

# Reminisces

Compiled by John Pearn

**Reminisces on a Teacher**

**Inez Kent**

**1913 - 2001**



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**by**

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**From Inez Kent's Eulogy  
and his own memories**

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# **Reminiscences on a St.Dennis Teacher**

## **Miss Inez Kent**

Life is often enhanced by family and who one works with on life's journey. The role models are usually of a previous generation. As one ages one tends to realise the influence of the older generation in shaping one's life! Things are passed from one generation to the next but circumstances change through inventions. We live in a fast changing world.

Miss Inez Kent taught at St.Dennis as Senior Mistress for 24 years and left a lasting impression on many young lives. Her background should be treasured in the 21<sup>st</sup> century by the people of St.Dennis.

## **Introduction**

Inez Prideaux Kent was born in St. Dennis in January 1913. Inez was one of a family of four who all attended St. Dennis day school and the Methodist Chapel at Carne Hill. Inez was devoted to her parents and family and in fact when the untimely death of her sisters occurred Inez devoted herself to her nieces and nephew's welfare and upbringing.

## **General Background**

It was quickly discovered that Inez was a gifted and intellectual child. Inez attended Newquay Grammar School and received awards and qualifications from the Senior Cambridge School. Inez's flair for teaching was nurtured in many ways. Inez became a member of the Methodist Church in her early years and taught in the Sunday School at Carne Hill having special attention for the beginners and primary classes. As well as giving her experience at working with children, her days at Carne Hill Chapel gave her a faith that she held dearly and was manifest by practical action all her days.

During the war Inez's practical faith was seen. She drove the Red Cross trucks for the Red Cross division at St. Dennis and held the Red Cross in great esteem all her life, supporting their efforts with regular gifts. Inez became involved with many organisations besides the chapel whilst living at St.Dennis. Inez was very involved with the ATC cadets and took many craft classes enjoying rug-making, tapestry and most needlework. Besides the Sunday School, Inez worked hard in the Youth Club also. Folk dancing was another of her hobbies and enjoyments.

## Teaching Career

Inez trained to be a school teacher at University College Exeter and the school in which she did her training was Indian Queens. From there Miss Kent was appointed to Roche school in 1933 where she became Senior Mistress. In 1938 Inez moved to be Senior Mistress at her home school of St. Dennis where she worked for 24 years, giving many children between the ages of 5 and 14 the benefits of her knowledge of geography, history, needlework, astronomy, religion, and life skills. In 1962 the China clay district opened its own secondary school at St. Stephen and Inez was appointed there as Senior Mistress and she saw the school through the changes from a small secondary modern to a firmly established comprehensive school. Inez never specialised in one particular subject and taught all ages and all abilities a full range of topics and subjects to a great depth. Truly remarkable.

One aspect of Miss Kent's teaching that will be remembered by many is her camping expeditions and holidays, both at home and abroad. Much of this work and her love of travel were stimulated by her teaching exchange with a Canadian teacher in 1960.

## Retirement

Besides her teaching Inez was very keen on world travel. She had a constant need for learning more facts about places and their peoples and the best way to do that was to travel. She had a very alert and keen mind that would often be turned to various topics of current affairs. A good debate or discussion was always enjoyed and Inez's sharp mind and education were always demonstrated. Inez travelled the world visiting Australia, Canada, Hong Kong and China to mention but a few. These holidays continued after her retirement from teaching in 1975 and her move to 11 Lower Woodside St. Austell. After retirement Inez maintained her donations to charity and joined the worshipping congregation at St. John's Methodist Church, St. Austell.

## **Teaching with Miss Kent at St.Dennis and St.Stephen in Brannel Secondary School**

Miss Kent was a role model for me as a young teacher. Her knowledge of St.Dennis families was a useful background for any teacher. Her ability to seek out the best in her pupils, whether academic, sport or otherwise, was an inspiration for colleagues.

I remember her exchange to Canada in 1960 and after her return she encouraged me to seek the same. It was in 1985 that I found this possible. Inez had emphasised that I should seek an exchange in British Columbia, Canada. As Headteacher of Burraton C.P. Saltash, I was selected to exchange with the Principal of Glanford Elementary School, Victoria, Vancouver Island, British Columbia. My interest was kept alive by receiving from Inez the British Columbian Magazine! This was for an administrative exchange for 8 months. My position would be Vice-Principal in the school while Mr. J.Ellis from Glanford Elementary School would be Deputy Headteacher in Burraton. Miss Kent had supported me throughout my career to date. While living in Victoria, capital of British Columbia, she visited me and my family and I had the privilege that she experienced in Canada some 25 years before !

Miss Kent retired in 1975 as Senior Mistress of St.Stephen in Brannel Comprehensive School. She saw the small Secondary School grow into a Comprehensive School. 24 years at St.Dennis, 13 years at St.Stephen, some 37 years in the China Clay District!

Time leads to change with modern technology but the basic values of character are established by those we respect,

I trust this will be a reminder of the past for all those who remember Miss Kent when using computers, tablets, mobile phones and living in a changing world!

## St.Dennis C.P. School Outing



(L-R) - Pauline Lake, Miss Kent, Mary Nance, Mr.Pellymounter (Headteacher)

## St.Dennis C.P. School Staff - 1957



Back Row (L-R) - Mr.Pearn, Mr.Guest, Mr.Rouncefield, Mr.Jacobs

Front Row (L-R) - Miss Paynter, Miss Kent, Mr.Lewis (Headteacher), Mrs.Best, Miss Williams



## St.Dennis C.P. School Netball Team 1950 – 1951



Back Row (L-R) - Edna Angilley, Avis Knight, Roma Gilbert, Pat Spry, Mavis Davey

Front Row (L-R) - Maureen Yelland, Joyce Luke, Peggy Varcoe, Margaret Tucker (captain),  
Rosedew Sweet, Marion Grigg, Delphine Kellow

## April 1985 Our Canadian Teacher Exchange



This was our temporary home, family sitting on the balcony!

Miss Kent's visit to Victoria, Vancouver Island. She was 72 years of age and visited the Rocky Mountains with us.

## Miss Kent at 85 years of Age

still thinking of others



Merry Christmas  
"To All 1998"

St.Dennis C.P. School's 3<sup>rd</sup> reunion for pupils who attended the school from 1937 – 1960 was attended by over 100 people. Some had travelled from Southampton, London, Lyme Regis, Somerset and Exeter. Guests included Miss Inez Kent, a former well known teacher, Mrs. P. Juleff (née Polymounter) and her daughter and Mr. & Mrs. Colin Best. Miss Kent is seen cutting the cake made by Betty Flack (née Davey). The committee comprises Peter Taylor, Phyllis Luke, Peggy Bilkey, Rona Mitchell and Jean Luke. £176 was raised for St.Dennis Red Cross and St.Dennis Cancer Research. Photo: Harry Barrett St.Dennis.

A couple of mistakes were made in the report regarding names :-

The name Polymounter is actually Pellymounter

Rona Mitchell is actually Roma Mitchell

Inez passed away at Mount Edgcumbe Hospice St.Austell  
on September 17<sup>th</sup>. 2001 aged 88 years

Compiled by

John Pearn

From Inez Kent's Eulogy and his own memories

with additional St.Dennis C.P. School's

3<sup>rd</sup> reunion information

from

Elaine Solomon

June 2020



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