

June 18, 2003

Bergville School as I remember it.docx

"BERGVILLE SCHOOL

AS I REMEMBER IT"

*Ardenhurst Township, Itasca County
Northome, Minnesota*



Mayflowers

BY: GLADYS SKOE BARRON
September 2008

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Dedication

To my father: Ener Eriksen Skoe, born April 4, 1871 in Bø, Telemark, Norway

To my mother: Oline Marie Tørrisdatter Olsen, born July 10, 1886 in Rendalen, Hedmark, Norway.

To my siblings: Earl and Vera, Stanton and Beatrice, Bena and Stan Petzel, Stanley and Rose, Marie and Tony Rozycski, Emilie and Wesley Karkela, Ray, Russell and Margaret, Gordon (Will) and to my husband, Don Barron.

My sisters, Bena, Marie and Emilie; as well as brothers, Ray, and Stanley, have given me many pages of interesting stories about their years in this small rural school, most of them before my time. I only wish that I had started this 20 years earlier, especially when Earl, Vera, and Stanton were able to tell about their experiences. Rich sources that I have not tapped yet are Gordie and the children of Earl and Vera and Stanton and Bea. I can't believe they don't have a lot to add. I hope that this spurs me and them on.

Marie Eldred Smilanich has written about Bergville, also, in her wonderful book, "Forget Me Nots." Both she and her husband, Mitch, had taught there. What is not written down will get lost forever. I am sure there are many others in this reading area who have stories and pictures to share.

In addition I have had help from Faye Estabrooks, Arlene and Muriel Foster, Betty Boquist, Jacque Olson, Marie Smilanich, Darlene Olson, Elsie Schmidt and Marilyn Paradis.

Old Bergville School

"Old Burnt Schoolhouse"
May 1923



Courtesy: ICHS 85848 CP110

The "Old Bergville School" was located on the west side of Island Lake, in Ardenhurst Township, on the SW1/4, of the SW1/4 of Section 20, according to John Rose in "Rose of Ardenhurst" p 26. It opened in the fall of 1909, and burned to the ground in May of 1923. The school and old post office were both named after the Bergs who were prominent settlers in Ardenhurst Township.

Bergville was a part of the Squaw Lake School District I rural schools.

Thora Nesseth remembers that during recess and noon hours, in the spring, they could go to the woods in back of the school and pick bunches of lovely Mayflowers in shades of white, pink and lavender. Marie told me recently that there were lots of Mayflowers

According to this picture on file at the Itasca County Historical Society in Grand Rapids, the old Bergville School burned in May 24, 1922. But all of the Skoes remember it as the spring of 1923. According to Bena, Stanley and Marie, the old Bergville School burned in 1923 when the slashings after logging, caught on fire. Marie said that she started 1st grade at Hillcrest in 1923, and transferred to the new Bergville School a month or so later. This school is still standing and is now owned by Walter and Marlys Breeze. Ray was able to purchase a large section of the original slate which he shared with many of the Skoes. Earl purchased two of the water coolers and the Russell Skoe and Wayne Skoe families have them.

I think is was Marie who remembers Ma saying. Don't worry about the fire. Pa's out fighting it. He was, himself, deathly afraid of fire. The neighbors were out in force, working together to prevent it from reaching their homes, especially the Knaeble farm. The fire burnt to the pine trees at Bubois'.

According to John Rose, Mrs. Art Bowman was the last of the early settlers to attend the "Old Bergville School".

After the school burned, the students walked to Shallow Pond to take their State Boards.

The New Bergville School Fall of 1923 – Spring 1955



The above picture taken in 1937.

The “New Bergville School” was built on the west side of Island Lake in Ardenhurst Township at the corner of State Highway 46 and South Island Road. Bergville students were bused to Hillcrest for the first couple of months in the fall. According to Marie and Bena, Pa drove the horses, wagon or sleigh. Hillcrest students transferred to Bergville in the fall of 1923 when the school was ready.

The Hillcrest School building was moved down behind the new Bergville School in the spring of 1924, and was used for some years for the 9th-10th grades.

For more fascinating information about the first year in the new school and later years, see Marie Skoe Rozycki's "Bergville, As I Remember It."

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Bergville School as I remember it.docx



Ogallala, SD, 2000 - Tommies



More recent photo

Many people seem to remember the pump.

List of Teachers and when Skoe Children were in School

Years	Teacher	Grades
1909-10	Lillian A. Hunter	1-8
1910-11	Margaret McHolland	1-4
	Lillian A. Hunter	5-8
1911-12	Margaret McHolland	1-8
1912-13	M. Lunney	1-8
1913-14	Winnifred Meyers	1-8
1914-15	Bertha (Ada) Durand	1-8
1915-16	Bertha Durand	1-8
1916-17	Bertha Durand	1-8
1917-18	Esther Naes Anderson	1-8
1918-19	Winnifred Meyers	1-8
1919-20	Vivian Reitan	1-8
	Winnifred Meyers	5-8

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Year	Teacher	Grades	Earl	Stanton	Bena Stanley	Marie Emilie	
1920-21	Vivian Eldred	1-8	5	5	4		
1921-22	Lillian Hegdahl	1-4			1		
	Vivian Eldred	1-8	6	6	5		
1922-23	Ruth Koepf	1-4			2		
	Vivian Eldred	5-8	7	7	6		
1923-24	Hilda Tonell	1-4			3	1	
	Ruth Koepf	5-8	8	8	7		
1924-25	Margaret Randal	1-4			4	2	
	Bessie Preston	1-4			4	2	
	Selma Skarsten	5-8	.	.			
	Hattie Opsdahl	9-10	9	9	8		
1925-26	Muriel Fish	1-4				3	
	Hattie Opsahl	5-8			5		
	Selma Skarsten ?	9-10	10	10	9		
1926-27	Jennie B. Hagen	1-4	.	.		4	1
	Francis K. Kampa	5-8			6		
	Selma Skarsten	9-10			10		
1927-28	Jennue B. Hagen	1-4	.	.			2
	Otto Talus	5-8	.	.		5	
	Selma Skarsten	9-10			7		
1928-29	Mildred Stortroen	1-4	.	.		6	3
	Margaret Richardson	5-8	.	.	8		
	Margaret Richardson	9-10	.				
.			
					Stanley Marie	Emilie	Ray Gladys
1929-30	Irene Almquist.	1-4	.	.			1
	Mitch Smilanich-Prin.	5-8	.	7	5		
		3.4	9				
1930-31	Kathryn Hamn	1-4	.	.		.	2
	Hazel Stonefield	5-8	.	8	6		
	Margaret Richardson?	9-10	10				
1931-32	Hazel Stonefield	1-8	.	9	7	3	
1932-33	Leonard Bengston	1-8	.	.	8	4	
1933-34	Leonard Bengston	1-8	.	.	.	5	1
1934-35	Mae Peloquin	1-8	.	.	.	6	2
1935-36	Mae Peloquin	1-8	.	.	.	7	3
1936-37	Agnes Paciotti	1-8	.	.	.	8	4
				Gladys	Russell	Gordon (Willis)	
1937-38	Agnes Paciotti	1-8	.	.5	1		
				Gladys	Russell	Gordon (Willis)	
1938-39	Hazel Livens	1-8	.	6	2		
1939-40	Florence Coolen	1-8	.	.7	3		
1940-41	Lenore Wilkens	1-8	.	.8	4		1

1941-42	Lenore Wilkens	1-8	.	.	.	5		2
1942-43	Alice Enquist	1-43
	Lenora Wilkens	5-8				6		
1943-44	Mrs. Milo Louks	1-4						4
	Mrs. Esther Anderson							.
	Mrs. Lindquist				7			
1944-45	Ruth Svard Louks	1-4
	Madeline Schuller	5-8			8			5
1945-46	Marie Smilanich	1-4
	Madeline Schuller	5-8						6
1946-47	Marie Smilanich	1-4
	Madeline Schuller	5-8						7
1947-48	Beatrice Lowery	1-4						
	Madeline Schuller	5-8						8
1948-49	Beatrice Lowery	1-4						
	Madeline Schuller	5-8						
1949-50	Beatrice Lowery	1-4						
	Madeline Schuller	5-8						
1950-51	Beatrice Lowery	1-4						
	Madeline Schuller	5-8						
1951-52	Beatrice Lowery	1-4						
	Madeline Schuller	5-8						
1952-53	Beatrice Lowery	1-6
1953-54	Lydia Johnson	1-6
1954-55	Lydia Johnson	1-6						

In the fall of 1953, the seventh and eighth graders transferred to Squaw Lake.

In 1955, the “Island Lake School” opened and the “New Bergville School” closed its doors.

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Bergville School as I remember it.docx

Bergville School Years

Years 1910-1911

Margaret McHolland 16 pupils \$50.00 per month

Lillian Hunter 16 pupils \$50.00 per month



Lillian Hunter, first teacher at Bergville, taken at Martin Nesseth's. Most of the early teachers boarded there.
Courtesy of Thora Nesseth

SCHOOL DISTRICT I STUDENT-TEACHER RECORDS ages ()

Edgar Johnson (6), Emma Jacobson (7), Paul Knaeble (7), George Anderson (8), Dorothy Johnson (8), Tena Jacobson (9), Mabel Knaeble (9), Carl Jacobson (10), Myrtle Knaeble (11), Andrew Anderson (12), Hilma Johnson (12), Frank Knaeble (12), Beda Johnson (14), Olga Rogstad (13), Melvin Urness (14)

The Welch school closed in the spring of 1910 and the students walked to Bergville.

SCHOOL DISTRICT I STUDENT-TEACHER RECORDS ages ()

Carl Johnson (6), Edgar Johnson (8), Emma Jacobson (8), Paul Knaeble (8), George Anderson (10), Dorothy Johnson (10), Tena Jacobson (10), Mabel Knaeble (10), Carl Jacobson (11), Myrtle Knaeble (12), Andrew Anderson (13), Hilma Johnson (13), Frank Knaeble (13), Olga Rogstad (14), Beda Johnson (15), Mabel Peterson (15) Edgar Johnson (6), Emma

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Years 1911-1912

Margaret McHolland 16 pupils \$50.00 per month

SCHOOL DISTRICT I STUDENT-TEACHER RECORDS ages ()

Mabel Mickelson (5), Bernice Knaeble (6), Carl Johnson (7), Peter Mickelson (7)
Hilda Anderson (8), Edgar Johnson (9), Paul Knaeble (9), Anna Mickelson (9), George
Anderson (11), Edith Carlson (11), Dorothy Johnson (11), Mabel Knaeble (11), Myrtle
Knaeble (13), Andrew Anderson (14), Verner Carlson (14), Frank Knaeble (14), Olga
Rogstad (15)



Picture of the Bergville Community about 1912

Possible people:

Grandpa Holen, Mickelsons, Nesseths, Carl Magnusson, Charles Johnson, baby (Thora Nesseth)

Years 1912-1913

M. Lunny 16 pupils \$47.50 per month

These may have been teachers that taught for part of the year.

Teachers: Mrs. Mickelson; Miss Anderson; Mrs. Johnson; Harry Price, 2-24-1913; Marie Price, 2-24-1913; Mrs. Mickelson, 4-4-1911; Mrs. Whipple, 4-16-1913; Mrs. Anderson, 4-21-1913; Mrs. Rogstad, 4-21-1913; Mr. Burgess, 5-1-1913

According to material about Bergville written by Faye Estabrooks, the following were students at Bergville in 1912-1913.

Anderson: George

Johnson: Dorothy, Ed, Carl

Knaeble: Bernice, Myrtle

Mickelson: Mabel, Anna, Peter

Saunders: Norman

SCHOOL DISTRICT I STUDENT-TEACHER RECORDS ages ()

Mabel Mickelson (6), Norman Saunders, Carl Johnson (7), Bernice Knaeble (8), Peter Mickelson (8), Edgar Johnson (10), Anna Mickelson (10), George Anderson (12), Dorothy Johnson (12), Edwin Rogstad (12) Sylvester Kolbe (13), Myrtle Knaeble (14), Andrew Anderson (15), Hilma Johnson (15), Olga Rogstad (16), Norman Saunders (16)

Years 1913-1914

Winnifred Meyers 17 pupils \$5250 per month

These may have been teachers that taught for part of the year.

Teachers: John Reitan, 2-12-1914; Mrs. Ole Reitan, 2-12-1914; Hilma Johnson, 2-12-1914; Mrs. Mickelson, 2-12-1914; Estelle Whipple, 3-10-1914; Mr. Howard, 3-11-1914; Mr. Corwin, 3-11-1914; Phyllis Moses, 3-20-1914; Norman Saunders, 3-20-1914; Anna Anderson, 3-13-1914

SCHOOL DISTRICT I STUDENT-TEACHER RECORDS ages ()

Irwin Mickelson (5), Evelyn Knaeble (6), Mable Mickelson (7), Norman Saunders (7) Carl Johnson (8), Berniece Knaeble (9), Peter Mickelson (9), Adelaide Reitan (9), Edgar Johnson (11), Anna Mickelson (11), Oliver Reitan (12), George Anderson (13), Dorothy Johnson (13), Mable Knaeble (14), Edwin Rogstad (14), Myrtle Knaeble (15), George Reitan (16)

Years 1914-1915

Bertha (Ada) Durand 19 pupils \$52.50 per month

These may have been teachers that taught for part of the year.

Teachers: Myrtle Knaeble, 10-27-1914; Myrtle Knaeble, 11-24-1914; Martin Reitan, 12-4-1914; Ada Durand, 12-4-1914; Irene Price, 12-11-1914; Myrtle Knaeble, 1-19-1915; Martin Reitan, 1-21-1915, Miss Morgan, 2-23-1915; Mr. Chapman, 3-9-1915; Mr. Corwin, 3-9-1915; Mr. Freeman, 4-8-1915; Hilma Johnson, 4-9-1915; Myrtle Knaeble, 4-9-1915; Mrs. Wm. Hanson, 4-13-1915; Mrs. Anderson, 4-19-1915; Mrs. Whipple, 4-27-1915; Miss Berg, 5-6-1915; Miss Gilbertson, 5-6-1915; Hazel Vandervort, 5-10-1915; Mr. Rogstad, 5-13-1915; Mrs. Reitan, 5-20-1915; Myrtle Knaeble, 5-14-1915; Frank Knaeble, 5-14-1915; Miss Hystedt, 5-26-1915; Mrs. McGregor, 5-26-1915; Miss Harcham, 5-26-1915

SCHOOL DISTRICT I STUDENT-TEACHER RECORDS ages ()

Irwin Mickelson (5), Harry Hanson (6), Evelyn Knaeble (6), Mable Mickelson (8), Ella Hanson (9), Carl Johnson (9), Bernice Knaeble (9), Peter Mickelson (10), Adelaide Reitan (10), Raymond Hanson (11), Edgar Johnson (11), Anna Mickelson (11), George Anderson (13), Willie Hanson (13), Dorothy Johnson (13), Oliver Reitan (13), Mable Knaeble (14), Edwin Rogstad (15), George Reitan (17)

Years 1915-1916

Bertha (Ada) Durand 19 pupils \$55.00 per month 1915-1916

Records missing

Years 1916-1917

Bertha (Ada) Durand 8 pupils \$65.00 per month

No records available.

Years 1917-1918

Ester Anderson 12 pupils \$65.00 per month

grade 1 Lillian Knaeble, Thora Nesseth

SCHOOL DISTRICT I STUDENT-TEACHER RECORDS ages ()

Lillian Knaeble (6), Leonard Hanson (7), Fred Knaeble (7), Evelyn Knaeble (9). Helen Morehouse (10), Carl Johnson (13), Edgar Johnson (13), Bernice Knaeble (13), Adelaide Reitan (14)

Years 1918-1919

Winnifred Meyers 12 pupils \$52.50 per month 1918

grade 1 Thora Nesseth

SCHOOL DISTRICT I STUDENT-TEACHER RECORDS ages ()

Hazel Knaeble (5), Leonard Anderson (6), Dora Hanson (6), Leila Morehouse (6), Thora Nesseth (6), Leonard Hanson (7), Lillian Knaeble (7), Fred Knaeble (8), Evelyn Knaeble (10), Helen Morehouse (11), Carl Johnson (13), Bernice Knaeble (13)
Hanson: Dora, Leonard

Years 1919-1920

Vivian Reitan and Winnifred Meyers 21 pupils \$65.00 per month

grade 3 Lillian Knaeble, Thora Nesseth, Bena Skoe

grade 4 Earl Skoe, Stanton Skoe

The records were hard to verify the year, but I think this
is correct (Gladys)

SCHOOL DISTRICT I STUDENT-TEACHER RECORDS ages ()

*Helen Morehouse, Dwight Mitchell, Clarice Knaeble (5),
Hazel Knaeble (6), John Nesseth (6), Leonard (Keno)
Anderson, Dora Hanson (7), Leila Morehouse (7) Bena
Skoe (7), Dora Hanson (7), Lillian Knaeble (8), Thora
Nesseth (8), Leonard Hanson (9), Fred Knaeble (9),
Stanton Skoe (9), Earl Skoe (10), Bernice Knaeble (14)*



Vivian Eldred Reitan

Years 1920-1921

Mrs. Vivian Eldred (Oscar) Reitan and Winnifred Meyers 21 pupils \$80.00 per month

grade 2 Johnnie Nesseth

grade 3 Keno Anderson, Hazel Knaeble

grade 4 Lillian Knaeble, Thora Nesseth, Bena Skoe

grade 5 Earl Skoe, Stanton Skoe

SCHOOL DISTRICT I STUDENT-TEACHER RECORDS ages ()

Some Skoes were listed under Skal, some Knaebles under Knackle.

Melvin Nesseth (5), Stanley Skoe (5), Laura Martinson (6), Clarice Kanackle (6), Stella Hanson (7), John Nesseth (7), Will Fryckman (7), Leonard Anderson (8), Hazel Kanackle (8), Bena Skoe (8), Thora Nesseth (9), Leonard Hanson (10) Stanton Skoe (10), Fred Knaeble (10), Earl Frykman (11), Earl Skoe (11), Irene Frykman (13), Evelyn Kanackle (13), Lester Fryckman (15)

Years 1921-1922

Lillian Hegdahl and Vivian Eldred 24 pupils \$100.00 per month

Grade 1 Stanley Skoe

Grade 3 Johnnie Nesseth

Grade 5 Lillian Knaeble, Thora Nesseth, Bena Skoe

Grade 6 Earl Skoe, Stanton Skoe

SCHOOL DISTRICT I STUDENT-TEACHER RECORDS ages ()

Melvin Nesseth (6), Stanley Skoe (6), Laura Martinson (7), Clarice Kanackle (7), Stella Hanson (8), John Nesseth (8), Will Fryckman (8), Leonard Anderson (8), Hazel Kanackle (9), Bena Skoe (9), Thora Nesseth (10), Leonard Hanson (11), Stanton Skoe (11), Fred Knaeble (11), Earl Fryckman (12), Earl Skoe (12), Irene Fryckman (14), Evelyn Kanackle (14), Lester Fryckman (15)

Years 1922-1923

Ann Ruth Koepp 30 pupils \$100.00 per month

Grade 1 Gladys Anderson, Lavern Fryckman, Mabel Hanson, Ethel Knaeble

Grade 2 Melvin Nesseth, Stanley Skoe

Grade 3 Stella Hanson, Clarice Knaeble

Grade 4 Johnnie Nesseth

Grade 6 Lillian Knaeble, Thora Nesseth, Bena

Grade 7 Earl Skoe, Stanton Skoe

SCHOOL DISTRICT I STUDENT-TEACHER RECORDS ages ()

Charlotte Lukenbill, Elva Lukenbill, Esther Lukenbill, Viola Johnson, Lawrence Jones
Gladys Anderson (6), Lavern Frykman (6), Mable Hanson (6), Ethel Knaeble (6), Melvin Nesseth (7), Stanley Skoe (7), Stella Hanson (8), Clarice Knaeble (8), Laura Martinson (8), Leonard Anderson (9), Wilfred Frykman (9), Hazel Knaeble (9), John Nesseth (9), Bena Skoe (9), Dora Hanson (10), Lillian Knaeble (10), Thora Nesseth (10), Josephine Anderson (11), Earl Frykman (11), Leonard Hanson (11), Stanton Skoe (11), Fred Knaeble (12), Eleanor Anderson (13), Earl Skoe (13), Evelyn Knaeble (14)

After Bergville School burned, the students walked to Shallow Pond for their State Boards.

June 18, 2003

Bergville School as I remember it.docx

School Picnic June 23, 1923



Courtesy of ICHS 85 843 CP 110

School Picnic at Martin Nesseth's Spring 1923

School Picnic held at Martin Nesseth's in the spring of 1923 after the school burned: No doubt, Ray, the youngest member of the Skoe family, was asleep inside the house.

