

## A SCHOOLGIRL'S WARTIME MEMORIES.

TE AWAMUTU DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL IN THE FORTIES  
Ngairi Mabel Phillips, nee Johnson

I was ten years old when Hitler marched on Poland, so beginning the Second World War. On September 3, 1939 Great Britain was at war against Germany. During the six years that followed, New Zealand, along with other countries of the British Empire, became very involved. Through the large Sunday School at the old Pirongia Methodist Hall, the work of the Ladies' Guild with their fund raising, the bazaars and the harvest festivals when we joined with the Anglicans of St Saviour's Church, we knew many of the Pirongia families – the Bells, the Ormsbys, the McKeowns, the Bardsley twins, Anna and Bob, the Eyres, the Lyfords, Arthur and Mrs Chappell and their red-haired daughter Una, Sid and Sally Waite, George Sims, Thelma and Ted Hanning, Jocelyn Cairns and her father "Pod", the de Thierrys, the Beets.

I remember many of the Pirongia boys who joined the forces, the Tamaki boys, Sam and Rollo from Kawhia Road, and many of their mates of the same age group. The departure that made the most impact on us was that of the three Dixon boys – Maurice, who was for years a German prisoner of war, Ron and Bert. Before Bert went to the war, probably in 1941, he had been our Sunday School teacher, picking up a carload of children who included the Tamaki girls, Topa, Ata and Gloria.

One of the days I particularly remember was when Bert took us up Pirongia Mountain up the Wharaurua Route to Mahaukura, the peak above McClunie's on O'Shea's Road. Barbara Woolly who was also a schoolmate of mine at Mangapiko School, and I were only 9 years old. We found the going hard and Bert took our hands and helped pull us up the track. Ata was tired out and wanted to be left on the track to wait until we got back – a never-never in the bush. Eventually we all made it to the top, the first of several climbs I did in the years to come.

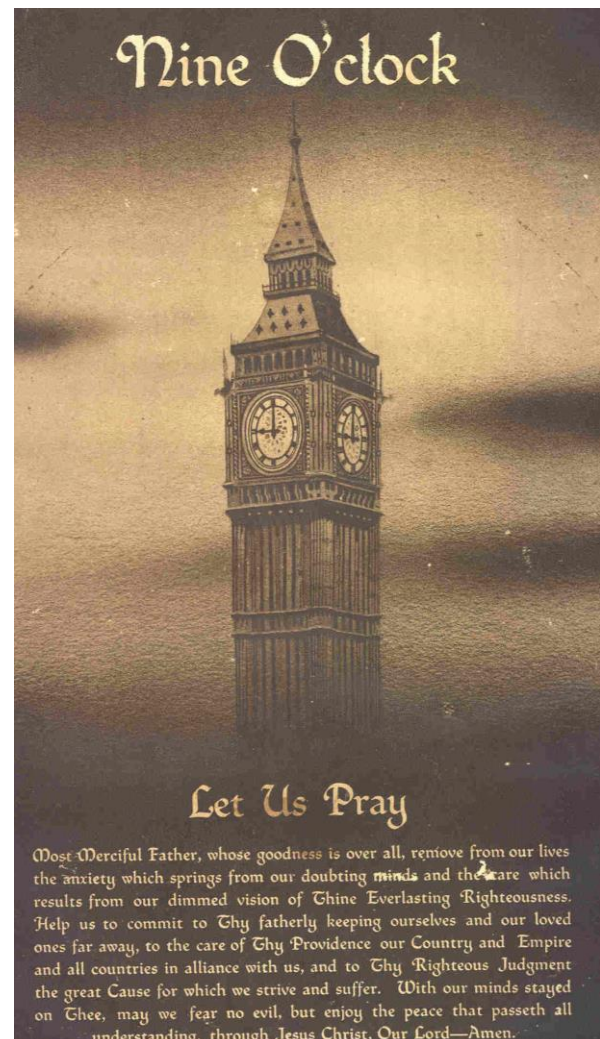
Bert sent us a photo taken of himself in uniform on 19th April 1942 on the Mount of Olives in Palestine when he was serving in the 2nd N.Z. Expeditionary Force. He did not want to fight, but he did his bit by being an ambulance driver.

As the war went on from year to year and I grew into my teens, I remember, the tolling of the Big Ben on



Bert Dixon, in Palestine

England's Parliament buildings, and listening to the BBC News and prayer which followed, something we waited for at 9 o'clock every night.



