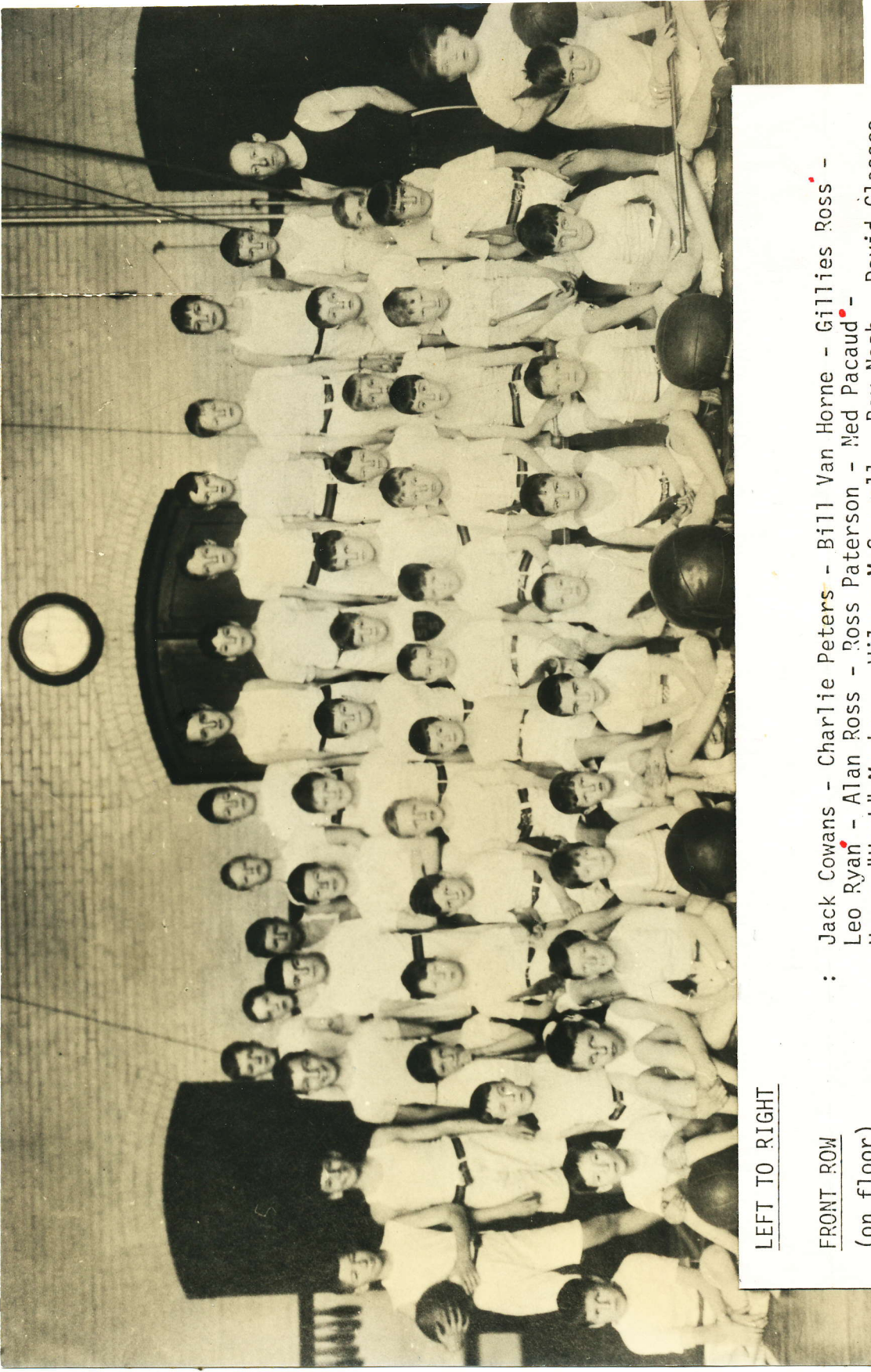




SELWYN HOUSE SCHOOL

MAAA GYM - Peel Street - 1917 ±

P.S.O. 19



LEFT TO RIGHT

FRONT ROW

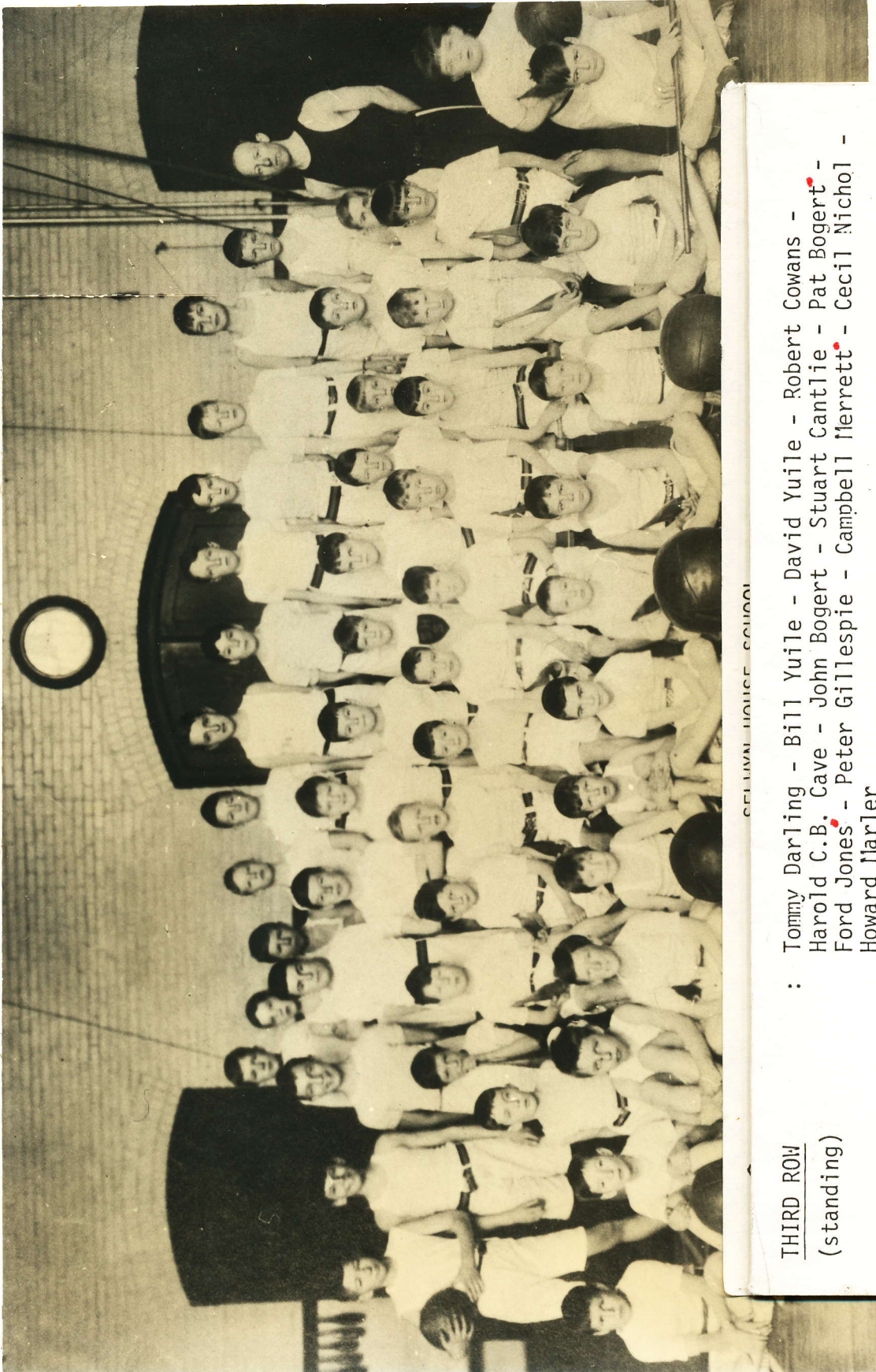
(on floor)
(kneeling)

- : Jack Cowans - Charlie Peters - Bill Van Horne - Gillies Ross -
- Leo Ryan - Alan Ross - Ross Paterson - Ned Pacaud -
- Henry "Hank" Markey - Wilson McConnell - Bey Nash - David Glassco
- Howard Webster
- Tommy Smart

SECOND ROW

(sitting)

- : Ewing Tait - "Lin" Russel - John "Buffy" Glassco - Arthur Birks -
- Fred Cowans - Howard Wilson - George Cantlie - John Allen -
- Stuart Webster - Ross McMaster - Henri Lafleur



CELESTIAL HOUSE SCHOOL

THIRD ROW
(standing)