Rena Nesseth Troy has been able to identify the following:

The woman standing on the steps on the left is Anna Mickelson.. a cousin or half sister of Grandma Rena.. The man on the right standing on the steps is either a Mickelson or Rena's brother Peter. The medium height girl 3rd from the left in the middle row, standing in front of the lady in black is my aunt Thora Nesseth Murphy. The woman in the medium colors dress, 5th from the left, I believe in my Great Aunt Annie Berg, Rena's sister. The 5th man from the right holding the baby in my Grandpa Martin Nesseth and the baby he is holding is in my dad Melvin Nesseth. The woman 4th to the left of Grandpa Martin is my Grandmother Rena. The little boy standing in front with the hat on, I believe, is my uncle John O. Nesseth. The man kneeling in front on the right is possibly my uncle Iver Krigen.

Back Row L-R: Leonard "Keno" Anderson, Lloyd Hanson, Mrs. Oscar (Christine) Hanson, holding Edna Hanson, Mrs. Ener (Lena) Skoe, holding Emilie, Mrs. Pete (Veda) Martinson, Mrs. Martin (Rena) Nesseth.

2nd row Evelyn Knaeble, Thora Nesseth, Bena Skoe, _____, Stanton Skoe, John Nesseth, Leonard Hanson, Earl Skoe, Fred Knaeble, Lillian Knaeble.

Front Row L-R: Dora Hanson, Stanley Skoe (7), Melvin Nesseth, Clarice Knaeble, Ethel Knaeble, Marie Skoe (6), Mable Hanson, Laura Martinson, Stella Hanson.

June 18, 2003

Bergville School as I remember it.docx

School Picnic at Martin Nesseth's June 23, 1923



Courtesy ICHS

Left to right: Lenard "Keno" Anderson, Earl Skoe (14), Stanley Skoe (8), Lenard Hansen
Melvin Nesseth, Stanton Skoe (12), John Nesseth, Fred Knaeble

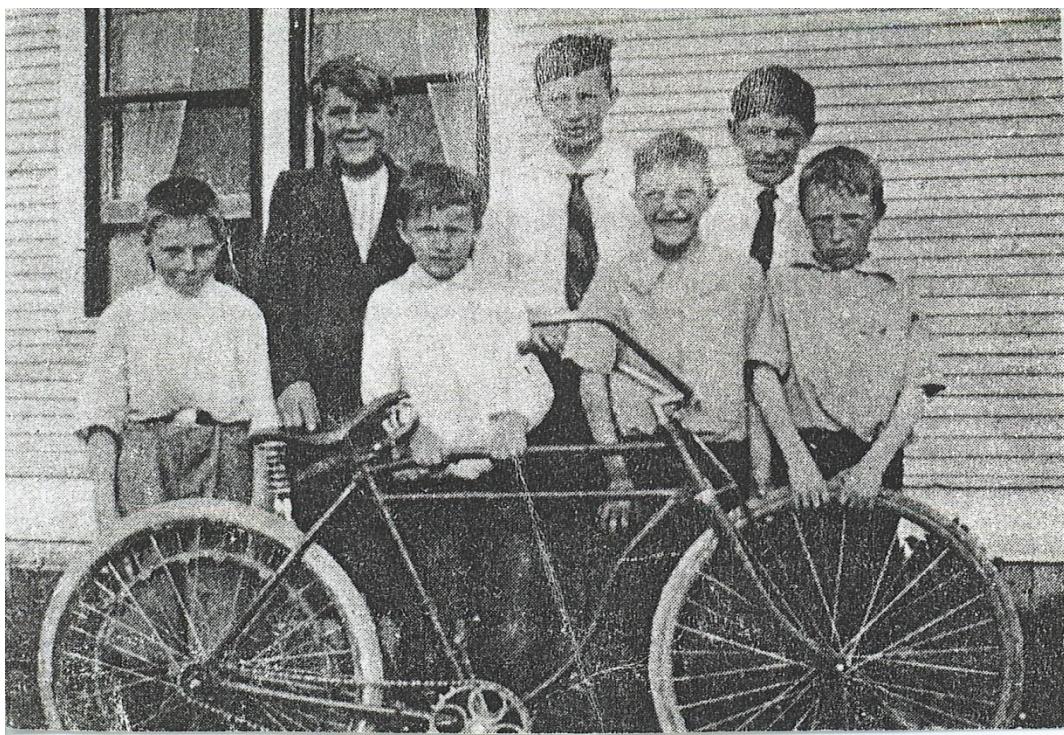
Please note that some of the boys are wearing knickers and all had wiener or marshmallow sticks.

June 18, 2003

Bergville School as I remember it.docx

John Oliver Nesseth's 10th Birthday Party - August 1923

Bergville School Chums



Back Row L-R: Leonard Hanson, Earl Skoe, Stanton Skoe,
Front Row L-R: Leonard "Keno" Anderson, Stanley Skoe, John Nesseth
and John's younger brother, Melvin Nesseth.

"This picture is a memory of an August 1923 birthday party taken at the Martin Nesseth home.....The bicycle in the picture was one of the first bicycles in Bergville, belonging to the Nesseth brothers.'

"At the time of this writing in 1981, Leonard Hanson is now living in Blackduck, Earl Skoe in Northome, Stanton Skoe in Kelliher. Leonard (Keno) Anderson is still living on his home site in Bergville. Stanley Skoe is residing in Anaheim, California. John Nesseth is in Grand Rapids, Minnesota and Melvin Nesseth is living on the Nesseth homestead in Bergville."

Excerpts from "DOWN MEMORY LANE" by guest columnist Rena (Nesseth) Troy. The Northome Record - Page 13 - Wednesday, August 5, 1981.

Years 1923-1924

Ruth Koepp \$100.00 per month taught grades 1-4
Hilda Tonnell \$105.00 per month taught grades 5-8

BERGVILLE SCHOOL 1923-1924 Consolidated

42 pupils

Bergville, Cunningham, Hillcrest

Bergville and Cunningham moved its students to Hillcrest in the fall of 1923, and then to Bergville when it opened up later in the fall. Cunningham stayed through the year of 1931-32. There is some indication that they may have been there for awhile in the fall of 1932. (see the 1932? Class picture)

Grade

1 Eleanor Bronner, Ethel Knaeble,
Marie Skoe
2
3 Keno Anderson, Melvin Nesseth,
Stanley Skoe
4
5 Johnnie Nesseth
6
7 Hazel Knaeble, Thora Nesseth, Ruth
Rose, Bena Skoe
8 Jack Bronner, Valentine Eldred,
Mary Guptil, Fred Knaeble, Earl Skoe,
Stanton Skoe



SCHOOL DISTRICT I STUDENT-TEACHER RECORDS

Anderson: Melvin, Leonard "Keno"
Bronner: John, Eleanor
Eldred: Valentine
Fish: Donald
Frickman: Earl, Wilfred
Guptil: Mary
Hanson: Dora, Leonard
Knaeble: Fred, Hazel, Lillian, Ethel
Rose: Lois, Ruth
Nesseth: John, Thora
Skoe: Bena, Earl, Stanton
Williams: Loren

Photo courtesy of Thora Nesseth

Bergville Spring Picnic 1924

Courtesy of ICHS CP110 85.842

Back Row L-R: John Nesseth, Thora Nesseth, Valentine Eldred, _____,
Mary Guptil, Leonard Hanson, Earl Skoe, _____.

2nd row Melvin Nesseth, Leonard "Keno" Anderson, Bena Skoe,

_____, _____, _____,
Stanton Skoe, _____, _____,
_____, Loren Williams.

Front Row L-R: Eleanor Bronner, Marie Skoe, Ethel Knaeble, _____,
_____, _____ Fryckman, _____,
Laura Martinson

Not identified: Melvin "Pele" Anderson, John Bronner, Donald Fish, Earl Frickman,
Wilfred Frickman, Dora Hanson, Fred Knaeble, Hazel Knaeble, Lillian Knaeble, Lois
Rose, and Ruth Rose.

Where is Stanley Skoe?

1923-1924 - 8th Grade Graduates



Is this the 1924 or 1926 graduating class. According to a letter Earl Skoe wrote to his Aunt and Uncle, they had sent him a suit that fit just fine in 1926, Skoe Saga, page 126.

Back Row L-R: Leonard Hanson, Earl Skoe (17), Ruth Koepp, Teacher, Loren Williams.

Front Row L-R: Mary Guptil, Jack Bronner, Fred Knaeble, Stanton Skoe (15), Valentine Eldred.

Years 1924-1925

Selma Skarsten \$115.00 per month taught grades 1-4

Bessie Preston \$115.00 per month taught grades 5-9

37 pupils

Grade

1

2 Marie Skoe

3

4 Melvin Nesseth, Stanley Skoe

5

6 Johnnie Nesseth

7

8 Lillian Knaeble, Helen Nelson, Thora Nesseth, Ruth Rose, Bena Skoe, Bruce St. Louis

9. Valentine Eldred, Mary Guptil, Leonard Hansen, Earl Skoe, Stanton Skoe

10

SCHOOL DISTRICT I STUDENT-TEACHER RECORDS

Anderson: Melvin

Bronner: Jack

Cattier: Kenneth

Eldred: Valentine

Fish: Donald

Frickman: Earl, Irene

Grilley: Olive

Guptil: Mary

Hanson: Leonard

Knaeble: Fred, Lillian

Nesseth: Thora

Rose: Lois, Ruth

Skoe: Bena, Earl, Stanton

Vandervort: Violet

Williams: Loren

St. Louis: Ivan

Years 1925-1926

Muriel Fish \$125.00 per month taught grades 1-4

Hattie Opsahl \$125.00 per month taught grades 5-8

Selma Skarsten \$125.00 per month taught grade 9

35 pupils Bergville, Cunningham, Hillcrest

Grade

1 Vera Urness

2

3 Eleanor Bronner, Ethel Knaeble, Laura Martinson, Hazel Nelson, Jessie Rose, Marie Skoe

4

5 Keno Anderson, Melvin Nesseth, Stanley Skoe

6

7 Johnnie Nesseth

8

9 Lillian Knaeble, Thora Nesseth, Ruth Rose, Bena Skoe, Bruce St. Louis

10 Valentine Eldred, Mary Guptil, Leonard Hanson, Helen Nelson, Earl Skoe, Stanton Skoe

SCHOOL DISTRICT I STUDENT-TEACHER RECORDS ages ()

Grades 1-8 Hattie M. Opsahl, Joyce Knudsen, Muriel Rose (6), Vera Williams (6), Edna Guptil (7), Merle Knaeble (7), Vera Urness (7), Norma Berg (8), Hazel Nelson (8), Jessie Rose (8), Marie Skoe (8), Ethel Knaeble (9), Lorenz McKinnon (9), Helmer Berg (9), Albert Cauchan (10), George Kaiser (10), Melvin Nesseth (10), John Rose (10), Stanley Skoe (10), Carl Westling (10), Clarice Knaeble (11), Albert St. Louis (11), Laura Martinson (11), Vernon Nelson (11), Leonard Anderson (12), Donald Fish (12), Olive P. Grilley (12), John Nesseth (12), Lois Rose (12), Iver Westling (12), Hazel Kaiser (12), Melvin Anderson (13), Bruce St. Louis (13), Ivan St. Louis (15)

There were 50 students. Miss Opsal organized a Camp Fire group for the 9th and 10th graders. Laurenz McKinnon was the son of Selma Skarsten.

At the end of his 10th grade, Earl Skoe's report card showed that he passes English II, Commercial Geography, Physics and Geology 10 and entered Grand Rapids High School in the fall of 1926 as did Stanton Skoe.

According to Earl's report card in 1926, he passed Modern Geography, Algebra, Ancient History, English II and Geometry. Five schools will come for a picnic.

June 18, 2003

Bergville School as I remember it.docx

9th grade girls 1925-1926



Courtesy of Bena Skoe

L-R: Bena Skoe, Lois Rose, Valentine Eldred, Ruth Rose, Mary Guptil, Thora Nesseth, Violet Vandervort

Teachers Jennie Hagan and Francis Kampa

Courtesy of Thora Nesseth (1998)

B. L-R: Jennie Hagan, Francis Kampa



Courtesy of ICHS 85844 CP110

Back Row L-R: 26_____, 27_____, 28_____, 29_____,
30_____, 31_____, 32_____,
33_____, 34_____, 35_____.

2nd row 16_____, 17_____, 18_____, 19_____,
20_____, 22_____, 23_____, 24_____,
25_____.

3rd row 9 Hazel Nelson, 10 Laura Martinson, 11_____,
12_____, 13_____, 14_____, 15_____.

Front Row L-R: 1 Marie Skoe, 2_____, 3_____, 4_____, 5,
_____, 6 Vera Urness, 7, _____, 8_____.

Others: 36_____, 37_____
38_____.

Where are Stanley and Emilie?

Years 1926-1927

Jennie B.Hagan \$125.00 per month taught grades 1-4. SD318
Francis K. Kampa \$125.00 per month taught grades 5-8. SD318
Thelma Skarsten \$125.00 per month taught grades 9-10

37 pupils
Bergville, Hillcrest, Cunningham

Grade

1 Emilie Skoe, Erling Knaeble

2 Vera Urness

3

4 Eleanor Bronner, Ethel Knaeble, Marie Skoe, Laura Martinson, Hazel Nelson, Jessie Rose

5

6 Keno Anderson, Melvin Nesseth, Stanley Skoe

7

8 Johnnie Nesseth

9

10 Lillian Knaeble, Helen Nelson, Thora Nesseth, Ruth Rose, Bruce St. Louis, Bena Skoe

SCHOOL DISTRICT 1 STUDENT-TEACHER RECORDS ages ()

Grades 5-8 Francis Kampa?

Melvin Roberg (10), George Kaiser (11), Vernon Nelson (11), Melvin Nesseth (11), John Rose (11), Stanley O. Skoe (11), Clarice Knaeble (12), Laura Martinson (12), Clarence Roberg (12), Albert St. Louis (12), Leonard Anderson (13), Katherine Ruth Hart (13), Hazel Kaiser (13), John Nesseth (13), Iver Westling (13), Hazel Knaeble (13), Clarice Johnson (14)

Years 1927-1928

Mildred Stortroen \$100.00 per month taught grades 1-4

Jennie B. Hagan \$100.00 per month taught grades 5-8

Otto W. Talus \$100.00 per month taught grades 9-10

40 pupils

Grade

1

2 Erling Knaeble, Jimmy Knaeble, Emilie Skoe

3 Vera Urness

4

5 Eleanor Bronner, Ethel Knaeble, Laura Martinson, Jesse Rose, Marie Skoe

6

7 Keno Anderson, Clarence Johnson, Melvin Nesseth, Stanley Skoe,

8 Johnnie Nesseth

9

SCHOOL DISTRICT I STUDENT-TEACHER RECORDS ages ()

Grades 5-8 Jennie B. Hagan

Eleanor Bronner (10), Hazel Nelson (10), Jessie Rose (10), Marie Skoe (10), Ethel Knaeble (11), Melvin Roberg (11), George Kaiser (12), Vernon Nelson (12), Melvin Nesseth (12), John Rose (12), Stanley Skoe (12), Carl Westling (12), Clarice Knaeble (13), Laura Martinson (13), Clarence Roberg (13), Leonard Anderson (14), John Nesseth (14), Hazel Knaeble (14), Clarence Johnson (15)

Junior High Grades 9 & 10 Otto W. Talus

Donald Fish (13), Theresa Gauslow (14), Olive Grilley (14), Kathrin Hart (14), Hazel Kaiser (14), Bertha Newman (14), Lois Rose (14), Clifford Bullock, Margaret Newman

Years 1928-1929

Mildred Stortroen \$100.00 per month taught grades 1-4

Margaret Richardson \$100.00 per month taught grades 5-8

Wilford Nelson \$100.00 per month taught grades 9-10

40 pupils Bergville - Hillcrest - Cunningham

Grade

1

2

3 Erling Knaeble, Jimmy Knaeble, Emilie Skoe

4 Muriel Rose, Vera Urness

5

6 Eleanor Bronner, Ethel Knaeble, Laura Martinson, Jessie Rose, Marie Skoe

7

8 Keno Anderson, Melvin Nesseth, Stanley Skoe

9

10 Johnnie Nesseth, Theresa Gauslow

SCHOOL DISTRICT I Records

Grades 5-8 Margaret Richardson

Muriel Leseman, Edna Guptil (10), Myrtle Knaeble (10), Vera Williams (10) Jessie Rose (11), Marie Skoe (11), Hazel Nelson (11) Eleanor Bronner (12) Ethel Knaeble (12), George Kaiser (13), Melvin Nesseth (13), Stanley Skoe (13), Carl Westling (13), Vernon Nelson (14), Albert St. Louis (14), Laura Martinson (14), Leonard Anderson (15)

Grades 9-10 W. R. Nelson, Jr.

Myrtle Bondy (14), Donald Fish (14), Clarice Knaeble (14), Kathrin Hart (15), Hazel Kaiser (15), Theresa Gauslow (15), John Nesseth (15)

NOTE: Bill graduated from BSTC in 1928 and played in the "Night Caps" in Bemidji when he was there. Marie said that Bill Nelson lived across the Highway 46 in the small house where we later had Bible School lessons. This building was later moved to be a part of Club 46. She thinks Bill's father was a dentist in Bagley.

Bergville School Picnic - Spring 1929????

Identified by Donald Parr - Oregon, June 1999

Back Row L-R: Muriel Rose, Remi Knaeble, Vera Urness
2nd row Mina Noble, Oliver Roeberg?, Jimmy Knaeble, Eldon Urness,
Donald Parr
Front Row L-R: Emilie Skoe, Gladys Nelson, Lillian Kringer or Kringo, Bonnie
Knaeble, Erling Knaeble

Donald Parr identification: Mina Noble is probably wrong. Is this Lillian Kringer or Myrtle St. Louis? Betty Bender Boquist didn't think that was Bonnie Knaeble in the front row.

Identified by Gladys Nelson Lamoureaux - Confirmed by Betty Bender June 2000

Back Row L-R: Muriel Rose, Rami Knaeble, Vera Urness
2nd row Ruth Naes, _____, _____, _____, Donald
Parr
Front Row L-R: Emilie Skoe, Gladys Nelson, Myrtle (Babe) St. Louis, _____,

Gladys NL identification: Is Ruth Naes correct? Betty BB said that Myrtle St. Louis was nick-named Babe, as did Phil St. Louis. Marie Skoe Rozycki said that Myrtle was a real cute girl.

BACK ROW L-R: Muriel Rose, _____, Vera Urness

MIDDLE ROW L-4 _____, _____, _____, _____,
Donald Parr

FRONT ROW L-R: Emilie Skoe, Gladys Nelson, _____, _____,

Years 1929-1930

Mitchell Smilanich \$95.00 per month taught grades 1-4

Irene Almquist \$95.00 per month taught grades 5-8

40 pupils Bergville, Hillcrest, Cunningham

Grade

1 Betty Bender, Ruth Naes, Mina Noble, Raymond Skoe

2

3 Erling Knaeble, Jimmy Knaeble, Eldon Urness

4

5 Muriel Rose, Emilie Skoe, Vera Urness

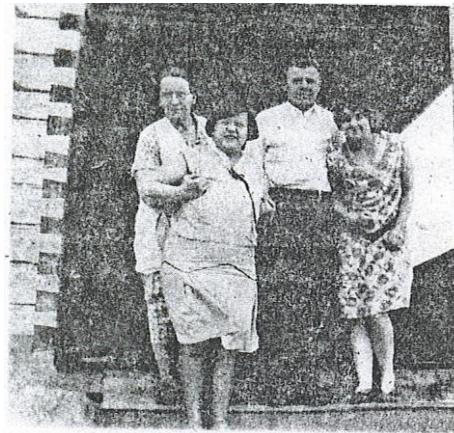
6

7 Eleanor Bronner, Ethel Knaeble, Laura Martinson, Hazel Nelson, Jessie Rose, Marie Skoe

8

9 Keno Anderson, Melvin Nesseth, Stanley Skoe

10



Spring Time 1929: Elizabeth Eldred, unknown, Mitchell Smilanich, Marie (Eldred) Smilanich

I met Mitchell at a teacher's institute for the Grand Rapids School System in September of 1929. He was assigned as principal at the two-room Bergville School.

SD 318 RECORDS MISSING

Thora Nesseth Murphy said that her brother, John, should have been listed here.

Marie remembers that Irene (Gertrude) Almquist taught upper grades and had a nice singing voice. Ray remembered her as a rather heavy set woman who wore flowered dresses and glasses, not as common in those days as now.



November 8, 1929
Grades 1-4

Grades 1-4
Back Row L-R:

_____,
_____,
_____,
_____,

2nd row
Mina Noble, Ruth Naes,
Betty Bender,

Front Row L-R:
Ray Skoe,



Spring 1930
1st graders

1st graders
Back Row L-R:

Betty Bender, Mina Noble,
Ruth Naes

Front Row L-R:

_____,
Ray Skoe

Betty Bender Boquist wonders
if the other first grader is a
Workman.

