volume 26, which is almost one for each year since the inception of the Central Division. It is prepared for retired teachers to exchange stories, memories, poems and other pieces of information.

Even though we have not placed advertisements for teachers, this year we have included an announcement of a book published by a retired teacher. We are always searching for stories to print. If you have a project you're doing, if you travel, if you remember something that happened during your teaching career, if you would like to recognize an outstanding teacher you taught with, **Tell Us About It.**

We are always collecting information on deceased teachers for the Obituaries and for the Remembrance Book. We need help with this information. Please help if the deceased teachers or families are friends of yours.

Please send information you would like published to Calvin G. Wheeler, P.O.Box 444, Botwood, NL, A0H 1E0.

PROVINCIAL RTANL
Executive 2008-10

PRESIDENT
Jim Dobson
Central Division

VICE-PRESIDENT
Geraldine Wall
Western Division

PAST PRESIDENT
Don Case
Con-Tri Division

TREASURER
Clayton Rice
Avalon East Division

SECRETARY
Don White
Avalon East Division

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE
Doreen Noseworthy
Avalon East Division

Gladys Costella
Western Division

Philip Patey
Central Division

Ada Hollett
Burin Regional

Meeting Dates 2010

April 21, 2010
Regular Meeting

May 19, 2010
Regular Meeting

June 9, 2010
Banquet & Dance

September 14, 2010
General Meeting

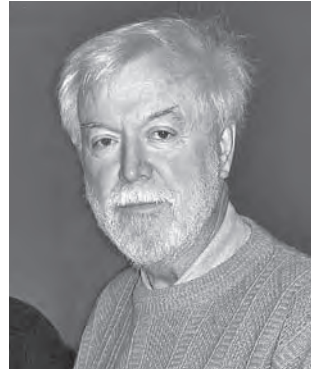
October 5-7, 2010
BGM and Reunion

October 20, 2010
Sale & Auction

November 17, 2010
Regular Meeting

The Meetings are held at Hotel Gander at 11:00 a.m. on the meeting date above unless notified in advance.

President's Message



The 95th Regular Meeting of Central Division was held in Hotel Gander, April 22, 2009... So begins the Minutes of the first meeting for 2009. At this meeting members were informed about what has happened since our last meeting in November past. Reports were given by different people on meetings of the Provincial Executive, the Retired Teachers' Foundation, the status of the Book of Remembrance, *Tales Told by Teachers, Volumes I and II* and activities of the Political Action Committee.

Besides the usual reports the May meeting gave approval to the plans developed for the June Annual Banquet and Dance. Following the lunch break Ms. Jackie Wicks, a local music teacher, provided guitar music and songs in which many of those present participated. During the Annual Banquet and Dance held at Hotel Gander, June 10, 2009, the Retired Teacher Volunteer of the Year award for 2009 was presented to Calvin Wheeler in recognition of his contributions to the Central Division as an Executive Member, as Editor of our Newsletter "The Cornucopia", as Auditor and as creator and donor of paintings for the purpose of fund raising for the Retired Teachers' Foundation. Another highlight of the evening was the performance of selections from Ted Russell's "Holding Ground" by retired teacher and actor, Lloyd White.

You may be interested to know that all contributions submitted for *Tales Told by Teachers, Volume II*, have been scanned into a computer and are being prepared for publication.

The Biennial General Meeting was held September 16, 2009, in Gander. The meeting heard the report of the committee established last Spring to honour the contributions made by C. Lloyd Buffett to this Division and to the founding of the Retired

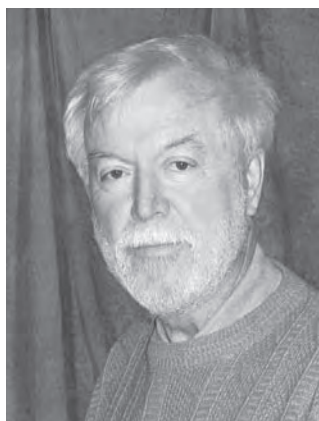
Teachers' Foundation. It was unanimously decided to accept their motion to annually contribute \$1,000 as the C. Lloyd Buffett Memorial to the Retired Teachers' Foundation. This is over and above what we already donate. Following the break for lunch, Debbie O'Brien, Personal Care Home Coordinator for Central Health, gave a presentation on the services available for seniors care in this part of the province.

The report of the nominating committee was given by chair Jim Warren. The complete slate of incumbents was returned to office. Our President is Philip Patey; our Vice-President, Tom Kendell; our Secretary, Stewart Ralph; our Treasurer, Malba Butt and our Gander Representative and Communications Officer is Don Carter. Jim Dobson is our Past President. The Executive Members appreciate the confidence our members have placed in them.

The highlight of the Fall meetings in October and November was the Annual Auction to raise funds for the Retired Teachers' Foundation. This year's Auction realized \$500 of the total \$2,000 raised for the Foundation.

Following the November meeting we go into winter quarters until next Spring. Have a pleasant Fall and hope you had a very Merry Christmas.

2009-11 Executive



President
Philip Patey



Vice-President
Tom Kendell



Treasurer
Malba Butt



Secretary
Gerald Giles



Gander Representative
Don Carter



Past President
Jim Dobson



President Jim Dobson gives the Provincial Report.



Treasurer Malba Butt presents the Financial Monthly Statement.

Regular Meeting (95th) of RTANL (Central)

Hotel Gander - Wednesday, April 22, 2009

The 95th regular meeting of Central Division was held in Hotel Gander, April 22, 2009, at 11:00 a.m. with 28 members present.

1. The President, Philip Patey, welcomed everyone and led the opening devotions.
2. The register was circulated and self-introductions carried out.
3. **MOTION. M/S/C** Colin Morris/Art Symonds that the agenda be accepted with two items added under New Business - a) Membership Drive, and b) June Banquet.
4. **MOTION. M/S/C** Mary Brenson/Joy Freake that the minutes of the meeting of November 19, 2008, be adopted as circulated and read.

5. Business Arising:

- (a) The committee set up to explore ways to honour C. Lloyd Buffett has not met formally to date.
- (b) The part time paid assistant for the RTANL has been hired - Kevin Foley, who will operate from his home in the St. John's area.
- (c) Many compliments paid to Calvin Wheeler regarding the excellent work done on the latest issue of *Cornucopia*. **MOTION. M/S/C** Stewart Ralph/Francis Reid that a large basket of fruit be sent to Calvin as a small expression of our thanks for the excellent work he is doing with the *Cornucopia*.

6. Correspondence:

There wasn't any correspondence.

7. Reports:

- (a) Treasurer's Report - Malba Butt, presented by Don Carter for the period August 31, 2008, to March 31, 2009. Revenue \$26,000, Expenses \$5,000. A complete copy of the report has been placed on file. Jim Dobson suggested that the Division should invest its funds in a savings account.

(b) Health of Members:

- i) Phil and Don, and other members of the Association attended the funeral in Glovertown of Leslie Harris, a founding member of Central Division and the RTF.
- ii) Phil also attended the funeral of Rupert Short who had taught in Lewisporte for many years.
- iii) Roy Pilgrim, a retired teacher living in Grand Falls-Windsor, was killed recently in a moose/car accident on the TCH between Bishop's Falls and Grand Falls-Windsor.
- iv) Grace Osmond, a retired teacher from Springdale, died recently; as did Marlene Burton from Grand Falls-Windsor, Sam Ryan from Bonavista, Steve Bowering from Grand Falls-Windsor and David Taite from Glovertown.
- v) A number of retired teachers are reported to be ill.

- (c) Provincial Report: Philip Patey/Jim Dobson. The Provincial Executive will meet in Gander next week. PAC's will meet at the same time - Tuesday, April 28. There is a Provincial Newsletter coming out soon. The Pensioners' Coalition has made no progress with the Government. Many RTANL members are also members of the Provincial Seniors' group. Dual membership is encouraged. The coalition of Government retirees has approached the Provincial Government seeking relief from the unfair income tax inflicted upon low income people - no progress as yet.

- (d) Foundation Report: Donald Carter. The Retired Teachers' Foundation Board of Directors will hold its first meeting for 2009 on April 27 and 28. This time the Foundation is coming back to its roots in that it will be

meeting in Gander. Included in the two-day schedule will be a meeting with the RTANL Provincial Executive. The most recent financial update received from the Treasurer, Ann Pennell, shows a current bank balance of \$6,555.86. In addition there is a \$5000 term deposit maturing in August. This will give a total of approximately \$15,555 available for distribution in the Fall of 2009. There could be several more thousand donated by then.

