



*Balsam Bay School, 1916-17.*

finally turned over to the Ladies Auxiliary of St. Lukes Church where it was used as a Parish and Community Hall.

The whole area came under the Lord Selkirk School Division No. 11, by order-in-council 224/67 effective April 1, 1967.

St. Lukes still use the school to this day as a Community Hall, and it serves for many social needs, just as it did in the past, for the area residents.

Here for your information is a list of the teachers who taught at Balsam Bay:

Patrick Bruce 1896-1900  
 Ada Peebles 1905-1910  
 Ellen Folster 1911-1912  
 Felix Sauer 1912-1915  
 W.J. Corrigan 1915-1916  
 Felix Sauer 1916-1918  
 Wm. M. Pecover 1918  
 W.H. Jones 1918  
 Minnie Porte 1918-1919  
 K.C. Aseltine 1920  
 Harry Emerson Oakes 1920-1921  
 Frederick Robinson Blaney 1921-1922  
 Gustave Pfaff 1922-1923  
 Jas. E. Plewes 1924-1925  
 Henry Joseph Walford 1925  
 John Charles Cosgrove 1926  
 Thomas W. McBurney 1926-1928  
 David Alexander W. Brown 1928-1929  
 Helen Martha MacTavish 1919-1930  
 Clarence Osborne Motherall 1930-1932  
 Thomas Wilmor McBurney 1932-1935  
 Lorne W. Locke 1935-1936  
 Thomas MacDonald Wallace 1936-1938  
 Wilbur David Finlay 1938-1939  
 Peter Jacob Willms 1939-1940  
 Harold Herbert King 1940-1941  
 Harry Herbert Galan 1941-1942  
 Erdman Falk 1942-1943  
 Anne Boldt 1943-1944  
 Martha Kauss 1944-1945  
 John Wiebe Kroeker 1945-1946  
 Shirley Hecreschuk 1947  
 Mildred Bernice Sellgren 1947-1948  
 Louise Helene Epp 1948-1949

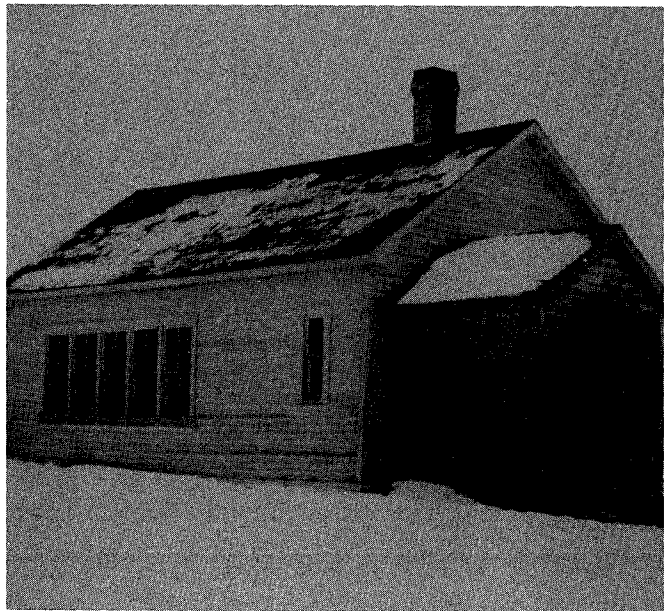
Mildred Ostholm 1949-1950  
 Victor Dumore 1950-1951  
 Mrs. Innis Wallace 1951-1952  
 Mr. A.R. Gislaun 1952  
 John Les Ryan 1953  
 Clive Searle Waggoner 1953-1955  
 Lawrence Giesbriecht 1955-1962  
 John A. Muller 1962-1963  
 Mrs. Lorna Fleury 1963-1965  
 Mrs. Josephine Peebles 1965-1966  
 Mrs. Ina Smith 1966  
 and then consolidation.

## BEACONIA S.D. NO. 2162

In the mid 1920's, a group of Beaconia residents were agitating for a school to be formed in their area. A petition was circulated and soon was widely signed. Mr. A.C. Trapp presented the petition to his Councillor, Mr. J. Isbister, who in turn presented it to the Municipality of St. Clements by the early summer of 1926. Council appointed Thomas Bunn as Arbitrator, as the lands proposed to form the new school district of Beaconia were at that time included in the School Districts of Balsam Bay, Brodie and Stoney Point. The nearest school was Balsam Bay which was about 3 miles distant. In a memo dated Aug. 16, 1926 Mr. A.C. Trapp mentioned, "there are about 23 children of school age and that it was really too far to send these children to Balsam Bay School".

