



Memories of Saint Brigid School from Sister Lois

Sister Margaretann Burroughs (now known as Sister Lois) taught 3rd grade at St. Brigid School in 1950 - 1951. Sister Mary Arthur Purol was Principal and Msgr. Illig was the Pastor.

Sister Lois had 68 children in her 3rd grade classroom. Needless to say every desk was filled. One day early in the school year, Sister Mary Arthur knocked on the door of Sister Lois's classroom. When Sister Lois answered the door she was greeted by Sister Arthur and a mother looking very hopeful and her son holding tight to his Mom's hand. Sister Arthur said to Sister Lois, "This mother of this little boy wants to know if he can come to this school. I realize you already have 68 children in your room, so I'm leaving it up to you to decide whether you can take him." The mother pleaded and said I will send a card table for him to use. Sister Lois said, "when I looked at that little boy and his expectant mother, how could I say no?" We had a cloakroom on the side of the classroom that had a cubby hole which had a space for an extra chair so every morning we'd move the chair into the classroom and at the end of the day, it was moved back into the cubby hole. The mother and son went home happy. The next day when the boy came to school, the students were happy to welcome number 69 to their classroom.

Another memory is that there was a Parent/Teacher club at the school. For Christmas that year they purchased very tall Christmas trees for each room. The tree went clear to the ceiling. So the students enjoyed decorating with handmade items as well as decorations they brought from home. One day in the middle of a class the tree tipped over on top of the students. The children didn't know how to react so they waited to see Sister Lois's reaction. When she burst out laughing, everyone also had a good laugh at the situation. Luckily no one was hurt and everyone helped to put the tree back together.

Sister Lois recalls that the twins Rita and Mary Epple were in her classroom of 69 students. Since they were identical she put Rita on one side of the room and Mary on the other. But she never knew if they ever exchanged places. Marianne Bennett was also in her class. These three, Rita, Mary, and Marianne, all became Sisters of Mercy.

The year of 1950 – 1951 was the year the Diocesan School Office decided that all the Catholic school children should take Standardized Achievement Tests. This was a group of tests that covered every subject. And it started with third grade. Of course this was before computers so the teachers had to check all the tests and grade them. Sister Arthur realized that Lois had 69 students so she said that the 8th grade students could check the tests for her. For which Sister was very grateful.

One final memory: During those years the students attended daily Mass at the Parish Church. Each week either Msgr. Illig, Father McEachen, or Father Eicholt had the children's Mass. When Father Eicholt took his turn, everyone realized he was allergic to wine so at communion time when he drank from the cup he gave out a loud sneeze that sounded like "WAHOO"! The two altar servers had a very hard time not to break out laughing when that happened but there were a lot of shaking shoulders.