

## The Etymology of Nick Names (essay by Bill Climie)

One of the fun parts of being on the 2010 Reunion Committee has been the interaction with the other members. When we got the note of regret that he could not attend, from Al Scott, he signed it "Jock". Maureen asked me how, and why, "Al" became "Jock".

That question opened the floodgates of memories surrounding the naming of our buddies during those formative years. Apparently there were rules, one of which was that it had to be monosyllabic. So, since Al's last name was "Scott", it was easy to assign a Scottish name, i.e. "Jock". Several others were contractions, or corruptions of existing family names. For example: Dumoulin became "Doom"; McDiarmid became "Derm"; Craddock became "Crack"; Codling was "Cod"; Moen became "Mo"; and, of course, Gustafson became "Gus". For some strange reason, Ken March modified his surname to start with a "T" and he became known as "Tarch". Other nick names were assigned in relation to some physical attribute, such as size. In Junior High, Eric Brown was quite small, and hence he earned the nick name "Mouse", which stuck even after he surpassed six feet in height. Murray Kingston had slightly squinty eyes, and therefore became known as "Chink" (we were, as you can see, not particularly politically correct in those days). Examples of others, who already had monosyllabic surnames, retained them, e.g. Tulk, Holt and Gooch.

I noticed in the Annual, I referred to myself as "Pogo", as I was writing the "personals" and therefore had literary license to do as I pleased. This nick name, which was self assigned, never caught on for two obvious reasons: a) it had two syllables; and b) it was "self" assigned i.e. not assigned by others. So, as it turned out, I was known as "Clime" (a corruption of Climie), at that time, and ever since.

And now, as Paul Harvey used to say, "You know the rest of the story".

Check out the 1955 Page for a beat up photo of "Crack, Jock & Tarch"