



Corn Valley School District 4320

SE Section 22- Township 39-Range 2-W3

1920 - 1957

near Aberdeen, Province of Saskatchewan, Canada

Corn Valley School

On the days when a bit of "education" was the key to open doors for young people, an area about 7 miles north east of Aberdeen was settled by families who wanted to have a school, so in 1920 a school was built and it was named "Corn Valley" as a local farmer who had come up from the U.S.A. had a field of corn growing about 1/2 a mile east of the school site. This was the beginning to a new era in this district. This one room school was located on the SE 1/4 of 22-39-2-W3.

Enrollment was roughly 30-40 students with only one teacher. Some of the early teachers were Mrs. Kingston, Kathleen Smith, Miss Hutton, Mrs. Beggs, Mrs. Kitchenmaster, Miss Fitzsimmons, Betty Huckaby, Mrs. Sims, Mrs. Hamm, Frank Taylor, John Schellenberg and Orland Larson.

Some families whose children attended school were: Fred Mantyka family, John and Fred Kowal family, John and Mike Hryciw family, Harry Danchuk family, Elzie and Gilbert Huckaby family, Dick Newton family, Clarence Gordons, Skelton family, John Thompson, Remus', Pete Haanen, Hopper family, The Marsdens, Oscar Halvorsons, Joe Hamolines, John and Dave Buhlers.

During the 37 years this school was open, there seemed to be a constant change. If it wasn't the teachers, then it could have been the board of trustees or both but most of all it was the pupils. They came as little tots and spent approximately 10 years of their growing years at the little one roomed school and though it generally seemed a long time for "going-to-school", they eventually came to the day when they would leave the classroom and enter into the world — a young "educated" adult.

The degree of education was generally governed by the pupils' capabilities, the teachers's training and teacher's tolerance, and the parents' need for extra help on the farm. Some pupils left school with the barest knowledge of the 3 R's while others left the local school with a good sound basis for high school and eventual University training.

The highlights of the school year were of course the June exams, where everything you had ever read or been told would FLASH before your eyes and you would get it down on paper before it faded and the end result would be a "passing" mark so that you would not be informed of the very degrading fact of having to repeat the grade you failed.

The most enjoyable time of each year was the "School Christmas Concert" where everyone would don the guise of a "performer" on the stage. To some it was an opportunity to "let go" and live a fantasy, if only for a few minutes. To others it was a very threatening period of pressures where one would break down and reveal "all" to parents, class-mates and especially one's self. Basically, some of the pressured children are now the adults who can stand before an audience and express ideas and plans, lead discussions and inform. We often question if the little country school and the small part each student played formed the basis for the leadership abilities of some of our most civic minded community leaders.

Social events were held in the school by the community. Travelling to the school in the cold winter evenings was done by team of horses and sleigh — heated stones were used as "foot warmers". The school barn was used for shelter for the horses. Music for dances was supplied by a "Gramophone" — the neighbours bringing their records to share. Local violin artists helped out occasionally. Desks were moved to the sides of the room and served threefold — for sleeping infants, coat hangers and, if room, to sit on.

This school was closed when the students were bussed into school in Aberdeen in 1957. John Buhler owns the school property.

The building is torn down now and the site is still there but one of the teachers who stayed and taught for eleven and one-half years is best remembered because we who are of the age of 50-60 years look back and think of the period when "Frank Taylor"

was sincerely trying to mould the rough clay into an acceptable beautiful vessel, we think he succeeded, as he worked close with the parents of each child and knew them personally.

The school is gone, the students have grown to take their places in society but there is still a part of history that lives in each one who attended Corn Valley School. We are happy to have been a part of it.

Corn Valley write up from the Aberdeen supplement
Submitted by Gordon Thompson

For more information on Corn Valley School

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cansk/school/CornValley4320/>