(e) **Book of Remembrance:** Jim Dobson.

Jim reported, for the information of new members, that Volume One of Central's Book of Remembrance is already in several libraries throughout the area. Hopefully, it will be some years before there are enough deceased teachers to justify Volume Two. In the meantime, Jim would like to receive information regarding any deceased teachers – funeral bulletins, newspaper obits, etc.

MOTION. M/S/C Art Symonds/Marilyn Bry that any person who taught anywhere in the Central Division area for any length of time be eligible for inclusion in Central's Book of Remembrance if biographic information is available.

(f) **Status of *Cornucopia*:** Calvin Wheeler, report by Jim Dobson. Calvin did an outstanding job on the latest issue and is gathering material for the next issue. He is presently in St. John's, thus not able to attend today's meeting.

(g) ***Tales Told By Teachers: Vol. I*** is still being sold around the area. Material submitted for Vol. II will be discussed at the upcoming Provincial Executive meeting and a decision made to print or not to print.

(h) **Political Action Committee (PAC):** Philip Patey. The local group has not met in 2009 but will join with the provincial group.

8. New Business:

(a) Executive members who attend retirement events for current teachers promote membership in the RTANL. Joint membership with other seniors' groups is encouraged.

(b) The annual June Banquet will take place at Hotel Gander on the 10th. The following volunteered to be members of the arrangements committee: Philip Patey, Shirley Bailey, Sadie Lane, Betty Brett, Francis Reid, and Don Carter.

9. Lunch and Presentation:

Lunch was served from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. and was followed by entertainment by The Killicks. They are a Celtic Band from Grand Falls-Windsor. Originally a group of three, Jason Woodford, Richard Reeves, and Jody Hale, they added a drummer, John Thompson, in the Fall of 2007. The performers have been featured at Botwood's Flying Boat Festival and the Exploits Valley Salmon Festival. In February and March of 2008 the band was featured on a special CBC six-show series entitled *Live from Quidi Vidi, "A Tradition of Song"*.

10. Meeting Resumed:

Following an hour of great entertainment, the meeting resumed. President Philip announced the next meeting scheduled for May 20th, 2009.

11. Closing Meditation and Adjournment:

President Phil led the closing meditation and adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Flowers go to Church

The bluebell rang the message to convey
That Jack in the Pulpit was preaching today.

The flowers all gathered each in their pew
Oh, there really were quite a few.

Miss Primrose quickly, and had to smile
When she saw the cowslip in aisle.

Pansy, embarrassed hid her face
With a piece of Queen Ann's lace.

Sweet William ushered Petunia to a pew
Also Marygold and Lily too.

When they had all gathered there
Jack in the Pulpit said a prayer.

Zelda Rose
Brown Hill, Ontario

Annual Meeting (29th) of RTANL (Central)

Hotel Gander - Wednesday, September 16, 2009

The 29th Annual General Meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by the chair, Philip Patey. There were 35 members and two special guests from another RTANL Division in attendance.

1. The President, Philip Patey, welcomed everyone and led the opening devotions.
2. As the register was being circulated, self introductions were carried out.
3. **MOTION: M/S/C** Tom Kendell/Art Symonds that the agenda be adopted as circulated with the addition of three items under New Business: (c) Annual Auction (d) Annual Audit, and (e) Peter Hall Plaque.
4. **MOTION: M/S/C** Jim Dobson/Colin Morris that the minutes of the meeting on May 20, 2009, be adopted as read and circulated.
5. **Business Arising:**
 - (a) Malba Butt reported that on June 8, 2009, the committee, consisting of Malba Butt, Don Carter, Jim Dobson, Francis Reid, and Jim Warren, met to discuss a way to honour C. Lloyd Buffett, first president of the RTANL, Central Division. Buffett was also first president of the Retired Teachers' Foundation which was incorporated in April, 1985. He helped the Foundation, originally a creation of Central Division, expand into the whole province. He envisioned the creation of a million dollar fund which would honour all deceased teachers by using the interest from the fund to aid ill and disabled children through support to such groups as the Janeway, Children's Wish Foundation, Autism Society, Shriners' Burn Unit Travel Program, etc. Buffett remained president of the Retired Teachers' Foundation until his sudden death in 1996. **MOTION: M/S/C** Malba Butt/ Jim Dobson that Central Division RTANL will donate \$1,000 each

year to the RTF specifically in memory of C. Lloyd Buffett. The first donation to be made in May of 2010. This will be over and above Central's normal donations, e.g., \$50 in memory of each deceased teacher, proceeds from annual auction, proceeds from Calvin's paintings, etc. President Phil thanked the committee for their work and thanked the members present for their unanimous support of the committee's motion.

- (b) The President reported that the June Banquet and Dance was a success with 99 guests in attendance.

6. Correspondence - none.

7. Reports:

- (a) Treasurer's Report - Malba presented the Treasurer's Report for the period August 31, 2008, to August 31, 2009, showing a total revenue of \$31,000 and total expenses of \$13,000 for the period. **MOTION: M/S/C** Tom Kendall/Jim Warren that the Treasurer's Report be adopted as circulated.
- (b) Health of members - Roy Babstock died Sept. 13, 2009, and there will be a celebration of his life in Eastport on Sept. 17. Roland Clarke died last week, Reginald Smart of Botwood died in a boating accident last summer. Several other reports of accidents and/or illnesses were presented.
- (c) Provincial Report - Jim Dobson, Provincial President. (Before beginning his report Jim announced that he would be selling tickets at noon hour on a variety of items, bread, jams, etc., as a fund raiser for the RTF. Later, after the winners were drawn, Jim announced that the sum of \$38 had been raised – not bad for tickets at \$0.50 each.) Provincial report on Activities since May 2009.

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- (i) Newsletter committee had a planning meeting with the NLTA Print Plant regarding format for submission of Newsletter.
 - (ii) Regular contact maintained with the COALITION; Clayton Rice attending meetings. The Department of Finance and the COALITION will meet on Sept. 17th. The meetings will continue.
 - (iii) The next Executive meeting will be in St. John's on September 24th to discuss Newsletter, BGM 2010 in Gander, and to receive a report from the COALITION.
 - (iv) Another Executive meeting is scheduled for November and we will also meet with the NLTA Executive. The issue of pensions to be a major issue in the next negotiations. The NLTA, at its BGM in April 2009, passed two resolutions related to pensions indexing: 1. That the NLTA attempt to obtain increased indexing for pensions, and 2. That the NLTA seek to secure full indexing pensions for any teachers who have retired and will retire without stacking.
 - (v) The AGM of the Newfoundland and Labrador Public Service Pensioners' Association will be held in St. John's on September 20-21. Several of our Executive Clayton Rice, Doreen Noseworthy, and I (Jim Dobson) will be attending. I have been asked to be a panel member talking about our fight to secure better pensions. We will report on actions taken.
 - (vi) Work is ongoing to get *Tales Told By Teachers, Volume 2*, published by October 10, 2010, in time for the BGM. A committee has been formed in Avalon Division under the leadership of Doreen Noseworthy, handwritten submissions have been typed into the computer, and typed submissions have been scanned in.
 - (vii) Executive will meet with commission on MHA salaries.
 - (viii) ACER/CART report will be printed in the next newsletter.
 - (d) Foundation Report - Don Carter. The Retired Teachers' Foundation Book of Remembrance, Volume 4, has been brought up to date. This has been accomplished by means of a short term contract with Anita Finn as reported to the May 20th meeting. Anita's work is now complete and any new entries will be made by Kevin Foley, Executive Assistant for the Provincial Executive, RTANL. The latest figures from Anne Pennell, our RTF Treasurer, indicate that the Foundation is in a position to disburse \$18,000 to various children's charities at our annual meeting in November in St. John's.
 - (e) Book of Remembrance - Jim Dobson. The first volume, published in 1997, thanks mainly to Faye Eveleigh and Stella Gosse, is available in most larger libraries in Central Division. Jim would like to set up a committee to prepare volume 2, for which he already has 120 entries ready with another 30 just about completed. A committee of Calvin Wheeler, Joy Freake, and Brenda Blagdon will assist Jim Dobson preparing material for Central's Book of Remembrance, Vol. 2.
 - (f) *Cornucopia* - Calvin Wheeler. Calvin would welcome more offerings.
 - (g) *Tales Told By Teachers, Vol. 1* - Jim Dobson. About 200 copies of the second printing still available for sale.
 - (h) PAC - Jim Dobson. RTANL will stay with the COALITION seeking improved pensions for retired government employees. There was some discussion of the erosion of health services in rural Newfoundland and Labrador by the government, apparently in an attempt to save money. **MOTION:** M/S/C Jim Dobson/Colin Morris that the secretary write the Lewisporte committee expressing support for their attempts to further erosion of rural health services. The letter to Lewisporte is to be copied to the present Minister of Health, the Hon. Paul Oram.
- (Lunch break, 12:00 to 1:15)**
8. **New Business:**
- (a) Upon resuming the meeting, Jim Dobson introduced Debbie O'Brien, Personal Care Home Coordinator for Central Health, who gave an informative presentation re. the availability of care for seniors in the central area. She described the four levels of care
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available, ranging from Level 1 where an individual can live reasonably independently to Level 4 where an individual depends on technology (e.g., breathing apparatus, feeding tubes, etc.) to stay alive. People assigned to personal care homes can retain up to \$10,000 (single) or \$20,000 (couple) in bank assets. The provincial government will subsidize those unable to pay for their own care up to \$1,600 per month in level 1 or 2 care, and up to \$2,800 per month in Level 3 or 4 care. She responded to many comments and questions and gave her number 1-709-256-8989 if anyone had further questions. Jim thanked Ms. O'Brien on behalf of the RTANL.

