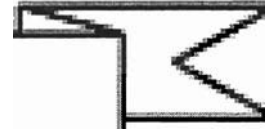


# Rural Schools



## Country Schools .

Telling the story of area early schools is a difficult task. Some schools were begun before this territory was Roseau County. The Greenbush area was included as a part of Kittson county when it was organized on March 9, 1878, and remained so until Roseau County was organized on the last day of 1894.



School Picnic 1922 (photo courtesy of Milt Sather)

The pioneers, especially the immigrant pioneers, placed a high value on teaching their children to be "real" Americans. As with churches, schools were established before the buildings were erected, and classes were conducted in homes, where records may or may not have been kept. As soon as possible, school buildings were erected, even though money was scarce. Usually, the residents of the area worked together to build the school. Often the school buildings were plain and unadorned and not of the best materials and construction. Frequently in the early days, records were poorly kept.

School districts were numerous, impermanent, and changeable, depending on the fluctuating population and the condition or existence of roads. Some districts were designated as "U," unorganized. **These** had no elected boards, but were supervised by a board consisting of the County Superintendent of Schools, the County Treasurer, and the chair of the County Commissioners.

Sometimes a person simply invited neighboring children to their home and conducted classes teaching what they knew, although the "teacher" may have had an education limited to fourth or fifth grade. Even when a teacher was hired to do the job, often school was held in someone's home, because there was no school building.

School buildings, when built, did not guarantee permanence. Often they were moved to a more convenient spot or, if destroyed by storm or fire, rebuilt in a different area of the section or even in another section altogether.

Over time, influenced by increasingly efficient transportation, districts consolidated with one another until few country schools remained. Then they were gone; a revered national institution was extinct.

Consolidation continues and communities like ours have begun to consolidate or share buildings and personnel with other communities in the interest of efficiency. This is not always to the benefit of parents, families, and communities. About 1970, O. A. Roberts,

Roseau County Superintendent of Schools, wrote the following in the preface to *Footsteps in Education*:

"While many facts studied by the committee have emphasized the desirability of administrative districts larger than at present, it is equally important that they not be so large as to endanger democratic control of schools. In a democracy, it is essential that the schools belong to the communities they serve and be responsive to their needs. Relations of the school to the natural community and closeness of the school to the people are of primary educational significance and should not be sacrificed to the interest of "efficiency." If such a sacrifice is made in order to establish economical districts, we may find in a generation that something of deep significance which money cannot buy has been eliminated."

The combination of extinct country schools, sparse to non-existent records, and a tendency to name every other school Sunnyside (or so it seems) leaves telling the complete story of our early schools nigh impossible. Much of the school information was tracked down with the assistance of the Roseau County Museum and Charlene Haugen in particular. Her knowledge, preservation of certain records, and previous research provided a big boost to our efforts.

The early rural schools are an extremely important part of our heritage and our memories, so without promising we have tracked down all of them, we have attempted to tell enough of the story to portray the flavor, the joy, and the hardship of the country school.

*Note: In most cases, we have retained the spelling of names as shown on documents, even if it did not look right. Some may have been misspelled, but others may have changed over the years. Since we are not familiar with all of the names we have encountered, we cannot be sure, so we have used what was written.*

*Submitted by Eunice Korczak.*

## Attending Country Schools- Districts 15, 40, 16, 1A



District 40 about 1938 - Back: Shirley Bergsnev (Witzman), Lenore St. Antoine (Janikowski), Zita St. Antoine (Grabanski), Dale Swenson, Kenneth Bergsnev, Norman Bergsnev, Milton Olson, Marvin Anderson. Front: Daniel St. Antoine, Delphine Anderson (Jenson), Mary EDen Anderson, Edna Mae Lerum, Betty Aamodt (Sodnak). (photo courtesy of Lenore Janikowski)

In 1931, we moved to the Greenbush area. Over the years, we attended several Greenbush area country schools: Smrstik School, District 15 in the early 30s; District 40 south of Greenbush in the mid 30s; and then in the late 30s and early 40s, Haug School, District 16 and Ridge School, District 1A. All were one-room schools except Haug District 16.

Some of our teachers were Mabel Dallager (Sovde) at District 16; Eleanor Scharf at District 1; and Astrid Berger at District 40. We walked to all of the schools except Haug. There, Ben Christianson picked up the children in a caboose built on a sleigh and pulled by horses.

Subjects taught included geography, math, and history. Woodworking and using a coping saw were parts of art class. We also did painting on glass. We played ante-I-over the school and baseball. The first snow was fun for games in fresh snow. Christmas plays and the beautiful Christmas carols were enjoyable parts of the Christmas programs.

Durays, Blawats, and Eftas are our cousins. Elizabeth Wojciechowski is our aunt.

*Submitted by Eunice Korczak. Information sent by Lenore St. Antoine Janikowski and Zita St. Antoine Grabanski.*

### Walking to School



Horse - drawn sleigh - circa 1942, Agre Brothers, Paul Marcoulier, Daniel St. Antoine, and others. (photo courtesy of Zita St. Antoine Grabanski)

Stories of walking three miles to school each day have become something of a joke. I'm not sure why this is, but I suspect that younger generations find the stories difficult to believe because they were never expected to walk such distances. When older people speak of their treks to school through stormy weather, deep snows, and unbearable temperatures, they are neither joking nor stretching



Julius Graff devised a dogsled to transport Deborah Graff to school, circa 1927. (photo courtesy of Deborah Sather)

the truth, When they were children, they did walk long distances to school.

Perhaps, as you read the section in this book, you will marvel at the large number of country schools in this area-- in Roseau County there were over a hundred rural schools. The reason there were so many was simply because the students did have to walk. Since some of these children were only six years old, it seems to have been determined that the walking distance should not exceed three to three and a half miles. This meant that, in populated areas, the schools would be no more than six to seven miles apart.

Recognizing that the distances were life-threatening in cold weather, school boards often split lessons into fall and spring terms, with no school being held during the deep of winter. Even so, this is northern Minnesota, and cold weather is not necessarily confined to mid-winter; stories about thawing frozen little legs and fingers abound.



Transportation to District 22 - circa 1946. Robert, Joanne, Annette and Joel Graff. (photo courtesy of Ruth Graff)

In the early days, districts rarely provided transportation. Sometimes a father would transport his own children and some of the neighboring children during bad weather. Sometimes, if the children were old enough, they would ride horses or drive horse-drawn sleighs. As time went on, some of the more progressive schools began to provide transportation. Designated persons were hired to haul the children in horse-drawn cabooses. A caboose was a sleigh with a built-on, box-like structure to provide shelter. The box had a window at the front and slots for the reins so the driver as well as the students could enjoy protection from the weather.

Providing regular transportation to school allowed school to consolidate and grow. Haug School, District 16, seems to have been a forerunner in providing busing, probably one of the main reasons it rapidly grew into a large rural school.

With the advent of regular busing, children soon came to expect transportation to school. Within a short time, children were completing school having never walked beyond the length of their drive-way to meet the bus. For these people, stories of walking three miles to school each day seem an exaggeration or a joke.

*Submitted by Eunice Korczak.*

### District 1A- Ridge School and District 1 B- North School

According to Roseau County School organization papers District 1 was organized in July of 1895. Family names among the freeholders who signed the organization papers were: Johnson, Riegel, Lanegraff, Rein, Hedges, Clay, Kjos, Gemmell, Smith, Petterson,

Dieter, Fry, and Samson. The first School Board Officers were C. I. Dahle, C. A. Hedges, and Dan Riegel.

There is no teacher's report until the school year 1896-97. Perhaps they could not locate a teacher for the first year. During the spring term of 1896-97, Mrs. Frank Hedges taught twenty-seven students. In ensuing terms, the student count is often at fifty.



Ridge School (photo courtesy of Milt Sather)

Probably because of distances too far for the children to walk, the district split itself into two areas. It is unclear if both schoolhouse sites (IA and IB) were in use from the beginning of the organization of the district or if the second school was added later, but it appears both schoolhouses were in use before 1912. Perhaps the second schoolhouse came about as early as 1905 due to reorganization. The reorganization papers of that year state that District I will now include sections in Skagen and Barto, whereas District 16 will now include sections in Moose, Soler, Skagen and Barto.

The southern part of District I was served by the Ridge Schoolhouse (IA) in Skagen Township and the northern part by the North Schoolhouse (IB) in Barto Township. The Ridge Schoolhouse was located approximately at the present intersection of Highway II and 230th Street. It was north of the highway and west of 230th, between the railroad tracks and the highway. The North Schoolhouse was located in the middle of Section 24 of Barto Township.



North School also known as Barto School. Teacher Mabel Ohlquist - 1912. (photo courtesy of Milt Sather)

In 1915, the census for District I was separated into the Ridge School area and the North School area. The Ridge School names included Rowland, Shimpa, Severson, Clemetson, Thompson, Suby, Berggren, Skavland. Skavland showed a Badger address and the others showed a Greenbush address. The North School names, all showing a Greenbush address, included Rust (Rustan), Sather, Peterson, Lee, Eidem, Kjos, Samson, Matheson, and Corben.

The 1920 school census reported over thirty school-aged children resided in the district, including: Iva, Jack, Kenneth, Magrita, Myrtle, Hazel, and Anton Thompson; Leonard and Selmer Suby; Hazel, Arvid, and Juliet Swenson; Loid Pederson; Gladys, Elvin, Henry, and Edna Hedman; Leonard, Alfred, Alma, and Arnt Sather; Melvin and Emil Kjos; Tilda, and Theodore Rust (Rustan); Julia,

Johnny, and Inga Eidem; Herbert and Emelia Lee; and Conley Darst. In 1925, the census reported nearly forty children with family names of: Schafer, Sovde, Pederson, Bergren, Reese, Witzman, Peterson, Hedman, Lien, Suby, Darst, Lee, Rust (Rustan), Sather, and Eidem.



Covered sleigh used for school bus in District I - Skagen. (submitted by Glenn Darst)

The North School (IB) closed and merged with Ridge School (IA) after the spring term of 1927. The last students at North School included Valeria Darst, Beatrice Darst, Conley Darst and Lloyd Eidem.

In the fall of 1948, an election was held to consider consolidating District I, Ridge School, with other school districts. It passed with a vote of seven to zero. The last students at this school were: Evangehne Bulow, Arlette Kjos, Erine Ignaszewski,



Last picture taken at District I, Ridge School. Teacher Olga Olson, 1948. Back: Evangeline Bulow, Arlette Kjos, Erine Ignaszewski, Philamay Ignaszewski. Middle: Harriet Erickson, Lola Mae Rustan, Art Bulow, Alvin Sather, Gloria Paulson. Front: June Olson, Diann Paulson, Nancy Blumer. (photo courtesy of Philamay Ignaszewski)

Philamay Ignaszewski, Harriet Erickson, Lola Mae Rustan, Art Bulow, Alvin Sather, Gloria Paulson, June Olson, Diann Paulson and Nancy Blumer. The next fall, some of these students attended Greenbush and some attended Haug.

In 1951, Melvin Blumer bought eighty acres of tax-forfeited land, which included the Ridge Schoolhouse. Melvin and his brother Virgil wired the house for electricity, and for the next five years, the schoolhouse was home for various families including Melvin Blumer, Elmer Bulow and numerous Wojciechowskis. Elmer Bulow died in the schoolhouse;

Melvin Blumer sold the land and schoolhouse to Rudy Wojciechowski, who gave the building to Richard Wojciechowski. The building was moved a few miles east near the old Greenbush garbage dump site.

In the early 1970s, Edgar Castle (Junior) purchased the building and moved it to his farm in Badger. The front wall was removed and a sliding door was installed, so it could be used to store Castle's tractor. The school has been used for a tool and storage shed since Castle's retirement.



Ridge School has come to an ignoble end. It currently serves as a tool and storage shed. (photo courtesy Milt Sather)

The school bell was donated to Reverend Smythe who gave it to the Red Lake Indian Reservation.

Submitted by Linda Blumer and Eunice Korczak. Sources: Roseau County Organization records, Roseau County Teacher's Term Reports, Andrew Lien, Philamay Monsrud, The Greenbush Tribune, Roseau County School Census Reports.

### Memories of District 1A - Ridge School

Arnold Smith operated a gas station in Badger for a few years. In the late 1940s, someone stole the cash register, and it was found in the well at the schoolyard of District 1A by Elmer Bulow and my brother, Gilman Lien, when they cleaned the well.

School house 1B (also District I) was in the center of the section, west of the Lyle Kjos (grandson of Andreas Kjos) home. When the population decreased, there was a merger of the two schools and all attended the Ridge School.

I went to the Ridge school for nine years-- 1925 to 1934. Our home was two miles north of the school. My four sisters and brother also went there. Life was different then-- we just walked to school.

The teachers were: Ida Sovde, who lived with her parents, sisters, and brothers on the first place on the ridge west of the school, and Pearl Erickson of the Haug area roomed and boarded at the Halverson place just east of the school.

Miss Sommers finished Pearl's second term when Pearl married Steve Novotny of the Badger area. When the small kids began school, they sat at the front of the room to be near the teacher; as they grew, they moved back. When Miss Sommers was there a few months, I sat three quarters of the way back on the left side. One day when I was feeling fine, it was quite shocking when Miss Sommers barked, "Andrew!! Wipe that smirk off your face!!" A scared brush rabbit like me smirking? The room had been quiet and orderly.

Mabel Dallager was the next teacher: she was very good.

When I was in the eighth grade, the teacher was Norbert Dostal, a farm boy from south of Badger. He had strong opinions about coffee. He knew I was hopelessly stupid and I would never be able to learn anything, because I drank coffee. I should have finished school in 1933. That summer after school was over, Dad got three of my sisters and me the job washing the schoolhouse floor. A five-gallon cream can of slightly warm water, a little soap, some rags, and one horse drawn buggy and off we went. Hazel, our next-to-oldest sister, had just finished her first term teaching at a one-room, all-grades

school north of Badger. Probably it was only natural to wonder, "What is in the teacher's desk?" She pulled out the drawer. Along with the rest was my state board examination paper that old Norbert should have sent to St. Paul along with papers of Edwin Fuller, Gladys Suby, and Doris Thompson who graduated. So I repeated eighth grade, because he "knew" I drank coffee. This was subsistence poverty time and I'm sure the three who graduated drank coffee, also.

Many years later after I retired, I met Norbert in the Red Owl Store. He talked as usual, so he didn't know where we were standing. He finally saw we were by the coffee display. He exploded, "No one should be permitted to drink that poison!" At least, he was consistent.



Philamay Ignaszewski and Gloria Paulson on teeter-totter at District 1, Ridge School, in front of the barn where students kept their horses. 1947. (photo courtesy of Philamay Ignaszewski)

We had recess in the forenoon and the afternoon. Someone brought a small ball to school, so we played Anti-eye-over on the entry; the main building was too high for the little kids. We played Pump-pump pull-away, the ancient of rural kids games. This was about the first two years. After that, there were too few kids. Also for maybe the first two years, when the snow became deep enough, we would cross the highway, go past a strip of brush, walk a large circle in the snow and play fox and geese. I don't remember any teacher coming outside at recess time.

The kids were: Edwin, Jack, and Juanita Fuller, Gladys Suby, Doris and Lillian Bergren. These came by car driven by O. Suby, Gladys' dad, or by Johnny Eidem, who also brought Conly [sic], Beatrice, Valerie, and Warren Darst. Elinor and Alice Hedman came by their own one-horse, small bus in the winter. Otherwise, they walked the three miles. Irwin, Irene, and Vernon Clemetson [sic] walked from two miles south of the school. Ernest and George Reese each rode a pony from two miles west of the school. George became a priest for a while, but was defrocked. From walking distances were Norma and Maynard Peterson, Doris and Harold Thompson, Anna, Ole, and Jerome Agre-- cousins of the Reeses-- and Elinor, Mildred, and Ethal Snare. The total of these were not present at the same time, but were scattered by time. Probably I am the only one left. Jack Fuller was a Navy fighter pilot lost on maneuvers in the Pacific. A good man.

These were bare-bones poverty times. Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without. Dad had three horses. Everything else was handwork- stoop, lift, and carry. We had five milk cows, a few chickens, and two or three pigs for meat. Somehow they got some wool so Mom knit stockings for all of us and a sweater for Dad. We grew our own potatoes and vegetables, as others also did. Wild

berries were plentiful, so bread and jam made our school sandwiches carried in a gallon pail for two-- or a half-gallon pail for one. On cold days the lunch at noon was still frozen. The wood burning furnace was in the northeast corner of the room by the teacher's desk. Coats and wraps hung on the south-end wall on either side of the door. Overshoes and lunch pails were placed on the floor below. A three-gallon water cooler with fountain and slop pail was in the southeast corner.

We ate at our desks. When the Fuller kids came, each had a flat whiskey bottle of milk they kept on the floor beneath their desks. That was the beginning of everyone bringing milk.

The building was enlarged when the kids from IB (the other District building) were brought to IA. The furnace was put in the southwest corner, the teacher's desk, globe, and library remained on the north end.

I have never been to a baseball game, nor do I understand the interest in any sport. I graduated Greenbush High School from 1934 to 1938. One forenoon in 1935, the boys were told to meet on the school grounds in the afternoon-- no reason given. About ten boys came. As I arrived, I saw a boy tossing a ball from hand to hand. When I came closer, someone handed me a real baseball bat. It was the first baseball bat I had seen; and also the first and last time I held a real bat. The boys were loud and moving around-- especially Larry Prosser. He made a little mistake in being too close to the teacher. An "old woman" by the name of Lloyd Mostrom; when he yelled a very mild expletive, crude but not profane. Teacher couldn't take it and laugh it off. He gave a 15-minute lecture on Larry and then said, "Go back to the school." Five million years of sports condensed into a 15-minute lecture.

Submitted by Linda Blumer. Written by Andrew Lien.

### Teaching at District 1, 1932-1935

Teacher: Norbert R. Dostal

It was called the Ridge or Halverson School as Halleck Halversons were very close to the school. The \$65 per month seemed to be the bottom, and I got this for three terms. Charles Christianson was the Superintendent of Schools for Roseau County. He'd taught at Haug and other schools. He was demanding; when he visited schools, his duty was to see that rural schools were adequately staffed.

During my last year I had to get to the bottom of an eighth grader's arithmetic problem. He was Andrew Lien, and he lived about a mile north of the school. He was all confused when it came to problem solving. I decided to make him flash cards and take away the book. It wasn't long before I knew he had several hang-ups. We corrected each as we came to it and reviewed all the various steps. Finally, the state of confusion was over, and he would know when to add or subtract.

In my six years of teaching, it was my only experience along that line. I think that was what finally made Andy, four years later, valedictorian at Greenbush High School.

Submitted by Margaret Dostal Kuznia. Note: Norbert died in 1995. This is an excerpt from his book. "The Changing Times on the Farm Scene 1910-1986.

### District 7 - Metvedt School - Barto Township

On the first of July, 1896, a petition was filed for the formation of a new school district, and on July 6 of that year, it was approved and signed by L. P. Dahlquist, Superintendent of Schools. District

7, also known as the Metvedt School, included three sections of northern Hereim Township and six sections of southern Barto Township. School board officers in 1896-97 were Ole Sleen, Ole Storlie and G. A. Thoen. The next year G. A. Thoen was replaced by Ole Metvedt. What confusion that must have wrought! The board was now comprised of three men named Ole.

Apparently the schoolhouse was first located in Section 27, Barto but before 1913, was relocated in Section 34, Barto.

The 1896 fall term teachers report to the county indicates Mrs Ida Dieter taught twenty-three students with family names of Dumbichuk (later spellings included Dembichek, Dembichok Dembizek, Dumbuzak), Johnson, Lovland, Metvedt, Ruud, Sqli Sovlan, Storli, Thoen, and Thompson,

Other family names from teachers reports and school census records (1898 to 1900) included: Anderson, Berjie, Carlson, Duliau Eliason, Green, Hanson, Hartel, Jorde, Kjelaas, Lanvik, Litalie Necel; Nock, Rindero, Sleen, Sola, Suby, Yetka. Other teachers included: Lelia Drake (1900), Carrie Skallerud (1905), Carolyn Rather (1906), James Webb (1908); and Myrtle Iverson (1930).

In July of 1918, changes made to district boundaries affected at least thirteen students who resided within District 15 (Smyrstik School) boundaries, but about four miles from the schoolhouse. They were admitted to the Metvedt School which was closer. The transferring students' names included: Aanerud, Deitering, Jakowski, Johnson, and Mattson. The petitioners included those names plus Bizak, Bozikowski, Janousek, Mekash, Novak, Odaniouest, Stegura, and Zabinski, who were residents of District 15.

The school census report for 1945 indicated twenty-three school age children lived in District 7: Melvin, Edward, Jeanette, Mavis, and Duane Braaten; Lorretta and Rudolph Dembiczak; Eugene, Ernest, Jerome, Carol, Kenneth, and Jim Lasniewski; Margaret Mellas; Evelyn, Hilary, and Sally Jean Kukowski; Hilary Dembiczak; Gloria Aanerud; and Frank, Eugene, Roland, and Dwaine Hutchinson.

District 7 was dissolved in May of 1947. Portions of the district land area were annexed to District 66 and portions to District 16, so some of the children then attended the Greenbush School and some attended the Haug School, later the Haug-Leo School.

Submitted by Linda Blumer and Eunice Korczak. Sources: Footsteps County Teachers Term Reports. Roseau County School Census, Roseau County Organization and Dissolution papers, Roseau County Historical Society Museum.

### School District 8 - Huss Township

After Huss Township was organized in 1905, the children in what



Huss Township School - Hazel Winjum Bjerk teacher. (photo courtesy of Avis Wiskow)

would later become District 8 attended school at District 83, located in the SW corner of Section 15. That school was moved to Section 26. It was decided that the dis-

tance was too great for the children to walk, so in 1919 a building was moved onto the northeast corner of the NE 1/4 of Section 15. It was called the "Gordon School" because the land originally was owned by Olaf Gordon. Later it was named "Sunny Oak" or sometimes called the "Wiskow School" as the Wiskow family lived across the road. The first building was replaced in the 1920s by a new building, much bigger and better.

