

In the Autumn of 1937 Miss Nash moved house into Shorelands Road, Barnstaple. She would drive to school in a Morris 8 car and often brought Mrs Maude who lived in Barnstaple. Occasionally they would both walk to school and home in the afternoon. They were never late and it would not do for any of the pupils to be either, or she would want a good logical explanation of "Why".

We all walked to school regardless of distance, but there were 2 or 3 bigger boys who latterly had bicycles. I know there was a family living at Linscott Cottage called Luxton. They had 2 children a boy and a girl. Barbara the girl at the age of 10 or 11 years had an operation on her leg and she wore leg irons on 1 leg but she still walked to school from Linscott Cottage a distance of about 2 1/2 miles each way.

Earlier on I mentioned about the old fashioned desks put out under the verandah. Well the boys had a habit of standing on the desks holding on to the rafters in the roof of the verandah and swinging. Mrs Maude noticed this and the order came out no swinging from the rafters as she could see someone could fall and maybe hurt themself. One dinner time some boys were sitting on the desk outside the front door of the big school room. Without thinking one boy called Eric Marshall jumped up caught hold of a rafter and started swinging, not realizing Mrs Maude was inside sitting at a table picking out library books. By this time Eric was swinging quite well gaining momentum with each swing till the heels of his boots went crash right through the window pane showering the glass right into the library boxes by the Head Teacher. He looked around in amazement at the broken window pane and saw Mrs Maude inside watching him. He ran off up into the shrubbery behind the well. Mrs Maude came marching out of the door full steam ahead and asked who had done it. Eric shouted back to some of us boys who had all scattered by this time, "What did er zay", she heard it an answered "come back here and I will tell you what Er zed". Poor Eric had the cane that day but how it all happened did strike us all a bit funny.

Tragedy struck our school on January 26th 1940, the school was destroyed by fire. The big classroom took all the fire damage, the infant classroom escaped the fire. It was a Friday evening and there was to be a dance in the school room the same evening in aid of comforts for the troops. The fire appeared to have started on the thatch roof at the back corner of the roof down by the main entrance door.

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