

Grade One ^{608/51} Teacher Honoured

Over 100 friends and former pupils honoured Miss Freda Leathorne at reception held last month at Fairfield School on the occasion of her twenty-fifth anniversary as a teacher of Grade One.

W. R. Mitchell, chairman of the School Board, presented the guest of honour with a handsome set of luggage as a token of the appreciation and affection of the School Board and members of the teaching staff. Allan Lancefield presided for the presentation of a radio and a beautiful ring set with sapphires and diamonds from the Fairfield Home and School Association and former pupils and friends.

Mrs. Kenneth Wright, who was a pupil of Miss Leathorne in her first year at Fairfield; Jack Aken, former secretary of the School Board, and Norman Dalglish, principal, also paid glowing tribute to the faithful service of the popular teacher. Others taking part in the program were Lois and Eleanor Unsworth, Elaine Scotchburn, Charles Aldridge, Mrs. J. Reicheld and Beverley Greene.

Pouring tea were: Mrs. William Mitchell, Mrs. C. Goodbrand, Mrs. J. Aken, Mrs. A. Lancefield and Mrs. William Tyrell. Refreshments were served by Mrs. Jack Easterbrook, jr., social convener of the Fairfield Home and School Association, and her committee.

With Patience And Love

She Moulded Her Pupils Into Citizens

By VICKY INNES
Spectator Lakeshore Bureau

BURLINGTON — In six days, Miss Isabel McInnis will teach her Grade 5 class at Maplehurst Public School for the last time.

Her leavetaking on June 29 however, will be very different from those of past years.

For Miss McInnis will be saying "goodbye", not only to her pupils but to her fellow teachers and the school in which she taught for the past 40 years. She has taught two generations of some families.

DURING those years at Maplehurst, the quiet, unassuming teacher has become almost a legend in the area.

She is perhaps best known for her leadership in church and school choirs, operettas and concerts.

And her ability to teach — with undefinable effective discipline — is generally described by such words as "outstanding" or "excellent."

Her retirement, says Mr. Ronald S. Campbell, principal of Maplehurst, will leave a gap that can probably never be filled.

IN HONOR of this woman who has quietly charmed pupils and friends alike, an open house will be held tomorrow at Maplehurst from 2 to 4 p.m. for all former students, and friends.

More than 200 signatures had been gathered in a book for Miss McInnis. A presentation will be made by former students.

The object of this praise is a shy, unprepossessing woman with a deep love for children and infinite patience.

Born in Kirkfield, about 50 miles north of Oshawa, Miss McInnis was educated there, at Lindsay Collegiate and Peterborough Normal School. She taught for one year at Kirkfield before coming to the then three-room Maplehurst School where she has been ever since.

"**WE GOT** to know the pupils better than since we had them for three years," said Miss McInnis.

She recalls working on school fairs with demonstrations in such things as first-aid and making preserves.

Her music festivals, Christmas concerts and operettas at the school were famous in the community.

For years, under her guidance, school choral groups won almost every competition at the former Wentworth County Music Festival.

Until recently, she directed the junior choir at East Plains United Church, where she is a member of the United Church Women, and still leads the Grades 4 to 6 choir.

Miss McInnis notices little difference between her students now and when she first entered the profession.

They are still keen and too young and lively to be conformists, she said.

She also finds the curriculum basically the same.

"Home economics and manual training used to be called frills," she noted. "Science has less emphasis on agriculture now and more time is spent on organized activities."

MR. CAMPBELL said of her work that "teachers always recognize former students of Miss McInnis by their attitude, work habits and deportment."

Note - books of her students were well set up, neat and generally accurate and the children were serious about doing their work properly, he said.

"Discipline programs problems are non-existent," he added. "She never raises her voice or uses physical force to maintain order and she has never sent anyone to the office."



Forty years of teaching at the same school is the record of Miss Isabel McInnis, of Aldershot. The Grade five class she is teaching here, at Maplehurst School, is her last, since she retires next Friday.

ASKED the secret of her success, Miss McInnis smiled softly as she said: "I guess I try to keep students busy and interested."

She has tried to instill in her pupils a sense of honesty and to make them good students and future citizens, he said.

And, looking ahead, she is only "partly" looking forward to retirement. She leaves soon for Vancouver, B.C. where she will live with her sister and possibly teach Sunday school.

"But it's difficult to leave Maplehurst and Burlington where I've been so long," she said. "People have always been so wonderfully kind."