Teachers at District 8 included: Irene Sikorski, Ludika Olson, Hazel Winjum, Marie Gahmalla, Isabelle Hennestad, Anna Moser, Gladys Anderson (Bratlie), Edna Pederson, Eleanor Bjerck, Margaret Novotny, Lorraine Novotny, Gladys Gregerson, Mary Husted, Mary Dettbjarn, Theresa **Vacura**, and Louie Johnson. The teachers often boarded with neighboring families and Eleanor Bjerck lived in the library one winter with her husband and daughter.

Students attending at various times included the following families: Walter, Marshall and Dewey Wiskow, Gordon, Selstad, Henry and Carl Bjerck, Kruse, Walker, Peterson., Vacura, Spangmd, McFarlane, Erickson, Johnson, Kadre, and Ismil.

Memories include play-days, last day of school picnics, trapping gophers during noon recess, basket social fundraisers, Red Cross classes, plays, and Christmas programs as well as being used for elections occasionally. The township did not have a town hall so would alternate among the schools for elections. The "lucky" students in the school would get the day off. Sometimes if there was an empty house, with permission, the elections could be held there, so the students did not get time off.

District 8 consolidated with Greenbush in 1949 and the building was moved into Greenbush to be used as a classroom, until an addition was completed for the **Greenbush School**. The District 8 building was a nice building, complete with **library and** large entries. The township became the owner of the lot **and** in 1956 bought an old building and moved it in for a town hall, which is still in use today.

*Submitted by Melroy and Avis Wiskow. Sources: Roseau County Heritage Book and personal knowledge.*

#### Addition for **District 8 - Huss Township**

**There** seemed to be conflicting information **for** District 8, but this **turned** out to be another one of the schools where a different school **had** the number earlier. This confusion with district numbers happened several times for the schools, **which** like this District 8 in Huss Township, were established rather late compared to other county schools. What would have been so difficult about just continuing with new numbers instead of reusing the numbers? It would certainly have saved confusion later. In this case the other District 8 was fairly close, not on the other side of the county.

In 1920 the sections included in District 8 were Sections 1 and 2, and 10-15. This was the northeast fourth of Huss Township. They had also petitioned for Section 3. Sections **10-15** were taken from District 83.

Those who petitioned for a new school on **February** 16, 1920, were: O. N. and Libbie Gordon, John and Emma Moe, Henry, Mary, Carl, and Caroline Bjerck, Christ Kvale, K. O. Knudson, Frank Walker, Joban Selstad, Mrs. J. Selstad, John and Margaret McCeliand, Ed and Josephine Vacura and Fred Wiskow.

The reasons given for petitioning for a new school read as: "It is too many children for the size of our school house. There are 35 enrolled. The district is too large, it is too far for some of the children to go, some have five (5) miles. There is too much complaint."

The first school year was 1920-21 and the teacher was Myrtle E. Wmjum. The first students were: Bjerck: Arvid 6, Margaret 8, Gladys 8, Alice 10, Pearl 12, Selmer 14, and Arthur 14; Selstad: Alma 6, Mabel 8, and Harold 10; Vacura: Louise 8 and Annie 10; Moe: Almire 10 and Maurice 14, Palmer Gordon 11; Annabelle Snare 10; and Kalell McCelland 10.

*Submitted by Myrna Sovde. Sources: Roseau County Plat Book, teacher term reports, and petition papers.*

#### **District 8 - Skagen Township**

Petition to **organize** District 8 in Section 9, Skagen Township, was entered in July of 1896. Among the signatures on the petition were: Anderson, Bengtsson, Bottom, Erenson, Erickson, Haugen, Haugemd, Johnson, Kaasa, Mattson, Naugen, Olsen, Olson, Peterson, **Skallerud**, Swenson, and Westlund.

The officers of the district for 1896-97 were Erick Erickson, Aron Severson, and John Anderson. According to a Teacher Term Report, Grace McNutt taught in 1898.

The school apparently was located in the center of Section 9, Skagen, where the Skagen town hall now stands. The County Platt Book indicates that this school was dissolved and consolidated with the Badger school district in 1916.

Some years after the dissolution of District 8 of Skagen Township, a District 8 of Huss Township was formed. This was a separate district with no association with the Skagen district.

*Submitted by Eunice Korczak. Sources: Roseau County Teacher Term Report, Roseau County District Officers Book, Roseau County District Platt Book, Roseau County Museum.*

#### School **District 91U19 - Thompson IFairview School** Soler Township



**District 9** students - Probably taken at Blazek borne before **District 9** school house was built. (photo courtesy **Milt Sather**)

School District 9 was known as the Thompson School **or** Fairview School. Organized on July 13, 1896, the original district included most of Soler Township. The schoolhouse was located in Section 20 of Soler Township. School board officers for 1896-1898 were E. O. Haug, O. W. Rossing, and Thomas Kelly.

In July of 1902, it was reorganized and the district boundaries changed. It now included portions of Soler and portions of Junebeny Townships. Family names involved in the school at **this** time included: Bundersvold, Flaten, Hepsae, Johnson, Kruet, Liggerisb,

Marsik, Nelson, Roberts, Rolles, Sodnak, Shevacek, Sillerud, and Westnes.

In 1906, Geda M. Thompson was teacher with twelve students. A souvenir booklet for 1913 shows Anna Braaten was the teacher. Student family names include Blazek, Cooper, Graff, Kelly, Novacek, and Thompson. Some families in other years included Bizek, Dolezel, Emery, Erickson, Sanders, and Sodnak.

The school board in 1913 included Oscar Sodnak, Julius Kohl, and Charles Thompson.

In 1926, school census records indicated fifteen school-aged children lived in the district: Mary, Edward, and Annie Miksatko; Joseph, Margaret, Rose, and Edline Roberts; Genevieve, John, and Ellison Emery; Lizzie and Jennie Thompson; and Evelyn, Wayne, and Donna Sanders. The 1935 school census listed seventeen students with family names of Roberts, Thompson, Sodnak, Erickson, Emery, Hudson, and Novacek.

Some of the teachers who served in this school included: Anna Braaten, Jeanne Glen, Janet Harkin, Laura Kelly, Theresa Lee, Betsy Legvold, Ida Olson, Laura Olson, Lizzie Rankin, and Maggie Rankin. Anna C. Olson taught from 1935 until the school closed.

The school district was officially dissolved in 1937 with most of the territory becoming a part of the unorganized district U19. In 1938, District 9 was known as U19, and was administered by the county rather than a local school board. That year the school closed. Some students transferred to District 22 in Soler Township, others to the Smrstik School in Barto Township.

The school census, however, continued to count District U19, of Soler Township, separately until at least 1945 when the U19 census showed 26 students including Melford, Phyllis, and Vernon Christianson; Elroy and Noral Erickson; Doris, Arthur and Howard Kelly; Phyllis and Georgine Novacek; Deloris Erickson; Curtis, Donald, Shirley, Junice and David Thompson; Robert, Joanne, Annette and Joel Graff; Dean Bushee; and Joseph, Maynard, Beverly, Richard and Joanne Buck.

*Submitted by Eunice Korczak. Sources: Article in Roseau County Museum Files written by Thelma Thompson Jensen and Bertha Roberts Klemetson, School Organization and Dissolution Records, Teacher Term Reports to the County, Teacher Souvenir Booklets, Roseau County School Census Reports.*

### Memories District 9

In my seventh and eighth grade years I attended District 9 in Soler Township, also known as Thompson or Fairview School. It was located two miles west and two miles north of the Haug Store.

The school was painted white with green trim. Inside, there was a little stove in the middle of the room. The desks were arranged in two rows. Some were double desks. I shared one with my older sister.

District 9 was one mile north of where we lived, and we walked to and from the school. We carried our lunch in a half-gallon syrup pail. It usually was sandwiches, a cookie, and half of an orange.

Some of the students who attended were: Ellison and Delford Emery, Hilda and Belmer Thompson, the Roberts girls, Donna and Wesley Sanders, Monica, Lone, Stella and Noral Erickson. We were given lessons in reading, arithmetic, spelling, history, and geography. During recess we played cops and robbers, baseball, and tag.

Some of the teachers at District 9 were Ida Stordahl (Roseau), Jeanne Glenn (Badger), Betsy Legvold (Thief River Falls), Anna

C. Olson, and Janet Harkin (Warroad). My mother, Mrs. Marie Erickson, was clerk and treasurer as long as there was a school there.

*Submitted by Lone Rohlf.*

### District 13 - Barto Township

The District 13 school was located on Section 30 of Barto Township the same section where the August Kukowski family lived. The 1913 atlas showed the school as located in the middle of the section. Stephen Stanislawski dated the location change to the northeast corner of the NW 1/4 as 1914. This was a mile south of the Leo Church.

The petition for formation of School District 13 was dated December 7, 1896. The petitioners were Joseph, Joseph, John, and Frank Stanislawski, P. P., Allie, Anton, and Frank Kukowski, John Wierkus, A. Cibulski, Andrew Pelozki, and Anton Jazdzewski. (spellings as written on the petition)

If you are confused by two Joseph Stanislawskis, look at the class list for 1914-15.

The first teacher's term report detected was for the spring session in 1898. Freemont Bonduraut, the first teacher, was 35 years old. He began teaching at age 18, but in 1896 still only had an eighth grade education and a third grade teaching certificate, the lowest certification given.

The first term was taught in the Frank Stanislawski home. The first students were from the Cebulski, Paxliuski, Peloski (Pelowski), Stanislawski, Plachecki, Zabrocki and Majkowski and Paplinski families. Joe Paxliuski had the best attendance at 77 days. Most of the Pelowskis and Stanislawskis attended 73-76 days.

Other families that attended later were Dolney, Kulas, Schase, Andreson (Anderson?), Pulczinski, Mlodzik, Landowski, Braaten, Woitas, Pietruszewski, Mlodzik, Kulas, and Troskey.

Adrian Dolney related that when his mother, Stella Pelowski Dolney attended school, the term was only two months. She only went to second grade. After reading numerous attendance reports for many school districts while doing this research, the pattern is obvious. School terms were short, buildings were cold, and student attendance was often very poor. In addition, very few of the Polish, Norwegian, Swedish or Bohemian children knew how to speak English before attending school. Considering all this, our pioneers did very well for themselves.

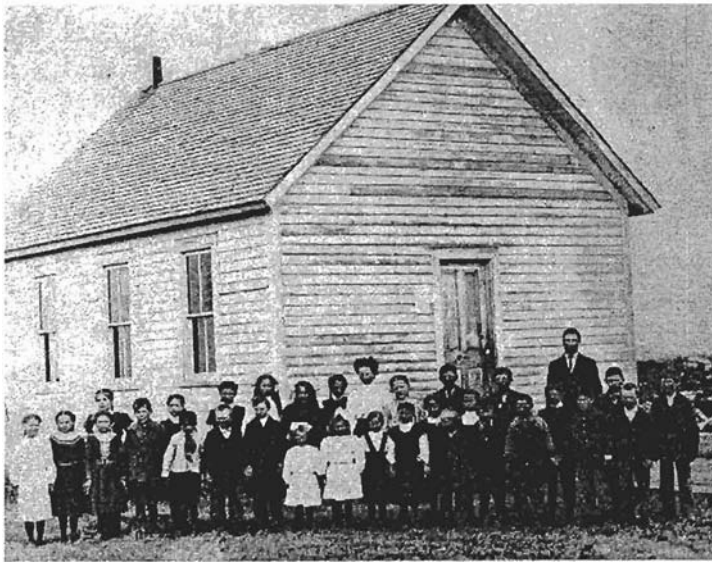
Stella Conner was the teacher in District 13 from October 5, 1914 to June 18, 1915. The little memory given to her students listed the school officers as P. P. Kukowski director, August Kukowski, Sr. assistant and Joe Stanislawski treasurer. She listed 43 students Kukowski: Johnnie, Johnnie, Johnnie, Frances, Frances, Frances, Stella, Joe, Joe, Agnes, Elizabeth, Eddie, Harry, Eddie, Phil; Landowski: Harry, Frances, Helen; Pelowski: Joseph, Emelia, Edmond, Anna, Josie; Stanislawski: Helen, Leo, Peter, Alex, Frances, Felix, Agnes and Agnes; Zabrocki: Clara, Harry, and Joe; Eleanora and Joe Pulchinski; Lizzie and Frances Garoski; Alex and Helen Kulas; Stephen Goroski; Blonda Troskey; and Walter Mlodzik.

Yes, those names are correct. Besides the three Johnnie Kukowskis and three Frances Kukowskis, three others had the name Frances. Then four Joes and a Joseph besides the other repeated first names. Evelyn Kelly Haugen had these students in 1920. On her teacher's attendance report she distinguished between the John Kukowskis as John, Johnny, and Johnnie. Two girls with middle initials and

one without differentiated the Frances Kukowskis. How confusing it must have been for the teacher and the whole classroom.

District 13 was called Harding School in the 1925-26 souvenir booklet for Hilda C. Johnson's students. At that time Joe Stanislawski was president of the school board, John Pietruszewski director and Peter P. Kukowski (P.P.) clerk.

The 34 students included Kukowski: **Stanley**, Bernice, Gertrude, Frankie, Susan, Sylvester, Helen, Frank, Tony, August, Sophie and Sophie (P.P.); Pietruszewski: Elizabeth, John, Francis, Mary, and Joe; Stanislawski: Richard, John, Annie, and Elizabeth; Efta: Annie, Mary, and Frances; Kulas: Susie, Delphine, Angeline, and Sophie; Zabrocki: Florence, Albin, Marion, and Nora; Veronica Woitas, and Clement Troskey.



District 13 - Students pictured in front of school with teacher Tony Efta.  
(photo courtesy of Alice Stanislawski Blawat)

Frances (Efta) Stanislawski was a sixth grader that year. Miss Johnson boarded with Victoria, Agnes, and Helen Stanislawski. Frances recalled that the teacher broke her leg or ankle that year, but she didn't miss much school. "She bought high shoes up to her knees, tied them tightly and she could go like heck!" Frances laughed. That was the last year Frances was in school. She was the oldest and had to stay home to help. Even at eight years old she started making homemade bread. And she still bakes delicious goodies. Though they seldom saw one another, Frances and her teacher were friends until Miss Johnson's death in 2002.

In 1936 A. L. Dolney wanted his children to go to District 31 instead of to District 13 school. His reason was that it was less than two miles to #31 and was three miles to #13. To change his property to the other district he had to petition for a set aside. In order to do this he had to post three copies in each of the school districts and have a notice in the newspaper. One copy needed to be posted on the door at each school.

The last class, 1945-46, to be in the District 13 school house for the full year included: Kukowski: Daniel, Norman, Joan, Wilfred, Adolph, Edwin, Henryka, and Ernest; Efta: Delores and Donald; Mlodzik: Lorraine and Leonard; Leroy Pulczynski and Mary Ann Troskey. Gean Martin was the teacher.

No teacher term reports were available for District 13 for the school year 1946-47. For this school, the year 1946-47 was reminiscent of the very early days of having short school terms. The teacher who had been hired for the year quit after a very short time in the fall.

The August Kukowski children, Henryka, Adolph, Edwin, Norman, and Wilfred, were attending school in District 66 Greenbush quite early in the fall. They were enrolled in District 66 for 140 of the 170 days of the school term.

By January 14, 1947, August Kukowski had set aside his land from District 13 to District 66. Ernest and Daniel Kukowski had transferred to District 31 after 20 days into the term of that school. They were enrolled 128 days compared to 148 days for the other students on District 31 rolls. Though not shown on paper, because students are listed where the tax dollars go, Ernest Kukowski recalls also attending school in District 7, now the Barto Townhall, by the end of the year.

Looking at days enrolled for 1945-46, students in this district were being short changed. Another country school, District 40, had 150 days in 1945-46, District 31 had 142 days, while District 13 had 119 days. That 119 days translated to only six months of school. The next year District 31 had 148 days enrollment while District 40 had 153 days. That wasn't much difference, but at the same time Greenbush had 170 days.

A petition to consolidate was dated April 24, 1947. One source said consolidation was complete by May 27, 1947; another source gave September 17, 1947, as the consolidation date. Most of the district went to District 66 and a few parcels went to District 16 which became the Haug-Leo Consolidated School. The school building was moved behind the school in Greenbush.

*Submitted by Myrna Sovde. Sources: Roseau County school records. Ernest Kukowski. Edwin Kukowski. others mentioned within. student booklets 1915 and 1926 courtesy Frances Stanislawski and Alice Stanislawski Blawat. "Stanislawski Papers" by Stephen Stanislawski.*

### Memories Early Years School District 13

School District 13 was started in 1898. The first term was taught in the living room of Frank Stanislawski, a homesteader. The room was built of logs and the cracks between were plastered with clay. While the room served as the school, Mr. Stanislawski and his large family had to confine themselves to the adjacent kitchen.

The first teacher was Mr. Frank Bundrant. The school had an enrollment of about thirty pupils at that time. The school board consisted of: John Stanislawski, Peter Kukowski, and A. P. Kukowski.

A school was built for the next term from the best lumber that could be purchased from the sawmill near Old Greenbush. The building was a one-sided-roof shed, with walls and floor of rough green spruce boards covered with tarpaper. When the school as heated with a large cast iron box stove, the green board dried out, and cracks big enough to put one's finger through appeared.

When it didn't rain, it didn't leak! And when it did rain, no water ever stood on the floor; it all went down the cracks. The first few terms we had only slates and slate pencils for writing. Whenever one fell on the floor, it broke in many pieces and fell through the cracks in the floor.

One nice day during the noon hour, some of the boys got the idea that there were enough slate and lead pencils under the floor to last us for the rest of our school days, so they got long poles and stove wood blocks and began lifting the side of the school. The teacher came out to see what was going on. When the boys told her what they were doing, she helped with the propping up. Then she told some of the younger boys to go under the building and pick up the



better pencils. After we got out, she told the boys to set the building back on the foundation, and she went inside. They set it back with a bang!

The next teacher was Miss Clara Clayberg, then Miss Ruth Sanders. About this time a nice, new school was built right by the first one-- right in the middle of Section 30. There were no roads to it. Years later, around 1914, it was moved to the northeast corner of the section.

Some of the teachers after Miss Sanders were: Miss Nina Waterman, Miss Ricca Eastman, Miss Thilda Norquist, Miss Pearl Sanders, Miss Siegred Hildahl, Mr. A. F. Kulas, and Miss Emma Lofgren.

At the time that I attended school, the highest grade was fifth. Boy! The times I went through that fifth reader! We had to be careful how we handled our books, as the parents had to buy all books, paper, slates, pencils, everything. The parents also had to make enough desks and seats for their children. We still have the bench we sat on in that first tarpaper school sixty years ago.

*Submitted by Eunice Korczak. Condensed from the "Stanislawski Papers" - Settling in the New Country- by Stephen Stanislawski.*

### Going to School at District 13 - Memories

We lived two and one half miles from school. The school board had a policy whereby a bam stall was provided for families living two miles or more from school. Since we qualified, we used a sleigh known as a cutter, pulled by a single horse in the wintertime. Then it became necessary to haul hay to this bam for the horse. Also, we had to keep the bam clean. You had to feed the horse hay in the morning when you arrived and again at noon hour. Hitching and unhitching the horse often seemed like more work than it was worth. We had lots of blankets and robes made of horsehide for covers. During the spring breakup, we used a single buggy and horse for our transportation. When the weather was favorable, we often preferred walking to the horse ride...

It was not uncommon during school days to suddenly find yourself scratching your head almost without letup. Mother would soon notice this unusual action and immediately made the necessary inspection. You guessed it. One of us had been in too close contact with a head infested with lice. It was just a matter of a few days before the whole school was infested with lice. The report was then brought to the teacher who notified all parents that our children were exposed to lice, and everyone must fight the battle together. Now, the worst is yet to come. With a fine tooth comb, and I mean fine tooth, each was combed over and over, hoping to pull out the nits (eggs) and perhaps a few live ones. Then you got a brisk shampoo with a mixture of warm water and kerosene. This was a daily procedure until you were pronounced cured and free...

Our playgrounds were not filled with swings, teeter-totters, monkey bars, horizontal bars, basketball hoops, volleyball nets, and equipment that is so common today. We considered ourselves most fortunate if the summer growth of grass around the building was mowed, so that we could avoid the pesky foxtail seeds and grass from sticking and clinging to our pant legs and itching like the "seven-year itch" until you removed every bit of the pest from your clothes and body. We had to improvise and make competitive games of our own. I remember we chose up sides and then played a game called "Roouy Doouy" (Polish). We were each given sticks, some large, some small, depending on your size. The object of the game was to slap a squashed tomato can into a previously dug hole in

your opponents' end. This was a one point score. There were no assigned positions for any individual to play. Each made his or her best attempt to get the can into the opponents' hole, which was never guarded by any special player. Can you imagine the sticks flying, when you involved about ten enthusiastic youngsters on either side? Only once, I was unable to attend school because of a left eye completely closed and a beautiful shiner on the right, from a slash I received during a game. I sometimes think our modern hockey game got its origin from our self-created game of Roouy Doouy in School District 13.

*Submitted by Eunice Korczak. Albin Zabrocki, excerpts from his book, Story of My Life.*

### District 14 - Tauer School - Moose Township

District 14, Tauer School, was organized in 1897 with Andrew Johnson, Ole Hylland, and Charles Cassidy serving as the first board officers. Until that time, all of Moose Township appears to have been designated District 38. The new District 14 encompassed the entire southeast quadrant of Moose Township.

Some early names associated with the school were: Anderson, Andersson, Carlson, Carlsson, Cassidy, Cistol, Dahl, Engolfsland, Evja, Forsman, Gadehold, Gillebo, Holland, Houkum, Hylland, Johnson, Listul, Mork, Nelson, Ness, Petterson, Randklev, and Rood.

