



KELVIN GROVE STATE HIGH SCHOOL

SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION

23rd November, 1985

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Senior Mistress
1963 - 1984

In the Jubilee booklet issued in connection with Kelvin Grove Primary School's fiftieth jubilee and in the history of Kelvin Grove College, now the Brisbane College of Advanced Education, there is a most interesting quotation used as a reference to this locality. Many of you must have passed this particular wall memorial frequently for it is to be found on the wall of the Tourist Bureau at the corner of Adelaide Street and Edward Street. It is a memorial plaque to the Old Normal School which once stood on that site. At the end of the inscription are the Latin words "Est Renius locus" which freely translated means "There is a Spirit in this place". There is a spirit in Kelvin Grove too. I do not think you should ever forget your youthful beginnings here in this place. You may, like most of us, have treated your studies heedlessly and carelessly at times, but there were some rare occasions when you "glimpsed great vistas and were aware momentarily of being part of a great and ageless tradition". You worked not for money, but as your motto implies, for the pursuit of knowledge and excellence and those ideals which seem as far above us and beyond us as the stars of the night sky. We still feel this spirit here today as part of the inspiration of our earlier years; for most education, as Agnes de Mille said is "a means of inspiration - "inspire" meaning to breathe in. It occurs between living minds". And such I believe was the inspiration and education which was and is to be found here at Kelvin Grove. It was something breathed in: it was part of the spirit of the place. I trust also that this early inspiration will inspire you again to serve this school community and thereby the wider community of the world, in the present and in the future, by whatever means or association is available to you. I refer you with a half smile to lines written probably two centuries ago about the Old School. Certainly they are sentimental and nostalgic.

THE OLD SCHOOL.

Be it a weakness, it deserves some praise:
We love the play-place of our early days-
The scene is touching, and the heart is stone
That feels not at that sight, and feels at none.
The wall on which we tried our graving skill,
The very name we carved, subsisting still;
The bench on which we sat while deep employed,
Tho' mangled, hacked, and hewed, not yet destroyed:
The little ones, unbudged, glowing hot,
Playing our games, and on the very spot;
As happy as we once, to kneel and draw
The chalky ring, and knuckle down at law;
To pitch the ball into the grounded hat,
Or drive it devious with a dextrous pat-
The pleasing spectacle at once excites
Such recollection of our own delights,
That viewing it, we seem almost to obtain
Our innocent sweet simple years again.
This fond attachment to the well-known place,
Whence first we started into life's long race,
Maintains its hold with such unfailing sway,
We feel it even in age, and at our latest day.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF STUDENTS OF KELVIN GROVE HIGH SCHOOL

These few printed pages are put on simply as a means of welcoming you, the first Students of Kelvin Grove High School, to this Jubilee celebration on November 23rd, 1985. For those of you given to a little bit of nostalgia, they may be regarded as a memento of this day, because these pages glance at the past, while acknowledging as always, that it is on the present and future School that our hopes rest. If as a result of this day, a permanent Past Students Association is formed, then I hope that some of you will be leaders in that Association, so that the past serves the present and future life of the School and in a wider sense the life of our community. As Shakespeare wrote "What's past is prologue" - merely a prologue, I hope, to an even greater future for the School, ten, twenty and forty years on.

In regard to the immediate past and to the growth of the School since its inception in 1964, who is better qualified to write of it than Mr. Pemberton? His admirable summing up of the progress of the School in those twenty-five years is to be found in the School Magazine which I feel sure you will want to purchase. As a School, Kelvin Grove has been particularly fortunate in its Principals (and also in its Deputies) down to its present incumbent. Under Mr. Sparkes the Standards of the School were set. Under him the idea that manners (in the widest sense of the term) makeeth man" was adhered to, and his successors, Mr. Sainsbury, Mr. McCallum, Mr. Pemberton, Mr. Fynes-Clinton and Mr. Hanly have presided over a School growing in numbers, in prestige and in confidence. Modesty did not allow Mr. Pemberton to give due praise to the part he played in the growth of the School. Partly because of his longer tenure of the office of Principal, but mainly because of his vision, his energy and his good humoured tenacity, most of the building added to the original School are an enduring tribute to him. He is part of, and helps to personify "the Spirit of the place" which I hope to write of later on. I should also like to say here that Kelvin Grove has also been peculiarly fortunate having so many dedicated members of its Parents and Citizens Association and Ladies Auxiliary working unstintingly with its School Principals, giving freely of their precious time and energy for the betterment of the School. This harmony too has been part of "the Spirit of the place". This harmony too has

In the Jubilee booklet issued by Kelvin Grove Primary School at their Fiftieth and their Seventy-fifth Jubilee celebration, there has been in each a notable section devoted to the history of the Suburb of Kelvin Grove and to this particular locality within the suburb.

