

Reminisces

Compiled by John Pearn

Reminisces on a Teacher

Inez Kent

1913 - 2001



Compiled
by
John Pearn

From Inez Kent's Eulogy
and his own memories

Draft

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Reminiscences on a St. Dennis
Teacher - Miss I. Kent.

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Our life is often enhanced by family and who you work 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 I. 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 21st Century by the people of St. Dennis.

<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	Para. 2 of Eulogy - <u>Typed sheet. Begins</u> ... born in St. Dennis
<u>GENERAL BACKGROUND</u>	Para 3 and 4
<u>TEACHING CAREER</u>	Para. 5 and 6
<u>RETIREMENT</u>	Para 7.

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., Selltash, 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 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 us with our family and had the privilege of her experience 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. 24 years at St. Dennis, 13 years St. Stephen some 37 years in the Chinn Clay District!

Time leads to change with modern technology but the basic values of character are established by the choice 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!

Suggested Photos.

1. Miss Kent with Mr. Pellymounter (Looking Back Booklet)
2. Staff at St. Dennis C.P. 1957 (" " ")
3. Netball team (" " ")



April 1985. Our Canadian Teacher Exchange. Miss Kent's Visit to Victoria, Vancouver Island. She was 72 years of age and visited the Rocky Mountains with us.

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



Miss Kent at 85 years of age and still thinking of others, "To All 1998"
MERRY CHRISTMAS

Compiled by John Pearn from her EULOGY and my own memories.

J. Pearn
June 2020

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 up 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 nephew and nieces welfare and upbringing.

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' 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.

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.

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 and discussion was always enjoyed and Inez' sharp mind and education 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 Lowerwoodside St. Austell. After retirement Inez maintained her donations to charity and joined the worshipping congregation at St. John's Methodist Church St. Austell.

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