

School CP Policy Change

Fiction by Angela Bauer

As told to her

In July of 1939, following her divorce, Virginia moved from Boston to West Greenwich Village, New York City with her only son Joel, then not yet 7. She purchased a four story townhouse at 32 Grove Street between Bedford and Hudson Streets.

Sixteen years previously Virginia had started her university career at Vassar College at Poughkeepsie in Upstate New York. Immediately she became friends with Kate, a year ahead of her, who lived across the hall and also spoke with a Southern accent. Virginia was from Charlottesville, Virginia. Kate and her roommate Betty grew up as next door neighbors in Americus, Georgia.

Virginia picked that Townhouse because Kate, her husband Daniel and their son Danny, lived two short blocks south on Commerce Street. A bonus was that a fairly new and well-respected private grade school was just across Hudson Street where Grove Street dead-ended. Kate had enrolled Danny at that school for Pre-Kindergarten and had praised the school highly.

Joel turned out to be the youngest in his class. About a month after the school year started, the Principal, Miss McLain, phoned Virginia at her

office to report that Joel had misbehaved and was being kept in the school office until he could be picked-up and taken home.

That annoyed Virginia. When Joel misbehaved at his private schools in Boston either his teacher or the Principal simply gave him a sound spanking. Then he would be sent home with a note.

As a child and even as a 17 year-old, when Virginia had misbehaved in school she received corporal punishment: a bare-bottom over-the-lap spanking up to Seventh Grade; from Seventh Grade to graduation a bend-over paddling on her panties. Since all the students were punished the same way, Virginia never felt the school using CP was unfair or ineffective. Of course for Virginia a spanking at school meant another spanking at home. She had used the same policy with Joel in Boston.

Frankly, while listening to Miss McLain over the phone, Virginia was also annoyed with Kate. She had not mentioned, while praising the school, that it had a policy of not using CP. What Virginia felt was so unfair was that she had paid the entire year's tuition so was stuck. Besides, she suspected that any other private school would send Joel back to First Grade because he was born in December.

Ultimately Virginia profusely thanked Miss McLain and assured her she would pick up Joel as soon as possible, saying her office was on Madison Avenue at 53rd Street. When she did reach the school office she noticed that Danny was also waiting to be picked-up. While the two naughty boys fretted, Miss McLain gave Virginia all the details of Joel's misbehavior.

Virginia asked if she could give Joel a spanking right then and there. Miss McLain frowned and responded that while she personally felt that a delay in administering punishment was not good policy, the school rules did not permit any spanking on the school grounds.

Joel was quick-marched across Hudson Street and the couple of hundred feet along Grove Street to their townhouse. Virginia had given him more than a few swats to speed his progress starting when they stepped off the curb into Hudson Street. Up in Joel's room Virginia sat on his bed, bared his bottom, put him over her lap and spanked the daylights out of him with a heavy oval wooden hairbrush reserved just for spanking. He blubbered like a baby while being spanked and started to wet. That was when Virginia stopped spanking and rang for the Nanny to diaper Joel and put him to bed without lunch.

In her home office Virginia took a fresh sheet of her personal stationery and wrote a polite note to Miss McLain explaining how Joel had been hairbrush spanked, which left marks and bruises. On her way back to her office, Virginia delivered that note to Miss McLain's office.

When she had the chance Virginia put in a phone call to Kate at her office not far away on Lexington Avenue. They agreed to meet for a drink; they would share a cab for the ride from the bar to their homes.

Kate was waiting and had taken a quiet booth. She had started a dry Gibson martini with a twist of lemon peel. Virginia greeted her with a cheek-kiss and immediately ordered a similar martini.

After taking a sip of her drink Virginia opened the conversation: "Boys will misbehave. That is to be expected. In my day even girls could be naughty in school.

"But Kate, what I do not understand is why the school did not spank Joel before calling me? In Boston by the time I learned he was in trouble the school had already spanked him. Back in the day, none of the schools I attended ever hesitated to spank me. Before I moved I read that New York

State has no law against schools spanking, unlike those fools in New Jersey! What's with that?

“You could have warned me.”

“Virginia, three years ago when we enrolled Danny, this school only went to Third Grade, they were that new,” Kate started her reply.

“They were recommended as having excellent teachers and were ‘progressive’. Before that Danny had been at another local private school, Little Peoples’, for a couple of Toddler classes. My husband, who has no kids with his first wife, is strongly anti-spanking.

“Toward the end of Danny’s second year in Toddler at Little Peoples’ Daniel was outraged during a PTA meeting when a mother mentioned to us that she fully approved that a teacher had spanked her daughter in front of her class.

