

**HALTON'S PEOPLE**

# Longtime teacher discusses education of old

By **MAGGIE HANNAH**  
Herald staff writer

The one room red brick school started to disappear from Halton and Wellington counties 25 years ago and by the early 1960s the multi-room school was firmly established. Looking back Vera Denny sees advantages to both types of school.

Mrs. Denny has taught at Ospringe Public School since it opened 14 years ago and has been the librarian there now for several years. Last year she also taught history, geography, science and creative English to 38 senior students. It takes quite a different

approach in the classroom to switch from librarian to teacher and students get a bit of a jolt when they discover the relatively easy-going lady who helped them look for information for projects or choose a good, entertaining book suddenly demands their full attention and their assignments done on time when she leaves the library to teach a class.

**LEARNS NAMES**  
Mrs. Denny says she learns all the youngsters names as they come in during Grade one and by the time she gets them in her class she has become reasonably well acquainted with them.

This is Mrs. Denny's 25th year as a teacher but she took time off for a few other experiences along the way.

She attended Hamilton Teachers' College and her first school was a one room type at Mount Forrest. There were only 16 youngsters but they attended eight different churches and a lot of them weren't speaking to each other over religious differences. That was more than she wanted to try to cope with so she left at the end of the first year.

Her second school was at Durham and although she liked it well enough commuting to her home north of

Hockwood each weekend ate a big hole in her salary. Her third year was spent at Pine Grove School in Esquesing just west of the Ninth Line on Five Sideroad. She left there in June 1946 because she was needed at home.

Her mother had a serious operation and her grandmother had a heart attack and that left the family short of hands on a 300-acre farm with several thousand chickens, a teacher boarder and a hired man all requiring someone to keep them fed and their home clean. By spring things were well enough in hand that she could look for a job away from the farm and she started working in Ryans' department store in Guelph.

**RATHER COMPATIBLE**  
She found a rather compatible staff at Ryans. The manager was a former teacher and so were several other members of the staff. Like herself a number of them have since returned to the classroom, she says.

She married Clarence Denny that fall and went back to teaching in the spring when the teacher at Woodside Public School had to leave over family health problems.

After that she took 10 years off to raise two sons and a daughter and returned to the classroom in September 1957. Again she went to a one room school in Erin township and again she stayed only one year. The next year she had a call from two school board trustees on the same day. One wanted her for an Erin school while the other one wanted her to come to Esquesing. The Erin man arrived first and she has been with that board ever since.

She spent seven years with the pupils at Woodside school and moved with them to Ospringe when the school closed in 1965. She had all eight grades in the beginning but the grade seven and eight were sent to Brishane school in 1962 because she would have had more than 50 students if they had remained.

Even now she refers to the Woodside students as "my kids" because she had them the longest. Although teachers try not to get involved with their students Mrs. Denny acknowledges how hard that is when you have them for many years.

"I remember my last year I had nine grade ones and nine grade sixes," she says. "We had a very good system worked out. Each Sixth grader had a partner in grade One and it was the older student's job to take that partner and listen to his reading or do a word drill or help him on a particular task first thing after we finished the opening exercise. While they did that I got the other classes settled for their morning's lessons. Then by the time they were finished and the little ones were busy on their seat work I was free to spend the rest of the period with the Sixth graders. It worked very well."

**KIDS' GROUPS**

"There's a lot to be said for groups of kids at different levels seeing what's coming ahead and reviewing what's over as they watch the other classes going on around them."

New methods and new ideas come and go in teaching as in any other profession but sometimes the new ideas don't prove as successful as their proponents imagined they would be. One such change

**THE BANKRUPTCY ACT**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

IN THE MATTER OF THE BANKRUPTCY OF Royal Craft Corporation, a private Ontario Corporation, with Head Office in the Town of Milton, in the Regional Municipality of Halton, in the Province of Ontario.

Notice is hereby given that Royal Craft Corporation filed an Assignment on the 10th day of September, 1979, and that the first meeting of creditors will be held on the 28th day of September, 1979, at the hour of 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon, at the office of the Official Receiver, 70 Weber Street East, Grand Jury Room No. 230, in the City of Kitchener, in the Province of Ontario.

DATED AT GUELPH, this 13th day of September, 1979.  
Lloyd Youngman & Co. Inc.,  
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involved the elimination of drilling on number facts and multiplication tables a few years ago. The superintendent who visited Ospringe felt that drills were boring and the youngsters didn't need them very much. He even went so far as to almost forbid teachers to drill these areas. Mrs. Denny disagreed with the theory but of course there was no way she could argue the matter. She just made sure no one, including her principal, knew she was drilling tables. Then when the superintendent's child reached the Seventh

grade and it was discovered he didn't know his tables his father suddenly found himself drilling tables with his son. That was the last time the teachers heard anything about drills being non-essentials.

**EARNED BA**

Mrs. Denny earned her BA from Sir Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo in 1970 and her library supervisor's certificate in 1972.

She remembers her year at teacher's college as a "real bore" although a couple of her

classmates have managed to draw considerable attention to themselves since then.

"We were seated alphabetically in those days," Mrs. Denny says, "and Leslie came in the middle between Judy LaMarsh and Florence Irvine."

Judy LaMarsh, former Liberal cabinet minister in the Pearson and early Trudeau governments, needs very little explanation to Canadians but Florence Irvine, head of the Ontario Women Teachers' Federation is less well known.



**ENJOYS HER HOBBIES**

As a farmer's daughter Vera Denny learned to pickle and make jam and freeze food for her family. She enjoys gardening and is collecting miniature violets at the present. She also loves to crochet and read and makes about three quills a year.

(Herald photo)

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