During the January, 1901 term Clara Meldahl taught twenty-nine students. The student roster increased to forty-two for the July 1901 term, when Gustine E. Moen served as teacher. In this year, some new names or new spellings of names were introduced: Ingolfsland, Jones, Neso, and Pederson.

Julia Listug taught in 1904, with the number of students for the terms ranging from thirty-four to thirty-eight. Again we notice some new names: Osied, Swanson, and Todssman.

Mrs. E. G. Brown taught the December term of 1905, and Cora Thompson taught the February term of 1906. The student list held consistent at twenty-nine students through these terms. However, another new name appeared on the student list: Hukee.

Harvey Tauer, a former student of the Tauer School, says the school was named for Ann Tauer who served as a clerk for the school. Harvey recalls they had to go to the Listug place for water. The boys liked water-carrying duty, because Mr. Listug let them smoke a cigarette at his place! Tauer said winter transportation to school was a sleigh with a shelter built on it and pulled by a team of mules.



Students at Tauer School circa 1939 - Back LtoR: Joann Rissman, Harvey Hvamstad, Arlen Hvamstad, Mildred Hvamstad, Marion Hvamstad. Front LtoR: Curtis Hvamstad, Janet Hvamstad, Alice Tauer, Harvey Tauer. (photo courtesy of Harvey Tauer)

Harvey's list of teachers included: Miss Bjorkman, Ann Wahlberg, Edith Modahl (married Leonard Larson), and Nellie Glen (married Chester Rhude). Family names on his list of students were: Berg, Erickson, Hvamstad, Hukee, Minarik, Rissman, and Tauer.

Harvey Tauer says the Tauer School and the Roselund School consolidated with Badger in the early 1940s. The District 14 Tauer Schoolhouse now serves as the George Rassmusson home. *Submitted by Eunice Korczak. Sources: Roseau County School Organization Papers, Teacher Term Reports to the County, Information submitted by Harvey Tauer.*

#### District 15 - Smrstik School - Barto Township



District IS known as the Smrstik School was located in the southwest corner of Section S, Barto Township. Elizabeth (Blawat) Wojciechowski attended the school and now lives in the (redecorated) building!

District 15 located in Section 5, Barto Township, was also known as the Smrstik School. A petition to form School District 15 was filed on January 1, 1897. Signatures on the petition included: Joseph Mekash, Mathias Novak, Theodor Wojciechowski, Frank Blawat, and Frank Landowski.

The school officers for 1898-1899 were Jos. Mekash, Joe Bruski, and Leopold Novacek.

The Teacher Term Report for November, 1900, indicated that Kathern Roberts taught twenty-five children that term. Family names among the students were (retaining the spelling on the report): Barto, Blevot, Brusky, Johnson, Kouski, Mekash, Mesalak, Miskie, Novak, Norlach, Pavlik, Straskewski, Staskuvik, and Voyviekouski.

The school census for 1930 included twenty school-aged children with Haug and Greenbush addresses: William Bizek, Haug; Julia Efta, Greenbush; Leona, Helen, Margaret, and Wilfred Kelly, Haug; William and Constance Larson, Greenbush; Stephen Marynik, Greenbush; Emil Mekash, Greenbush; Rose, Anna, Mary, John, James, and Joe Novacek, Haug; Joe Novak, Haug; Sylvester Novak, Greenbush; Richard Woitas, Greenbush; Engeline Wojciechowski, Greenbush. By 1935, the census had grown to twenty-seven school-aged children, but 1945 shows the number dwindling. The census actually shows thirty-five, but this count included children both below and beyond school age.

Probably, at least partially, influenced by the dwindling census, an application for consolidation was filed on August 14, 1946. The consolidation would affect Districts 13, IS, 16, 31, and 58. Consolidation was approved by the Commissioner of Education and the voters of the districts approved by a vote of 57 to 36. Family names among the voters included: Dolney, Gonshorowski, Kalinowski, Kukowski, Nelson, Pelowski, and Stanislawski. The

voter names from District 16 included: Brekke, Christianson, Graff, Holm, Janousek, Kjersten, Knepper, Melby, and Pietruszewski.

The District IS schoolhouse is currently serving as Elizabeth Wojciechowski's home.

*Submitted by Eunice Korczak and Linda Blumer. Sources: Roseau County School Organization Papers, Roseau County School Consolidation Papers, Teacher Term Reports to the County, Roseau County School Census Reports.*

#### District 15 - Memories

I attended three country schools in the Greenbush area-- District 15 (Smrstik School), District 1 (Ridge School), and District 7 (Metvedt School).

I went to District IS from 1931 until 1935. Inga O. Berget was my first teacher there. My two other teachers there were Mae Holland from Warroad and Frances Kukowski (Braun). Some of the student family names were Mekash, Novak, Novacek, Kelly, Ignaszewski, St. Anto(i)ne, Duray, Blavat/Blawat, Marynik.

This one-room schoolhouse was about two miles from where my parents, Max and Lucy Duray, lived, and we walked to school. We carried sandwiches for lunch in syrup pails. In winter we brought jars with cocoa, which were warmed on top of the big heater in a pan of water.

We were taught subjects like English, history, and arithmetic. During recess we played Ante-I-over, with teams throwing the ball over the school.

At Christmas time, we put on plays and all the families would come for the evening program. The lit candles on the tree were in holders that clipped to the branches.

When Mae Holland taught at District 15, she came from Warroad, so they built living space in part of the school. That space was her kitchen and bedroom all in one. Sometimes I would stay with her.

The District 15 schoolhouse is now Aunt Elizabeth Wojciechowski's home.

I also went to the Ridge School (District 1A). Menford Peterson was our bus driver. The bus was his car. In the winter, we went by sleigh in a caboos pulled by a team of horses. (A caboos was an enclosed box on the sleigh.) Selmer Suby was also our bus driver when we went to that school.

The last two years of grade school, I went to District 7 (Metvedt School), about a mile or so south of our home.

I went to Greenbush High 1940 to 1944. The old school burned down and the buildings they built for classes were called the "Celotex School."

*Submitted by Margaret Duray Peplinski.*

#### District 16 - Haug School - Barto and Soler Townships

Although you may think home schooling a recent innovation, many schools in this area began without the formality of a schoolhouse. Haug School, District 16, was no exception; the first classes in the fall session of 1897 were held in the Ole Syverson home in Section 1, Barto Township. Syverson received one dollar per month rent for use of his home, and the first teacher, Nellie Budd, was paid \$30 per month.

Other early teachers included: Hannah Hellickson, Anna B. Connelly, Robert J. Storey, Louis W. Thompson, Maudi Tremblay, Kathrin Wegner, Wilbur Boone, Olav Lin, and T. E. (Millie) Dufwa.

At the first school board meeting, held at the Ole Syverson home

on July 26, 1897, officers were elected as follows: Julius Hellickson, director; Ingvald P. Kolberg, treasurer; Theo E. Haug, clerk. These three Haug District residents signed school district officer oaths dated in 1897. Theo Haug signed on July 28. Ingvald Kolberg and Julius Hellickson signed on August 6.

At this first meeting, the board decided four things: (1) a school term of five months beginning August 2, 1897; (2) to rent Ole Syverson's house for a month of school beginning August 2, 1897; (3) to pay \$1.00 per month rent for the use of the Syverson home; (4) the district was liable for any damages to house or property. The brief minutes also noted that "on motion a special tax was voted for." There are no details about the special tax. The five-month school term was to consist of one month beginning in August, two more months beginning mid-October, and another two months beginning the first Monday in May. Presumably the mid-winter months were avoided due to weather and transportation difficulties.

At a special meeting in 1897, the school board decided to build a 30' by 24' schoolhouse with three windows on each side, to be located in the center of Section 1, Barto Township. At meetings in January and February of 1898, three decisions were made: every man would work three days on the schoolhouse, each man would haul one load of timber, every freeholder (male or female) would pay a \$2 "subscription fee." It seems this intention did not work well, as at the June meeting of 1898, it was determined to try to get people "to do their duties in work and subscriptions." Since it appears the schoolhouse was not yet completed, it is interesting to note that the report of the same meeting indicates the purchase of stove and furniture at \$15.

In August of 1899, it was decided that the school would have a stone foundation, plastered walls inside and out, overlapping siding, and a chimney of brick. In November of 1899, the board approved Haldor Samstad's completed masonry work for the foundation and chimney.

It is not clear where school was held while the new building was being erected, but the District Treasurer's bonds for both 1898 and 1901 read "District 16 in the town of Soler," and the teacher's report for 1902 indicates District 16 was located in Section 34, Soler, one mile west of the Haug Store. Since this is within the district, presumably this was also a District 16 Haug School. In some references it is called North School. It is possible school was held in Soler during the construction of the 30' by 24' schoolhouse in Section 1 of Barto. Distances would indicate that school may have been held at the North School in Soler and the Syverson home in Barto concurrently prior to regular bussing service.

In 1902, the school board met to bond the district to "pay up all orders drawn to build and completing the schoolhouse." The bond was defeated. Reorganization and consolidation in 1902 added about another seven sections of Soler Township to the district.



Haug students, unknown year.

The District 16 teacher's report to the county in 1904 indicates that no trees were planted for Arbor Day explaining that the schoolhouse is to be moved.

A reorganization in 1905 of Districts 1 and 16 added sections of Moose, Soler, Skagen, and Barto to District 16. Later, Districts 58, 15, U19, and parts of 7 and 13 consolidated into District 16, and a fine new school was built in 1910. It was located in the northeast corner of Section 2, Barto Township, about one mile east of the farm home that now belongs to Harlan Solberg. It had a bell tower, gymnasium, indoor plumbing, and three classrooms. A grand porch with four wooden support columns graced the front of the building. The schoolhouse was severely damaged by a tornado in 1913, but apparently rebuilt or repaired at that time.



Haug School District 16. This lovely school, located in Section Two of Barto Township, was built in 1910, destroyed by wind in 1913, then rebuilt and remained in use until 1951. Horse-drawn caboose busses are parked in front. Haug was perhaps the first area country school to provide extensive bussing. (photo courtesy of Milt Sather)

Improved transportation for students had allowed consolidation of the extensive area that was now District 16, and up to ninety students were bused to the grand new school via horse-drawn busses that looked like ice fishing houses on wheels or, during winter months, on snow runners. This may be when the North School was discontinued. In later years, around 1935, high school students were bussed to Greenbush for high school classes.

Nellie Budd, the first Haug teacher, was hired at a salary of \$30 per month, and taught the one-month fall session of 1897. Other teachers from 1898 to 1902 included Hannah Hellickson, Anna B. Connelly, Robert J. Storey, Louis W. Thompson, and Maude M. Tremblay. Teachers' salaries did not change much over the years. When T. E. Dufwa taught the 1908-1909 school year, she received \$65 for the winter term, a two-month term. The number of students during the first ten years at District 16 ranged from 35 to 52 students in up to eight grades, in one room with one teacher!



Teacher Ruby Holm grades 6, 7, and 8 in 1950. (photo courtesy of June Efta)

Some of the families served by this school in the early years of 1897 and 1898 were: Anderson, Brown, Cresco, Evenson, Evjen, Frazle, Haug, Halverson, Kalinowski, Lieberg, Lien, Nelson, Omdahl,

Pederson, Peterson, Reno, Skaarland, SorE, and Samstad.

The eight primary grades were taught at Haug School, and possibly for a time, two years of high school. According to Lenora Ryan Haug who began teaching at Haug School in 1918, the curriculum consisted of regular classes, manual training, cooking classes, and short courses for older boys who were farmers, which they called ag class.



Arlaine Pederson at the Haug water supply. Water had to be pumped and carried with pails. 1950. (photo courtesy of June Efta)

By the 1940s, this fine school had fallen into disrepair. Part of the building had collapsed rendering the gymnasium unusable. Windows were loose, allowing snow to seep in during the winter months, and the roof leaked in many places during the warmer months. Indoor bathrooms and cooking class facilities were no longer available and no high school classes were offered. But the school continued on when the new Haug-Leo Consolidated School District 16/679 in Section 15 along County Highway 7 was completed.

The March 1, 1951, issue of the Greenbush Tribune reported: "The pupils and teach-



Moving Day, Spring 1951

ers of Haug-Leo District No. 16 (16/679) north of Greenbush and west of Badger moved into their new school last week. This is a very active community interested in community affairs and this is amply demonstrated when all kinds of help arrived to move desks, books, furniture, instructional equipment, and teachers' quarters furnishings."

*Submitted by Eunice Korczak. Sources from the Roseau County Museum included: Roseau County Teacher's Term Reports, District 16 school board minutes, District 16 school board oaths of office, records of special school meetings, records of transaction by the trustees, atlases. Other sources: Greenbush Tribune, and articles published in Footsteps in Education.*

### Memories of Attending Old Haug

I attended Haug District 16, which was located in Barto Town-

ship behind the old Benny Christianson farm. This was the big new school built in 1910. My father Brede (Brady) Christianson was active in getting the school started and was on the school board.

The school had three classrooms. The grades were usually split up with first-second-third in one room, fourth-fifth-sixth in another room and seventh-eighth in the third room. There was a fourth large room where the Home Ec classes were held. We could bring things like milk for hot chocolate or potato soup and warm them in the Home Ec room. We had to bring for everyone, and we were not allowed to eat in that room, but had to return to our classroom. Another nice feature of the school was indoor toilets. All you had to do was pull a chain to flush them.

Other buildings on the school site included a bam, for those who rode or drove horses to school, and "R" Company, which is what the teachers' cottage was called because in 1918 the teachers were Ryan, Rankin, and Rassmusson. At times, when the weather was bad and the bus drivers remained at the school, the horses that pulled the busses were housed in the bam. One half the teachers' cottage was used by the drivers and the other half by the teachers.

Usually we walked the two miles to school. But sometimes we'd use horses. When we got to school we'd tie up the reins, tum the horses, and send them home by themselves. The students who lived farther away were bussed by caboose and horses.

The school had a big hall where sometimes we played games. Outdoors we played fox and geese, baseball, and a lot of other games. Sometimes in the winter, the Big Ditch (Ditch 95) made a good skating rink. The boys liked to skate as far down the ditch as they could, so they could use the excuse that they couldn't hear the bell. At recess, we were mostly on our own without teachers supervising. There were no fights. Well, I don't remember. We couldn't have been that good!

Some of the teachers I remember were Lenora Ryan, who was an excellent teacher, Anna Rasmusson, and Rankin.

The school was always busy; there were a lot of things going on. We had a lot of socials-- basket socials, rag ball socials, and shadow socials. For basket socials, the ladies and girls fixed up a picnic-style lunch in a nicely decorated box, basket, or container, which was auctioned.

[Note by EK: When the women arrived at the social, their baskets were added to those brought by the other women. When the auctioning began, each man bid on a basket supposedly knowing neither the contents nor the preparer. When a basket was won, the winner and the woman who prepared the lunch dined together. Often young men went to some lengths to discover which basket belonged to a favorite young lady. This, of course, added vigor to the bidding as other young men delighted in teasing the smitten young man by bidding against him.]

A rag ball social was similar, but for this, the ladies brought a rag ball (from rags saved for rug-making) with her name on a tag inside. This was easier to keep secret than a decorated picnic lunch. The winner still got a lunch and the companionship of the woman who brought it. A shadow social also was about lunch and companionship, but was a bit different. A sheet was hung across the room and a light placed behind it. The women stepped between the light and the sheet making a shadow on the sheet. The men had to guess who was casting the shadow and bid accordingly.

We also had debates, spelling contests, Christmas programs, and other programs. We'd have a platform (like a stage) to stand on when we sang, recited, and put on plays.

I went on to high school in Greenbush. In those days, you had to

stay in town-- there were no busses to high school. I stayed with my uncle, and my father gave him meat, potatoes, and eggs in exchange for room and board. Later I stayed with the Paul Hanson family. He was the buttermaker. I took care of their two children to help pay for room and board. My father hauled mail from Greenbush to Haug, so he'd take me home for weekends.

I was on the Greenbush High School girls' basketball team. I graduated in 1924.

*By Dline Erickson as told to Eunice Korczak.*

### My First School- Old Haug - District 16

The old Haug School definitely would not pass state regulations these days, but it was a great school! A model school building in its day, in addition to the elementary grades, it had offered two years of high school, home economics, an ag class, and even boasted indoor plumbing. A big, boxy building with a magnificent columned porch, Old Haug was located just east of the Benny Christianson farm (later the Jackie Erickson farm and now the Harlan Solberg farm).

The school had suffered the ravages of time before I started first grade, no longer offering high school classes, home ec, ag class, or indoor plumbing. Deborah Sather, my mother, says she thinks the building fell into disrepair because of a lack of tax money during the thirties and forties to pay for its upkeep. A more-or-less collapsed portion of the building was off-limits to us kids. I think it had once been a gymnasium. Three large classrooms were used for the eight grades. Depending on class sizes, two or three classes were taught in the same room. Only three teachers were hired for the whole school-- one for each room-- and no teachers' aides.

When I started school, first through third grades were taught by Arlaine Pederson (Duray). She was a wonderful teacher, and I loved her. Embarrassingly, I sometimes slipped and called her Mama. Everyone laughed and taunted, of course, but I believe every one of us made the slip at some time. And when others did, I, of course, laughed and taunted, too.

My classroom had a large, wood-burning or coal-burning, furnace in the front right corner, a water crock to the front left, blackboards at center front, and large windows to the rear. The old-fashioned student desks were arranged in rows, except when it rained. Then the roof leaked, so we had to rearrange the desks to make room for several pails to catch the dripping water. In winter, sometimes we got to sit on the desktops with our feet on the seats because the floor was so cold, and other times we had to move the desks because it was too cold to sit near the windows. However, it was fun to sit back by the windows even if it was cold, because the snow would build up on the inner sills and we could lean back, grab a handful of snow, and put it down someone's neck or even form small snowballs.

I had an advantage academically, because before I started first grade, my older brother had missed a lot of school when we had polio, and Mom tutored him so he could remain with his class. Of course, that meant that he got an inordinate amount of attention- or so I thought. So I joined the classes with him and, as a result, learned some reading and math. With that advantage, I was never in trouble concerning my grades. But in second or third grade, the snow on the windowsill was too great a temptation, and I got a "B" in conduct. Mom was not pleased.

I was in second grade when our current-events paper introduced us to the concept of television. I remember because the teacher

discussed the subject and wrote the word on the board. Later she erased it and asked who could spell "television." I could. Boy! I thought I was clever being able to spell such a modern word! I had never heard of television before this and didn't actually see one until several years later. These days television is probably one of the first words a child learns.

Another time we did a scientific experiment with paper towels- the brown, crispy kind. The teacher plastered two wet towels to the blackboard, one close to the hot furnace and one farther away from the heat. She asked which one would dry and fall off the blackboard first. Watching those towels dry was about as exciting as watching the grass grow, as they say. Who didn't know the heated one would drop first? All through school, I thought experiments were dumb and boring- probably because my introduction to experiments was less than exciting.

Of course if that were true, we should have learned to hate reading. The books we had to read in our early grades were not exactly exciting. We read about Dick and Jane, their little sister Sally, and their dog Spot, all rather bland characters. The plots were also somewhat less than riveting. "See Dick. See Jane. See Sally. See Spot. See Dick run. See Jane run. See Sally run. See Spot run." It seems amazing that any of us grew up to enjoy reading!

But recess in the winter at Old Haug was exciting. A deep ditch ran next to the school, and in winter, snow would accumulate in it. We had a grand time sliding down the slopes on makeshift toboggans- large pieces of cardboard from cardboard boxes. When we were tired of that, we'd play King of the Hill, or if enough snow had accumulated, we'd build forts and even igloos.

There were some daring young men in the upper grades who did things like venture into the collapsed portion of the building and work themselves between the walls. The noise they'd make between the walls was funny, and the teachers' consternation was hilarious. Once in the spring when the weather was warm, one of the upper-grade teachers opened an unscreened window to allow in some fresh air. Later she left the room momentarily. Before she returned, one of the daring young men dived headfirst out the window! Reportedly, the teacher arrived in time to see his feet disappearing through the window. We younger kids, of course, did not observe the trick, but we heard about it and secretly yearned for the courage to perform such acts.



Last year at Old Haug 1950 - Third grade: June Szymanski, Adeline Pulczinski, Rhoda Tomasek, Eunice Sather, Mark Gonshorowski, Lew Huartson, David Thompson, Dean Erickson. (photo courtesy of Eunice Korczak)

Old Haug School was a marvelous place, but in the spring of my third-grade year, we moved to a new school, the Haug-Leo Con-

solidated School District #679. It was all shiny and new and modern, but it wasn't as interesting as Old Haug, District #16.

*Submitted by Eunice Korczak.*

### Teaching at Haug in 1918



Hans and Lenora (Ryan) Haug (photo courtesy of Bev and Roy Holm)

I came to District 16 in 1918.

The three of us on the staff- Ryan, Rankin, Rassmusson- became known as the "R Company." The Holms and Liebergs took care of us until December, when we were able to move into the "teachers' cottage." Later, Amt Holm and Johnny Frislie put the name "R Co." over the door in brass tacks.

That cottage was a university for me. I learned to fire with soft coal and cope with soot. I learned to cook after a fashion and bake bread of war-time flour.

One night we heard a noise on the porch and investigating found two wolves trying to raid our meat box (no refrigerator). Another evening, we were again disturbed. When we opened the door to frighten the prowler, in walked Dr. Leech! He was lost, and after coffee and directions he went on his way.

My first year was a war year, and we were kept very busy. Remember Junior Red Cross and Herbert Hoover's Clean Plate Campaign- Clean your plate or Hoover'll get you! Besides our lessons, we served hot dish to each of the seventy-five pupils every day. The funds provided by the board were amply supplemented by the parents.

Norwegian was spoken freely, but I learned little besides Norwegian basketball; I insisted on only English being used in the classroom and nearly lost my job! I learned "how much is the clock?" meant "What time is it?" Gradually and painfully, I learned enough Norsk so it wasn't safe to talk about me in Norwegian in my presence.

