

MATANGI SCHOOL



1910 - 1961

WM

REF

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"Enter to learn; leave to serve"

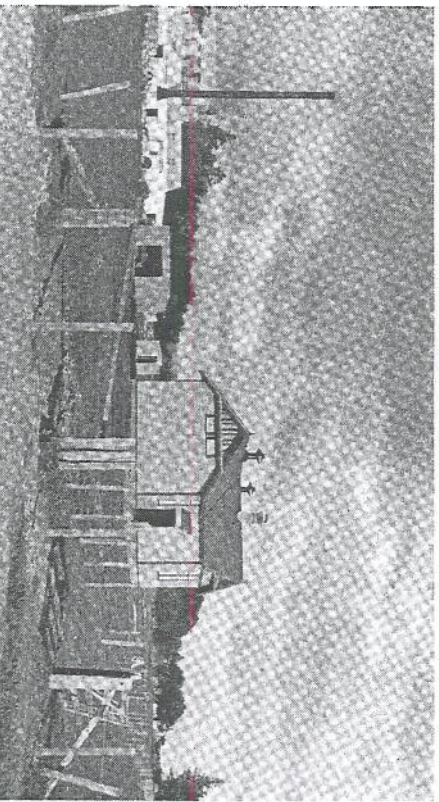
EARLY DAYS

Matangi was a newer settlement than those of the surrounding districts. The railway line to Cambridge really established the present site. A Post Office was opened in Mr Ellis' Store in 1902. The present Post Office was opened in 1914. At one time a creamery belonging to the New Zealand Dairy Association was operated on the site of the present hostel. The New Zealand Packing Company occupied an old section near the present factory. Later this was taken over by the Matangi Cheese Co.

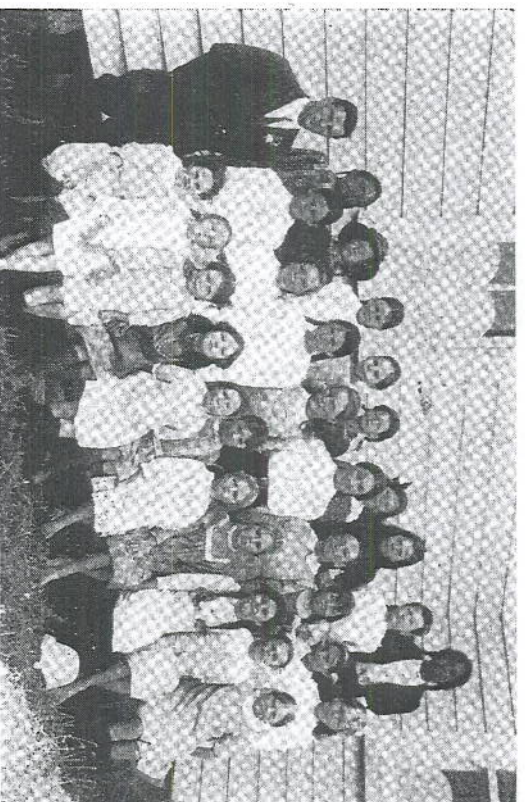
The Creamery and Cheese Companies amalgamated in 1917, when the present factory was built. The factory was owned by the New Zealand Co-operative Dairy Co. and was leased to Joseph Nathan & Son Ltd. for a period of 18 years. It reverted to the New Zealand Dairy Co. in 1935. The present village gradually grew over the years. The blacksmith's shop gave way to a garage. The hotel on the Matangi-Tamahere road became a bakery.

The Methodist Church, shared by the Presbyterians, was built prior to 1920. The Anglican Church was built some time later.

The original wooden hall was destroyed by fire in 1959. It was replaced by a very fine brick veneer steel arch structure in 1961. The Golden Jubilee celebrations were delayed until the new hall was available.



Matangi School when first erected next to the Glaxo Factory



An Early School Group

SOME NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL

The school was opened in 1910 in the Public Hall with a roll of 49. The headmistress was Mrs Lucy Wilson, with an assistant, Miss A. M. Finlayson. Mr E. T. Robinson was appointed headmaster late in the year.

The first school was built on a site adjacent to the new Glaxo factory in 1917. It was opened by Mr R. F. Bollard, M.P. It was built to accommodate 100 pupils and the opening roll was 108. The school was jacked up and hand winched to its present site in 1920. Since then there have been added two more classrooms and a dental clinic.

