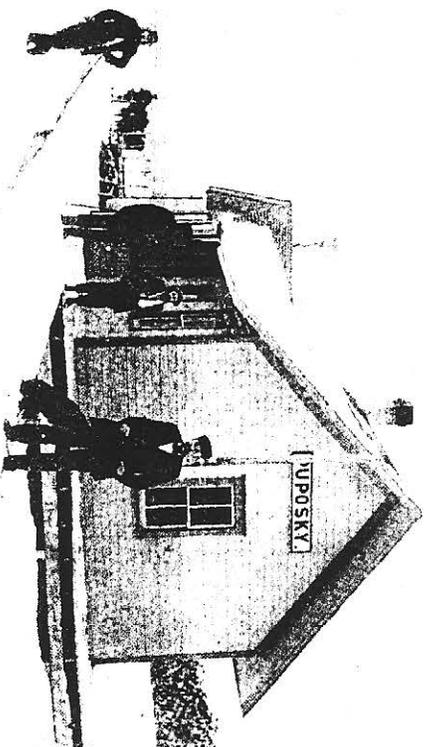
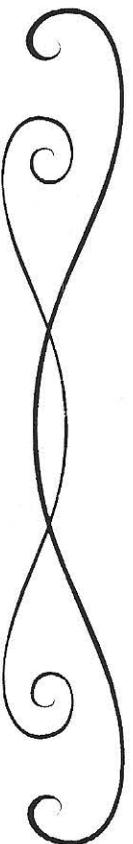


PUPOSKY CENTENNIAL
1905-2005

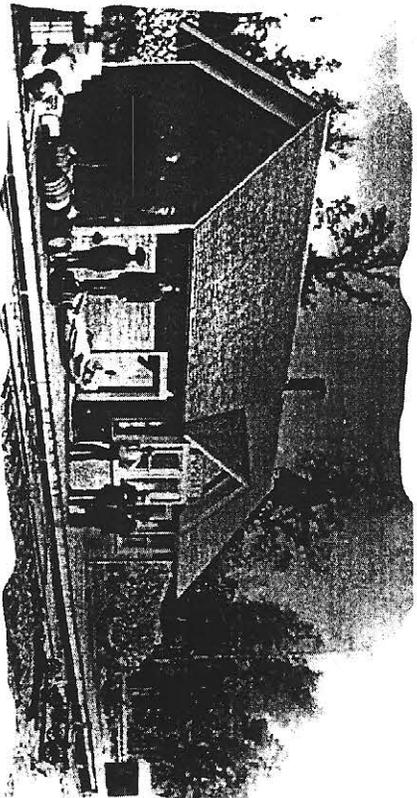
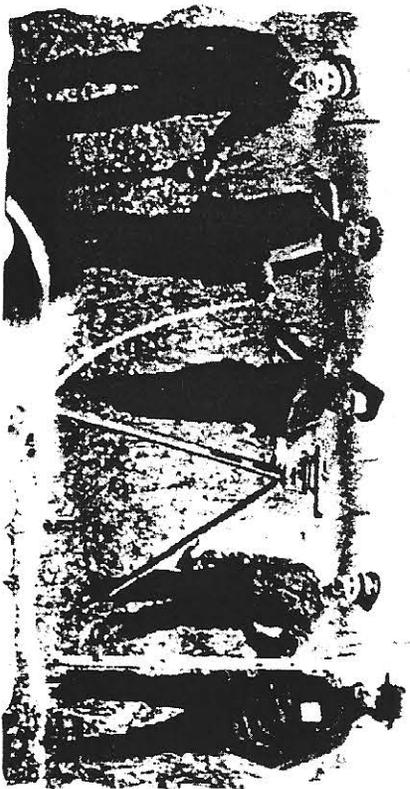


Puposky Depot

PUPOSKY (PAPUSHKWA) – which was believed to be the Chippewa euphony for “mud” (is actually translated to mean – “The End Of The Shaking Land”) meaning the southern end of the Red Lake bog. The description relates well to “mud”.



SURVEYORS FOR THE
MINNEAPOLIS, RED LAKE &
MANITOBA RAILWAY



The Depot at Puposky



With the building of the Red Lake rail line (M.R.L. & M.) (Minneapolis, Red Lake and Manitoba Railway) from Bemidji to Redby (on the shore of Red Lake), Puposky came into being. The M.R.L. & M. train left Bemidji at 3:00 in the afternoon, leaving pouches at the various post offices, Puposky, Buena Vista, Nebish & the Red Lake Agency and returned to Bemidji the next day. The Buena Vista mail was carried to that post office from Puposky.

