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Invermay School District #1284 by Mrs. Jem McDonald,

Invermay, like most early settlements, provided education for its children as one of its first requirements. In 1905 a school was built on the school section at a cost of \$719.05, furniture \$174.48, supplies \$1.70, maps, globes, etc. \$42.00, clearing grounds \$39.00.



The first Invermay School. Teacher: H.A. Loucks.

Starting in 1907 J.T. Enright was secretary treasurer.

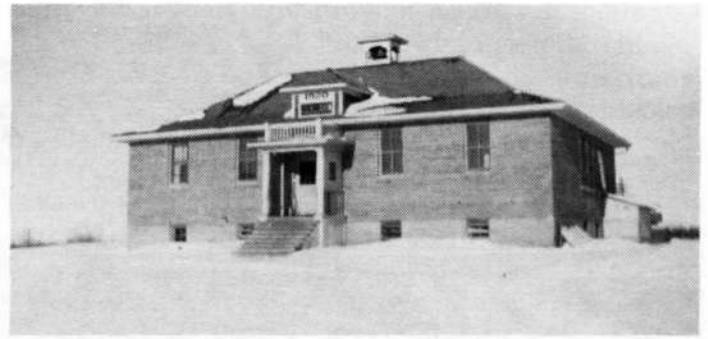
Archie Hunt, a student minister, opened the school in 1905 and taught from September to December for \$75.00 until another teacher could be secured.

Miss B. Maude McCurdy taught in 1906 for \$40.00 per month. Wreatha Snell and William McKenzie in 1906 and 1907. Harry Artley Loucks from 1908-11. It is noted that his salary ranged from \$559.00 to \$660.00. George Neuert and H.A. Loucks were auditors during that time.

In 1916 the school became too small and many meetings were held regarding a new one. The old Methodist Church, later the Red and White store, was rented.

A new brick school was built in 1920 and opened for classes January 3, 1921. The plan for the school was Waterbury #901.

The minutes of the first meeting were signed by A.E. Bergstrom and H.A. Loucks. Ratepayers at the annual meeting January, 1921 were: J.T. Enright, M.S. Dimmick and Archie Campbell - these three



Brick school built in 1920.

took an active part in most school meetings from 1905 to 1922 or later; Harry Deacon, Frank Tulloch, Thomas Hogan, Hugh Jones, Fred Cook, R.A. McDonald, Newton Burgess, Harry Knight and Victor Collier. Note -no women.

The old school was sold to Invermay Masonic Lodge for \$450 in 1921, moved to town and is still there serving as a Senior Citizen's Center. The Chain of Lakes school was moved to town and used for a time as an extra classroom. The United Church annex was also used as a classroom.

A school bell was purchased for \$48 in 1907. The school received a grant in 1907 for \$125 and a library grant for \$14.70.

Caretakers in the early days were the teachers and students and the fuel for heating was wood.

In 1923 there were 2 swings, 2 teeters, a whirligig, baseball and football equipment, 2 tennis courts for use of the students and the tennis club.

It was noted in 1924 board minutes that the junior room would open September 2, while the senior room would open October 1.

A list of urban and rural ratepayers for 1924: John Sondreson, Frank Ashdown, E. Boen, F.T. Cook, N. Burgess, J. Burgess, Dr. Caldwell, D. McKinnon, W. Glen, J.C. Snell, G. Cook, Frank Tulloch, Mrs. E. Knight, Sam Knight, W. Millman, A.S. Cook, Ada Enright, A. Campbell, W. Evans, J. Young, R.A. McDonald, A. Jones, W. Currah, H. Knight, H.A. Loucks, C. Condon, C. Lee, S. Lucas, D. Riach, V. Collier, Mrs. M.A. Collier, M.S. Dimmick, R.A. Welch, Tom Harwood, A. Lappi.

Urban -J.W. Tulloch, H. Brown, C.S. Speller (renter), J.E. Neuert, Eunice E. Neuert, H. Deacon, Jar Lung, D.H. McDonald (renter), A.E. Bergstrom, R.L. Silverthorne, Mike N arycki (renter), W.B. Butchart, solicitor, H.J. Stephen, Robert Colville, R. McCrindle, A. McCrindle, Albert Cole, G. Telfer, section foreman, W. Birch, station agent, F.A. Ashmore, secretary, J. Taylor, R. Harrison (lumber agent), E.G. Cole, Liberty Elevator agent, J.T. Enright, Mr. McLelland, bank teller, Harvey Johnson, ledger keeper, Laura Coons, I.F. Tolputt, H.Sandiford, A. Bull.



