

It was interesting to watch snow melt from that big snow we got on April 14th 2018. On one of the buildings I was walking by in Cannon Falls there were some very big icicles. I'm talking about 3 to 4 feet long and a diameter on the top of 3 to 4 inches. As I look at those, it brought back a memory from grade school. It was a very vivid memory as I saw this whole scenario play out.

This would have been the spring of 1962 if recollection serves me. I was in 3rd grade at the time. There were a few different grades out for noon recess. We were enjoying an early spring day, or as we call them this year a late winter day. We were all running around playing and laughing and being just plain noisy on the playground on the west and south sides of the grade school. There were two teachers who had the noon recess duty on this particular day. One was Mrs. Charlotte Roberts and the other was Mrs. Marian Moreland. Similar to the snow we had in mid-April, the snow that gathered on the roof of the venerable schoolhouse was melting but then freezing as it dripped off the roof. This created some very large icicles like the ones I saw a few weeks ago and similar to this stock picture above.



To this day, I can go out on that playground and show you the spot I was standing when I just looked up and saw one of these pointed ice sculptures break loose from the edge of the roof. I've added arrows to the picture to the left to show how I remember it. The red arrow on the roof points to where the falling icicle was. This entire length of roof had icicles. The yellow arrow in the snow is where I was standing. As I watched it

begin its decent, the point of the icicle began to shift to the right just a little. It did not come straight down but at a slight angle. Mrs. Moreland and Mrs. Roberts were standing near the west edge of the building and unfortunately right in the path of the falling ice. It struck Mrs. Moreland on the head and back of her neck. She was knocked unconscious and I'm sure suffered a concussion. Needless to say the playground grew eerily quiet. Mrs. Roberts attended to her and soon other help arrived. I'm sure Dr. Olson got to the scene as well. All of us kids were told to go back to our classrooms so we did not see how the scene finally unfolded. Mrs. Moreland did recover from her injuries but it was a very scary ordeal.

I often think what would have happened if that icicle had come straight down instead of turning just enough of an angle to keep the sharp point from striking first. I couldn't explain that day nor can I today why I happened to look up and see the entire flight of the ice. It's one of those grade school memories that I'll always have. I hadn't thought about it for a long time but seeing those big icicles a couple weeks ago instantly brought it back to mind. Janis Ray tells me that building still gets those large ice daggers from time to time. Here's a word of caution, if you see icicles on your house or any building, there may be some big ones somewhere so take a look upward just to be safe.



I want to make note of the passing of a great community leader in West Concord. Lois Jean Ferguson passed away on April 18th, 2018 at the age of 92. She had a long list of achievements, including being part of the group that saved the old grade school from being demolished and instead it became the West Concord Historical Society museum. She was the first board president and also helped establish the WCHS Foundation, of which she served as the first president. She worked for 37 years in the WC school district starting in 1953. She was elected Minnesota Office Professional of the Year in 1977 and in that same year, Minnesota Governor Rudy Perpich declared April 27 as 'Lois Jean Ferguson Day' in Minnesota. Lois Jean was a 1943 graduate of West Concord High School and her love of the school district and the community never wavered. Thank you Lois Jean for all you accomplished.