



A Newsletter of the Norman County Genealogy Society

More of ... School in the "Good Old Days"

"...Santa would come and give us a bag of candy and a big red apple."

In its day, country school was great for those of us who attended it, and we have many, many pleasant memories.

The best one is the last day of school year. In the morning, we were emptying out our desks turning in books all excited about the afternoon picnic. When the parents would come with a pot luck afternoon lunch and we would have races and many other games for prizes that teacher

provided.

There were other entertaining times, such as Halloween and Thanksgiving.

At Christmas we put on a program for all the people in the district. We even built a small stage and had curtains that could be drawn between acts, and a large Christmas tree in front of the room. We had an exchange of gifts and Santa would come and give us a bag of candy

and a big red apple.

On Valentine's Day we exchanged valentines with each other.

Then there was Easter when we gathered pussy willows and colored them with colored chalk. The teacher would hide Easter eggs and then we would have an egg hunt.

Mother's Day, which came close to the end of the school year, was not forgotten. We would each, under the instruction of the teacher, carefully

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Flom School History

The Flom School was organized July 28, 1885. At first, it was a one-room schoolhouse which later was moved uptown and used as a meat market. The new schoolhouse soon became a two-room school as the enrollment became too large. At one time, there were 76 pupils enrolled.

When the school districts were first organized, the school term consisted of five months. There were 2½ months in the Spring Term.

The subjects taught were reading, writing,

arithmetic, and spelling. Later, geography, history, grammar, and physiology were added to the curriculum.

At first, the school was named by a family name as they donated the land on which the school was built.

The earliest records available show that Ole Thorson was clerk and Andrew Rogen was chairman of the school board in 1914. Mr. Lochrem was the first teacher.

Other teachers who have taught at the Flom

School as far as records show were the following: Ella Finley, Ida Larson, Lisa Flom, Nora Qualley, Alice Anderson, Hans Flom, Emma Midthune, Borghild Larson, Clara Senseth, Elenora Tomtengen, Olga Flom, Martha Qualley, Hannah Moe, Agnes Holden, Dr. Meighen, Kaija Carlson, Sarah Downs, Ida Knoff, Ida Clemenson, Florence Dwyer, Eleanora Erickson, Ingeborg Bottolfson, Merle Sherman, Mrs. Francis Fossen, Eldora Stende,

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Other School Districts in Flom Township

Plentywood School

The Plentywood School or Lien School was organized in 1875. The first teacher was Eleanor Evenson who came from Decorah, Iowa. She stayed with the Ole Rogen family.

Other teachers were: Grant Langen; Lewis Egg; Wilhelm Nilson; Georgia Osborn; Tobias Berkland; and Inger Olson.

Among the early pupils were: Sven and Tilla Huseby; Wilhelm Nilson (who went on to become a teacher at the school); Anne Rogen; Laura and Olive Tomtengen; Emil Nilson; Joseph and Willie Agrey; Josie Flitleth; Theo, Louis and Severt Prestegord; and Clarence Urdahl.

Banner School

Banner School was formerly the Korsgaden School. It was organized June 26, 1879. Sam

Olson of Twin Valley built the first schoolhouse.

The first school board members were Hans H. Korsgaden, Andrew Larson and Knute Larson.

The first teacher at Banner School was Joseph Ellefson. Other early teachers were: Mr. Jones; Henning Grutle; and Sarah Iverson. The teacher stayed at the Lars Korsgaden home and paid \$1.50 per week for board and room.

Some of the teachers in later years were: Dorothy Daniels; Elna Jellum; Alice Erickson; Ida Halvorson; Elvira Sorenson; and Mrs. Oscar Berg.

The enrollment at Banner School was quite large: 40 to 50 pupils.

The Banner School consolidated in 1952. After the consolidation, the building was torn down by Herman Rieck.

Previously published in: *This is our Story...Flom, Minnesota Including Flom and Area Townships 125th Anniversary 2002*

“The teacher stayed at the Lars Korsgaden home and paid \$1.50 per week for board and room. “

Information Needed on Old Rural Schools

The Norman County Genealogy Society is conducting a search for information concerning the rural schools that used to dot the countryside in Norman County.

Of particular interest is the district number, “official” vs. “popular”

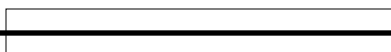
name of the school, its location, what may have happened to the building if it is no longer in the original location, plus names of teachers and pupils.

If you have any information, photos or artifacts from a rural

school, please contact:

Roland Carpenter,
President at
218-784-7423
rlcarpe@gmail.com

or
Marijo Vik, Secretary at
218-784-3794
mvik@loretel.net



More of ...School in the "Good Old Days" continued from Front Page

make a Mother's Day card for our mother.

My hat is off to those teachers who instructed us in reading, math, science, spelling, geography, history, English, and many other subjects including current events.

You see, in the country school there was not much else to do but study. We learned from each other by listening and observing what the other classes were doing.

To those of us who had the privilege of attending rural schools, we have memories that will be with us as long as we live.

The rural school had its

day, it came and went and gave way to a more modern form of education by consolidating these schools into larger, broader, more efficient forms of education that was impossible to give in a one-room school by one teacher.

*Written by
Vernon Dorseth,
Flom Township*

"To those of us who had the privilege of attending rural schools, we have memories that will be with us as long as we live."

Flom School History continued from Front Page

Mrs. Emil Meyer, Bernice Dalhaug, Maude Juelson, Alina Dahlen, Marilyn Stende, Emma Erion, Imogene Buchholz, Winnifred Daniels, Signe Sakrismo, Mrs. Orville Engebretson, Valborg Holte, Betty Lovejoy, and Ramona Kraft.

Later in years it was voted to consolidate with the Twin Valley School. The Twin Valley School did not have the room at the time to accommodate all the students. The junior high school students went to Twin Valley and the first

through sixth graders were transported to Flom. The exchange of pupils took place by the Wild Rice Church.

In 1954, the Flom School was closed. The building was sold to Clinton Rishovd and is now owned by them.

Note from the Editor:

As the people who attended these rural schools pass on, we will lose their personal memories of a by-gone era.

The Norman County Genealogy Society is about to embark on a project to capture the oral histories of our elders.

Prairie Roots
is published by the
Norman County
Genealogy Society

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Attach Address Label Here

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.rootsweb.com/~mnnorman

About Our Organization...

The Norman County Genealogy Society was formed on February 27, 1997 in Ada, MN for the purpose of assisting persons interested in researching family histories and sharing information.

Charter members of the society were Roland Carpenter, Iris Duklet, Colleen Goltz, Ardis Horn, Sharon Larson, Roger Niebeling, Gladys Prussia, Ronald Rasmusson, Christine Roesch, Ronald Roesch, DeFloren Rude, Edna Rude and Kathleen Skaurud.

A few resources available include:

- Obituaries taken from area newspapers.
- Cemetery records
- Marriage records
- Death records from 1871 to 1981
- Census records
- Civil War Veterans
- 1883 Pensioners on the Roll
- Churches and Towns

Much of this information is posted on our website.

The Society meets on the third Saturday of the month at 10:30 a.m. in the Summerfield Apartments Meeting Room or Norman County Museum (summer months only), Ada, MN.

Annual Dues are \$10.00 for a family membership (local) and \$5.00 for an associate membership (out of area.) Dues should be sent to the Treasurer:

Ardis Horn
100 1st Street East
Ada, MN 56510