

## **Schools & Education – Female School Days**

Well I walked three miles to school and the roads were rough at that time there was no tarred roads the roads were rough and pot holes on the roads indeed I remember what some of the children what we would do when we were thirsty they lay down and took a drink from the puddle in the road and I never heard tell of any child ever being sick from doing that at that time there wasn't much traffic and I suppose the water was clear from the rain and later when I went to school I went on to secondary school I went on a bus but some of the girls before me the year or two before me they went on their bicycles there was no transport and you cycled to Donaghmore Convent and Dungannon Academy and cycled home it was pretty tough in the winter some would be traveling four to five to six miles and if it was Dungannon it was seven miles the teacher at that time would have come out and played games with the children they used to play ball we called it Queenie and play where she would get the children altogether and she stood with her back to the children and threw the ball over her shoulder and we would all scramble to get it and whoever got the ball we would be all stood with our hands behind our backs and she would turn around and say Queenie and she would guess and if she guessed right that person she would change places then they would take the place of the teacher so that was one of them.

Then there was other games like ring a ring a rosie where we formed a big ring there would be a couple inside the ring there was others here was different ones the buds of may a song usually a song attached to these games then they would walk around and sing ring a ring a rosie or who do we want for nuts in May then a girl would pick out a boy and they'd be put in the middle we would circle around them again then the boys would usually play horsey back give each other rides on their back and play football that was usually the run of it

The radio that time you were asked to help in the house its not like nowadays girls in the sitting room that time you had to help there was quite a lot of men working I was the only girl in the house and I fell for the work helping that time it

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was washing dishes and maybe after wash some clothes clothes would have been step in a big basin and mummy would have had rinso and persil that was the two washing powders at that time or sunlight soap I would have had to give her a hand I was fond of reading I would read books the neighbour men would come in and visit at night and there was usually a big conversation and a bit of fun and craic telling jokes I enjoyed that too

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