In 1939 I was a Standard 3 pupil at Te Awamutu Primary School in the building that was formerly the High School. There were four classrooms, Standards 1A and 1B, and 4A and 4B. With the consolidation and closing of many country schools we were taken to Te Awamutu from Mangapiko on a Hodgson Motors bus. George Watson and Bernie de Fresne were the drivers. For a short time until the bus run was changed, we had to walk to the Mangapiko Hall. From there the bus route took us around Paterangi, Pirongia, Kawhia Road and back to Te Awamutu. Over the years there were many changes to the route. Ralph and Marjorie Finn drove a car from Te Rore to meet the bus at Pirongia. When the Education Board's red buses took over the run, metalwork teacher Tom Stancliffe (nicknamed Rosy or Pinky) was the driver.



Te Awamutu District High School Form 1A 1941

Bruce Anderson, Graham Price, Colin Jones, Dick Barham, David Yule, Graham White, Ian Purdie, Errol Peterson, Dick Hemmings  
 Graham Jamieson, Bill Moxham, Barry Parker, Eric Harden, Don Clifford, Francis Moore, Eric Dibble, Gayton Hodgson, Bruce Bedford, Don Murtagh  
 Norma Olson, Barbara Woolly, Edna Marquis, Ruby Pethybridge, Gloria Turner, Thelma Grey, Jeanette Wyllie, Betty Anderson, Margaret Baird  
 Margaret Harding, Noeline Summers, Elaine North, Ngaire Cook, Valerie Owens, Nelda (or Nalda) Semple, Noeline Owens, Ida Lees, Valerie Richards,  
 Ngaire Johnson, Doris Jones, Norma Beet, Jocelyn Moore, Marie Rigby

I well remember the opening of the new District High School. We were marched down from Teasdale Street to Alexandra Street. The Hon. Mr Peter Fraser, the Minister of Education opened the school with a speech that no one could hear. He refused to use a microphone.

The first 141 secondary and 157 Intermediate pupils moved in on May 25, 1939.

I was an Intermediate pupil in 1941. French was included in our Form IA and Form 2A subjects. In 1943 I became a High School pupil – in the classrooms at the north-eastern end of the building. When the weather would allow the whole school would line up on the concrete apron in front of the flagpole and after saluting the N.Z. flag we would march into the school hall for assembly to the Colonel Bogey or Invercargill Marches played on the piano by ear by Beverley Betts (later Bev Kay). There we would sing a hymn and listen to a Bible reading before dispersing to our classrooms.

Each class had its own room and the teachers came to us except when we went to Manual, cooking, sewing, woodwork or metalwork and commercial subjects – type writing and shorthand. There were classes when for a term each year boys would go to cooking and girls would learn something of woodwork. I still have a book holder made of wood with a kotare (kingfisher) painted on it, mounted on a plywood base, underneath Form IA, 8/10 marks.

In the senior years Meg Malone and I who were in the academic classes wanted to learn to type so we had typewriters in a very tiny room and the two of us worked on our own using the work sheets of exercises that the Commercial classes used. This was where I learned the basic fingering which was never forgotten. Mr Stanley C. Jeune was the commercial teacher who allowed us to do this whenever I wanted to dodge physical education or swimming.





### **Te Awamutu District High School Staff October 1945.**

Back Row: Mervyn Robbins, John Elliott, \*Brampton Clark (History), \*George (Gus) Warring, \*Charles Meads (Geography), \*Stanley Jeune (Commercial), Raymond Blennerhassett, \*A. Lloyd Gilmore (Mathematics, Arithmetic), Tom Stancliffe [Pinky or Rosy] (Metalwork and Pirongia bus driver).

Front Row: \*Vivien Gittos [Sam] (Woodwork), \*Grace Aplin (English), Ann Hatrick (Home Science), \*Eunice Clare (Sewing), Henry Rochfort - Headmaster, Elsie Scarfe, \*Beryl Hooton, Dorothy Wilks, \*Jean Clark, Phillip Chapman.

Grace Aplin had become our English teacher on the retirement of Chloe R. Lehndorf (Aunty) who taught at the school from 1924 until 1944.

\*High School. # Whole School. Others Intermediate School.

(Many years later, on a visit to the College I found that the little room big enough for two, was used for storing tins of paint.)

(I bought a Baby Hermes typewriter while at Teachers' College. In later years when the children were young I had the opportunity of going to classes at the Te Awamutu College for two years where adults could work with the Fourth Formers and I eventually passed Typewriting in School Certificate with 87 marks after the first year, and Trade A certificate in the second year as I wanted to learn Office Practice. The teacher, Mrs Jean Hull was very pleased with my results and so was I).

