

Monday afternoon bridge results

Winners: 1) Rene March and Karol Tobiasz 2) Cora Fairbridge and George Sargent and 3) Jake Timpson and Mike Lorusso. No bridge Monday, Oct. 12th - Thanksgiving. Bridge will resume Oct. 19th at 1 p.m.



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By Wendy Long

Ruth Forgrave is a lifetime Halton Hills resident who began her teaching career at Ashgrove School in 1929.

The school is still standing as a home on Trafalgar Road.

Often Mrs. Forgrave, 82, will meet former students from her 1930's one-room schoolhouse that are now retired citizens themselves.

Mrs. Forgrave grew up where the Allison Farm is, and remembers riding in horse and buggy past Georgetown District High School when there were only five teachers there, which included the principal.

Mrs. Forgrave taught much of her life. "I loved my work," she said. "I've always had a keen interest in teaching."

She was forced to quit in 1937 when she got married because married women weren't allowed to teach.

When Mrs. Forgrave was widowed in 1950 she began teaching again, and remained a teacher until her retirement almost 22 years ago.

"The salary was \$900 per annum - quite a reasonable wage in those depression years," said Mrs. Forgrave of her first teaching position at Ashgrove.

"Picture opening day, Sept. 1929," wrote Mrs. Forgrave in a memoir for Halton Hills This Week entitled Memories of a Country School Marm. "About 30 pupils, ranging in age from five year old beginners to an advanced class of 14 year olds who had already graduated into high school."

She would just get a handful of students settled when another class started calling for help.

Mrs. Forgrave was 19, straight from the Toronto Normal School.



Mrs. Ruth Forgrave began teaching in Halton Hills at Ashgrove School, a one-room schoolhouse, in 1929.

"Nobody had taught us how to cope with such a situation. I felt a little like a lamb having been brought to the slaughter," said Mrs. Forgrave.

The daily program fell into place, however, and Mrs. Forgrave was pleased by how well the older children helped out the younger ones.

She remembers Harvey Nurse, a fifth grader, as their reliable fireman.

Harvey would arrive at the school in time to light the stove and have the school warm by the time everyone else arrived, no mean task when the temperature would be below freezing in the building in the dark of winter.

As well as being a teacher, Mrs. Forgrave was responsible for the duties of being principal, compiling

monthly and annual reports. She carefully kept the daily attendance register.

"It was quite a relief," recalled Mrs. Forgrave, "when the inspector, J.M. Denyes, on his semi-annual visit, would sign the register, indicating all was well."

Mrs. Forgrave said she well remembers Mr. Denyes' prediction on one of his visits.

"You know, he said, eventually all these one-room schools will be closed and the children bussed to a central school in the area."

Mrs. Forgrave agrees that there are advantages to the bigger schools, but said that "somehow the rural community lost a very meaningful part of its heritage when their school was closed."

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