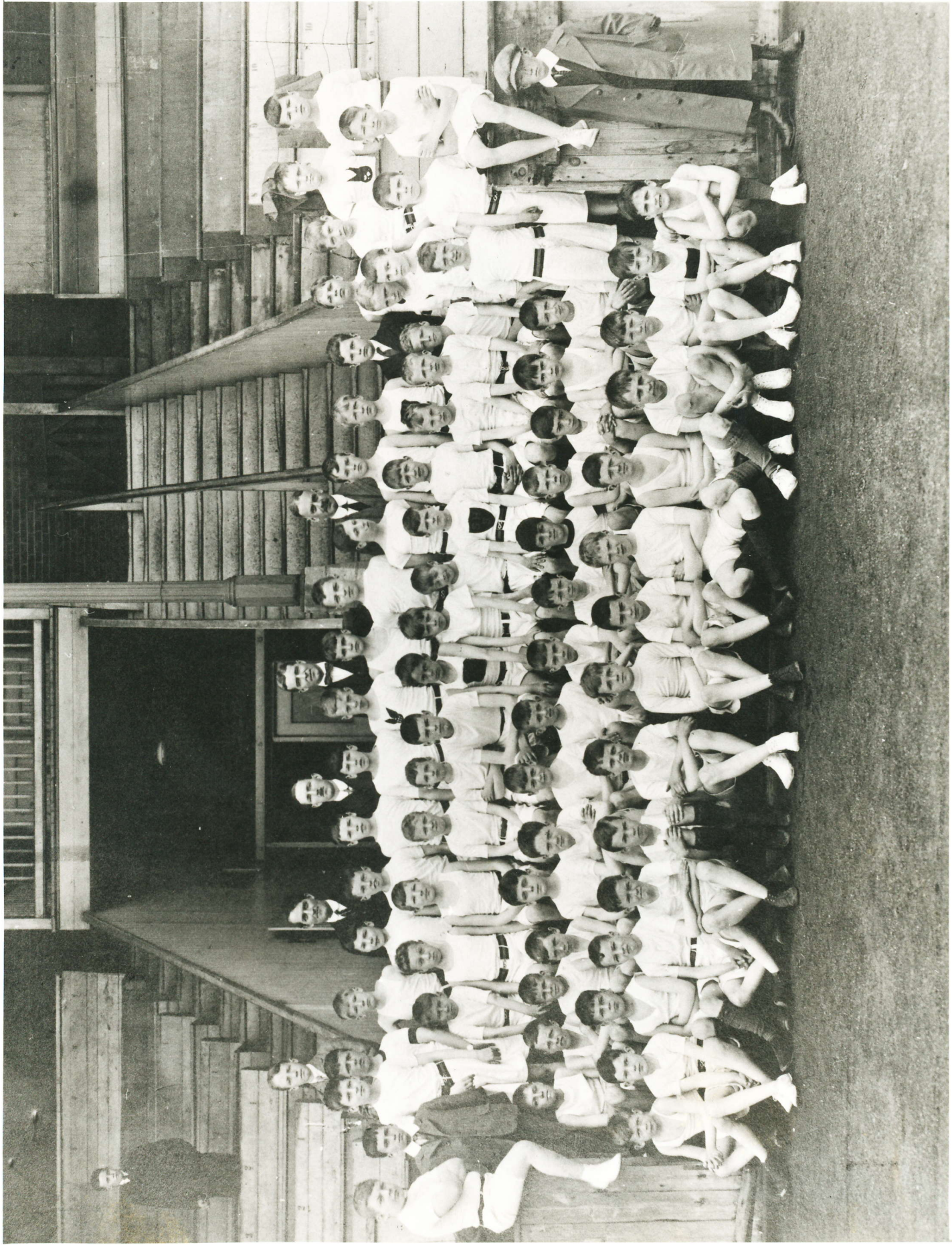
- : Tommy Darling - Bill Yuile - David Yuile - Robert Cowans -
- Harold C.B. Cave - John Bogert - Stuart Cantlie - Pat Bogert -
- Ford Jones - Peter Gillespie - Campbell Merrett - Cecil Nichol -
- Howard Marler

FOURTH ROW

- : Murray Savage - Purvis MacDougall - Gordon Hutchison -
- Erroll Pacaud - Tommy Henderson -
- John Birks - Trevor Ross - "Bunty" Sise -
- Bill Hutchison

Instructor: Richards

My Class: -



SELWYN HOUSE SCHOOL

At MAAA track - WESTMOUNT - 1917

(Courtesy: Ross McMaster)

LEFT TO RIGHT

FRONT ROW

(sitting)

