

# The atmosphere in the classroom is more relaxed

(continued from page C2)

**MRS. B:** There are many many of my pupils who are very prominent, and all are important to me. One that you know well is Doctor Julius Smith. You call him Dr. J.D. — but to me, he will always be my Julius. I also taught Jack and Fred Stanfield of N.H.L. fame. And Kim Clement, who says he never forgets his old teacher, and is studying law in Toronto. Natalia Krawetz and Alex Thomas Jr. There are so many — I can't begin to name them all. I have loved every child I've taught. Even today, they are always — my pupils!

**ME:** What changes do you think have been most prominent in the school system since you began to teach?

**MRS. B:** The relaxed atmosphere in the classroom. This I've always been in favor of, so it hasn't affected me too much. My children have always been allowed to get out of their seat to look at the raindrops or a bird, the sunshine, or a squirrel. This would be something that would be an experience. I always had understanding teachers myself. One teacher I had in Etobicoke Collegiate — Andrew Wallace — I still keep in touch with him. He is a remarkable man — and this was his theory, that you could get up providing you didn't disturb the class. He encouraged me to go into teaching. He said, Mildred, don't ever give up your idea of being a teacher. When you have young people seated in front of you, you will know that they are perhaps going to be a doctor, lawyer or leader of the country; but remember this, you are there to give them encouragement, and this is the main thing — and you can do it. I always remember him telling me that.

**ME:** Having worked with children so long, what satisfaction have you acquired down through the years?

**MRS. B:** I get a great deal of satisfaction when I see someone, who I have had a little hand in their education, doing something worthwhile.

**ME:** Having lived here all your life, does the enormous amount of progress affect you — the growth and change of our beloved hometown?

**MRS. B:** Yes, of course, because — perhaps for we who are oldest in the township — this has been much too fast. When I think of walking along the center of the Middle Road (Q.E. Hwy.) in my bare feet and feeling the hot sand — I can remember that quite well. That shows how fast we have moved ahead.

**ME:** When did you meet and marry Jack?

**MRS. B:** I met Jack when I was going to normal school, (Etobicoke Collegiate) and we got married in 1931. Our children are all married now, and we have 17 grandchildren. (I complimented her on this marvelous achievement.)

**ME:** What is the background of his family tree?

**MRS. B:** He was born in Peterborough. His mother died when his father was overseas in the first world war, and he was raised by his uncle on a ranch in Saskatchewan. He

came back here in 1929. When I met him, he had intentions of going back to Saskatchewan, but then he changed his mind.

**ME:** When did Jack venture into sports in South Peel?

**MRS. B:** In 1946 — he was one of the founders of the T.T.H.L. (now Mississauga Hockey League) along with Dusty Miller and Alf McCallum, who was the first president.

**ME:** What year was Jack president of the league?

**MRS. B:** Jack was the second. He was made president in '49 and again in 1950 — two years. He was president when the Dixie arena first opened.

**ME:** He is timekeeper for the Dixie Bees now, right? How long has he been associated with the Junior B team?

**MRS. B:** Six years. He enjoys being timekeeper. He is also proud to say the year the arena was built (1949) he kept time for 600 games.

**ME:** Are you a hockey fan?

**MRS. B:** Yes — although I don't go to the games too much now. But when Jack was first involved with Junior B years ago, the whole family went — even to out of town games in Ingersoll, Simcoe, Owen Sound and Belleville — we all went along.

**ME:** What other endeavours has Jack been involved in with the growth of the town?

**MRS. B:** He was a member of the Recreation committee. He's coached softball. He was on the Toronto Township Centennial committee in 1950. But mostly sports — the hockey league mainly. He's kept a close eye on its growth down through the years.

**ME:** I believe history has always been your favorite subject.

**MRS. B:** When I was a little girl, I was doing my homework, and it happened to be on Indians. My Grandfather Goldthorpe was sitting nearby, and he told me this story about his father. One time when Great Grandfather Goldthorpe was ploughing on his property, where Crestview plaza is now — he cleared that area in the 1840s — he found a metal medal, which was unusual to find in that vicinity because this was virgin soil. He took the medal to his log cabin and cleaned it off. Later some Mississauga Indians came into his bush and he went to greet them as he always did, because he always welcomed the Indians to his land. He held out the medal to them, and a young chief just reached out and grabbed it and held it to his breast, and said, My father's — my father's! He was so grateful because his father had received it from King George III. Apparently his father had died in battle and they never had been able to find his medal, which he always wore around his neck. This chief was so grateful that they always brought gifts to my grandfather's family after that. Perhaps that's when my first interest in history came in.

**ME:** How long have you been writing the "A Letter from Home" column for the Mississauga Review?

**MRS. B:** Since January 1969 — and it all started this way.

When our son-in-law was moved by his company to Vancouver, it was pretty hard for Ruth to leave her family — but, she left very bravely. So, in order to fill her in on the times, I wrote her long letters. Then, my friend, Betty Clarkson (author of *The Gateway to the Credit*), suggested I put my letters in the paper. So I approached Mrs. Williams, and she said she would love to try it. I certainly didn't expect to carry on this long. But, I enjoy it.

**ME:** Where do you obtain the facts you write about?

**MRS. B:** My own files mostly — kind people send me articles. This is really gratifying to me when people think enough to send something of historical value to me.

**ME:** How long does it take to prepare a column?

**MRS. B:** Sometimes hours — and then sometimes the articles I receive are already typed out and I use these.

**ME:** Do you do any other writing?

**MRS. B:** No — this is all I do. I hope sometime to compile these letters into something a little more tangible — maybe stories in sequence in book form.

**ME:** When was the Mississauga Historical Society formed?

**MRS. B:** In 1963.

**ME:** I know Malcolm Gray and Harold Hare have been presidents. Who is president now?

**MRS. B:** Mr. Walker Archer is our president, and we have approximately 60 members. We hold our meetings (Texaco Room - P.C. Library) every two months, and anyone can come to the meetings without being a member. We're always interested in people coming.

**ME:** What is the Historical Society's full function?

**MRS. B:** We want to create an interest in our past history. We place historical documents of our community into our libraries, and people who are interested in using our files — they are in the libraries for that purpose. We document old cemeteries and get the past history of old houses etc. We want to leave these to our young people, to make them aware and give them pride in their heritage. Perhaps our biggest function is the formation of a work group to help to maintain Bradley House in Clarkson.

**ME:** What philosophy do you have about life?

**MRS. B:** I love life in general. I'm the most fortunate person because I have a wonderful family.

**ME:** I know you are a very religious woman. Do you believe fully in faith and God controlling your destiny?

**MRS. B:** Yes — I believe in a power beyond comprehension, and this power — God — controls our destiny.

**ME:** Do you hold on to old-fashioned values?

**MRS. B:** Yes, I certainly do — but I apply them with the modern concept. The values that most of us use are not really so old-fashioned, but a code of ethics, which must continue if civilization is to endure, and a united brotherhood to become a reality.