June 18, 2003 Bergville School as I remember it.docx

Years 1930-1931

Hazel Stonefield \$95.00 per month taught grades 1-4
Kathryn Hamm \$95.00 per month taught grades 5-8

35 pupils Bergville, Hillcrest, Cunningham

SD 318 Teachers Records Missing

Grade

1 Lois Eskelson, Ray Knaeble, Glenn Parr

2 Raymond Skoe

3

4 Erling Knaeble, Jimmy Knaeble, Eldon Urness

5

6 Muriel Rose, Emilie Skoe, Vera Urness

7

8 Eleanor Bronner, Ethel Knaeble, Laura Martinson, Hazel Nelson, Jessie Rose, Marie Skoe, Carl Westling

9

10 Keno Anderson, Melvin Nesseth, Stanley Skoe

SD 318 Records missing

Marie remembers that Hazel Stonefield introduced her students to wind up victrolas, folk dancing, India Ink for lettering posters, bringing bottles to school and glue old Christmas cards on and varnishing, etc. She gave us some of our dresses. Marie remembers that she told the boys to take Marie roller skating, but Marie didn't have any shoes to attach them to, they were clamp-ons. Where in the world did they go roller skating then?

Bergvillle School Picnic Spring 1931

number = grade level

Front Row L-R: (1) Emilie Skoe- (2) Gladys Nelson- (3) Lillian K -
(4) Bonnie Knaebel- (5) Erling Knaebel-

Middle Row L-R: (6) Mina Noble- (7) Oliver Roeberg- (8) Jimmy Knaebel-
(9) Eldon Urness- (10) Donald Parr-

Back Row L-R: (11) Muriel Rose- (12) Remi Knaebel- (13) Vera Urness-

Years 1931-1932

Hazel Stonefield \$100.00 per month taught grades 1-4

Otto Talus \$100.00 per month taught grades 5-9

36 pupils Bergville, Hillcrest, Cunningham

Grade

1 Jacqueline Bender, Glenn Parr

2

3 Betty Bender, Ruth Naes, Raymond Skoe

4

5 Eldon Urness

6

7 Muriel Rose, Emilie Skoe, Vera Urness

8

9 Eleanor Bronner, Ethel Knaeble, Laura Martinson, Hazel Nelson, Jessie Rose, Marie Skoe, Carl Westling

ISD 318 records missing

After this year, the bus took the 9th graders to Northome.

Marie attended 9th grade at Bergville, 10th grade in Grand Rapids. Otto Talus married Hazel Stonefield.

Years 1932-1933

Leonard Bengston \$100.00 per month taught grades 1-8

14 pupils Cunningham School re-opened in the fall of 1932.

Grade

1 Irene Grilley, Glen Parr

2

3

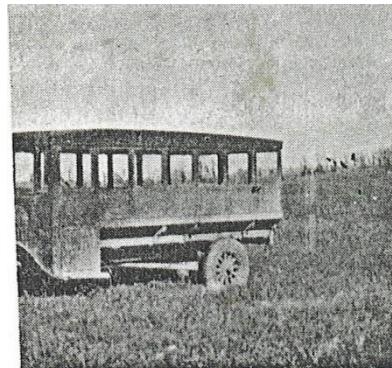
4 Ray Skoe

5

6 Eldon Urness

7

8 Muriel Rose, Emilie Skoe, Vera



Urness

Elmer Anderson School Bus

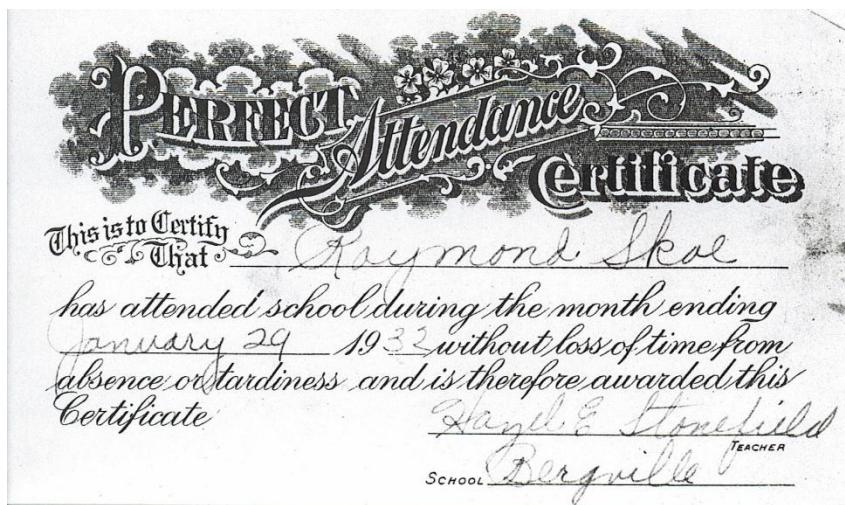
SD 318 Records

ages ()

Irene Grilley (5), Glen Parr (5), Ray Knaeble (7), Lois Eskelson (7), Bonnie Knaeble (8), Raymond Skoe (9), Gladys Nelson (10), Mina Noble (10), Donald Parr (10), Eldon Urness (11), Emilie Skoe (11), James Knaeble (12), Vera Urness (13), Muriel Rose (13)

Leonard Bengston attended B.S.T.C. in 1932. Luverne Egan, a cousin of the Skoe kids from Remer, student taught this year.

Emilie Skoe took the bus to 9th grade in Northome. She said that she went to Grand Rapids for her 10th grade. Elmer Anderson drove the school bus some of the years when Emilie and Ray went to Northome.



Pictures 1932-1933

This picture of Leonard Bengston and Jimmy Knaeble was given to Jimmy by our cousin, Laverne Zumbrunnen. Laverne student-taught at Bergville that year.



Bonnie Knaeble



Emilie Skoe



Back row L-R
 Emilie Skoe, Vera Urness, Graden Calkins
 4th row
 Gladys Nelson, _____, Mina Knaeble
 3rd row
 Betty Bender, Ruth Naes, Ray Skoe
 2nd row
 _____, Bonnie Knaeble, Doris Naes
 Front Row
 Gladys Skoe, Marilyn Knaeble, Ray Knaeble

Bergville Spring Picnic 1933

Back Row L-R: Emilie Skoe, Vera Urness, _____
4th row Gladys Nelson, _____, Mina Noble
3rd row Betty Bender, Ruth Naes, Ray Skoe
2nd row _____, Bonnie Knaeble, Doris Naes

Gladys Nelson Lamoureaux identified the following in April 2000

Back Row L-R: Emilie Skoe, Vera Urness, Gradon Calkins
4th row Gladys Nelson, Marilyn Knaeble, Mina Noble
3rd row Betty Bender, Ruth Naes, Ray Skoe
2nd row Marlys Smith, Bonnie Knaeble, Doris Naes
Front row L-R: Gladys Skoe, Marilyn Knaeble, Ray Knaeble

NOTES on Gladys NL identifications: Gladys NL said that Mina N skipped a grade, which one? Gradon Calkins is one everyone else missed except Gladys NL. May 28, 2000 at Pat Storzbach Bender's, Betty BB confirmed Gladys N and herself in the picture. Gladys Skoe Barron thinks that that was not Marilyn K in the 4th row. Also, Marlys Smith, 2nd row, was too young for that year. Gladys SB said that she and Marilyn K were to start 1st grade in the fall of 1933. Darlene Clemons Olson said that she started 1st grade at Bergville then, too, but sometime later went to Cunningham, not sure when, it depended upon the school bus route.

Years 1933-1934

Leonard A. Bengston \$95.00 per month taught grades 1-8

15 pupils

Grade

1 Darlene Clemons, Marilyn Knaeble, Gladys Skoe

2 Irene Grilley, Glenn Parr

3

4

5 Mina Noble, Ray Skoe

6 Eldon Urness

7

8

SD 318 Records ages ()

Marilyn Knaeble (6), Gladys Skoe (6), Darlene Clemons (6), Irene Grilley (6), Glen Parr (6), Lois Eskelson (8), Ray Knaeble (8), Bonnie Knaeble (9), Raymond Skoe (10), Mina Noble (11), Gladys Nelson (11), Donald Parr (12), James Knaeble (13), Eldon Urness (12) Leonard Warren (13)

This was the first year that the bus took the 9th graders to Northome so Emilie went there.

Years 1934-1935

Mae Peloquin \$95.00 per month taught grades 1-8

14 pupils

Grade

1 Edward Pope

2 Darlene Clemons, Marilyn Knaeble, Gladys Skoe

3 Glenn Parr, Irene Grilley

4

5

6 Raymond Skoe

7

8 Eldon Urness

SD 318 ages ()

Edward Pope, Darlene Clemons, Marilyn Knaeble, Gladys Skoe, Irene Grilley, Glen Parr

Ray Knaeble (9), Bonnie Knaeble (10), Raymond Skoe (11), Gladys Nelson (13), Mina Noble (13), Donald Parr (13), Eldon Urness (13), James Knaeble (14)

Years 1935-1936

Mae Peloquin \$95.00 per month taught grades 1-8

14 pupils

Grade

1

2

3 Darlene Clemons, Gladys Skoe

4

5

6

7 Mina Noble, Raymond Skoe, Irene Grilley

8

SD 318 Records missing

Ann Wick says that she was a student teacher at Bergville this year. Ann later married Bill Promersberger. She graduated from B.S a C. in 1936. She remembers Ray Skoe and is a friend of Marie Skoe.

Years 1936-1937

Agnes Paciotti \$90.00 per month taught grades 1-8

18 pupils

Grade

1

2

3

4 Gladys Skoe, Irene Grilley,

5

6

7

8 Raymond Skoe

SD 318 Records missing

According to the Northome Record, June 1995, Lester Grilley was killed in 1937, his grave is marked as 1937. He was our school bus driver earlier.

Years 1937-1938

Agnes Paciotti \$90.00 per month taught grades 1-8

15 pupils Bergville and Hillcrest

Grade

1 Russell Skoe

2 Earl Estabrooks

3

4 Muriel Estabrooks

5 Marilyn Knaeble, Gladys Skoe

6

7 Gladys Estabrooks, Raymond Knaeble, Harold Estabrooks

8 Arlene Estabrooks

SD 318 Records missing

The Don Estrabrooks' family moved to Bergville from Wildwood in November 1937. Faye Estabrooks said that Harold quit school in the spring of 1938. Should Elaine Deering and Philip Noble be listed here?

Elaine and Marlys Schmidt – probably 4th grade. Elaine lived with her grandmother Schmidt across the road from the school. Marlys was her cousin and was the daughter of Percy and Elsie Schmidt



June 18, 2003

Bergville School as I remember it.docx

BERGVILLE SCHOOL 1938-1939

Hazel Livens \$720.00 per year taught grades 1-8

14 pupils

Grade

1 Louis Cosselman, Clifford "Jiggs" Estabrooks

2 Russell Skoe

3 Earl Estabrooks, Ronald Knaeble, Charles Reitan

4 Phillip Noble

5 Muriel Estabrooks

6 Marilyn Knaeble, Gladys Skoe

7 Dorothy Roehning

8 Gladys Estabrooks, Raymond Knaeble



Left Side

Back to front

Gladys Estabrooks

Dorothy Roehning

Gladys Skoe

Marilyn Knaeble

Muriel Estabrooks

Right Side

Back to front

Harold Estabrooks

Ray Knaeble

Philip Noble

Ron Knaeble

Russell Skoe

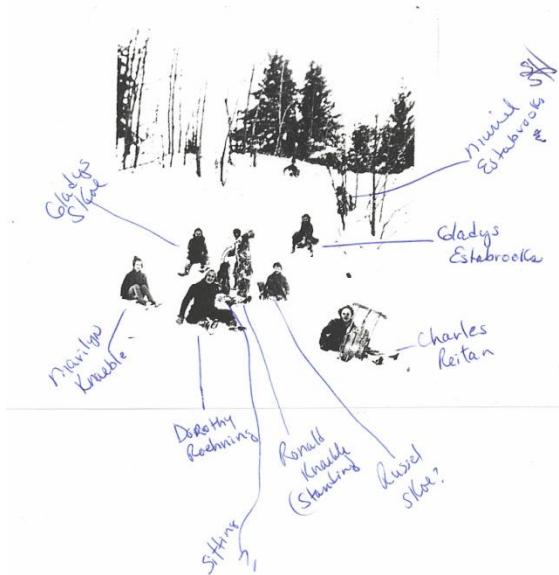
Charlie Reitan

Clifford Estabrooks



Only first grader
Clifford
Estabrooks

Dorothy Roehning
8th grade
Clifford Estabrooks
1st grade

Winter Fun 1938/1939 Across Road from School

Left Picture: Sliding on cardboard and sleds across Hwy 46.

BACK TO FRONT: _____, _____, Gladys Estabrooks,
Gladys Skoe, _____, Marilyn Knaebel, Ronald Knaebel, Dorothy Roehning,
Charles Reitan.

June 18, 2003

Bergville School as I remember it.docx

Weiner and Marshmallow Roast at Grilley's Resort Fall of 1938



Picnic at Grilley's resort. Hazel Livens, the teacher, boarded there.

BACK ROW L-R: Hazel Livens, Ray Knaeble, Marilyn Knaeble, Dorothy Roehning, Gladys Estabrooks

FRONT ROW L-R: Clifford Estabrooks, Charlie Reitan, Philip Noble, Russell Skoe, Ronald Knaeble, Muriel Estabrooks, Gladys Skoe.

June 18, 2003

Bergville School as I remember it.docx

Spring Picnic - 1939

L-R FROM BACK: Gladys Estabrooks, Dorothy Roehning, Gladys Skoe, Marilyn Knaeble, Muriel Estabrooks.

RR FROM BACK: Harold Estabrooks, Ray Knaeble, Philip Noble, Ron Knaeble, Earl Estabrooks, Russell Skoe, Charlie Reitan, Clifford Estabrooks.

June 18, 2003

Bergville School as I remember it.docx

Trip to Grand Rapids Achievement Day Winners - Summer of 1939



L-R: Gladys Skoe, Dorothy Roehning, Miss Livens, Gladys Estabrooks

Gladys Estabrooks won 1st in written and 2nd in oral spelling.

Gladys Skoe won 1st in oral and 2nd in written spelling.

Dorothy Roehning won ??.

June 18, 2003

Bergville School as I remember it.docx

Years 1939-1940

Florence V. Coolen \$810.00 per year taught grades 1-8

14 pupils

Grade

1 Lawrence Cosselman, Lee

Knaeble

2 Louis Cosselman, Clifford
Estabrooks

3 Russell Skoe

4 Earl Estabrooks, Ronald Knaeble,
Charles Reitan

5 Phillip Noble

6 Muriel Estabrooks

7 Marilyn Knaeble, Gladys Skoe

8 Donald Roehning

Florence V. Coolen graduated in 1936 ?
from Bemidji State Teachers College.
She was from Bigfork and married a
Carlson.



Back row L-R

Muriel Estabrooks, Dorothy Roehning, Donald Roehning, Marilyn Knaeble, Gladys Skoe

Second row L-R

Ron Knaeble, Phil Noble, Charles Reitan, Earl Estabrooks

Front row L-R

Lawrence Casselman, Lee Knaeble, Russell Skoe, Clifford Estabrooks, Louis Casselman

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Bergville School as I remember it.docx

Spring Picnic at Guptils – 1940 Ladies Aid Picture



BACK ROW L-R: Standing - Olga Noble, Delphine Anderson, Sophia Guptil, Mrs. Vivian Langston, Mrs. Vera Skoe, Leona Anderson and Elsie Schmidt.

FRONT ROW L-R: Kneeling - Frances Reitan, Mrs. Wm. Bronner, Mrs. Lucille Wilsey, Mrs. E.H. Roehning and Ruth Peterson.

June 18, 2003

Bergville School as I remember it.docx
"DOWN MEMORY LANE" By Henry Elhard, Editor Emeritus.
Excerpts from The NORTHOME RECORD PAGE 3

"Memories of Island Lake and Bergville Communities"
March 3, 1982

"The group of ladies pictured here in this setting of virgin pine on Island Lake is the Island Lake Lutheran Ladies Aid. The location is one the west side of the lake, known 40 years ago as the Win Guptil place. Today it is the site of Dr. and Mrs. Don Prosser's home. These ladies took considerable pride in helping neighbors and friends, and were very much involved in civic projects to help their community to grow and prosper. It was the usual thing to have these ladies serve the food for large political rallies held at either the Guptil lake home or at the neighboring John Rose place.'

"Stately pine was the setting during the early days of Island Lake development, they were preserved by the owners and the woodsman's axe was restricted. These very fine pine trees still grace that particular area on the west shore of Island Lake. This site was not only used for large political picnics, but used by many individuals from a wide area, also family and relatives from a distance came to enjoy this beautiful spot in our North Country.'

"As we paged through our early history material this week, we noted that several area Farmers' Clubs, Luther and Walter League young people were welcome to use this outdoor facility. The Guptil and Rose families enjoyed the young people in the area and often joined in their activities, consisting of Bible Study, devotions, games, and social time. We recall Mrs. Rose playing the piano for the young people as they participated in an old fashion "songfest." For many years folks from north Itasca and South Koochiching counties held annual picnics, under the auspices of the Highland Farmers' Club. One of the committees consisted of the following members: Freeman Griffith, Mrs. C.D. McLean, Mrs. F.C. Engelking, Mrs. B.F. Crandall and J.J. Kaiser. They made the necessary arrangements for the use of Guptil's place and the amusement of the day.'

"We wish to thank Faye Estabrooks for the use of this picture taken from the files of Mrs. Delphine Anderson, also appreciate Mrs. Leona Anderson in helping to identify the ladies in the snapshot. This should capture a lot of memories for those who lived in the Island Lake and Bergville communities long ago."

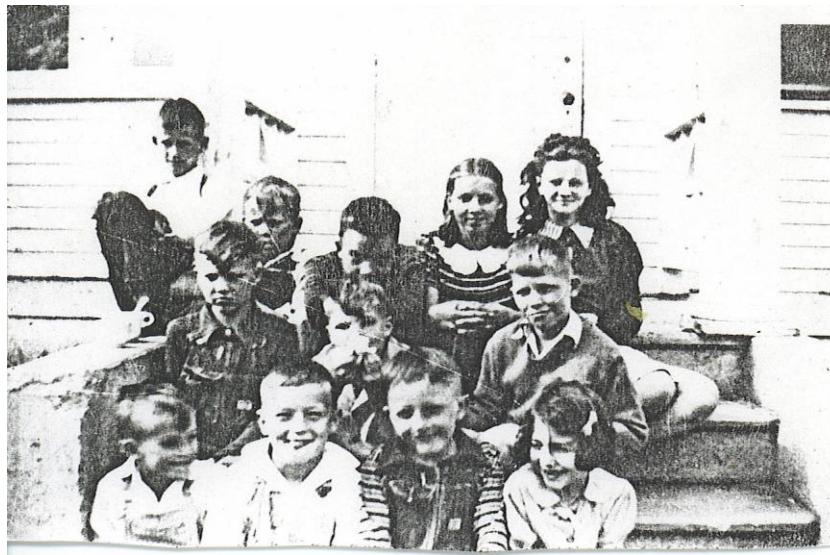


Years 1940-1941**Lenore H. Wilkens \$990.00 per year taught grades 1-8**

16-17 pupils

Grade

- 1 Ralph Langston, Marlys Schmidt, Gordon Skoe, Kip Wilsey
- 2 Lawrence Cosselman, Lee Knaeble
- 3 Louis Cosselman, Clifford Estabrooks
- 4 Russell Skoe
- 5 Earl Estabrooks, Ronald Knaeble, Charles Reitan
- 6 Phillip Noble
- 7 Muriel Estabrooks
- 8 Marilyn Knaeble, Gladys Skoe

Bergville Spring Picnic, May 29, 1941

Back Row L-R: Ronald Knaeble, Charlie Reitan, Phillip Noble, Muriel Estabrooks,
Marilyn Knaeble

Middle Row: L-R: Russell Skoe, Jiggs Estabrooks, Earl Estabrooks

Front Row: L-R Kip Wilsey, Lee Knaeble, Gordon Skoe, Marlys Schmidt

Years 1941-1942

Lenora H. Wilkins \$1035.00 per year taught grades 1-8

16 pupils

Grade

- 1 Florence Cosselman, Ralph Langston, Alvera Toombs
- 2 William Gunderson, Marlys Schmidt, Gordon Skoe, Kip Wilsey
- 3 Lawrence Cosselman, Lee Knaeble
- 4 Clifford Estabrooks
- 5 Maurice Matheson Russell Skoe, Dale Toombs
- 6 Earl Estabrooks, Ronald Knaeble
- 7 Iris Matheson, Phillip Noble
- 8 none

Orth School closed in the spring of 1942, according to John Rose, in Chapter 3, "Rose of Ardenhurst."

According to a letter that I wrote to Russell and Gordie in the spring of 1942, SS, Russell and Lawrence Cosselman won the declam contests in 1942.

Years 1942-1943

Alice Engkvist \$765.00 per month taught grades 1-8

20 pupils

Orth closed in the spring of 1942, and according to John Rose, students transferred to Bergville.

