

MARJORIE MORRIS SINCLAIR

- o Resident from 1918 to 1920
- o Eaton Student from 1918-20
- o 75 years old

When I went to John Eaton there were no houses on the opposite south side of Lowell Street nor on 33rd Place. There were these marvelous woods completely covered with wintercreeper and honeysuckle. The vines were looped over all the trees making marvelous little tunnels to go through. We would climb up them and have these little secret places where you could get from one tree to another and you could play hide and go seek.

I don't remember any children in school being rewarded particularly. I mean, if you did your work that was fine. When you were bad, you were sent into a long cloakroom that ran along side of each classroom. Sometimes you would sit a good part of the day in thereboys particularly. Of course, if they did some ghastly thing, they were sent to the principal's office, but that didn't happen too often, I don't think. I don't remember bad language.

I knew my classmates before school, after school....we'd spend the nights in many of my friends' homes. We played and played. It was just wonderful....to be able to go outside and run freely around the neighborhood.

I liked Miss Miriam....a maiden lady, who had a good voice, played the piano beautifully, and also taught the fifth grade. She was a little bit short tempered and used to get very angry at me. I was left-handed and my father, being a doctor, insisted that I was not to be taught to write with my right hand. We used to have little inkwells over on the right side of the desk and I would drip the ink. One day she came down to my desk and she was very angry. She kept on doing this and she put her finger right in my inkwell. And that, of course, brought down the whole class.

I think we were taught a little differently in those days. There wasn't so much time for extracurricular things. When you were in school, you were in school. We came to school at nine o'clock in the morning. We had recess at, I think, 10:30, for fifteen minutes.... maybe a half an hour. We got out of school exactly at 12 o'clock, and I think you could go home if you wished. It seems to me we did have a few tables you could use for lunch, particularly if it was a rainy day. Classes started again at one. Then we had another recess at two o'clock....a very short one....maybe ten minutes....and then we were out at three.

The sports were oriented towards boys.... baseball and track. We only had the one building at Lowell and 34th.... no indoor gymnasium. There were no such things as Jeans or anything like that. We had to wear gym-bloomers. They came to the knees....black full bloomers. You were supposed to exercise in those! We shot baskets and jumped rope for exercise. We all roller skated — boys and girls.