

## STAFF TRIBUTES from Honoured Classes in 2021

### 1946 - Reflections from Bernice (Berg) Knutson

In 2021, our class celebrated **75 years** since our Grade 12 graduation!

I count it a privilege to share my first impressions of LCBI, or SLBI, as it was called then. It was a turning point in my life, and I shall always be thankful for the privilege of finishing the last two years of high school here!

As we chugged across the prairie in my brother-in-law's Model A Ford truck I was amazed at the total absence of trees. There were two brick buildings, and that was all! However, the two years I spent there laid a firm foundation for the rest of my life.

**Pastor Evenson (1939 - 1951)** was president. **Gulbrand (Bert) Loken (1943 - 1961)** was high school principal. There were two other teachers - **Mildred Joel** and **Tryphena Sylte**. They were a dedicated and hardworking staff, not much older than we were!

I was only 16 and was not able to go home again all year. However, the wonderful friends I found there made up for it! I had taken grades 9 and 10 by correspondence. It was a challenge to take notes in class and try to read my writing later! My roommate, Marg Simrose, was a quiet girl and we studied together a lot. My most difficult subject was Algebra, which was her favorite! God knew just what I needed!

Old Main contained the Girl's Dorm on 2nd and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors. The classrooms and office were on 1st. The kitchen and dining room were in the basement. The other building housed the boys. **Mr. and Mrs. Loken** and their two little ones lived on the first floor. He was Dean of Men. They probably didn't get much sleep those years, but they were always pleasant.

**Pastor Evenson directed the choir.** What a wonderful experience for this backwoods girl...made very special when my sister came for Christmas and attended our concert! We did go to Skudesnes Church near Loreburn to sing, in the back of a truck! I was asked to sing in a mixed quartet that went to Saskatoon several times to sing on the Lutheran Hour. This was all part of God's preparation for the future God was planning for me.

When I remember that farmers mortgaged their farms to make this school possible, it causes me to be very grateful for LCBI. Even the land on which the school was built was donated by a local farmer! Are we willing to risk our very livelihood to promote God's Kingdom, as these farmers did?

May God bless you all and lead you to find God's will for your life.

As God promises in Jeremiah 29:11

"I know the plans I have for you...to give you a hope and a future"

## 1944 - Reflections from Alice Haldorson

Many good memories flood my mind from attending that year. One challenge that we accomplished was singing the Easter cantata "Crucifixion" under the inspiring direction of **Dr. Evenson (1939 - 1951)**. Many of us were more used to the 4-part harmony of the blue Concordia (c.1933) from our little country churches! We had some good soloists and the piano talents of the Goplen twins, Jenny and Minnie, which elevated our performance greatly.

## 1952 - Reflections from Verna (Peterson) Gillespie

All staff were very nice, but my first choice would be **Mr. G Loken (1943 - 1961)**. Whether it was Chemistry or Mathematics, he had an amazing approach to teaching, he explained by drawing sketches on the blackboard. He brought life to equations because teaching students was his life. Loken was born to teach! I don't ever recall him putting anyone down. He had a sense of humour. He dared to smile in class! He showed respect to us students, and in return, we respected him. I learned far more than Algebra and Chemistry from Mr. Loken. I learned how to treat people in a Christ-like way.

## 1956 - Reflections from Bishop Allan Grundahl

I am grateful for **Mr. Loken (1943 - 1961)**. He was an LCBI Staff member who stands out in my memory. In my mind, I can still see his warm smile that reflected his positive spirit. He never seemed frustrated by any challenge - a great quality for raising his large, young family in a boys' dormitory! - often punctuated by high school student shenanigans! He was "cool", too! When his car got stuck in the snow halfway across "the prairie" between the school and town...and a few of us students had to push him out, I admired that he simply sat in the driver's seat, smiling as though he were lounging on a vacation beach! Pretty "cool"! But since then, I've come to think of Mr. Loken as a demonstration of the confidence we can have in the Christian Faith, fostered in LCBI's motto, "We would see Jesus".

## 1956 - Reflections from Dennis Nestegard

**Gulbrand Loken (1943 - 1961)**: (Chemistry and Algebra) - Good sense of humour!

**Myrtle Hansen (1948 - 1976)**: (Literature) - Very dedicated.

## 1964 - Reflections from Marg (Anderson) Brown

**Elmer Rawling (1962 - 1971)** I took art class from Elmer Rawling when I was in Grade 12 (1964).

I remember **Mr. Rawling** for his rich singing voice, for directing the choir and especially for his artistic talents. He taught an oil painting class for interested students and I joined, not knowing I was supposed to get my own art supplies.

Next class, I was ready to tell him I couldn't take the class as I could neither get to an art store in Saskatoon nor had the money to buy the needed items. It was then he handed me a box containing paints, brushes, brush cleaner and a masonite board to paint on. He had purchased them on the weekend! I still have the painting - the first oil painting I ever did - a happy little black child sitting on the grass in the sunlight. Whenever I look at it, the picture reminds me of Mr. Rawling's encouragement and kindness.

## **1993 - Reflections from Murray Nelson**

### **Dan Haugen (1983 - 2002)**

President Dan went to a lot of work to set up hockey when I was in grade 10. There were five of us playing hockey, Dan fed us at times so that we could get to hockey on time. Dan let us use his van to drive to Kenaston to play hockey. We had a great year of hockey and it wouldn't have happened if Dan had not have gone out of his way to make it happen.

Thank you, Dan!

### **Delwyn Leudtke (1989 - 2008)**

Delwyn was diligent at his job as Dean of Men. He treated each student with care and was fair but also keep the boys in line. I really respected him as a staff member.

Thank you, Delwyn!

## **2008 - Reflections from Luke Anderson**

### **Jennifer Ridgewell (1997 to present)**

As a teacher, volleyball and badminton coach I got to know Jennifer well. She was a great coach, but my memory is of her teaching. I spent most of Chem20 being "taught" at another school by an individual who had no business teaching the class. By the end of the semester around half of the students were failing the class and there was not one A student to be found. I passed the class with little understanding of Chemistry. Following this I returned to LCBI to be taught Chem30 by Jennifer. She took the first two weeks to review Chem20 and in that time (just 2 weeks!!) I learned an entire semester of Chem20. Those two weeks showed me the impact that a great teacher can make.

Thank you, Jennifer!

### **Bob Akre (2007 - 2013)**

Campus Life Staff play an important role in the teenagers' lives at LCBI. Bob Akre stepped up at a time when the school really needed him and more importantly when the students needed him. He had a great level of understanding and patience with all students. He cared and it showed. He took time to spend talking, listening and guiding students as well as time to play the occasional midnight badminton tournament.

Thank you, Bob!