Grade

- 1 Evelyn Cosselman, Florence Cosselman, William Estabrooks
- 2 none
- 3 William Gunderson, Marlys Schmidt, Gordon Skoe, Lauren Vandervort, Kip Wilsey, Mina Clemons
- 4 Lawrence Cosselman, Lee Knaeble
- 5 Clifford Estabrooks
- 6 Maurice Matheson, Russell Skoe, Jeanene Vandervort
- 7 Earl Estabrooks, Ronald Knaeble, Iris Matheson
- 8 Phillip Noble, Harry Vandervort

Years 1943-1944

**Mrs. (Milo) Ruth Svard Loucks \$810 per month taught grades 1-8
Alice Lindquist - the year was finished by Mrs. Naes**

12 pupils
Grade
1 none
2 Billy Estabrooks
3 none
4 Gordon Skoe, Marlys Schmidt, Kip Wilsey
5 Lee Knaebel
6 Clifford Estabrooks
7 Verna Nelson, Vernon Nelson, Russell Skoe
8 Earl Estabrooks, Ronald Knaebel, Wayne Nelson

According to the Northome Record, attendance at Bergville in 1944 was 30. Gordon Skoe won in declam in Grand Rapids and won a trip to the Minnesota State Fair in the fall. Gordon and Russell were living at Simmermans.

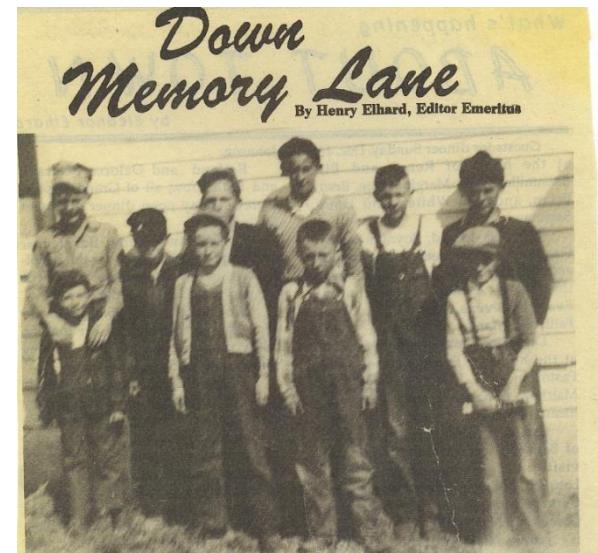
Bergville Spring Picnic May 29, 1944

BACK ROW L-R: Wayne Nelson, Clifford "Jiggs" Estabrooks, Russell Skoe (7), Ronald Knaeble, Earl Estabrooks, Vernon Nelson.,

FRONT ROW L-R: Bill Estabrooks, Lee Knaeble, Gordon Skoe (10), Kip Wilsey (holding rolled up papers), Marlys Schmidt and Verna "Dolly" Nelson.

To identify those who appear in this photo, Jiggs and Faye Estabrooks scrutinized the snapshot and Jiggs came up with the names listed above, according to "Down Memory Lane."

"With most of our area schools now in session we thought it would be appropriate to publish a photo of one of our near-by schools at Bergville, about five miles south of Northome on Highway 46. This school is now being used as the Ardenhurst Town Hall. When this 1944 picture was taken, this school building was called the new Bergville School house. The original (or the old one) burned



This photo was taken by Mrs. Edgar Johnson (Lydia) about 50 years ago of the Bergville country school. Lydia was the teacher at that time. We received this snapshot from members of Lydia's family after she had passed away at Dinuba, Calif. They were unable to give us the names of the kids Lydia taught at the time, but we assume that folks who live or have lived in the Bergville area will recall them.

The picture was taken on the south side of the school house. After Mrs. Johnson left to teach elsewhere, we recall one other Bergville school teacher who was a good friend of ours and accepted a teaching position of the older children there. He was Mitch Smilanich. Mitch passed away many

years ago, but his wife still lives in Minneapolis and comes to Northome occasionally to visit relatives and friends in the area. Her maiden name was Marie Eldred—many of the younger relatives now call her Aunt Marie.

Hope our readers have fun guessing who these little Bergville kids are during this holiday season.

(Mom and I—the two emeritus writers for the Record—wish to extend to all the Northome Record readers our warm and sincere thanks for all the kindness shown us the past year and other years as well. May this season be happy, merry, and bright. And may the blessings of this season continue on through the year 1991.)

June 18, 2003 Bergville School as I remember it.docx
in the year 1923, according to Bena Skoe Petzel. This is one of the only country schools still in existence today. All the others in the immediate area have been razed. Pupils now are transported to schools at Squaw Lake, Blackduck, Bigfork or Northome in modern buses.'

"This photo was taken during the 1943-44 school year alongside of the Bergville school. Mrs. Milo Louks was the teacher. Some misfortune befell Mrs. Louks and the school year was then finished by Esther Naes.'

"Esther was a long time resident of the Island Lake community. She always had a desire to be a country school teacher and it was in later life that she entered Bemidji State College to complete a course in teaching and to receive a degree in elementary education. She not only taught in country schools in Minnesota but taught many years in the state of Montana. She used to write some very vivid and interesting accounts of her trips to the Treasure State and the schools she taught in--most of them were in Hutterite communities. She taught school late in her life, poor health attributed to her leaving the teaching profession, spending the rest of her life in California with her daughter, Signe.'

"We thank Bena Petzel for the use of the photo and the Estabrooks for their help in identification. There are a lot of memories here."

"DOWN MEMORY LANE" By HENRY ELHARD
Editor Emeritus. Excerpts from The NORTHOME RECORD - PAGE 3, Tuesday,
September 6, 1983

June 18, 2003

Bergville School as I remember it.docx

Excerpts from The NORTHOME RECORD - Tuesday, December 25, 1990 "DOWN MEMORY LANE" By Henry Elhard, Editor Emeritus

"This photo was taken by Mrs. Edgar Johnson (Lydia) about 50 years ago at the Bergville country school. Lydia was the teacher at that time. We received this snapshot from members of Lydia's family after she passed away at Dinuba, California.....'

"The picture was taken on the south side of the school house. After Mrs. Johnson left to teach elsewhere, we recall one other Bergville school teacher who was a good friend of ours and accepted a teaching position of the older children there. He was Mitch Smilanich. Mitch passed away many years ago, but his wife still lives in Minneapolis and comes to Northome occasionally to visit relatives and friends in the area. Her maiden name was Marie Eldred-many of the younger relatives now call her Aunt Marie....."

Years 1944-1945**Marie Smilanich \$1,260 per year taught grades 1-8**

28 pupils



Marie Eldred Smilanich

Grade

- 1 Don Estabrooks, Carla Holt, David Knaeble, Roger Langston, Lorraine Nelson
 - 2 Evelyn Langston, James Lowery
 - 3 William Estabrooks, Leona Holt, Ralph Langston, MaryJo Traxinger
 - 4 Harold Holt, Rohl Peterson
 - 5 Mina Clemons, William Holt, David Lowery, Marlys Schmidt, Gordie Skoe, Kip Wilsey
 - 6 Wanda Holt, Lee Knaeble
 - 7 Clifford Estabrooks, Opal Holt, Robert Traxinger
 - 8 Verna Nelson, Vernon Nelson, Russell Skoe, Laurence Traxinger
- NOTE: According to the Northome Record, "Island Lake News" - September 27, 1944,

Russell Skoe, winner in the county Minnesota quiz contest last spring, is down at the State Fair, no doubt representing the contest there.

Years 1945-1946

Marie Smilanich \$1,500.00 per year taught grades 1-8

27 pupils

Grade

1 Loren Anderson, Vernon Nelson, Betty Lou Pavola, James Pavola, Betty Lou Boquist

2 Don Estabrooks, David Knaeble, Roger Langston, Lorraine Nelson, John Pope

3 Keith Anderson, Evelyn Langston, Bernhard Nelson, Roberta Pavola

4 William Estabrooks, Ralph Langston

5 Harold Holt, Rohl Peterson

6 Mina Clemons, William Holt, David Lowery, Marlys Schmidt, Gordon Skoe, Kip Wilsey

7 Lee Knaeble

8 Clifford Estabrooks

Years 1946-1947

Marie Smilanich \$1,875.00 per year taught grades 1-4

Madeline Schuller \$1,875.00 per year taught grades 5-8

30 pupils

Grade

1 Robert Falls, Edwin Hughes, Carol Langston, Darrel Nesseth, James Pope, Wayne Wilsey

2 Vernon Nelson

3 Don Estabrooks, Carla Holt, Pearl Hughes, David Knaeble, Roger Langston, James Lowery, Lorraine Nelson, John Pope

4 Evelyn Langston, Bernhard Nelson

5 William Estabrooks, Leona Holt, Ralph Langston, Thomas Wagner

6 Harold Holt, Samuel Hughes, Rohl Peterson

7 Mina Clemons, Michael Falls, William Holt, David Lowery, Marlys Schmidt, Gordon Skoe



Madeline Schuller
Stayed at the Simmerman's
"Toot horn over every hill"

June 18, 2003

Bergville School as I remember it.docx

Bergville School Dinner, June 1946 Holts lived at Grilley's cabin

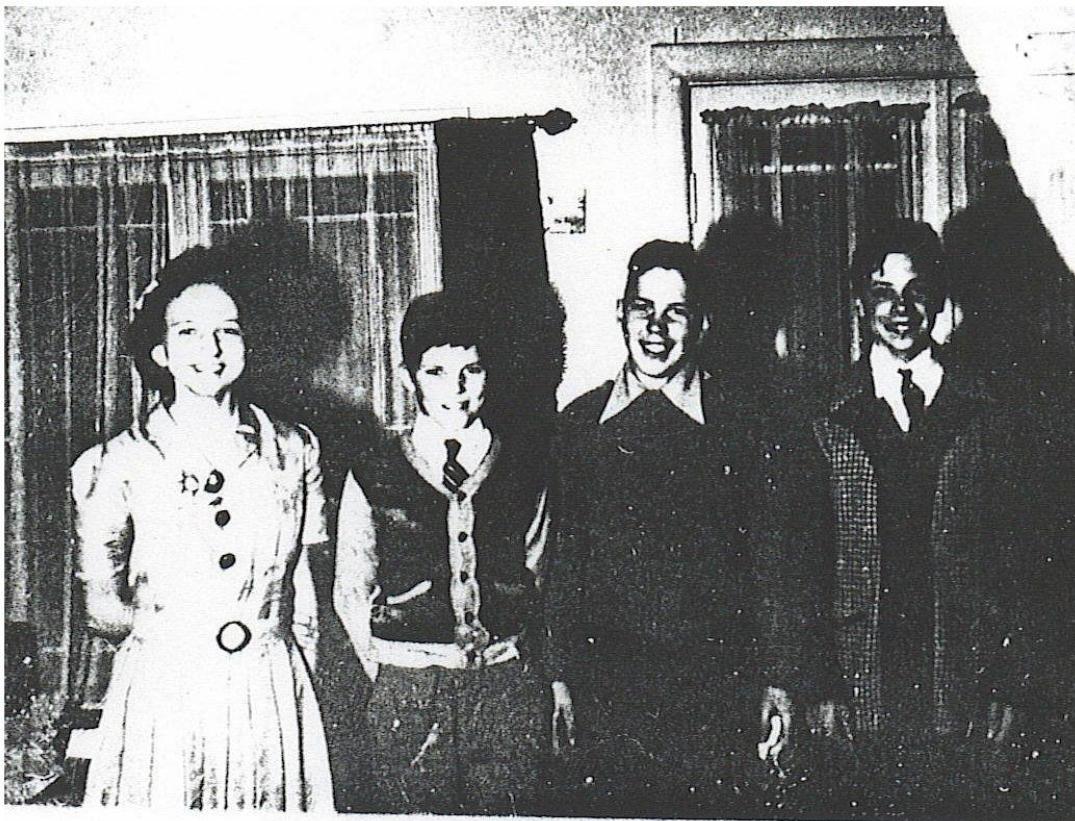


Around the table-L front: _____, Jiggs Estabrooks, _____,
Esther Schlattman, Jerry Fish, _____, _____,
_____.

How come Esther Schlattman was there?

Bergville Eighth Graders 1945-1946

L-R: Opal Holt, Jiggs Estabrooks, Jerry Fish, Vera Calkins



Faye Estabrooks used this picture in January of 1983 (1947-1948?)

BACK ROW L-R: Bill Estabrooks, Kip Wilsey, David Lowery, Bill Holt, Lorraine Nelson, Mina Clemons, Mike Falls, Wanda Holt, Tommy Wagner, Lee Knaeble, Gordon Skoe (7). Rohl Peterson, Leona Holt, Harold Holt.

FRONT ROW L-R: Eddie Hughes, Vernon Nelson, Johnny Pope, Bernard Nelson, David Knaeble, James Lowery, Don Estabrooks, Wayne Wilsey.

Years 1947-1948

Beatrice Lowery \$1,975 per year taught grades 1-4

Madeline Schuller \$1,975 per year taught grades 5-8

30 Pupils

Grade

1 Morris Hughes, Dyanne La Brie, Margaret Schmidt

2 Robert Falls, Edwin Hughes, Carol Langston, Darrell Nesseth, James Pope, Wayne Wilsey

3 Vernon Nelson

4 Don Estabrooks, Carla Holt, Pearl Hughes, David Knaeble, Roger Langston, James Lowery, Lorraine Nelson, John Pope

5 Evelyn Langston, Bernhard Nelson

6 Billy Estabrooks, Ralph Langston, Thomas Wagner

7 Samuel Hughes, Rohl Peterson

8 Mina Clemons, Michael Falls, David Lowery, Marlys Schmidt, Gordon Skoe, Kip Wilsey, Bernard Wilson



Beatrice Lowery
Boarded at Simmerman's

June 18, 2003

Bergville School as I remember it.docx

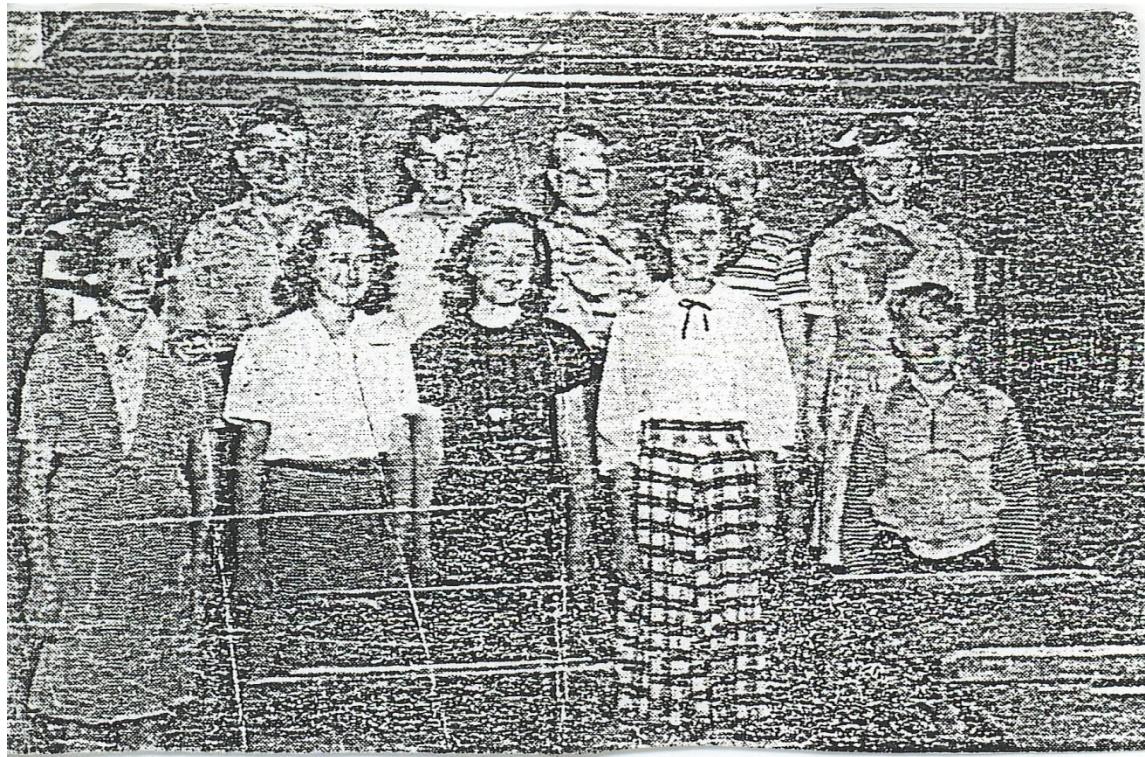
Bergville School Picnic spring 1948



Fay Estabrooks used this picture in January of 1983 for the Northome Record

BACK ROW L-R: Bill Estabrooks, Kip Wilsey, David Lowery, Bill Holt, Lorraine Nelson, Mina Clemons, Mike Falls, Wanda Holt, Tommy Wagner, Lee Knaeble, Gordon Skoe, Rohl Peterson, Leona Holt, Harold Holt.

FRONT ROW L-R: Eddie Hughes, Vernon Nelson, Johnny Pope, Bernard Nelson, David Knaeble, James Lowery, Don Estabrooks, Wayne Wilsey.

Announce Rural Field Day Winners 1947-1948

Top contestants in the rural schools current events quiz Saturday were: Shirley Morsch, left front, third, Max; Ann Mattson, Effie; Verone Rylander, Effie; and Veerne Gunderson, Houp.

BACK LEFT: Helen Lattary, Max; Garth Waller, Dora Lake; Gordon Skoe, first, Bergville; Harvey Westrom, second, Dunbar; Willard Talberg, Pomroy; and Arlene Reed, Trout Lake.

Gordon Skoe of Bergville and Harvey Westrom of Dunbar will represent Itasca County rural schools at the current events contest and the state fair net fall.

The boys were top winners in a field of more than 300 contestants. Third place went to a girl, Shirley Morsch of Max. Gordon's teacher was Miss Madeline Schuller, and Harvey was taught by Mrs. Ellen Korpi.

Tests were held under the supervision of Mrs. Gertrude Hall, rural schools supervisor last Saturday morning and winners were announced in the afternoon.
The contest was open to students of the sixth, seventh and eighth grades.

Togo athletes won first place in the field events with 41 points, ten more than their closest rivals from Bergville. Effie finished third. Trout Lake was fourth and Max was fifth. Plaques were presented to the first three schools and will remain in their possession for the next year. Events included dashes, accuracy throw and distance toss with a softball, high jump and broad jump.

Note: Gordie told his sister, Gladys, in 1999, that he thought he probably won the current events division in Grand Rapids because Simmermans, where he was living, took the Minneapolis paper and he had a chance to keep up with the Minnesota and world news. What's more he read it.