“We immediately withdrew Danny, which totally frustrated me because we did not have a nanny and I cannot run my business from home. Let’s face it, my mother was the kind of Southern parent who left us in the care of a nanny except for a half-hour a day. So her interest in taking care of Danny is limited.

“This school had room for Danny the last month of the year, in Pre-Kindergarten. Daniel was mollified when Miss McLain told him her school would not spank students, but they would phone us if Danny was naughty.

“Today was the first time that happened. You and Joel had already left. I was furious with Danny. So I marched him home, gave him the longest scolding ever and had the nanny put him to bed without lunch!

“Like you, my grade school used to spank or switch us. Then at home Mother would have the nanny spank me again with a hairbrush and put me to bed without supper. I seriously considered spanking Danny this morning.

“Honestly the reason I didn’t was because things are tense with Daniel. I just did not have the energy to get into an argument with him over spanking. Not again! The first time Mother mentioned that Danny needed a spanking, Daniel did not speak to her for a couple of months.”

“Kate, I started spanking Joel as soon as we were standing in Hudson Street. I blistered him good with the hairbrush. I just wish that Miss McLain had done the same immediately after he misbehaved. I am not sure by the time I spanked Joel he remembered what he had done wrong,” Virginia said.

By then the old Vassar pals had finished their first martinis. They ordered another round. After her first long sip of her second drink, Kate shyly smiled at Virginia: “Darling, I have a crazy idea. Would you be willing to spank Danny for us?”

“Daniel could hardly object if Danny gets spanked when visiting your house. I could explain that in your home it is your rules. Danny knows all he needs to do is behave well to avoid you spanking him. Daniel wants Danny to have buddies his age.

“Remember Leticia? She was in my class and lived in the room next to mine. Anyway, she lives in our building and has two children, Steven three years older than Danny and Susan, three months older. Leticia still spansks Steven over her lap and sometimes she spansks Susan. Danny knows about that and it does not bother him. The thing is I am not so fond of Leticia I dare ask her to spank Danny.”

“Sure, Kate, how about my nanny Clarita picks up both boys tomorrow? She can keep them busy until I get home. Then I can give Danny the spanking he deserved today. Probably by then Joel will be in need of a reminder spanking!” Virginia proposed.

“Oh, Virginia, that would be perfect!” Kate said, as she paid the bar bill.

Sure enough the next day Danny was told as Kate dropped him off at school that he would be going home with Joel, whose nanny would escort them. It did not take Virginia long to find a reason to spank both the boys.

Since this would be Danny’s first-ever spanking, Virginia decided to only use her hand, but on his bare bottom. Joel whined, so she spanked him first, long and hard. Joel did not even try to be brave.

Danny resisted having his trousers and underpants taken down. Virginia smacked the backs of his thighs. Then when he was in the classic discipline position, bare bottom up, she spanked the daylight out of Danny. He was no braver than Joel.

After the spankings Virginia promised that the next time they were naughty she would be using the hairbrush. Then they were put to bed for a pre-dinner nap. When his mom was out of the room Joel told Danny the hairbrush would hurt much more than her hand.

Jessica and Dana, two of the girls from that Second Grade class, were in the same Saturday Cotillion with Joel and Danny. Two weeks after Danny got his first spanking it was Jessica and Dana who got in trouble during Cotillion. Both of their mothers were there. Each took her daughter to an office where they spanked their girls very hard using hairbrushes until they bawled like babies.

Virginia and Kate noticed. They appreciated the girls had strict disciplinarians as mothers. Kate had hardly gotten to know those women the previous two years. Virginia made a point of introducing herself and inviting them to her home. Naturally Kate brought Danny to that early tea.

Since all the children were dressed for Cotillion, Virginia put some dance music on the record player. The mothers got to know one another.

The following Saturday while the children were participating in Cotillion, their mothers talked. Virginia said she was disappointed the private school refused to spank naughty students. Jessica's mother totally agreed, saying: "I begged Miss McLain to spank Jessica when she is naughty."

Dana's mom asked if it would be possible that the PTA could have the anti-spanking rule reversed. Along with Virginia they turned to Kate, as the school mother who had been there the longest and knew Miss McLain the best.

Kate had never wanted to be active in the PTA. That simply was not her thing. Virginia became almost compulsive about PTA although she was new to the school.

Virginia's first step was to become friends with all the other parents of Joel's class, some of whom had younger or older children also enrolled at the school. The only parent she got to know who was against school spanking was Danny's father, Daniel Senior.

Virginia was tall and beautiful enough she well could have been a model. Therefore, knowing that Kate was somewhat jealous concerning her husband's trait of checking-out women, Virginia talked to Daniel as seldom as politely possible. All the other parents she turned into friends.

