

Mainroad School #4536

by Dona/d Dean

Mainroad School was built in the year 1924 on the south east corner of 3-32-8 W2. The building of this school was prompted by the extreme distance that the children of this area had to travel to obtain their education. *Mainroad School*



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At this time the schools available were: Boxmoor to the north, Stony View to the south and Bellenden to the east. The geographical centre in distance between these schools was the hoomestead of Mr. Alfred Wallen. At this time it was agreed that the land owners of the area call a general meeting and discuss the situation. It was decided that the meeting be held on the 20th of April, 1923 at the home of Mr. Alfred Wallen.

Mr. Arthur Dean was elected president, Mr. George Churchill was secretary for the meeting. A poll was conducted to arrive at the feeling of the ratepayers in regard to forming a new school district. There were 26 people present. The results of the poll were: 20 votes in favour, 3 votes against. At this time three trustees were elected to carry out the business of the new school. Those elected were Mr. William Davies President, Mr. George Churchill Secretary Treasurer and Bill Older trustee.

Four meetings were held during the summer months. The business carried on was: floating a debenture of \$2700.00, procuring building plans for Waterbury, which was plan No. 102 - 24 ft. x 32 ft. all necessary furniture, setting tuition fees with Boxmoor school board to have their school moved further north-west two miles, and procuring 2 acres of land for the school site from Mr. Alfred Wallen.

At this time on September 23, 1923 news was received that the Stony View school had been destroyed by fire. This put more pressure to hasten the construction of the Mainroad school. It was agreed with the Stony View school board to have their new school built 3/4 of a mile south of the old building site which would then bring all three schools into a more realistic distance between each other.

In April of 1924 all trustees resigned and the following were elected, Mr. Arthur Dean for a 3 year term, Mr. R.D. Whitman for 2 years and Mr. H. Tunnicliff for 1 year. The building contract for the school was awarded to Mr. W. Offer for the amount of \$300.00. The painting was contracted to Mr. H. Haverstraw for the sum of \$45.00.

With the completion of construction in the spring of 1924, the first teacher hired was Miss Jessie Fordyce Carlyle Bell. She boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Price. The first pupils to attend the new school were as follows, (name, then ages) Lois Attlesey 6, David Dean 7, Thomas Currah 6, Lillian Churchill 6, John Offer 7, Eustace Churchill 7, Colleen Jordan 8, Lanty Currah 8, Fred Bosowych 9, Edna Sawchuk 8. These were the Grade I Junior pupils. The older children attending, who in most cases had been going to Boxmoor school as well as a few from the other two schools were: (these were Gr. I Senior) Mary Jane Currah (Minnie) 10, William Bosawych 11, Scott Whitman 8, Magda Petryshyn 11, William Sawchuk 9, Grade 2 - Arthur Wallen 11, Lucy Whitman 10. Grade 3 - Lila Whitman 14, Elva Whitman 12, Irene Currah 11, William Currah 13. Grade 4 - Gilbert Clifford 11, Petro Petryshyn 12, Dolly Petryshyn 14. Grade 5 - Minnie Davies 14, Madaline Jordon 12.

At the annual meeting in 1926 George Churchill replaced Mr. R.D. Whitman as trustee. This year a tree belt was planted around the school grounds. This was done by the school children, who were also responsible for the caring and weeding of same, for the next few years. The school board bought a football and softball for the pupils as a reward for their work.

The same board governed until the year of '29 when Mr. Joe Currah replaced Mr. George Churchill. At the end of the school term in June, 1926 Miss Bell resigned. The new teacher hired was Mr. H.E. Dyer who was regarded as a very strict teacher, but was

liked by all. He was also very sports minded. He stayed for two terms. In 1928, Annie McKinnon came to teach for one year. At this time additional desks were bought, one row on the east side of the classroom and one desk added to the front of the other five rows. These were assembled by Mr. George Churchill.

In 1929, Miss Laura Sutherland was hired but did not teach the full term. In 1930, Mrs. Wreatha J. Turner was hired and taught till June 1932. During this period there was no change in trustees until in January, when Mr. Luke Murphy replaced Mr. R. McArthur.

At the beginning of the school term in Aug. Mr. V.W. Loucks took over the duties of teaching at Mainroad. Then again in January at the annual meeting of 1933 Mr. Gunnar Wallin became trustee in place of Mr. J. Currah, then the following year Mr. Herb Jordan was elected trustee.

In June of 1935 Mr. Loucks resigned as teacher, and for the fall term Mr. R.W. Lock was hired and taught for 3 years and retired in 1938. Both Mr. Loucks and Mr. Lock were much appreciated in the district as they played cornets and took on the duties of Band Masters for the local band, which was a highlight in the history of Mainroad.



Mainroad School, 1938.

In 1938, Miss Gladys Williams from Okla came to teach, staying for two years. She did light-housekeeping for a short while in Wallen's old house as it was vacant at the time. Her sister Agnes accompanied her for a while. She later boarded with the Joe Currah's. Agnes joined the Air Force a year or two later. In 1939, Mr. A. Murray replaced Mr. Herbert Jordan as trustee and this board stayed in office till 1944 when Bill Bosowich took the place of Luke Murphy and Lanty Currah replaced Arthur Dean as trustee and secretary-treasurer.

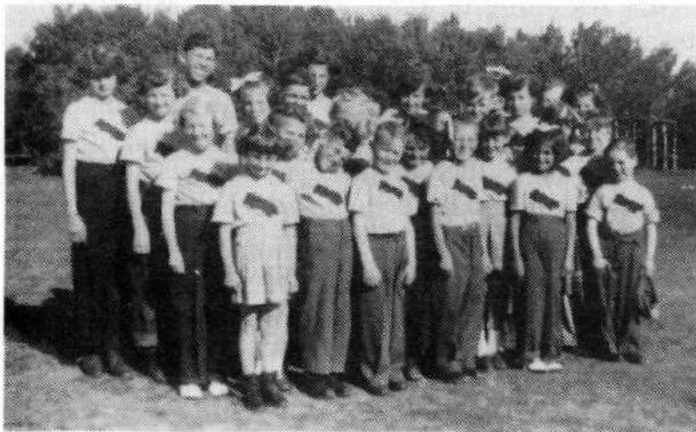
being Mr. Arthur Murray was replaced by Mr. Maurice Ya chyshen.

At the first reorganization meeting of the board of trustees in February, Mr. Maurice Yachyshyn took on the duties of secretary from Mr. Neil Dean. At the annual meeting of 1963, Mr. Alden (Bud) Landstad was elected trustee in place of Mr. Neil Dean.

In the fall of 1964, Mr. Lawrence Hryhoryshen was hired to teach; he came from the Hvas area, had a small family and stayed for one year. At this time there was considerable pressure being put on the school board by the Larger School Unit Board to close this school, but due to ratepayers' rejection, they did manage to keep it open for another year. Mrs. Verna Prychak was hired on in the fall of 1965 and taught until the school closed for good in June, 1966. At the annual meeting in 1964, Mr. Maurice Ya chyshyn resigned as trustee and secretary as he was moving out of the district.

Bert Wallin replaced him as trustee and secretary and retained that position until the school district was phased out by the Unit.

One memorable piece of historical importance in Mainroad School was a plaque that hung above the blackboard at the front of the school, honoring the men who lost their lives in the first great war. This plaque was later placed on a cenotaph in the Evergreen Cemetery, one mile south of Rama.



Mainroad School sports day.

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