

Teachers

Some teachers you remember as being 'real teachers' and others one just remembers with horror. – *Marj Holmes*

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1 Mr. Block

I remember him having a mischievous sense of humour. He thought we were old enough to absorb some of his off colour jokes. On one occasion when the class was rowdy he called out "Keep quiet. You'll wake the baby" The class went silent as we all tried to figure out who the pregnant one was. Another time he told his London Blitz story of the young mother who went to the gas mask distribution station to collect gas masks for her and her daughter. On receiving only one mask the lady said to the soldier "I also need one for my Fanny" to which he replied " Sorry madam we are only authorised to issue one mask per person".

Shayne Straker

2 Mr. Larry Cullen – Vice-Headmaster, Latin, PE and Sports

I was turned upside down over the railing by Mr. Cullen who tried to teach us Maths at the time. He was trying to teach us that when you divide in fractions, something or another has to be inverted and used me as an example. Here in America he would have been put in jail for that and would still be there. - *Sheila Gien*

The “hanging” incident relayed earlier too would cause a great stir these days, regardless of whether one understand fractions or not! – *Brian Eisenberg*

We had him for Latin and can still see him walking around the classroom tapping his cane. - *Reve Rosmarin*

I wonder if anyone remembers John Langness breaking his arm/s doing the long jump during trails/practice (I think). I can still hear that “crack” - *Stan Klaff*

Yes, I was there too. I remember Mr. Cullen grabbing him holding his wrist and walking him back to the school from the field – *Martin Griss*

There were many discussions about Mr. Cullen’s behavior, but in the interests of diplomacy, we are not publishing them here. – Brian Eisenberg & Martin Griss

3 Mnr. Droomer - Industrial Arts/Woodwork

Who was Mr. Droomer? Don't remember such a person. We certainly were offered a wonderful education at Northview, but some of us were having such fun that we forgot what we were actually at school for. - *Sheila Gien*

And who can forget the kidney punches from Mr. Droomer, the manual training teacher. – *Basil Rosenblatt*

I remember the kidney punches from Mnr. Droomer (Dromer?) but I also recall vividly that he took us every week for a class, could have been industrial arts, which was followed by a class in Music and inevitably someone would tell him that we had to go to “Music” and he would say in his thick accent “I don’t know about music, but you make me sick!,” – *Stan Klaff*

And Mr Droomer the woodwork teacher whose pipe we filled with sawdust. – *Rob Bluen*

Anyone remember Mr. Droomer’s fingers or lack thereof. – *Max Salminis??*

We couldn’t hear if he said **No Books** (Which meant practical) or **Notebooks** (Which meant theoretical). 50% of class followed the incorrect command. All got wacked. He once wacked me on my elbow (Funny Bone) & I fainted. - *Max Salminis*



4 Mr. Eitzman – Form 1-3 Science

If you strayed from studies in Eitzman’s class he would invite you into the back room of the lab for “Chocolates” which consisted of 2 or 3 of the best from Max Plank which was a dark Teak (I think) plank. – *Andrew Colin*

Yes, his „stick“ (the knuckle torture device!) was Max Planck! Funny that many of us following with Physics studies many years later would get to know a totally different Max Planck. Vaguely recall his story about saving Laurence Harvey's life do you mean Larry Skinner? Laurence Harvey, born in Lithuania educated and known in So Africa as Harry Skikne. Thanks for this to Chava (aka Yvonne Stammelman) – *Brian Eisenberg*

I think Harry was his cousin, he was Larry – *Stan Klaff*

Does anyone remember how Mr Eitzman saved Laurance Harvey's life at Athlone Boys (Larry Skikner)? He dived at his legs when he threw potassium into sulphuric acid. He also figured in Philip Tobias's discovery of Mrs Pless. I'm sure it was he who a stick called Max Planck - *Dennis Goldman*

I remember Mr Eitzman the saying “Witsh Venn Is Whitsh” (there were three so us, Lynette, myself and Carol) and thinking he had made a huge joke! – *Marlene Venn*

Who remembers Mr Eitzman's science experiment that went wrong and nearly blew up the science lab and almost set the school on fire. - *Sheila Gien*