: John ("Buffy") Glassco - Wilson McConnell - Henry ("Hank") Markey -
Howard Wilson - Bill ~~Burden~~ ^{Burden} - Arthur Grier - Brock McLaren -
Murray Savage - Ross ~~Patterson~~ ^{Patterson} - "Bunty" Sise - Graham Fairbanks -
Bill Van Horne - - Charlie Peters - Bobs MacDougall
(st'd'g on track) W. Gillies Ross

SECOND ROW

(sitting)

: Don Campbell - Ed Brodie - Jack Cowans - Bill Hutchison - Bey Nash -
Max Mackenzie - David Glassco - Ambrose J. ("cow") O'Mears - ^{Mears}
- Peter Gillespie - Bart Ogilvie - Gordon Hutchison -
Bob Murray - John Marler - Dayton Montserrat

THIRD ROW

(sitting)

(LAFKY)
: Henri Lafleur - Charles Colby - "Sonny" Acer - Grier Thornton -
Ned Pacaud - Robert Cowans - Maurice Holt - -
- Pat Bogert - Robert Mackay - Ross McMaster -
John Allen - Errol Pacaud

FOURTH ROW

(standing)

X Father of Lucinda
: Ted Lyman - Charlie Yuile - Ken Carter - Harold C.B. Cave -
Bill Yuile - Doug McGowan - Japp - David Yuile -
John Pemberton - Trevor Ross - "Buzz" Holt - Stirling Maxwell -
Francis Holt ?

RIGHT SIDE

(st'd'g/sitting)
(front to rear)

: Ewing Tait - George Drummond - Tommy Darling
Tommy Henderson
Arthur Birks - Purvis MacDougall - "Robbie" Thornton - Stuart Cantlie

LEFT SIDE

(sitting/st'd'g)
(front to rear)

: Tommy Smart - Ormiston Dawes - John Bogert - Bill Ogilvie -
John Birks

: L. St. George - F. McVitty - A.V. Holliday - C.C. Macaulay
Arithmetic Latin *French* *English Literature*
"History?"

(Absent: Campbell Merrett)

1916-1926

SCHOOL

School began in an apartment on the top floor of the Hinton Apartments on Sherbrooke St. at Simpson, where a French spinster (not canadienne) called "Miss" Casault gave "pre-school" lessons to me, one younger boy, and four older girls. One of the latter, May Shirres, lived across the street from us, and she and I, aged seven I suppose, walked to and from school together. I remember that one day we found the Hinton elevators out-of-order, and climbed the 10 flights of stairs to school. Once Miss Casault had to abandon her pupils for two or three hours and left me - no doubt the "good" one - in charge of class discipline: as I recall, it did not work very well.

At eight I went to Selwyn House School as did practically all the boys who lived in the "Square Mile". The school was then in a terrace house on McKay Street ¹ (it later added a house on Sherbrooke where the "Port Royal" stands, then moved to the ^{old} Grier house on Redpath, and is now in Westmount on Côte St. Antoine at Sherbrooke). It was a very good school and I enjoyed it. The headmaster and founder, C. C. Macaulay, and all the other masters remain clear in my memory as strict and fair disciplinarians, as well as friendly and certainly good teachers. They probably gave us a sounder knowledge base than we could have got anywhere else, and I am sure that at S.H.S. I learned more than in any other equivalent time slot of my life. Some 10 or 12 years later, during a theatre intermission in London, I met Macaulay, the "Boss", retired, and felt he was as glad to see me as I him.

There being no large assembly room at S.H.S. each of the six forms (12 or 15 boys) had and stayed in its own room, and every morning started with prayers said by the master taking the first class of the day.

¹ Other Ontario Ave. kids seem to have gone to another similar "pre-school", called "Miss Gascoigne's" (Hazel, whom I had not yet met, went there).

One day a certain odd but bright student came in to our class late - a rare and serious offence. Mr. Holiday, just starting our French lesson, glared at him and asked: "Dunlop, what do you mean by coming in after I've said prayers?" to which the boy, unruffled as he walked to his seat, replied: "What do you mean by saying prayers before I came in, Sir?" Dunlop was appropriately dealt with (lines, no doubt) to the satisfaction of the class who disliked him and revered Mr. Holiday.

