

Reflections from Mr. Dave “Little Dave” Miller, AMS student, 1950-1955, for grades 6-11, and then administrator/teacher at ACS/FCS from 1964-1975

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Mr. Miller’s first impression as he thought about his school experience was that it was a very enjoyable time. He and his classmates enjoyed their teachers immensely.

He talked about Rev. Joseph Baer, assistant pastor at Alden Mennonite Church, who actually taught in the upper elementary grades for a time due to shortage of teachers.

He remembered Esther Diener who taught typing class and described her as a “speedster” in her typing ability.

He vividly remembered Mr. Elton Moser, a teacher who made a map of the Apostle Paul’s missionary journeys on plywood and wired it so that when he flipped a switch, the first journey would light in one color, then another switch would light in another color, and the same for the third.

He talked about how much he and his classmates enjoyed recess time, especially in the winter on the ice skating pond near the school. (Another student from that era reflected that sometimes recess would extend well into the afternoon.) The school had a small gymnasium in which they played basketball in inclement weather.

Mr. Miller, as did many students of that time, completed his high school years at Eastern Mennonite College in VA. He then attended the Eastern Mennonite College for just one semester before he returned home to work on his brother’s farm for two years. That convinced him to go back to college to complete a teaching degree, which he did and returned here again in 1964 where he served at the for the next 10 years, teaching science and math primarily. He was there through its days of changing names from Alden Mennonite to Alden Christian to Faith Christian School, and locations from the Two Rod Rod facility to Randall Baptist Church on Main Street in Williamsville.

When I asked him what he remembered of how that move came about, he shared that the school - ACS at that time m- was struggling with enrollment and that contributed to financial difficulty. The school secretary at that time, Joan Waterman, attended Randall Baptist and offered the suggestion that perhaps that church might be open to hosting the school. Boards met and a decision was made to relocate the school to what was perceived to be a more centralized location, affording more families the opportunity to send their children to a Christian school. The move actually was made in 1973.

Mr. Miller enjoyed his relationships with the students and teachers. Some traditions developed such as the faculty playing basketball against the students and a spring track-and-field day in which all the students participated. The 1974 yearbook, “Reflections” is dedicated to Mr. Miller.

After he left FCS in 1975, he moved his family to Florida where he continued in education, teaching and administering at Christian and public school for the next 20+ years. He then moved gain, this time to Virginia where he served at his alma mater - Eastern Mennonite College as a carpenter and in PR and alumni relations. He retired 5 years ago and says he is busier now than ever before, still living with his wife in Quickburg, VA.

He reflected that the Christian influence of his schooling impacted and motivated him. He keenly saw as a teacher the difference the Christian worldview made in his students, enjoying the freedom in the Christian school to teach truth as taught in the Bible and appreciated the supportive homes. He said during his time teaching science in the public schools, he had to be more “sneaky,” but always responding openly to any questions students would raise. He continues his avid interest in science, mentioning his following the website, “Answers in Genesis.”