

#1A-1b Beaufort Scrapbook (Nancy Duffy Russell)
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Perhaps this led to Tommy's confusion. Those gyms, as well as Smyrna High School gymnasium, were still being used during my high school basketball playing days. These gyms were the scenes of many tough competitive games between county teams.

The Beaufort High School gymnasium, built in 1935, was filled to capacity when spectators, parents, townspeople, and fans came to see high school basketball teams. The girl's entrance into the gym was not organized, but the boy's team along with Mr. McQuaid filed into the gym to the cheers and support of every person. Team members were always dressed as if for church, and a hero's welcome was their greeting. Today the gym is a reminder of more glorious days of activity.

As a freshman on the girl's basketball team with older teammates playing - Peggy Guthrie, Iris Davis, Peggy O'Neal, Cora Willis, Carroll Ann Willis, Betsy Fulford, Tinkie Willis, Alice Dudley, and Janice Willis - I sat on the bench watching many plays on the basketball court. When Shirley Johnson, our coach, did put me in and I scored two points, Mr. McQuaid called me "Two Points" until I improved my statistics. My playing record improved with experience.

Bert Brooks told me that he and Louise Noe rode to school and home for lunch with Mr. McQuaid in his car's "rumble seat." They loved that ride each day in that car's special feature.

Shirley Babcock told me that Mr. McQuaid boarded with James and Roma Noe when he first came to Beaufort; therefore, it was convenient for Louis and Bert to* "catch" a ride.

I have also heard stories that Mr. McQuaid loaned his car to students who needed a ride for a date.

My senior year the girl's basketball team was coached by Olivia Floyd. Shirley Johnson had married Dick Babcock and was no longer teaching at Beaufort High School. During that winter season, when Mrs. Floyd could not attend games, Mr. McQuaid coached us, and we paid close attention to him. However, I am sure he was much more gentle with our mistakes than with the boys on his team.

I remember out-of-town games when Sheriff Gehrman Holland loaned his car to take players. I was the designated driver and was instructed to follow Mr. McQuaid. This I did, but I was so afraid that

I would hit the button with my foot that turned on the lights and siren. Had I done this, I would probably have frightened myself more than Mr. McQuaid and his riders.

Activity buses were not a part of high school during those years. Parents, friends, and fans drove players, cheerleaders, and managers.

Dr. John Way recalls driving Mr. McQuaid and team players when his sons played basketball. The trip to an out-of-town school gave opportunity for conversation. World War II was a common interest and good for many miles on the road. Mr. McQuaid had fought in the battle of Anzio, a small town on the western coast of Italy. American troops established a beachhead there after heavy fighting in 1944.

Tom McQuaid taught his students more than math and basketball skills. He taught us values, what is important in life. He built character, stressed sportsmanship, and taught us that good things did not come easily. We learned not to give up and to do the best we could; we also learned the art of losing.

***THE RECORD AND SUPPORT
OF A COACH***

June 5, 2000

The record and support of Coach Tom McQuaid remains unbroken, and his ability and reputation as a teacher and coach at Beaufort High School live on.

In October 1998, Coach McQuaid was nominated for the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, an honor accorded outstanding and deserving individuals.

The following information was written in support of Coach McQuaid's nomination to the Hall of Fame:

"Coach Thomas Harold 'Mac' McQuaid was a five-sport high school star from the Youngstown, Ohio area. He attended Newberry College in South Carolina, where he lettered in both football and basketball. McQuaid made a smooth transition from playing to coaching when he moved to Beaufort, Carteret County, North Carolina. His first basketball team was in 1936-1937 and finished runners-up in the County Tournament consisting of high school teams from Atlantic, Harkers Island, Morehead City, Newport and