1 The school of course had no facilities for physical training nor sports, so twice a week we had a couple of hours of gym at the M.A.A.A. clubhouse on Peel Street, and in the spring we had a track and field sports' day at the M.A.A.A. grounds in Westmount where the High School now stands. I do not recall that the school had any sports teams in those days. I also took swimming lessons in the M.A.A. pool (from one Jimmie Rose, I think the father* of the W.W.2 spy), but I still never succeeded in swimming until years later on a sea cruise stopover at Madeira - but that story later. (See App. 1, Page 21.1)

on the other hand I doubt it !!!

The adapted 3-storey house which the school occupied had no proper fire exit from the upper floors, so a canvas chute was provided from one of the top floor rear windows, and we looked forward to the annual fire drill when we could zoom down this device to land up in the shed which housed our carpentry shop, and opened onto the rear lane.

In Christmas holidays we were apt to attend fascinating lectures in the McGill Physics building given by Prof. A. S. Eve (successor there to Ernest Rutherford, and grandfather of Elizabeth and of my godson John - children of my friend Dick), and later

by Dr. Keys, later a key figure in the setting up of Chalk River and the A.E.C. One Christmas vac (I was 11+) I was invited for a few days skiing with my friend George Drummond at the Huntley Drummond's house at Irony in the Laurentians: there were not many people skiing in the Laurentians in 1920. I started skiing on Mount Royal when I was about 8, mostly in the "hollow" near the Look-out, and "bushy-bazooking" home via the gully down to Redpath Crescent. I often skied with Percy Douglas, he then about 60, and one of the early ski pioneers ¹ here.

I was taken to an occasional lecture: I remember a fascinating one by Sir Ernest Shackleton about his voyage to Antarctica in the "Niurod". There was not much theatre in Montreal in those days, and I remember chiefly a few D'Oyly Carte productions and some rare plays with Martin Harvey and George Arliss on tour - and of course the W.W.I army entertainers "The Dumbbells". All these were at "His Majesty's" theatre on Guy Street. Concerts were even more rare and the only exposure I recall was being taken to the Ritz, Carleton for one of the Ladies' Morning Musical Club of which Mother and Helen were members. We seldom went to movies - Hilda took me to my first: Annette Kellerman (swim star) in "The Life of the Gods". Another I recall was "The Birth of a Nation". Charlie Chaplin came later, and still later came Westerns and Max Sennett comedies at the Strand Theatre (gone) with the great Billie Ekstein accompanying at the piano. "The Marx Brothers" were still later.

See 4.

@ S.H.S. I consistently came 2nd to Laffy Lafleur until the final year when I gave up a place to Leo Ryan, & came 3rd.

¹ much later Hazel introduced me to the greatest pioneer - Hermann "Jack Rabbit" Johansen, and great all-day trips with him

a. ^{Belton} Letwin
 b. ^{Bogert, Drummond, Cameron, MacMaster} MacKenzia, Merrett --- ?
 c. ^{Coppé = Stevens??}
 d. ^{Robinson}
 about six or eight

From Selwyn House a clutch of ~~at least nine~~ of our sixth form went to Ashbury College in Ottawa. I expect that this mutual shield of old classmates and sharing a room with two or three of them helped to increase one's security and minimize any trauma this new life might have brought on, but in fact I cannot remember ever suffering any pangs of homesickness or loneliness.

The headmaster Rev. G.P. Woodleeonke was, again, the founder of the school. His team of masters was almost entirely composed of Oxford or Cambridge Englishmen who played soccer, rigger and cricket and sported appropriate colourful college blazers. I expect they were also pretty fair teachers but one never seemed to feel quite the same rapport with them as one had with the staff at S.H.S. — at least I did not, perhaps because of my less than enthusiastic interest in team sports which made up an important part of their outlook. I heppily partook of ⁱⁿ cadet corps, rifle range and gym, even half-heartedly took some boxing, actually enjoyed running the 5 miles around Rockcliffe Park or McKay's Lake before breakfast, and in season played tennis and skied a lot. None of these activities led to interscholastic team competition.

*
 ? felt like
 & anyway

With larger classes than S.H.S. there was greater scholastic competition: I held my own in the top 3 or 4 of the class earning a few more book prizes, but never achieved any major awards like Governor General's medals. In Senior Matric, taken in the school during two weeks after the June closing, I managed one 98, in geometry, and no sups (and I continued sup-less throughout college). As a new boy I was "fag" to a nice guy named Marshall Irvine (later remeb when he worked at my Dountar building in Bennerville), and in turn later had for my fag one John Bassett (later media tycoon and grandfather of the tennis girl.)
 owner of "Toronto Star"

McGill University.

MATRICULATION CERTIFICATE.

