



Street Stories

Casselman Crescent

GPS: [49.1527745,-122.2919969](https://www.google.com/maps/place/49.1527745,-122.2919969)



Marguerite Casselman loved to teach. She is remembered forever by the street named after her.

Mission Community Archives 0025-198302-4339

“Live, be happy, and in short, keep alive,” was Marguerite McKay Casselman’s motto. By all accounts, she lived it. She was one of the old school of educational pioneers in Mission: single women who dedicated their lives to teaching.

A native of Ontario, Casselman began teaching in Mission in 1922, initially in temporary quarters in the agricultural building on the fairgrounds. Later, she taught in the first high school, which was in the building that became the old Mission Central Elementary School, then at the present day Mission Secondary on Seventh Avenue. She taught for 32 years, retiring in 1954.

Throughout her career, Casselman taught almost all subjects; however, her main interest was mathematics, a subject she felt was logical and easy to teach.

Her skills as a teacher did not include coddling her students – legend has it she was not above throwing a piece of chalk at a student who disturbed the class. Yet she was popular with her pupils, who knew her lovingly as “Cassy.” She certainly returned the affection, saying, “I can’t imagine anyone teaching for years and not liking children.” Students fondly recalled, “Her devotion to

learning was inspirational,” adding, “Her joy of living had an even greater influence.” This joy of living involved such passions as music, ballet and collecting books – especially “whodunit” novels, history, and poetry.

On retiring, Casselman swore to indulge in her other interests, such as travel and golf. She lived for many years in a house situated on Mount Mary Ann – the hill above Hillside Elementary School.

When Casselman passed away in 1963, the *Fraser Valley Record* said that “she cherished [her home] almost as much as she did all the students she had taught.” Sadly, her home burned down three years later, killing her brother and destroying its large library.

In 1993, when Derma Estates developed this hillside, a short street was named after her very near where she had lived for so many years, overlooking the town she gave her life to and beyond an immense sweep of farmland and mountains.

Street Stories is provided by the Mission Community Archives, which is operated by the Mission Historical Society. If you have any questions or further information on Miss Casselman, please call us at 604-820-2621.

by David Buss and Val Billesberger