Years 1948-1949

Beatrice Lowery \$2250 taught grades 1-4

Madeline Schull \$2500 taught grades 5-8

40 pupils

Grades

- 1 James Bowers, Maybelle Holt, Alan Knaeble, John Langston, Ronald Lauer, John Nesseth, Gay Watson, Mary Week
- 2 Betty Everts, Louise McGregor, Margaret Schmidt, Philip St. Louis
- 3 Robert Falls, Carol Langston, Darrel Nesseth, Marlys Olson, James Pope, Wayne Wilsey
- 4 James Lowery, Vernon Nelson
- 5 Patsy Bowers, Don Estabrooks, Carla Holt, David Knaeble, Roger Langston, Lorraine Nelson, Dale Norby, Gerald Olson, John Pope, Rodney Wiese
- 6 Bobby Gunderson, Evelyn Langston, Della McGregor, Bernhard Nelson
- 7 Billy Estabrooks, Verne Gunderson, Ralph Langston, Jeannine Norby
- 8 Daphine Backman, Verne Bowman, Evelyn McGregor

Years 1949-1950

Beatrice Lowery \$2387 per year taught grades 1-4

Madeline Schuller \$2662 per year taught grades 5-8

39 pupils

Grades

1 Jim Anderson, Claire Langston, Norman Week, Robert Week

2 Maybelle Holt, Alan Knaeble, John Langston, John Nesseth, Gay Watson, Mary Week

3 Lee Hehl, Morris Hughes, Louise McGregor, Margaret Schmidt, Philip St. Louis

4 Edwin Hughes, Carol Langston, Darrel Nesseth, Marlys Olson, James Pope, Wayne Wilsey

5 James Lowery, Vernon Nelson

6 Don Estabrooks, Carla Holt, Pearl Hughes, David Knaeble, Roger Langston, Lorraine Nelson, Gerry Olson, John Pope, Rodney Wiese

7 Bobby Gunderson, Evelyn Langston, Della McGregor, Bernhard Nelson

8 Billy Estabrooks, Verne Gunderson, Ralph Langston

Years 1950-1951

Beatrice Lowery \$2,450 per year taught grades 1-4

Madeline Schuller \$2,725 per year taught grades 5-8

40 pupils

Grades

1 Shirley Hughes, Mae McGregor, Bonnie Watson, Kathryn Week

2 Jim Anderson, Claire Langston, Norman Week, Robert Week

3 Maybelle Holt, Morris Hughes, Alan Knaeble, John Langston, John Nesseth, Gay Watson, Mary Week

4 Lee Hehl, Morris Hughes, Louise McGregor, Margaret Schmidt, Philip St. Louis

5 Edwin Hughes, Carol Langston, Darrel Nesseth, Marlys Olson, James Pope, Wayne Wilsey

6 James Lowery, Vernon Nelson

7 Don Estabrooks, Carla Holt, Pearl Hughes, David Knaeble, Roger Langston, Lorraine Nelson, Gerry Olson, John Pope, Rodney Wiese

8 Bobby Gunderson, Evelyn Langston, Della McGregor, Bernhard Nelson

Years 1951-1952

Beatrice Lowery \$2512 per year taught grades 1-4

Madeline Schuller \$2850 per year taught grades 5-8

43 pupils

Grade

1 Terrance Allen, Alan Langston, Gail Nesseth, Nyla St. Louis

2 Shirley Hughes, Erling Knaeble, Lawanda Vyak, Claire Langston, Mae McGregor, Warne Vandervort, Kathryn Week

3 Bernice Knaeble, Janice Smith, Sharon Vandervort, Norman Week, Robert Week

4 Maybelle Holt, Morris Hughes, Alan Knaeble, John Langston, John Nesseth, Jerome Vandervort, Mary Week

5 Lee Hehl, Louise McGregor, Margaret Schmidt, Philip St. Louis

6 Edwin Hughes, Carol Langston, Darrel Nesseth, Marlys Olson, James Pope, Wayne Wilsey

7 James Lowery, Vernon Nelson

8 Roy Dahlgren, Don Estabrooks, Carla Holt, Pearl Hughes, David Knaeble, Roger Langston, Lorraine Nelson, John Pope

This is the last year that the 7th and 8th graders stayed at Bergville. There were 43 students, the largest enrollment in the history of Bergville

Years 1952-1953

Beatrice Lowery \$2,700.00 per year taught grades 1-6

31 pupils

7th & 8th graders transferred to Squaw Lake. Cunningham School closed and students went to Bergville

Grade

1 Sharon Allen, Janet Bauman, Randy Knotts, Lavina Rushman, Terry Gene Satre, Barbara Thompson

2 Terrance Allen, Alan Langston, Gail Nesseth, Francis Rushman, Nyla St. Louis

3 Richard Curb, Lucille Giese, Shirley Hughes, Lawanda Kyak, Opal Mader

4 Claire Langston, Darrel Pope, Darlene Scheu, Richard Stilkey

5 Maybelle Holt, Morris Hughes, Alan Knaeble, John Langston, David Mader, Constance McLinn, John Nesseth

6 Carol Bauman

Years 1953-1954 (Cunningham)

Lydia Jackson \$2,975.00 per year

28 pupils

Grade

1 Philip Allen, Gloria Carpenter, Alan Curb, Rose Dee, Lonnie Kelly, Duane Nelson,
Dale Scheu

2 Sharon Allen, Janet Bauman, Terry Sater

3 Terry Allen, Beth Giese, Alan Langston, Gail Nesseth, Nyla St. Louis

4 Ricky Curb, Lucille Giese, Lawanna Kyrk, Opal Mader

5 Claire Langston, Darrel Pope, Darlene Scheu

6 Alan Knaeble, John Langston, David Mader, Connie McLinn, John Nesseth

All moved to new brick building in February 1955

Grade

1

2 Philip Allen, Gloria Carpenter, Alan Curb, Rose Dee, Lonnie Kelly, Duane Nelson,
Dale Scheu

3 Sharon Allen, Janet Bauman, Terry Sater

4 Terry Allen, Beth Giese, Alan Langston, Gail Nesseth, Nyla St. Louis

5 Lucille Giese, Opal Mader, Ricky Curb, Lucille Giese, Lawanna Kyrk, Opal Mader

6 Darrell Pope, Darlene Scheu, Claire Landston

Grades 1-6 remained at the Bergville School until February of 1955. At that time,
students and the teacher, Lydia Johnson were transferred to the new Island Lake
School, a new two-room brick building. In 1995, this school is used as an Ardenhurst
Township community hall. In effect, it was a continuation of the Bergville School for
grades 1-6.

BERGVILLE SCHOOL 1954-FEBRUARY 1955

Lydia Jackson taught grades 1-6

All students transferred to the new Island Lake School in February of 1955

Wide windows, trim desks, inlaid linoleum floors, fluorescent lighting — this interior of the Island Lake School is a far cry from the log schoolhouse. This school was built in 1953. Here, in 1957, Mrs. Lydia Jackson was the teacher.



101

from book "Pines, Mines and Lakes"

Reflections of the Skoe Children

Bena Skoe Petzel

Excerpts about Bena's memories of Bergville School taken from Bena's write-up about her life written at the time of her 81st birthday.

1920-1927 (grades 1-10). Compiled in December of 1993

Some of my earliest memories are of Earl, Stanton, Stanley and I all walking the mile along the shore of Island Lake, turning away from the lake by the big pine trees at Dubois corner and walking about a quarter of a mile more to the Old Bergville School, also known as the "Old Burnt Schoolhouse."

Bergville was one of the northern schools in the large Itasca County School District No. I, which extended from south of Grand Rapids to the Koochiching County line. There were some fifty one-room schools with ten to thirty students in each. We had well-supervised teachers and a good supply of books, paper, pencils and art supplies because the southern part of the district extended into the Mesabi Iron Range and received tax money from the mining companies there.

CONSOLIDATION AFTER THE BIG FIRE:

In the summer of 1923, there was pressure to consolidate the northern schools of Itasca County; Moose Park, Shallow Pond, Bergville, Cunningham Haupt, Orth and Hillcrest. Even though District I promised to bus the children who lived more than two miles from school, a site could not be agreed upon. That same summer, a forest fire swept out of control and burned the Bergville School to the ground. A new two-room school to serve the schools around Island Lake, Bergville, Cunningham and Hillcrest, was started but was not ready until a month or so after school began in September.

Our father drove all of us, Earl, Stanton, Stanley, Marie, who was starting first grade, and me, the Knaebles, Fred, Lillian, Hazel, Clarice and Ethel, Laura Martinson, Thora, John and Melvin Nesseth and the two teachers, Miss Ruth Koepp and Miss Hilda Tonell, who boarded at Nesseth's. How we all got in the wagon, I don't know, but that's how I remember it.

TREES HAVE LEAVES OR MY FIRST PAIR OF GLASSES:

One event from my grade school days that I will never forget is the day I got my first pair of glasses. Even in the primary grades, I had to walk to the front of the room to read the blackboard. When the school nurse came to check our eyes, I set off a volley of embarrassing laughter because I tried to read the eye chart and said the letters were a tree. After school the nurse came to our house and talked to my parents. Someone, I think it was my mother's first cousin, Ed Rogstad, took us the forty-five miles to Bemidji where Dr. Garlock fitted me with glasses. When the glasses came in the mail, we picked them up at Charlie Johnson's Bergville Post Office just up the hill from the school. I did not open the package until I got home and went upstairs to be by myself. I put them on and looked out my upstairs bedroom window. For the first time, to my amazement and delight, I could see separate leaves on the trees as I looked out of the girls' bedroom window.

Although my father always told me I would ruin my eyes by holding the book so close to my face, I always loved to read. I think, because I had trouble seeing the ball and playing many of the games the other children played, I grew up as a rather shy child who often retreated to books.

GRADUATION FROM EIGHTH GRADE:

I graduated from the eighth grade in 1925, a year earlier than usual because I had been moved ahead one grade. I think it was the second grade while I attended school in the Grand Rapids, MN area. There were five of us graduating that year, Thora Nesseth, Lillian Knaeble and I from the old Bergville School, Ruth Rose from Hillcrest and Bruce St. Louis from Cunningham.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL:

It was decided to move the Hillcrest School four miles from its old site across from the Win Guptil farm to Bergville. A fabulous teacher, Selma Skarsten, was hired to teach two years of high school by herself. Earl, Stanton and I all had our first two years of high school under Miss Skarsten. She taught English, Algebra, Geometry, General Science, Biology and History. I don't know how she juggled it, but none of her students had any academic problems when they went as Juniors to the larger school in Grand Rapids.

GRAND RAPIDS HIGH SCHOOL:

School District I encouraged students to finish high school by giving the \$10 a month received in State Aid back to any student over 60 miles from home so they could attend a high school in the district. About one third of the students at Grand Rapids were out-of-towners. They doubled up in rented rooms, found after school jobs, and batched. Another third came in on busses from local rural areas. Others of us lived with local families and worked for our room and board.

Stanley Oliver Skoe 1921-1931 (grades 1-10)

Compiled in February of 1993

THE BIG FIRE AND DAYS AT HILLCREST SCHOOL:

The year the old Bergville School burned down in 1923, we went to Hillcrest for a month or two until the new school was finished. Pa took us with the horse and buggy. I remember one day when we had a great deal of excitement at the school. Guptils lived right across the road from the Hillcrest school. Someone in an old car, a big one, ran over Guptil's cow. The cow was underneath the car, kicking and squealing. All the kids at school, and even the teacher, were outside watching the spectacle. Finally they got enough men so they could lift the car up, and the old cow went out of there just a-bellering. Luckily, the cow wasn't hurt much and I'm not sure about the fate of the car. It was fun for us, and of course, we got out of a little school, too.

CONSOLIDATION AND CONSEQUENCES:

Before Bergville consolidated with Hillcrest and Cunningham, the kids didn't know much about playing dirty tricks on teachers. But when Al St. Louis, George Kaiser, Ivan and Bruce St. Louis (Bruce was tame compared to the others) came, they taught us things we hadn't even thought of before. For one thing, they started smoking during recess and at noon. I never really started smoking until after high school, mostly because I didn't have enough money to buy cigarettes with. Now I know it was a mistake to start even that late. Fortunately I managed to quit and haven't smoked for fifteen years. If I had kept on smoking I probably wouldn't be here today.

FLOUR SACK UNDERWEAR:

This stunt would probably not be considered funny today, and maybe not the right thing to do then, either. Most of the girls wore bloomers made from flour sacks. Their mothers tried to bleach out the printing on the flour sacks before sewing them, but it was hard to get out. The boys liked to tip the girls over so their bloomers would show, to see if they were wearing "Irvin's Best," Dakota Maid" or "Gold Medal," three of the most popular brands then. I don't suppose the girls liked it very much, but it got to be quite a sport. There really was no harm done and I don't think it scarred any of them for life. Gladys told me that "flour sack" clothes were not unique to the girls. Her husband, Don Barron, told her this his mother made under garments for the five boys in the family as well as for his sister.

(I couldn't resist adding these two poems, Stanley---Gladys)

FLOUR SACK UNDERWEAR

*Through the years each Jill and Jack
Wore this sturdy garb of sack.
Waste not, want not, we soon learned
Penny saved, a penny earned.*

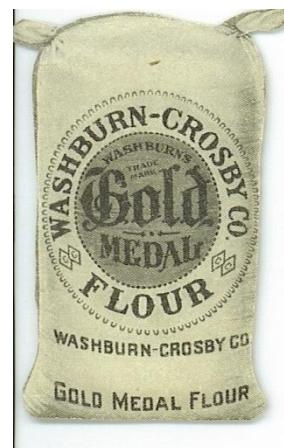
*Bedspreads, curtains, tea towels, too,
And tablecloths were all re-used.
But the best beyond compare
Was our flour sack underwear!*

*When I was a maiden fair,
Mama made our underwear.
With five tots and Pa's poor pay
How could she buy us lingerie?*

*Monograms and fancy stitches
Were not OUR flour sack britches;
Just panty waist that stood the test----
Gold Medal's seal upon the chest.*

*Little pants were best of all
With a scene I still recall---
Harvesters were gleaning wheat
Right across the little seat!*

*Tougher than a grizzly bear
Was our flour sack underwear.
Plain or fancy, 3 feet wide,
Stronger than a hippo's hide!*



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ELLINGSON SAWMILL - SKIPPING SCHOOL:

C. P. Ellingson had a logging camp at Dubois, back in the woods a couple of miles. He brought all the timber and logs to Dubois landing and dumped them there. When the ice went out in the spring, the logs were hauled across the lake in the water to the sawmill. Somebody at the school came up with the great idea that we should all skip school and hike over to the logging camp. When we got there, the camp cook made quite a fuss over us. He gave us cookies and all kind of goodies. We had a great time and we sure thought that they had a good cook! When we got home, we were expecting real trouble! It caused quite a stir around the school, but to our surprise, not much came of it, probably because so many of us had skipped. Even Pa seemed to take it in his stride!



CHRISTMAS-SANTA PAYS A VISIT:

Each year at Christmas, we had a Christmas program, and every kid in school had a part in it. I do recall, when I was still a “died-in-the-wool” believer in Santa Claus, Pa took us to school with the horse and sleigh. As we got near the new Bergville School, our eagle eyes noticed that the snow had slid off the roof near the chimney on the school house. We got all excited! We were sure Santa had made a mistake and gone down the chimney on the wrong night! We were really relieved when we found out he hadn’t!

THE GREAT SMOKE-OUT:

Another thing I remember about Bergville, was the time when Loren Williams and Ivan St. Louis climbed up on top the roof and put a board over the top of the chimney so the smoke

couldn't get out. It was a cold winter day, well-below zero. The teacher had to evacuate the school because there was so much smoke inside. When she got outside, she saw the boys up on the roof. She begged and hollered at them to unplug the chimney and come down. They wouldn't do it unless she promised not to punish them. She couldn't leave the kids standing outside freezing to death, so she agreed. After unplugging the chimney, they slowly dropped to the ground. Everyone went back inside after the smoke had cleared, and as far as I know, she lived up to her agreement.

KEEPING ORDER:

Many of the teachers were only 18-19 years old, so some of the boys were larger and perhaps older than their teacher. It must have been pretty tough on them to keep the older boys in line. Luckily for the teachers, in most cases, the boys were more afraid of what would happen when they got home than they were of the teachers. Looking back, that philosophy wasn't so bad!

SPANISH FLY:

There was one episode that happened in school that I will never forget. Nobody died from it, but it was close. Some of the farmers had a chemical called "Spanish Fly" that they used when they were breeding animals. On the last day of school, one of the kids put a few drops of it in Melvin Anderson and Doris Hanson's lunch. Melvin got terribly sick, but Doris was so sick she nearly died. Luckily, they both recovered with no obvious ill effects. The news traveled all over the neighborhood in a few days, and everyone was trying to find out who did it. I was questioned hard, and I think some thought I had a hand in it, but I didn't. I had my suspicions about who did it, but I didn't dare tell anyone.

FOOTNOTE: from Gladys: I don't remember ever hearing about Spanish Fly until Stanley told me this, so I thought it might be interesting to add the following from: (FIXIT- Star Tribune/Page 5EX/ Sunday, May 30, 1993 "Myth information," by J. Allen Varasdi).

"SPANISH FLY COMES FROM BEETLE WINGS"

"Spanish Fly," the alleged aphrodisiac, has always been more talked about than available--and for good reason. Spanish Fly is a dangerous chemical that can cause severe blistering and internal discomfort.

"It does not come from flies, nor is it uniquely Spanish. The substance, cantharidin, is derived from the golden-green European blister beetle. The chemical is extracted from the dried body, especially the wing sheaths.

"Externally, Spanish Fly is a powerful blistering agent. Taken internally, it produces diarrhea, vomiting, depression, internal bleeding and genito-urinary pain. This is hardly an amorous response. However, in very small doses, it has been used in medicine as a diuretic.

The nearly legendary properties of Spanish Fly have never been adequately explained. In Medicine and scientific tests, it has not been shown to demonstrate any qualities whatsoever to

deserve its reputation as an aphrodisiac, and its indiscriminate use can result in serious medical problems.” END OF FOOTNOTE

THE MOUSECAPADE:

There was one incident in school that I was involved in. During State Boards, the teachers would shut the school down, and the only kids inside the school were the ones taking examinations. The rest of us were outside playing. A bunch of us dug up a mouse nest and carried the tiny hairless mice into the school and dropped them on the desks of some of the unsuspecting girls. Pandemonium broke out! The girls ran screaming out of the building, and “all hell broke loose.” I don’t remember all the details, but I know I had some part in it. I got the devil from the teacher and had to face Pa when I got home!

AND SNAKES:

One time some of the older boys were having fun scaring the girls with snakes. When one of the boys tried to put a snake down Mary Guptil’s dress, she turned on him and shoved it right down his shirt! I think that’s the last time anyone ever tried to put anything over on Mary Guptil!!!

THE “PALMER METHOD!”

I guess if you mastered the “Palmer Method” of writing, you’d have a “beautiful hand.” I never mastered it, and I never learned if anyone else did, at least I don’t know any Skoes who did. I didn’t learn to write legibly, and I always blamed it on the fact that they wouldn’t let me write “my way.” Maybe being left-handed had something to do with it.

Bena wasn’t left-handed, but she had the same problem, only in her case it was more serious. When she applied to become a teacher, she had to take a test in order to be qualified in the “Palmer Method.” She almost didn’t get her teaching degree because of that. Evidently her teachers knew she’d make an excellent teacher, so we think they did a little “padding” on her test so she could get her teaching certificate. She passed!

During Manual Training, which I took as a sophomore in Grand Rapids, “Old MacDonald,” my shop teacher spent quite a bit of time on mechanical printing. I can print a fairly legible letter and do it almost as fast as most people write. The only time I write now is when I sign my “John Henry.”

CARDBOARD SLIDING AND EMILIE:

Across the road from the Bergville School, there was a steep grade and Mud Creek was at the foot of the grade. For winter sliding, we didn’t have much in the line of sleds, one at the most, but we found out that a piece of cardboard was the next best thing. I guess that is a good example of “adversity is the mother of invention.” Today, a piece of cardboard doesn’t mean much, but in those days, a good piece of cardboard was a prized possession, used until it fell apart. My younger sister, Emilie, got her hands on one such piece, she took a run and went sailing under the barb-wired fence and down the hill. When she got near the bottom, she could see that she had gone further than everyone else, so she started hollering and waving her arms. The next thing she knew, she was sitting in the middle of the creek, shivering from her bath in

the icy water. It didn't take long to get her back into the school where the teacher dried her out. She didn't freeze to death or catch a cold, luckily, but it was a sight to see! There were no dryers then, and no way to get home or have someone bring dry clothes. The clothes were hung on the back of a chair to dry near the large jacketed wood stove, our only source of heat in this large room.

BOX SOCIALS AND DANCES:

"Box socials" at Bergville school were common events years ago to raise money. All the eligible young lads were there. Bena was pretty young then, but she had gotten a big box which she had decorated and made into the fanciest basket there. The guys saw her box and thought it belonged to the "School Marm," as they were often called in those days. The young teachers were sought out, always very popular, and considered to be a good "catch." In those days, many young girls taught for a few years, or until they got married, some with very little training beyond high school. Maybe a year of training in Normal School at Grand Rapids and later a year or so at Bemidji State Teachers' College.

They bid it high! I don't know how high, but it was more than any other in the place, thinking they had the "School Marm's" basket! They must have been surprised, and a little bit disappointed when they found out it wasn't hers. I don't know how Bena felt about it then, or how she feels about this story now, but we younger kids thought that it was a good joke on some of those "gay young blades."

FAMOUS SAYINGS:

Keno Anderson didn't do so well in some school subjects. However, he was able to do well in some areas. I'll always remember the time when one of the teachers asked him to repeat something and he popped up with "I don't chew my cabbage twice." That was a pretty brave statement in those days.

ACHIEVEMENT DAYS:

Achievement Day was a big event for all of us. Bergville was a little larger than Hillcrest, Shallow Pond, etc., and we tended to dominate sports such as baseball, climbing and jumping. Achievement Day was rotated among the area schools. At Shallow Pond one year, we topped all of the other teams in baseball events. Bergville usually shone in the Declam contests and spelling bees, too. It might have been because our school was a little larger. One year I won the District Declam Contest and went to Grand Rapids to give it again in the old Junior High School. Emily won the Declam contest and also won in Grand Rapids. Later on, Current Events was added, and Gordie "Will" won in Grand Rapids. The winners in Grand Rapids went on to the state contests, a great honor in those days.



This Certifies that Stanley O. Skoe has complete
Course of Study prescribed by the Board of Education and is awarded



(as a testimonial of good character and scholarship.)

Given at Grand Rapids Minn. this second day of June, A.D.

1920

O.C. Baker
Superintendent.

Alvra Dean Skoe

E.O. Olson
Principal.

Ann J. Doran

Hegrenauer
Treasurer

LAUREL BOOK COMPANY, CHICAGO.

THE SCHOOL BUS AND OUR 1928 GREEN CHEVROLET:

Our 1928 Chevrolet was used as the school bus to haul the students to and from Bergville. It was a welcome addition source of income for our family. If you bought a new car to use as a school bus, it was a gentleman's agreement that no one else would bid lower. It was the only way that most people around Island Lake would be able to buy a car.

