

My visit with Miss Crusemire

Several months ago I got word from my friend Steve Reiff that Madeline Crusemire had moved to The Landings, a retirement facility in Willow Grove. Steve and I were in Miss Crusemire's first and second grade class together. She was always very special to me. I had stopped to see her at Glenside Elementary just before she retired in 1992. Not knowing her condition I was a little apprehensive of seeing her again so I called The Landings and got her on the phone and was delighted to find out that she was excited I had called and remembered me. So the next day my wife Lyn and I visited her at The Landings. Lyn is a retired first grade and special education teacher from the Neshaminy School District and my mother taught first grade in Abington before I was born so I have been surrounded by teachers all my life.

We stopped to get her a small plant and I took along my first grade class photo along with a paper photo marked with the classmates names that I could remember. When we arrived she was playing Bingo with a group of ladies but she excused herself and we wheeled her to a downstairs meeting room where we could talk. Miss Crusemire is 92 years old and has lost both of her legs and is confined to a wheelchair. Other than that she appears in good health and her mind is exceptional. She has a great attitude and is so interesting to talk to.



We talked about her years in teaching and I learned some things I did not know about her. She grew up in Glenside in a house on Brookdale Ave. near the War Memorial Park. She was an only child and attended Cheltenham schools starting at the old Glenside School which was at Easton and Springhouse Lane, then Thomas Williams Junior High and the old Cheltenham High School. She later went on to start her teaching career at the old Glenside School that she had attended as a child and then in 1956 she moved to the then new Glenside School at Harrison Ave. and Limekiln Pike.

My class was the first 1st grade at the new school in 1956. I can remember Miss Crusemire giving me a big hug when I walked in the door of her classroom the first day. Mr Dirk was the principle and we talked about all the other teachers that were there at the time. Most are no longer with us. After talking for awhile we took her to the dining room for her supper but first we went out on the deck which oversees a lake and we fed the geese and fish. There were an amazing number of fish in the lake and it was a beautiful day.



It was a delightful visit and I hope to see her again soon.

If anyone would like to contact Miss Crusemire she is in room 311 at The Landings in Willow Grove. I am sure she would enjoy a visit.

Additional Photos and information on Glenside Elementary can be found at my web page about the school and its history at:

<http://chs-68.org/GlensideElementary/> or <http://chs-68.org> and use the links there.

Doug Crompton – May 2, 2017