This is to certify that

John Campbell Merrett

satisfied the requirements of this University for the Undergraduate Course in

Applied Science.

having made the record shown below:

CANDIDATE'S EXAMINATION RECORD.

In order to pass, a candidate must obtain 50% in each subject. In Subjects in which there are two papers he must not fall below 40% in either.

| SUBJECT | PAPERS | PER-CENT-AGE | DATE | SUBJECT | PAPERS | PER-CENT-AGE | DATE |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|------|
| English | Literature | 73 | | Greek | Xenophon and Prose | / | |
| | Composition | 59 | | | Homer and Sight | / | |
| History | British and Canadian | 75 | | German | Authors | / | |
| | | 82 | | | Comp. and Sight | / | |
| Elementary Mathematics | Algebra | 82 | | Advanced Mathematics | Algebra | 87 | |
| | Geometry | 98 | | | Geometry | 80 | |
| French | Grammar | 83 | | | Trigonometry | / | |
| | Translation | 76 | | Drawing | / | | |
| Science | Physics | / | | Arithmetic | / | | |
| | Chemistry | 54 | | Spanish | Grammar and Syntax | / | |
| | Physical Geography | / | | | Translation and Comp. | / | |
| | Botany | / | | | | | |
| Latin | Caesar and Prose | / | | | Total | 767 | |
| | Virgil and Sight | / | | | | | |

Montreal, Canada,

August 1926

J. A. Nicholson
Registrar.



The School



Ross McMaster and David McKenzie
my (Room-mates)
5th form



Pte. J. C. M.



Cassils, Paterson, Edwards, King,
Ker, Wright, Woolcombe, Brodie, Chester-Master
Head

ASHBURY
COLLEGE

The Staff



T. Maybury
(Head Prefect)
1925-26



J. Arnold
(Room-mate)
6th form.



W. G. Ross - (room-mate)
4th Form



Haden Wallis, Marsh, Irvine
Prefects 1923-24?



W. H. Brodie



K. C. Cassels



D. E. C. Wood



Sgt. Maj. Stone
(Gym & Cadets)

MASTERS



Henry King
(later I designed him
a summer cottage)

Every now and then one of our "room mothers" would come up from Montreal and have her son out to the Chateau Laurier for the week-end, and it was obligatory for her then to invite his room-mates for lunch at the Chateau on Sunday. On other occasions we might be invited, in pairs, to Sunday dinner at the houses of school governors and such. At one of the meals I remember being waited on by an impressive butler whom I could not stop addressing as "Sir"!

I think I had the cane ^{twice} - actually it was a sergeant-major's swagger stick used by the Head - once on the backside, once on the hand which was worse. One offence was lobbing sponges over the partitions between the three bath cubicles, interrupted by the cruising Head. The other occasion was probably for being caught having a feast in the room after lights-out: one room-mate, Dick Ross, used to receive frequent food parcels from home, once including a cold roast duck.

1 We had chapel every morning, twice on Sunday, the service usually taken by G.P., the Head. I was confirmed there by Ottawa's Bishop Roper. The gymnasium wing and the Head's house were built during my time. After matric exams were over the Head had a tea party for all participants: I am afraid I rudely skipped it in order to catch the earliest possible train home - I guess I had had ashbury. However, I remained an active Old Boy and for a spell was president of the O.B. Ass'n Montreal branch. At our annual dinner that year old G.P., the retired Head, was a guest, a recent survivor of the "Athenia" sinking by a German sub. at the outbreak of W.W.2. Judge Gregor Barclay was my guest speaker. A few years later I was conscripted to the Board of Governors, during Ron Perry's term as Head, and sat on the platform at June closing functions. (This was after Tim & Brian had finished their stint.)

As recorded, Father and Mother each came of a military background; and Mother's three elder sisters were married to generals,* two of them having been commandants of the Royal Military College in Kingston. Father had served briefly as a non-com in the militia, and Stuart had been overseas as a lieutenant in W.W.I. For whichever, all, or none of these reasons, or simply because Father thought I needed the discipline of tough manly pursuits, he decided he wanted me to go to R.M.C. * No: Ned Taylor was a Colonel.