I taught Manual Training that first year along with regular classes, and in the winter months, a short course for older boys who were already farmers. It was dubbed "Agricultural Class," but they knew more about it than I did, but were too polite to say so. They had to struggle harder with the Business English and Farm Records, included in Ag Class. We also tested milk and cream.

One week in the fall only seventh and eighth graders came to school as everyone else had the flu (the great flu epidemic). We played Duck on the Roskpas as there were no little ones to get hurt.

We had heaps of fun!

In winter we coasted down the sides of the drainage ditch. We used all sorts of contrivances for sleds- dustpans, dishpans, cartons, and sacks. In the spring, when the snow melted and froze during the night, we skated all over the prairie and even in the schoolyard.

Later C. G. Lee composed words to a popular melody:

We at Haug have lots of fun,  
Sliding in the snow.  
We sit right down on a gunny sack,  
And down the ditch we go!

We had many programs, hosted the area Annual Arbor Day many times, and had a Spell-Down.

We had a Literary Society. I'll never forget Belle Thompson (Holm), as she played a regal lady. Her mother made a wig of a fuzzy bonnet, curled hair combings attached, and powdered. It looked very real! I can still hear Adolph Tomasek as Ola in a play borrowed from Dacorah Posten. Mabel Brandvold, Joe Christianson, and Wilmar Wold were supporting actors.

One year when I taught Home Ec., we served the school board. That kitchen was as grand as any Conrad Hilton dining room!

I married the most eligible bachelor in the neighborhood, and we lived in the district ten years.



Hans and Lenora (Ryan) Haug family - December 25, 1951, Santa Ana, California. (photo courtesy of Bev and Roy Holm)

*Condensed from a letter written by Lenora Ryan Haug and published in Footsteps in Education. Submitted by Eunice Korczak.*

Note: The "most eligible bachelor" Lenora married was Hans Haug. Among other pursuits, he was a member of the Haug Band and pianist at Oiland Church. Lenora and Hans had many sons. Deborah (Graft) Sather recalls one day at a church activity Lenora told about one of her sons going to school soon after the fifth son, Quentin, was born. He excitedly announced to his teacher that the family had a new baby boy. The teacher politely asked what they'd named the baby. The boy scrunched his face, thought a while, then answered, "Quittin', I think."

### Teaching at Old Haug <District 16>

You asked if I remembered anything about the Old Haug School (District 16). I usually think of how good you kids were and how much fun it was being your teacher. Then I started thinking of what a different time it was for teachers compared to now.

The rural areas were just getting electricity, and since the Haug



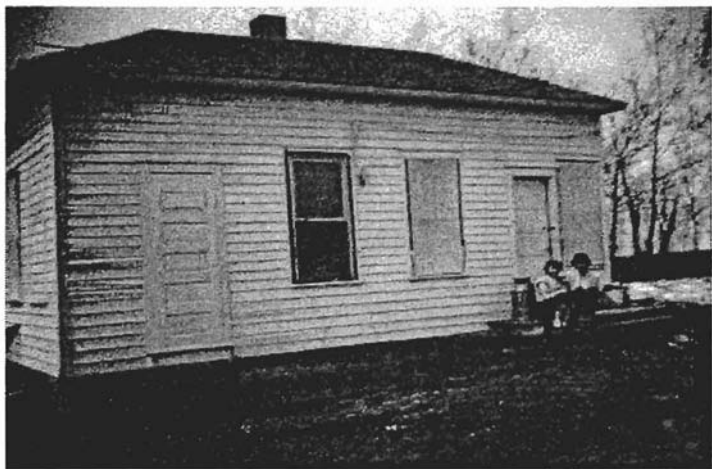
Arlaine Pederson and June Szymanski at Old Haug School Circa 1950. (photo courtesy of Arlaine (Pederson) Duray)

School was to be rebuilt at a different location, they didn't put electricity there. That meant we used lamps after dark.

The teachers were also the janitors, so we filled buckets of coal to keep the fire going in the big stove in the corner of our classroom. I think we got an extra \$15.00 per month to do our own cleaning. We carried water to fill the big water crock in our room. There was a well with a hand pump in the yard. We, of course, had outdoor toilets.

Everyone brought their own lunch in a lunch bucket.

I remember the mice coming out of hiding when the children went home and we teachers were in our rooms preparing the next day's lessons. They liked to check out the wastebaskets for apple cores or little tidbits from lunch. One of the teachers was very afraid of mice, so we'd hear her scream and the other teacher and I would run to her room with our brooms. One evening her scream was extra loud, and when we got to her room, she was perched on top of her desk and a weasel was sitting on her chair. We told her that he was good because he'd get rid of the mice.



The teachers' cottage at Old Haug. Arlaine Pederson and June Szymanski sitting on the porch. 1950. (photo courtesy of June Szymanski)

We teachers lived in a small house on the grounds called the "teachers' cottage." There was an oil heater in the cottage for heat, and we had a wood cook stove in the kitchen. We all had fun together and didn't think of any of this as hardships.

The teachers didn't just spend time teaching their students- they also ate lunch together and played together with them during recess- and what fun it was!

*This was written by Arlaine Pederson Duray who as a young woman taught at old Haug in the late 1940s and early 1950s.*

### District 73/U17- Juneberry Township

District 73, which later became or merged with V17, was located

in Juneberry Township, Section 8. Before a school building was obtained, classes were held in various places including the Gunder Docken home in Section 4.

Only one school board officer is listed for District 73 for 1903-1904, H. C. Brodfloot. Since it would have been highly unusual to have only one officer, perhaps someone neglected to record the others.

In 1905, Jesse Anderson taught nineteen students with family names Berget, Carroll, Docken, Hostvedt, Lindstrom, Pearson, and Wodzewoda. The 1910 census included Berget, Brodfloot, Helgeson, Mathues, Pearson and Docken (most likely Dokken).

The 1915 school census report for District 73 listed ten school-aged children, mostly teenagers: Manda Docken (13), Louise Docken (8), Alpha Docken (7), Melvin Helgeson (10), Rosella Berget (13), Albert Docken (11), Carol Lindstrom (10), Tim Docken (15), Harbo Docken (16), and John Berget (15). The 1936 census showed seven Docken children and Ellen Glad. In 1930, five Docken children, Harry Hostvedt, and Violet Pearson were listed on the census.



U17 Juneberry School (photo courtesy of Delores Wojciechowski)

School census reports sometimes listed children within districts that no longer had operating schools, perhaps because they were not officially dissolved. But teachers reports seem to indicate that V 17 may have existed concurrently with District 73 for a time. In the spring of 1898, teacher F. H. Baker (or Bakee) reported twenty-six students at V 17. Teacher Mary Rankin reported thirty students in 1901, and in 1905, Mrs. C. E. Campbell reported thirty-six students, one deaf. In 1909, Maybelle Russell reported thirty students at V17.



Ronald, Twyla, and Enok Melby digging the hole for the boys' outhouse. (photo courtesy of Delores Wojciechowski)

The school building was moved from Section 8 to Section 20, where Henry Sikorski had donated land. A little room was added on for the teacher to live in during the school term, and there were

also a bam and a woodshed on the school grounds. Classes were held in the woodshed for a time until the schoolhouse was ready.

Some of the family names of students at V17 were: Agre, Anderson, Buck, Docken, Edwards, Emery, Hugg, Johnson, Lusignan, Melby, Olson, Pearson, Sawyer, Sikorski, and Skyberg. Mrs. Elene Frislie was the last teacher who taught at V17 from 1943 until the school consolidated with Haug-Leo in 1958.



Class of 1943-44 Juneberry School VI?, teacher: Elene Frislie. Back row: Kathleen Peterson, Adeline Skyberg, Elaine Skyberg, Allison Frislie, Lloyd Pearson, Floyd Pearson. Front row: Donna Pearson, Clarice Skyberg, Odella Melby, Joseph Buck, Maynard Buck, Donald Skyberg, and Donald Johnson. (photo courtesy of Delores Wojciechowski)

Henry Sikorski bought back the land he had donated, and now Sally Sikorski Beito's new home is located close to where the school was.

Submitted by Eunice Korczak. Sources: Roseau County School Officers Book, Teacher Term Reports to the County, Roseau County School Census Reports, Mickey Emery. Delores Wojciechowski.

### Memories of School at Juneberry VI7

In the spring of 1950, we had a flood in Juneberry. Our teacher Elene Frislie, and her husband John, came with Emil Hostvedt in his boat in the big ditch to come and teach school. She brought her food and supplies and stayed for a week at a time in the west end of the schoolhouse, where an addition was added for her. John and **Elene** Frislie and Emil Hostvedt lived in Haug.

Also in the flood of 1950 our mailman, George Sandahl from Lancaster, Minnesota, would drive a half-track truck over the washouts to bring us our mail in Juneberry. If we needed something, he would take our order one day and deliver our stuff the next day. He did that to help us to survive because, without him, I don't know what we would have done. My dad didn't get our car out till the Fourth of July in 1950, and we drove over big planks on the washouts. There were seven washouts from our place to Juneberry to Greenbush, which was 18 miles away.

There was a big wood stove in our schoolhouse, and us kids would take turns carrying wood for it. The school kids would take turns carrying water in a three-gallon pail with a cover from Hans Melby's place in Juneberry which was across the road in the woods. We used the water for drinking and washing our hands at noon, before we ate lunch, and also some for the teacher. In 1950, in the fall, Carl Tangen (pronounced tongue-in) drilled a well on the east side of the schoolhouse so we only had to go outside and get a pail of water from a big black pump on the well.

We also used half-gallon metal syrup pails for our lunches. They

were really great. Some of the bigger boys carried one-gallon pails as they ate more food and didn't have room enough in the half-gallon ones.

Superintendent Charles Christianson from Roseau would bring us a box of books and he'd take the old ones back that we already read. I loved the Laura Ingalls books and read every one of them.

In 1951, Superintendent Charles Christianson, William Nelson, and a Peterson guy from Roseau came and helped Elene Frislie and all of us school kids plant a bunch of trees around the schoolhouse on the north and west side. They are really big trees today. The schoolhouse collapsed and is gone now. I am the only person who has photos of the Juneberry V17 schoolhouse.

The Skyberg kids came to school in winter in a caboose on a sleigh pulled by two horses that had a small wood stove inside to keep the kids warm. A caboose is like a big wooden box with a roof on it on a sleigh. Conrad Skyberg usually brought his brothers and sisters in the caboose, but sometimes Clarence Skyberg did too.



Elmer Dokken school bus driver.

(photo courtesy of Delores (Melby) Wojciechowski)

Elmer Dokken drove his brand-new 1953 Ford car as a school bus for a few years before he got a regular school bus when they consolidated with Greenbush.

Donald and Leona Johnson would come to school in the winter-time with a toboggan pulled by one horse. Marie and George Agre would come to school riding their horse bareback. They would put their horses in the bam behind the school when they were in school all day.

There were 27 children in our school in 1952. That was the most kids there ever were. After that it decreased. We had grades one through eight in the same room in Juneberry V-17 and Elene Frislie was my only teacher for my eight grades of school. She was a great teacher. We talked only Norwegian at home, so we were lucky to have her as a teacher. She was Norwegian and understood what we said and helped teach us English. She taught me to crochet a doily and to dam socks. I sent mine to the Roseau Fair and got first place ribbons on them. I would go over and visit her in the evenings sometimes, and she'd give me homemade molasses refrigerator cookies and milk. I really liked that. Sometimes we'd invite her over to my folks' house for supper. She loved my mom's cooking.

Mrs. Frislie started teaching at V17 in Juneberry in 1942. I started school in 1944, but my sister Odella began first grade in 1942, so I know that's when Mrs. Frislie started.

The kids who went to Juneberry V17 up to 1954 were: Kathleen Peterson; Adeline, Elaine, Clarice, Donald, Harvey, Shirley, and Rose Skyberg; Odella, Delores, Gerald, Harley, Ronald, and Twyla



District 22 - Soler Township

Melby; Marie and George Agre; Joyce Sawyer; Lloyd, Floyd, and Donna Pearson; Allison Frislie; LeRoy, Karen, and Phyllis Sikorski; David, Elizabeth, and Laurel Hanson Anderson; David Olson; Joseph and Maynard Buck; Donald and Leona Johnson; and Larry Dokken.



Delores Melby (14 yrs) in 1952. (photo courtesy of Delores (Melby) Wojciechowski)

I got a baby brownie camera from my folks for Christmas in 1951, so I took photos of the Juneberry U17 schoolhouse as a remembrance, as we were moving out of Juneberry in 1954 to Haug. I was only 14 years old when I took the photos. I graduated from eighth grade on May 10, 1952. I got a diploma signed by Charles Christianson.

I married Harley Wojciechowski on August 11, 1955 and had twelve children (five daughters and seven sons). Harley died October 24, 1002. We were married for 47 years. We lived on a farm east of Greenbush and I still do.

Mrs. Leonard (Rose) Brekke was a midwife and she and Dr. Knutson delivered all of Hans and Selma Melby's six children at her home in Haug: Odella (March 16, 1936), Delores (January 13, 1938), Gerald (March 31, 1940), Harley (May 4, 1942), Ronald (May 31, 1944), and Twyla (July 17, 1946).

The Hans and Selma Melby family lived in Juneberry from 1942 to 1954.

Submitted by Delores "Nokkell" (Melby) Wojciechowski.

Memories of Attending U17

When I attended U17 brother and I two and a half miles to school in spring and fall. In the winter, though, we would travel by horse and toboggan. While we were in class, the horse was kept in the little bam on the school grounds.

Once when we were getting ready to leave the school with the horse, someone said, "Go," and the horse took off by itself. Luckily, my father saw the horse and came to get us.

Skybergs brought their some of the neighbor children and then came back to pick them up.

There was no water at the school, so it had to be carried, two buckets at a time, from the nearby Melby farm.

One year, the kids from our school helped plant a grove of trees east of the school! The trees are quite large now.

Around Christmas-time, we put on an afternoon program for our parents.

We liked to play ball. We had lot of fun at U17.

Submitted by Eunice Korczak from conversation with Mickey (Leona Johnson) Eme/y.



Juneberry School (U17) and outbuildings. (photo courtesy of

District 22, located Township on the Peder Olson homestead, was organized in 1898. Among the original freeholder signatures, family names included Anderson, Blazek, Erickson, Gilbertson, Graff, Kelley, Kotrba, Lien, Minarik, Olson, Pederson, Rolles, Siilerud, Although sometimes referred to as the Haug School, it was known as the Kelly School or Island Home School. Haug was the name applied to District 16.



District 22, also known as Island Home or Kelly School. Albina Nuvacek in years after. She attended the school. (photo courtesy of Albilla (Novacek) Blavat)

One of (Oiland) Island Home School was held in the Peder Olson homestead cabin and taught by Jalmer Wellen. The older children of the settlers, most in their teens.

In February of 1903, there was protest to a petition of freeholders, to be set off from District 29 to District 22. The freeholders involved were Oluf Graff, Sam Hanson, E. Jackson, Bertha Meyer, and P. H. Meyer. The protest, signed by twenty-six people apparently was upheld.

As soon as possible after the organization in 1898, the settlers hauled tamarack logs to build the schoolhouse. The ceiling was made of lumber, but the walls were whitewashed with lime. Benches and table-like desks for the students and a desk for the teacher were made of softwood lumber and were still in use in 1908-1909. In cold weather, a large potbellied stove in the center of the room provided heat.



District 22, Island Home School in Soler.

One of the early teachers at Island Home was I.D. Webb, a Raleigh salesman. As soon as school was dismissed, he'd be off to

his route selling spices, **flavorings**, and other Raleigh products. Webb taught in several other country schools in the Greenbush area. After Webb, the next two teachers were George and Henry Sunderland of Badger. By this time, desks and a furnace (a larger stove) were installed. Through all this **time**, the only study materials used were pencils, tablets, books, maps, and a large dictionary.

Carolyn Stokes of Badger, was the teacher for the next **three** years. By this time, probably because of state aid, materials included crayons, watercolors, paste, scissors, drawing paper, and some library books. Stokes conducted art activities every Friday afternoon.

Some of the early games played at Island Home were: The Needle's Eye, Three Little Girls A-skating Went, Four in the Boat, Captain Jinks, Go Round and Round the Village, and Blind Man's Bluff. They also enjoyed snowball fights, building forts and teaming up boys against girls.

In 1910, the names of forty students were printed on the souvenir booklet presented by the teacher, James Webb. The **names** included: Blazek, Graff, Hagen, Haug, Hellickson, Jackson, Kelly, Marsek, Melby, Minarik, Nelson, Novak, Peterson, Rossing, and Wahl.

The 1915 school census reported thirty-three school-age children with family names of Nelson, Kelly, Hellickson, Pederson, Wahl, Minarik, Graff, Blazek, Erickson, Shelver, Cooper, and Vooge. In 1923, the teacher; Josephine O. Halverson, taught families of: Blazek, Blumer, Day, Erickson, Graff, Kelly, Nelson, Novacek, and Wahl. In 1925, the census listed Elvina Nelson; Erling and Victor Wahl; Henry and Angelina Blazek; Ernest, Hazel, Lester, Glen, and **Bernie** Erickson; Fred, Oscar, Elida, and Agatha Blumer; Mary, Frances, Albina, Pauline, Emily, and Harry Novacek; Delford and Ruth Day; Arnold, Larry, Gladys, and Orpha Erickson; Lillian, Margaret and Helen Kelly; and Juel, Oscar, Deborah, and Eleanor

Graff. Family names on the 1930 census included Blazek, Erickson, Day, Miksatko, Larson, Graff, Hudson, Phillips, Minarik, and Kelly.

The enrollment at Island Home dwindled, until in the mid-1950s only a handful of students attended, and they were merged into the Haug-Leo District 679.

*Submitted by Eunice Korczak Sources: Footsteps in Education, Teacher Souvenir Booklets, Roseau County School Organization Documents, Teacher's Term Reports to the County, Roseau County School Census Reports, Roy Erickson.*



**District 22 Boys, 1945.** Front: Joel Graff, and Roy Erickson. Middle: Robert Graff, Jay **Erickson**, and Gale Erickson. Back: Menford Staie, David Frislie, Allison Frislie; and Arlen Wahl.

### District 22 and District 16 - Island Home and Haug

When I first started school, we lived about three miles north and a half-mile west of the **Haug** Store. I started school around 1918, when I was five years old and couldn't speak a word of English, but

caught on fast. That school was called The Consolidated School. It was east of the Haug Store. I remember it had many rooms and the eighth grade boys knew how to tat lace. Our school bus was a horse-drawn carriage for about **thirty** children. Since it was so cold in Minnesota, we didn't want to wait too long at the bus stop. Our considerate Norwegian neighbors would, therefore, call us on the telephone when the bus arrived at their house. That was the signal for **us** to start our three-quarter mile walk to the bus stop. The bus driver must have gotten up very early, because he had prepared a foot warmer for every seat. The foot warmer was metal with a hot charcoal block inside it. With the warmer and the lap blankets, we kept warm. [Note: The Consolidated School was the Haug School District 16, a large building with columns supporting the porch.]

In 1919, we moved and lived three miles north and a mile and a half east of **the** Haug Store. At that time, I transferred schools to District 22, Island Home School. That school was about three miles north and a half-mile east of the Haug Store. The students in our school were very good and little discipline was needed. We had great respect for our teachers. The teachers were only high school graduates with a one-year teachers' training course. No one ever got spanked; fifteen minutes spent after school was about the greatest punishment received. If your report card didn't have enough passing marks, you had to stay behind next year and that was a disgrace, so everybody studied **and passed**.

We walked one and a half miles to school across farmland. When the weather was real bad, Dad took us to school, and if Dad didn't feel well, he hitched up two horses to a box sleigh and we took ourselves to school. When we came to school, we turned the horses toward home, gave them a slap, and they went home. If someone was on the road, Dad had them so well trained they would move off the road to let other conveyances pass. They always arrived home safe and sound.

*Submitted by Albina Blavat.*

### Memories of District 22 - Island Home School

I attended Island Home School **in** Soler Township for my first through seventh grades. We lived two and one half or three miles from the school, and I usually **walked** to school. One winter, however, I had a large dog that **pulled** a toboggan with a seat that my father had devised. My in the woodshed during school hours, so he'd be **there** to pull **me** home again. Occasionally, when the winter **weather** bad, I was allowed to ride Lady, a horse, to school. When I got there, I'd just drop the reins and she'd go home.

At school we had lessons in citizenship, math, reading, grammar, history, and penmanship. During recess we played Ante-I-Over; Pom-pom Pullaway, Drop the Handkerchief, and London Bridge is Falling Down. During the winter when the weather allowed, we played Fox and Geese. When the winter weather was fierce, or in the spring when the schoolyard was full of water, we'd play games such as Puss in the Comer, in the entryway. For Puss in the Comer, all but one person would stand in the corners. The one person in the middle would then stand in front of someone in a comer and "meow," trying to make the chosen person laugh. If you laughed, you had to be the pussy.

Sometimes the boys would have fights outdoors behind the woodshed, where they thought the teacher wouldn't see them. One of the teachers, though, found that the positioning of the buildings in the yard allowed her to witness the fighting, if she stood on the seat

in the girls' toilet and peeked out. We girls didn't fight. We knew better. Sometimes, though, we would separate ourselves and a group would play on the other side of the schoolhouse.

I don't remember planting any trees for Arbor Day, but we had Christmas programs. The programs were at night and the tree was lit with candles. I don't recall, but I assume the room was lit with kerosene lamps for the performances. We put on plays, skits, and there was music and singing. After the program, we each were given a little brown bag with a few pieces of candy, a few peanuts, and an apple.

The first year I attended District 22, the term began with thirty-one or thirty-two students, but some quit. Some of the family names of students who attended during the years I was there were: Graff, Erickson, Novacek, Hudson, Mitsatko, Blazek, Nelson, Day, and Jackson. Some of the teachers I remember were Astrid Nelson (Berger), Alma Kjersten, and Lenora Haug. James Webb taught there before I started school.

