



Back Row L to R: Beth Rising, John Corbett, Dennis Czaia, Darrell Krepsky, Miriam ????, Terry Aspnes, Paula Klempka, Gary Tilleson, Russell Jones, John ????, Jeff Yates, Jim Westwood
 Third Row: L to R: Ross Arnold, Jean ????, Randy Kangas, Ben Monson, Dan Westacott, Neil Maffitt, Tim Bohmer, Tim Yund, Mike Buday, Dan ????, Bobby Chmielewski
 Mr. Hendrickson, Kevin Nelson, Diana Johnson, Mitchell Bliss, David ?, Bradley Tostenson, Joel Johnson, David ?, Cindy Anderson, Susanne Anderson, Dan Polneszek, Chris ?, Mr. Jacobson
 1st. Row L to R: Tim Witkowski, Sybil Bland, Elaine Saito, Julie ???, Mike Litwinczuk, Jim Vainovskis, Dean Crockett, Emily Rank, Sharon ???, Lisa Schommer, Ginger Bickell, Lisa ???

Not Pictured: Lee Ann Kuha, Mike Welling, Jill Westerburg

The Minneapolis, MN, Tuttle Elementary School 6th Grade Graduation photo was taken in the school gym in front of the stage. The gym was located on the 1st floor in the middle of the building. This area was where we had all our assemblies too. The school band played on the stage while us kids sat on the gym floor cross-legged grouped by classroom. In 2018, I took my wife and kids to visit the school building and discovered the gym was gone. Asking the people working in the building at the time none seemed to know that the school ever even had a gym!

Since I'm the one supplying this narrative--I'll give a little bit of information about myself. I'm the one in the picture hold up the set of keys--fourth kid from the right in the back row. In a moment of defiance when we were all told to put our arms down, I decided to show off the keys to my backyard playhouse that I recently had a lock installed on to prevent the neighborhood kids from squatting in while I was at school.

This picture is both sixth grade classes combined together and was the last time I was present with all of them. Both my parents worked in those days so my paternal grandma was my daycare provider. She lived SE on Como Ave., so I attended grade school there. After sixth grade my parents felt I was old enough to stay home alone, so while the rest of the kids in the picture went on to Marshall-U, I transferred to Minneapolis NE Junior High School, and then on to Edison High School.

I happened to have both teachers in the picture. Mr. Hendrickson on the left was my fourth-grade teacher. My memory of him is he was very nice and laid back. In fact, he was the kind of teacher that I could not imagine ever getting angry or upset with us kids. He was quite a good artist and would draw a cute little character on the black board he called "Ludwig." Another talent of his was performing slight-of-hand. He did Prestidigitation with cards, string and coins for our class. I also remember he had our 4th grade class help him write a book. He did most of the writing on the black board and we were supposed to copy it. He'd ask us for story ideas as he went along. Only one girl in class had copied the entire story down when it was completed and he tried to get it published.

Mr. Jacobson was my 6th grade teacher and was one of the new teachers at Tuttle at the time. I don't remember much about Mr. Jacobson except that he drove my dream car: a 1969 Mercury Cougar XR7 with a 351ci V-8 engine. During recess my friend Bradley Tostenson and I would hang out around his green car and admire it. Mr. Jacobson didn't seem to mind, he knew we thought his car was cool.

I did my best to find everyone's name. I had written their first names down in the picture folder, but not last names due to space constraints. Some of the last names I could remember and the rest I used online yearbooks from Marshall-U to fill in. Some I just couldn't remember and they were gone from the school district too as no yearbook pictures were found either. Those names have ??? in place of their last name. Their first name is correct as it was written down when I knew them all.

I added a Not Pictured list and there's probably more than the three I have, but Lee Ann and Jill showed up in the 7th grade yearbooks, so I don't know why they are missing from this photo. I remember both well from 5th grade. Mike Welling was my best friend at Tuttle. A month before the class picture was taken his family moved away to Balsam Lake, WI, where he finished out his schooling.

In closing I should mention that after leaving Tuttle, I never saw a single person from my class again with one exemption. In 2007 I was at Forest Lake Dodge/Chrysler/Jeep having some repair work performed on my RAM truck when I discovered that the mechanic doing some of the work was Jim Vainovskis (Front row holding sign)! He remembered me and we had a brief chat. He left the dealership shortly after that to help his family run a restaurant they owned in Lindstrom, MN.

--Russell Jones, December 2020.