In 1908, the Post Office was robbed and the thief escaped by handcar. He was apprehended at the overpass of the Red Lake line over the Great Northern, west of Bemidji and in the ensuing gun battle, Deputy Sheriff Andrew Johnson was shot in the shoulder. The thief got away but seemed to have been identified. Ole J. Laqua ran the store and post office in Puposky at that time.

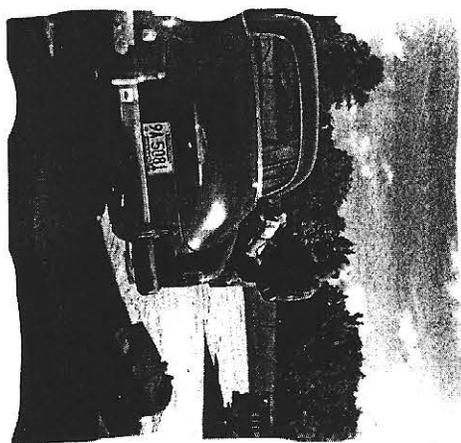
A new site for the post office was recorded April 22, 1920. The building is situated in the SW quarter of section No. 32, Township 149 (Durand) of the 5th principal meridian, County of Beltrami, 1 ½ miles on the left side of Mud River, 1/4 mile on the right side of Lake Julia Creek, on the right side of the Red Lake railroad and 800 ft. from the track. The Post Master is Charles Durand.

The second new site for the post office was recorded October 14, 1946. The location is Main St, County – Beltrami, Township – Durand. Distance from the old site – 1 block West, 400 ft. W of Puposky Lake (Mud Lake). Walter Dahl is the Post Master.

FORMER POSTMASTERS & CARRIERS



Walter Dahl as Post Master and Mail Carrier

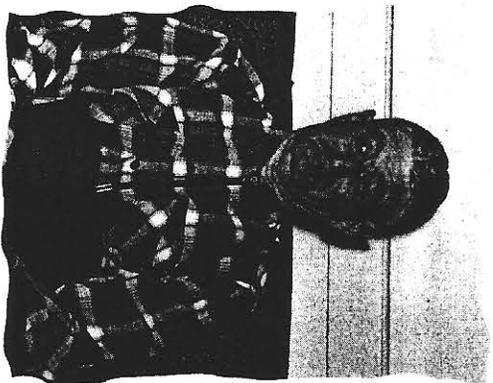


POST MASTERS:

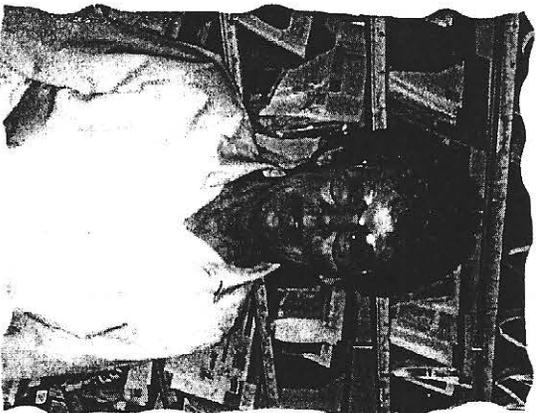
Robert McKnight 1905
 Alfred E. Smith 1906
 Ole J. Laqua 1908
 Robert E. Smyth 1911
 Charles Durand 1911
 Carl Durand 1924-25
 Ms. Clara Barrett 1939
 Walter Dahl 1940
 Mrs. Delca Warner 1944
 (Walter on Military Leave)
 Walter Dahl 1946
 (Return from Military Leave)
 Anthony Todavich 1964/65
 Marie Todavich
 Donna Kaasa 1989
 Lynnette Pearson (sub) 2004

MAIL CARRIERS:

Fay Durand (Horseback)
 Clyde Saddler
 Day Durand (sub)
 Walter Dahl
 Russel Coffin (sub)
 Betty Lakin
 Vern Holzhueter
 Roger Kuehn (sub)

