NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2023.

GOING TO SCHOOL (1939 to 1951).

I began my schooldays at Forth in 1939 & remember Miss Bryce, the infant teacher, had a tiled fireplace in her classroom & when it was cold or wet we were allowed to spread our gloves on the hearth to dry & get warm. When the blackboard duster got too chalky she would choose one of us to take it outside & “dadd” it on the wall. She was a strict lady, but obviously had a heart of gold. Every year we had a visit from the school dentist & you would get a letter home to say that you would need a tooth out. Mine seemed to be a bit soft & I always had to go every time. You had to take one of your dad’s hankies & a scarf for your mouth, join the queue waiting on chairs outside the medical room till your name was called. The only bonus was going home afterwards. I recall one year I was having a back tooth out & when the dentist pulled the pliers the tooth broke up & I screamed. One of the boys in the queue ran away & I met him in the street on my way home! In 1945 I sat the “grading exam” & went to Lanark Grammar, travelling by bus. One year the snow shut the Lanark road so we walked to Wilsontown station & got the train to school.

In 1948 we moved to Easterhouse farm & the journey to school was a bit more complicated. Winifred Smith’s dad was the local postman, paperboy & taxi, so he took us down to Auchengray station, where we boarded the train from Wilsontown to Lanark, via Carnwath & Carstairs, picking up passengers at each place on the way. Later on we got our own designated school bus for Tarbrax, Woolfords & Auchengray, owned by Gordon Wilson’s dad, who started his business with a converted hearse in Carnwath. You only got a pass for the school bus if you lived more than 3 miles (I think) from the school, otherwise you had to walk or get a lift. Most class sizes then were around 40 pupils & I don’t recall any extra-curricular activities at primary school. We got “gym” in the hall once a week, & music was singing from a book if the school had a teacher who could play the piano. At Lanark I got hockey, & twice I was on a Lanimer lorry at the time when you had to produce an item for the concert at night, where I expect I got the bug for singing & dancing. How I appreciate the talent & dedication of those teachers I had all those years ago.

I would like to thank Janina, Yvonne & all the others who gave our children such lovely memories at Santa’s Grotto & other events over Xmas. Someday one of them may do what I am doing now.

Thank you.

Grace.