Mr. Kripky (left) and Mr. Rheaume enjoy a lighter moment, 1970.

The Shouter

There was once at Arthur Meighen a teacher so deaf that he had to shout to hear himself. Naturally, his classes were very loud (they sounded like shouting matches between teacher and students) and could be heard almost anywhere in the school. Unfortunately this teacher denied his disability and did not seek the help of a hearing aid. One day, Isbrandt Friesen (the most gentlemanly soul you could imagine – but one who had a very keen sense of humour) cornered the shouter in the staff room and asked him to listen to his watch. "What do you hear?" he asked. "Tick tock, tick tock, tick tock" was the loud reply. "No, no, no," said Isbrandt gently, "it says 'buzzzzzzzzzz' – it's my new electric watch."

much more outspoken in their views on school issues than was commonly the case in other Portage schools. When he was promoted to assistant-superintendent, students and staff were very happy for him, but they knew they would miss his organization and efficiency, his consensus building, and his outgoing personality. Holmes also served a successful term as superintendent before retiring.

Peter Kripky (1969-74)

As Virgil Holmes's replacement, Peter Kripky faced the obvious difficulty that no one could really replace Holmes in the hearts and minds of students and staff. Having an outspoken (some said "rebel") staff complicated the situation and made it difficult for Kripky to reach consensus with the staff and be as successful as he no doubt desired to be. After five uneasy years at AMHS, Kripky transferred to PCI as vice-principal and later taught history there until his retirement.

Walter Bohonos (1974-86)

With the departure of Peter Kripky from AMHS, Walter Bohonos came over from PCI to become principal. Friendly and efficient, Bohonos demonstrated a hands-on sense of leadership that won respect from students and staff. His stint of 12 years as principal was the longest (until Ken Lisowski later served a dozen years, too). He was the first AMHS principal to retire. After retiring he moved to the outskirts of Winnipeg, but still visited Portage and his many friends on a monthly basis.