By the Easter Break of 1940 Virginia was sure she would have 100% of the PTA voting with her to change the school corporal punishment policy. However, she did not want to rush things.

It was not likely there would be many new PTA members for the 1940-41 school year; but who could be sure how they would vote? Then at the end of Easter Break the Vice President of the PTA resigned because she was pregnant. Kate also found out she was pregnant. By acclamation Virginia was selected as the replacement PTA Vice President.

The timing was perfect. Virginia called for a committee to study the school CP policy. As expected that report overwhelmingly supported the policy change. A PTA meeting early in May 1940 was held to vote on the policy change. The result was unanimous in favor of school spanking.

Early in her teaching career Miss McLain had routinely spanked naughty boys and girls. She only took a job at a progressive school which did not spank because in her graduate courses she learned that 'Progressive Education' was the wave of the future in the private school industry.

She wrote an article about the merits of anti-spanking policy for private schools which had been well received in education journals. That was the basis for her selection as the original Principal of the private school.

Her years at the school seeing some good scholars with the manners of total brats made Miss McLain uneasy. Month by month she convinced herself an absolute ban on school spanking was downright silly.

Consequently she was privately thrilled that the PTA, spurred-on by Virginia, voted to over-turn the 'No School Spanking' rule.

No member of the PTA was on the School's Board of Trustees. The Trustees wanted a school with an outstanding reputation. Individually they

doubted radical progressive education was in the best interest of the students or the future of the school. Those Trustees were willing to embrace 'Practical Progressive Education' which included pragmatic application of school spanking.

Before the end of the school year the Trustees announced from then on, starting the Fall of 1940, that school would spank all naughty students. Parents opposed to that policy were welcome to withdraw their children. None did so!

The first thing Miss McLain did was write a letter to all the parents of the school. They were invited to make appointments to discuss details of the new corporal punishment policy in her office after her return from Summer Vacation just after Labor Day. Students were welcomed to those discussions. If desired those students could receive a sample spanking.

The second thing Miss McLain did was to visit the beauty supply shop on Bleeker Street between Barrow and Grove. That was recommended by Virginia as the source of the oval wooden hairbrush she used. There Miss McLain bought 3 each of two different weights of hairbrush.

Next she walked across Barrow Street to the toy store. That was where she bought 2 ping pong paddles and several "Fly Back" sets. In those days that was the generic term for those small wooden paddles attached with an elastic string to a rubber ball. Detached from the elastic those became effective light-weight spanking paddles.

Finally she took a taxi cab uptown to the comprehensive school uniform store on West 39th Street. That shop had a good selection of well-made punishment implements. What she bought there was a leather 'Ferula' strap often used on the hands of naughty students and two different styles of wooden paddles intended for bend-over punishment of older students.

While in high school Miss McLain had received swats from similar wooden paddles.

All of the students new to the school starting in October 1940 were brought to Miss McLain's office for indoctrination and sample spankings. Of the 100 students at the school, before opening day 80 had received spankings from Miss McLain.

Before the Memorial Day scattering of faculty and student families, Miss McLain was invited to the homes of Danny, Joel, Jessica and Dana. Each received a full-force sample spanking which left them sobbing and very sore. They had something to think about all summer!

Jessica turned out to be the first student to be caught misbehaving and earning a spanking once school resumed. She had been warned and given a sample, yet she still was naughty!

Joel and Danny managed to behave themselves for a month. Then they got into a mutual shoving match with Jessica and Dana. As a group they were scolded. Then one-by-one they were marched into Miss McLain's office. She bared their bottoms, put them over her lap and gave each a thorough wallop with one of the heavier hairbrushes.

No phone calls were made during the school day to their parents. Each was given a letter explaining that they had been spanked. The parents had to sign and return those letters. To ensure the parents received those letters, Miss McLain personally phoned the mothers well after those children should have returned home.

That day Danny was not scheduled to spend the afternoon at Joel's home. Instead Danny's young nanny Alexis picked him up at school. Quietly the

secretary told Alexis that Danny had been spanked. However, he was responsible for carrying the letter to Kate.

Joel, Dana and Jessica each got a sound spanking and were sent to bed without supper.

As luck would have it, Daniel had a dinner meeting of a medical committee that evening. The second Alexis brought Danny home she phoned Kate at her office. It was just as well that before school had ended in May, Kate had purchased two of the heavier wooden hairbrushes.

Danny discovered that his Mommy could, and would, spank as hard as anyone. He dribbled while standing in the corner post spanking. Alexis was told to diaper Danny and put him to bed without any supper.