- (b) The annual Auction will be held at the next meeting, October 21, 2009. Everyone is invited to bring items for the sale.
- (c) Calvin Wheeler, former treasurer, has agreed to do the annual audit again. **MOTION:**

A Prayer For Us – The Elderly

Keep me from becoming talkative and possessed with the idea that I must express myself on every subject. Release me from the crave to straighten out everyone's affairs. Keep my mind free from the recital of endless detail. Give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips when I'm inclined to tell of my aches and pains. They are increasing with the years and my love to speak of them grows sweeter as time goes by. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be wrong. Make me thoughtful but not too nosy, helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom and experience it does seem a pity not to use it all. But Thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.



M/S/C Max Bussey/Art Symonds that Calvin Wheeler do the annual audit for 2008-2009.

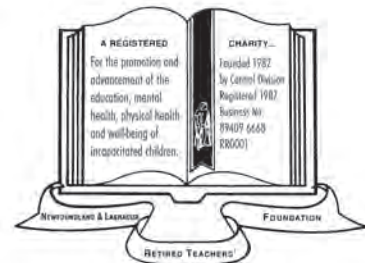
- (d) Phil reported that he had personally taken the plaque honouring Peter Hall directly to Peter's home and presented it to him there.
 - (e) Phil passed over the meeting to Jim Warren, chair of the nominating committee, who then proceeded to conduct the election of officers for the next two years. The complete slate of incumbents were returned with no changes: President, Philip Patey, Lewisporte; Vice-President, Thomas Kendell, Grand Falls-Windsor; Secretary, J. Stewart Ralph, Point Leamington; Treasurer, Malba Butt, Gander; and Communications Officer, Don Carter, Gander.
- 9. **Next meeting** - October 21st at Hotel Gander.
 - 10. The president led the closing prayers. **MOTION:** **M/S/C S. Ralph/T. Kendell** that the meeting adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Everything I Need to Know About Life, I Learned From Noah's Ark

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
4. Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
5. Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage; the snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9. When you're stressed, float awhile.
10. Remember: the ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic, by professionals.
11. No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

Teachers' Journal

Retired Teachers' Foundation Report



The Newfoundland and Labrador Retired Teachers' Foundation wound up another successful year on Nov. 24, 2009, when its annual contributions to children's charities were distributed. Representatives of the receiving organizations met with the Foundation's Board of Directors at the RTF's 22nd Annual General Meeting at the NLTA Building in St. John's. Presentations totalling \$19,000 were made as follows:

Candlelighters Association of NL	\$2,000
Shriners (Transportation fund)	\$3,000
NL Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus	\$2,000
Canadian Diabetes Association (children's services)	\$2,000
Lion Max Simms Memorial Camp	\$2,000
Down Syndrome Association	\$2,000
Tourette Syndrome Association	\$2,000
Rainbow Riders (therapeutic horseback riding)	\$2,000
CNIB (service to children and their families)	\$2,000

The Central Division of the RTANL has just completed another very successful Fall Fundraiser/Auction for the Foundation. The total amount to be sent to the Foundation is \$2,000. This was raised in a number of ways. The annual auction held in October realized \$476.25, collections in the New-Wes-Valley area from retired teachers by Peter Hall amounted to \$595, direct donations to the Auction Fund was \$140, donations sent for deceased teachers amounted so far this year to \$750 and \$38.75 made on tickets sold at meetings.

The RTF board wishes to thank all those who have supported the Foundation in any way. It is your involvement and commitment that enables the board to carry out the mandate of "operating exclusively as a charitable organization for children who are incapacitated".
Donald Carter, Director, RTF.



The Foundation Board of Directors (l-r): Joyce Roberts (*Con-Tri*); Agnes Hughes (*Western*); Lily Critch (*Western*); Donald Carter (*Central*); Geraldine Wall (*Chairperson from Western*); Ann Pennell (*Treasurer from Avalon East*) and Dianne Squarey (*Avalon East*)

Biographies

Rosalie Spurrell

Rosalie (Patey) Spurrell was born in St. Anthony, Newfoundland, where she attended the first integrated school in the province – The Wilfred T. Grenfell School. At a very early age she obtained various jobs with the Grenfell Association and later as a more permanent worker with pre-school children at the Grenfell Orphanage in close contact with a trained Kindergarten teacher who inspired her toward the teaching profession and a great desire to work with young children. After three summer sessions and a year at Memorial College in St. John's she returned to the town as a Primary teacher where she spent five memorable years at the Grenfell School, as well as three years with the Grenfell Handicraft Department before coming to Deer Lake for a year and later in 1950 was accepted into the integrated school at Gander for one year only which stretched until her retirement in 1980. She has seen many changes in the Gander system from the time she became a Kindergarten teacher to her preferred Grade 11 classroom teacher and finally Vice-Principal of the Primary Department, having experienced the great move from Hunt Memorial Academy on Foss Avenue to our new and modern Gander Academy in 1957.

Rosalie found time during the years to upgrade in her profession and attained a Grade IV certificate through summer sessions and personal courses on weekends and nights throughout her busy schedule with family and school.

Through the years she played an active role as a volunteer at the James Paton Hospital, a member of the Gander Women's Institute, and along with her husband, very active for many years in collecting for the various organizations so vital to the needs of the



town. She assisted the Kiwanis Music Festival as a volunteer, the Heart Foundation, the Mental Health Society, and many cancer functions. Rosalie is one of the few remaining Ladies of the Gander BPO Elks Royal Purple, a longtime member of the Ladies Masonic Association and is recognized as a Lady Shriner, organizations in which her husband played a very active role.

Her great ambition in life was to travel through Canada, the USA and, after retirement, through Great Britain and Continental Europe, which she did on eight different occasions. She was never happier than when she could see first hand the many countries which were history and geography in her high school studies and so 'out of reach' as she thought then. From the slate mines in North Wales, through Scotland, the Grenfell Boys' School in Parkgate, England, the Great Masonic Hall in London, south of Poole, Dorset, and all counties bordering the English Channel where much Newfoundland history originated, the Swiss Alps, the Zuider Zee in the Netherlands, the German Rhine, the Coliseum of Rome, France and the Scandinavian countries, etc., as well as friends and places of note with whom exchange visits were experienced. She realized her dreams of earlier years and travelled with family and friends to achieve it.

For fifty years Rosalie and Eric resided in Gander and made their home on Hawker Crescent in a home built by them in a co-op group in 1956-57. Gardening, and well kept grounds, was a must and a favourite hobby of Rosalie. As her husband pre-deceased her in 2004 and age was beginning to take its toll, she sold her property in 2006 and moved to reside with her daughter Sharon, also a retired teacher, whose many friends rallied around to provide a source of company and a way to keep in touch with the Gander activities.

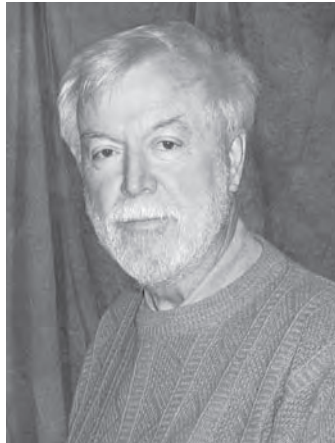
She loved her career as a teacher and never wanted to look forward to not being in the classroom. She has fond memories of her relationship with

her students, their parents, administrators and colleagues and speaks fondly of the many longtime friends cultivated there. She thanks all who have made her years as a teacher so worthwhile and memorable and maintains 'teaching is a very rewarding career'.