I was once surfing in Muizenburg (approx 1960). I spotted Mr. Eitzman in the Ocean. I greeted him. His response was “Who the hell are you?” I told him & he gave me a mouthful for not combing my hair. Of course it was a mess, I was swimming. – *Max Salminis*

What about Mr Eitzman the crazy science master who use take us to the back room and say bend over and pray to the ants. – *Rob Bluen*

I remember Mr Eitzman always saying someone was “getting ready to get ready” and also telling us that he drank a “shot” of diluted acid (not sure which) every day before breakfast to help his digestion! – *Stan Klaff*

My "favourite" recollection of Mr. Eitzman was him getting mad every day, saying what a waste of time it was teaching us, and that he's "casting pearls before swine". – *Basil Rosenblatt*

He is listed in Wikipedia for fossils collected at Makapansgat - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Osteodontokeratic_culture - *Martin Griss*

One break, I removed a Bunsen burner & lit the outlet pipe. There was an explosion. I singed my hair & eyebrows. There was a black stain on ceiling. After break & he returned & was extremely angry but couldn't figure out who did it even though I was hairless. NUTS!!! - *Max Salminis*

5 Mr. Fanaroff – Frm 4 & Matric Maths

Nobody has mentioned Mr. Fanaroff, our Maths teacher. That poor, sweet man who tried so hard and our class tormented him. He had a heart attack in our Matric year, and I remember us all feeling so guilty – I think it was Alwyn

Sherman, Max Salminis and myself went to visit him at home to take him a book the class had bought him. – *Rene Sidley*

The Fanaroff family was friendly with mine so I kept very quiet in his class..... You may be interested to know that his son, Bernie, has done some wonderful work in South Africa. Aside from his political affiliations and activity in the Trade Unions he was and still is the Project Director behind the successful SKA bid (Square Kilometre Array) and recently received the highest award given in South Africa - The Order of Mapungubwe – read:
<http://www.ska.ac.za/newsletter/issues/20/13.php> - *Stan Klaff*

Bernie Fanaroff who I'm sure was our teacher's son and a few years below us is now head of South Africa's SKA team – *Denis Goldman*

A fine man & probably brilliant but I couldn't understand him or read his writing on the blackboard. - *Max Salminis*

6 Mr Frielinghouse - Frm 1-3 Maths

We once arranged the desks to hug the walls & placed cards with different countries on them simulating United Nations. He didn't notice until the period was over. NUTS!!! - *Max Salminis*

7 Mrs. Ann[e] Gordon – Guidance, Form 2 Class Teacher

Who remembers the “guidance “ teacher.....and guidance was one of the few subjects that girls and boys were taught separatelywho used to say ” Girls, we understand”(with a big sigh)...and all of us thinking, “No you don't , you don't have a clue!” She also used to say after someone one said “ “they” all said so”....”who are “they”, bring them to me” – *Marlene Venn*

The guidance teacher was Mrs Gordon wasn't it - *Reve Rosmarin*

It was Mrs Gordon. I also had to” teach” guidance at Northview and the kids thought exactly what we had thought. I can hear you saying that! – *Merle Gordon Waksman*

Mrs Gordon was my Std 2 or 3 teacher. She was great in primary school as well as at Northview. – *Marj Holmes*

8 Mrs. Hammond – Afrikaans

I threw “*Trompie en die Boksombenda*” book on her foot - *Max Salminis*

Mr. Smith, author of all the Trompie books, was principal at Sandringham Primary School – *Martin Griss*

9 Mr. Eric Harrison – Principal/Headmaster



Check out Eric Harrison and Sheila Corbett getting married. Eric Harrison's wife's name was Joy(ce)– *Marlene Venn*

A strange tale: Mrs Corbet and Eric Harrison both taught my mom. They both taught me at Fairmount Primary, they both moved up to Northview when I did, and hay presto Mrs Corbett once said "not another Bluen" but she liked me because I did OK in maths. My wife Lynn (nee Cohen) went to Northview and so did all 3 of my daughters, "talk of loyalty" – *Rob Bluen*

He was a lieutenant in the SA Artillery - <http://medalsgonemissing.com/military-medal-blog/military-medals/lieutenant-eric-edward-harrison-south-african-artillery/> - *Martin Griss*