Hard work by Committees, Staff and Residents have provided sealed tennis and basketball courts and swimming baths.

Originally a horse paddock was provided but as horses were replaced by school buses and cycles the dividing trees were removed and the playing field enlarged and improved.

The roll grew to 250 in 1950 but with a school being opened at Pukemoneone the roll dropped. At present it stands at 168.

Prominent men associated with the school in its early days were Messrs J. T. Bryant, W. L. Ranstead, H. Marychurch, W. Trubshaw, W. Lee Martin, L. V. Judd and J. Dodds.

MATANGI TEACHERS

HEADS

Miss Lucy Wilson	1910	Mr L. A. McHardie	1946
Mr E. T. Robinson	1910-27	Mr J. E. Hall	1950
Mr A. R. Coleman	1927	Mr G. E. Carter	1953
Mr M. R. Dunn	1929	Mr H. Inglis	1955
Mr C. R. Larsen	1930		

ASSISTANTS

Miss A. M. Finlayson ...	1910	Mr W. H. Rundle	1947
Mrs A. Brown	1910	Miss N. L. Manson	1948
W. Kamo	1910	Miss J. M. Collins	1948
Mr T. H. Whitlewell	1913	Miss J. M. Costello	1949
Miss M. C. Mackay	1914	Miss C. E. Wallis	1949
Miss B. Pirrit	1915	Mrs McHardie	1949
Miss J. H. Thompson ...	1915	Miss F. A. King	1950
Miss M. K. Hanlon	1916	Mr F. D. Munroe	1951
Miss E. C. Earl	1917	Mrs C. Carter	1951
Miss L. H. Nichols	1918	Miss L. M. Hawkins	1951
Miss H. M. Shaw	1920	Miss G. F. Strawbridge	1952
Miss N. A. C. Anderson ...	1922	Miss M. E. Revell	1952
Miss Lindsay	1922	Miss P. M. N. Carter ...	1952
Miss D. McKenzie	1923	Mr K. P. James	1952
Miss M. M. Mitchell	1924	Miss A. M. Sinclair	1953
Miss L. Price	1924	Miss E. D. Potts	1953
Miss M. R. Wood	1925	Miss M. S. Gough	1953
Mr Melrose	1926	Mrs N. M. Dobbs	1953
Mr J. T. Grant	1927	Miss A. Goodman	1954
Miss M. Banks	1927 or 1928	Miss A. S. Wilde	1955
Miss Caldwell	1928	Miss A. A. George	1955
Mrs Harper	1928	Mrs S. G. Hare	1955
Miss E. P. Strong	1928	Mrs M. C. Gleeson	1955
Miss E. P. Smith	1929	Miss A. J. Graham	1956
Miss E. G. Sutton	1929	Miss E. M. Wilson	1956
Miss M. D. Patterson ...	1931	Mr D. W. Adams	1956
Miss Barton	1932	Miss W. C. Gordon	1956
Mrs Sills	1942	Miss S. V. Alford	1957
Mrs M. S. Moore	1944	Miss C. A. Ordish	1957
Mr L. L. O. Hickson	1944	Mrs E. D. Clarke	1957
Miss J. L. Perry	1945	Mr B. S. Drabble	1957
Miss P. J. Pirrit	1946	Miss K. M. O'Sullivan ...	1959
Miss A. F. Gassick	1946	Mrs G. Sutton	1960
Miss L. Sanderson	1946	Miss C. M. Bateman	1960
Mr W. G. E. McGowan ...	1946	Miss R. N. Boyd	1960
Miss C. C. Winstanley ...	1947	Miss R. Casford	1961

MR E. T. ROBINSON

The late Mr E. T. Robinson was a man of high moral character and integrity, who believed that good citizenship was equally as important as scholastic achievement. He also took a lively interest in the affairs of the district and was very popular with the parents.



E. T. ROBINSON
Headmaster 1910—1927

He must have faced many disappointments as it was seven years after he first came to the district before a school was built in 1917. He started to lay out the grounds only to find that the authorities decided, in view of the Glaxo factory being built alongside, that the site was unsuitable and the school would have to be shifted. This was done in 1920 and it was not until 1921, eleven years after his appointment as Headmaster, that he had a permanent home which he could lay out according to the requirements of a centre of learning. The present ground with its trees, shrubs and hedges is a monument to his enthusiasm and hard work.