Rosalie has been involved with the Retired Teachers' Association since its early formation. While she was not actively engaged in the actual founding of the Gander branch, she has been a strongly supportive member since 1980. She has enjoyed the social aspect of the meetings and says they are interesting and informative and she commends the executive and staff for giving so freely of their time and interest to the concerns of retired teachers of the Central Division Branch.

Philip Patey

Philip was born in St. Anthony on September 21, 1939, the eldest of seven children born to Cecil and Effie Patey. As the son of Salvation Army Officers, he grew up and received his early education in ten different communities, the last of which was Clarenville, where he received Grade XI in 1955. Philip attended Memorial University where he received a B.A.(Ed) in 1961, B.Sc. in Biology and Chemistry and a B.A. in English, and a M.Sc. degree in Marine Biology in 1975.



Before he decided on a teaching career, he worked as a service station attendant in Botwood, and later as a park naturalist in Terra Nova National Park. His early teaching years took him to a community wherever a teacher was needed. This happened to be Springdale for four months and then Brighton for the remainder of the year 1957. After University he taught at Deer Lake, Musgravetown, and Clarenville. In Clarenville he worked for three years at the School Board Office as a Science and Physical Education Consultant. In 1978 Philip moved to Lewisporte from where he retired in 1998. He has four children which have settled all over the

Northern Hemisphere – in Phil's words. He enjoys visiting them and his grandchildren from Edmonton, Ottawa, St. John's, and Finland.

Philip's involvements are varied, especially since retirement. He is Treasurer of St. Matthew's Men's Fellowship, a member of the Lewisporte Chamber of Commerce, Past President of the Notre Dame Rod and Gun Club, Vice President of the Kittiwake Economic Development Corporation. He is the Central Representative on the Board of Writers Alliance of Newfoundland. He was a member of the NTA Provincial Executive for six years as well as on a Special Interest Council Curriculum Committee of the Department of Education, where he helped develop two curriculum guides. He has been a member of the Gander Writers' Group and the newly formed Northeast Marina Association. He has been President of the Retired Teachers' Association (Central Division) for the past five years, as well as a member of the Provincial Retired Teachers' Executive. Philip taught an Elementary Science Methods University Course to elementary teachers one summer in Grand Falls and one in Corner Brook.

Despite his many involvements, Philip finds time to do some gardening, writing, visiting friends and family, playing the guitar and photography. He takes part in a reading group in Gander. His love for Geology finds him occasionally organizing field trips for elementary students in Lewisporte. Philip talks about his greatest passion and pastime in retirement – that of his writing verses, some he has had published in literary journals.

Violet Seymour

Violet Seymour was born on October 22, 1923, to Matthew and Mary Northover in New Perlican, Trinity Bay. She attended St. Augustine's Anglican School until she graduated with a Grade XI certificate. She had her heart set on becoming a teacher, so she attended Memorial University and,



after several years teaching, attained an Education Degree, B.A.(Ed), in 1976.

She started teaching in September 1941 in Deer Island, Ramea where she spent one year. From there she spent three years at Coward's Island, Bonavista Bay. Her teaching career ended 25½ years later at Eastport where she now resides. During those years, Violet met and married Algernon Seymour and they had two sons, William, who is now retired from the R.C.A.F., and Wayne, also retired from Newtel & Aliant. She has been blessed with three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. After almost thirty years of teaching she retired in 1982 in Eastport. Violet has been very active in her community and her church. Before retirement she was active in the Church Lads Brigade. With more time to spend after retirement, she was chairperson of the Cancer Campaign, Guider-in-Charge of Eastport Girl Guides, Altar Guild Member, Church Reader and a member of the Anglican Church Women. She attained the positions of Secretary, Treasurer and President while serving these organizations. Violet has been an active member of the Central Division of the Retired Teachers' Association, attending as many meetings as she is able. Her contribution doesn't stop there. She was a founding member of the Retired Teachers' Foundation when it was formed here in the Central Division in 1982. In fact, she is one of only two living founding members. She attended the BGM in Corner Brook last October and presented the donations to the various organizations for the Retired Teachers' Foundation.

Besides attending Central Division meetings each month, you might find her in her favourite chair reading, knitting, cross-stitching or playing scrabble. She still enjoys a good game of cards with her friends.

MEMBERSHIP CARD BENEFITS



1. Ultramar Home Heating Centres: 3 cents off a liter of home heating fuel and 10% off the furnace insurance plan.
2. The Paint Shop: 10% off all regularly priced items, except floor coverings.
3. Jennifer's of Newfoundland in Corner Brook: 10% off all evening meals and 10% off all regularly priced items in the gift shop.
4. Notre Dame Castle Building Centre in Corner Brook: 10% off all regularly priced items and 5% off lumber.
5. Roberts' Artistic Electronic Creations in Bareneed: 10% off all regularly priced items.
6. Roberts' Sleepy Hollow B&B in Clarkes Beach: 10% discount.
7. Movies and Music Plus in Carbonear and Music Plus in Bay Roberts: 10% discount.
8. Fine Things Jewelry and The Salt Box (Crafts) in Clarenville: 10% discount off regularly priced items.

(You must show your RTANL Membership Card to "reap the benefits".)

Tales Told by Teachers, Volume II

"When I was your age I used to walk to school, summer and winter, 15 miles in my bare feet. Uphill both ways. And... I used to come home for dinner."

There is no need to stop telling your grandchildren these marvelous stories of your school days, either the stories of your own going to school or those of your teaching experiences. Often they are as precious as they are unique.

SHARE THEM

The Newfoundland and Labrador Retired Teachers' Association has already published volume one of Tales Told by Teachers. Now they are preparing a second volume. That's where you come in.

WRITE YOUR STORIES, TALES, YARNS
(in prose or in verse) and send them to:

Memory Book Committee

c/o Philip Patey

PO Box 87, Lewisporte, NL A0G 3A0

or call Philip at 535-2569

His e-mail address is: philippatey@persona.ca

Laughter – Good Medicine

Judas Asparagus

A child was asked to write a book report on the entire Bible. This is what she wrote. Through the eyes of a child: **The Children's Bible in a Nutshell**

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, "The Lord thy God is one, but I think He must be older than that. Anyway, God said, "Give me a light!", and someone did. Then God made the world. He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet. Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden... Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars. Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel. Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check. After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat. Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable. God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments. Those included: don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbour's stuff. Oh, Yeah, I just thought of one more: Humor thy father and thy mother. One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.

After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me. After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore. There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't need to worry about them.

After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of the New. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn too, because my mom is always saying to me, "Close the door! Were you born in a barn?" It would be nice to say, "As a matter of fact, I was.") During his life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Democrats. Jesus also had twelve possums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him. Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount. But the Democrats and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead. Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is told in the book of Revolution.

Men and Their Anniversaries

A woman awoke during the night to find that her husband was not in bed with her. She put on her dressing gown and went downstairs to look for him. She found him sitting at the kitchen table with a hot cup of coffee in front of him. He appeared to be in deep thought, just staring at the wall. She watched as he wiped a tear from his eye and took a sip of coffee. "What's the matter, dear?" she whispered as she stepped into the room, "Why are you down here this time of night?" The husband looked up from his coffee, "I am just remembering when we first met 20 years ago and started dating. You were only 16. Do you remember back then?" he says solemnly. The wife is

touched to tears thinking that her husband is so caring, so sensitive. “Yes, I do,” she replied. The husband paused. The words were not coming easily. “Do you remember when your father caught us in the back seat of my car?” “Yes, I remember!” said the wife, lowering herself in the chair beside him. The husband continued. “Do you remember when he shoved the shotgun in my face and said, “Either you marry my daughter, or I will send you to jail for 20 years?” “I remember that, too”, she replied softly.

He wiped another tear from his cheek and said... “I would have been released today.”

The Ultimate Sharing

An old man and his wife came into a restaurant. He ordered one hamburger, one order of French fries and one drink. The old man unwrapped the plain hamburger and carefully cut it in half. He placed one half in front of his wife. He then carefully counted out the French fries, dividing them into two piles and neatly placed one pile in front of his wife. He took a sip of the drink, his wife took a sip and then set the cup down between them.

As he began to eat his few bites of hamburger, the people around them kept looking over and whispering. You could tell they were thinking, “That poor old couple – all they can afford is one meal for the two of them.” As the man began to eat his fries a young man came to the table. He politely offered to buy another meal for the old couple. The old man said they were just fine – they were used to sharing everything.