For the 1940-1941 term the school added the Sixth Grade to accommodate students who had enrolled for the original Kindergarten class. Miss McLain had doubled in brass then as both the Kindergarten teacher and Principal. She felt a special bond with her oldest students.

Still, she saw her duty clearly, even with the older children. All of those parents had made it clear they used spanking as their primary punishment at home.

Two weeks into the school year a Sixth Grade girl named Anstis pushed a small Fourth Grade girl on the playground and also was rude to her teacher. Anstis had long been Miss McLain's favorite student. She was shocked to return to her office from an off-campus meeting to see the girl nervously fretting in one of the 'naughty' chairs.

The secretary quietly briefed Miss McLain about the incident. Then Anstis was led into the inner office. She received a stern scolding, causing her to start weeping.

Miss McLain had previously decided to only use bend-over paddling for naughty students from Fifth Grade onward. But when she brought out the heaviest wooden paddle, telling Anstis to lift her skirt, lower her panties and bend over the desk, the girl started trembling.

Over the years Anstis' mother had spanked her bare bottom a few times when Miss McLain was visiting their home. Anstis had appeared contrite, but not terrified.

Showing compassion, Miss McLain put the wooden paddle away. She brought out one of the heavy hairbrushes and sat down, calling Anstis to walk to the chair while holding her skirt up. As she walked toward her, Miss McLain could see the front of her panties was moist. Only then did Miss McLain remember that Anstis sometimes dribbled while under stress.

So Miss McLain stood up, walked to the door and asked the secretary to bring her a towel. That was spread over her lap after Miss McLain resumed her seat. Sure enough while taking her spanking Anstis did dribble into the towel.

While the girl continued sobbing in a corner with her slightly damp panties removed, Miss McLain asked if she had another pair of panties with her. With her head hanging in shame, Anstis answered that she had no spare dry panties with her.

A call was placed to the girl's home, but there was no answer. Temporarily Anstis was handed the towel to cover herself.

Gently Miss McLain asked Anstis what she wanted to do. The reply was shocking: “Ma’am, at home Momma still keeps some of my old diapers folded in my bottom drawer. If I am having trouble preventing wetting, Momma asks if I would be more comfortable in a diaper for bed. She never teases or scolds me when I say I would prefer a diaper to a wet bed. Last summer Momma even bought me some PlayTex pants to cover my diapers.”

The secretary was promptly dispatched to the Pre-Kindergarten classroom, where an emergency supply of gauze diapers was stored. Upon her return to the office the secretary said, “I had no trouble finding pins, but there were only very small rubber pants, I’m afraid.”

Anstis thanked her for bringing the diapers. She sat on the floor and pinned on two of the gauze diapers folded together. Her skirt was more than full and long enough to hide the diaper.

With the excitement of dealing with the dribbling, Anstis appeared to have forgotten that she had received a spanking. The secretary phoned home and did reach Anstis’ mother. Anstis was allowed to explain what had gone on.

“Momma is going to bring some of my own diapers and PlayTex pants here. May I wait in the office until then instead of going back to class?” Anstis said.

After her mother did bring the diapers and rubber pants, Miss McLain offered Anstis the chance to go home. However, the girl said she would prefer to return to her classroom for the remainder of the day:

“Tomorrow I will bring spare underpants,” Anstis promised. In fact she also brought two of her PlayTex latex Stretchy Baby Pants as well!

The Fall of 1940 was not exactly a happy time for many New York City families. Germany was bombing England and was attacking ships on the Atlantic. For example, Joel's father had returned to England as an RAF fighter pilot.

Virginia confided to both Kate and Miss McLain that her son had regressed to bedwetting almost every night. Her heart wanted to cut Joel some slack by relaxing discipline. But her head told her that in the long run strict discipline had to be maintained. Virginia did always tell Joel that the diapers he needed for bed were not a punishment. He was diapered so he could sleep better.

Several other parents with relatives in France and England also confided in Miss McLain that surprisingly older children were bed wetting. The case of Danny was a bit more complicated. Kate gave birth to a daughter in December 1940. She felt it was the combination of suddenly being a brother and Joel being upset about the war which caused Danny to also wet his bed one or two days a week.

Certainly the Lower Manhattan branch of DyDee Service saw a massive increase in business. The same was true for PlayTex, especially for larger sizes of their Stretchy Baby Pants.

As an alumna with an MA in Primary Education, Miss McLain received several professional journals. She also was active in a couple of organizations for private education.

She learned that already wealthy English families had moved their children north and west of London to avoid the Blitz. There was talk of moving children out of England to Canada and the USA. The British Consulate offered to sponsor seminars to help private schools better understand the educational expectations of upper-class English parents.