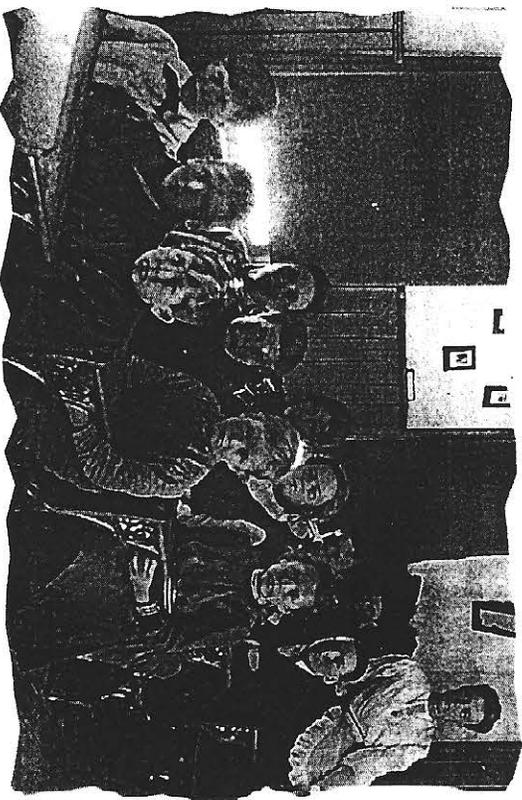


Clyde Saddler, Mail Carrier



Betty Lakin, Mail Carrier

PUPOSKY SCHOOL



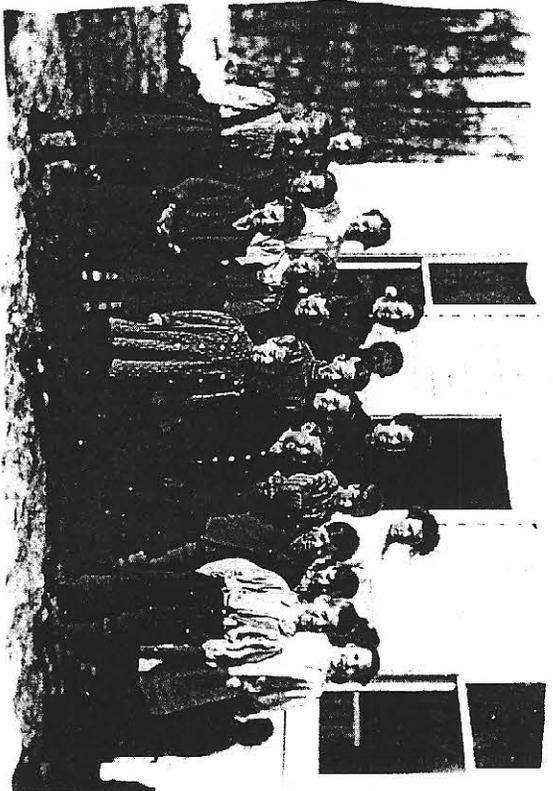
Teacher: Olga M. Anderson with students* (A)

Children in the Durand southeast sections went to school at the Lindgren Lake School (Dist. 44) in Turtle Lake Township. After it closed they went to the Puposky School which was organized the year after the village was established. In 1952, a fire destroyed the building; it was never rebuilt and the pupils went to nearby schools.

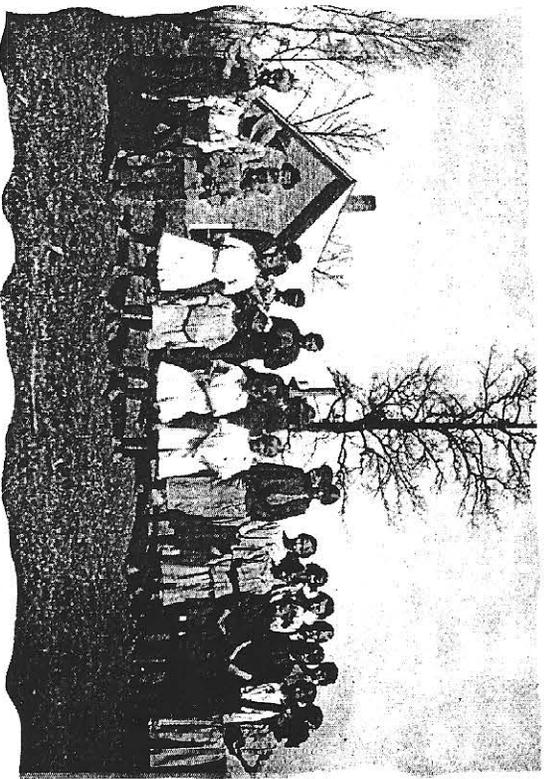
(Information-Durand Township-Beltrami History Center)