The surrounding people noticed the old lady hadn’t eaten a bite. She sat there watching her husband eat and occasionally taking turns sipping the drink. Again the young man came over and begged them to let him buy another meal for them. This time the old woman said, “No, thank you, we are used to sharing everything.” As the old man finished and was wiping his face neatly with the napkin, the young man again came over to the little old lady who had yet to eat a single bite of food and asked, “What is it you’re waiting for? She answered, “**THE TEETH**”.

See You Later!

A Newfoundland couple decided to go to Florida to thaw out as winter had been very cold. They planned to stay at the same hotel where they spent their honeymoon, some 20 years earlier. Because of hectic

schedules, it was difficult to coordinate their travel schedules. So the husband left St. John’s and flew to Florida on Thursday, with his wife flying down the following day. The husband checked into the hotel. There was a computer in his room, so he decided to send an e-mail to his wife. However, he accidentally left out one letter in her e-mail, and without realizing his error, sent the e-mail. Meanwhile, somewhere in Houston, Texas, a widow had just returned home from her husband’s funeral. The widow decided to check her e-mail, expecting messages from relatives and friends. After reading the first message, she screamed and fainted. The widow’s son rushed into the room, found his mother on the floor, and saw the computer screen, which read:

To: My Loving Wife.

Subject: I’ve Arrived Here

Date: February 25, 2009.

I know you are quite surprised to hear from me. They have computers here now, and you are permitted to send e-mails to your loved ones. I’ve just arrived and have been checked in. I’ve seen to it that everything has been prepared for your arrival tomorrow. Looking forward to seeing you then. Hope your journey is as uneventful as mine was.

P.S. It sure is hot down here!

Not So Dumb Newfie

Jim, a Newfie, walked into a bank in Toronto and asked for the loans officer. He told the loans officer that he was going to Newfoundland for two weeks and wanted to borrow \$5,000. Since he was not a regular depositor at this bank, he was told that he would need some collateral. Jim passed him over the keys to his brand new Ferrari. Jim produced the title and the loans officer agreed to hold the car but apologized for having to charge 12% on the loan. After having a great laugh about the Newfie using a \$250,000 Ferrari as collateral on a \$5,000 loan, the car was driven into the garage for parking. Two weeks later Jim returned, paid back the \$5,000 and the \$23.07 interest. The loans officer said, “We are pleased to have done business with you, but we are puzzled.

We discovered during the two weeks that you are a multimillionaire, so we would like to know why you wanted to borrow \$5,000 anyway.” Jim replied, “Where else in Toronto could you park your car for \$23.07 and expect it to be there when you got back?”

Activities

Retired Teacher Releases Second Book

Kelvin Kelleher, a retired teacher from Springdale, has released his second book. *Twenty Five Years Later*, a work of fiction set in Springdale and extending to North West River in Labrador. His first book *From Base to Bay*, focuses on his early childhood in Trinity Bay, not so much his personal experiences but a documentation of the way of life in those days. If anyone wishes a copy and can't find one, please e-mail kelandgolda@yahoo.ca



Retired Teacher of the Year Awards



Award Winner for 2009, Calvin G. Wheeler



Award Winner for 2008, Peter Hall.



Meeting in session.



Everybody attentive to President Philip.



President Jim and Dorothy conduct the Auction.



"The Quilt", donated to the Foundation by Mary Brinston.

Literary

(Dedicated to the Great World of Flight)

The Wonders of Man

Far out in the great blue yonder
Climbing steadily into the sky
That great huge bulk of mechanical wonder
Destined to soar on high.

The world is its destination
As it proceeds on an ordered flight plan
Tonight in a foreign plantation
Today from Newfoundland.

The great bird of flight and wonder
Bound for lands untold
We watch in awe and ponder
Have we conquered the majestic world?

No! There'll be much heartache and sorrow
As we advance to greater heights
The mechanical age of tomorrow
Hold wonders, but not always delights.

We mourn the unfortunate victims
And comfort the sad and bereaved
But life with its untold predictions
Leaves untold causes to grieve.

God in his great wisdom and wonder
Helps to heal and persevere
What life seems to rend asunder
In time, He helps lessen the tear.

He understands the grief and sorrow
And the uncertainty of life and belief
Gives hope for the new tomorrow
And sanctions our search for relief.

Relief for the heartache and suffering
That those who are left must endure
In striving for a world understanding
They have merely gone before.

And we labor on in our searching
For advancement and greater things
Man in his wisdom and teaching
Strives to mend the broken strings.

~ Rosalie Spurrell, Gander

*Written in 1985 after the tragic loss of 256 lives of
American forces personnel (and flight crew) at the top of
Gander Lake hill and depicted by the dedication of the
Silent Witness to their memory.*

Night of Thanksgiving

Twas the night of Thanksgiving, but I just couldn't sleep.
I tried counting backwards, I tried counting sheep.
The leftovers beckoned – the dark meat and white
But I fought the temptation with all of my might.

Tossing and turning with anticipation,
the thought of a snack became infatuation.
So, I raced to the kitchen, flung open the door,
And gazed at the fridge, full of goodies galore.
Gobbled up turkey and buttered potatoes,
pickles and carrots, beans and tomatoes.
I felt myself swelling so plump and so round,
'til all of a sudden, I rose off the ground.

I crashed through the ceiling, floating into the sky,
With a mouthful of pudding and a handful of pie,
But I managed to yell as I soared past the trees....
Happy eating to all – pass the cranberries, please.

May your stuffing be tasty,
May your turkey be plump.
May your potatoes 'n gravy have nary a lump.
May your yams be delicious,
May your pies take the prize,
May your Thanksgiving dinner stay off of your thighs!!

~ Author Unknown

Looking Back

The Land That Made Me, Me

Long ago and far away, in a land that time forgot,
Before the days of Dylan, or the dawn of Camelot
There lived a race of innocents, they were you and me.
Yes, we lived in the Land That Made Me, Me.

For Ike was in the White House in that land where we were
born,
Where Navels were for Oranges, and Peyton Place was porn.
Coke came just in bottles, and skirts below the knee,
And Castro came to power near the Land That Made Me, Me.

We longed for love and romance, and waited for our Prince,
And Eddie Fisher married Liz, and no one's seen him since.
We danced to 'Little Darlin', and sang to 'Stagger Lee'
And cried for Buddy Holly in the Land That Made Me, Me.

Only girls wore earrings then, and three was one too many
And only boys wore flat top cuts, except for Jean Mckenny.
And only in our wildest dreams did we expect to see
A boy named George with lipstick in the Land That Made
Me, Me.

We fell for Frankie Avalon, Annette was oh, so nice,
And when they made a movie, they never made it twice.
We didn't have a Star Trek Five, or Psycho Two or Three,
Or Rocky- Rambo Twenty in the Land That Made Me, Me.

Miss Kitty had a heart of gold, and Chester had a limp,
And Reagan was a Democrat whose co-star was a chimp.
We had a Mr. Wizard, but not a Mr. T,
And Oprah couldn't talk yet, in the Land That Made Me, Me.

We had our share of heroes, we'd never thought they'd go,
At last not Bobby Darin, or Marilyn Monroe.
For youth was still eternal, and life was yet to be,
And Elvis was forever in the Land That Made Me, Me.

We never saw the Rock Band that was Grateful to be Dead,
And Airplanes weren't named Jefferson, and Zeppelins
were not Led.

Beatles lived in gardens then, and Monkees lived in trees,
Madonna was Mary in the Land That Made Me, Me.

We'd never heard of microwaves, or telephones in cars,
And babies might be bottle-fed, but they were not grown in
jars.

Pumping iron got wrinkles out, and 'gay' meant fancy free,
And Dorms were never co-ed in the Land That Made Me, Me.

We hadn't seen enough of jets to talk about the lag,
And microchips were what was left at the bottom of the bag.
Hardware was a box of nails, and bytes came from a flea,
And rocket ships were fiction in the Land That Made Me, Me.

Buicks came with portholes, and side shows came with
freaks,
And bathing suits came big enough to cover both your
cheeks.

We had no patterned pantyhose or Lipton herbal tea
Or prime time ads for those dysfunctions in the Land That
Made Me, Me.

There were no golden arches, no Perrier to chill
And fish were not called Wanda and cats were not called Bill.
Middle age was 35 and old was forty-three,
And ancient were our parents in the Land That Made Me, Me.