Invermay students, 1924. Back row: Mr. Kitchen, Frank Rioch, Vic Loucks, Edna Loucks, Lillian Olson, Maude Welsh, Grace Enright, Verna Neuert, Jessie Lee, Ella Neuert, E. Cook, ?, Dolly Lee, Alma Paso, ?, Margaret Welch, Miss Coons. Middle row: Raymond Cook, Andy Telfer, Jack Neuert, Cyril Broadbridge, Gib McDonald, Norman Cook, Ellen Silverthorn, Florence Deacon, Eliza Rioch, Isabel Tulloch, Muriel Ashdown, Eileen Deacon, Mildred Colville, Jean

Neuert, Marriot Bull, unknown, Nina Lee, Mabel Currah, Iona Lee, Alice Haver, Margaret Bergstrom. Front row: Gordon McDonald, Arthur Deacon, Stan Haver, Leith Bull, Leo Ashdown, Arthur Broadbridge, Andy McCrindle, Bob Colville, Jack Young, Bob McCrindle, Jack Silverthorn, Gordon Birch, Wib Bull, Walt Bull, Jean Rioch, Doris Millman, Blanche Tulloch, Bessie Haver.

In 1924 the board agreed to waive tuition fees for high school to see if more students would enroll; this was later dropped.

1926 brought the change to a three-roomed school by building a partition in one room and engaging a third teacher. At this time the board asked for a levy of \$4,500 to be raised from urban and rural sources.

A tower was built on the school to support the bell. An electric fire alarm system and two fire extinguishers were installed.

In 1929 R.C. Sills, R.L. Silverthorn and D.H. McDonald were school trustees. The Anglican Church was given permission to hold services providing they supply one ton of coal and make satisfactory arrangements with the janitor.

The question of time change arose about this time and continued for years till it was finally settled when the Saskatchewan Government voted to remain year round on central standard time.

A special meeting was held in August, 1929 regarding the teaching of grade XII as there were a number of students who wished to take advantage of it. The principal agreed to keep all present classes and also grade XII for an extra \$300. Mr. MacLeod

was given permission in December to hold extra classes for Grade 12 during the holidays if students were agreeable and arrangements made with the janitor. In 1931 Mr. MacLeod agreed to teach Grade XII on his own time, weekends and evenings. The board decided to charge \$10 a month for the use of the school so classes were held in his home. His students were loyal to him and he was able to help them achieve their grade no matter what obstacle. More than once he was fired and rehired when ratepayers and students came to his rescue. A special "distress" meeting was held in January, 1931 regarding financial matters and it was decided not to pay the debenture payment that was due in order to carry on for another 3 months.

The district had borrowed \$12,000 in 1920 when they built the school and up to 1935 had paid \$14,300. This debenture was not cleared up till after 1944 when R.M. 305 under Reeve G.M. Ferrie and the local board negotiated a settlement.

Salaries in 1933 were \$800, \$500, and \$400. In October, 1932 Mr. MacLeod had a toboggan slide built for the school children which caused a great deal of anxiety for parents and the school board.

Greenwood at \$2.25 a cord, seasoned wood at \$3.00 a cord was purchased and was to be sawed by the

tender that charged the least.

The matter of consolidation was first noted in 1914 but outlying districts were firmly against it. It came up again in 1914 and 1915 and was defeated in a vote in 1916.

At the 1939 annual meeting another request for a vote was deferred. The district was having difficulty financing and it was evident something had to be done, so there was finally an agreement to go along with the unit system. It was to be the beginning of many stormy meetings till problems were ironed out.

The larger school unit, school standards, teaching facilities and teacher's standards had improved a great deal from the early 1900's but much was still to be desired.

Some school districts were consolidated by 1912 and by 1915 there was a movement towards establishing the larger school unit. One such unit was established in Alberta in 1944. By 1946 there was a strong effort made to divide the province into units so that schools would be better served with teachers, buildings and facilities.

By order in Council of November 30, 1953 the Canora School Unit became a reality. The trustees took over assets and liabilities of 60 schools in the Canora area and Invermay School District #1284 became part of the unit. This took effect January 18, 1954.