He left Matangi in 1927 to accept an appointment as Headmaster of Mamaku School for 12 months and then came to Forest Lake School, Hamilton. He retired in 1941 but did not live long to enjoy his leisure and passed on in 1950.

PRESENT STAFF OF SCHOOL

MR D. S. GRACIE	MISS R. M. BOYD
MR H. INGLIS, Headmaster	MISS R. CASFORD
MRS G. DUTTON	

THE ORIGINAL ROLL, 1910

Susan Amos, James Booth, Gordon Booth, Arthur Bryant, Leslie Bryant, Elsie Bryant.

Kennedy Cameron, Violet Carroll, Gladys Carroll, Charles Davys, Mabel Dicken, Georgina Dicken, Anne Davies, Elsie Davys.

Trevorton Fletcher, Jessie Griesby, Leslie Hinton, Norman Hinton, Martin Hinton, Minnie Hinton, Alfred Healy.

Willie Kataea, Eric Libeau, Leslie Libeau, Elleen Libeau, Elsie Libeau, Ruby Libeau, Millicent Long.

Charles McAllister, John McAllister, Mary McAllister, Alice McAllister, Ernest McCandlish, Gladys Marychurch.

Leslie Potts, Fred Potts, Isabel Ransstead, Ra Shortland, Olive Smith, Gladys Smith, Vera Smith.

Stanley Tyler, Ethel Tyler, Doris Tyler, Tai Thompson, Roy Whyte, Ailza Whyte, Margaret Walker, Richard Walker.

CHANGES IN THE ROLL

1910—49 pupils attended the School at Matangi.

1917—150 pupils attended the School at Matangi.

1926—132 pupils attended the School at Matangi.

1948—168 pupils attended the School at Matangi.

1953—250 pupils attended the School at Matangi.

1961—170 pupils attended the School at Matangi.

SOME EXECUTIVES

1910—J. T. Bryant was the Chairman of the School Committee.

1913—Wm. Ransstead was the Chairman of the School Committee.

1913—Mr. R. J. Dodd was the Treasurer of the School Committee.

1917—Mr. Lee Martin was the Secretary of the School Committee.

1918—Mr. E. C. Purdie was the Secretary of the School Committee.

1922—Mr. H. Marychurch was the Secretary of the School Committee.

1927—Mr. E. Buckingham was the Secretary of the School Committee.

1929—30—Mr. W. A. Tomlinson was the Secretary of the School Committee.

1946—Mr. S. A. Turner was the Secretary of the School Committee.

1948—49—Mr. I. Good was the Secretary of the School Committee.

1952—Mr. J. H. Taylor was the Chairman of the School Committee.

1958—Mr. C. G. Taylor was the Chairman of the School Committee.

1959—Mr. A. A. C. Weir was the Chairman of the School Committee.

Other Chairmen were Mr. L. V. Judd and Mr. H. Trubshaw.

ERIC LIBEAU

Eric Libeau was:—

The First Pupil Enrolled.

The First Matangi Pupil to Gain the Proficiency Certificate.

The First Matangi Pupil to Enlist for World War I. And the First Matangi Pupil Killed in Action there.

GOLDEN JUBILEE FUNCTIONS

27th and 28th MAY, 1961

Saturday, 27th May began cloudy and overcast at first but later the sun came out and a pleasant day followed.

Visitors were greeted with morning tea and a welcome from the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. A. A. C. Weir, and the rest of the morning was spent in renewing old acquaintances. A buffet lunch was followed by the Official Welcome and Addresses.

The speakers were:

MR A. A. C. WEIR, Chairman of the School Committee and the Jubilee Committee.

HON. W. S. GOOSMAN, M.P., who himself in the early days was associated with the district.

MR J. H. THOMAS, Chairman South Auckland Education Board.

MRS J. McWHANNEL, Board Member for the District.

MR GORMAN, Senior Inspector.

MR G. M. RANSTEAD, on behalf of Old Settlers.

Then followed the Parade in Decades and Photographs. It was noticeable that the largest numbers were in the 1910-1920 group.

