

## The Dynes Family

A recent JP visit by the Archivist to a home in Mangere East coincidentally discovered Beverley Dynes, the younger daughter of May and Lester Dynes who worked in the kitchens and grounds of the College through the 1960s. *O Floreat Semper* records the great contribution this family made to the day-to-day running of the school (they preferred to work as a family). May Dynes stipulated that, being a country-bred girl, she wanted green fields on both sides and wouldn't go any closer to the city than 'the horse at Otahuhu' – the War Memorial Statue. Lester Dynes was first employed as a groundsman and May as a kitchen-hand. Bev recalled that, while a young teenager she had



driven the tractor (at considerable speed) pulling a gang-mower over the fields. In a short time May became the cook, and Lester took over the running of the kitchen (Catering Manager of today?) and the grounds as Steward/Custodian. Both girls – Shirley (17) and Beverley (16) were employed too – if the girls had not been behaving they were given onions to peel.

The History continues: Beverley, the natty one, a trim and pretty girl, waited at High Table and cleaned GNT Greenbank's study; both she and Shirley helped with general cleaning, cleaned the Chapel and polished the brass. When Shirley married John Connolly he came and worked in the grounds from 1965-75.

A typical day for May Dynes began when she got up at 5.00am. She worked until about 2.00pm, went home for a rest until 4.00pm and continued until about 9.00pm after she had finished the preparations for the following day. The kitchen facilities were primitive by today's standards. A sugar-bag full of porridge was left to soak, then had to be stirred into a boiler. 'You had to climb on a ladder to reach the bottom of the boiler with a wooden paddle'. Sometimes a special meal had to be cooked for G (Greenbank) – a trout from the Hellaby family; a pig which had to be cooked whole, but when the ears came off they had to be stuck on with plasticine.

The Dynes were frequent targets of the boys' pranks – a coffin was produced with 'Rest in Peace Lester' painted on it; the Major statue was dressed in Lester's gear; kitchen vinegar, sugar, and tea leaves tended to find their way into a variety of home brews.

John Connolly, Shirley's husband, became Head Groundsman. He collected rubbish in 44 gallon drums; laundry from the Houses were in tea chests every morning and clean clothes returned at lunch time. There was a laundry on site in those years which, like the kitchen, was served by the boiler that John started each morning, taking from 5.00am to 6.30am to get sufficient steam up for both facilities and the boarding Houses.



Lester Dynes and Boys Clean GNT's Car

The Dynes loved their time at King's. 'They were the happy days of our lives – it never leaves you, the time we spent there'.

**John Bean**  
Archivist