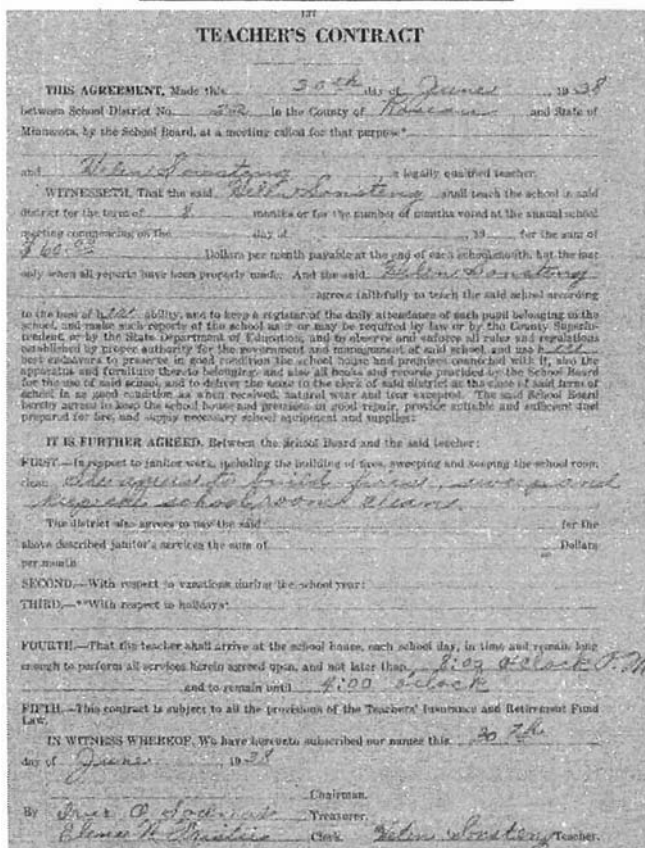
*From interview with Deborah Sather. Submitted by Eunice Korczak.*

### Island Home

Annette (Graft) Bergsnev told about her early school days when she attended Island Home School. In winter, she and her three brothers and sister rode a toboggan to school, pulled by their horse, Prince. When arriving at the school, they would tie up the reins and send him home. The next year, their dad put a small lean-to shed on the school woodshed. With the horse sheltered, it could stay for the day and provide the children with transportation back home.

*Condensed from an item in Footsteps in Education.*

### Memories of a First-year Teacher at School District 22 - Island Home



Helen Sonsteng's teachers contract from 1938. (submitted by Debby Waage)

I had attended a one-room country school for eight years. Then after graduating from high school with my one year teacher's training, I felt very ready to be a teacher! I was just 19 years old that first day of school, and when the students came filing in, I suddenly didn't feel very "ready."

A corner of the school was partitioned off into a room for the teacher to stay in. My parents didn't want me to stay alone, so my younger brother stayed with me and became one of my students.

It was expected that we have a Christmas program. With no experience, that was a challenge, but the students were so excited. I think they enjoyed the fact that we had to skip some classes to practice for the program.

The winter of 1950 brought lots of snow and blizzards. I wasn't able to get home one weekend, so our food supply was getting low. A neighbor with horses and sleigh came to check on us and to see if we needed anything. He took me to the Haug Store to buy groceries. Some of the parents brought over fresh bread and other goodies.

I learned to do many things that year. I had to keep a fire in the wood stove, use kerosene lamps, shovel snow, and remove mice from traps. But the first year of teaching must have been satisfactory, as they hired me back for the second year.

Near the end of the second year, several of the students got the mumps. After school was out I got a bad case, and then the rest of my family, including my mother, also came down with the mumps. This was, I suppose, one of the risks of teaching, but not a fun time. *Submitted by a former Island Home teacher.*

### District 23 - Stoffel School - Barnett Township

District 23 was often called Stoffel School. It was located in the northeast corner of Section 2 of Barnett Township and on the Henry Stoffel farm. That land is now owned by David and Mike Kukowski. The school was later moved and used as a shop on the James Taus farm. District 23 opened in 1899 and was the first school to open in Barnett Township. In 1947, it was consolidated, and the students went to Badger.

Some of the pupils in 1899 were Joseph, Edwin, and Sidney Dahl;



1927 or 28 Stoffel School, District 23, Barnett Township. Row 1 kneeling: Bertha Wittak, Dorothy Vacura, Dorothy Dostal, Albert Shimpa, Eugene Wittak, James Svoboda, Frank Ratkovec, and Anton Ratkovec. Row 2: Lottie Svoboda, Sylvia Dostal, Evelyn Seidel. Row 3: Georgia Svoboda, Lorraine Stoffel, Filimaine Ratkovec, Glen Gregerson, Rosie Svoboda, Lillian Vacura, Lillian Novotny. Back row: Raymond Gregerson, Raymond Sahr, Louise Stoffel, Albert Penas, Alfred Lubinski, George Penas, Harry Gregerson, Lavern Stoffel. (photo courtesy of Bernice Penas)

Frank and Minnie Mitchell; Emil, Tony, Mary, and Eleanor Novotny; Jennie and Mary Penas; Emil, Agnes, Stanley, Eddie, Mary, Joe, and John Svir; Otto, Annie and Mary Stehlik; Joe Kudrna; and Jessie, Walter, and Barbara Rankin.

By 1902 and 1903, these family names again appeared on the school register; but, in many cases, the younger siblings were attending. Also, other families were added. Listed then were Willie, Clara, and Paul Bellach; Rosie, Mary, Emil, Lily, and John Novotny; Annie, Dominik, Wesley, and Willie Vacura; Jennie, John, and Mary Penas; Henry and Frank Pinta; Walter Rankin; Annie and Frank Ratkovec; George, Eddie, Annie, Agnes, and Joe Svir; Victor Kudrna; Mary and Wesley Svoboda, Fred Schantle; and John and Mary Wittak.

When the school closed, there were nine pupils in grades 1-3. They were Larry, Marilyn, and Robert Vacura; Gene Hawkinson; Agnes and Rose Marie Svir; Margaret and Virginia Dostal; and Florence Shimpa. Grades 4-8 were represented by LuAnn, Laurine, James, Mildred, Lucille, and Emil Vacura; Kenneth and Hubert Penas; Eileen Seidel; Robert Foldesi; Bernard Dostal; Vivian and Johnnie Svir; and Lillie Shimpa.



1939 or 1940 Stoffel School, District 23. Back: Julia Shimpa, Laura Dostal, Frank Blazek, Duane Penas, Willard Sorterberg, David Schires, John Walsh; Middle Row: Avis Sorterberg, Betty Wittak, Ann Svoboda, unknown, Muriel Stranger, 3 holding hands up unknown, Hubert Penas, Emil Vacura. Front: Florence Shimpa, Lucille Vacura, Lillian Shimpa, Mildred Vacura, Patricia Seidel, Bernard Dostal, Raymond Blazek and John Penas. (photo courtesy of Bernice Penas)

According to the records at the courthouse, 1. P. Dahlquist was the first teacher in 1899. Mary Rankin and Jesse Bessler probably were the ones to follow. By 1903, Ada Lathrop came to teach, and in 1904 Pauline Dowling taught. The teachers in the last ten years or so of District 23 were Clarence Melby, Marge Novotny, Norbert Dostal, Gerda Gaedeholt, Jeannie Glen, and Gladys Paulson.

Living conditions for these teachers were barely adequate by today's standards. With teaching salaries in the early years at \$30 or \$35 a month, there wasn't much money to spend on room and board. It is remembered that Clarence Melby, a very well-liked teacher, taught in the 1930s. He, his wife, and two children lived in a tiny building near the school when it was in session. Another living arrangement was that of Gladys Paulson, who once lived on a school yard in a little trailer left behind by a former teacher;

Besides the teachers' salaries, the district had other expenses. In 1899, the cost to purchase the school house was \$166.50 as recorded at the courthouse. Also, the cost of wood and school supplies was \$87.86 in 1904. There was also the additional expense of hiring someone to scrub the floor and wash curtains in the fall before school started.

The local farmers served as school board members throughout

the years. Among the first were Frank Vacura, Joseph Penas, John Svir, Frank and Joseph Dostal, and James Novotny. In later years Albin Dostal and Eddie Svir were on the board.

The school days passed with students making their own entertainment during recess. Because Stoffel School was near a creek, students made small rafts and floated upon the water with the help of a pole to push them. Other activities that were popular among the kids were ball games such as softball and drop ball. There was also pump-pump-pull-away and ante-I-over.

In many ways, life was difficult for these young citizens. The country schools not only provided the students with skills in reading, writing, and arithmetic, but also in some cases, teachers taught kids to speak English. Teachers also had to start the wood stove and carry in water. Kids walked several miles to school and, of course, there was no indoor plumbing. The accounts of the people living in Barnett Township, and elsewhere, help people to understand the development of Greenbush from its early years to the present.

*Submitted by Pat Hogan with sources from Bernice Penas, Margaret Anderson, Gladys Paulson.*

### District 25 Sanwick - Dewey Township

District 25, the Sanwick School, was organized on July 10, 1899 in Dewey Township. The Sanwick Post Office was a half mile north. Lillian Kelly, a former teacher from the 1930s, referred to it as the Wilson School. The school was located on the far northwest corner of the NE 1/4 of Section 10, which is now the Albin Green farm. The district consisted of 24 sections, the eastern two-thirds of Dewey Township. The west boundary was the line extending north and south past the present day Pauli Cemetery. Five of the west sections had previously been part of District 53 Pelan.

In 1902, District 59 took a few sections from the southeast corner of District 25. In 1904, #74 took ten sections north of #59.

The first available teacher's term report for District 25 was for the fall term ending October 13, 1899 with Lydia Salmond teacher. The first families, students, and ages, were, Burkel: Lizzy 6, Mary 11, and Peter 9; Teski (Teske) Mary 8; Lewis 10, Robert 13, and Kabe 7; Petroski: Stoffie 7 and Lena 7; Zabrocki: Frank 8, Felix 12, and Steven 10; Fountain: Adlie 8, Freddy 13, and Dora 10; Scheries (Schires): Jacap 13, Jhon 9, Mary 17, and Henry 17; DesJarlis: Frank 11, and Nora 9; Grombous (Grandbois): Helen 13 and Nancy 7; Frank Shiski 7; Peter Krozoska 9. (Most names are spelled as they appeared in the records at that time.)

In the spring the teacher was John E. Rinon. It was as though the school moved or nearly everyone else had moved, as the only family with children in school both fall and spring were Schires. In the spring the new students were Turner: Earl, Stanley 12, Ray 11, and Pearl 9; Dufwa: Oluf 10, Nora 8, and Sankey 8; Hanson: Josie 8, Annie 11, and Mary 11; Asleson: Asle 12, Sena 11, and Theodor 11; Theodore Tangberg 11; Robbie Cook 12; and Frank Krozaska 8.

Apportionment is money given to each district by the county and state. The October 1910 apportionment for each school district in this end of the county was published in the Tribune. At that time each pupil who attended 40 days during the last school year drew \$3.25 for the district. District 25 Sanwick received \$32.43 which meant an average of 10.46 students per day in the 1909-1910 school year.

Helma R. Johnson, the teacher in 1917-1918, noted the library

consisted of "six volumes, the condition of out buildings poor, new textbooks and new seats are needed," and "school should be supplied with scissors, and construction paper for primary."

In 1918-1919 when Evelyn Kelly Haugen was teacher, the students were Selma, Bjame, and Andrew Alme; Ilah, Elene, and Tenney (age 4) Eeg; Orin Peterson; Evelyn and Earl Ramsell; John, Harry, George, Peter, and Frank Schires; Glendora Wilson; Julia Green; Ralph, and Carl Johnson; Kasmer Petrowski; Emma, Harry, and Luella Stenberg; Doris and Elizabeth Teske. Doris Teske had the best attendance with 125 days. The next best was 109 days. Tenney Eeg only went 15 days, but a six year old only went 11 days. By spring the library had increased to 24 books.

That year the school board was T. T. Eeg treasurer, Iver Alme clerk, and Louis Teske director. In November Mrs. Haugen noted, "School closed one week on account of the Spanish Influenza."

Salaries during these years were not too bad. Mrs. Haugen was paid \$65 a month. In 1919-20 the school term was seven months but was 133 actual days because of a week off for a flood. Mamie Anderson was paid \$80 a month that year. The next year she received \$90 a month. The library was up to 47 books and that was at least the fourth time the teacher's report mentioned a well was needed.

Evelyn Haugen returned as teacher for the 1923-24 school year and continued until the spring of 1928. At this time teachers' salaries began falling. Evelyn was paid \$85, Emma Holen \$80, Myrtle Reiersen (Pederson) \$80 a month in 1929-30 and \$75 the next year. In 1931-32 Marie Tomala was paid \$65 a month. In 1932 Lillian Kelly in her first year of teaching accepted the position for \$56 a month, but took \$50 a month the next year. Harley Trangsrud was the teacher for 1934-35, but the pay wasn't noted in the clerk's book. There was a gap until 1938-39 when Julia Hites received \$65, which was the same for Evelyn Sanders the next year, and for Julia (Hites) Stenberg the next two years. The final teacher in 1941-42, Ruth Hamerl, was paid \$70 a month. The following are excerpts and notes of interest from the clerk's and treasurer's books beginning in 1927.

July 19, 1927: If hired teacher by day 7 months. If not 8 months. That #72 (district) shall bring not more than 7 (students) for 7 months for \$250 to be paid end of each month.

July 15, 1930: Treasurer to get balance from closed bank for next



Sanwick School - District 25 • 1933. Front row: Jacob Mooney, Arlo Voth, Clarence Schires, Edward Mooney; Lynn Voth, Nora Mooney, Frances Dziekonski. Back: Theodore Eeg, Norman Stenberg, Marie Schires, Johnnie Wilson, Clare Voth, Ella Voth, Verla Voth, Harriet Voth, Anna Dziekonski. (photo submitted by Edward Mooney with identification completed by Ella and Arlo Voth)

annual school meeting. Wm. Wilson (clerk).

January 30, 1930: Joe Schranowski (Chranowski) 1 cord wood @ \$5.00. February 13, 1930, A. P. Branvold 5 cord wood @ \$4.00. April 15, 1930, A. L. Teske 5 1/4 cord wood @ \$3.50. January 2, 1932, A. L. Teske 7 1/2 cord wood @ \$4.50.

School income for 1931: apportionment \$144.40, annual aids \$125.55, Special taxes \$456.70, local mill tax \$24.08, all other sources \$16.00, cash on hand \$27.34, total \$794.07. Expenses; general business \$35.27, teacher \$600.00, texts and supplies \$28.80, library \$10.00, janitor, fuel, etc. \$42.00 building maintenance \$16.75, cash on hand \$61.15, Total \$794.07 (off by ten cents).

July 19, 1932: Joe Mooney elected clerk. Voted 8 months of school. July 18, 1933: District 72 to send two children to District 25 for the apportionment rate. 1933: Mrs. Frank Voth was paid \$2.00 for scrubbing floor and cleaning. July 17, 1934: Art Stenberg was elected treasurer.



District 25, Sanwick, about 1939. Front: Esther Dolney, Mary Jean Teske, Dolores Mooney, Joan Stenberg. Back: Priscilla Dolney, Florence Mooney, Beverly Stenberg. (photo courtesy of Dolores (Mooney) Dolney)

Annual meeting, July 24, 1941: Voted to charge \$3.50 per month tuition for outside district pupils. Voted to oppose Ben Dolney's petition that the W 1/2 of SW 1/4 Section 36, of PoIonia join District 25. Motion was made and carried to transport students to District 66, Greenbush.

March 1942: Mrs. Oscar Green was paid \$2 for cleaning school. May 18, 1942; At a special meeting, the vote was 17 yes and 6 no for transporting to Greenbush. June 1942 annual meeting: Voted to fence around the school ground and William Wilson to get highway stop sign for school. Voted to sell District 25 bam for not less than \$27. November 1942: Melvin Melby paid for bam in full, \$27.

The last students were Edward, Florence, Joseph, Jr. and Delores Mooney; Beverly, Arthur, Jr. and Joan Stenberg; Muriel and Curtis Melby; David and Mary Jean Teske. In the fall of 1942 the students were bussed to Greenbush but the district had not consolidated.

During the 1942-43 school year the district paid out \$810 for transportation and received \$225 from District 72 and \$212 from a Kittson County district for hauling students. Tuition of \$576 was paid to Greenbush.

At the annual meeting on June 29, 1943, a vote to buy a school bus for \$600 passed. At the next annual meeting in 1944 voters agreed transportation problems be left to the school board. The vote to sell the schoolhouse was 7 yes and 0 no. It was also voted to sell the property if the school were sold. Eventually the school was sold, but the buyer is unknown to the writer. The land became

part of the Oscar Green fann.

District 25 consolidated with Greenbush District 66 in July of 1946.

*Submitted by Myrna Sovde. Sources: District record books, school records at the Roseau County Courthouse and interviews.*

### Memories of District 25

This school closed in the spring of 1942. My father, who was born in 1902, also attended this school. After the closure of this school, we were bused into Greenbush. The teachers I remember are Mabel Stenberg, Evelyn Sanders, Julia Hites (Stenberg), and Ruth Hamerl. Some of the families served were Frances Dziekonski Korczak, Joe Mooney, Carl Johnson, John Schires, Art Stenberg, Louis Teske, Clarence Melby, and Melvin Melby.

I remember: County Superintendent Charles Christianson visited the school at times. Pictures of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln were at the front. Large maps (perhaps 5) pulled down and we explored. Grades one through eight-- if we didn't learn it well the first time, we got another chance to really learn it by listening to next year's class. We carried in wood and water. The teacher started and kept the fire. There was a bam on the grounds-- used in years before for horses. At recess we played "Ante Over," tag, foot races, drowning gophers, and any games we could dream up. The floors were always cold-- there was a circular Inetal "jacket" around the wood stove. We brought our lunch in lunchboxes or Karo syrup pails. School let out the first of May-- farm families needed our help at home. For Christmas programs we used sheets to partition off the stage and room at either side where the children entered- big deal!

These years in country school were some of the greatest. We can be proud of our heritage.

*By Beverly Stenberg Holm*

### Memories Recalled District 25

Muriel Melby Green recalled that Little Black Sambo was her favorite book and Oscar Greens boarded the last teacher, Miss Hamerl; in 1941-42. She also recalled bringing soup to school in a jar and heating it on the heater, but that the school was a cold building. She recalled the time her cousin, Curt Melby, almost froze to death on the way home from school. Games she remembered playing were Last Couple Out and Pum Pum Pull Away. Her dad, Melvin Melby, bought the bam and used it for a granary, but it was destroyed by a storm in the 1940s.

*Submitted by Myrna Sovde*

### District 26 Lind/Wahl - Lind Township

The petition by Lind Township residents for a school was dated December 1, 1899, at Pelan. It was passed by resolution on January 4 or January 5, 1900, by the county board. The entire township of Lind was one school district, District 26. Where or how many schools were built is still not clear and won't be until early minutes of the school district meetings are found.

This district was really puzzling. The 1913 Atlas, which is well after the beginning of this district, showed school buildings located in sections 8, 29, 11 and 23. Since then sections 26 and 7 have been known to have schools. Trying to sort this out was difficult and is still not fully resolved. The school board minutes are needed!

Back to early history. The petitioners to form District 26 were Casper Lindgren, Ole Hansen, Alfred N. Anderson, Alfred V. Lindgren, Carl J. Gustafson, Frank Voll, John Anderson, Andrew Nelson, Martin H. Sogn, Axel E. Wahl, Nils Erickson, Sam Melby, J. R. Lindgren, and Albert Gilbertson. The petition stated there were 73 persons with 62 children of school age. (That doesn't make sense since 14 signed the petition and most had wives, and pre-school children.)

The first school building for District 26 was most likely in Section 23 in the southeast corner of the SW 1/4. Since Axel Wahl owned and lived on the south half of the section, it was referred to as the Wahl school. The school was along the Karlstad to Strathcona road Roseau County #6, near the intersection with County #23.

The first teacher's term report was dated July 6, 1900, so school was held right away that spring. However, half of the students attended less than half of the 20 day term. The first students, with ages, were: Lindgren: Helma 6, Hilda 7, Algon 13, Mary 10, Alice 8, Freda 14, Bettie 12, and Hannah over 16; Olson: Ruth 7, Esther 6, Victor 12, Oscar 10, Peter 18, and Lydia 8; Stolberg: Ruth 6, Albert 10, Emil 12, and Ida 8; Knutson: Archie 6, Randal 6, Cora 10, and Minnie 8; Kollen: Ester 6, Hennie 10, and Edward 8; Hawkinson: Lily 11, Ruth 8, Carl 12; Anderson: Ethel 8 and Fred 10; Mabel Johnson 6, Ole Syrstad 10, and John Westerland 20. (Names are spelled as they appeared on the list.)

The teacher's report by Robert Story for June 21, 1901, was strange. The fall of 1900 was a three month term that found several different students. Those included Lief, Nellie, Gotfred, Elvina, Trigway, Andrew and Emma Hagen; Emma, Johan, and Gus Gustavson; Tom Thompson; Hilda, and Arthur Sjostrom; Maria Peterson, Elmer Fjeld, Eddie Hanson, Serena Malmin, and Betsy Brotten. But none of these were listed as attending in the spring of 1901.

The other children who had attended the previous spring, 1900, were shown on the report but only as total days, as though they had attended in a different school. Therefore concluding there were two school buildings. Since the Hagen and Gustafson families were from the northeast part of the township it seems likely the school in Section 11 had been built.

Of all the children on both lists, according to days attended, only the Lindgren children: Helma, Hilda, Freda, Mary, Bena and Alice, attended both in the spring and fall, (attending about 100 days).

This school district was entirely too large, and shortly, already in the spring of 1901, the west half of the township pulled away and formed District 45. This separation was approved by the county commissioners.

Also in 1901, in May, the nine sections in the northeast one fourth of the township petitioned to form a new school district. This was rejected by the County Board. In May 1902 a petition was submitted for Sections 1, 2, 3, and the north halves of Sections 10, 11, and 12, in the northeast corner of Lind, to be allowed to form a district with some in Dewey Township. This petition was granted and District 59, Mickelson School, was formed.