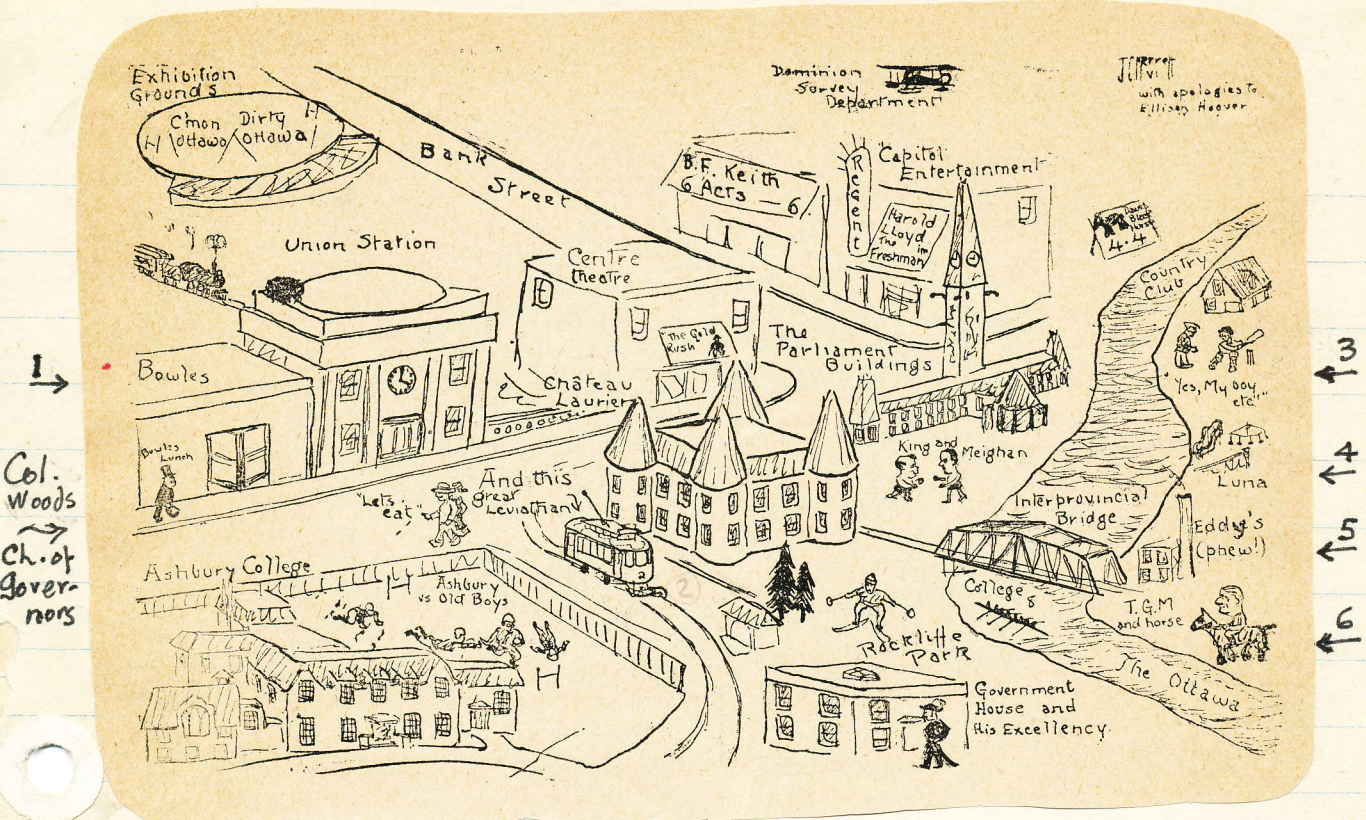
Aged about 10 or 12 I had 2 or 3 times been to stay with Aunt Maud and Uncle Archie Macdonell during his term as Commandant at R.M.C. My cousin Alison (Penny Thresher's mother), 12 years my senior, let me steer their car around the driveway of the



Commandant's House, R.M.C.

Commandant's house (until one day I missed a turn, and crumpled a front fender) and I wandered around the College grounds at will, watching the cadets training, and generally enjoying myself, and getting quite interested

in the glamour, as I saw it then, of a cadet's life of horseback riding, drilling and uniforms. But, by the time I was finishing Ashbury my enthusiasm for that sort of thing had given way to realism. After all, I had not risen above the rank of private in the school cadet corps, and had no illusions as to my probable abilities in such activities as boxing, wrestling, swordplay, and others I had seen around the Military College. Nevertheless, prompted still by Dad, I applied for R.M.C., along with two others from the class at Ashbury. Perhaps I instinctively foresaw the outcome: much to Dad's disappointment and my own (short-lived) embarrassment, I failed the medical examination: I wasn't tough enough!