At school we sang all the National songs of the Allies – The National Anthem – God Save the King (always sung before the start of a film or a concert), the NZ Anthem - God of Nations, the French - la Marsellaise, American National Anthem - Star-Spangled Banner, the Russian National Anthem - Internationale, Advance Australia Fair, the Fijian Isa

Lei and Sarie Marais – a South African Folk song sung by marching soldiers.

We also had a repertoire of Maori Songs: Maori Battalion March to Victory, Pokarekare Ana, Hoesa Ra (Come ye maidens welcome here) E Pari Ra, Waiata Poi, Hoki Hoki Tonu Mai, Akoako O te Rangi and others.

My mother was a very competent classical pianist. She could read anything by sight but play nothing by ear. Modern music was a no-no and no-way was I allowed to even try playing by ear. Learning the pop songs of the day was frowned upon but we pupils used to sit on the wooden slats of the High School steps along the verandah where we ate our lunches in the sun. (When it rained we ate our sandwiches in the classroom.) While enjoying the sunshine we sang all the songs of the day. "Blue Smoke", "Ma, I miss your apple pie", "Nursie, Come over here and hold my hand", "Bless 'em All", "The Old Tin Helmet", "The Army, the Navy and the Air Force and

"From the Halls of Montezuma  
to the shores of Tripoli.....  
You will always find us on the job,  
The United States Marines."

Another song which became very popular was "Coming in on a Wing and a Prayer." One Sunday during the war the preacher at the Pirongia Methodist Church (in the old Church Hall, built in 1875) brought a visitor with him. I can't remember either of their names, but I do remember the visitor going up to the pulpit (a sloping lidded box on a table) and telling us the story of the song. He was actually on that plane that the song was written about.

My mother was horrified when we sang songs such as

"Put your arms around me honey, hold me tight,  
Huddle up and cuddle up with all your might.  
Oh, oh, won't you roll those eyes,  
Eyes that I just idolize.  
When I look at you my heart begins to float,  
Then it starts a-rocking like a motor-boat,  
Oh, Oh, I never knew any boy (girl) like you."

I particularly remember the broadcast of a concert by the English singer Gracie Fields (January 9, 1898 – September 27, 1979) when "The Lass from Lancashire", performed in Auckland. She travelled far and wide entertaining the forces. She was very agile and the fact that she did a cartwheel on stage as part of her act impressed me – something I never learned to do. Some of her evergreen songs were: "Sing as we go", "Mrs Binns' Twins", "The Biggest Aspidistra in the World", "We've got to Keep up with the Jones's" and "Wish Me Luck as You Wave me Goodbye." Her most well-known song that was hers was "Sally."

Another very well-known entertainer was Vera Lynn, (March 20, 1917 –June 18, 2020, aged 103), who made her name with the Forces with songs like: "I'll be Seeing You", "As Time Goes By", "Wish Me Luck", "A Nightingale Sang in Berkley Square", "I Will Wait for You", "This is the Army Mr Jones", "The White Cliffs of Dover", "We'll Meet Again", and the song that everyone knew and sang, "There'll Always be an England", not forgetting New Zealand's own "Now is the Hour."

I learned piano first from Iris Johnson (Uncle Cyril's wife) whose house I passed by, walking to and from Mangapiko School over the paddocks, then from Jean Ferguson (later Trubshoe) when Mangapiko School closed on May 6, 1939 and we went to school in Te Awamutu from May 22. With Jean I sat Royal Schools and Trinity College exams from Grade 3 to 7.

Because Music was a School Certificate subject, I could spend hours in her studio studying from her books, dodging physical education.

As the Japanese came closer to our shores, closer than we ever knew until later years when we were told about the mini submarines and the mines laid around the coast (the ship "Niagara" was hit by a mine near the Hen and Chicken Islands 19 June 1940), concrete road blocks were set up. There is still one on the Old Mountain Road to Raglan. At these blocks, logs were set up to drop on the roads. All windows were covered with blackout material that looked like thick tarred paper so that not a chink of light showed outside. I remember my mother being very particular about it.

Dad did not go to war. He did not pass the fitness test. He was unfit as in October 1938 he had a nasty accident off a horse while chasing a bull. He never went to hospital but was nursed at home. It wasn't until the army test that it was found that he had broken his pelvis at that time.