(Memories of Delphine Durand McKnight – North Country History 1980, Vol. 2, No.3)

My dad organized a school district and got the first teacher. She roomed and boarded with us, using one of our rooms to teach in. The term only lasted for two months. There were just the three George boys and us. This was about 1900 before there was a Puposky. My dad gave a piece of land for the school, just a quarter of a mile from our house on the Mud River. The Haffner boys, Andrew and Fred from Puposky came to that school.

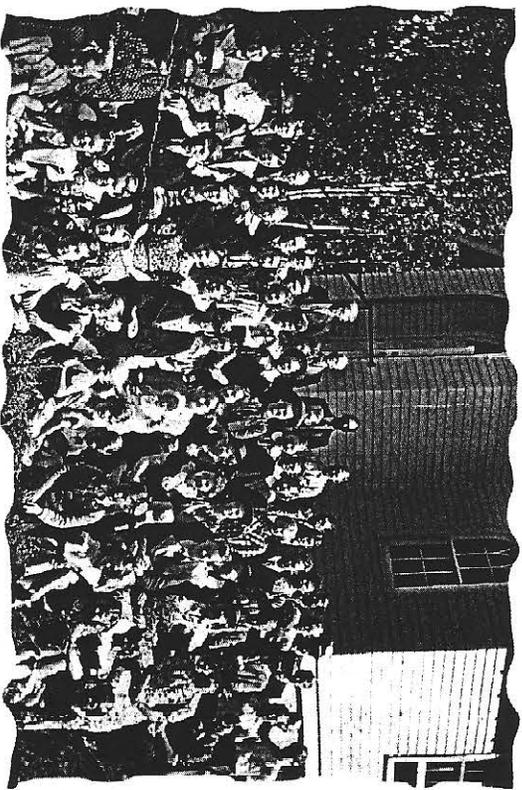


Puposky School, 1910* (B)



(*See Picture Reference on last page.)

OUR REDEEMER'S LUTHERAN CONGREGATION OF PUPOSKY, MN

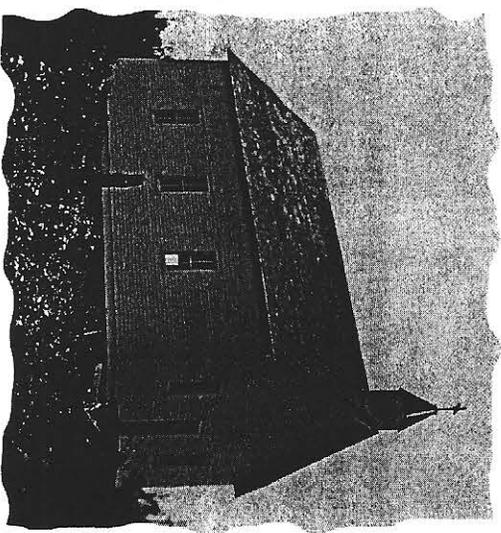


On September 5, 1935, a meeting was called for the purpose of organizing a congregation in Puposky. The meeting was successful. A permanent congregation was established under the name: Our Redeemer's Lutheran Congregation of Puposky.

On February 2, 1936, a meeting was called to adopt a Building program. A committee was elected to solicit members for pledges towards creating a building fund. These pledges together with other liberal donations from the Ladies Aid, Dorcas Society and from interested individuals augmented by an \$800.00 loan from the Church Extension fund provided the Congregation ample funds for building. Plans for a structure 28X40 ft, complete with sacristy, steeple and full basement was drawn and approved. A fine, suitable building site was donated by Mr. Charles Durand.

By July of 1936, building operations were underway. On June 6, 1937 the dedication of Our Redeemer's Lutheran Congregation of Puposky took place.

CHURCH OF ST PATRICK, PUPOSKY



Church Of St Patrick was founded August, 1912 when this mission was incorporated into the village of Puposky, Durand Township.