A petition against petition listed three reasons for it to not be accepted. Number one: District 26, now half of the township, was too small for two schools and too large for one. Number two: They could not afford five months of school without going into debt every year. Number three: The north half of Sections 11 and 12 wished to remain in District 26. They had not given their consent to the first petition. Of interest was the fact that O. K. Paulson and Iver G. Olson had signed both the petitions for redistricting and the lat-

ter one against.

Two term reports for District 26 for 1920-21 were found. Esther Trach wrote one which included Dallager: Gladys 6, Katie 11, Morris 10, and Eddie 12; Anderson: Ivan 7 and Mildred 10; Alme: Bjarne 10, Andrew 13, and Selma 9; Langaas: Laura 16 and Mary and Ruth Bennes 13. The other was by Helga Holen who taught in the Wahl School. The students were Peterson: Raymond 7, Ethel 12, Estelle 13, and Mildred 10; Danielson: Agda 7, and Naime 11; Paulson: Clara 14, Margaret 12, and Florence 10; Johnson: Myrtle 12, Eugene 14, Bennie 9; Charles Walsh 15, and Myrtle Birkholz 8. (In the Wahl School attendance was 119 to 152 days except for Charles Walsh, 53 days. Charles lived five miles cross country in Hereim Township.)

The end of the term report offered some insight. Miss Holen wrote that certain students had attended District 26 North School. That included all of Miss Trach's students except for the Dallagers. Going by ages, the students had attended the Wahl earlier in the year. According to family names the North School had to have been in Section 11 which later became the Svegdahl School District 33.

On July 11, 1921, land was transferred from District 26 to District 33. District 26 was now down to less than one fourth of the township in the southeast corner of Lind. District 26 was now sections 35-37, and 34-36 and possibly the south halves of sections 22, 23, and 24. (One source said all of sections 22, 23, and 24 went to the new district). It was around this time that the school on the far southwest corner of Section 26 was opened. Ada Peterson Danielson recalled that her older sisters walked to the Wahl School in Section 23, two miles by road, while she only walked a half mile. Most likely the school was moved when the district became smaller.

Prior information from one source indicated that the Wahl School and the school by Petersons, referred to by Ada as the Lind School, as possibly 45 East. However, when Ada provided the names of her teachers, the teachers' term reports for those years proved it was District 26. The teachers Ada remembered were: Mary Langaas 1929-30, Anna Haugtvedt 1930-31, Julia Langaas 1931-32, and Marcella Anderson.

Ada thought country school was "the most wonderful time" of her life. "All the kids got along so well; no fighting. Everyone liked and respected the teachers." The kids made up games and made up their own entertainment. Ada loved school so much she even wanted to go when she was sick.

By 1932 family names had changed to Fick: Grace, Clinton, Thomas, Bessie, and Walter; Raymond: Mary Jane and Ruby; Lundquist: Kenneth, Milton, Oscar, Luella, and Rueben; Peterson: Leslie and Ada Marie.

While the Peterson children were in school the teachers boarded with Ada's folks, the Henry Petersons. Later the teachers boarded with the Struck or Lucas families to the east of the school.

The first school board in 1899-1900 was J. A. Lindgren, Chas Knudson, and L. P. Nordby. The 1903-04 board include O. K. Paulson, Gilbert and Isak Johnson.

Term reports listing Virgene Froemke, Barbara Peterson and Darleen Lemke from District 26 were still filed until 1949. December 20, 1949, was the official consolidation with District 4 Karlstad. The District 26 school was moved to Karlstad and is now the Sollund Plumbing work shed.

*Submitted by Myrna Sovde. Sources: Roseau County Plat Book, other Roseau County records, District 45 minutes at Roseau Co. Museum, Ada Danielson, Florence Peterson, Norman Svegdahl.*

Originally all of Moose Township seems to have been designated District 38, but eventually was divided into several districts. In July of 1900, the entire northwest quadrant of the township was changed to District 29, with Jonas Johnson as petitioner. The District 29 schoolhouse, also known as Sunnyside, was located in Section 9 of Moose Township.

The first school officers mentioned in the Roseau County School Officers Book were Andrew Gorden, Jonas Johnson, and Richard Jones in 1903-04. However, a Teacher Term Report was filed with the county superintendent in 1901 showing Bertha Stende was teacher for fifteen students. Family names among the students were: Gorden, Haldorson, Johnson, Jones, Josephson, Ode, and Sillerud.

In 1906, Olaf L. Jensen taught thirteen students. Family names on this report included: Gorden, Halleck, Johnson, Jones, Olson, Opdahl, Skogen, and Vatsdal.

The School Census for 1920 listed the twenty-one school-aged children: Bert, Rudy, and Arvin Gorden; Cora and Alfred Hanson; Emma, Edvard, John, and Gustav Vatsdal; Arnold and Lloyd Erickson; Clarence, Clara, and Violet Skyberg; Henry, Eddy, Carrie, and Adolph Jackson; George and Lillian Larson; and Rudolph Johnson. By 1925, the number had dropped to fifteen: Rudy, Arvin, and Bernice Gorden; John, Gustav, and Marie Vatsdal; Adolph and Isaac Jackson; Lillian and Gladys Larson; Lyle and Dora Erickson; and Rudolph and Judith Johnson.

The last term of school at District 29 was 1933-1934. That year Lois Freeman taught just three pupils: Emma Vatsdal, Phillip Erickson, and Ruben Graff.

*Submitted by Eunice Korczak. Sources: Roseau County 1913 Atlas, Roseau County Museum records, Roseau County School Officers Book, Roseau County Teacher Term Reports, Roseau County School Census Reports, Deborah Sather, Judith Ballard.*

#### Memories of District 29- Sunnyside School

I attended Sunnyside School in Moose Township for one year, my eighth grade year in about 1930. Cora Hanson Moen was the teacher that year, and there were only seven students: Mary Vatsdal (Lee), Emma Vatsdal, Judith Johnson, Isaac Jackson, Dora Erickson, Phillip Erickson, and me, Deborah Sather.

We had lived in the Island Home District, and after moved to Moose Township, District 29 paid the tuition to Island Home, so I could continue to attend there. It was a shorter walk to Island Home, because the Whitney Lake (Swamp) was between our place and the Sunnyside School. However, for a while last year, District 29 refused to pay tuition to the other school. Instead, they promised to pay my parents for providing transportation, but I had to walk anyway. I walked three and one-half miles, as there was no road across the swamp, so I had to go around. In winter, I could walk the two miles across the frozen swamp. Although it was shorter, it was more difficult walking. In early spring when the water was running deep, I sometimes had to go almost five miles around. Then I was allowed to ride the horse and keep him in the woodshed during the day. That, of course, meant cleaning up the shed was necessary. The school was a square box-shape, but otherwise built on the same principle as my former school, District 22. It was a one-room with an entry, where we hung our coats. In the winter we brought our coats in from the entry and piled them up to warm them a bit. Actually the school was pretty fancy. We had an old organ; I don't

know where it came from. Sometimes, the teacher played it.

A crock with a spigot for drinking water was located in one corner. We carried our sandwiches, sometimes peanut butter, sometimes left-over meat, in syrup pails. In winter sometimes we'd get apple.

Subjects we studied included history, math, citizenship, grammar, penmanship, spelling, reading, and During the recess there wasn't much we could play with only seven kids ranging in ages from six to fourteen. There was no playground equipment, of course. We played some tag and some played marbles. There weren't even enough kids to get into fights.

. We did put on a Christmas program even though we were so few. A lot of people came, but I think they didn't expect much from such few students. We students presented a program, and the teacher played Christmas music on the organ. People were obviously surprised. We heard many comments on the "wonderful we had done on the program.

I attended District 29 just the one year. I'm not sure, but this may have been the last year the school was in existence because were so few students. The school is gone now. I don't know what happened to the building. Even the road has been changed and curves away from the schoolhouse site. To see the site, you now have to go to the end of a field road.

*From interview with Deborah Sather. Submitted by Eunice Korczak.*

#### District 31 - Polonia Township One District. Two Schools. or Two Districts?

District 31 was quite a large district which included the south half of Polonia Township with the exception of the three farthest east

That made the district five miles long. Why then would the school building be located only one mile into the district making it four miles from the other side? The 1913 Atlas showed schoolhouses in two sections, 26 and 29. The school in Section 26 was definitely there. Many who attended the school are still living and cognitive. Then what about the school that was supposed to be in Section 29. According to "Footsteps in Education" the school was there.

The school building in Section 29 was said to have existed for two terms, after which it was destroyed by the 1913 "cyclone". But how 'was this for coincidence! The school in Section 26 was also destroyed by a cyclone in the same year on August 13. The Greenbush Tribune of August 22, 1913, reported two schools in Polonia Township were lost in the storm as well as numerous other buildings in the township.

District 31, organized in 1900, was the first school in Polonia Township. The date in the Plat Book was January 1, 1900. The date/dates on the first petition for a school were changed from March 1, 1900 to July 1, 1900. The petitioners were John Lorbiecki, Frank Czapiewski, John Kukowski, Frank Wirkus, John Duray, Petter Boths, Ignacy Kui ?, Mike Sereson, John Szensen, John Slominski, Stanislaw Bucznski, Michael Rybakowski and Joseph Shawnuski. (Some spellings were corrected and others left as deciphered.) Some only signed the petition while others only appeared at the county board meeting. Most petitioners did both. The petition indicated adults and thirty children in the proposed district.

Then in a letter dated August 13., 1900, some folks had changed their minds about this big district. Actually most of the people who signed the letter had not signed the original petition.

The letter read: the legal voters in this District called to

special meeting here tonight, have all agreed to divide this district in two. The dividing line is drawn between sections 27 and 28 from south to north giving nine sections to the west half and only six to the east half. We petition the county commissioners to reconsider what they/we have done in regard to organizing this district 31 and send us two blanks for organization of two new districts. The reply may be addressed to H. N. Johnson." The signers of this letter were: Halvor Johnson, Hans Lund, Chris T. Johnson, Jan (John) Lorbiecki, Michael Rybakowski, John Duray (Duray), Frank Wirkus, Stanislaw Bucznski, Frank ?ski, Ignacy Kui?, Mike Gonsrowski, Joseph Shawowski, John Pulcienski, S. P. Kosmatke, John Bolek, Ashuck Kacrinoiski, John England, Anna Lund, Pauline Polyski, Mrs. England, and Mary Lorbicka. (Names spelled as on petition.)

There seems to be a question as to who signed some names on petitions, since the spellings are not the same on papers signed only months or days apart. This was common for many districts not only this one.

"Footsteps in Education" also stated that the west school district was formed in 1911. By this letter, we see what the wishes were in 1900. With the location of the school in Section 26 on the section line halfway up the section, the evidence points to two schools early on. The east school location was exactly in the middle of the six sections numbers 22, 23, 26, 27, 34, 35.

The west school was located in the far southeast corner of the SE 1/4 Section 29. No district number other than 31 has been found in this research. If the district only existed two years and rejoined District 31, the number and other history will be very difficult or impossible to locate. This is a challenge for a history

The school in Section 26 was rebuilt. History says school was held in the living room of the John Lorbiecki home in Section 22 with Laura Kelly as teacher. In 1914, a new school with a classroom and a cloak room was built in the same location as the one destroyed by the "cyclone".

Here is another piece of the puzzle. When Adrian Dolney was questioned about the west school, he recalled a story told to him by Joe Bolek, Sr. A school board meeting was scheduled to vote on whether the school (Section 26) would be moved to a location more central for the whole district. The meeting was advertised and set from 8 to 9 o'clock. Joe, who was chairman, set the alarm for one hour. The discussion went on for an hour and the alarm rang. Joe announced the meeting was over and no vote was taken.

Fewer people lived on the west side of the district because every second section was railroad land. When the railroad was built they were given every second section of land up to twenty miles away from the railroad.

John Lorbiecki was on the first school board. In 1903-04 the board consisted of Joseph Kulpinski, Gilbert Johnson and Christ Johnson. In 1915-16 John Bolek was chairman, John Lorbiecki treasurer and Mike Gonshorowski director. In 1920-21 A. Pelowski had replaced Mike Gonshorowski. A few years later John Bolek was still chairman, Martin Johnson treasurer and M. Kalinowski was director.

The teacher's term report for the spring of 1902 was the earliest one located. It was likely the first term since 42 students were entitled to apportionment even though one student only attended one day and two attended only two days. New schools were entitled to the apportionment money regardless of the days attended. The teacher's term report in the spring was to include days attended for the fall, winter, spring and a total. This report indicated the term was thirty days and the teacher was Thea B. Wegner. Verony



Sereson age 11, had the best attendance with 21 days. Over half of the students attended less than ten days of the thirty day term.

The first students were (with original spellings): Czapiewska: Alvis 4, Lucy 7, Mary 13, and Viney 9; Gasorowski: Rosy 6, Annie 8, and Addie 9; Buczynski: Frank 6, Sophe 8, and Tillie 5; Sobiz: Helen 7, Petrusa 7, and Mike 10; Lorbiecki: Vemy (Veronica) 5, Francis 15, Helen 11, and Martha 9; **Puczynski**: Vincent 5, Barney 5, Francis 14, and Katie 11; Kulpinski: John 7, **Lewis** 6, and Frank 5; England: Emma 7, Charlie 5 and Arthur 9; Lund: Lena 5, Hilda 6, Ingebert 10 and Bertha 13; Wierkus: Frances 12, Annie 8, and Mike 14; Kubera: Joe 10 and Anton 8; Sereson: Anna **13** and Verony 10; Harold Johnson 9; **Stella** Chranowski 7; Paul Katchorowski 7; and Cassimere Duri 5.

The teacher in the fall of 1902 was Julia Listug and in the spring of 1903 was Caroline Sanwick. The terms were sixty days each or three months each. It would be difficult to tell how long the terms were by the attendance. Out of 120 days the best attendance was 72 days and again it was Verony Sereson. The next best attendance was her sister Annie age 14 with 64 days. Attendance was certainly not a priority.

This was the school attended by the Nick Kalinowski family in the 1920s. The three older boys attended one or two years in District 94 from 1916-17 and possibly 1917-18 when it more than likely closed. Previously published memories of the Kalinowskis follow. The boys drove a horse and buggy to school when it was good weather and a horse and cutter (sleigh) in the winter. They lived three and one half miles from the school, too far to walk. There was a bam nearby where they could keep the horses during school hours. The teacher, Helma (Ruth) Johnson, and her brothers, Carl, Victor and Ralph, who were her students also drove a horse to school. They all made sure they had hay for the horses.

If a blizzard before school was dismissed, the Kalinowski kids would stay with the Pelowski or Chrzanowski families who lived close to the school. If there was a storm in the morning, they did not attend school. Meetings were held in the school board members' homes; their father was on the board.

In 1932-33, Amy Johnson" sister to Helga (Ruth), was the teacher and the students were Maryon (Myron) Bolek 5; Dorothy and



District 31 about 1944. Front row: Phillip Pelowski, Dominic Kukowski, Loretta Kukowski. Second row: **Juliana** Kukowski, Alice Stanislawski, Dora Ann Pelowski, Georgine Stanislawski, Eugene Dolney. Back row: Rosemary Kukowski, Victoria Kukowski, Marcella Dolney, and Earl Garrison. (photo courtesy of Mary Alill Shires)

Genevieve Chrzanowski, both 7; Dolney: Allibrose 6, Albin 6, and Adrian 10; Kalinoski: Angelina 6, August 9, and Victor 12. In 1934-35 Leonard Chrzanowski and Marcella Dolney were primary students and Florence and Frances Sominski joined District 31.

Students in 1943-44 were Marie Kalinowski, Philip and Dora Ann Pelowski, Alice and Georgine Stanislawski, Eugene Dolney, Frances, David, Dominic, Loretta, Juliann, and Victoria Kukowski.

The last year school was held in District 31 was in 1946-47. Enrollment was a bit larger than previously because District 13 had closed and some of those students came to District 31.

Submitted by Myrna Sovde. Sources: Roseau County Museum, Adrian Dolney. Ernest Kukowski. Roseau County Records. Helen Kalinoski, "Footsteps in Education" a history of Roseau County rural schools.

### District 33 - Svegdahl School - Lind Township



District 33, Svegdahl School, Lind Township, about 1940. (photo courtesy of Lois (A.) Ierson Dvergstell)

District 33 Lind Township was the easiest history to compile that is- once this District 33 was sorted from an earlier District 33 in Stokes Township. It was certainly confusing at first, but the Roggenbuck name was from Badger, not Lind Township. Then papers found for District 26 eventually clarified the confusion for District 33.

This is another school that needs to begin with the history of a different school district. The Svegdahl School was actually the North School of District 26 from 1900 or 1901 until 1921. So to learn most of the history up to 1921 read District 26 Lind Township. It's doubtful that this was the first school built in District 26, but it was probably the second, since the west half of the township became District 45 very early. According to the 1913 Atlas, a school was located on Section 11 before that time. When exactly? Who knows without the school board minutes. Trying to sort this out was difficult and is still not fully resolved.

District 33 was known locally as the Svegdahl School because it was located in the southeast corner of the SW 1/4 of Section II owned by Ole and John Svegdahl. In addition, Nels Svegdahl lived southeast of the school on the adjacent quarter where teachers boarded. When Ole and wife Norma Thrane moved to Nels' place they also boarded the teachers.

The history of District 33 deviates from that of District 26 beginning in July 1921 after the following petitioners successfully petitioned for their own school district. The petitioners were: A. K. and Martin Anderson, Ole and Julius Langaas, Ole and John

Svegdahl, Fred Hagen, Nils and Hjalrner Thrane, Iver Alrne, John Stasveher, and Christ Dallager.

Teachers included: L. Brooks 1921-22; Julia Langaas (Johnson) 1928-30; Mary Langaas (Johnson) 1930-31; Adelia Hennanson (Anderson) 1932-33; Lenore Erickson; Julia Langaas 1935-37; Hazel Lien 1939-40; Elrna Olson 1940-41; Mabel Dallager Sovde 1941-1949.



District 33, in 1943; Back row: LtoR Vernon Langaas, Kenneth Langaas, James Langaas, Pbyllis Kullberg; **Ivonne** Langaas, Lois **Anderson**, Rodney Langaas, Dale Hagen. Middle row: lone Dalager, Virgil Reierson, Gerald Hagen, Eunice Dalager, Beverly Reierson, Front row: Juel Gustafson, Wallace Hagen, Orleen Anderson, Marlo Gustafson. (photo courtesy of Lois (**Anderson**) Dvergsten)

Nonnan Svegdahl recalls hauling water to the school with a horse and sleigh. Eventually a well was put in and the big old fashioned cast iron pump was used to pump the water up. More than one kid put his/her tongue on the handle in cold weather and had the painful experience of having a layer of skin pulled off. Often this was done on a dare. **The** victim suffered a sore tongue for weeks after.

Hazel Lien was the teacher for the 1939-1940 school year. School board members were John Langaas, John Svegdahl, and Henry Langaas. The souvenir folder given to the students by their teacher listed the following pupils: Edward Dallager, Eunice Dalager, James Dallager, Arney Gustafson, Delford Anderson, Delores Anderson, Gerald Hagen, Rodney Langaas, Lois Anderson, James Langaas, Audrey Anderson, Dale Hagen, Lila Keuhn, Ivonne Langaas, Willis **Gustafson**, Leif Hagen, Arthur Anderson, Jr., Norman Svegdahl, Charles Thrane, and Kenneth Langaas.

The Andersons were District 59 students, but due to no school in #59 they attended #33 for several years. Previously they attended Pelan District 53.

The class of 1948-49 were the last students to attend school in the Svegdahl School. Students were Dalager: Arlan 6, Veljean 8, Shirley 11; Hagen: Karen 6, Randolph 10, Faye 11; Langaas: Vernon 12, Joyce 6; Olson: Wanda 6, Glenn 7, Kay, Lynn 8, Darrell 10; Dallager: Jeannette **8**, LeRoy 11; Gustafson: Clarice 8, Juel 12, Gayferd 9, Ray 12; Kirkeide: Richard 6, Gladys 9, Ardith 11, Marlene 13; Anderson: Carol Lou 12, Orleen 12. The Kirkeides **were** residents of District 59, but attended here.

The school closed in the spring of 1949. The students and their teacher, Mabel Dallager Sovde went to Greenbush. Mabel continued to teach in Greenbush until 1973 when she retired after teaching for 45 years. While teaching in Greenbush she taught the **children** and grandchildren of former students from various local country schools.

The school continues to **be** used as the Lind townhall.



District 33, 1945; **Front** row: Randy Hagen, Clarice Gustafson, Gladys Kirkeide, Karen Hagen, Verjean Dalager, Jeanette Dallager. Second row: Marlo Gustafson, LeRoy Dalager, Ardith Kirkeide, Carol Lou Anderson, Shirley Dalager, Fay Hagen, Gayferd Gustafson, Hilma Kirkeide. Back row: Wallace Hagen, Arney Gustafson, James Dallager, Marlene Kirkeide, lone Dalager, Juel Gustafson, Helen Kirkeide, Mrs. Cecelia Gustafson, **Orvis** Ray Gustafson, Mrs. Estber Hagen, Karen Hagen, Cecelia, **and** Estber were visiting. (photo courtesy of Art and Helen Anderson)

Submitted by Myrna Sovde. **Sources:** Roseau County records, Lois Dvergsten, Helen and Art Anderson, Norman Svegdahl, Eva Jean Sovde.

### Memories District 33

When Ruby and Ruth Froemke went to the Svegdahl School (1935-37), the **girls** drove the horse and toboggan to pick up their teacher, Julia Langaas (Johnson), and fellow students, Frances Keuhn and Norman Svegdahl. Norman would put the horse into the school barn and hitch it up in the evening for them. When this horse was ready to go, it was **ready** to go and there was no holding **back**. One time Julia wasn't quite on the toboggan when the horse took off. She dragged along behind for quite a ways and ripped a big hole **in** her fur coat.