Many of those who did not go to war were in the Home Guard. I knew my father went out at nights and just had dummy wooden guns for practice, but other than that we knew nothing about it. Dad could not keep up with the exercises so was transferred to the EPS (Emergency Precautions Scheme). He had a list of names to phone if there was an emergency. There was real fear that the Japanese would strike. Many farmers and farm hands went away and so Land Girls were employed on farms, but not on Dad's. Uncle Henry employed one at Paterangi. Girls trained to do much of the work previously done by men. Herd testing was done by girls who visited the farms with their horse and cart until well after the war, even when we were farming ourselves.

In 1941 I went to Te Awamutu District High School as a Form I pupil and attended High School right through the war, leaving at the end of 1946 from Form 6. We did many activities to help the war effort.

When we finished our work for the period, we would fill in spare time using netting shuttles and thin rope to make camouflage nets that were hung from the top of the blackboards on the wall. Of course, the blackboards could not then be used for writing on. Wool was gathered off the fences and some of us were taught to spin at school so that the thick yarn could be knitted up into thick socks for the navy boys. Ergot, the black fungus that grew on cocksfoot seed heads, was gathered. There was plenty of it, especially on road frontages in those days as the seed was included in the seed mix bought for cultivating paddocks. We were told ergot was used to stop bleeding. The roadsides were not mown or fed off by cattle and so many varieties of grasses and weeds grew.

Every week the senior boys got into uniform and all the boys paraded with their teacher Warrant Officer George D. Warring (Gus). He commanded the Cadets for fourteen years and rose to the rank of Major

Gus joined the staff in the Intermediate Department and transferred to Secondary. He taught many subjects – social studies, English, chemistry, agriculture and horticulture. He also encouraged singing, leading the singing that was included in the assemblies in the school hall every morning, and for school concerts.

When Mr Ray Blennerhassett returned from the war, he also was very good with the singing. He was a very tall strong-looking man, but his breathing was affected by the desert sand on his lungs.

When in the fifth form, at one concert on the High School stage I was one of three soloists who each sang a verse of "The Holy City."

While the boys were at Cadets drill the girls went to home care and Red Cross classes, learning how to cook, care for babies and children, and simple first aid. Part of this was learning how to bath dolls. We rolled many bandages for Red Cross as part of the war effort. At the end of a home care course we girls were sent to those people who would allow us to bath real babies and this was how I first met Olive Bunce when I went to bath Hilary, or was it Helen?

Air raid sirens were often heard as practice for getting out of sight in case the Japanese planes should arrive. There was a long trench dug at school

under a row of lawsoniana trees, graduating in depth. When the siren went or the school bell rang in a certain way, we had to line up in height from short to tall – all 400 of us, and clamber into the trench. We knew who was to stand on either side of us to be at the right height. Blackout cloth on all windows was begun in Auckland on March 10, 1941. My mother was very strict about making sure there wasn't a chink of light showing from outside.

Once we were in Hamilton with mum and dad. Mum was trying on a pair of shoes when the siren went. Mum was bundled out of one door and we were sent out another at the rear of the shop. We were supposed to get into the trenches in Garden Place. The hill was being removed at the time and the area was covered in wet clay. I remember it as one big clay muddy bog after all the digging and no one wanted to go in there. We knew it was only a practice, or hoped it was, and we stayed on top but couldn't move until the all clear went.

As I was a country girl who travelled to school by bus and did not go to town except in school holidays I did not see much of the American Marines who came to New Zealand on leave to recuperate before going back to battle in the Pacific. But we heard about these good-looking Yanks who had plenty of money, plenty of candy, plenty of food and nylon stockings, a totally new product that eventually replaced the thick lisle or more expensive silk stockings. There were Yanks in our area and there was one girl, the only schoolgirl we knew of, who skipped classes to go out with them. Patty Bowden was the talk of her classmates





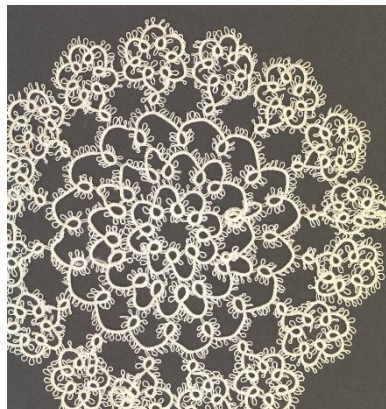
In this book were coupons for eggs, meat, butter, sugar and tea, and special Y coupons (not to be used until instructed) for one year. Ration books were issued by the Post Office under the Rationing Emergency Regulations in 1942.

