

Eileen McCabe

Side 1:

[1] Introduction]

[6] Her father wrote history books about Cherokee Indians and built houses for family. Her mother taught at St. Joan of Arc, then Haseltine School and, when it merged with Country Day, she taught there. [John Nicholas McCabe, Winifred McCabe]

[57] Mr. Haseltine and his wife had been teachers. [1932 City Directory shows Mr. Haseltine teaching at Asheville High School] They started a small family school. [1935: Haseltine School, 43 N. Liberty St.; 1949: 61 N. Liberty St.] When the fire department condemned the building the school was merged with Asheville Country Day [1950]. Program described. [Herbert and Adeline Haseltine, Martha Nell Lovett]

[97] The two schools (Asheville Country Day name retained and Mr. Haseltine was headmaster [principal]) rented space in the Grace Presbyterian Church [1951: Asheville Country Day School, 789 Merrimon Ave.] This building was a former home of Asheville-Biltmore College [1942-1949] and was previously built by the Junior League as a baby home [Buncombe County Children's Home] (see Katharine Shepard tape).

[108] She attended St. Joan of Arc, Lee Edwards High School, St. Genevieve Junior College and Dunbarton College in Washington DC.

[122] She taught at St. Genevieve with the two sisters (see their tapes) and describes the curriculum and dress codes. [Mother Margaret Potts, Sister Kathleen Winters]

[148] Asheville Country Day School was started because two of the student's mothers wanted a Protestant, non-sectarian school. The school was strong academically, parents participated in all activities and helped supply physical labor as well, but for the first 30 years there continued to be severe financial problems. [Mrs. Margaret Dodge (W.W. Dodge Jr.) Mrs. Frances Field]

[204] St. Genevieve's was also suffering financially - fewer nuns joining orders, lay teachers cost money - Vatican II shook up all religious orders (see Potts and Winters tapes). The two schools merged smoothly as both were dedicated to high academic standings.

[223] Her mother taught history and she describes her methods and enthusiasm.
[Winifred McCabe]

[236] She taught 5th grade. Her students ranked about first in the country on the ERB (standard test). [Although she has retired, she is still tutoring.]

[261] She describes the school programs while on Merrimon Ave. and parent involvement (see Bingham tape). [Jane Bingham, Joy Jones MacFadyen]

[321] The church wanted to raise the rent and, even though there were few students enrolled, a building-fund drive was started. The board represented the "captains of industry" and \$300,000 was raised. Land was given by the Cecils and an award was given for the architectural design. [1960: Asheville Country Day School, 1345 Hendersonville Rd.] [Hubert Haseltine, Jane Bingham, Barbara Huger (Mrs. William B.), Judge Alf K. Nippert, George and William Cecil, Bertram King]

[395] For one year Clemens was headmaster. The next head master stayed 21 years [see her book p. 93 - Hazeltine was after Clemens and before Abell]. Mr. Abell was "not afraid of change" and it was under his leadership that the school grew to a student body of 300. [Col. Arthur W. Clemens, Marshall M. Abell]

[460] The 60's and 70's were years of unrest on all campuses. All values were challenged. She details the conflict between students and the school, students and parents, faculty division and parent's lack of involvement - and general confusion. [Nathaniel Saltonstall]

Side 2:

[2/11] On the resignation of Abell, the new headmaster was brought in to restore order. She describes his procedure. [Marshall M. Abell, Nathaniel Saltonstall]

[2/75] St. Genevieve's was not undergoing financial problems at this time but was having the same sort of social troubles on a lesser scale - they didn't have a high school at that time!

[2/87] The private schools met together--not much contact with public schools.

[2/105] She was chairman of the English Department and had a rough 2-3 years. She set standards and stood by them.

[2/136] Her book "An Uncommon School" was published in 1986 at the headmaster's request, after her retirement. In the end she speculates about a merger with St. Genevieve's. [James K. Rumrill]

[159] In the merger, St. Genevieve's lost its campus and name. The Country Day gave up its name (to be Carolina Day) and mascot. Teachers, but no sisters came to the merged school. The school was strong financially and there was no more competition for students or faculty. [Doris Hensley]

[213] She names some outstanding faculty members. Hamilton went on to be director of Asheville Community Theatre. Eleanor Stephens was known as an excellent grammarian. [James Hamilton, Eleanor Stephens]

[297] She is still writing and tutoring

[328] She gives her philosophy - a serious life - long respect for knowledge.

[Phone conversation two days later - in 1968 one black boy joined the 9th grade - the only black - he made one friend in the 10th grade. Is now in Washington as a speech writer with a Republican senator. In 1970 a scholarship was started. Two more black boys attended as did foreign exchange students...the money from St. Genevieve was used (by stipulation) for faculty enrichment.