Ruth Froemke - credit for memory. Compiled by Myrna Sovde.

### District 34 - Boyum School- Barnett Township

District 34, also known as the Boyum School, was located in the northeast corner of Section 7 of Barnett Township. The school opened in 1900 and closed in 1917. Possibly, it consolidated with District 32. Eventually Districts 32 and 34 consolidated with District 66.

First records found were from 1903, with the teacher being Paulina Dowling in the fall and Ada Spathoop in the winter. Wages at that time were \$30 a month.

In the Greenbush Tribune, 1909 papers, the report for the term ending February 26, showed ten pupils enrolled. Those attending 40 days or more were Ella Haugen, Winfield Rowland, Flavius Goodrich, Hazel, and Orin Rowland, Joe and Emma Blazek and Mabel Borgen. The teacher was Zella Rowland. In April it was written that "the contract has been let for the erection of a school house in District 34, three miles east of town. It is to be ready for occupancy next fall."

In 1917 students and their age were listed as: six year-old, Gladys Foldesi; eight year-olds, Willie Foldesi, Myrtle Foldesi, Margaret DeRaad; nine year-olds, Alvina Moen, Florence Olson, Harry Foldesi; ten year-olds, Agnes Blazek, Ida DeRaad, Applone Foldesi, Joe Foldesi; 11 year-olds, Signe Moen, Warren Goodrich; 12 year-

olds, Florence Foldesi, George Foldesi, Oscar Borgen, Henry Blazek; 13 year-olds, Margaret Goodrich, Mabel Borgen, Risa Foldesi, Leo Foldesi, Albert DeRaad; 14 year-old, Mary Blazek. The teacher was James Webb.  
*Submitted by Pat Hogan.*

#### District 38 - Jenson School (38S) and Roselund School (38N) Moose Township

In July 1891, Andrew Halleck was elected and accepted as director of the board of District 38, and Hans Erickson was elected and accepted as treasurer. This indicates the school came into existence before Roseau County was organized, while this area was still a part of Kittson County.

On June 15, 1893, Hans Erickson was elected clerk of the board for the year and Pete Searson elected treasurer for three years. In that same year, a teacher's contract (Kittson) agreed William Molloy would teach for \$30 per month. At a school board meeting in 1894, building materials were discussed, and it was decided that the board would provide lumber and stone next fall." It is unclear where this school building was to be erected.

On the June 1895 Teacher's Term Report, teacher Mabel Ford reported forty-seven students and one hundred days of school. The family names of her students included Anderson, Erickson, Forsman, Halleck, Hanson, Holen, Johnson, Langland, Martinson, Meldahl, Ness, Olson, Peterson, Simpson, and Thompson.

The Roseau County School Officer's Book listed Stan Erickson, G. A. Moen, and Andrew Halleck as officers of District 38 School Board for 1896-97 and Hans Erickson, G. A. Moen, Andrew Halleck officers for 1897-98. It appears that all of Moose Township was designated District 38 until 1897 when the southeast quadrant of the township became District 14. In 1900, the northwest quadrant became District 29. In 1897 and 1902, District 16 annexed three sections of the southwest quadrant.

Moose had at least four schoolhouses, one in each quadrant of the township. District 29 (Sunnyside) was located in the northwest quadrant of the township and District 14 (Tauer School) in the southeast quadrant.

Strangely, District 38 was comprised of most of the northeast quadrant and all of the southwest quadrant. This would seem to be for a rather disjointed district territory, and indeed requires the use of two separate school buildings, which were designated 38 North, Roselund School, and 38 South, Jenson School. The Roselund School was located in the south part of Section 11, about a mile and a half from the Roselund Church. The Jenson School was located in the southeast corner of Section 29, land belonging to Andrew Jenson. There are indications that this school also was located across the road in Section 28 for a time.

During the June, 1905 term, Esther Danielson taught eight students with family names of Jensen, Nelson, Sundahl, Swenson. The January 1906 Teachers Term Report indicates Martha Gaukerud was teacher with students whose names included Anderson, Dahl, Erickson, Johnson, Moen, Nelson, Olson, Otterson, Raaska, Rinde, Sillerud, Simpson, and Thompson. The reports refer only to District number, not to school name. Although, it is unclear, it seems that the 1905 report was from the Jenson School (38S) and the 1906 may have been for the Roselund School (38N).

Perhaps the residents had some misgivings about the size and shape of the district, because a petition was filed on April 3, 1908, requesting that several sections of the southwest quadrant of the

township be organized as School District #37. It appears the petition was granted, and a meeting was scheduled to discuss the monies and debts of such districts." However, the matter seems to have been dropped there. District 38 continued, but there was no further mention of District 37.

District 38 contracted with Mabel Hanson in 1924 granting her \$80 per month for teaching, but clearly stating her duties included janitor work, sweeping, keeping the room clean, and building fires. In 1925, the school census counted twenty-five school-age children in the district with names of Bolme, Haugen, Jenson, Johnson, Lee, Mickelson, Wellen, and Wierschke. Olive Pederson signed a contract in 1926 to teach for \$80 per month.

At a meeting in 1927, it was decided to have seven months of school in the north (38N) and eight months of school in the west (38S): Why the board felt one school required an extra month of teaching was not recorded. They also voted to build a barn and woodshed and shingle the schoolhouse. School 38N received these amenities.

In 1928 Edna Olson reported twenty-eight students on her Teachers Term Report to the county, while the 1930 census counted only eighteen school-age children with the names of Barsness, Haugen, Jensen, Mickelson, Nelson, Rinde, Wellen, and Wierschke.

In 1931, Mabel Hanson was hired at \$60 per month, and in 1932 Clara Sando signed a contract for \$40 per month. Perhaps one school had a larger number of students and the teachers were paid accordingly, or perhaps the rate was based on the qualifications and experience of the teacher.

Eighteen school-age children were listed on the 1935 census: Anderson, Barsness, Haugen, Mickelson, Nelson, Rinde, Wellen, and Wierschke. The number rose to thirty-five in 1945: Barsness, Dahl, Hanson, Haugen, Jenson (four separate Jenson families), Kammen, Lunde, Mickelson, Nelson, Rinde, Sando, and Wellen.

Harvey Tauer thinks District 38 joined with Badger in the early 1940s. The school board at that time was Luvene Johnson, Otto Mickelson, and Jalmer Wellen.

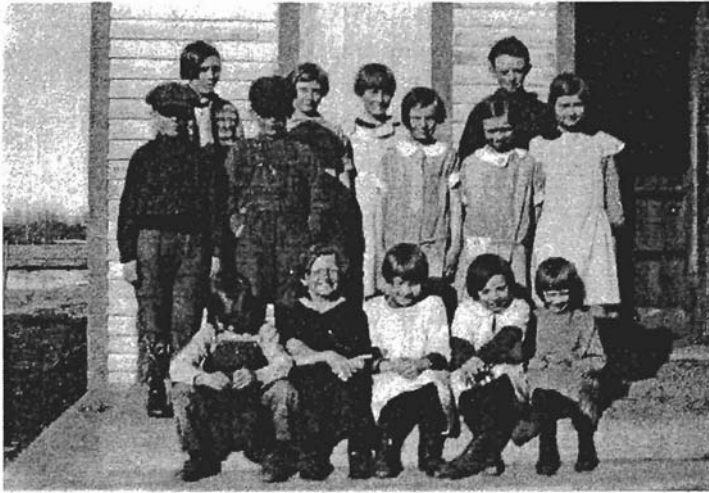
*Submitted by Eunice Korczak. Sources: Roseau County 1913 Atlas, Roseau County Museum records, Roseau County School Officers Book, Roseau County Teacher Term Reports, Roseau County School Census Reports, Roseau County School District Plat Maps, Harvey Tauer.*

#### District 40 - Dock School - Hereim Township

The Dock School District 40 in Section 34 has had the distinction of being the only country school in Hereim township, and yet in the beginning the district was not entirely in Hereim. The only school entirely in Hereim township was District 66, a very small rural school until Greenbush moved to the present townsite when it became the town school.

The petition for formation was entered on May 11, 1901. There were 130 people in the proposed district with 26 school age children. The school district was to consist of Sections 25-28 and 33-36 in southeast Hereim Township and Sections 1, 2, 3, and 4 in northeast Deer Township. The petitioners were Ole K. Dock, K. O. Dock, Pat and Mitchell Grandbois, Carl, Emma, and Albert B. Olson, Anton Anderson, Hans J. Bratlie, Fred Lavoy, Ed Thompson, and Christ J. Folven. The first school board members found were Albert B. Olson chairman, O. K. Dock treasurer and Ben Falk director.

In 1902 District 60 took Section 4 of Deer Township. Hereim



Dock School, Section 34, Hereim Township. Seated: Myron Miller, Agnes Olson, Alice Anderson, Harriet Anderson, Luella Jacobson. Middle row: Jean Jacobson, Ernest Miller, Jeanette Jacobson, Elaine Jacobson, Mildred Anderson. Top row: Ila Carlson, Selma Olson, Mae Carlson, Myron Jacobson. (photo courtesy of Milt Sather)

Sections 21, 22, 23, 24, located just north of the organized District 40 and south of District 66, petitioned to join in 1902. In 1915 these four sections pulled away and consolidated with District 66 Greenbush. District 40 stayed intact and had school every year until consolidating with Greenbush in 1949.

The 1904 term report listed the following children as students: Grumbo (Grandbois) families: Emily 7, Rose 7, Sarah 9, Nancy 12, Andrew 9, Annie 15, Emma 12, Zilda 14, Alexandar 19, Helen 17, Michael 17; Olsons: Hermie 6, Ragnald 7, Cora 9, Edwin 9; MattsOlis: Louis 7, Jennie 13, Minnie 11, Milton; Docks: Lizzie 8, Leonard 15, Enock 13; Halgrimson: Norman and Sena; Alma Christianson 12; Edvin Ostby 12; Gerard: Allan 9, and Vera 12; Ralph Falk 6; Lilly Folven.

Written excuses for staying home from school are commonplace in the day to day school setting, but were unexpected in permanent school files. In August of 1911 the school board clerk Albert B. Olson filed the following excuses: "Eddie Olson, 14, have to help father one mo. Lillie Folven, 14, have to keep house two mo. on his father."

In 1912 another petition involving District 40 was brought to the county board. This one proposed that the sections in the southwest corner of Hereim Township be allowed to form a school district. This was signed by Nellie and J. J. Walsh, Harold J. and Sina Johnson, Louis Genereux, John Berger, W. A. and Stella Clear, Margaret Connelley, Karl Nalerai, Hans Bratlie, and G. O. Ness. Their reason for petitioning was no school was within a reasonable distance for most of the children. This would have taken the western sections 21, 18, and 33 away from District 40. This petition was rejected for not containing a majority of the voters and freeholders.

Alice Anderson Miller grew up next door to, attended, and later taught in the Dock School. Early teachers she recalled were Martha Mehus Nubson, and Esther Mehus. Alice taught in the Dock School in 1939-40 and 1940-41. Other teachers she remembered were Ruth Johnson, Dorothy Dostal Brazier, Astrid Nelson Berger, Julia Langaas Johnson.

Oren Bergsnev told how the older boys would lift the teacher's Model A up so the wheels would just spin and she couldn't go anywhere. This story was confirmed by a local man who thought the teacher was Ruth Johnson (my aunt).



District 40, Dock School, 1933-34; Front row: Maynard Olson, James Lerum, Milton Olson, Don Lerum, Glenee Anderson; Small girl behind front row is Mayvis Anderson; Middle row: Herdis Lerum, June Owen, Shirley Bergsnev, Lenore St. Antoine, Zeta St. Antoine, Kenneth Bergsnev, Ted Pederson; Back row: Bernice Bialke, Amy Pederson, Gladys Olson, Alice Owen, Norman Bergsnev. Absent: Kennis Anderson, Willard Owen, Marvin Anderson, Sylvester St. Antoine, and Ralph Pederson. (photo by teacher Julia Langaas Johnson)

District 40 closed in the spring of 1949 with Laura Austin as teacher. The last students were: Aamodts: Alton 6, and Eugene 7; Waages: Gerald 7, Linda 7; Blazeks: Harold 8, Joseph 11, Raymond 13; Olsons: Cleone 6, Clifford 10, Goldie 12, Diane 13; and Andersons: Clydene 9, Marlene 10, Merlin 10, Odeen 13. Sandra, Beverly, and Virgil Johnson were enrolled for 19 days.

Marlene Anderson who went to Greenbush, District 66 as a sixth grader in the fall of 1949 recalled that as, "the worst year of my life. It was a shock to go into town school. We couldn't even whisper in country school. The kids were talking out loud!" She remembered the classroom as being noisy and the teacher as mean.

Since I was in the same classroom, I'll add my opinion. The room was jammed full of students with the many consolidations that year. Mrs. Margaret Heltne was a strict teacher, but I considered her a good teacher. She needed to be strict with about forty students in the small classroom and perhaps she seemed crabby. (That room was in the old east wing, on the second floor, in the northwest corner.) Our desks and chairs were moveable (on a tile floor), and some of us sat double in a chair meant for one. I also remember sharing some textbooks for a time.

Submitted by Myrna Sovde. Sources: those mentioned, as well as Kennis Anderson, Annette Bergsnev, and Roseau County school records.

### District 45 - Lindgren School - Lind Township

District 45 started out as District 26 when the petition for a school by Lind Township residents was passed on January 4 or January 5, 1900, by the county board. The entire township of Lind was one school district. (Read the first page of the District 26 history since it is the same as for District 45.) The first school was located on the south side of Section 23 along the edge of County Road 6, the Karlstad/Strathcona road. Axel Wahl owned the half section and the school was referred to as the Wahl School.

The first term in the spring of 1900 was twenty days. About one-fourth of the students attending were Lindgrens. Although the school was three miles away, they also had the best attendance.

The teacher's report of June 21, 1901, was strange. The previous

fall of 1900 found nearly all new students on the roll mostly from the northeast part of the township. Apparently a school had also been built in Section 11 (the Svegdahl School). It seemed that of all the 57 students listed in the district, only the Lindgrens: Helma, Hilda, Freda, Mary, Bena, Hannah, and Alice, attended school in both the spring and fall (attending about 100 days).

It was discovered early on, that the district was too large. After a year, in the spring of 1901, J. R. Lindgren on behalf of the residents of the west half of Lind township petitioned for a new school district. This separation was approved by the county commissioners. On July 8, 1901, the west half of Lind Township became District 45. This is where the divided history begins.

Records of the early meetings of District 45 were finally found in the Roseau County Museum. The first annual meeting was held August 3, 1901, at the Alf Lindgren home. The board consisted of P. G. Grove director, August Danielson treasurer, and J. A. R. Lindgren clerk. The school year was to be three and a half months; a one month fall term starting Septerrlber 16, 1901, and the spring tennstarting May 1, 1902. The budget included \$75 for the teacher, \$25 for textbooks, and \$25 for current expenses.

The locations of District 45 schools had been totally confusing since one source indicated an east and west District 45. That source inferred the Wahl School of District 26 was the east school and the Lindgren school was the west school. Until finding the school board minutes at the Roseau County Museum, this east and west bit was totally perplexing. After discovering that the Wahl School, which became the school near Henry Petersons (now Bennie Sys place), was still District 26, it was even more confounding.

Then the records from the museum cast the light of knowledge on the unknown. The December 10, 1901, meeting of District 45 was for the purpose of choosing school sites: one in the north and one in the south. Not east and west! Now it made sense. The school in the NW 1/4 in the far northwest comer of Section 29 was chosen as the location of the south school. That school became known as the Lindgren School from that time until its closing in the spring of 1947.

After finding this information, the thought was that the school location in Section 8 on the 1913 Atlas must have been the north school. It was not! The location of North #45 was in the southeast comer of the NE 1/4 of Section 7; a mile west and a half mile north of eventual Sogn or Hendrickson School in Section 8.

The twenty-three who voted on the school location were: Mr. & Mrs. L. P. Norby, Mr. & Mrs. C. J. Knutson, Mr. & Mrs. O. G. Grove, P. J. Knutson, Carl Lindgren, Mrs. Casper Lindgren, Mr. and Mrs. Alf Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Amandus Lindgren, Martin Westberg, August Danielson, Herman Hanson, Oskar (later written as Oscar) Lindgren, Mrs. P. E. Knudson, J. A. R. Lindgren, Mr. & Mrs. C. M. Hanson, Ole O. Haugen, and Arne O. Haugen.

The north schoolhouse had already been constructed and those residents who had raised the money, offered that building to the district as a donation. After the business meeting, Mr. Grove resigned because he was leaving the area. In January, Ole C. Hanson was elected director until August 1902.

Contracts for teachers were also found with the minutes. The first teacher was Gyda Oppegaard. Her contract stated August 12, 1901, as the beginning of the twenty day term. "That first term report was found and the best attendance was nineteen days. Families attending were Knutson, Anderson, Lindgren, Hendrickson, Syrstad, Hanson, Haugen, Danielson, and Salverson.

At the July 19, 1902, annual meeting, \$125 was budgeted for the

teacher. Five months of school would be taught. School will be taught at J. A. R. Lindgren's house all year if they didn't fix up the schoolhouse in Section 7.

In 1902, A. P. Haugen received a visit from a delegated board member about his children not attending school. The board allowed his excuse for that year, "that he was 74 years old and needed his boys at home."

The July 24, 1903, annual report stated the value of the two frame schoolhouses and sites as \$450. (In 1902 the value of one school was \$85.) It also stated that six months of school had been provided.

According to attendance records, the six months was split between the two schools with three months at each school. The teacher for 1902-03 was Thea Wegner. She taught both the fall term and the winter term which ended on February 18, 1903. The students (with their age) who attended in the fall were: Salverson: Selma 7, and Johnnie 8; Knutson: Emmett 6, Walter 6, Minnie 11, Cora 12, Lottie 11, Archie 10, Randall 8, Jalmar 11; Hanson: Orpha 6, Edward 6, Hilda 5, Gusta 13, Joseph 14, Oscar 11, Alfred 9, Selma 14, Mabel 8, Bernhard 8; Anderson: Edwin 6, Ethel 11, and Fred 13; Hendrickson: Gust 6, Carl 8, and Victor 9; Lindgren: Jennie 6, Adolph 6, Bena 14, Hilda 9, Alice 10, Hilma 8, Mary 12, Freda 16; Ole Syrstad 13; and John Norby 20.

Most students only attended one term. Only fourteen attended both tenns. Even those who attended the most days, Alice Lindgren 84 days, Hilma Lindgren 68 days, and Randall Knutson 62 days, were absent much of the 120 day school year.

By July 18, 1903, a group had built a school on Section 29 and offered to donate the building to the school district. It was accepted. The district was "to have and to use said house for schoolhouse on said schoolhouse site perpetually and the trustees shall keep the said house in necessary order, so the school can be taught there." This was known as the Lindgren School. On the same day \$50 was budgeted for repairs on that building (the south school). It was also voted to allow the treasurer 1% of all money paid out.

At the annual meeting in 1906, the decisions were made that a ceiling was needed in the South School and a floor and ceiling were needed in the North School. Oskar Hendrickson was to donate 3/4 of a day and Carl Lundquist one day on the North School for the repairs. Richard Lindgren was to work one day on the ceiling in the South School. R. Lindgren, Amandus Lindgren, Oskar Lindgren, and Anton Lindgren were to donate one day each at the North School on the ceiling and floor and fastening seats to the floor.

A undated list of materials and work was copied on a paper with items from 1902 and 1903. Until learning that both schools were donated, it was assumed it was for building a school. What is still of interest is the price of labor. Hendrickson worked one day on South "House" \$1.00; Frank Lindgren and Amandus Lindgren each \$1.50, Oscar Lindgren two days \$2.00, Richard Lindgren five days \$5.00.

At a special meeting in 1905 the school board voted to buy eight yards of slated cloth to be used for blackboards in both schoolhouses.

On January 20, 1908, a special meeting was held about fixing up the North School. "Specifically fixed up completely inside" and outside "to be done at once, and stone foundation laid under the house." The second motion was to levy taxes for the current year for fixing the north schoolhouse in the sum of sixty-five dollars.

Another special meeting was set for February for the purpose of deciding on a four month school term instead of two months. At

the February 1908 meeting, they voted to extend the next school term from two months to three months. The term was to begin the last of February instead of in May. They also agreed to not raise any money at the present, as they thought they would have enough until the next annual meeting in the summer.

A bit of the history can be unfolded by looking at the change in school board members. In 1899-1900 J. A. Lindgren was on the District 26 board. In 1901 J. A. R. Lindgren was on the board in the new District 45. In 1903-04 the board for #45 was J. R. Lindgren, Augustus Danielson, and Amandus R. Lindgren. In 1905 Alf Anderson, Oscar Hendrickson, Amandus Lindgren. In 1916-17 J. A. R. Lindgren, J. O. Hendrickson, Henry Gloystein.

In 1918 the north part of District 45 pulled away to become District 110. Victor Hendrickson was the teacher. Inez Hendrickson and Helen Gloystein were two of a total of six students.

In 1921-22 Sarah Lindgren was paid \$95 a month. Her students were: Lindgren: Richard 7, Eunice 12, and John 10; Hodge: Geraldee 7, George 5, Lorene II, and Wayne 9; Peterson: Dorothy 7, Fritiof 12, Ellen 10, and Mildred 9; Lester: Gladys 13, and Forrest 10; Mabel Sparks 6; Jeanette Fry 9; Hazel Hallberg 9; and August Erickson 14.



District 45, Lindgren School; Front: Dennis Brekke, Jerome Brekke. Back: John Rhude, Rodger Lindgren, Alton Foss, Spring 1947. (photo courtesy of John Rhude)

The last class was taught by Laura Austin of Greenbush in 1946-47. The students enrolled were: Rhude: Bonnie 5, Merry 7, and John 13; Brekke: Jerome 6, and Dennis 9; Foss: Lila 9 and Alton 12; and Carol Austin, Mrs. Austin's daughter. The decision to close the school was made quickly as Rhudes had hauled, sawed and piled wood at the school for the next year. Consolidation with Karlstad District 4 Joint didn't occur until December 1949.