Clothing, as well as tea, sugar, butter, meat, petrol, and all sorts of commodities were rationed and in very short supply because Britain had to be fed and clothed with a lot of warm clothing. To make our coupons go further, all of our knitting was done in fine 3-ply or some 4-ply with most of our patterns coming from the English Women's Weekly. Fairisle waistcoats were popular, utilizing all the leftovers. The car was used once a month to go to town. We always went to church on Sundays. Dad used to coast down Cemetery Hill which was much steeper before the road was tar-sealed in 1948. He would shake the car and listen to hear if there was enough petrol in the tank to get us there and back.

Our Headmaster, W.G.S. (Bill) Smith, M.A. (1939-1944) was supposed to teach us in Form 4 in 1944. I cannot remember his subject. Whatever, we were adept at side-tracking, and he was easily side-tracked. He used to sit on the teacher's table, swing his legs and tell us stories of his experiences during the Great War.

Another teacher, A. Lloyd Gilmour came to us from the war. I guess he did his best, but he just couldn't put it across to teenage students. He was used to teaching adults in the Air Force. For most of us Mathematics became a subject not understood unless tutored by some of the more clued-up boys. I gave up on algebra and geometry and went from Form 5A to Form 5B in 1945. I still had to take arithmetic with Mr Gilmour but was able to take the home craft course, thus gaining School Certificate in sewing. A much more useful option for me. Miss Eunice Clare was an excellent sewing teacher. In the sixth form I made a pretty blue and white floral princess line frock with pockets outlined with tatted lace. My biggest ambition was to make a camel hair coat. The camel-coloured fabric was terribly expensive, but my mother bought it for me. It was during the period when my parents were finding it hard to make ends meet. It was very successful; probably helped me to get the good marks for School Certificate practical assessment. I wore that coat for years, finished up by dyeing it pale blue. My mark of 17 in School Certificate Arithmetic was disgusting, but

I couldn't see the point in working out many of the problems we were given. I knew my tables up to 13 times and could do what I considered to be necessary. (With the calculators and electronic devices many young folks today can't even add up.) I concentrated on my other five subjects, English, Geography, History, Music and Sewing.



I made tatting like this doily in school time

Chloe Lehndorf was a very popular and talented teacher who stood for no nonsense. She was on the staff from 1923 until 1944. I particularly remember her for two things. We just didn't have

the classics in our house or were not encouraged to read them. As a prospective School Certificate pupil, I should have read more of the books that we read about in our "Realms of Gold" English literature textbook. But I came to school one day with a "Pollyanna" book. "Aunty" really told me off. I should have been far past reading those childish books!

The other –

Among the wartime shortages was anything made of cotton. Lace was unobtainable. As a result, almost all the girls learned to tat. We could buy quite fine mercerised crochet cotton and shuttles. I quite often finished my class work early and out would come my tatting shuttle. Poor old "Aunty". She couldn't stand the click click click of the quickly moving shuttle as the cotton passed through it.

I was made Hostess Prefect in Form 6, sure that it was a position made to get me out of hiding in the kitchen and having to meet people instead. I could never make small talk with strangers.

Another effect of the war was that students were not encouraged to stay at school. Apprenticeships could be undertaken after leaving Form 4 and so very few stayed on until Form 5, Form 6A or 6B.

In 1946 there were only 9 pupils in Form 6. When I asked Russell Gaston last year about his absence from the photo, he said he was probably working on the farm that day. His father was a hard taskmaster.



**6th Form 1946**

Graham Jamieson, Margaret Hatrick, Bill Moxham  
Ngaire Johnson, Mark Henderson, Margaret Godfree,  
Chunilal Madhiv, Eileen Cummings  
Absent – Russell Gaston



**Ngaire Johnson & Ron Phillips at  
TADHS Calf Club 1946**



**A mini German submarine that came into Otago Harbour  
during World War II– in Middlemarch museum, Otago.**



**T.A.D.H.S. Hat Badge  
Kia Kaha – Be Strong**



**Cameron House badge 1946**



**Prefect's badge 1946**



**Crusaders' Christian Students' Badge**

Mrs Jean Hull led the weekly Christian students' Crusader lunch hour meetings. I was pianist for the singing.





