

Dear Friends of Good Penmanship:

This issue is dedicated to the memory of Canada's foremost penman, J. J. Bailey and his lovely wife, Mary. Mary Banks Bailey died on July 30, 1970 and J. J. died on October 21, 1970. He would have been 91 on November 24. Besides being an expert penman, J. J. was a master of English and a champion rose grower. He was author of a textbook "The Bailey Method of Penmanship" which has been used in the high schools of Ontario for over 40 years. He also wrote 3 textbooks for use in elementary schools as well as a teacher's manual. His texts were also used in the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. The script in the Bailey Method is unsurpassed for high school and more advanced students. E. C. Mills, his teacher, said, "No one ever wrote ten finer pages than those written by J. J. Bailey which were published in the Business Educator in 1929-1930. These pages have been reproduced here for your information, enjoyment and inspiration.

Mary Banks Bailey was a teacher in Toronto. At that time, every elementary teacher in the city of Toronto had to attend night school and take Penmanship from J. J. Bailey before being granted a permanent certificate to teach. This is how they met. J. J. taught night school to Toronto teachers for 30 years in addition to teaching Penmanship at the High School of Commerce during the day. As a result, the handwriting of the Toronto children was excellent. For example, Alan Richardson attended elementary school in Toronto and when the family moved to Aurora, the teacher was so impressed by Alan's handwriting that she went to Toronto to find out how to do it.

The Baileys were both generous, hospitable people. In going through some of the correspondence from them, it is interesting to note that they always said, "Come and see us." We often did. The picture of the Baileys on the "In Memoriam" page was taken from a group picture of our wedding party, December 15, 1945. My husband, Fred, Jean Boyes and I were his favorite students, Fred being his best one.

- Eileen Richardson, Editor