The school building was moved near **Karlstad** and used as the Legion Club for awhile.

Teachers: Gyda Oppegaard 1901; Sarah Billberg, spring 1902; Jessie A. Anderson 1903-04; Carrie Hermanson 1910-11; Mabel Johnson 1912-13; Sarah Lindgren about 15 years around 1915 to 1927 or so; Edith Halvorson; Hazel Hallberg 1931-32; Gladys Haugtvedt, Gina Metvedt Martin, Naime Danielson 1936-38; Gladys Haugtvedt Graff 1945-46; Laura Austin 1946-47.

Submitted by Myrna Sovde. Sources: Roseau County Records, early District 45 minutes, Keith Lindgren, John Rhude, Merry Hamberg.

### Memories

Victor and Alma Hendrickson were walking to school in a rain-storm. As they neared the school, lightning struck the umbrella they were carrying. Luckily other students observed what had happened and immediately called the teacher. The teacher massaged

their hearts and got them started again. To think a teacher in those days would know to do something like that is rather astounding.

Johnny Rhude recalled when the store called "The Hall" burned, probably about 1945 during the war. This was right across from the school. The building with a store type front was a center of activity. Local people had card parties and there was a billiard table.

Submitted by Myrna Sovde Source: Annette Hendrickson and John Rhude

### District 50 - Herb - Deer Township

District 50 school, the Herb School, opened in the fall of 1901, a half mile south of the Herb Post Office on the far west side of Deer Township. Today that translates to one mile north of Strathcona, three miles west on the Karlstad Road, and then a half mile south. School board members listed for 1901 were Peter Johnson, Peter Spjut and Lewis Westlund.

"Footsteps in Education" listed Blanche Johnson as the first teacher and said school was held in the home of Perry and Lenny Johnson in Section 31. Another source gave the location as Section 30. Victor Westlund verified Section 30 as the location when he attended school there in 1914. The school was on the east side of the section on land shown by the 1913 atlas to be owned by Millie Johnson. The teacher's report for the term ending September 1901, was signed by Millie Johnson as the teacher. She had been paid \$35 a month. The teacher in the spring of 1902, Hildur Bjorkman, was paid \$30 a month.

Students and ages in 1901 were: Bergloff family: Edith 7, Lyda 15, Ernest 10; Ole I. Christianson family: Irwin 7, Theoline 9; John Gustafson family: Orville 7, Charley 13, Lily 10, Anna 16; Peter Johnson family: Oscar 7, Annie 6, Laura 16, Emily, Paul; Sockness family: Oscar 6, Margaret 8; Spjut family: Christina 7, Herman 13, Magnus 11, Anna 9; William Wood family: Ida 8, Lily 7, Freman 5; Mary Brunsvold 8; Hulda Swanson 17. Hulda Swanson only attended one day and Anna Gustafson two days. (In the fall of 1902 Anna taught in District 57.)

On December 13, 1909, a basket social was held at the Herb School. The proceeds were to be used for a gymnasium hall which they planned to build in the near future. People from miles around attended, as indicated from a clipping in the same paper stating, "The young people from Dewey Township plan to attend the basket social at Herb." (Tribune)

Whether the gym was under the auspices of the school district or located on school property isn't known, but a gymnasium was evidently built. The Greenbush Tribune of December 27, 1912, carried the announcement of a "Big Doudle Wedding" (double) that had been carried in a recent Karlstad Advocate. Algon Lindgren of Herb married Pauline Peterson also of Herb while Algon's sister, Hilma Lindgren, married Gus Halberg of Karlstad. They were married in Roseau, but a dance was held in the Herb Gym.

By 1910, the school census included the eighteen school age children of Carl Lundquist, Mrs. Steenerson, Ole I. Christianson, John Gustafson, Peter Johanson (Johnson), Lewis Westrum (Westlund), and William Wood.

In 1920, some wanted to join District 57 Strathcona. On June 6, 1920, the vote was ten no and zero for joining #57. A letter signed by R. (Rasmus) Bennes, clerk, to the County Board, partially paraphrased and partially quoted follows: We have fairly good house and fair equipment, and no trouble. Strathcona has trouble there

every year. We have a sum of money which looks good to Strathcona. "We also have a \$350 bond (debt) which they are satisfied to leave with us- if it- by any trick or croket (crooked) way can be done."

Victor Westlund recalled that he and Speedy Christianson had to carry a half pail of drinking water from Herb Johnson's place for the school. Mrs. Johnson was always good to Victor, and one time she gave him a peach. When they came out, Speedy wanted Victor to ask for a peach for him too.

At age five, Victor started school under the tutelage of Carrie Hermanson who was his teacher until third grade. Gisslequist was another teacher he remembered.



District 50, Herb 1934-35; Leona Abel, Orlean Boen, Ruby Froemke, Ruth Froemke. (photo courtesy of Ruth Froemke Rantanen)

Ruth Froemke Rantanen and her twin sister Ruby attended District 50 the last years it was open. This was three of their elementary school years, 1933-34 and 1934-35 with Mary Langaas as teacher, and 1937-38 with Olga Sovde. In 1931-32, they attended District 60/ Gavick School. Three years were spent at District 33/ Svegdahl School: 1932-33 with Adelia Hermanson, and 1935-36 and 36-37 with Julia Langaas teacher. In 1936-37 a report was also filed by Anna Haugtvedt for other District 50 students, Roy, Helen, and Ralph Skjordahl. But which school they attended wasn't discovered.

1937-38 was the last year District 50 was open. Olga Sovde from Strathcona was the teacher for the seven students which included Raymond: Mary Jane 14, Delphine 6, Virgil 8, Froemke: Ruby and Ruth 12; Skjordahl: Ralph 8 and Helen 7. Thereafter any students belonging to District 50 attended school in Strathcona. The district consolidated with Strathcona District 57 in April 1949 becoming District 686 which consolidated with Greenbush in 1962.

School board members in 1939-40 were Frank Parr, Clarence Wolfgram, and Mike Ryden.

Larry Sumner moved the school building into Strathcona, remodeled it into a house, and painted it red. Families who lived there were Arnold and Eunice Hamness and Edwin and Marilyn Erickson before the building was purchased by Byron Staie. He dismantled the building to build a garage in Strathcona for his mother, Mrs. Agnes Staie. In the 1980s the Greenbush School District signed papers to clear title when the land was transferred from Frank Parr to Cecil Parr. The land is now owned by Mark Stephens. Evidence of the school's location still remains.

Submitted by Myrna Sovde. Sources: Cecil Parr, Mark Stephens, Ferdie Froemke, Ruth Rantanen, Annethea Novacek, Victor Westlund, Roseau County School Records.

## Memories

Ruth Rantanen recalled that entertainment at school was on their own. There were no swings or toys. In the spring they filled their lunch boxes with water from the ditch to drown gophers. Her brother, Ferdie, drove the horse and toboggan to District 50. It was the only horse the family owned, so he had to tie up the reins and send the horse back home. Then their dad came to get them in the evening.

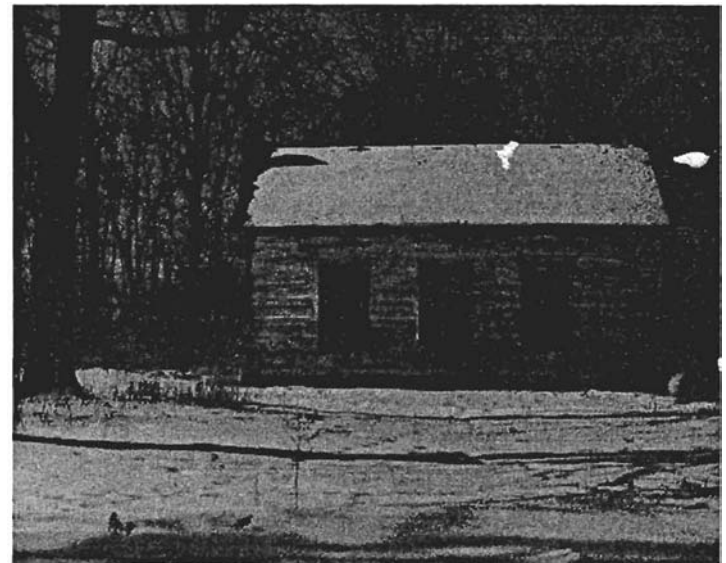
When their sister, Evelyn was going to high school, their dad had to get up very early on Monday mornings to take her into Greenbush, well over a twenty mile round trip by horse, and be back to take the others to school in Strathcona (8th grade). Their dad took them to school in a caboos without a heater. It was cold!

The Froemkes hayed the school yard for the hay, to lessen the fire hazard, and to have a neater schoolyard. Ferdie remembered poking a hornet's nest with a hay fork to knock it down. Ouch!

Submitted by Myrna Sovde Information from Ruth Rantanen and Ferdie Froemke.

## District 53 - Pelan

(as relates to Dewey Township Roseau County)



Pelan School built in 1895, A.E. Holen was the carpenter in charge. (photo courtesy of Milt Sather)

Although the school for District 53 has never been in Dewey Township or in Roseau County, it was an important part of Dewey Township history. District 53, Two River School, was founded in the townsite of Pelan in 1894 while Roseau County was still a part of Kittson County. After Roseau County was organized, county residents continued attending District 53. After and during considerable redistricting, and the formation of several new school districts in Roseau County, and the building of many new schools, District 53 remained in place. Ironically, many of those schools closed and the districts paid District 53 to educate their children. This later fact is a more recent reason for including District 53 in Dewey Township history.

Beginning in 1899, District 25 Sanwick took five sections of land formerly in District 53. Only a few years later Districts 72 and 74 also took land.

History has it that in 1894 school was held in a log hut built by Hans T. Olson. Mr. Holen built benches for the children. That very few children or grown-ups could speak English was certain. The

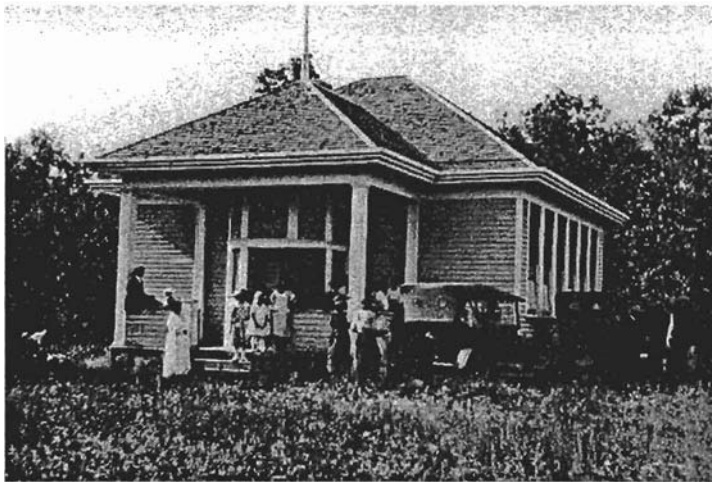
earliest teacher's report, 1894, included the information that the term was 20 days which confirmed the history of one month of school. The fall term ended December 13, 1894, and the teacher signed as Roseax Carey. History has called the first teacher Miss Edith Carey.

The first students and ages were: Lorensen: Alfred 16 and Selma 14; Hannon: Annie 5, Maggie 7, Mary 12, and John 12; Yerron: Daniel 5 and Joseph 12; Olson: Annie 6 and Henry 8; Gustafson: Clara 9, Frank 6, and Emma 8; Eneil: Wilhelm 6, Naloneil 14, Gilmer 10, Emiel 8, Napole 19, and Christ 16; Youngerart (Youngcrans): Allie 9 and Eric 12; Herman Johnson 8; Willie Nelson 16; Charles Kelso 25; Caroline Holden (Holen) 10. Notice how old many of the students are. Christ Eneil attended two days, Charles Kelso seven days, and Herman Johnson fifteen days. The others attended all twenty days.

In the spring of 1895 a new log school was built. A. E. Holen was the carpenter in charge. Each settler brought a designated number of logs and also donated labor.

In 1900, the more common names were Holen, Hanson, Hermanson, Kinshella, Hagen, Lofgren, Blomquist, Mooney, Christianson, Johnson and Leonard Brekke. Fifty-four students were enrolled. The teacher, Thovald Olson, who had two years training at a state normal school, taught for five months for \$35 a month.

Shortly after, this school began to have two teachers. In the spring of 1903, the Pelan Post announced that Mr. Bock "hasn't arrived to teach the upper grades." Mrs. A. E. Wahl substituted for a month until Mr. L. N. Porter took over. Apparently Mr. Bock never did show up. Miss Clara Olson was the primary teacher. Most of the early teachers in Pelan had more education than other rural teachers. In those early days most teachers came from outside the area.



Pelan School built in 1915 and used until consolidation in 1949. (photo courtesy of Milt Sather)

Many of the later Pelan teachers had attended Pelan Two River School themselves. Among those were Adelia Hermanson Anderson 1926-28, 1929-31, and longer; Helmer Johnson 1933-37; Emma Holen Berge 1921-23. Other teachers who received their early education in Two River and taught throughout this side of the county were Helga Holen, Ida Holen Lieberg, Carrie Hermanson, Clara Johnson Gustafson, and Anna Hermanson. Others who taught in Pelan were Art Anderson, Sr., Anna C. Olson, Nora Dufwa Clark, Martha Nubson, and Julia Stenberg. (The lists and dates are not complete.)

Another reason the Pelan School needs to be addressed is to dispel the misconception that Districts 53 and 101 were the same.

District 101 Pauli or Brandvold School formed in 1913 taking Sections 29, 30, 32 in Dewey Township from Pelan District 53.

Beginning in 1921 or possibly earlier, District 101 had difficulties remaining open. District 101 students went back and forth in different years depending on whether or not their school was open.



Pelan class of 1921-22, District 53; 1st row: Arley Brandvold, Kermit Stenmoe, Melvin Gross; 2nd row: Mildred Gross, Alvin Youngcrans, Edith Blomquist, Mable Tangen; 3rd row: Gladys Brandvold, Oscar Tangen, Lloyd Hermanson, Doris Peterson; 4th row: Ida Brandvold, Adelia Blomquist, Winfred Youngcrans, Elsie Blomquist; 5th row: Ralph Youngcrans, Carl Brandvold, Minnie Morey, Hillary Peterson, and Teacher: Emma Holen (Berge). (photo courtesy of Milt Sather)

Gladys Brandvold Helgeson attended school in both Pelan and 101. She has souvenir booklets from 1921-22 and 1922-23 from Pelan when Emma Holen was her teacher. She recalled that when the County Superintendent, Eddie Billberg came, Miss Holen became so nervous she got big red blotches on her face. She also remembered that her brother Carl was "such a rascal" in school.

Students in 1922-23 Pelan class booklet included: Youngcrans: Ralph, Winfred and Alvin; Peterson: Hillary and Doris; Anderson: Roy, Garvin and Harley; Bloomquist (Blomquist): Edith and Kermit; Brandvold: Carl, Ida, Gladys, and Arley; Tangen: Oscar and Mabel; Wajciehowski (Wojciechowski): Walter and Harry; Minnie Morey, Lloyd Hermanson, Kermit Stenmoe and Edwin Haagenson. Most of these students were from District 101 and 59 not from 53. Hans Hanson was the county superintendent (Kittson County). Hans H. Holen was clerk, Nels Olson treasurer and Charles Kelso director.



Pelan students in 1944-45; Front row: Orvis Ray Gustafson, Carol Lou Anderson, Esther Snare, Marlene Kirkeide, Helen Kirkeide, in front of Helen is Gayle Anderson, Hilma Kirkeide, Ardith Kirkeide, LeRoy Dallager; Back row: Arney Gustafson, Orville Kirkeide, James Dallager, Edward Dallager, Vernice Bushie, Delford Anderson, Delores Anderson, Julia (Mrs. Joe) Stenberg - teacher, Alvin Snare. (photo courtesy of Ed Dallager)



After the spring of 1933 District 101 no longer had class. When the last classes were held in 101/Pauli wasn't discovered during this research, but it is certain that no school was held there after the 1932-33 school year.

Art Anderson, Jr., of Dewey Township, lived closer to District 101 than to Pelan and his uncles had attended 101. However, the school was closed when he started first grade in the fall of 1933. He attended Pelan District 53 from first through fourth grade, 1933-1938. Later he attended school in District 33/Svegdahl School.

Helen Kirkeide Anderson lived in District 59 and she also attended school in Pelan but from 1942 through 1945. After that the family attended the Svegdahl School. Although District 53 existed, the Pelan School was no longer operating after the spring of 1945. District 53 consolidated with District 4 Joint Karlstad in December 1949. Section 31 of Dewey township was annexed to District 4 at that time.

This connection of Pelan District 53 and District 101 Pauli/Brandvold School needed to be clarified since many people were under the assumption that #53 and #101 were the same schools. They definitely were not the same schools, which can be seen from a paper trail and from information given by people who attended school in one or the other district and both districts.

In recent times, students living next to the Roseau Kittson County line have attended either Greenbush or Karlstad depending on family affiliations, which is allowed with the present open enrollment policy.

*Submitted by Myrna Sovde. Sources: Roseau County school records, Art and Helen Anderson, Pelan and 101 souvenir booklets\* courtesy Gladys Brandvold.*

#### District 54 - Dvergsten School - Barnett Township

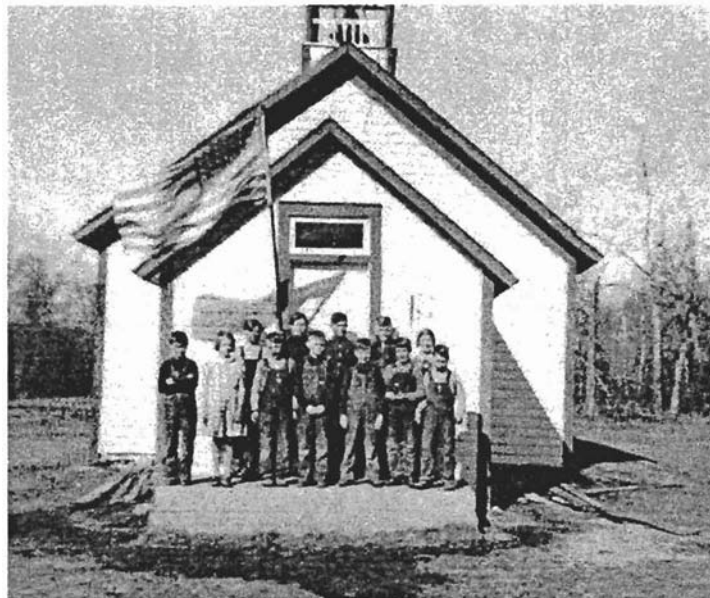
District 54, also referred to as "Dvergsten School," was located on the northeast corner of Section 34 in Barnett Township. Doug Hlucny now lives on the northeast quarter of the section. The school opened in 1901 and closed in 1947.

The first students who attended came from the families who lived on sections 25-28 and 33-36. They were Mary and Anton Carlson, Albin Anderson, Mary and Johnnie Novotny, and the children of Ole T. Olson, Ole Heieie, and Ole Ostby.

Despite a dispute in 1908 when District 88 was organized, the school continued to function. As time passed the family names of students changed. Other families moved onto the farms, which were on the above sections. Although there were 25 students attending in 1901-02, by 1917 there were only six students from the three families. They were Viona, Pauline, Irene, and Morris Paulsen; Godfred Hlucny; and Olga Gregerson. By 1942, there were fifteen students. They were Frank and Arnold Kaml; Arlene Smith; Eugene, Elvina, Mailen, Arnold, and Douglas Wiskow; Gerald, Arvid, Donald, and Delbert Dvergsten; Betty Johnson; and Florence and Russell McFarlane.

The last year the school was open, the following 17 children were in attendance: LaVonne Bjerck; David and Floyd Hlucny; Arlene, Elizabeth, Lawrence, Arnold, Charles, Frank and Willard Kaml; Karen Paulsen, Theodore and Arlene Smith; Betty Johnson; Eugene, Lorraine, and Mailen Wiskow.

There were many teachers at District 54 throughout the years. Some of them were: Carrie Svaren, Victoria Waage, Gladys Bratlie, Nettie Reed, Eleanor Sharf, Olga Olson, Alice Anderson, Etta Didrikson, and Jessie Nelson.



District 54, taken in the 1940s. Back: Arnold Wiskow, Russell McFarlane, Arden McFarlane, Douglas Wiskow, Florence McFarlane; Front: Delbert Dvergsten, Alvina Wiskow, Johnnie Shimpa, Donald Dvergsten, Arvid Dvergsten, Mailen Wiskow, and Charlie Shimpa. Gladys Hontvet was the teacher. (photo submitted by Alvina (Wiskow) Shimpa)

In the early 1900s, most teachers received about \$30 a month. By 1945, Etta Didrikson signed a contract for an annual salary of \$1,120. Not only did she teach all grades, but also was required to build the fire, keep the room constantly warm, and sweep the floor.



1938 School Days, District 54; Front row: Elvina Wiskow, Florence McFarlane, Delbert, Arvid, and Donnie Dvergsten; 2nd row: Russell McFarlane, Manvil Dvergsten, Arden McFarlane, Russell McFarlane; Back row: Clarence McFarlane, Floyd Wiskow, June Davis, Luella Wiskow. (photo courtesy of Arvid Dvergsten)

Many stories of rural school days abound. Etta (Didrikson) Mooney who taught in District 54 from 1945-47, told of staying at Melvin Dvergsten's home while teaching. During the school week, she slept in the bed of some of the Dvergsten boys while they were displaced to other parts of the house. On weekends she would go home to her parents nearby, and the boys got their bed back. Because of inclement winters, she stayed very close to her teaching job during the week. Arvid Dvergsten remembers being mad at Etta because she always took his bed. In fact he often gave up his bed because teachers frequently stayed at their home while teaching at District 54.