#### 1946 Prefects

Percy Barton, Bill Moxham, Dick Hemmings, Margaret Meads, Nancye O'Brien, Graham Jamieson,  
John Clements, Russell Gaston  
Ngaire Johnson, Margaret Hatrick, Chunilal Madhiv, Beverley Betts, Joan Moxham,  
Margaret Ballinger, "Tiny" McLean, Margaret Godfree, Helen Judge, Eileen Cummings

Wherever possible our meals were from produce off the farm and out of the garden. Mutton (dad had Southdown sheep) cooked in many ways, rabbit stew, surplus roosters or old fowls that had stopped laying made their way into the pot and stewed for a long time to tenderise them. Stale bread was made into bread puddings, buttered with home-made butter, and with very few or no sultanas as dried fruit was virtually unobtainable. Sometimes jam was added, the yolks made into the custard and the whites into meringue topping and given the grand name of "Queen Pudding".

We did have some factory butter, but it too was in short supply. Cooking was done in and on a Zebo-blackened coal range and the water heated from it stored in an unlagged copper cylinder.

There was a good orchard with apples, figs, peaches, nectarines and citrus. Fruit was bottled, but with only 3 pounds of sugar per month there was none to spare for bottling and honey was used. Dome seals were not invented and Agee (or mason) jars were sealed with rubber rings under metal lids with a china inner liner.

There was always a good vegetable garden at the house. Potatoes were grown in quantity – several furrows for potatoes were ploughed up in the paddock alongside turnips, swedes, mangolds, or chou moellier, whatever crop was being grown for the cows. The "spuds" were stored in sacks and lasted for the year.

For several years after the war there were still shortages, especially of good building materials.

Galvanised roofing was unprocurable and Spanish style flat roofs were sheathed in malthoid – looked like black-tarred cardboard.

Aluminium was used on sloping roofs. Where the aluminium overlapped, it corroded badly, and it was not many years before the roofs leaked and had to be replaced.

There was still rationing of food, clothing and petrol and the British people had to be supported. Food parcels were still sent, especially Christmas parcels with cakes and puddings.



But as rationing ended and clothing coupons were no longer needed so fashions changed, and the Dior line of long A-line skirts came in – a swing right away from the shorter, tighter, and less colourful fashions of the war era.

The girls' summer school uniform was a black pleated gym dress tied at the waist with a woven girdle, a white short-sleeved open neck blouse, short white socks, black shoes. In winter, the girls wore the gym dress with white long-sleeved blouse and a straight 1½ inch wide striped navy and white tie, long thick black woollen stockings, navy cardigan, black shoes. My mother lined the tops of the stockings with tops cut off her lisle ones as the wool irritated causing bad eczema. They were held up with clips on elastic from a suspender belt around the waist. No panty hose in those days. I had a navy uniform hat with the Kia Kaha badge, and a heavy Rainster navy coat for wet weather.

The prefects' boys' summer uniform was a navy cotton shirt with rolled up sleeves, long navy trousers and black shoes. In winter they wore thick navy flannel shirts.

We had lockers for our books, taking home only what was necessary for that night's homework in a leather zipped satchel with a side zipped pocket that measured 14½ x 9½ x 2¼ inches. In Form 6 I used a small suitcase.

My teachers through the years.

William G.S. Smith M.A. Principal also class teacher until 1944.

Henry Rochfort M.A. Dip.Ed. Principal from 1944

**Intermediate only** -John Elliott.

Miss Joan Pickering.

Raymond Blennerhassett.

Phillip Chapman.

Miss Elsie Scarfe B.A. Form 2.

Eric W. Bell. He asked me if I was related to Ray Johnson (prefect). My cheeky reply, "Yes, he's my father." I knew I then I should never have said it. My father was Edwin Rayner Johnson, know as Ray.

**Secondary** – Miss Jeanie Strathdee M.A. Form 1 to Form 3 French. (She left in 1944). I ruined my neat handwriting by copying her style.

Miss Chloe Lehndorf BA. (English).

Brampton Clark B.A. (History).

Charles Meads (Geography).

A. Lloyd Gilmore BA. Dip.Ed. (Mathematics, Arithmetic).

Miss Grace Aplin B.A. (English after the retirement of Chloe R. Lehndorf (Aunty) who taught at the school from 1924 until 1944.).

Miss Eunice Clare (Sewing).

Miss Dorothy Moir (Cooking)

Stanley Jeune (Commercial -Typewriting).

Miss Beryl Hooton B.A.

Miss Dorothy Wilks.

Miss Jean Clark M.A.

George D. (Gus) Warring.

L.J.Smith B.A.

Vivien Gittos [Sam] (hobby Woodwork).

Mrs Jean Hull when I went back as an adult student in typewriting and office practice.