You may recall that when a teacher was absent Mr. EE Harrison would sometimes take the class and talk about Timbuktu and the Bar el Jebel – clearly where he served in war. – *Stan Klaff*

See in article that Eric Harrison married Joyce Campbell. She was known as Joy. (according to my mother). I don't think that he married Sheila Corbett – *Marlene Venn*

But Joyce passed away in 1976, Eric in 2004. He did have time to remarry. – *Martin Griss*

Mrs Corbett and Mr Harrison got married some time later – *Stan Klaff*

Funny, I never knew she was Sheila Corbett. I'm open to correction but I am almost sure that they did marry and it was his 3rd marriage if I'm not mistaken. I did see them together on at least 3 occasions- *Stan Klaff*

I seem to recall she was married to a teacher at KES. Could have been the principal? – *Ros Hakim*

Alwyn asked her for a date. She refused - *Max Salminis*

10 Mr. Tommy Langley - Matric Geography

We had to do Form 4 & 5 in one year - *Max Salminis*

11 Miss Leslie ?? -- Domestic Science

I remember the domestic science teacher(name?) who used to wash out the beehive hairdos . As soon as she saw a school hat perched on top of a beehive , usually on a Monday, she would take great delight in plunging the head of hair into a basin in the girls' room and then brushing or combing the hair into a "sensible" style. – *Marlene Venn*

I think the Dom Science teacher was Miss Leslie who married the groundskeeper, whose name I have forgotten. – *Brian Eisenberg*

I also remember the one girl who had a crush on the botany teacher. He was terrified of her! Don't know how it ended – *Marlene Venn*

Pic of all of me and my sister, Lynette, wagging a finger at Father Christmas, her son, William. Christmas Tree held last week in Swartberg, our one horse town in East Griqualand where we farm! – *Marlene Venn*

Miss Leslie and Mr McCormach were having a scene at the bottom of the rugby field and Miss Leslie always cooked something for him in Domestic science. They eventually got married. It must have been her cooking. - *Reve Rosmarin*

12 Mr. Jaap Van Opstel - Music Teacher

Music teacher = Van Opstel. Anyone remember him? – *Max Salminis*

I remember music teacher - thick Dutch accent. I was thrown out of singing class, my voice was so bad. – *Basil Rosenblatt*

When I was first in the USA (December 1962 after exams) I actually contacted Van Opstal (because I was interested in his daughter – Maraktjie (sp??)) but she told me pretty directly to 'gaan kak in die mielies!' – *Brian Eisenberg*

13 Mr. ??Maraktjie?? - Gym Master

Name must be wrong? Isn't Maraktjie Van Opstel's daughter

Anyone remember the name of the gym master? I used to see him on the beach in Durban quite regularly and he was quite friendly. – *Stan Klaff*

Yea, I vaguely remember Maraktjie, but I do know why you were interested. – *Max Salminis*

14 Miss Margeret Smith – Form 1 Latin

Hoop petticoats was the mode at that time and there was a teacher, Miss Smith I think her name was who wore one every day. I remember the boys bumping into her all the time and whoops would go her skirt either up at the back or up in the front. Will say no more. - *Sheila Gien*

15 Mr. Stammelman - Maths

Yvonne's [Chava Tucazinsky] father - *Max Salminis*

16 Mr. Venables - History

It was not a she it was a he who kicked us out Mr. Venables the history teacher, the one who was hit on the head by the blackboard. What a 'lag'. -
????

As for the day the portable blackboard fell over and hit Mr Venables on the head. Even now I am screaming with laughter. He was the history teacher who didn't like us Rene. - *Sheila Gien*

And as for Mr Venables, the day the blackboard fell on his head, my most vivid memory, was of poor Cathy Gien bearing the brunt of his tirade, and the tears on Brenda Russell's skirt – the class was hysterical for most of that double period of history. . – *Rene Sidley*

I don't remember the blackboard incident in History but I do remember Mr Venables throwing the test papers of the people who had not done well across the classroom and then going to the board and in anger dotting his 'i's and crossing his 't's. I also remember Mr Harrison coming in and giving us spots for the matric exam because his wife taught History at Waverly. Venables said we had to learn everything except the Great Trek. – *Marj Holmes*

A recollection from history lessons with Venables (in addition to the board hitting him on the head, which someone has already referred to. Venables, probably a clever historian, Oxford educated I think, hated the text book *Van Jaarsveld*.