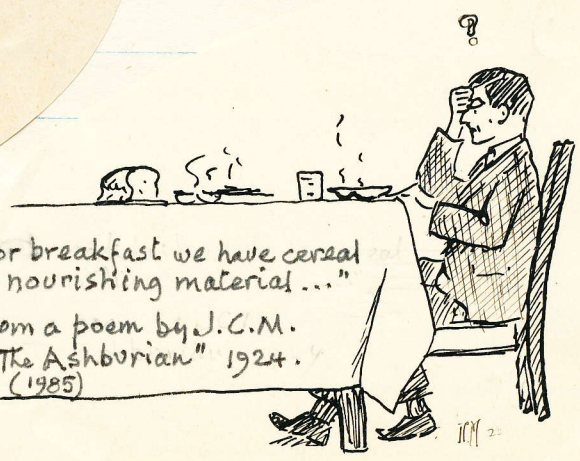
1 →
Col. Woods
→
Ch. of Governors

3 ←
4 ←
5 ←
6 ←

Xmas 1925 ↗

FROM "THE ASHBURIAN"

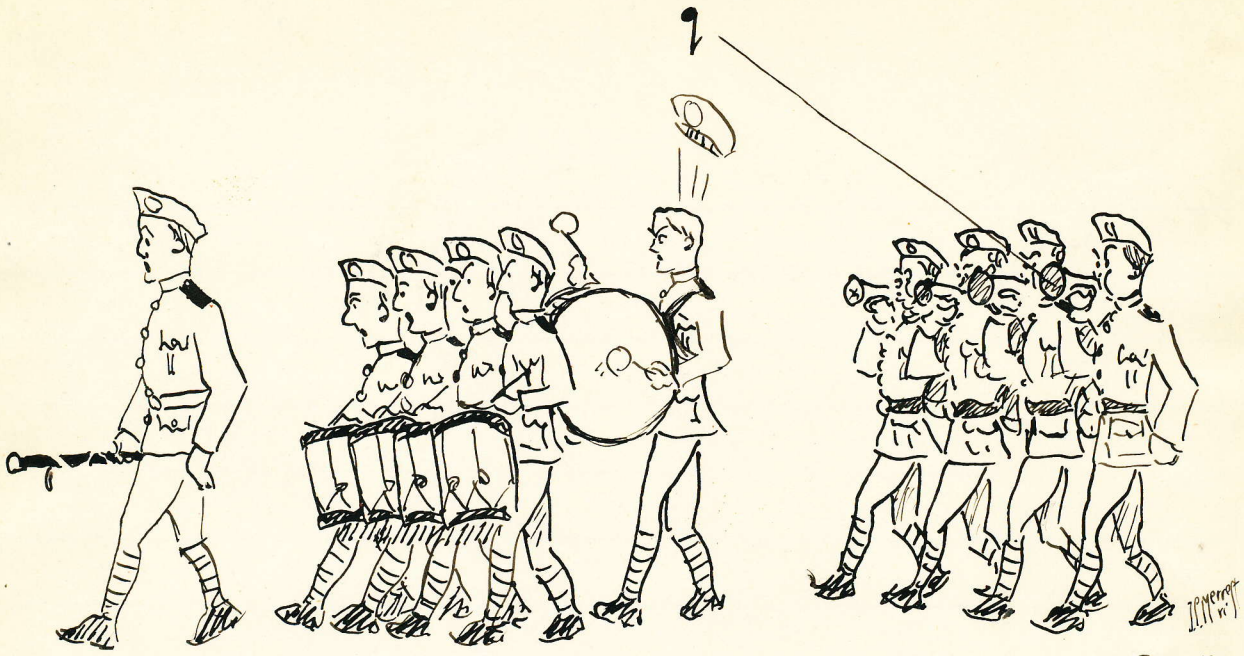
FOOTBALL



Top:

1. Bowles lunch - where we stopped for chocolate fudge sundaes, etc.
2. Preston - Rockcliffe Street car (to school)
3. Father-son cricket match - Country Club.
4. Amusement Park - Summer '24 →
5. Eddy's Paper Mill, (a match factory)
6. Tom Maybury, Head Prefect lived in Hull, was horsey.

"For breakfast we have cereal of nourishing material..."
from a poem by J.C.M.
in "The Ashburian" 1924.
(1985)



THE BUGLER WHO BLEW THE RIGHT NOTE IN THE ASHBURY CADET BAND

(with apologies to H.M. Bateman, of "Punch")
1985



BOXING

Taken from
THE ASHBURIAN
Summer 1926



HOCKEY