I was quite impressed with our 1928 Chevrolet. The only other car I had had any experience with was an old 1918 Model T Ford. In 1928, I was about 13 years old, so I thought I was an expert on automobiles. Pa got the school bus route that year, and Old Charlie Peterson was selling Chevrolets. Lloyd La Brie was the salesman who sold Pa the car. I remember when Charlie delivered the car to the farm. Pa had never driven a car with a shift on it, so Lloyd was trying to teach Pa how to drive it. Pa never did get to be a very good driver, but he got so he could handle it fairly well.

We hadn't had it very long before it started dying on us. In those days, cars didn't have gas pumps. The Chevrolet used what they called a "vacuum tank" which sucked the gas up into the car. It was only working half of the time, so we carried a gas can in the car. Every time the car died, we had to take the cap off the vacuum tank, which held about a quart, and fill it up. That way it would run about 6-8 miles more. When Earl and Stanton got home from Grand Rapids after graduating from high school, one of them got a used vacuum tank. They installed it in our 1928 Chevrolet. It worked well after that. In 1928, cars weren't what they are today. Gladys told me she had news for me. It sounded just like their Le Baron. It would run a few miles and quit, over and over and over. They had to wait for them to order parts, something to do with the new-fangled electronics.

Marie Alice Rozicki 1923-1932 (Grades 1-10)**Compiled in December of 1994****THE BIG FIRE IN THE SPRING OF 1923:**

I did not attend the old Bergville School. About the only thing I remember from that year, is watching patiently for the older kids to come walking home from school and mother and I cutting pictures from one of the catalogs and making valentines to surprise them. The idea was to search for the picture in the catalog that looked the most like the one we were making the valentine for. I also remember one time mother went to "some doings" at the school house and Pa stayed home with the younger kids and we played school. Am not sure what we did except he lined the dining room chairs up like school desks.

The summer before I started school in 1923, the old Bergville School burned. I have vivid memories of standing with mother and, I think Stanley and Emilie, on our open front porch, watching across the South Bay of Island Lake as the flames shot up the stand of Pine trees at Dubois corner a mile from our house. As I remember hearing it, Pa and Earl and Stanton had joined the neighbor men with plows and horses trying to plow a fire break to save Knaeble's farm. The wind switched and the fire swept west through the dry slashings left from logging operations and burned the Bergville School to the ground. My memory may have embroidered the story but I seem to remember our mother telling us not to worry as the fire could not cross the outlet, as we called it, meaning the Popple River which was all of 20 feet across. Stanley says Pa called and told her to take the kids and get out in the boat if need be. When Ray Skoe and I talked about this recently he said he thought we should just have waded out into the lake. When Gladys read this, she commented that Pa's advice was very good. After all, Earl around fourteen, and Stanton around twelve, were helping Pa fight the fire. At home was Bena just eleven, Stanley about eight, Marie just six, Emilie a mere three years old, and Ray, a new-born, two months old or so. If the fire came, Mother couldn't take all of those young kids and stand out in the lake and watch the boat burn up.

As soon as our parents would let us walk the mile and a quarter, we went to scavenge through the ashes. Emilie and I found the remains of the two burner kerosene stove used to heat the hot lunches. The little doors that opened to put the match in to light the burners still opened and latched shut. We brought the burners home for our playhouse in the woods. They were dark blue enamel. I thought they were beautiful. We already had a few toy dishes mother's sister, Aunt Annie, had given us. Now we had a stove.

THE NEW CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL-FIRST IN SCHOOL DISTRICT 1:

As I recall, probably from hearing later conversations, I always seemed to have a good ear for later conversations, there was a lot of controversy among the parents as to where the new Bergville school should be built. The District 1 office in Grand Rapids wanted to consolidate Bergville, Hillcrest, Cunningham, Shallow Pond. They decided to build the new two-room Bergville School two miles from our house, where the south end of the Island Lake road T's into Highway 46 toward Grand Rapids. The Bergville Post Office and Island Lake telephone switch

board, we called it Central, was just up the hill at Charlie Johnson's. The Bergville Cemetery, where we all marched to decorate the graves on Memorial Day was a muddy quarter mile east. Martin Nesseth's, where the teachers traditionally boarded, was a quarter mile north.

IN THE INTERIM, HILLCREST SCHOOL:

The new school wasn't ready when it was time for school to start. For a month or so in the fall, when I was in first grade, Pa took us, the Knaebles, Laura Martinson, the Nesseths and Miss Koepp and Miss Tonell, who boarded at Nesseth's, by horse and wagon the four or so miles to Hillcrest School located across from the Win Guptil farm. The Cunningham kids came there too. It is possible Esther Anderson Naes may have brought them in her "fliver." She was one of the few women in the neighborhood who drove cars in the early twenties when there were cranks instead of self-starters.

Hillcrest was crowded, I remember the confusion of two teachers (Ruth Koepp and Hilda Tonell) having classes reciting in the same small room at one time. At least the first graders, sat two to a desk. The desks were pushed tight to the window wall. After we went up to take turns reading aloud from our "Winston Primers" and had crawled back into our seats, we were each given a box of little cardboard letters and told to find the letters and raise our hand when we had the page we had read re-built on our desk. There were, I think, five in our class. With our fits and starts in beginning oral reading I had heard "that the gingerbread man ran on," which I knew before I came to first grade, at least ten times that morning. I am not sure I actually did it, but I sure considered chewing up the little cardboard letters and tossing them out the window. I remember one most humiliating day at Hillcrest, when I was standing in line, up front, waiting my turn to read. I accidentally wet my pants. The teacher tried to save the situation by shoving a waste basket under me.

My other memories from Hillcrest include my fascination with the two-story doll house, stairway and all the, that I think Eldreds brought with them from Cunningham. The big kids put on a skit. They stood behind a sheet with adult shoes on their hands so they looked like grown-ups, singing silly songs while standing on their heads. Then there was the day the school nurse came in her top-heavy 1920's Ford Coupe. It was the first time I had seen a closed-in car. The excitement the day when someone ran his car over one of Guptil's cows and the big boys were called out of school to help lift the car off. The rest of us were allowed to come out and stand in the school yard to watch. Years later I noticed there was a cattle pass built under the road so the cattle could cross safely.

SCHOOL BUS ROUTES-RULES AND REGULATIONS:

I remember one more incident from that fall at Hillcrest which, in retrospect, rather surprises me. As I mentioned, Pa drove us to Hillcrest with the horse and wagon. It was both crowded, slow and I am sure boring, especially for the older kids and the teachers. They often got off, walked aways, then ran and caught up. One morning, when both teachers had gotten off and were running to catch up, the older boys convinced Pa to whip the horses into a run and make the teachers run the rest of the quarter mile to school. Pa continued to drive us the two miles after we moved into the new Bergville School. (Bena remembers Pa pulling a large log behind the

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Bergville School as I remember it.docx

sled in winter to make a path on the road so the kids could walk home more easily. This was probably before there was an official bus route)

Later the bus went east as far as the Jay Williams place. Kids who lived less than two miles from school walked, their parents took them, or they rode the bus if it went by anyway and there was room on it. I remember Vera and Eldon Urness, who lived a mile and a quarter from Bergville School, usually walked. There was usually an argument whether the bus driver should be paid to drive in to pick up the Knaeble kids or they should have to walk to the old Bergville corner. In the 1940's, after mother died, Olga Rasmussen, who had Russell and Gordie for the summer, wanted so dearly to keep them during the school year, but she told Ray she couldn't because the school district refused to run the bus in to pick them up. Fortunately they found another excellent home with Elsie and Roy Simmerman they had bought the former Charlie Johnson farm up the hill from the school yard (they were good friends of my parents).

There was competition, and sometimes trips to Grand Rapids to argue with the school board, as to who should get the "school bus job." It was one, and for most of the neighbors, the only way to finance a new car. It was the way we got our brand new green Chevrolet sedan in 1928. It was green, even the upholstery inside was a soft gray-green. It smelled new. I was nine. Whenever our parents would let us, that fall before it got too cold, Emilie and I would take our blankets and sleep the night in the back seat.

MY FIRST PAIR OF NEW HAND-KNIT, HOME-MADE WOOLEN MITTENS:

I can't remember exactly who drove the bus when, but at least one year, while we were still using horses year round, Mrs. Knaeble, a widow whom we, not disrespectfully, called "Old Lady Knaeble," drove and while she drove she tied up the lines and knit.

I was fascinated. No one at our house ever had time to sit down long enough to knit, certainly not our mother! Not that we couldn't have used the warm caps and mittens. There were never enough to go around. I remember one cold morning I couldn't find anything to put on my hands. Mother tried to solve the problem by grabbing an old, worn-out sweater, laying my hands on it, cutting around a double thickness and quickly sewing the two sides together on the sewing machine. She turned them inside out and helped me put them on. They were maroon red and didn't look bad. I ran down the hill and didn't miss the bus, but the sweater mittens were loosely knit with no elastic, and they kept falling off my hands. The wind blew through the holes....."Old Lady Knaeble" didn't say anything, but on Friday she handed me my first pair of hand knit, real woolen mittens. Over the years I have spent many pleasant hours knitting mittens for our kids, grand kids and just kids. Thank you, Mrs. Knaeble.

Other School Bus Drivers and School Buses:

Other bus drivers I remember include Fred Ginter, a bachelor who lived with his German speaking father on a place east of us on the hill where Parrs used to live. Elmer Anderson who drove the bus when Emilie, Ray and I each went to Northome part of our high school years, my brother, Earl, after he finished high school, and Bill Bronner, who I think, got the bus away from Earl. At first they used sled and horses and took a "winter road" through the tamarack swamp back from big drifts and wind that blew in off the lake. In spring and fall we had ice, frozen ruts and mud. Sometimes it took quite a "run for it" to get through the, seemingly unfixable sink hole on the swampy flats below the Bergville Cemetery hill. Most of the men in our neighborhood had not learned to drive a car, or any other motorized equipment, until they were well into their forties. Their kids, especially their sons, sometimes thought they never did learn. That included Pa, and some thought, Bill Bronner. It still tickles my brother, Ray, that when the driving got tough, he took the wheel and got them safely to town.

Some of my other school bus memories include the carpet covered metal foot warmers provided, I think, by the district. Each warmer had a little metal pull-out tray which was filled with hot coals from our wood stove. I know we sat across from each other, two kids to a foot warmer. The bus had lap blankets and a canvas cover to keep out the wind.

School Lunches:

On the way home we often ate what was left in our lunch buckets--our buckets were lard or syrup pails. Sometimes we had a small jar of milk or sauce, raspberry, rhubarb or plum. Our sandwiches were egg, peanut butter, jelly, or even mustard. We envied the kids who had cheese. Our small cream checks never allowed us that luxury. Whatever we had was smeared very sparingly on the white bread our mother made by mixing yeast, flour and water in a big kettle at night, wrapping the kettle in an old woolen shawl and setting it in the high chair pushed over

near the stove to keep warm so the yeast could “work” in the night. The next morning she dumped the “sponge” into the big dish pan, set the pan down on the chair and kneaded in flour and salt to make the dough which she covered with a dish towel and set in a warm place to “double in bulk” so she could knead it into loaves which she baked in two big pans, four loaves to a pan. We always had bread for our lunch pails, although we usually had oatmeal for breakfast and always potatoes for supper. She still had to bake bread several times a week to keep us in bread for our sandwiches. In the fall we had ripe tomatoes and plums from our plum trees, apple and oranges were Christmas treats. Vera Williams, whose father raised sheep, and must have been a successful trapper because she had boughten clothes including a coat I had seen in the Sears catalog, usually had a fresh orange which she saved to eat on the bus on the way home. She was a year younger than I. I tried to sit next to her and, as she peeled her orange, she gave me the peelings to eat.

MONDAY MORNING SURPRISES (IN 1923):

It was exciting to be in the new, freshly painted, white school. It was the fanciest building I had ever seen. It even had indoor chemical toilets. On Monday mornings when the District I maintenance crew had been there on the weekend, or school days when one of the supervisors from Grand Rapids car drove up, some new wonder arrived. I know now that we were benefiting from the fact that our school district extended into the Mesabi Iron Range tax area. At the time I wondered if someone hadn’t found a magic pipeline into all the wonders, and more, that I had seen in our Sears and “Monkey Ward” catalog, better known to most of you as the Montgomery Ward catalogue. Paper, pencils, color crayons, chalk-white and colored, water colors, construction paper, art supplies, text books, library books, and eventually, World Book, Americana and Compton’s encyclopedias. At home we made flour and water paste mixed in a mason jar cover and stirred with the unburned end of a wooden match stick. Here it came in gallon jars! And it tasted good!

The Red Wing Water Cooler-and our large round WOODBURY WOOD stove:

I remember the day we got the water cooler. At our house, as in most houses then, when we wanted a drink of water, we went to the water pail and took a drink from the dipper. Now, standing on the square, galvanized tin outside air duct of our black, metal-jacketed stove stood a large, covered-earthenware water cooler with a shiny, push-button spigot. From hooks on a wall shelf above, hung an array of carefully labeled individual tin cups. One for each of us! I had never seen water come out of a spigot before. I would have gone up for a drink every ten minutes that day if I had dared. In later years, our brother Earl bought two of them. One was presented to our brother, Russell, on his birthday shortly before he passed away of ALS (Lou Gehrig’s Disease). Carol and Wayne have one sitting on a shelf in their kitchen.

Hilda Tonell taught the first three grades in the ‘little room’ which was separated from the ‘big room’ by folding doors with a grid of openings at the bottom that was supposed to let in heat from the stove in the corner of the big room where Ruth Koepp taught the five upper grades. I guess someone finally realized that hot air rises.

The repair crew came and put louvered inserts in the wall above the doors to the little room. They must have made the insets in their carpenter shop in Grand Rapids, dropped them off to come back later to put them in. I remember the wild speculation from the bigger kids, and the teachers as to what they were for when we came to school and found them that Monday morning.

Clocks, globes, maps, thermometers and other wonders:

The big room was full of other wonders. There was the glass-door pendulum clock that hung in the front of the room between the new louvers, the world globe suspended on pulleys so it could be adjusted to show the seasonal relation of the earth to the sun, the wooden case of roll-down maps of the world, the United States and each of the five continents, the Red Cross thermometer, hung at the approximate height of our heads, and promising "If you keep me at sixty-eight you'll be healthy and feel great." On either side of the room were the boys and girls cloak rooms with hooks for coats and caps and a shelf above for lunch pails. Behind the cloak rooms were the chemical toilets. When their use became too stinky the repair crew moved in outside toilets like we all had at home but newer and cleaner. We also had rolls of regular toilet paper instead of out-dated catalogs. Sometime later they put adjustable trapeze rods in the doorways to the cloakrooms. Most of us chinned ourselves, hung by our knees and "skinned the cat and brought it back." Some of the more co-ordinated ones, Ethel Knaeble, Jessie Rose and "Musty" (Albert) St. Louis, that I remember, were able to sit on the bar, lock their legs and whirl themselves around and around. I never made it. I was afraid I would bang my head on the door casing and kill myself.

Teachers At Bergville:

As I looked over the list of Bergville teachers Gladys Barron sent me, my first comment was that for the times they were rather well-paid. I think our cousin, Laverne Egan, from Remer, Minnesota, who was a student teacher from Bemidji College under Leonard Bengston, taught in a rural school in Cass County for \$45.00 a month.

I remember my first grade teacher, Helga Tonell, as rather short and blonde. Ruth Koepp, the upper grade teacher, as tall and brown haired. From my vantage point, I remember being impressed that she had big feet.

I seem to recall that in early second grade I had another young lower grade teacher, Margaret Randal whose name was not on the list, and that she was the talk of the New Years' Eve party at Fred Anderson's because George Anderson, the most eligible bachelor in the neighborhood, had been courting her, even bought her a diamond, but when she went home, I think to Effie, for Christmas, married someone else and didn't come back. As our sister, Bena Petzel explained, married women were not allowed to teach in District I unless they had no husbands to support them. We were at the New Year's Eve party because Fred Anderson's had one of the first radios in the community although Fred's brother-in-law, Charlie Johnson, across the road, had, I think, the first. Unless my memory is embroidering this, we actually heard the midnight celebration in Times Square. But the high light of my evening was playing with the big doll Vera Urness brought. It was her Christmas present. I had seen it in the Sear catalog but I never dreamed I would know anyone lucky enough to get one. Vera later married our oldest brother, Earl.

I am a little vague on my early teachers, but Bessie Preston, my second grade teacher was short. I have no idea what the occasion, but I remember her cuddling me on her lap. I remember my third grade teacher, Miss Fish, later Mrs. Lynn Anderson, as little, curly haired, smiley and cute. She grew up on the North Shore. Her father was Claude Fish and I think her mother was a sister of Win Guptil. Later she and her husband, Dan and Leola Thompson ran Danola Lodge on the North shore of Island Lake.

I don't remember much about Jennie Hagen, my fourth and fifth grade teacher. I think she had reddish-colored hair and wore brown-rimmed glasses. She must have been okay because Bergville, one of the few consolidated schools in the District, was something of a plum and she was there for two years.

The first year that I can remember any discipline problems at Bergville was the year I was in the sixth grade. Our teacher was Margaret Richardson, a beginning teacher whose parents had a photography studio in Bemidji. I remember for the Christmas Program, which was a big community event, she had decided we should construct a theater and put on a puppet show. I don't think any of us knew what we were doing. I remember how scared she seemed when, on a day of mass confusion trying to get something ready for the big night of the program, two supervisors from Grand Rapids showed up. I don't know on what basis, and it certainly never happened, but someone spread the word that the supervisors had come to fire her. As I remember it, the puppet theater idea was abandoned and we all quieted down considerably.

My seventh grade teacher was my first man teacher, Mitchell Smilanich. He introduced me to TIME MAGAZINE and to using the encyclopedias to write reports, including a several page biography of Columbus which he read to the class. Later, he married my childhood idol, a talented and charming Island Lake girl, Marie Eldred, who had never been MY teacher but often gave, what I thought, simply marvelous poetry readings at community affairs. My two favorites were "Gunga Din" and "On the Road to Mandalay."

The other teacher that year was Irene Almquist, whom I remember as a rather matronly woman with a nice singing voice, shining, rimless glasses, symmetrically wavy hair, and as my brother, Ray, recalls, "given to wearing brightly-colored, large-printed floral dresses." I think she was also a rather strict disciplinarian.

Since I never had the fabulous Miss Skarsten, I can't argue teacher merits with my older siblings, but my eighth grade teacher, Hazel Stonefield, was the best all-around teacher I ever knew. She had something going every minute. She brought her portable phonograph to school and taught us folk dancing, the Norwegian Mountain March, the Schottische, and the Virginia Reel. She showed us steps from the Irish Lilt and Irish Fling. She was the first teacher who TRIED to teach me to read notes and sing the scales. She brought her collection of light classical music and I heard Clare De Lune and Handel's Water Music for the first time. She knew how to read poetry. Will I ever forget the "The Highwayman" and Bess, the Landlord's daughter plaiting a dark red love-knot into her long black hair. She set up a table with lettering pens, India ink and

properly lined paper where, when we had free time, we could go and practice poster lettering. She taught us to use black enamel to trace silhouettes on squares of window glass and took us outside to try making pencil sketches of trees.

One noon hour, Miss Skarsten took us girls out for a wiener and marshmallow roast and tried to organize us into a Campfire Unit. That effort never got off the ground. For one thing, most of us were already active in 4H projects. She also encouraged Earl and Stanton to bring me along when they went in to Northome to roller skate, which they did a couple times but I don't think having me along was what they had in mind when they picked her up on a Saturday night....

EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATION:

There were six girls in our eighth grade class, Jessie Rose, Ethel Knaeble, Eleanor Bronner, Hazel Nelson, Laura Martinson and I. Carl Westling was the only boy. I am not sure of the whereabouts of Eleanor Bronner, but I may be the only survivor.

JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL:

Kathryn Hamm taught the lower grades the first year Hazel Stonefield was at Bergville. I don't know what the deal was, but Miss Hamm taught us a unit on Agriculture that year. We learned the names and characteristics of the different breeds of farm animals and chickens. She wore spike heels and a short tight skirt when she took across the road and through the barb wire fence into Fred Anderson's pasture to show us how to judge a dairy cow.

To back track a little, in the fall of 1924, Miss Selma Skarsten was hired to teach, first one, then two years of high school in the Hillcrest school building which had been moved from across the road from the Win Guptil farm on the Bergville school grounds. In our family, Earl, Stanton, and Bena, and possible Stanley had their first two years of high school under Miss Skarsten. I am not sure how she juggled it, but at the end of two years they each had two years of English, Algebra, Geometry, General Science, Biology and two years of History. I never heard that any of them had trouble going to Grand Rapids as Juniors. They all seemed to think she was a wonder!