During the first such seminar at her former grad school, Miss McLain learned that bed and even day wetting was common with displaced children, especially those who had lost a parent or close relative to the Blitz. In the same seminar it was made clear that despite the upset, parents expected discipline to be instilled.

The immediate impact on private schools enrolling displaced English children of privilege was that those parents preferred the rattan cane be used to administer punishment, especially for boys. Opinions varied about punishing girls. Many favored the cane, while others advocated stiff leather paddles perforated with holes.

The message was clear: private schools interested in enrolling displaced English children needed to remember their diapers were called 'nappies'; educators needed to become expert using canes and those leather paddles.

Miss McLain volunteered to organize post graduate continuing education courses for private school administrators. A former school master on the staff of the Consulate offered to help. So did the owner of the uniform store on West 39th Street. Miss McLain remembered that he had offered to sell her a selection of rattan canes. The sales manager of DyDee Service offered to help and donate snacks for the classes.

Before Easter Break of 1941 Miss McLain felt confident several top private schools in Manhattan were ready to start accepting displaced English students. Discipline would be maintained and with the help of DyDee 'nappies' and PlayTex pants wetting accidents would be discreetly handled.

Virginia had been bitter about her divorce. She had not expected her former husband to cheat on her. However, with him risking his life flying

against the Germans, Virginia realized that her divorce settlement was very generous.

Her husband was the second son of an Earl, so he was not styled 'Lord' although his slightly younger sister Rosamund was styled 'Lady'. Virginia was fond of her sister-in-law, who had married the heir of a Baron three years after her own marriage. Subsequently Rosamund's husband succeeded his late father as the Baron of a huge and prosperous estate in South East England, a tempting target for German bomber pilots.

When the Blitz started Lady Rosamund had written Virginia saying she was moving her son and daughter to what was assumed to be a safer home with her family in North West England. Then in another letter Virginia learned that Rosamund's husband had died when the club where he stayed in London during sessions of the House of Lords was bombed.

Joel's father sent his ex-wife a letter in which he begged Virginia to make a home for their nephew and niece as soon as transportation could be arranged. Virginia immediately sent letters to Rosamund and her ex-husband assuring them that the children, Matthew and Edith, would be cherished at 32 Grove Street for as long as necessary.

When Virginia visited Miss McLain it was agreed that the young relatives would be welcomed at the school with their grade assignment to be determined. All Virginia knew was that Matt was born in 1934 and Edith in 1937. She did not know the exact birth dates or anything about their education.

In May of 1941 Rosamund wrote Virginia that she had received official government priority travel orders. She would be sailing in June with both of her children and their elderly nanny Miss Greene. Immediately Virginia

asked a friend who was renting the top floor on a month by month basis to move elsewhere.

That apartment had two bedrooms of equal size, a kitchenette, a living/sitting room and a full bath. On another floor where Joel's nanny Clarita lived, the room next to her was vacant. Virginia wrote back to Rosamund asking if Matthew and Edith could share a bedroom, or if it would be better to divide one into two separate smaller bedrooms. The problem with dividing the room permanently would not leave room for a changing table. That could be put in the living room. An alternative would be to put a curtain track on the ceiling of a bedroom so part of the time the beds could have privacy, which would still leave room for a changing table.

Rosamund replied by airmail that the curtains would be excellent. She also mentioned that she would be working for the Consulate. The advantage of traveling on a diplomatic passport was that there would be no delay for immigration upon arrival.

Kate's mother, Violet, insisted that Virginia use her chauffeur and classic 1923 Rolls Royce to transport Rosamund and her family from the dock to grove street. That was a nice gesture. At the dock a minor official from the Consulate was also waiting for Lady Rosamund. He had arranged a truck to move all of the luggage to Grove Street.

What should have been a wonderful experience of arrival was spoiled because Matthew was in disgrace. Lady Rosamund tried to keep up her cheery brave face on the dock. But once seated in the Rolls she confided in Virginia that Matthew had wet his bed that night.

That would not have been a problem except that he refused to let Nanny Greene diaper him for the day. For a noble woman of that era, Rosamund

was quite involved in the daily care of her children. She said that she did not wish to shock Virginia, but as soon as they reached Grove Street, she intended to personally give Matthew a ‘sound smack-bottom’.

At the door Joel and his nanny Clarita were waiting. He was disappointed that Matthew was marched past him. Clarita greeted Miss Greene and Edith, who desperately needed her diaper changed. So they all climbed the stairs to the top-floor apartment and Edith’s changing table.

Meanwhile Virginia suggested that Edith would be less disturbed if Rosamund used Joel’s room to administer the punishment. Rosamund sat on the same chair which Virginia and Clarita routinely used to spank Joel.

