
Fond Memories, 1907-1918

Twelve years with the Christian Brothers in the old, wooden, three-storied, Georgian-style schoolhouse at Twelfth and K Streets. "Readin', 'ritin', and 'rithmetic" to the tune of an ever-evident, but but seldom-used, hickory stick . . . spelling by rote, circles and spirals of Palmer Method penmanship. Catechism, preceded by three decades of the rosary, began every day.

I remember Brother Jasper as a thin, ascetic man who was the disciplinarian, but wholly fair, with an evident desire to help "his boys." He provided us with a guidepost in life: "Once a Brothers' boy, always a Brothers' boy."

The director of the commercial (business) department was Brother Euphrasius, who found escape from the routine of journals and ledgers as the drama instructor. He was forever putting on spectacular stage productions. Often, the public performance required nothing less than the acquisition of the Clunie or the Grand Theater, the only playhouses in town. Br. Euphrasius' strategy was to have every available student appear on stage at some time during the performance — lots of spear carriers and mob scenes. That way, all the relatives and friends purchased tickets and a full house was assured to help the slim finances of the school.

Because of a sincere sense of personal gratitude, Brother Albian lingers in my memory as a summary of all the Brothers. His encouragement, advice, and friendship was responsible for many Brothers' Boys making the grade.

This was all a long time ago. So much of it is gone. But, a priceless heritage remains. "Once a Brothers' boy, always a Brothers' boy."

—Peter E. Mitchell, Sr.
Class of 1918