"From the heights and valleys round about,
We came to gather on the hill."

As the school song has it, and I defy anyone to drive up or walk up Herston Road from the hospital and cast a quick glance upwards, yet not feel that this school does indeed crown the hill, with its amphitheatre of buildings. Similarly I feel that no one can attend this School and walk along its corridors without remembering how they sometimes looked onto the circle of blue hills which surround the school to the north-west, and not echo the words of the first headmistress of Kelvin Grove Girls and Infants School, Mrs. R.H. Roberts, who in the Jubilee booklet of 1937 recorded her first impressions of the site of the present school. "The new school on the hill was beautiful for its situation, commanding a magnificent view of the range which forms the background of our ever expanding city. While the lights and shadows over the Gap and onto by Waterworks Hill were fit subjects for the painter's brush".

Not only is Kelvin Grove High School beautifully sited it is quite unique in an educational sense. Its links with education go back to the very early days of Brisbane. Even in the 1850's and 60's parents petitioned for the setting up of a school which finally was opened on the 1st May, 1875 - after the residents agreed to subscribe a specified amount towards the cost of this school in Kelvin Grove Road. Looking at the drawing of the grounds of that early Provisional School in the History Unit of the Education Department, one looks at the clear signature and then looks below at the date 13/5/76 with a kind of time-machine shock. It was not 76 of this century. It was penned well over 100 years ago. This school of 1875 was of course a mixed school, but later, as many of you know, the present site of this Kelvin Grove High School was occupied, firstly by the Kelvin Grove Boys School in 1887 and still later it became an Infants School when in 1950 the Primary School became again a mixed school as it had been in 1875. So much for the present site of the High School and its sense of educational continuity. What of the locality and of the hill itself?

In the John Oxley Library there is a copy of the 33rd Bancroft Memorial Lecture. Dr. Bancroft, after whom Bancroft Park was named, was in 1864 one of the earliest purchasers of land in Kelvin Grove and his house, which he called "Kelvin Grove" gave its name to the suburb. It was virgin scrub land on the banks of the Enoggera Creek and according to him a place of surpassing sylvan beauty retarding him of many happy hours spent in the gardens of Kelvin Grove in Glasgow in Scotland. The river Kelvin runs through these gardens, and the University of Glasgow crowns the heights above them. Lord Kelvin, the famous scientist took his little row from this same river. Dr. Bancroft himself was not only a great colonial doctor, he was also a distinguished scientist and a public spirited citizen who was behind every movement for Brisbane's advancement. He had a passion for natural history and was a keen horticulturalist. He laid out gardens in which he started extensive plant studies for which he was subsequently distinguished. I like to think that he would thoroughly approve of the school's plans for the landscaping of the grounds in 1986.

A newspaper article, written fairly recently, headlined us as the School on Education Hill. The links with education are not only to be found in the obvious physical nearness of educational institutions, like the old Kindergarten Teachers College (now absorbed into the bigger campus of Kelvin Grove College), the Primary School and the old Kelvin Grove College of Advanced Education, now part of the Brisbane Campus, they are also to be found in such links as that with Sir Charles Lilley who was, as Mrs. Roberts pointed out, the founder of our Queensland educational system, which made education in Queensland "free, secular and compulsory" - a concept he fought for most tenaciously, his son, Mr. Edwin Lilley K.C. was one of the leaders of Mrs. Roberts Parents and Citizens Committee, and his grandson Dr. Charles Lilley was one of the famous old boys of Kelvin Grove Primary School.

One of the most interesting educational links with the past is the fact that Victoria Park and the hill was on the short list of sites for a new university. In the twenties it was strongly felt that Victoria Park was the best site. It was close to the city and its closeness to the Hospital for a future Medical School was another advantage. However in 1926 the Mayne bequest enabled the city to purchase 200 acres at St. Lucia. Now at least we may enjoy the beauty of Victoria Park and the sylvan surroundings which moved Dr. Bancroft to enthusiastic praise, when he first came here in the middle of the last century.