Lord Matthew’s shorts were lowered, revealing that his underpants were damp. So Virginia handed Rosamund a few diapers to protect her lap. Seconds later the maternal hand was delivering a brisk and hard spanking to the bare bottom of the protesting Matthew. Soon he was blubbering like a baby. And, he did wet during the spanking.

Rosamund said she would ring to have Nanny Greene diaper Matthew. Virginia confessed her townhouse did not have a servant call bell system. She also said she would not mind diapering Matthew. That was when Rosamund noticed the changing table in Joel’s bedroom.

Matthew’s shorts were left off, so his gauze diaper and PlayTex pants were on display as he was marched up to his bed. Edith was already tucked into her bed and had fallen to sleep.

Having settled Matthew for his post-spanking nap, Virginia led Lady Rosamund down to the ground floor level with the kitchen, back steps up to the garden and the informal eating space adjoining the family play room. There Joel was sulking because he did not have the chance to meet

his cousin Matthew. His mood improved when Aunt Rosamund spoke to him. She was absolutely stunning. Beautiful women always held Joel's rapt attention.

While Joel was growing up in Boston, the fact of his father being the second son of an English Earl was not really discussed. Virginia and his father agreed that in America life would be better by down-playing connection to the British Peerage.

However, after the divorce and move to Grove Street, Virginia did explain to Joel that his father's younger sister was always called 'Lady Rosamund' in formal situations from her birth. Only the eldest son and heir of an Earl is called 'Lord' but not as part of the family name. Each Earl has a subordinate title. As the second son Joel's father had no title.

When Aunt Rosamund married the eldest son of a Baron, and her husband inherited that title and estate, she would have been styled 'Lady' even if she had been born a commoner. Upon the recent death of her husband, their son Matthew inherited the title and estate.

All of that was held in trust with, a Regent dealing with the business of the estate. After Matthew graduated from university he would have more control of his entailed estate and would assume his seat in the House of Lords. Of course that depended on Matthew surviving. That was a prime reason for the move far from the Blitz to America.

Like Lady Rosamund, to better get along in America, Lord Matthew would be known as simply Matthew.

Rosamund discussed with the cook the food preferences of Matthew and Edith. Then there was a discussion about coffee vs tea. Laughing, Rosamund confessed that except when she would be with fellow

Consulate staff, she always preferred decent coffee to the very best of tea. “My late husband always had the theory I am actually American with a passable Brit accent!”

At the small dining table Virginia and Rosamund talked about many topics, especially domestic discipline. Virginia said: “Clarita is more like a housekeeper than just nanny to Joel. Of course she is encouraged to administer physical punishment when she feels that appropriate, as soundly as she wants.

“Then if she feels I should become involved, she will tell me what Joel has done wrong. I then spank him again. Earlier I remember you using the term ‘smack-bottom’ which turned out to be what I call a ‘hand spanking’. I have read that in the UK actually hitting the hands is a punishment. Perhaps we should agree on a common language?”

Rosamund answered: “Yes, I have read that you lot say ‘diaper’ when we say ‘nappy’. You are right, when we smack the backside with just our hand we call that a ‘smack-bottom’. Growing up I was smacked a lot but I never heard the word ‘spanking’ until I was an adult and watching an American talkie with Myrna Loy and Melvin Douglas who had a bratty daughter. Miss Loy says ‘I just spanked the daylights out of Annabel!’ It was implied she used a hairbrush, but that was not shown.”

“I am so glad you brought up the hairbrush for spanking,” Virginia responded. “When Joel was slightly younger than Matthew I gave up smacking his bottom and started giving him proper spankings using a wooden hairbrush. He does his best to avoid being hairbrush spanked by Clarita or me.

“Rosamund, you will need to decide for yourself about using a hairbrush,” Virginia said. “Right now I am going to punish Joel for pouting and sulking. I will spank him with a hairbrush while you observe.”

The two mothers walked into the play area. Virginia reached up to a top shelf of a cabinet where she retrieved a wooden oval hairbrush that was not exactly in plain sight. “Please don’t worry Rosamund. I keep similar hairbrushes handy in many places.

“Joel, lower your shorts and undies immediately!”

Before sitting on an armless chair Virginia removed a few gauze diapers from a drawer. “Yes, Rosamund, Joel almost always wets while being spanked. He also wets his bed, which explains the changing table in his room.”

Joel did not protest as he bent over his mother’s protected lap with his bare fanny upward. Virginia scolded him for being sullen and rude. While scolding she used the hairbrush very firmly. Joel wriggled and sobbed his eyes out. After 25 spanks Virginia put the hairbrush down and let Joel cry it all out while over her lap.