After five years a vote was taken after which the unit was on a permanent basis. The surrounding schools were closed and the students were transported by bus to town.

The buses travelled in all sorts of weather. At first there was only one snow plow in the district to keep the roads open. It was owned and operated by Gilbert McDonald. Many roads now have been built up and the R.M. has its own plows. The drivers are to be commended for the care they take of the students.

In 1954 two new classrooms were built for the high schools.

In 1963 a 6-room elementary school was built and an auditorium 60 x 100 was a reality in 1969-70 which included a science classroom, a small lab and library room. A rural school was moved in to ease the classroom space.

The buses are utilized to transport students to Canora to take advantage of Home Economics, Shop, Band and Music programs.

Invermay unit board members from 1954 to the present are: John McKetsy, Walter Shinkewski, Gilbert A. McDonald, Marion Brezinski, Ken Krawetz.

Unit duties included: build all schools in the Unit,

equip all schools and provide necessary facilities, decide with the local board where pupils should attend school, engage teachers and pay their salaries, pay all expenses in connection with upkeep of schools, decide what taxes should be levied, hold sub-unit annual meetings and present a detailed report on the operations and administration of unit schools, negotiate equalization and building grants with the department of Education, establish and provide pupil transportation where schools are closed.

The local board cares for and manages property for the school district; informs and advises the unit board about necessary repairs to buildings, equipment and services needed; makes emergency repairs at the cost of the unit, and co-operates with the Unit Board in providing janitor services, fuel and water.

Superintendents of schools from the establishment of the unit system are: James McMonagle, John Estock, Ivan Church, Peter Dyck, John Gorchynski, John Zrymiak, Andy Prokopyszyn.

The local board consisted of a representative from each of the districts where the schools were closed and one from Invermay.

During the transition to the unit system the local and unit boards spent many hours in discussion and meetings with departments of Education to get it running smoothly.

Some members of the community who served on the local and central boards: Ed Boen, Harvey Ashdown, V.W. Loucks, E.O. Breeze, Foster Paus, R.L. Currah, C.C. Bull, Aileen Wallster, James Dean, Ben Ferrie, J.K. Willis, Mary Bittner, Francis Leuke, R. Kresak, Donald Smith, Steve Barteski, Jean Barteski, Alice Squire, Kathleen Minhinnick, Martha Dawe, Mike Fidek, Frank Rioch, P. Moon, and Gilbert A. McDonald.

The minutes of Invermay School district meetings from 1935 to the present are in the Provincial Archives at Regina. From excerpts received, matters dealt with were of a general nature but may be perused at any time. I was fortunate to have minutes of meetings up to 1935 for reference.

The above is a brief account of the trials of the early settlers and those following to provide means for the children's education. Nothing was said of the students who passed through the halls to become responsible citizens.

Some of the students took part in two world wars, excelled as doctors, dentists, nurses, lawyers, ministers, teachers, musicians, pilots, mechanics, carpenters, businessmen and women and worthwhile occupations in other areas. Others stayed in Invermay and along with their farm or

village occupation volunteered to manage village, municipal or school business; besides that, worked tirelessly to provide recreational facilities for all. The foresight of the first settlers was not in vain.

Invermay Teachers:

1905 - Archie Hunt, a student minister
 1906 - B. Maude McCurdy
 1906-07 - Wreatha Snell and Mr. William McKenzie
 1908-11 - Harry Artley Loucks
 1912 - Mr. A. Douglas
 1912-13 - Mrs. E. Kelly, T.S. Hutton, J.G. Hill
 1914-15 - Miss A. Arnold
 1916 - H.A. Loucks and Miss Alice Paterson
 1916-17 - Mrs. D.H. McDonald (Alice Paterson), Mr. H.A. Loucks
 1918 - Miss E. Hilliard and Z. Johnson
 1919 - Gladys Tracy, P. Alexander, P. Barke
 1920 - C. Waring and M. Spandier
 1921 - A.J. Boles, Laura Coons
 1922 - M. Barke, L.E. Coons
 1923 - M.J. Haver, L.E. Coons
 1924 - R.H. Kitchen, L.E. Coons
 1925 - L.E. Coons, A.L. Turner, A.C. Atkinson
 1926-27 - A.C. Atkinson, L.E. Coons, Etheleen Hazell
 1928 - A.C. Atkinson, L.E. Coons
 1929-30 - N.J. MacLeod, Laura Coons, Dycey Carlyle-Bell, Miss Finlayson
 1930-35 - N.J. MacLeod, Ella Neuert, Dycey Carlyle-Bell
 1935-36 - Ella Neuert, Victor W. Louck, Ruth Marshall
 1936-37 - Victor Loucks, N.J. MacLeod, Ruth Marshall
 1938-40 - Howard P. Garratt, Mary McRae, Ruth Marshall
 1940-41 - Margaret Andison, Ethel Wood, Ragna Johannesson
 1941-42 - Rose Marie Gaffney, Leonard A. Breker
 1942-43 - Thelma Grace Phillips, Mary Matley, Emma Elizabeth Olson
 1943-44 - Cecil Atkinson, Emma Olson, Alice Edna Bergey
 1944-46 - Evelyn Eileen Stewart, Cecil Atkinson, Dorothy Reid
 1946-47 - William Gryba (part of year), Ruth Balaam, Irene Chabun (part of year), Lillian McCowan
 1947-48 - Ruth Balaam, Lillian Ferrie, Joe Fofonoff
 1948-49 - Joseph Nicholas Fofonoff, Andrew Skoranski, Gertrude Bentley
 1949-50 - Joe Fofonoff, Pauline Lorraine Franke, Joyce Lenore Myrfield
 1950-51 - Alec Walter Prytula, Enid Turner, James Stokes
 1951-52 - James Stokes, William Prociuk, Enid Turner
 1952-53 - Stanley Fowler, Enid Fowler, James Stokes
 1953-54 - Stanley Fowler, May Willis, Enid Fowler
 1954-55 - Stanley Fowler, Enid Fowler, May Willis, Jean Yosioka, W.J. Dutka
 1955-56 - David Keith McColl, F.M. Willis, W.J. Dutka, Adela Elizabeth Ducheminski
 1956-58 - W.J. Dutka, Adela Ducheminski, Lillian Ferrie, Mabel Louise Schultz
 1958-59 - Peter Okrainetz, Lillian Ferrie, Mabel Louise Schultz, Adela Ducheminski, W.J. Dutka
 1959-61 - W.J. Dutka, Peter Okrainetz, Elaine Stallard, Lillian Ferrie, Mabel Schultz, Adela Ducheminski
 1961-62 - Peter Okrainetz, Eugene Suchaboki, Mrs. Yvonne Marie Suchaboki, Marcel Nestor Ostafie, Steve Ryczak, Elaine Stallard, Bessie Rutko, Lillian Ferrie
 1962-63 - Peter Okrainetz, Wm. Pawliw, Adela Ducheminski, Marcel Ostafie, Joan Pawliw, Mary Sylvia Maximiuk, Elaine Stallard, Bessie Rutko, Lillian Ferrie
 1963-64 - Peter Okrainetz, William Pawliw, Jennie Rowan, J.C. Malik, M. Ostafie, William Chorney, Joan Pawliw, Mavis Ann Nordin, Elaine Stallard, Donna Eger, Bessie Rutko, Lillian Ferrie
 1964-65 - Peter Okrainetz, Joan Pawliw, Robert Marshall Priebe, Elaine Stallard, Mae Ann Chillman, Bessie Rutko, Lillian Ferrie, William Pawliw, Mrs. Rowan, Bill Pylypchuk, M.N. Ostafie, Betty Jean Townsend
 1965-66 - Peter Okrainetz, Lillian Ferrie, Bessie Rutko, Mae Ann Chillman, E. Stallard, Bob Priebe, Joan Pawliw, Donna Eger, Sam Pylypchuk, Jennie Rowan, W. Pawliw, M. Ostafie
 1966-67 - Peter Okrainetz, L. Ferrie, Bessie Rutko, F.A. Harrison, E. Stallard, Mike Kushnuriak, Joan Pawliw, Donna Eger, M.

