

Here are the memories of a much-loved teacher from my time at the Wood's Christian Home. The then Miss Farrell, Margaret was one of two lady teachers who came from outside to teach the smaller/intermediate children in the home. Mr. L. Gaetz, the principle, taught the older grades. Here are Miss Farrell's memories as communicated to me in June of 2020. From Margaret (Farrell) Graham (May 2020) I have many fond memories of the time I spent as a teacher at the Wood's Home replacing the former teacher, Eva Sinclair. The day began early, in Sept of 1947 with a long streetcar ride from Calgary to the end of the line at Bowness. The Hextall Mansion had a nice Ballroom on the lower floor. There were broad oak stairs leading down from the Oak room to a landing where you entered to your right. This Ball room had been partitioned off to make 2 classrooms. Doris Edmondson had the Grade 1,2, and 3 children and I had the 4,5, and 6 class. I was privileged to have the part with the mezzanine as you entered which also had a fireplace. There were 2 steps down to the once grand dance floor. Perhaps the mezzanine had at one time been a place for the band or as someone once mentioned a place to watch the graceful dancers waltzing below. Mr Gerlitz , a former resident and graduate of the Woods Home was the principal and his class of 7,8, and 9's were housed in the boys' dormitory. In Sept. 1948 Mr. Gaetz replaced Mr. Gerlitz who wanted to further his education at university. We 3 teachers were grateful to be served our noon lunch in what had been the library in former days. There was an organ in the Oak room so that is where the music class was held. An extra curricular activity which the girls enjoyed one time was a sewing class where they made themselves a pretty skirt. They managed the old treadle sewing machine very well. You can imagine our joy and excitement to move into the new school built on the grounds and completed by January of 1952. Now there was a nice gymnasium with a stage and also a lunch room. All very nice!! I was never in a hurry to leave after school was out in the afternoon. Often some of the girls stayed with me until their supper bell went, doing the extras we enjoyed to make our classrom attractive. We used to decorate the top border of the backboard. Our theme was the different holidays of the year. We participated in the Music Festival and Poster contests and the children did well. One year our children were invited to square dance in the concert at the Stampede. A gentleman came out from Calgary and organized 2 teams. There was a younger team and a teenage one. The boys were so handsome and proud all decked out complete with cowboy hat and boots. They could really twirl their pretty partners dressed in beautiul full skirts. It was a delight to help with the extra practices. Christmas was a very special time of the year when the Calgary Kiwanis Club came out with a Santa giving out gifts and candy. The Board was also invited. We 3 teachers put on the concert to entertain them. Miss Edmondson and I worked together with the younger children often doing some plays. I remember doing the favorite Fairy Tale Stories such as Hansel and Gretel, Alladin, Cinderella and Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. One of these plays was televised by a Calgary School principal much to the delight of the children involved. The children always cooperated and gave us their best effort!! We were proud of them!! Costumes were always a challenge and Miss Edmondson and I put a lot of effort into them. I used reams of crepe paper and for a Rose Drill one year had made dozens of flower roses. You can imagine the clutter in my bedroom at home during the time it took to complete the costumes each year. One of the seven Dwarfs smilingly reminded me not long ago of the dyed longjohns they paraded around in. I remember Vernon Collins did the artwork for the masks. We also did the manger scene one year including a choir of the older children from Mr. Gaetz class. The audience seemed to enjoy our efforts with a hearty applause. To sum it all up "A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!!" I had saved an inspector's report I received one year and I see Grades 3-4-5-6 and the date 1958. The

reason must have been to even out the numbers in these two classrooms so I had an extra grade that year. Miss Edmondson and I combined our classes for a few end of the year trips to the zoo with a picnic lunch -- a happy outing for all!! (Married July 2nd) so June 30th, 1960 was 13 very happy years and my last day at Wood's Home. The Board presented me with a lovely silver tea service engraved with name and date. It sits on my china cabinet at this moment and a constant reminder of the very happy years spent there. I have attended most of the reunions over the years including the Last Roundup in 2017 , keeping in touch with some of the students I taught 70 or more years ago. It was always gratifying to hear of those who have made a good life for themselves and had happy marriages. Also recognizing those who through their determined efforts achieved the career they desired - congratulations to them all.