But all things have a season, or so we've heard them say,
And now instead of Maybelline we swear by Retin-A.
They send us invitations to join AARP,
We've come a long way, baby, from the Land That Made
Me, Me.

Author Unknown

Ten Commandments

Ten Commandments in Cajun

1. God is number one... and das' All.
2. Don't pray to nuttin' or nobody... jus' God.
3. Don't cuss nobody... 'specially da Good Lord.
4. When it be Sunday... pass yo'self by the church house.
5. Yo mama an' yo daddy dun did it all... lissen to dem.
6. Killin' duck an' fish, das' OK... people – no!
7. God done give you a wife... sleep wi' jus' her.
8. Don't take nobody's boat... or nuttin' else.
9. Don't go wantin' somebody's stuff.
10. Stop lyin'... yo tongue gonna fall out yo mouf!

Commandments for Those Over Forty Years Old

1. **Focus on enjoying people**, not on indulging in or accumulating material things.
2. **Plan to spend whatever you have saved.** You deserve to enjoy it and the few healthy years you have left. Travel if you can afford it.
3. **Live in the here and now, not in the yesterdays and tomorrows.** It is only today that you can handle.
4. **Enjoy your grandchildren** (if you are blessed with any) but don't be their full time baby sitter. You have no moral obligation to take care of them. Your parental obligation is to your children.
5. **Accept physical weakness, sickness and other physical pains.** It is a part of the aging process. Enjoy what ever your health can allow.
6. **Enjoy what you are and what you have right now.** Stop working hard for what you do not have. If you do not have them, it's probably too late.
7. **Just enjoy life with your spouse, children, grandchildren and friends.** People, who truly love you, love you for yourself, not for what you have.
8. **Forgive and accept forgiveness.** Forgive yourself and others. Enjoy peace of mind and peace of soul.
9. **Befriend death.** It's a natural part of the life cycle. Don't be afraid of it. Death is the beginning of a new and better life.
10. **Be at peace with your Creator.** He is all you have after you leave this life.

Commandments for Living

1. **Thou shall not worry.**
Worry is the most unproductive of all human activities.
2. **Thou shall not be fearful.**
Most of the things we fear never happen or come true.
3. **Thou shall not cross bridges before you come to them.**
No one yet has succeeded in accomplishing this.
4. **Thou shall face each problem as it comes.**
You can only handle one at a time anyway.
5. **Thou shall not take problems to bed with you.**
Problems make very poor bedfellows.
6. **Thou shall not borrow other people's problems.**
They can better care for them than you can.
7. **Thou shall not try to relive yesterday.**
For good or ill, it is gone forever. Concentrate on what is happening in your life and be happy now.
8. **Thou shall be a good listener.**
Only when you listen do you have ideas different from your own. It is hard to learn something new when you are talking, and some people do know more than you do.
9. **Thou shall not become "bogged down" by frustration.**
Ninety percent of it is rooted in self pity and will only interfere with positive action.
10. **Thou shall count thy blessings.**
Never overlook the small ones, for a lot of small blessings add up to a big one.

Memories

Classroom Support

by Fannie Simms

In those days there were “school inspectors” when I was 10 years old and in grade 5 at the United Church School in Joe Batt’s Arm – Barr’d Islands. When the school inspector came into the room everyone stood – ramrod straight beside your seat – and remained standing until you were told (by him – school inspectors were never female – or by your teacher) to sit. I always thought he was there to check on me and my work. If we knew he was coming, and our scribbles were not particularly neat, we prepared ourselves by buying a new scribbler. Little did I know that the teacher dreaded his visit much more than I did. He sat at her desk and went through the register with a critical eye. He noted the behaviour of the students and, of course, we were always on our best behaviour when he was present – much to the relief of our teacher, I’m sure. I didn’t know until many years later that after each of his visits a report went to the Department of Education and everyone in St. John’s then knew if “Miss Smith” ran a sloppy classroom.

In those days, in the winter and during the recess, the boys always went for a skate on the nearby pond. Fifteen minutes was not a long time to go skating and they were often late getting back to the classroom. The teacher had warned them that if they were late one more time, she would not open the door when they knocked, and the door would be closed as soon as recess was over. Understand that, in those days, no one knocked on a door and then opened it. It was polite to wait until the door was opened from the inside. Sometimes the teacher went to the door and stepped outside to speak to the visitor or to the latecomers.

In those days, our classroom was heated with a “potbellied” stove and the fuel was coal. That, of course, necessitated a coal bucket. Our classroom had pillars that were, I suppose, load-bearing structures for the upper storey where the church was situated. If you had been doing something that was forbidden these pillars were great for hiding behind, but on one day many years ago one of them served as a much needed support.

We were just back from recess and the boys who went skating were again late. We had started our lesson so the teacher ignored the gentle rap at the door. After a few seconds that rap was followed by a more urgent sounding one. It was also ignored. The next rap was loud and authoritative; the door opened immediately after it and the school inspector strode into the room, headed for the teacher’s desk, tripped in the coal bucket and caught himself from falling flat on his face by reaching for and catching himself on a nearby pillar. I don’t remember laughing but I’m sure we all felt like it. Neither do I remember the skaters coming back into the room. Years later when I was attending university, I often went to visit my grade five teacher who was then living and working in St. John’s. One of our favourite stories was about the day the school inspector tripped in the coal bucket. She admitted that she had a rough time keeping her laugh hidden on that day.

Got Your Bottom Covered?

by Grace Gill

(First printed in Volume 1 *Cornucopia*)

There are not many of us “Outport Children”, but can well remember having heard that clarion call and how it used to spur us on to achieve that goal. We scampered from good spot to good spot in the hopes of being the first to call out, “Yes, I have me bottom covered”.

In my mind’s eye I can see my two cousins and myself happily racing out to my Aunt’s back door for a day on the hills of Shambler’s Cove picking either blackberries, blueberries and later partridge berries. There was always a lunch, for our pockets would be filled with hard bread and for dessert: berries, blue-sweet and juicy; partridge berries – tangy but delicious. No chocolate bar could compare with hard tack for a berry picking lunch.

My aunt would be watching for us when we returned, ready to make our berries into jam. Oh, she knew we had found lots of them as it was obvious from our berry-stained mouths and hands but – “Did we have our bottoms covered”?

Memories

Slates and Pencils

Millicent Harris (Reprinted from Vol. 1)

Before the use of computers and paper in our classrooms, children had to use small blackboards called 'slates' and 'slate pencils'. Remember those slate pencils? One could get a soft type at two for one cent. (We didn't call that piece of money a 'penny' then as there was another piece termed a 'penny', but it was worth 'two cents').

Another pencil of a harder nature and making a clearer mark was preferred by older pupils as one could write smaller with it. That type cost one cent a stick. Once those pencils dropped on the floor they broke, so it was not unusual to see many short pieces in use around the classroom. One such piece got lost in a pupil's nose. The teacher became the nurse or doctor to remove it since there was no medical services within twenty miles. "Now to wash my hands", she thought, but where? There was no washroom in the school and no water except what was left in the bottle brought to school to clean the slates. The teacher used a small drop of this water to wet her handkerchief to wash her hands. Water was a problem, since many children forgot to bring water to wash off the written work or 'sums'. For some students an accessible water supply was ever-ready in their mouths. *SPLAT! SPLAT!*

Do You Remember?

Do you remember when students were stood in a class group at the head of the classroom to read a paragraph from the "lesson" studied the night before, to recite a poem, or compete in a spelling "bee"? If the word was spelled incorrectly, they were told to stand at the end of the line. Do you remember when daily lessons were writing in their "Copy Books"? When the books were completed, the teacher wrote sentences on the board for students to practice. Usually these sentences were sayings from the Bible or The Ten Commandments.

Do you remember?

When We Go Back

Having left my native home town more than fifty years ago, I go back rather infrequently and only for a short stay to place flowers on my parents' graves. Each time I remember those long gone days and those of my family who have long since passed. I recently read a verse published in an earlier copy of the *Cornucopia*, which will, most likely, echo your sentiments as well. It was written by one **W. Kelly**.

When we go back to the old home place
We loved in the long ago,
Things never seem the same to us
As we sit in the firelight's glow.
For we miss the sound of some loved one's voice,
The sight of some loved one's face;
Things never seem quite the same to us
When we go to the old home place.
And we learn the lesson that's sad and true
That nothing on earth may last,
For the loves of today and the joys of today
Are soon with the things of the past.
The scenes and the folks of the old home place
All change with the changing years;
Though we smile as we greet the folks back home
Yet we smile through a mist of tears.
There is always a wish in the yearning heart,
A longing we cannot escape;
We long for the ones who have gone away
Away from the old home place.
We miss their smile and their love so true
And so, when we go back there,
Things never seem the same to us
Because of the vacant chair.'

