

# **SLIGO SCHOOL**

## **A History**

By Ardyce Griswold

1917, the Normal Department (Education Dept. in the olden days) was added to the curriculum of Washington Missionary College (now Columbia Union College). A need was developed for a school for the teachers-in-training to get some practice. There were few elementary age children near the college that year according to Mrs. B. Shanks Chaney, Normal Director. There was a school about three-quarters of a mile up Carroll Ave. but getting there proved to be a major difficulty.

In the summer of 1918 a thorough canvas was made of the community, a critic teacher was secured so that in September, 1918, the first church school opened operating directly under the Normal Department. A classroom in College Hall (now called Science Hall) was made available for the school.

From 1919 to 1939 the Normal Department expanded until it occupied hallways, closets and every foot of available space. Plans for a new elementary school were begun in 1932. Ground breaking took place in the later part of August, 1938. In the fall of 1939 the building called Normal Hall opened on Flower Avenue across the campus from the college. (This building is now H.M.S. Richards Hall next door to Sligo Church.)

Classes continued in this building until June 1964. Sometime in the late 1950's the enrollment had grown so much that grades 7 & 8 were moved to Takoma Academy leaving grades 1-6 crowded into the building. In the early 1960's Sligo Church raised funds and planned for a new school. Ground breaking took place in the spring of 1963 on Carroll Avenue next door to Takoma Academy.

The new school was no longer under the college and had become a Potomac Conference/Sligo Church school. It was built for 320 students and was to add kindergarten and bring grades 7 & 8 back. It opened with 350 students and no room for kindergarten. It wasn't until the fall of 1970 that room was finally found for a kindergarten class.

Growing pains struck again. First two portable classrooms were put up on the south side of the building. Then plans for an addition became a reality. In January 1973 the library was moved even before the heat had been turned on in the new section so that the two eighth grade teachers could each have a room. As the construction was completed other rooms were opened. The cafeteria could operate out of the lunch room again and not have to wheel trays to classrooms. We had the stage area back again as well. The highest our enrollment has ever reached was 495 during the late 1970's.

The early 1970's saw the beginnings of several days of Outdoor School which was held at Camp Boonsboro primarily. In later years other places were found that were set up for such programs instead of being teacher/student planned and run. Currently the sixth graders go to Mt. Aetna Camp for Outdoor School.

The Sligo Child Development Center for 3 & 4 year-olds opened in the fall of 1991. Our computer lab was set up for the 1995-6 school year.

### **Principals of Sligo School**

\*Until 1934 the Normal Director of WMC was also the principal of the Normal School.

1918-1919 Mrs. B. Shanks Chaney\*

1919-1923

1923-1929 Nellie P Gage\*

1929-1933 Frances A. Howell\*  
1933-1934 Vera E. Morrison\*  
1924-1944 Lorena E. Wilcox  
1944-1964 Louise B. Stuart  
1964-1966 Robert Clark  
1966-1968 William Seth  
1968-1988 Clarence Dunbebin  
1988-1990 Martha Havens  
1990-1992 Charles (Charlie) Beall  
1992-1994 Eugene (Gene) Brewer  
1994-1997 William Ruby  
1997-1999 Myszelle Spears  
1999-2005 Ruth Satelmajer  
2005- Larry Rich