

The following information was written by Christian H. Lavoie, RCK's second principal, in an article written in March, 1996 in the school newspaper, "The Inside Story of RCK".

"We are saddened at the passing of our namesake, Miss Ruth C. Kinney. Miss Kinney was a wonderful, kind, generous and dedicated educator, teacher and principal. One could not help but be touched by her humility, sincerity, intellect and dignity. She loved children and teaching. During her 37 year career as an educator, she won the admiration and respect of her students and colleagues.

Ruth Charlotte Kinney was born on December 16, 1909 in Brooklyn, New York where she received her elementary education. Her family moved to Richmond Hill where Miss Kinney attended high school. She later received her BA in Elementary Education and a Masters of Arts from New York University. In 1929, while only 19 years of age, she was hired as a 5th grade teacher at the Main Street School which is now Belfran's. At the time, East Islip was a one building school district with 525 students and 28 teachers.

Looking back she admitted accepting the position on a temporary basis hoping to obtain a teaching appointment in New York City. However, Miss Kinney decided to stay because she fell in love with the beautiful countryside in East Islip. She said that she enjoyed taking nature walks in the open area now known as Country Village. In 1931 her parents built a home on Islip Avenue which was then considered farmland. Miss Kinney continued to live in her modest Islip home with her sister Edith Fischer until her death on July 31, 1995.

Miss Kinney's career continued to flourish as she was appointed East Islip Assistant Principal in 1952. She was promoted to the position of Elementary principal in 1953 and she expressed her appreciation by writing: "My head is bowed in humbleness and my prayer is that the performance of my duties in this new task may prove worthy of your trust and help." Miss Kinney was indeed a pioneer in woman's liberation in that she was one of less than a small handful of female principals on Long Island.

Six years later, Miss Kinney was selected as the best person to head a new school. She became principal of the Timber Point Elementary School scheduled to open in the Fall of 1959. She held that position until her retirement June 30, 1966. The Board of Education at that time decided to give the highest form of recognition for her 37 years of dedicated service to the East Islip School District by naming the school scheduled to open in September of 1967, the Ruth C. Kinney Elementary School."



Ruth. C. Kinney