The Jubilee Cake was cut by the oldest old pupil, Mrs Kayes, nee Gladys Marychurch, assisted by the youngest present pupil, Graham Russell. Afternoon tea followed, which about 350 people enjoyed.

In the evening 300 people assembled for dinner in the new hall. The toastmaster was MR A. A. C. WEIR.

Toasts included:

"The Queen," MR WEIR.

"The School," MR K. LEE MARTIN.

Reply: MR H. INGLIS, Present Headmaster.

"Past Pupils," MR W. J. TROWNSON.

Reply: MR IVAN ROBINSON.

Other speakers were MR ALBERT BRYANT and MR HOWARD TUCK.

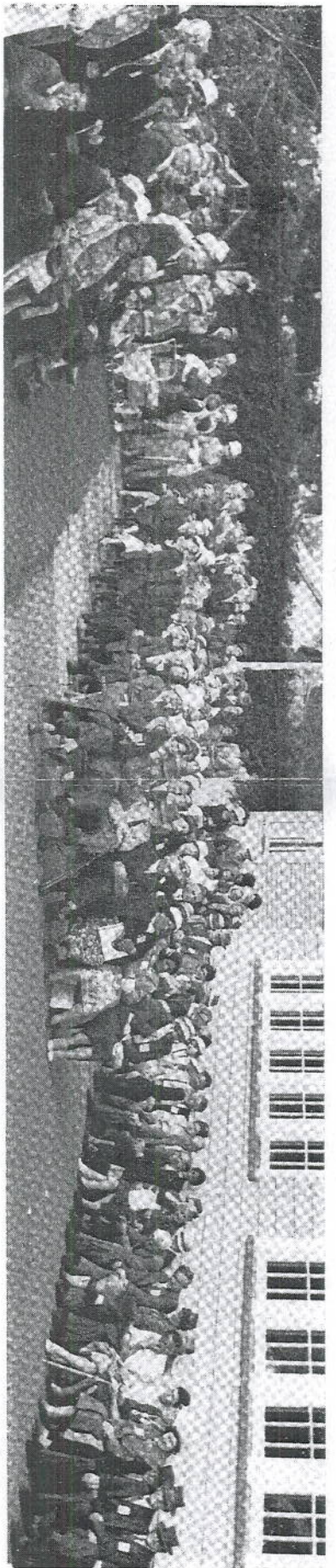
"Staff and Committees," MR L. GOOD.

Reply: MRS T. MARYCHURCH, nee Miss M. R. Wood.

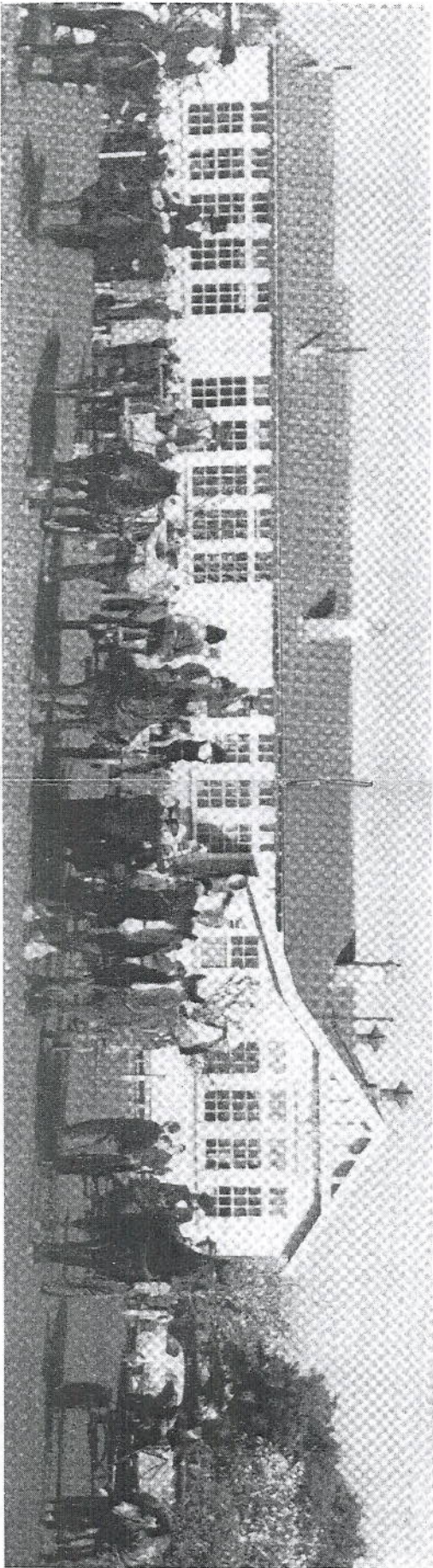
"Absent Pupils," REV. E. ENRIGHT.