## EPILOGUE

The sixth formers of 1946 –

Chunilal Madhiv was born in India, came to Parawera with his parents when he was 10 years old. In 1955 he gained two medical degrees from Otago Medical School and had a terribly busy medical practice as Dr Chunilal Madhiv Patel in Ponsonby Road, Auckland. He kept fit with yoga, hockey, and daily two-mile jogs with his Alsatian dog.

Graham Jamieson always topped the class. We were in the same class from Standard 3 to Form 3. We were together again in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form. I tried but could never gain more marks than he did in the exams. Graham earned M.Sc. degree from Otago University in 1951. He received a PhD and Doctorate in Science from the University of London. He won research fellowships to University of Stockholm, Cornell Medical College in New York, and the National Institute of Health in Maryland. In 1961 Graham joined the American Red Cross blood service as a biochemist in its transfusion blood programme, becoming research director in 1969. He and his team promoted studies on platelet and red blood cell preservation, blood-borne viruses like hepatitis, and identification of new plasma proteins.

When Ron and I met Graham in Washington in 1982 he was at the top of his field as Research Director of American Red Cross Blood Services. Although born in Wellington he always considered Te Awamutu to be his hometown. That was where he grew up and that was where his parents lived. He took

us on a tiki tour around Washington City and when he took us out to lunch, I was amazed that after all the years of travel and living in different countries he still carried his old school photos. It was a great time of reminiscence. We were disappointed not to have met his wife Barbara. She was unwell that day. Their home was in Maryland, not far from Washington DC.

Through the blood research by Graham and his colleagues his discoveries have had major impact on the treatment of diseases of the blood in this country as well as worldwide.

On Thursday, August 17, 2017, Graham Archibald Jamieson was added to the Te Awamutu Walk of Fame on the recommendation of old school mates Ngaire M. Phillips neè Johnson, Margaret Clarke neè Godfree, Betty Johnson neè Tucker and Russell Gaston.

His name is also recorded in the Hall of Fame at Te Awamutu College.

Bill Moxham went on to the 7<sup>th</sup> Form when the District High became Te Awamutu College in 1947, Form 3 to Form 7, after the Intermediate School opened. He became a pharmacist working for Bill Sanders at Sanders' Chemist, eventually owning the business in Alexandra Street. It was in a handy position for the medical clinic in Mahoe Street.

Mark Henderson became an engineer and lived in Queensland.

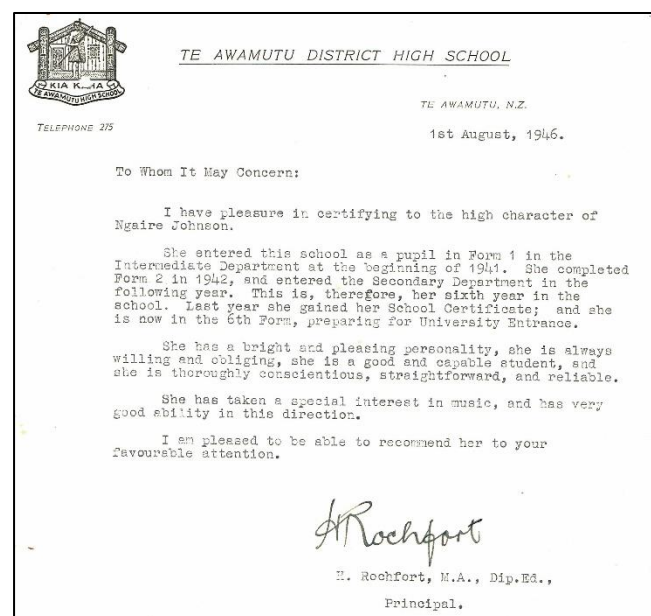
Russell Gaston bought a dry stock farm at Gibbons Road, Mahoenui in the King Country. He told me he couldn't afford an expensive Waikato dairy farm. Nor could he stay on his father's farm – it wasn't big enough for two. His brother Barry stayed on the farm.

Eileen Cummings and I went through high school, Auckland Teachers' College and taught at Te Awamutu Primary together. She taught for some years in the East End of London. Eileen died young from cancer in the spine.

Margaret Hatrick trained at Dunedin in Home Science to become a hospital dietician. She married Joe Brady and had six children, lived at Maraetai Beach, Auckland.

Margaret Godfree trained as a nurse and worked at Tokanui Psychiatric Hospital. She married Doug Clarke, a Frontier Road boy.

