

By ARN McEWEN

Speaking about a person's age, it would not be correct to call Albert Mastin an old-timer, a fact borne out by the above illustration which was taken from a recent photograph.

On the other hand, in terms of residence and deep roots within this East Kildonan municipality, then certainly Albert Mastin is an old-timer in every sense of the word.

Mr Mastin was born in East Kildonan. He started education in grade 1 at Folsom School, and when grade 4 was completed, moved over to Prince Edward School, where he graduated from grade 11 in 1927. At that time high school was connected with the elementary and junior high sections.

When asked if he could remember what aroused his desire to be a teacher, Mr. Mastin answered, "I don't know exactly, but I do remember right from grade 4 I always had a keen desire to follow this profession. That's why I left my job with the Bank of Commerce, I guess." This job, explained Mr. Mastin, was obtained immediately after graduation, and lasted to 1930.

Mr. Mastin remembers very well his normal school training taken in the buildings which now house government offices at the corner of William ave. and Gerlie st. It had a small back yard for recreational purposes, a vast difference to the acreage around the present normal school in Tuxedo.

In 1932 his first teaching position was a one-roomed school near the town of Gardenton, Man., where he taught grades 1 to 8. Of the 35 pupils on the roll call, there were 15 beginners who could not speak any English.

Mr Mastin's experience with these youngsters was so enjoyable that he returned to teach a second term.

"They taught me an important lesson in teaching," recalled Mr. Mastin: "I learned that children, regardless of speech and nationality, are friendly, earnest and eagerly desirous of achieving their very best."

There is the odd one who isn't so fussy about learning, he explained, but so is the case everywhere.

His next teaching assignment took him near the town of Glenella, where he spent five years with grades 1 to 8, all eager, friendly pupils with that same desire for achievement.

In 1939 Mr Mastin taught for a year in North Kildonan under principal H H Hooper, and the next year



ALBERT V. MASTIN
Principal Salisbury School

entered the service of the East Kildonan School District on the staff at Salisbury School.

After four years as assistant principal, Mr. Mastin was appointed principal in 1944. During the time he has been in Morso Place the school has grown from a five-roomed unit housing grades 1 to 9, which later doubled its capacity until at present the ten rooms accommodate only grade 6 pupils.

For the next few years it is Mr. Mastin's opinion that the school population will continue to grow, and then remain steady at a fairly heavy enrolment in each grade.

During his teaching Albert Mastin has found time to take many teacher training courses to better his ability, and as well is studying university courses leading to a degree.

He enjoys reading, particularly the abridged best sellers published by Reader's Digest, likes good music, and has played in two different orchestras.

"I dislike much of the stuff sent over the radio," he says, and added, "many people must enjoy it or it wouldn't be broadcast, and I can always shut it off."

Another pleasant home-time hobby of his is composing children's stories for his younger children. He has one daughter attending grade 11 in the Collegiate, one boy in grade 1 in Munroe School, and a two-year-old at home.

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