The first church was built under the direction of Rev. Paul LeFlock on a lot donated by the Red Lake Railway Company. Before it was completed, it was destroyed by fire. The mission exchanged the lot for one further from the railway and built another church. The Church Extension Society helped to pay for this church and also donated the vestments and altar. Rev. C. Stahl, Rev. P. O'Reardon & Rev. Florian Locnikar,

O.S.B of the Red Lake Mission served the parish over several years. In the summer of 1922, the mission of the Church Of St. Patrick received one half of the public cemetery of the Town of Durand.

(Beltrami County, Doc. Box 66, Grp 45, Series 45.2 Folder 1, Item 1)

In 1948 the Church Of St. Patrick burned down and some families then began attending Sts. Peter & Paul parish in Nebish.

(Memories from Frank Yerlich)

In the days when Tony Todavich and I were serving as altar boys, we fasted from midnight until after mass the next morning. We would go with Father Baatz to serve mass at Sts. Peter and Paul in Nebish at 8:00 and then go with him to serve mass at St. Patrick's in Puposky at 10:00. He would drop us off south of Nebish at 12:00, and we would have a long walk home before we were able to eat. I had a two mile walk and Tony had almost three miles. We did penance on those days! We were altar boys from the time we were 10 until we were bigger than the priests.

DURAND TOWN HALL

On August 23, 1912, a motion was made to accept from the Red Lake Co. Townsite & Mercantile Co. for \$25. a deed to land described as Lots 13 & 14, Block 9 in Puposky Township for the purpose to build Durand town hall & tool shed. The building was done between 1913 & 1918. In 2005, Durand town hall still remains in Puposky. The township was named for Charles Durand.

BUILDING A COMMUNITY

(Pioneer - Recorded by Donna St. Peter)

June 12, 1905

A.E. Smith who was formerly engaged in the real estate business in Bemidji has bought a lot in Puposky. A building is now under construction to be used for a bank. Mr. Smith has ordered the fixtures and furniture for the new banking house and will be ready for business about July 15.

June 20, 1905

The Townsite Co. has disposed of a large number of lots. Already a number of buildings are in the course of construction. A store, two saloons and a bank are now being built. The Haffners had the hotel and saloon in town. The hotel was built after the railroad came and was close to the depot. (Memories of Delphine Durand McKnight-North County History 1980, Vol 2, No.3)

Our town had a single street-a muddy, rutted road. The saloon was on the opposite side of the road from the store. It was a rather large, white frame building with a saloon in front and hotel & living quarters in the back. It was run by Matt Haffner, wife and two sons who rolled the empty beer kegs to the depot to be picked up by the train and rolled the full kegs to the saloon when they were unloaded from the train. One fall day some men left the saloon with their guns and said they were going hunting. They walked into the woods in the direction of Durand's place. Durand's heard some random shots. A man ran into their clearing saying someone had been shot in the stomach and was badly hurt. Carl Durand hitched a team to a wagon, grabbed a mattress off a bed and went out and got the injured man. They laid him on the mattress and brought him into Puposky where he bled to death in the back room of the saloon. Several men and my father made a rough board coffin.

A wagon was backed into the yard and the coffin loaded by lantern light. He was given a Christian service in the schoolhouse on Sunday.

My father, Mr. Laqua and several other men who were on the town board, school board, etc. felt that a cemetery was necessary and got the railroad company to donate land for it. I am sure Charlie Peterson was the first one buried in it.

(Memories from Ruth Hodgdon Great North Country History 1980-Vol 2, No.3)

Sept 5, 1905

O.J. Laqua will establish a general merchandise store.

Mr. Laqua left yesterday for the Cities to purchase stock. The store is to be located in addition to the A.E. Smith building which is to be completed by Sept. 15. The general store was a long building with living quarters attached. In addition to staples such as flour, sugar, coffee, kerosene, there were oil lamps & chimneys, liniments for man and beast, chewing tobacco & snoose, yard goods, thread & needles, to mention a few items. The Post Office had its little space and the mail order catalogs were welcome arrivals, and heavily patronized.

(Memories from Ruth Hodgdon Great - North Country History 1980-Vol 2, No. 3)

Sept 28, 1905

R.H. Mitchell of Puposky is in Bemidji today. Mr. Mitchell owns a valuable tract of land at the edge of the townsite of Puposky and is now considering the plotting of an addition to the new town.

Nov 25, 1905

O.J. Laqua who was in Bemidji yesterday stated that a sawmill was in the course of construction in the new town of Puposky and that the plant would soon be in operation. The work of clearing out the streets of the town is now in progress and much other work is being done to give it a civilized appearance.