Ngaire Mabel Johnson was at Auckland Teachers' College for almost two years. Eileen and I did not complete the two-year course as there was such a shortage of teachers after the war that we were sent to Te Awamutu Primary in late 1948. I taught Primer 1 and then Primer 3 in what was originally the wooden block of the DHS in Teasdale Street. I took an Infant Mistress position at Pirongia School in September 1950. I changed my name to Phillips at the first wedding to be held at the Pirongia Methodist Church on May 17, 1952 and became a partner with Ron in dairy farming at Ryan Road, Mangapiko.



Mr Rochfort's testimonial for my Auckland Teacher's College application

Notes from Tony Bevin written for 1989 College reunion:-

In 1920 on the opening of a secondary department and the formation of a District High School, representations were made to creating a Manual Training Centre in the town. In 1922 a building for the teaching of woodwork and domestic science (known to all as cooking) was opened on a quarter acre site of a 10 acre 1 rood (a rood is a ¼ of an acre) site in Alexandra street, was erected on the south east corner of the present Main Block. From this time on there was a series of representations to the Education Board – 1925-1926 – creation of a Junior High school: 1927, a Secondary School building to be erected either on the Alexandra site, or on

vacant land between Teasdale Street School and Victoria Park – known as Bockett's Paddock. The latter site was approved.

(Dudley Bockett was the borough's first town clerk. He served from 1915 to 1946, and also owned "Bockett's Paddock", a popular sports ground, now the site of the {original wooden building} Te Awamutu Primary School. ref. *Frontier Town – Laurie Barber*)

Much of the following is taken from the Te Awamutu Schools Commemoration Jubilee Booklet 1939. Jubilee Reunion, Saturday June 3, 1939.

Centenary of the Mission School 1839 – 1939.

Diamond Jubilee State Schools 1877 – 1939.

The new school is opened. It is named Te Awamutu District High School- the new word "District" shows that there was an Intermediate Department. (There are early 1930s High School photos in the museum collection that show TADHS so "District" was included in the name long before the opening of the new school in 1939.) Many students at this time still left school after matriculation in Form 2 (Year 8). Records show that leaders in the school and community lived the motto Kia Kaha in order to overcome major issues of bureaucracy, finance, rural district loyalty and transport dilemmas. The 'chaos' referred to in this report summarises 19 years of struggle to get the best for secondary students in Te Awamutu.

The new building, now completed and officially opened on Wednesday, is one of the most up-to-date schools in the Dominion and it may well be said that out of the chaos of past years has emerged an ideal of which not even the most sanguine would have dreamed. The building contains: -

- (a) Ten ordinary classrooms, five of which 24 feet by 21 feet 6 inches will be used for secondary pupils and five 26 feet by 24 feet for Intermediate pupils.
- (b) A laboratory 36 feet by 25 feet to which will be attached a preparation room and dark room.
- (c) A Domestic Science room 36 feet by 25 feet.
- (d) A Modelling and Crafts room 31 feet by 26 feet.
- (e) An Art Room 31 feet by 26 feet.
- (f) A Commercial room 14 feet 6 inches by 12 feet 6 inches.
- (g) A Woodwork room 25 feet by 40 feet.

- (h) A Draughting room 25 feet 6 inches by 25 feet.
- (i) A Metalwork room 25 feet 6 inches by 25 feet.
- (j) A Library.
- (k) A small Smithy.
- (l) A Needlework and Handcraft room 31 feet by 26 feet.
- (m) An Assembly Hall 80 feet by 36 feet with properly equipped stage for Dramatic Work. Incorporated in the Assembly Hall are a dressing room and small lunchroom, while provision has been made for the installation (at a later date) of a projector for visual educational purposes. The Assembly Hall windows will be darkened with suitable curtains.
- (n) Five subsidiary teachers' rooms.
- (o) Two main staff rooms equipped with kitchens and lavatory accommodation.
- (p) Headmaster's room.
- (q) Cloak rooms in which will be incorporated lockers for use of children travelling from a distance.
- (r) Storerooms attached to the various units.



**TADHS 1939. Girls' quad on left. Cooking, sewing and commercial class rooms on south side. Girls' toilets in corner of quad to rear of hall. High School classrooms on left of hall, Intermediate classrooms to the right of hall; Staff room below, library upstairs in centre; Boys' quad to the right, manual training woodwork and metalwork on far (west) end. Small room where Meg and I did typing and Administration and Principal's office on east end. Flagpole is in front of hall.**

In 1947 an arsonist burnt the hall and library. School records, photos and historic treasures were lost.

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