I am not sure who taught the high school after Selma Skarsten left but, I think it was in 1928-29, the same year Margaret Richardson was teaching the middle grades, that Wilford Nelson, another beginning teacher from Bemidji taught the high school. The community decided to give public dances in the school house to raise money to buy a piano. The music, as I remember it, was by Mrs. John Rose, Early Belle, on the piano, Ray Parr on the violin and some of the Eldreds, but I'm not sure what they played. One time, at least, we had the Bemidji White Caps. I think Mr. Nelson had played with the band in college. I am not sure how many pieces they had, but I sure remember that drummer. Earl, Stanton and Bena were in high school in Grand Rapids, but we went to some of the dances with Grilley's and I remember, at least once, when Stanley and I were allowed to walk the two miles at night carrying our pail of sandwiches as our contribution to lunch. I also remember walking back to help scrub the school house floor after one of the dances. These were prohibition days so I am sure there was some drinking especially by the young blades from Northome outside, Andrew Urness, as constable, kept order inside. I

do remember some of the Island Lake women being shocked by the tight, sleeveless dresses, short skirts, high heels and the lipstick some of the "flappers" from Northome wore. I don't know how many dances it took, but eventually the piano was bought and paid for.

The Flappers:

Speaking of flappers, I remember Ethel Rowberg. She was my sister, Bena's age. Ethel used to bring a kerosene lamp and curling iron along to school and go in a back room and curl her hair. This was during what they called Junior High at Bergville, the 9th and 10 grades. My mother and Annie Urness, were really shocked to see a girl in a sleeveless dress. Her parents had a picture of her wearing a chiffony, low-cut sleeveless dress. Marie remembers that Ethel and Bena ordered a suitcase from Sears when they started Senior High in Grand Rapids. Later on Ethel disappeared. It was said that she got involved with the Kidd Cann desperados, and may have been iced. This was around the time of the "Chicago Massacre." (Incidentally, unless it is an error, Ethel was Gladys godmother)..

THE LUTHERAN CONGREGATION AT BERGVILLE:

The Lutheran Congregation at Bergville had always met for Sunday afternoon services in the school house and continued to do so until they joined the Lutheran Congregation in Northome. The Sunday afternoon services were discontinued. After we had the piano, Mrs. Rose, although a Presbyterian, came and played for the Lutheran Service.

Achievement Days:

The Bergville School, because it had two rooms plus the Hillcrest building, was the largest school in the area. Shallow Pond, Moose Park, Orth and Haupt schools met at Bergville each spring for Achievement Day when we competed to see who would go to Grand Rapids to compete on the county level in Declamation, and Oral and Written Spelling; whose posters and booklets would be entered into competition at the Itasca County Fair; who could win the most ribbons running, jumping, etc., and who could win the softball game.

Christmas programs and other Community Events:

At Christmas wires were strung across the back of the room and bed sheets hung up to improvise a stage for the School Christmas Program which was a community event. We had a Christmas Tree, exchanged small presents and treats were handed out for the kids. I think that there was always an apple. Wonderful then, not so important today to the kids. Both the Lutheran Ladies Aid and the Community Club used the school for fund raisers including basket socials, plays and talent show. Fund raisers were held there, too. Each spring the community met at the school for their Memorial Day Service.

I have enjoyed writing this. I wish I had done it sooner when our older siblings could have helped share more in the remembering. If I have remembered some of this wrong, please feel free to make corrections.

Emilie Josephine Skoe Karkela 1926-1933 (grades 1-9)

Compiled in May of 1999

Community and School Life:

Bergville was the center of community life. It was hard to tell whether a special occasion was a school or community activity. They were all inter-related. Early on, the church congregation met at the school. We also had contact when the mothers, and sometimes the fathers, took their small children along to Ladies Aid, Community Club, school house dances and other events. The dances were held to earn money for a piano for the school. Little ones slept on coats piled up on chairs. Bigger ones watched the dancing or joined in thereby learning to dance or at least trying to learn to dance. I watched the piano player or the other musicians.

We made wreaths from princess pine to put on graves on Memorial Day. I usually recited "In Flanders Field" and can recite it word for word to this day. I still get teary-eyed when the flag goes by. This may be due to growing up in a neighborhood of immigrants where the flag was very important to them and they passed this attitude on to their young. After the program we walked 1/4 to the cemetery to lay the wreaths.

I started school at Bergville when I was not quite six. Some of the advantages I now know that I had was that I had a mother who had been a teacher and a father who was very education-minded. Another advantage was going to a small community school where everyone knew everyone. The school was very small, so we could hear everything that was being taught to all the classes.

One of our classmates had had polio so he was crippled. Today he would be called disadvantaged, perhaps, and he used crutches. He sometimes had difficulty keeping up with his classmates. We accepted it. Another was motherless, as some of our younger siblings would be later on. I vividly remember one girl, Vera Williams, having an orange in her lunch bucket each day. I thought she must be rich! That must be how the other half lived. She was from a small family and had only one brother. We were from a large family of ten children. Christmas was about the only time that we had any fresh "boughten" fruit, then mainly apples or oranges.

First Grade in 1926-and Skipping fourth Grade:

I started school before my sixth birthday in November with two boys in my class, Erling and Jimmy Knaeble (teacher was Frances Kampa). They were to repeat third grade and for reasons of her own, the teacher advanced me to fifth grade. That was called "skipping a grade" in those days. This put me in the same class with Muriel Rose and Vera Urness who were much more mature than I was. Having missed the 4th grade, I was deficient in Mathematics, but capable in lots of other ways.

Vera had a lovely singing voice and Muriel Rose had musical ability, probably home-learned as her mother played the piano, even for our church services, notwithstanding the fact that she was

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an Episcopalian and we were Lutheran. Later on, Vera took piano lessons from Mrs. Lukkason in Northome. I wondered how she could practice because I do not recall ever seeing a piano at Urnesses the many times our family visited their house.

Opening Class Exercises:

One of the teachers, I can't remember who, before class started, would open the window or windows on the west wall, how many, I'm sure, depended upon the weather outside. Then she had everyone stand up, face the window and raise up and down on our tiptoes. We were instructed to throw back our arms, throw out our chest and take a deep breath. After that we recited the "Pledge of Allegiance." School had started! We all knew it. Not a bad way to begin the day. We didn't know at the time that there was "method to her madness."

"Dandelion":

Recently, the nursing home where I stay, asked if anyone us had anything we would like to share from the past. I remembered how much I loved the "Dandelion" poem, so I wrote it down. They liked it, one of the staff added a nice drawing of a dandelion and printed it up for my friends at the home. I like to share things like that.

According to Mitch Smilanich, the son of the Mitch Smilanich the teacher, would let the students go barefooted if they came with dandelions and one day Emilie came with dandelions between each toe.

DANDELION

(from Emilie)



**Dandelion, yellow as gold,
what do you do all day
I just wait here in the tall golden grass,
till my hair turns white
and the children come out to play.**

**And, what do you do when your hair turns
white
and the children come out to play?
They pick me up in their dimpled hands
And blow my hair away.**

Teachers:

Amy Ruth Koepp married an Aakhus from Effie They were friends of our folks.

Selma Skarsten had a son Lorenz McKinnon.

Francis K. Kampa was my first grade teacher. She was ahead of Mildred Stortroen

Jenny Hagen taught with Francis K. Kampa and Amy Ruth Koepp.

Excerpts about Bergville School from Emilie's 70th birthday party in Grand Rapids, MN in 1970. Written by Marie Skoe Rozycki and Kibitzers.

When Emilie started school in 1926, the schools around the lake, Hillcrest, Cunningham, and Bergville, had been consolidated so the new Bergville School had two rooms and we rode a school bus.

We all had our favorite teachers. Emilie's must have been Mildred Stortroen, the banker's daughter from Northome, who was Emilie's first grade teacher. Miss Stortroen soon recognized that she had someone special--the first Skoe kid who could sing! When some of the parents were enlisted to take part in the Christmas play, Emilie, as a sort of female Tiny Tim, (Dickens, that is) closed the play singing "Away in a Manger." SOLO!!! We all clapped when Martin Nesseth, as an old miner, carried her off stage on his back.

Because she was ahead of the rest of the class, Emilie skipped fourth grade and moved into the "Big Room" to the fifth grade with Muriel Rose and Vera Urness in the big room.

Achievement Days in the spring were big events in our grade school years. Moose Park, Haupt, Orth and Shallow Pond all met at Bergville to compete in art work, athletics, etc., but the big events were spelling and declams because the winners of these events went to Grand Rapids to compete on the county level. I don't think they had this when Earl, Stanton and Bena went to Bergville, but from Stanley on down, including Gordie, as we called him, we all won at one time or another. In 1934, with Leonard Bengston as teacher, Ray and Emilie took all four major divisions. Ray won the lower declaim, and Emilie won upper declaim plus both the oral and written spelling. Those were proud days for the Skoe.

During those years, it was always a question whether we would ride Elmer Anderson's bus to Northome, or work for our room and board as an "out-of-town" student in Grand Rapids. Emilie went to Northome for her ninth grade and as a sophomore, attended Grand Rapids High School until she graduated. She worked for her room and board at Stejskals.

Raymond Clifford Skoe 1929-1937 (grades 1-8)

Excerpts taken verbatim, except for the order, from: "My Life," by R.C. Skoe - December 1993.
Pages 11, 18, 20, 21, 25, 26, 35.

FIRST GRADE Page 18.

I started school, first grade, in the fall of 1929 at Bergville. It was an almost new building, the old having burned down a few years earlier. It was a "large" white frame building with two rooms, the larger being the classroom where we all sat, all eight grades. The smaller was alternately a "library" and living quarters for the teacher, although the teacher usually boarded with a local family. The west wall was almost all windows, nice in the dark days of winter, but distracting when everyone had spring fever and the outdoors was calling. The east wall was covered with blackboards, genuine slate blackboards quite unlike the green plastic so common now. Sixty years or more later the building still stands, abandoned but little changed. It was well-constructed. From the present owner I obtained most of those beautiful slate blackboards and have made some of them up as mementos for brothers and sisters. On either side of the main entry were cloakrooms, one for the boys and one for the girls. In each was a chemical toilet, they didn't work, we didn't use them. Outdoors, across the ball field were separate biffys for the genders. The word "biffy" was not in our vocabulary, they were "cans." The school was heated by a big, jacketed "Holland" wood stove and there was a little alcove with a kerosene stove where we made cocoa or soup for lunch. That apparently was a rule, that we have something hot for lunch.

We boys had to carry in the wood but lighting the stove in the morning was the teacher's job. It must have been fun, to trudge a mile or more in the snow and minus 20 degree weather to light a fire in that cold building "before they started work." In the back of the room hung a thermometer that said:

*Keep me at sixty-eight
You'll be healthy and feel great!*

Christmas - Page 11:

Christmas is for kids. We longed for it. The toys and guns and dolls section of the catalogs would be worn to a frazzle. At school we would "draw names" and enter into endless intrigues to learn who drew our own. There would be a "Christmas program," plays, poems and carols, we all had parts.

*They sent me here to speak a piece
I'll do the best I can, but
I'll tell you this, it's
A hard place to put a man.*

Teachers - Page 18-19

First grade: My first teacher was Miss Almquist. A large buxom woman. She wore print dresses, printed with large flowers. I thought she was okay. I learned to read. "Cock-a-doodle

do, said the rooster." A skeptic even then, I thought to myself that I had never heard a rooster say that. Then came three fish that swam up the rain and sat in a tree. The sun came out, the rain stopped, and they were stranded. Not unlike a lot of human behavior. But to read, it is a wondrous thing. The love of it has never left me. When all else has failed, it has not. I pity those who do not love to read.

Second grade:

Next was Miss Hamm, Catherine Hamm. Our school bus driver, Lauren Williams, who was so shy he would blush if he even saw a girl, was, we were certain, entranced by her. We would tease him and ask, "Which do you like most, Lauren, Hamn, ram, sheep, or mutton?" He would turn beet red.

Third grade:

Next came Miss Stonefield, and then for the first and only time, in grade school, a man teacher. Leonard Bengston. A good teacher, if I recall correctly. I was in the fourth grade, we began history and geography, a revelation about the greater world, I liked it. But what made the greatest impression was he himself, he was unlike any man I had ever known. His hands were always clean, absolutely clean, no grease, no ground in grime, as if he had never done a day's "work" in his life. And his nails also were perfect, trimmed round and filed. I don't know why such a minor thing made such an impression but to this day hands play a major role in my judgment of a man.

Achievement Day - May 1933 - Page 20:

Each spring as the school year end neared, there was an "Achievement Day" when five or six of the rural schools of the north end of the county met in competition. There were ball games, foot races, chinning, and jumping contests. The major events, however were the spelling and the "declamatory" contests. There were two spelling contests, an oral spell down and a written test. The declamatory was also divided, one for the lower grades and one for the upper. One gave a talk, a memorized speech.

For some reason it was always held at our school, perhaps we had a better yard. It gave us the "home field advantage" anyhow. But for some reason that didn't help me. It was a measure of insecurity, even then, that I dreaded the athletic contests. I hated being a fielder for fear that the ball would be batted toward me and I would be humiliated when I muffed it. I hated to be at bat "knowing" I would strike out, and I hid during the chinning contest so as not to be shamed. Of course my dread was groundless, but it was real to me. It was a foretaste of things to come, something that was almost impervious to reason, something that seemed to be endlessly reinforced.

Somehow the athletics ended and the main events began inside. I can't remember my mental state, perhaps I was more confident there, but I represented our school for the lower grade speeches. I won. Emilie won the upper grade speech contest and both of the spelling contests. The Skoe kids had swept the field. Mother, I am sure, was pretty proud and even I, I expect, got

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a bit of self esteem from it. We were to go to Grand Rapids to compete in the regional's. It was there that I was to see my first movie. I was ten years old.

Grand Rapids was the county seat. It was where kids went for grades nine through twelve. All of the older siblings had, or were, going there. Some of them stayed at a boarding house run by Mrs. Hagen. We stayed with her. I don't remember much about my talk except the auditorium seemed immense, would hold an awful lot of hay, I thought. Leonard Bengston was helpful, reassuring. "Rinse your mouth out with water before you go up" he said," many people have too much saliva in their mouth". I liked that, he didn't put me down, he made it sound as if it was normal to have "too much saliva in your mouth." It didn't go too badly, I don't recall being especially scared. Neither Emilie nor I won but we had gotten there.

Someone took me to my first movie. King Kong. It was not "virtual reality, it wasn't even reality but it was something! I have never forgotten that, it scared the hell out of me. I probably would have crawled under the barn if there had been one around. Forty years later I saw it again-I understand why I was scared.

1934 - Page 19

Sixth and seventh grade: A new teacher, Mae Peloquin. She was different. Not for her some confining room in someone else's house. She made her quarters in the "little room". A curtain closed it off from the classroom. It was forbidden territory. And rightly so, it was her home. But we boys, who might have been feeling stirrings of our own, speculated endlessly about it. Some mornings we would find strange tire tracks in the yard and one morning we found men's footprints on the tops of all our desks. She stayed two years. The second year her younger sister stayed with her. I can't remember if there were more or fewer tire tracks then. Likely more, I would reckon.

Circa 1934 - Pages 25-26, SKIPPING SCHOOL ON A WARM SPRING DAY:

I meant to do my work today

*But a brown bird sang in the apple tree,
And a butterfly flitted across the field,
And all the leaves were calling me.
And the wind went sighing over the land
Tossing the grasses to and fro,
And a rainbow held out its shining hand
So what could I do, but laugh and go
Le Galienne*

There were no brown birds, no apple trees, but it was spring. A warm day in March, perhaps the first warm day. It was afternoon recess, we scooted down the icy road, one ski each. One foot on the ski, the other foot pushing, much like a skate board of today. We were out of sight, we heard the teacher ring the bell, by mutual, unspoken consent we kept on going.

We skipped, the Parr kids, the Knaebles and I. We came to our place, there was Pa, sitting on the woodpile sunning himself. We joined him, he talked to us. There was no mention of the fact

that we had skipped, no mention whatsoever. I don't remember what we talked about, I remember only that it was easy, and comfortable, and I felt very good about it. I had never known Pa like that, he had never talked to me like that. Was it because there were other boys there too? I don't know, but like the cake in the kitchen, it was so unique it imprinted on my mind, never to be forgotten

ONE-ROOM SCHOOLS:

The school was a quintessential one-room school. All eight grades together. Everyone heard all of the recitations of all the others. It was very easy, by the time one got to the eighth grade he, or she, had already heard it seven times. The enrollment was very small, sometimes as few as eleven or twelve kids total in all eight grades. I was alone in my class the last three years.

EIGHTH GRADE:

I finished grade school in 1937. My last teacher was Miss Paciotti. She was the first person of Italian descent that I had ever seen. She was nice. I liked her and being the oldest boy in school I developed some sort of rapport with her that was comfortable for me. I liked that.

Driving School Bus - Page 35:

During my freshman year, my brother Earl had the school bus contract, i.e., he hauled the four or five of us to and from school each day in his car. The next year he lost it to an "old" (45 perhaps) guy who claimed poverty or veterans preference or something. Naturally I resented that and took great pleasure in the fact that he was a "terrible" driver. He drove like one who hadn't learned until he was forty-five, he hadn't. It snowed eight inches one night, wet and heavy. He was totally out of his element. Next morning he got as far as our place, but couldn't turn around, couldn't back up, couldn't go forward. I smirked and said, "Slide over, I'll drive it for you." And so I did, made the route, picked up the kids and delivered them and myself to school on time with him sitting like a dummy along side of me. I loved it.

INTRODUCTION:

These are excerpts, related to Bergville School, from a letter I wrote to my brother, Ray, in the summer of 1994. Most of this was first written down in 1945 after I returned to Minnesota from Cicero to begin college at B.S.T.C. I was privileged to be in Dr. Sauer's class. If I had not written some of these details then, I would never have remembered them, especially the details about building the snow house. I have continued my letter to Ray, even after his death, by adding more details as they come to mind. I have added in sub-titles to make it easier to read.

Ray had been diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease or "ALS" in the fall of 1992. This was a very painful time for Ray and for all of us, because we had gone through this in the 80's from the time we first found out that Russ had ALS. I will never forget that day. Ray had assisted Russ extensively during those three years, so he knew what was coming as did the rest of us. For the Skoe family, Russ's bout with ALS was looked upon as an aberration. Ray's illness and death from the same disease took on new meaning. By the summer of 1994, Ray was well into the latter stages, wheelchair bound, needing almost total care. I say almost, because Ray was not one to give up control completely.

He was four years older than me. Our father had had a stroke earlier in 1937 and was able to work very little. Our mother passed away in 1939 when I was about almost twelve years old. Our two younger brothers, Russ, age seven, and Gordie age four were left motherless as well. Ray, a mere fifteen-year old, was in effect, the “man” of the house, half-brother, half-father to his younger siblings. Our older siblings and spouses were great; they did what they could and more.

Ray was very special to me. He passed away in November of 1994. I still miss him.

Gladys Anna Skoe Barron 1933-1941 (grades 1-8?)**Compiled in May 1999****August 4, 1994****Dear Ray,****Do you remember when?****Supervisors:**

The Bemidji State teacher supervisor, Miss Sholes, visited each rural school periodically. I think her visits were a source of a great deal of concern for all, teachers, student teachers and students. Many students were scared to death of her, and I suspect the teachers and student teachers were, too!

Ray, do you remember the time her car got stuck in a snow bank? The older kids, especially you boys, rushed to help push her out of the snow bank, or were you sent out there? I never heard so much grunting and groaning in my life. What an act! All the time holding her car back as hard as you could. If I remember correctly, some of the rest of us must have been helping, too. I heard a rumor that the reason why she was there was because some boys had skipped school one afternoon. Could it be the time you wrote about in your book when you, the Parrs and the Knaeble boys skied over the hill and into the sunset that warm spring day?

Snow House Or Igloo-Minnesota Style:

Some of our happiest hours were spent before and after school, noon hours and recesses playing mumbly peg, Run Sheep Run, Hop Scotch, Kick the Tin Can, Fox and Geese, "making angels in the snow, Ante I Over, tag, I Spy and jacks.

Darlene and Ray Olson and I were visiting not too long ago. Your name came up, Ray. What she remembered the most about you, was the igloo, or "snow house."

Your engineering skills were obvious, even at that early age. Everyone built snow houses, but you and the other boys didn't stop there. Others involved were Knaeble and Parr boys and maybe more. Girls weren't allowed except upon invitation. I remember old saw blades being used to cut large cakes of snow from mounds that piled up when strong winds formed high drifts, hard enough for us to walk on. It always intrigued me when we woke up in the morning and the snow had formed a "crust" so hard we could walk on it without sinking in. Fascinating.

Large cakes of snow were cut and arranged to form the sides. Boards were laid across the top for a roof and then covered with more snow blocks. Ray Knaeble confirmed for me that the blocks were watered down to make it freeze solid, just as I had remembered.