A dance was then held.

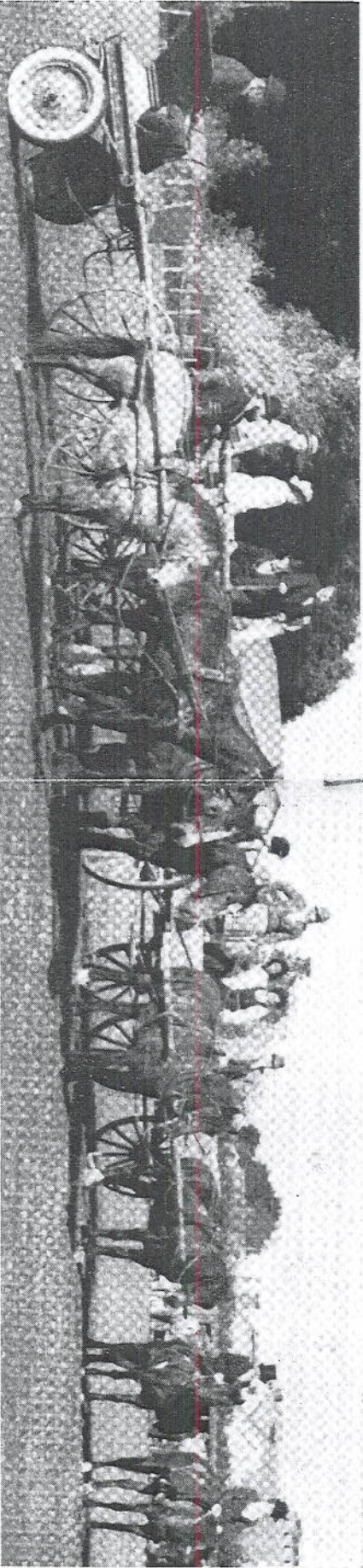
On Sunday, 28th May, a Church Service was held in the Hall. Again some 300 attended. The service was conducted by REV. ERIC ENRIGHT, a Baptist Minister, of Dunedin, and a former old pupil. He was assisted by Ministers representing local churches: REV. A. WYLDE, Resident Presbyterian Minister; REV. A. O. JONES, Hamilton East Methodist Church; REV. P. A. TANTON, Hamilton Minister Church of England.



"We Were There!" — May 27, 1961



Matangi School at present with part of the Historical Parade in the foreground



Part of the Historical Procession before forming up

HISTORICAL PARADE

Many of the older pupils attending the Jubilee must have been taken back to earlier years when they viewed the parade of old-time fashions and vehicles prior to the afternoon's proceedings.

For the younger generation, too, this was quite a novelty, as most of the models were recent pupils of the school and were particularly intrigued by the voluminous skirts, wasp waisted bodices and top hats which were characteristic of fashions over 50 years ago. Costumes were many and varied, ranging from a side saddle ensemble to a Sunday best black taffeta frock complete with bustle.

Horses and vehicles had been procured from the surrounding countryside and proved to be in remarkably good running order.

Harness, although a little weak in the stitching, held together quite well with the aid of a little wire. The procession, which commenced at the hall, proceeded through the village to the school, the only incident en route being a slight collision when Mr Wainwright's "Dolly," who was a little collarproud, refused to stop and struck the pig in front of her.

Opportunity was given at the school grounds for the horses to show their paces, Mr R. A. McMillan's "Murray Grattan" proving an easy winner, thus upholding the choice of an onlooker who muttered: "Ten bob each way" as the horse passed earlier in the procession.