Dec 29, 1906

An ad in the Bemidji paper shows the Bank Of Puposky paid up capital \$10,000. O.J. Laqua - Asst. Cashier and A.E. Smith - Cashier.

April 24, 1907

Peter Maltrud has started a general store in Puposky and getting his share of business.

A. Hodgdon, agent for the M.R.L. & M. Railroad is building a residence for his own use.

Matt Haffner has rented the hotel portion of his business to his son, Matt Jr. but will continue to preside over the bar himself.

Sept 24, 1907

Mr. Anderson of Buena Vista has rented David Jones' Hotel at Puposky but Mr. Jones will retain the saloon business.

March 3, 1908

Charles Durand of Puposky wound up his logging contract last week after four months of successful operation.

March 19, 1908

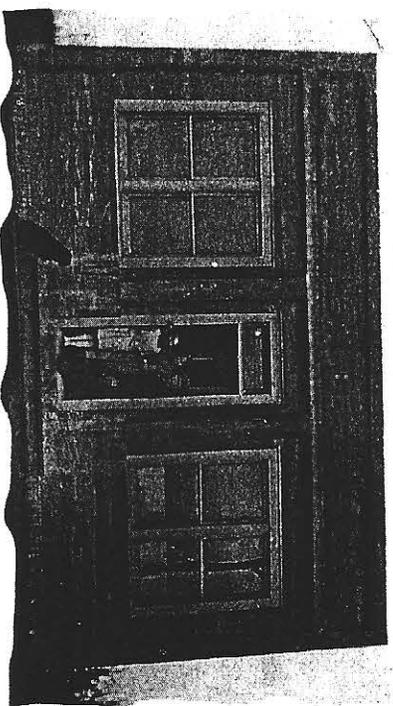
F.W. Berkely, the sawmill owner, moved his family from Island Lake to Puposky this weekend. He is ready with a crew of men to commence building his mill.

Aug 12, 1908

The Olson Berkely sawmill is getting ready to cut lath and shingles. They have already cut enough lath to show that they are capable of turning out a good product.

May 1, 1915

DURAND BUILDS NEW STORE



(Pioneer, Wednesday July 11, 1984)

Charles Durand, the popular merchant of Puposky, has begun work on the erection of a new store building to be used for general merchandise purposes. The building will be constructed with a full concrete basement, 24x80 feet. Mr. Durand found his former quarters crowded for his fast growing business and has long felt the need for more modern quarters. He was one of the first to start building in the towns along the Minneapolis, Red Lake and Manitoba railway.

Fall of 1922

(Memories from Nola Campbell – North Country 1979 – Vol 2, No 2)

Through contacts with the Veterans Bureau, my husband, John Campbell, learned of a special rehabilitation

program being outlined by the United States Government for disabled veterans of World War 1. Land east of Puposky was purchased from John Morrison by the Veterans Bureau.

We entered the town of Puposky and there at the store and Post Office we first met Carl Durand. This establishment formerly was owned and operated by Carl Durand's father, Charles Durand. Just across on the west side of the street was a modern concrete building owned by C.W. Clark and his son, Carlton. Farther on down the street was the hotel run by the Silvermans and the McKnight building, which was the residence of Millard and Delphine McKnight, son, Wilbur, and Grandfather McKnight. Within the building they also operated a confectionery store, local area switchboard, a barber shop and taxi service. The Red Lake Railroad Depot was at the end of the street and in the distance, Mud Lake could be seen, and was well known for its bountiful crops of wild rice, ducks that came there to feed and the good duck hunting it provided.

Picture Reference from Old School House:

(A): FR: Stanley Wilcox, Colan Campbell, Max Hoffman
2R: Albert Oman, Frank Schauls, Oscar Oman
3R: Agnes Schauls, Myrtle (Carlson) Hill, Hazel Campbell
4R: Bill Oman, Bill Hill, Andrew Oman
Teacher: Olga M. Anderson

(B): Known Students:

Hazel Burke, Myrtle (Carlson) Hill, Lizzie (Simons) Saude, Hazel Laqua, Ella Laqua, Grace Budd, Laura Burke, Edwin Simon, Annie Peterson, Charles Long, Jimmy Peterson, Ruth Hodgdon, Ray Bjerke, Eddie Peterson, Harry Hodgdon, Roy Freeman