Many days it was much too cold inside without a door, so you guys drove a sturdy pole into the ground, no easy task in the winter, then made a door out of board scraps and fastened it to the pole with hinges. "Necessity is the Mother of Invention." That was certainly true then. Everything was saved and re-cycled over and over again.

Minnesota winters without a stove? I can see it now, a small, rectangular tin can was brought from home. Openings in the roof were made for a chimney. As I remember it, an old iron pipe ran from the stove up through the roof. When the house was finally completed, it was snug and cozy, just right for storytelling. If we were lucky enough to have a sandwich left from our noon lunch, we toasted them on the make-shift stove. Delicious! Marilyn Knaeble often brought "Sandwich Spread" sandwiches in her lunch bucket. How I envied her. We never had such fancy things in our house. The last time I checked, it was still available in some stores. Looking back, I know the spread wasn't much at all, just salad dressing, spices, and maybe a few bits of chopped pickles or onion. No matter!

When I was reminiscing with Marie a little while ago, I mentioned the snow house to her, and she remembers being told by Miss Sholes, that you, Ray, had invited her into the snow house for a taste of toasted "sandwich of the day." She was quite impressed! You may be redeemed yourself a little bit in the eyes of Miss Shole after working so hard to keep her stuck in the snow. She told Marie about that, also. I think they both suspected what really happened.

Stories about things like this often drifted back to us through Marie and Bena because they went to normal school, teacher's training in Bemidji and taught in rural schools. They knew most of the student and regular teachers as well as the supervisors. Do you suppose she was ever embarrassed by us?

Pledge of Allegiance:

We recited the "Pledge of Allegiance" every morning to open the school day. We were proud of our flag and our country. Our parents and neighbors, as well as the school, conveyed that message to us. At the end of the pledge, I automatically ended with "amen." To this day it almost pops out. I must have been trying to "kill two birds with one stone." Somehow this got back to Marie. It was kind of like having a "Mole" in the school.

The Great Sit- Down Strike of 1937-Bergville Style:

Don and I visited with Marilyn Knaeble Paradis in the fall of 1993 at their home in Woodburne, Oregon for a week. They have restored their old house and have a bed and breakfast place called "Carriage Inn." Marilyn is a great cook and they were great hosts.

This was the first time in many years that we had a chance to reminisce about the "olden days." Marilyn remembers one winter at Bergville when our teacher told us girls, Marilyn, Elaine Deering, Darlene Clemons, Irene Grilley, Muriel and Gladys Estabrooks and I, and I'm not sure who else, that we were to go out and carry in more wood for the stove. Well, we thought that we had done more than our share, and it was the boys turn. Ray, and you thought the boys always had that job!

I can't imagine what got into us! We decided to go on a "sit-down strike." We wouldn't bring in any more wood! We wouldn't come in, either! We must have been all of nine or ten years old.

I don't specifically remember it, but Marilyn insists that I was involved. Unbelievable! The teacher kept sending the boys out to get us to come in and we kept ignoring her. Marilyn said that her older brother, Ray and you, Ray, kept egging us on. I bet you couldn't wait to get us into more trouble, could you?

In August of 1994, I finally spoke to Irene Grilley Shaw on the phone. The "sit-down strike" was the big thing she remembered about Bergville. I didn't even have to mention it first. She remembers that we had our snow suits on, but we sat out in the snow bank so long that our dresses got really soaked. I don't remember why gave in, but we finally came in. When Ray Knaeble and I were reminiscing about it later, he didn't hesitate a minute. He said, "I know why you came in, your mothers got there fast, and you came in fast!" We had to make up our time during recesses and noon hours. We finally got a reprieve because someone's mother became ill, Marilyn's perhaps. When she was excused, the rest of us were, also.

When I visited you the last time, Ray, I was surprised when you told me why it was called a "sit-down strike." In 1937, the workers at General Motors went on a major strike, but unlike other strikes, they decided to stay in the building and "sit-down" instead of walking outside and "picketing," hence the name "sit-down" strike! Thanks for the info!

Christmas and Valentine Programs:

Remember the Christmas and Valentine programs we used to put on? Marilyn Knaeble remembers the fancy crepe paper costumes which we made for Christmas and Valentine programs, etc. You, Ray, were assigned to see to it that the younger kids got their costumes off quick! You really sped things up. Marilyn had planned to save her outfit. She remembers bursting into tears because you ripped them off. That could be the year we put on the play about "The Queen of Hearts." Maybe that's why one of the teachers nicknamed you "Little George Washington" before you ha even started school.

My Only Male Teacher:

Leonard Bengston was my first grade teacher at Bergville, the only male teacher I had ever had or heard of until high school. And boy did I have a crush on him! He would play "steal sticks" with us, and I would stand on the center line and guard him like a hawk! Men school teachers were almost non-existent in those days. He was a good role model for us. I remember you saying that Leonard Bengston was the only person you had seen up to that time with carefully manicured, clean finger nails. I suppose that's so, but it seemed a strange thing to remember. The last I heard a few years ago, he was still living in Grand Rapids.

Love your sis,
Gladys

Teachers:

1st grade	Leonard Bengston	Gladys started 1st grade
2nd grade	Mae Peloquin	
3rd grade	Mae Peloquin	Ray graduated
4th grade	Agnes Paciotti	Russell started
5th grade	Agnes Paciotti	
6th grade	Hazel Livens	
7th grade	Florence Coolen	
8th grade	Lenora Wilkens	Gordie started 1st grade

Halloween:

Halloween has always been a fun time for the Barron family, even more so, because I remember things that we did on Halloween at Bergville. One was the singing of "Halloween," from our song book..

When our grandsons, Josh, Mike, Ryan, Dustin, Justin, and Jared were young, and not so young, we had costume parties for them. Don and I would decorate the whole house with everything from spiders, spider's webs, jack o'lanterns, skeletons, eerie music, and anything else eerie we could think of. We had strange food and witches' brew, hay stacks, etc. Just like my earlier days, we bobbed for apples and played games. One time our youngest son, Darby, came in with a huge carved jack-o-lantern on his head and to our shock drove home that way on the side streets. No, he hadn't had a drop to drink. He created a lot of attention and really shocked me!

From those first years and on, I have searched for the music and words to Hallowe'en in antique stores, by asking friends, etc. To no avail. In 1998 I subscribed to the Clearwater County Historical News and the first issue I got was in September/October 1998, and there it was, the words but not the music. After many calls to Clearbrook and checking on the Internet, I finally got a copy of the original with music. You would think I had found a gold mine. It was in the children's song book, The Music Hour, First Book, copyright 1927-1928, music by W. Otto Miessner and words by Abbie Farwell Brown, a well-known writer of children's fun poetry.

When I spoke with Marie on the phone the next time and mentioned this song, she remembered it right away. Our neighbor, Mrs. Grilley was Irish and she loved to play the piano. From her, and others, we were introduced to holidays such as Halloween, as well as a variety of other fun songs, "Froggie Would a Courtin Go," was a favorite. Some of the teachers were especially good about that, too.

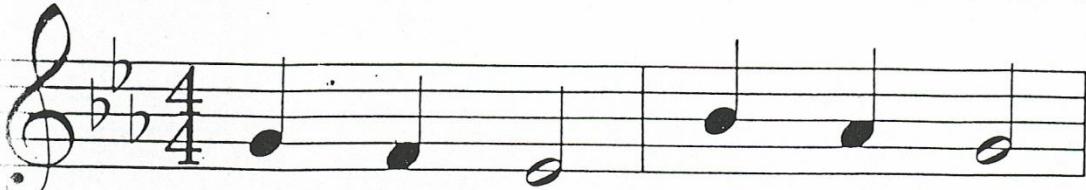
One of Marie's teachers, obviously after 1928, had a Halloween party at school, complete with costumes. She remembers that our mother fashioned a costume out of crepe paper, an orange top and a full black skirt for her, as she probably did for others in the family. On the bottom of the skirt, she attached miniature pumpkins, probably made by crumpling crepe paper. Where in the world did she scrounge up enough materials, and for that matter, the time and energy? Our family included Pa, Earl, Stanton, Bena, Stanley, Marie, Emilie, Ray, and me, a mere baby. It boggles my mind.

Hallowe'en

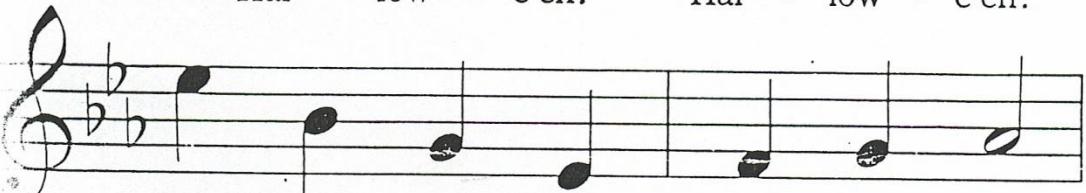
Study Song

ABBIE FARWELL BROWN

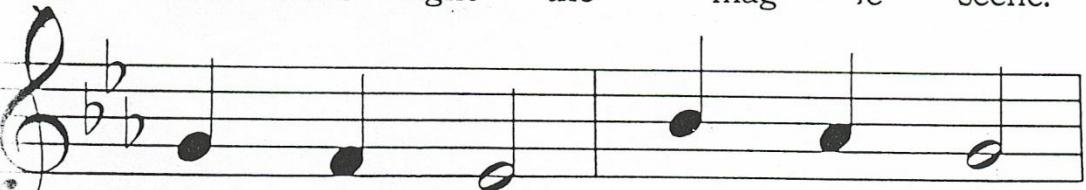
W. OTTO MIESSNER



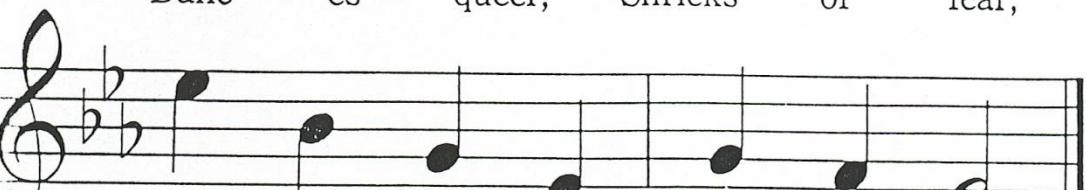
Hal - low - e'en! Hal - low - e'en!
Hal - low - e'en! Hal - low - e'en!



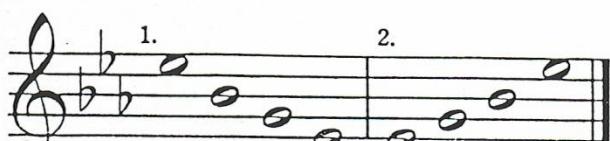
Oh what fun - ny things are seen!
Lan - terns light the mag - ic scene.



Witch - es' hats, Coal black cats,
Danc - es queer, Shrieks of fear,



Broom - stick rid - ers, mice and rats!
Strang - est night in all the year!



*Pleasantville History News, C
September/October 1998, CHS,*

Dress Code:

We had no dress code in those days. We didn't need one. We wore what could be found to wear, some home-made, mostly hand-me-downs. Pictures indicated that the clothes, old as they may have been, were neatly patched, very often by hand. We got one new pair of shoes a year if we needed them and if there were no hand-me-downs left that fit or were wearable. Did we like new, nice things? Of course, but it wasn't a big deal to most of us. It was the way it was! Today, it's a different story. Too bad! Unnecessary clothes didn't show up in our house, nor in most of the houses that we knew around, besides that, the parents, of necessity, made those decisions and had the final say.

*"When high school kids wear rags today,
They call it self-expression.
When I was young and
dressed that way,
We called it the Depression.
Anonymous*

My Classmates:

At various times, Marilyn Knaeble, Darlene Clemons and I were together in the same grade, but they sometimes moved out of the area. Some schools, like Cunningham, opened, closed, re-opened again, and then closed, so that changed our enrollment at times. I can't remember if Irene Grilley and Elaine Deering were in my grade or not. I do remember that I liked all of my class mates and missed them greatly. My feelings were the same for my teachers.

Hot Lunches:

Each day we brought something from home to heat up for the noon lunch. One of us would be assigned to get out the dish pan, put the wooden rack in the bottom, add water and arrange the jars in the pan with their covers loosened. Then we set the pan on top the large jacketed stove to heat. I have no idea how there could have been any left, but I remember, at least once, taking lutefisk to school. Marilyn couldn't stand the smell of lutefisk. I'm sure that's something she never had at home. I thought it was great fun to bring it to school.

Achievement Days:

Spelling Contests: Spelling was fun and a challenge to me. We studied and studied for the weekly test. One of our teachers capitalized on the competition that went on, especially between the Skoes and the Knaebles. Logging and trucking was what most of the young men did around Island Lake besides farming to get "started." The older Knaeble boys, Merle and Jimmy, had Fords. When two Fords met it was "Tin to Tin." The older Skoe boys, Earl, Stanton, Stanley and later Ray, all drove or owned Chevrolets. For Chevrolets we heard over and over "Chev it or Leave it."

On a white poster tacked to the girls' cloak room door, there was a chart. Each one of us had a cut-out of a Ford or Chevrolet car, probably taken from an old magazine and held in place by a straight pin. When we got a perfect score on our spelling test, our car moved ahead one lap. As I re-call it, the Chevrolets usually won. But was it really better on the road?

At the field day in the spring, I won the spelling contest and went to Grand Rapids at least once for the contest there. I even won the baseball throw on Field Day although those winners didn't advance. Those points did add up to decide which school was the big winner. Bergville won many pennants.

Potato races:**Playground equipment-Inside and out:**

The chinning bar was the only piece of outdoor equipment that I remember having on the playground. The bar could be moved up or down for performing various stunts. We got quite good at it. One time I got hurt, the wind knocked completely out of me when I fell from the top bar on to my back on the hard-packed ground below. Inside, cloak rooms each had a bar across the door for doing chinning on cold or rainy days.

Beyond that, I only remember having a ball and a bat for noon hours and recesses. Before school, after school and at recess in suitable and sometimes unsuitable weather, there was a mad rush to the make-shift ball field to try to secure the best position. "Batter up!" could be heard all over. I loved playing softball, and I was pretty good at it. One thing that I will never forget is the time that I sprained my big thumb on the right hand while trying to catch a fly. It really swelled up.

We did have a lot of fun sliding across the road and under the barbed-wire fence onto Mud Creek below on cardboard, rarely a sled. I vividly remember that Bena had made me a black coat out of a black Caracul coat someone had given us. I was very proud of it, and all went well until I went under the barb-wired fence across the road, and the wire tore a large three-cornered hole in my coat. I was horrified. I don't remember who said what when I got home, but I knew that was a pretty special coat. Across Highway 46 we slid on the hill as well, and couldn't wait to get outside and across the road to the hill.

Declams:

Bergville was larger than the other competing schools in our area and we always did very well in the Achievement Day contests. I suspect that all the Skoes going through there had something to do with it. On second thought, that's probably one of reasons why it was bigger, too.

Potato races and baseball throws:

Learning:**Geography:**

Around fourth grade we were introduced to geography. The large globe hung from the ceiling, the maps of the world were on the wall. The specifics I don't remember so much, but some of the results I do. Some of our neighbors gave us their Life, Saturday Evening Post and other magazines after they had read them. I read them and re-read them. I can vividly remember one article in Life that showed a picture of a snake with a large bulge in it. It had swallowed an egg whole.

I was a coupon clipper then, for sure. The colored ads for sights around United States and Canada enticed me. I remember sending for and receiving beautiful brochures from Yellowstone, Yosemite, Glacier National Park, Alaska and many other places to travel to. You name it, and I sent for it. It was the next best thing to traveling there in person. It wasn't until the spring of 1949 when I graduated from B.S.T.C. that I got to visit my first parks on a trip out west with my oldest brother, Earl and his family.

Reading and Writing:

Cock-a-doodle-doo and the duck says quack, quack, etc. I loved it! Every book in the library was read over and over. Pens, pencils, colored and black and typewriters fascinated me. Today the computer has taken over. My first sales experience was with Cloverine Salve. Mail-order catalogues still sell it. My eye was on a toy typewriter. After selling a certain number of those little round cans of salve, I received it as my prize. It beats me who bought all of those from me, most likely it was my older siblings and my parents friends. Amazingly, it actually typed by way of separate keys with letters on them made somewhat like the letters on stamp pads we can buy today. My interest was probably piqued because Emilie was in Grand Rapids taking shorthand and typing in the high school and winning awards in both typing and shorthand. How I'd love to have that typewriter today.

My first experience with a real typewriter was with Royals or Underwoods when I attended J. Sterling Morton High School when I moved to Cicero when I was fourteen to live with my sister, Bena and her family, after my mother passed away. Illinois. Later I was emboldened to buy an electronic one. For awhile I typed a lot of things I didn't intend to type. Today, computer is king, and the Internet followed. I love it!

Music and Arts:

The only music we had was what each teacher was able to bring to us and a few graded music books. Oh yes, we had an up-right piano which had been bought and paid for by others through dances, basket socials, etc. earlier on. Usually we had a short time of group singing. Probably once a week we could write a name on a piece of paper and "secretly" ask someone to sing a song. My favorite was to ask Ray Knaeble to sing "A Froggie Would a Courtin Go," and "Bill Grogan's Goat." Needless to say, our motives weren't exactly pure.

Art was the same, but I remember things that we made very well. One year it was Valentine turtles. A large red heart for the body, a smaller one for a head, and five smaller ones for the feet

and tail were made by folding red construction paper in half, and cutting them out so they were symmetrical. The legs and tail were made by cutting twelve strips of white construction paper. Take two strips and place one end at right angle to the other and paste down. Continue folding each one so you get an accordion type-braid. Paste them to the body and paste on the small hearts for feet, head and tail. No scotch tape then. The school had a large gallon of paste. Don't ask me why, but I remember that I used to eat some of it, and I'm sure I wasn't the only one. At home we made our own from flour and water and stirred it with a small stick. And you guessed it; I made them for our kids, too.

Every holiday we made cards for our parents. My mother passed away in January of 1939. Evidently there was quite a stir around school when Mother's Day came. I don't remember it, but when the materials were handed out to work with, I guess that the Skoe kids didn't get any. We were not supposed to make cards because we didn't have a mother, something to that effect. If it happened that way, I don't remember it, and it certainly did not leave a scar on me. Our teacher, Miss Livens, did a lot of fun thing with her students, wiener roasts, etc. and I remember liking her. No doubt it caused her more anguish than it did me. If I understand it correctly, it reached the halls of the School District I School Board in Grand Rapids.

Playground games:

"Rotten Egg" We learned at an early age to amuse ourselves without the toys and games scattered around homes today, often sitting on the shelf gathering dust. It took two to do the swinging. We linked arms with the "egg," one on each side. The "egg" being swung clasped her hands together underneath her. Then the swinging began, back and forth, harder and harder until the "egg cracked." We had a "rotten egg."

Bergville or Shallow Pond?:

For some strange reason I cannot remember if I actually graduated from Bergville or Shallow Pond. When my eighth grade rolled around, I moved to Alvwood with my oldest brother, Earl and his wife, Vera, and attended Shallow Pond. My teacher was Miss Hubbard, a rather large woman who ran herd on her charges. My dream was to be able to return to Island Lake in the spring in time to graduate with my youngest brothers, Gordie, now known as Will, Russ, and my long-time friend Marilyn, as well as the others there. For the life of me I don't know if I did or not. Bergville's spring picnic picture doesn't have me on it, that I know. My report card the last term and the final grade seems to be written by someone different than the first five periods. The last ones seemed to be penned by someone who practiced better "Palmer Method." To top it off, School District 318 seems to have lost or destroyed all the school records in the last couple of years from the whole Squaw Lake District. I can't find my diploma, either. It bugs me!

The Palmer Method:

We practiced our hand writing often. Some of us more than others! The wrist should be held flat on the table. If you can balance a coin on your wrist and still write you are doing it properly. We hardly ever saw a coin. Keep a light touch. Swirl, swirl, swirl. We practiced and practiced. Some of us practiced more than others! One of the student teachers was even assigned to work with me. In later years I wondered what was wrong with my bone structure until I found out that

June 18, 2003

Bergville School as I remember it.docx

my older siblings whom I admired so much had the same problem, it must be genetic. Emilie is the only one I know of who could have possibly passed the “mustard” naturally, at least from our family. The teachers tried, and the system tried, and t did get us to pay attention to our hand writing. A fine example of “The Palmer Method” would be Stanley Skoe’s name on his Eighth Grade Diploma in 1929. Beautiful!

I attended most of 1940-41 at Alvwood and attended Shallow Pond School. I left Shallow Pond on April 21st, 1941 and enrolled at Bergville. I spent 29 days at Bergville according to both the Shallow Pond and Bergville records. I did graduate at Bergville, although I am not pictured on in the spring picnic at Bergville. I can’t find my diploma, and during the last four years, Grand Rapids cannot find the records. Hurrah! District 318 found the lost records when Don and I were there on November 9, 1999. They were filed under “Squaw Lake District.”