Those taking part in the parade were: Judith Voyle, Anne Nowland, Robin Ranstead, Marie Saunders, Aylda Dwight, Mary Inglis, Linda Nowland, Noleen Smith, Nora Macky, Jocelyn Nowland, Anne Shaw, Carol Turner, Mrs W. Voyle, Des Taylor, Stewart Macky, Lynsy Inglis, who escorted his mother, Mrs H. Inglis; Terry Nowland, who escorted his mother, Mrs S. Nowland; Mrs P. Yandley (nee Ranstead), who rode side saddle; Miss Lesley Voyle, who rode with a divided skirt; Mr R. A. McMillan and Mrs F. Saunders, in a four-wheeled buggy; Mr Cliff Middlemiss and Mrs P. Hogan in a rubber tyred rig; Mr J. Wainwright in a spring dray; Mr B. Robinson with Misses Lynsy Voyle and Mary Graham and Des Taylor and Stewart Macky in a two-horse waggon; and Mr John Puru (a foundation pupil of the school), and a group of Maoris in a spring cart.

The parade was organised by Mrs E. Saunders and Mrs F. Voyle, of Bruntpwood Road.

JUBILEE SUB-COMMITTEES

Historical Committee:

MRS K. LEE MARTIN (Chairman), C. A. ROBINSON, A. A. C. WEIR, MR INGLIS, D. McDOWELL, L. GOOD, MISS J. PREECE.

Rolls Committee:

MR C. G. TAYLOR (Chairman), MRS G. RINGER, MRS P. CROOKSTON, MESSRS D. McDOWELL, G. TRUBSHAW, C. A. ROBINSON, K. LEE MARTIN, L. GOOD.

Programme Committee:

A. A. C. WEIR (Chairman), G. BETTLEY, J. FOSTER, M. CRUICKSHANK, L. MACKY, MRS VOYLE, MR INGLIS, D. FALCONER, L. GOOD.

Dance Committee:

S. RICHARDSON (Chairman), MRS Y. BOSTON, MRS M. CONNELL, MR FRED SAUNDERS, D. FAULKNER.

Church Service:

D. McDOWELL and MRS G. RINGER.

Historical Procession Committee:

MRS SAUNDERS, MRS VOYLE, R. SAUNDERS, BRUCE ROBINSON.

Executive Committee:

A. A. C. WEIR, K. LEE MARTIN, C. G. TAYLOR, M. J. PRIVA, S. RICHARDSON, MRS SAUNDERS, D. McDOWELL, G. BETTLEY, L. GOOD, MR INGLIS, JOHN PURU.

Custody and Showing of Photos:

MISS J. PREECE.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE, 1961

A. A. C. WEIR (Chairman), L. GOOD (Secretary), M. CRUICKSHANK, D. TAYLOR, F. LUMSDEN, MRS F. VOYLE, W. BOSTON.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE EXECUTIVES

Some notable records by Matangi School Committeemen were:

W. J. TROWNSON, Chairman 22 years, 1924-1946.

J. H. TAYLOR, Committeeman 1925-1955; Chairman 1947-1955.

L. GOOD, Secretary 1948-1961. As Secretary of Jubilee Committee Mr Good was responsible for much of the success of the Jubilee functions.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

In the days before bulldozers were invented several tree stumps in the playground needed removing. Boys in parties of five were delegated to each stump. Soon dirt and chips were flying in all directions as the reward for the group who got their stump out first was a half-holiday. The writer's brother well remembers this as his team won and as holidays were few and far between in those days, they all thought the effort was well worth while.

★ ★ ★

When the Matangi School became well equipped with sports goods it became the envy of neighbouring headmasters. Enquiries were soon being made as to how or where they got all the money to buy these things. This is how it was done: Senior girls swept out and cleaned the school whilst the boys kept the grounds in order and attended to the conveniences. These were the days prior to flush toilets being installed. The money was put into a fund and sports equipment bought as required. If there was a surplus a party of children was taken for a trip, once going to Thames and another time to the Waitomo Caves.

★ ★ ★

A senior group decided to have a paper-chase in the lunch hour, so away went the hares with the hounds in pursuit through paddocks, over fences and drains, until the Tauwhare Maori Pa was reached. Then we decided to head for home. We did, and reached school at 3 o'clock! What the headmaster said. Well, I can't remember!