“Rosamund that was what we call a ‘simple paddy-whacking’ as opposed to a much longer and harder punishment we call a ‘first-class walloping’,” Virginia explained.

“So, Virginia, when you administer a first-class walloping that is spanking the daylights out of Joel?” Rosamund asked with a teasing smile.

“You are correct, Lady Rosamund!” Virginia said with a broad grin.

“Then, Virginia, do you have a spare hairbrush I may use?”

“Indeed I do!” Virginia answered.

The next morning both Joel and Matthew were still wearing soggy diapers inside PlayTex baby pants while eating breakfast downstairs. Joel’s old highchair was set up at that table for Edith. However Nanny Greene made it clear Edith could sit in a regular chair and eat with virtually no help. Still Nanny Greene was standing-by, just in case.

Rosamund became annoyed because Matthew was being rude. She ordered him to stand next to the chair in the play area: “Virginia, I remember where the hairbrush is kept but I did not see where the nappies, sorry I mean ‘diapers’ are stored.”

“The lower drawer under the hairbrush,” Virginia answered, walking there, retrieving a few diapers and handing those to Rosamund.

Matthew’s diaper was removed. He was pulled into proper spanking position with his bare fanny upward. Considering that was the first hairbrush spanking Rosamund ever administered, Virginia thought she proved a natural disciplinarian. The volume of Matthew’s sobs proved he agreed with his Aunt Virginia!

Once Matthew was back on his feet, Rosamund took over feeding little Edith so that Nanny Greene could diaper the sobbing little boy.

After breakfast Virginia phoned Miss McLain. She was invited to lunch at a nice restaurant convenient to her home. Virginia and Rosamund dressed for lunch and took a taxi to the restaurant. Minutes after they arrived Miss McLain walked in.

After that fine lunch, which gave Miss McLain a chance to meet Rosamund, the two mothers took another cab to the uniform store on West 39th Street.

It turned out that Nanny Greene could not find any of her 'Nursery Canes' in the trunks. Virginia wanted to show Rosamund that Manhattan had a proper version of an English 'oil shop' selling discipline supplies. When asked, the manager showed them reed nursery canes 20 and 24 inches long. Those are lighter in weight and more flexible than rattan canes. Many people believe that reed canes sting more than rattan, but they are more delicate and also more expensive. Rosamund bought two of each length.

Hardly a day passed without Joel or Matthew getting spanked. Often both got spanked on the same day. Since Virginia and Rosamund both had to go to their offices, generally it was the nannies doing the spanking. Even baby Edith had her hands smacked a few times.

Kate invited Virginia and everyone in her house to Daniel's summer mansion in Southampton for August and early September. It was not a short train ride, but worth it to get away from the heat and humidity of Greenwich Village. The beautiful beach was just a short drive away. Daniel bred polo ponies on the estate. Kate kept 4 champion hunter/jumpers, so all of the ladies could ride together. A few days a week all three ladies would commute to their Manhattan offices.

Miss McLain visited there for the Labor Day Weekend and had a grand time getting to know Edith and Matthew. By then Edith was 4 and Matthew was 7, so she would be in Pre-Kindergarten and he would be in 2nd Grade. In fact Miss McLain felt both of those children were somewhat advanced for their age. Their tutoring had been excellent. However,

because neither had been in a classroom, Miss McLain urged that they start school learning familiar material. After all, there is a vast difference between British and American English usage.

During that time in Southampton all three of the boys felt a nursery cane from their mothers and their nannies. Speaking of which, Danny's nanny was still Alexis, who had just turned 20. Donny's baby sister had an older nanny who only cared for babies younger than 14 months.

Alexis did not look, dress, talk or act like other nannies. For one thing, Alexis never went anywhere without wearing elegant lipstick and usually eye makeup. She did not wear powder or foundation during the day, but she liberally used sun tan oil.

At first Nanny Greene was skeptical about Alexis. Then she saw how hard she spanked Donny with a hairbrush for fairly minor misbehavior. When Alexis needed to cane Donny she did so with the skill of a well experienced disciplinarian.

Little did Nanny Greene know that when Alexis was at her parents' home in Greenwich Village, she was still subject to being spanked by her mother and strapped by her father, an NYPD detective lieutenant.

Upon their return to Greenwich Village the week after Labor Day, they were fitted for new school clothing. Surprisingly Edith and Matthew were looking forward to starting school as much as Joel and Danny were ready to return.

From 1st through 8th Grades school hours were 8:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. with optional day care before and after. Pre-Kindergarten also started at 8:30 A.M. but ended at 12:30 P.M.