He used to scream and rail against the biased writing every now and then and once actually threw the book out of the 2nd/3rd floor window (right thru the slats!) shouting '*Jaarsveld bloody Jaarsveld!*' It wasn't till we visited The Battlefields in Kwa-Zulu Natal in 2011 during a trip to SA and I heard the full history of the fighting and juxta-positioning of the British, The Boers and The Zulus in those times that I understood the full extent of the biased history we were taught in the 1960's and realize why Venables reacted the way he did. For anyone not been to that area (The Battlefields) I can highly recommend the trip and the official tour. – *Brian Eisenberg*

17 Mr. Vickers - Frm1-4 Geography

What was the Geography teacher's name? He took us on a school trip to SAPPI in Springs (which was the only school trip I went on my whole school career). – *Marj Holmes*

Mr. Vickers has also not been mentioned. Mr. Harrison brought him along to Northview together with Mrs. Anne Gordon, Mrs. Corbett and most of us from Fairmount. I don't know why, but we seemed to have behaved in his class I

really don't recall any 'incidents'. Maybe we kind of respected is age. Must have been in his sixties at the time!!!! - ????

World War 1 Vet. Had breathing problem due to mustard gas. Taught us old/incorrect syllabus in Frm 4 - *Max Salminis*

My report card shows his name spelling as H W Viccars. He was a WW1 veteran. Forces War Records indicates that he was a Lieutenant in the East Lancashire Infantry Regiment 1917 - 1918 in France. – *Shayne Straker*

18 Mr. “Wally” Walpole - Biology

Ros, Mr Walpole was the biology teacher. A real nice guy and a great teacher but shivered when we arrived into his classroom. He really had no control over us. Still think it would be fun to have the reunion there (ed: North View) !?!?!? This is like all being together again in different places! - *Sheila Gien*

19 Miss Wilsenach - Afrikaans

Miss Wilsenach was the Afrikaans teacher who we had in tears most lessons. Shame, she was petrified of us. Mmmmmm what kind of people were we? - *Sheila Gien*

She once entered the boy's change room at the Balfour Park pool (which Northview had rights to use) when we were all stark naked. She was booed out with an extremely red face - *Max Salminis*

I can still hear Miss Wilsenach screeching rrrrrrrrrremove your face. To one of us but can't remember who. Maybe even me. - *Sheila Gien*

The snow has finally melted from my roof (which now needs repair hopefully before the next downpour)... anyway, between recollections of the snow and poor tormented Miss Wilsenach ... do you remember that awful two and a half hour Taalbond exam followed by a double period of Afrikaans ... we ALL sat knitting squares in class, nodding earnestly but not really paying any attention to her dissection of the exam questions. In despair she called in Mr Harrison, who reprimanded us severely, trying very hard not to laugh, while explaining to her the importance of our "charitable efforts" - – *Chava Tuchzinsky*

I remember playing cricket in Miss Wilsenach's class and Mr Harrison walked in and said what is going on? Bluen the clown said - oh we just playing cricket sir - well we all got hit for a six that day!! – *Rob Bluen*

re Cricket in Wilsenach's class and getting caned. I was not one who got the "cuts" when Rob and others were hauled off, but did on another occasion when I started trouble in the religious instruction class (cannot recall the teacher's name) and remember mainly how much of a hero I was afterwards with everyone wanting to look at the welts on my bum in the cloakroom, staring in admiration, whilst I tried to stop the welling of tears in my eyes. I think what worried me most

at the time was what would happen if my dad found out! (He never did, I think?) –
Brian Eisenberg

From Marjorie Holmes:

<https://www.icloud.com/iphoto/projects/#1;CAEQARoQFhFbRKYCrnt-XHC2jOI1yA;14A62A82-4C1F-4AFF-BD59-945672325CA2>

20 Teachers whose names we recall, but have no stories

- Aird
- Anne? Sheila? Corbett - Math
- Dritz
- Hinder
- Lehman
- Lessing
- McCorkel,
- Natas - Frm 2 Social Studies
- Retief
- Eric Sturges- Tennis coach
- Veary (School Secretary)
- Mr. Wemmer – Frm 3 Class Teacher
- Ziervogel,