Obituaries

Leslie Harris

Leslie was born on August 8, 1913, at Glovertown. He grew up and was educated there up to Grade XI and then went on to Memorial University College for Normal School Teacher Training and further study.

He began teaching in a one-room school at Three Arms, Notre Dame Bay, in January 1931. From there he went on to teach at Jackson's Arm, Little Bay Islands, Clarenville, Lewisporte, Buchans and Glovertown, for a total of more than 34 years. The schools of his early days lacked the conveniences and facilities that we have today, but Leslie overcame many obstacles and made an outstanding contribution to the education of the youth of his day. For this, he will be remembered.

It was in Buchans that he met his wife, Millicent Dawe, and started a family of three daughters: Elayne, Sandra and Eleanor.

In addition to his contribution as a teacher, Leslie gave much service to both his community and his church as a volunteer worker while teaching and following his retirement. He was a member of the Public Library Board for a number of years; a member of the Boy Scout Group Committee for 10 years; helped to establish the first Town Council in Glovertown; and served as the Town Clerk for the first few months, doing the work after school, during the nights and on Saturdays. He was also a member of the committee that was organized to erect the first medical clinic in Glovertown and was Treasurer of that committee as they raised funds locally.

In his church he served on the Board of Stewards and other committees. He was Treasurer of the Glovertown Four Point Charge and also Treasurer of the Central United Church at Glovertown for more



than twenty-five years. While at Buchans for seven years he was active with the A.O.T.S.

When the Central Division of the RTA was formed in 1980, Leslie and his wife were there as charter members. Since that time he missed very few meetings up to the past few years when illness kept him away. He was a great supporter of the Central Division and its projects, especially the RTF to which he made annual donations. He was proud of his role in founding the Children's Charities Project. The 'Leslie & Millicent Harris Scholarship Fund' has been established through the bank in Glovertown to benefit students of the Glovertown High School.

After retirement in the early 70s, Leslie and his wife were busy travelling. During the following years, they travelled to many countries in Continental Europe, USA, Hawaii and at least eight provinces of Canada. For many years Leslie enjoyed fishing, gardening, slipping rabbits and reading.

Leslie passed from this life on April 14, 2009, at the age of 95. Funeral service was held at Faith United Church in Glovertown, and interment of his ashes followed in Glovertown.

Tribute To My Father - Ronald Spurrell

As Presented at His Funeral

by Daughter Renee Spurrell

Today we get to celebrate the fond memories of a wonderful loving man – our grandfather, our husband, our friend, our dad. Today I get to speak about the best topic of my life, and one I know so much about, and can only wish one day to follow in his footsteps.

My dad, when he turned 14 years old, wasn't sure which direction he would take in his life, and with few options, he decided to become a fisherman. So, he went fishing off the coast of Labrador. He worked very hard and was making "as he would say", less than a 1/2 man's wages. He never understood why, only that it must have been because he was short. He decided that the following two summers after that,

he wasn't cut out to be in the fishing industry. Hence, he was going to become a teacher. He worked again for the next two summers as a bus boy in the Gander Hotel. He saved every penny he earned to put towards his teaching career. My dad was a teacher for 35 years and he knew everyone, and everyone knew him.

He resided in smaller towns throughout the eastern part of Newfoundland and because there wasn't a minister in many of them, he also became the elected person to host the church service on Sundays. He became the lay reader and married people, buried people, and comforted people, all while reading from his favourite book – "The Bible". My dad settled in Catalina where "we", his kids, came along. During his time there he spent eight years as an active person on the Town Council Board of Directors, was the president of the Lions Club in Port Union, and if that did not keep him busy enough, he became the president of the Figure Skating Association as well as a Judge. Now you can really understand what I meant by "my dad knew everyone". Joyce, my step-mom, and I would often say, "The dogs knew my dad" and we'd laugh at it. He was the type of person who would get disappointed if he went out to the mall or travelled throughout the day and didn't recognize anyone. He loved people, and he showed it. I remember sitting on a bench in the Brampton City Center Mall a few years ago and a lady came up to me – I think her last name was Forbes. She said, "Excuse me, but are you Ron Spurrell's daughter?" I was so impressed.

My dad was also a bit of a packrat, so to speak. I now know who I turn after. He kept everything that was near and dear to his heart. My brother and I were out in a shed a few days ago and we came across boxes filled with greeting cards. These cards were from 'everyone'. If you ever gave dad a card, we have it. I stumbled upon a card I sent him a while ago. I would like to share this card with you since it represents our dad in so many ways. It's titled "For The Best Dad Of All".

Dad

I am going to reply on this card to help me out a little bit. To help me remind you of how much you mean to me and what an important role you play in my life. You see, I realize that there's a big gap between the few

things I have said to you and the many things I would love to say. I hope this card will help narrow that gap, because I really want to share these thoughts with you... Dad, I think you already know how special you are to me, but just in case that you forgot that once in a while, I hope you'll remember this card. It's here to remind you that I love you far beyond the simple words I can say. I want you to know so many things that my hugs and smiles have tried, over the years, to tell you. Things about gratitude, closeness, admiration and hope. Whenever it seems like the world is short on heroes, I think of how much I look up to you. I've got my own hero, and always have. It's you, Dad – the one I turn to for guidance and wisdom, for reassurance and support. I appreciate it all so much. Thanks for being someone I can talk to and share my soul with. Thank you, Dad for your praise and patience, for teaching what you could and letting me learn a lot on my own. You encourage me to believe in the best and to keep walking tall. That's a quality I hope I'll always have, because it will always remind me of how close I am to you... The Best Dad of All.

My dad devoted his life to assuring the well-being of others. He believed in God and worshipped him with glory and love in his heart every single day. He spent his last few days reassuring us that he was going home, and that we shouldn't be sad for him. He will be missed by his children, Randy, Darrell, Jerry, Pat and myself and our families, as well as his wife Joyce and his stepsons, and he will be missed by you his friends.

Grace Osmond

J. Grace Osmond was born in Nipper's Harbour, Notre Dame Bay, and received her early education there. In order to start a teaching career, she first attended Summer School at Memorial University College to get her teaching training. This she did for several summers after teaching all year until she qualified for a Grade 1 Teaching Certificate.

Grace taught in United Church schools at South Brook, Wesleyville, Carmanville, Roberts Arm,



Nipper's Harbour, Windsor, Gander and finally at Springdale where she taught for twenty-three years before retiring from teaching in 1979. She spent a total of 31 years teaching in the Central Newfoundland area.

Like many other teachers of her day, Grace was heavily involved in church work, especially in the smaller communities where teachers were expected to be leaders and assistants to leaders. Accordingly, she assisted in and often conducted Sunday School sessions, and also helped conduct regular church services. At Grace United Church in Springdale she was involved with the Sunday School and a member of the choir for many years. She was Recording Secretary of the church for fourteen years, and was also Clerk of Session and Church Elder. To recognize her invaluable contribution to the Church and the United Church Women's Organization, she was made a Life Member of the U.C.W.

Outside the church, Grace was a volunteer in many community organizations and activities. She was Secretary of the local Red Cross Branch for twenty-

five years, Branch President for two terms and Campaign Chairman. For thirty-two years she served on the Public Library Board in Springdale. She was a member of the Hospital Auxillary and worked at the Hospital Gift Shop. She enjoyed visiting shut-ins, especially in the Senior Citizens' Home.

After her retirement in 1979, Grace became a very interested and active member of the Central Division of the RTA. Although she had to travel over four hundred kilometers on her return trip from Springdale to Gander, she rarely missed a meeting. She has been a good supporter of the RTF .

Grace parted this life at the James Paton Memorial Hospital in Gander on April 6, 2009, at the age of 90. She leaves to mourn her two sons: Ivan in Grand Falls-Windsor and Murray in Gander. Interment was at the United Church Cemetery in Springdale.

Reminder re Deceased Members

Please notify your Division President if you hear that any Member in your area has passed away. All Divisions make an annual donation to the Retired Teachers' Foundation in memory of their deceased members. Also, your Provincial Executive extends sympathy to their families and friends through our **In Memoriam** column, and honours their memory as we read their names from the **Honour Roll** during the Church Service portion of our Biennial Reunions. We need your help to make sure that every name is included in the **In Memoriam** column and on the **Honour Roll**.