Ostafie, Mrs. Harrison, A.R. Cormack, W. Pawliw
 1967-68 - Peter Okrainetz, J. Pawliw, J.A. Datta, D. Eger, M. Ostafie, Michael Kaminski, W. Pawliw, Joan Lee, E. Stallard, Kathy Kaminski, B. Rutko, L. Ferrie
 1968-69 - P. Okrainetz, L. Ferrie, B. Rutko, Elsie Richards, E. Stallard, Joe Kowalyshyn, Bernadette Gordon (England), M. Kaminski, Mary Ellen Wiseman (Ireland), J.D. Beare, B.K. Ishrish, Donald Bahrey, Mr. Patrick (music)
 1969-70 - D. Bahrey, Dennis Middleton, P. Okrainetz, M. Kaminski, J. Kowalyshyn, Hazel Eliason, E. Stallard, E. Richards, B.K. Ishrish, W. Price, Ismay McKenzie, L. Ferrie
 1970-71 - D. Bahrey, W. Price, Mr. Jean Audette, James Hupka, Robert Weddell, Julia Boske, Valerie Edwards, L.M. Ferrie, M. Kaminski, Sharon Wylie, E. Stallard, H. Eliason, J. Kowalyshyn, P. Okrainetz, Mrs. Nouch (sub.), Superintendent - Peter Dyck
 1971-72 - P. Okrainetz, J. Kowalyshyn, E. Stallard, M. Faltermaier, D. Bahrey, W. Price, M. Kaminski, James Hupka, V. Edwards, George Gopal
 1972-73 - P. Okrainetz, J. Kowalyshyn, Gail Krawetz, E. Stallard, L.M. Ferrie, Madeline Faltermaier, D. Bahrey, Mrs. K. Kaminski, M. Kaminski, J.B. Gibson, Malcolm W. Gossling, V. Edwards, E.C. Frazer, Ken Krawetz
 1973-74 - P. Okrainetz, J. Kowalyshyn, G. Krawetz, E. Stallard, L.M. Ferrie, M. Faltermaier, Valerie Edwards, Wayne Luscombe, E.C. Frazer, Lloyd Wagner, K. Krawetz, M. Kaminski, Mrs. Luscombe (Kindergarten)
 1974-75 - Taras Korol, V. Edwards, M. Kaminski, K. Krawetz, W. Luscombe, Theresa Mylymok, P. Okrainetz, J. Kowalyshyn, G. Krawetz, E. Stallard, L. Ferrie, Madeline Robson, Ellen Luscombe (½ time)
 1975-76 - Al Martin, V. Edwards, M. Kaminski, K. Krawetz, R. Leblanc, Doris Martin (½ time), Dave Sanderson, P. Okrainetz, L. Ferrie, J. Kowalyshyn, A. Muskaluk (½ time), M. Robson, E. Stallard
 1976-77 - A. Martin, V. Edwards, M. Kaminski, K. Krawetz, R. Leblanc, Mrs. D. Martin, D. Sanderson, P. Okrainetz, L. Ferrie, J. Kowalyshyn, A. Muskaluk, M. Robson, E. Stallard
 1977-78 - P. Okrainetz, L. Ferrie, J. Kowalyshyn, G. Krawetz, Angeline Muskaluk, E. Stallard, A. Martin, V. Edwards, M. Kaminski, K. Krawetz, D. Martin, D. Sanderson, Elsie Stephens
 1978-79 - A. Martin, V. Edwards, M. Kaminski, K. Krawetz, D. Martin, John Scandrett, P. Okrainetz, L. Ferrie, G. Krawetz, A. Muskaluk, E. Stallard, M. Robson, J. Kowalyshyn
 1979-80 - A. Martin, D. Martin, K. Krawetz, M. Kaminski, J. Scandrett, G. Krawetz, P. Okrainetz, J. Kowalyshyn, E. Stallard, L. Ferrie, M. Robson
 1980-81 - Valerie Hort, D. Martin, M. Kaminski, G. Krawetz, A. Martin, K. Krawetz, P. Okrainetz, J. Kowalyshyn, E. Stallard, L. Ferrie, M. Robson
 1981-82 - D. Martin, M. Kaminski, G. Krawetz, A. Martin, K. Krawetz, P. Okrainetz, J. Kowalyshyn, E. Stallard, M. Robson, V. Hort
 1982-83 - G. Krawetz, K. Krawetz, D. Martin, Lorne Kopek, R. Matity, M. Kaminski, P. Okrainetz, J. Kowalyshyn, E. Stallard, M. Robson, V. Hort
 1983-84 - Lorne Kulak, Shelley Reynolds, Pat Lenzen, Calvin Tomilin, G. Krawetz, Pam Bogdanoff, M. Kaminski, P. Okrainetz, J. Kowalyshyn, M. Robson, George Fofonoff
 1984-85 - Keith Kirkham, M. Kaminski, G. Krawetz, L. Kulak, C. Tomilin, J. Kowalyshyn, M. Robson, Jeanette Walker, G. Fofonoff
 1985-86 - John P. Zolinsky, George Heuck, George Fofonoff, M. Kaminski, J. Kowalyshyn, G. Krawetz, M. Robson, J. Walker



Miss Coons and primary students.