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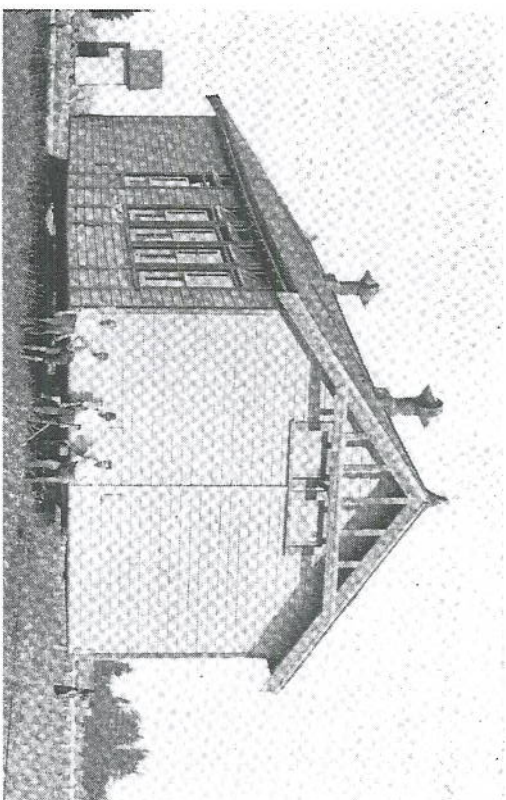
Two lady teachers, Miss Earl and Miss Nicholls, are well remembered because they both rode motor-cycles in an era when such things were almost unheard of.

AN OLD PUPIL'S REMINISCENCES

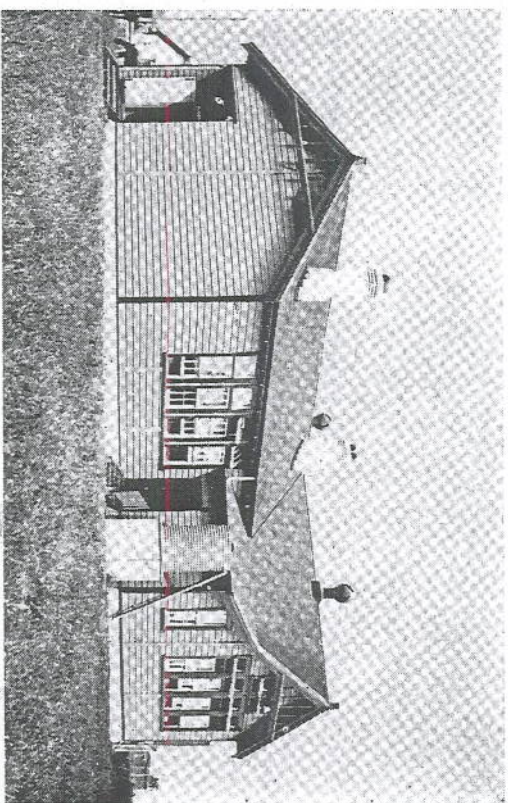
Vera Smith, now Mrs L. White, of Oratia, writes: "I well remember that among the pupils we had quite a large Maori woman, who attended Matangi School. She sat with the primers and used the first reader with them. Her name was Mrs Katea (pronounced Cartier) and she had a son Willie, who was in the standards. At play and lunch time she would spend all her spare time in the gravel pit in the paddock next to the school digging for mud-eels. She would hold them by the tail and bash their heads on a tin (which she collected them in) to kill them. She would take them home with her to the Tauwhare Pa when she went home after lessons. Very enterprising—getting an education and collecting kai at the same time.

I was Little Bo-peep in a school concert. Also a tall Maori boy was Dr. ——— somebody, and I had a sick doll and I had to address him as "Doctor dear" when he came on to the stage in a top hat and tails. His advice was to give my doll "lemon drops and treacle in a spoon." That is all I can recall of the words, except that he was always sniffing up as though he had a permanent cold and he kept doing it all through our little tableaux.

All of my school years were spent in the Matangi Hall, of course.



The first School building being shifted, 1920



The first School building after being shifted to its new site and a new infant room added

PARS FROM OLD PUPILS

We were having a game of basketball, my friend and I playing centre. In the excitement of the game I yelled at the top of my voice: "Here, Magro, throw the ball to me!" "Magro" threw, but where the ball landed no one knew for all were convulsed with laughter.