Addresses • Addresses • Addresses

It has come to our attention that we may not be receiving address updates from the Pensions Division in the future. This change is due to the New Privacy Legislation.

Please advise your Divisional President, and also the Provincial Treasurer, Clayton Rice (52 Hollyberry Drive, Paradise, NL, A1L 0C1), if you have a change of address.

When mail is returned to RTANL because of a change of address, the name is removed from the mailing list. We would really like to keep our mailing list up to date so that we do not have mail returned.

Your cooperation in this matter would be much appreciated.



Honour Roll

The following is a list of the members who passed away since the inception of the Central Division of the Retired Teachers' Association in June 1980.

1981

Edgar Boland
Hayward T. Burden

1982

Ruby Boone (nee Bowring)
Susie Pike

1983

William (Bill) Bishop
Edna M. Warren

1984

Russell Crant
Violet Elliott
Howard S. Ford
Theodore (Ted) Jackman
Douglas Snelgrove

1985

Harold Morris
Mary Butler

1986

Frazer Banfield
Allan G. Dwyer
Gordon Perry
Beatrice Short

1988

Sr. Fabian Dunn

1989

Elizabeth (Betty) Collins
Angus Cook
Marjorie Gillingham
Alice Lacey
George Parsons
Stanley Whiteway

1990

Grace Gill
Harold B. Loder
Rev. Clarence C. Randell
Ishmael Tiller

1991

Berkley Abbott
Alfred Andrews
Ralph Gillingham
Connie Selidon
Arthur H. Young

1992

Sr. Bernadette Aucoin
Sr. Celestine Bouzanne
James Fitzgerald
Rowena Keeping
Felix Sellars

1993

Stewart Kelly
Mary MacIntyre
Marie Philpott
Melvin Slade
Willoughby Thomas
Aloysius Walsh
Irving Wheaton
Joseph Freeman White

1994

Owen William Burry
Rex Clarke
Ralph E. Evans
Eugenia (Marquez) Gallardo
Abram M. Gillett
Crystal Hoffe
Edwin Moore
Everett Whiteway

1995

Samuel D. Button
Netta Chappell
Janie Davis (nee Sparkes)
Leonard Eric Franson
Juanita Gillingham
Mary Kelly
Alice M. Murphy
Marion Noel
Rev. J. Merrill Rose

1996

Margaret Broaders
C. Lloyd Buffett
Hubert Dowding
Lawrence Gulliford
Florence Miller
Inez Nolan
Nellie Warren

1997

Emma Barbour
Allan Boyd
Effie Feltham
Dorothy Gwilliam
Florence Hogan
Marcus Hopkins
Sophie Kinden
Mildred Mills
Fred Morris
Elsie Peach
Nita Pelley
Derek Rockwood
George Sheppard
Abram Turner
Rex Vivian

Honour Roll

1998

H. Steven Brown
Elizabeth Head
Ruth Matthews
Maxwell Mullett
Truman Noel
Belle Pritchett
Stewart R. Toope

1999

Shirley Bulgin
Pat Conners
Leslie Duffett
Frederick Pleman Hale
Marina Hilario
James (Jim) Hill
Calvin Hobbs
Ruth Matthews
Frederick J. Newhook
Sandy Parsons
Willis Williams

2000

Marjorie Louise Cassell
Howard Elliott
Hubert Elliott
Jean Elliott
Meryl Marie (Croucher) Elliott
Barbara Anne Ennis
Elijah Feltham
Dean George A. Hickman
George Hiscock
Vernon W. Hiscock
Joan Ann (Martin) Kelly
Alice O'Keefe
Florence Starkes
Lloyd Stone
Douglas Gordon Sutton
Boyd Trask
Raymond Troke

2001

Elsie Bond
Marilyn Day
Wilson Eastman
Mervyn Roy Foster
Daniel Green
Albert Hall
Bernice LeGrow
Brig. Stella Russell
Stan Whiteway
N. Ray Wight

2002

Eno Necho
Norman Paddock

2003

Myles Blanchard
Cyril Bull
Pratt Burton
Stanley Coish
Wilson Earl
Blanche C. Gillett
Mary Grant
Audrey Goodyear
Ambrose Kelly
Mary Amelia McCormick
Elmo Piercey
Elizabeth Dorothy Rowsell
John Strowbridge
Rita Thompson

2004

Margaret Barker
Harry Moore
Eric Norman
Eric Rogers
Cluney Way
Clement Williams
Lorne Woolridge

2005

Robert Arklie
Bradford Baxendale
Gwen Budgell
Joan Clarke
Edward Combden
John Croke
Eric Gulliford
Frank Leyte
Wesley Robbins
Marie Rose
Harbhaian Manocha Singh
Nellie Small
Frank Smith
Raymond Smith
Sr. Gertrude Wall
Maunda Windsor
Georgina Young

2006

Lloyd C. Hatcher
Geraldine Hodder
Barry Jackman
Jaye Butler
David Jeans
Charles Lewis
Verna Lewis
Vina Meadus
Conrad Oldford
Maude Stride
Gertrude Thorne
Aubrey Wright

2007

Melvin Bown
William Burry
Doyle Burt
Pierce Foley
Mary Hannah Fudge
Mary E. McClean

Honour Roll

Wilfred Oliver
John Jacob Parsons
Warrick Pynn
Carrie Quinlan
Albert Samson
Ruby Violet Sutton
Marguerite Taylor
Wilfred Earl Young

2008

Audrey Bull
Wade Colbourne
Sylvia Foley
Leslie Ford
Barbara Heffernan
Catherine King
Joseph Nurse

Pierce Power
Amelia Rideout
Bernadette Shea
Nina Smith
Ronald Spurrell
Iona Grace Stuckless

2009

Doreen Andrews
Roy Babstock
Nellie Louise Bishop
Lloyd Blanchard
Jean Boyde
Stephen Bowering
Marlene Burton
Roland Clarke
Sr. M. Liguori Downey

Leslie Harris
Ruth Taylor Lacey
Mary Matthews
Edward Noftle
Grace Osmond
John Jacob Parsons
Roy Pilgrim
Rupert Short
Reginald Smart
David Taite
Irene Warford
Sherry Woolfrey

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Sick Visitation

All Divisions have Sick-Visiting Committees.

Please notify your Division as soon as you hear that any member is ailing at home or in hospital, so that visitations can be arranged. Members from other Divisions sent to hospital in St. John's will be visited by Avalon East members, if requested by those Divisions.

Early notification is essential. You may contact:

Clayton Rice

St. John's
782-8914

Jim Dobson

Grand Falls-Windsor
489-5243
or

Carol Sturge

new contact for Gander
256-7825

A Wonderful Resolution for the New Year

What amazing gifts the new year brings! An entire year's worth of wonderful opportunities, given to us one sunrise at a time. Many of the moments ahead will be marvelously disguised as ordinary days, but each one of us has the chance to make something extraordinary out of them.

Each new day is a blank page in the diary of your life. The secret of success is in turning that diary into the best story you possibly can. Have pages on understanding and tales of overcoming hardships. Fill the story with enthusiasm, adventure, learning, and laughter.

Make each chapter reflect time doing these things.

Follow your dreams. Work hard. Be kind. Do what you can to make the door open on a day that is filled with inspiration in some special way. Remember: Goodness will be rewarded. Smiles will pay you back. Have fun.

Find strength. Be truthful. Have faith. Don't focus on anything you lack. Realize that people are the treasures in life, and happiness is the real wealth. Have a diary that describes how you're doing your best, and the rest will take care of itself.

INFORMATION ON DECEASED TEACHERS

Retired Teachers' Association CENTRAL DIVISION

Name: _____
(include maiden name where applicable)

Place of Birth: _____
(country, province, town, city, bay, etc.)

Date of Birth: _____
(day, month, year)

Early Education: _____
(primary, elementary, secondary school attended)

Post-secondary Education: _____
(college, university, degrees and dates)

Years of Experience Teaching: _____

Names of Communities and Schools Taught In: _____
(include positions held, first teaching position, when, where; plus time spent as: classroom teacher, administrator, board person)

Date of Retirement: _____ Date and Place of Death: _____

Place of Interment: _____

Other Pertinent Information: _____
(community activities, church activities, volunteer work, hobbies, awards or honours received, travels, any reference in newspaper clippings)

Additional information may be included on a separate sheet. **Please enclose photograph.**

Date: _____

Name of person submitting the above information: _____

Address of person submitting information (include phone number): _____

PLEASE FORWARD TO:

Jim Dobson
3 Power Street
Grand Falls-Windsor, NL
A2A 2W3