Clarita and Nanny Greene traded off walking the children to school in the morning. When Danny slept-over with Joel, Alexis would escort all 4 children.

Nanny Greene always walked Edith home from school. If Danny was to sleep over Clarita escorted him to Grove Street along with Joel and Matthew. But when Danny was going to his parents' home, Alexis escorted him there and Clarita walked the other boys home.

With the new school corporal punishment policy firmly in place, it was a matter of when, not if, a given child was punished. In October of 1941 the first two sent to Miss McLain were Jessica and Dana. They were spanked very hard over the lap on their bare derrières with the lighter hairbrush. Two days later it was Danny and Joel in enough trouble to earn each a spanking with the heaviest hairbrush.

During her stay at Southampton, Miss McLain had received expert coaching from Nanny Greene in using a nursery cane. So, when Matthew was naughty on the first Friday of school, he got 'six of the best' on his bare fanny with Miss McLain's reed cane, causing him to sob.

School was not held on what then was called Armistice Day, but there was no break for Columbus Day. The Thanksgiving break started the previous Tuesday afternoon and ended on that Monday morning.

Of course everyone connected with the school was dumbstruck by the 7 December 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii by the Naval and Air Forces of the Empire of Japan. However, it was about 3 P.M. in New York when that news broke over the radio. Miss McLain was in her apartment but was not listening to her radio.

It was 4 P.M. before anyone reached her by phone. All the home contact phone numbers for the students were locked up in her office. She made the executive decision that school would open at the usual time on Monday 8 December, and that day care would be provided. It was simply too late for the parents to make other arrangements. She did have the contact numbers for the staff and faculty with her. She phoned them with her decision to open the school. Everyone agreed.

From 8 December until the Christmas Break of 1941 Miss McLain hardly needed to punish any of the students. When school resumed in January so did misbehavior, with consequent physical punishment.

What the faculty noticed was the liberal and frequent use of corporal punishment improved classroom conduct, which made the learning experience more effective for students.

Rosamund was not able to take her children back to England until June of 1946. Even with her high status transportation was that scarce. Food and all supplies were rationed in the UK. Besides, her work at the NYC Consulate was vital.

Matthew finished 6th grade at the school and Edith 3rd Grade. Neither was thrilled about moving back to England. Matthew started at Eaton that fall. He did very well at Eaton and needed far below the average number of canings! He requested that his Regent retain full control until Matthew graduated from Balliol College with an honors degree in public service. His estate had been least to the government all through the war years. It was damaged by bombs.

Rosamund and Matthew insisted all of the damaged homes of the tenant farmers be repaired before work started to restore the manor house. That work was not completed until the summer of 1951.

Lady Rosamund never re-married. She lived as the beloved Dowager until she died at age 100 in 2010. Edith fell in love with and married a Viscount who was the oldest son and heir of a Duke with a castle and huge estate in Yorkshire. They married in 1952 when Edith was not yet 24. Her husband succeeded his father to the title in 1962. They are still healthy and in love.

Matthew eventually met Martha, a much younger cousin of Jessica, who had been in Joel's class in Greenwich Village. Martha did a graduate course at the London School of Economics. She met Matthew at a conference. They fell in love and he did not need to marry for money. He turns 80 in 2014. She will be 70. They are still in love and have several well-behaved children and grandchildren.

Joel and Danny left Manhattan for separate residential prep schools in the fall of 1946. Upon graduation from his prep school in 1950, Joel entered the US Naval Academy. He graduated with honors. He trained as a carrier based fighter pilot and became a flight instructor.

Joel's father returned to the USA in early 1948. Virginia reconnected with her ex-husband. They fell in love again, living in 32 Grove Street as a happily married couple. Virginia's husband died of a massive heart attack when he was 74 in 1975. She lived in that home until her mobility was hampered by a stroke in 1985.

Danny graduated as Valedictorian of his prep school in 1950 and was immediately recruited by the executive training program of the NYC business office of a major movie studio. He also attended New York University in East Greenwich Village as an architectural structural engineering major. Eventually he was transferred to the Southern California studio of that firm. In 1953 he met the best friend of a daughter

of the studio founder. They married in 1959 and were happy until she was killed by a drunk driver in 1989.

Miss McLain became the Emeritus Principal of the school in 1980 at age 80. She died peacefully in 1995. Several new buildings at that school are named in her honor, with generous donations from Danny, Virginia, Rosamund, Matthew, Edith, Jessica and Dana, amongst hundreds of others.

All things considered, it was a good thing Virginia became a pro-corporal punishment advocate. Miss McLain always said the return of spanking to the school was a major improvement. She was also very glad she was no longer the active Principal when the insurance company required the school to return to a no-corporal punishment policy!