Invermay Public School 1931.



Grades 5-8, 1941. Back row: Grace Enright, Bernice Burgess, Alice Cronk, Lorraine Boen, G. Kerr, Bob McCrindle, Mildred Cronk, Beth Turner, Peggy Dickson, Libby Bookhalter, Miss Wood. Middle row: Bill Taylor, Ross Turner, Charlie Perret, Russ Ferrie, Bob Ashmore. Front row: Pete Haskewich, Kennie Turner, ?, ?, Elmer Boen, ?, Leslie Paus, Sentlo Lee, Lyle Enright, Pete Telfer.



Grades V-VIII, 1946-47. Back row: Ruth Balaam (teacher), Bud Palmer, Vivian Story, Kathleen Burgess, Elsie Palmer, Elmira Freeman, Earl Enright. Third row: Donna Birch, Nellie Perret, Vivianne Loucks, Margaret Moon, Josephine Rosinski, George Rosinski. Second row: Una Boen, Doreen Paus, unknown, Shona Street, Ethel and Juel Jones. First row: ? Ron, Carol Street, Lillian Ashdown, Charlie Perret, Shirley Perret, Verna Pasloski.



Invermay Primary Room 1942-43, Miss Matley teacher.



Invermay students, October 1943. Principal: Cecil Atkinson.



1959-60 Grades 3 & 4. Back row: Mrs. E. Stallard (teacher) Barry Mula, Christine Barteski, Pat Knight, Gerald Shinkewski, Tony Korchinski, Florence Lee, Lorraine Grychowski, John Knight, Bennie Tabin. Middle row: Billy Graham, Basil Dusyk, Sandra Willis, Susan Bull, Betty Ann Currah, Merilyn Morrow, Jolyn

Loucks, Kenneth Krawetz, Christine Pasco, Diane Gray, Alice Ann Woods, Sylvia Husarevich. Seated: Dianne Barteski, Carol Pocock, Linda Brown, Helen Gulka, Ethel Knight, Gary Mula, Allan Bull, Orest Shinkewski, Lawrence Sochaski, Edward Macala.

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RULES FOR TEACHERS 1872

1. Teachers each day will fill lamps, clean chimneys.
2. Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's session.
3. Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to the individual taste of the pupils.
4. Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.
5. After ten hours in school, the teachers may spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books.
6. Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.
7. Every teacher should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not become a burden on society.
8. Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop will give good reason to suspect his worth, intention, integrity and honesty.
9. The teacher who performs his labor faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of twenty-five cents per week in his pay, providing the Board of Education approves.

Pictures and Highlights

by Stan Fowler

1. Home and School Association formed January

1953.

2. Larger Unit supported and formed June 19, 1953.
3. Invermay Cadet Corps formed 1953.
4. All students brought under one roof in the remodelled and updated four roomed school - Electricity, running water, thermostatically controlled oil furnace and adequate cupboard space, washrooms, indoor toilets and a powder room for the lady teachers, etc. were included.
5. Cadet Corps in its first inspection awarded first place for combined Elementary and High School Corps 1954.
6. Five Cadets spent the summer at Dundurn taking trades training. Five Cadets went to Clear Lake for a ten day camp.
7. Two of our high school students, Marjorie Ashdown and Ken Turner, were individual champions in their respective groups at the Unit Field meet and Marjorie went on to break three Provincial records and won a place on the Field and Track Team that represented Saskatchewan in Toronto. In Drama, Ken Turner won the best actor's award in Canora. Roberta Heaps received Honorable mention.
8. Girl's High School Curling - Our entry won the Southern Saskatchewan Championship in Moose Jaw but lost out in the finals.
9. Roberta Heaps with an average of 89.9% in the Grade XII exams was a contender for Governor-General's Gold Medal Highest in Canora, Wadena, Sturgis and Kamsack Units.