★ ★ ★

This happened when School was being held in the old Matangi Hall. A drain-pipe underneath the road attracted the boys' attention, and boys being boys how could they resist the challenge to crawl through; in went No. 1 and out the other end without difficulty; in went No. 2, but ah! He wasn't quite so slim and when he reached the middle yelled to my brother, next in turn: "Don't you start, I'm stuck. I can't get any further!" And stuck he was. For half an hour he struggled and finally managed to force his arms past his head and wriggle himself through. Needless to say no one else tried this subterranean passage.

★ ★ ★

This happy incident took place when the school was situated near the factory. The only football the boys had was an old sock rolled into a ball. A group of bricklayers seeing them playing with it bought and presented to the headmaster a brand new football. The boys were marched over to where the men were working and after one making a speech of thanks called for three hearty cheers. The men delighted that the gift was so much appreciated gave three equally hearty cheers in return.

★ ★ ★

When classes travelled by train to attend the Hamilton Technical College the Guard told the headmaster the Matangi children were the best behaved of any he had come in contact with, so at the beginning of each year new scholars were informed of this good record and asked to see that it was maintained.

SCHOOL PICNICS

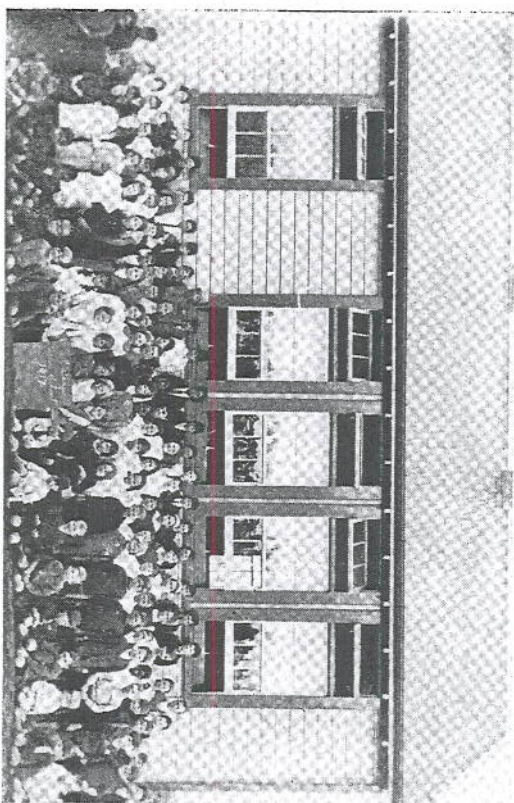
Matangi School had not been long established before School Picnics became a recognised annual feature. Whether people belonged to the school or not they turned out regularly for the annual school "do." These picnics were generally held on a pretty bush section on Mr J. T. Hogan's property. Although the day chosen was usually hot—being in mid-summer—there was plenty of shelter available.

That great headmaster, Mr E. T. Robinson, always arranged an excellent programme which was successfully carried out by his staff and a number of parents. Although nobody had much money in those days, somehow the funds always allowed each school child to receive at least one prize. The winners of each event were allowed first choice of the prizes offered. Any surplus was donated to the School Library Fund. The various races were always strenuously contested, the younger classes providing a good deal of amusement for the many spectators.

One of a number of old photographs is still in the hands of the Jubilee Committee, and for which unfortunately sufficient space was not available in this brochure, depicts a picnic party about to set out. Judging by the clothing of those present it would appear to be of an early date as the children about to depart in the "drake"—in those days—drawn by two horses replete with collars, hames and trace chains, number 32 and the adults five.

BEING DIFFERENT

In the various Waikato settlements Matangi has always had the reputation of "being different." For instance, who but Matangi, when frustrated by the authorities in their demand for a school, would have used their own hall and then utilised the rent paid by the educational powers that be to liquidate the liability on the hall? That was the beginning. And the jubilee celebrations were also "different" in that the jubilee did not mark the fiftieth anniversary, but the fifty-first! The explanation, of course, lies in the fact that the jubilee celebrations were planned for 1960, the fiftieth anniversary, but unfortunately the old hall was burnt down just beforehand. The Jubilee Committee therefore postponed the function until the new hall was built and now have had a fifty-first jubilee. Has any other Waikato School celebrated a fifty-first jubilee? Having established a precedent which may be unique will Matangi stage a sixty-first jubilee in ten years' time? Let's all hope so!



School Group, 1917

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