The first meeting of the ratepayers begging for formation was held at the home of Mr. A.C. Trapp located at pt. SW1/4 of 15-17-7E.

Beaconia S.D. No. 2162 was finally formed by an award of arbitration dated Jan. 19, 1927. The award papers were signed by Messrs. Macori Horanski, Gordon Wilson and J.E.S. Dunlop. At the time of formation the boundary consisted of the following lands: Sections 2, 3



*Beaconia School.*

NE1/4 of 4, E1/2 of 9, all of 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, S1/2 of 21, 22, 23, 24, in tp. 17-7E.

The boundaries were adjusted from time to time for one reason or another as in June of 1936 by order-in-council No. 715/36 when the S1/2 of Sec. 2, in tp. 17-7E was transferred to the Gull Lake S.D. No. 2269.

The first classroom, while the arbitration discussions and formation were being settled and before the actual school was built, was held in the living quarters attached to the Robert Klatt store. Then a proper one-room school was built at Beaconia to house the students. As mentioned earlier, this school burnt down. After the school was destroyed by fire the students continued their classes at the home of Emily Klatt. Very soon another one-room school was built on the same site as the old one. The new Beaconia School was considered quite modern with its full basement, furnace and indoor plumbing. The building was painted white and green and housed grades one to eight. In the words of Penny Thomas, the school was "used extensively by the community".



Beaconia School - Miss Apostle, Teacher, 1939-40.

Confirmation of the Beaconia S.D. boundary by Nov. 1950 (by-law No. 1207) listed it as being: Sec. 3, NE1/4 of 4, E1/2 of 9, 10, 15, 16, S1/2 of 21, and 22, in 17-7E.

In 1959/60 when the Walter Whyte Collegiate was built this provided the Beaconia students with a closer facility where they took their Grade nine to eleven classes.

When the Lord Selkirk School Division No. 11 was declared to be a division within the meaning of Sec. 443 of the PSA (order-in-council 224/67) then Beaconia fell within this divisional boundary. Therefore, when the 4 room Collegiate was enlarged and opened on April 19, 1970 to house from Kindergarten to Grade 10, the Beaconia students were then bused to the new Walter Whyte School.

Nothing was done with the old Beaconia school building until such time as the land was chosen to make room for a municipal building. The school building was purchased by Wilf Hadfield and moved to his own property, remodelled and now serves as a home.

Secretary Treasurers over the years were: A.C. Trapp, P. Kutcy, and Natalie Zirk.

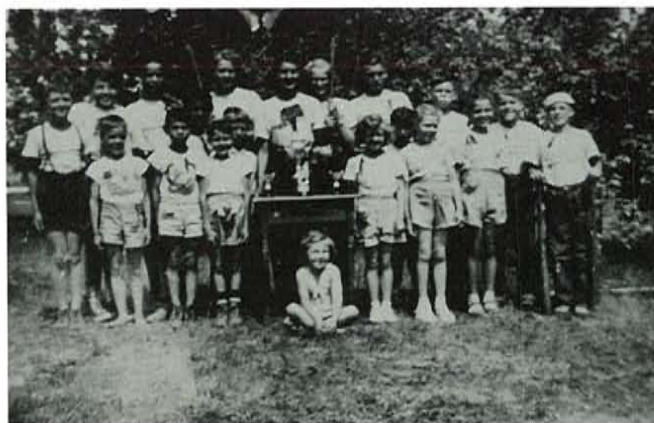
Some of the teaching staff are listed here for your interest and should bring back some mixed memories:

Clara Cohen 1927-1928  
 Cecelia Tait 1928-1930  
 Florence R. Harkness 1930-1932  
 Agnes Clotilda Lesosky 1932-1936  
 Catherine Apostle 1936-1939  
 Margaret Ann Young 1939-1940  
 Anna Zubachek 1940-1942  
 Anne Apostle 1942-1943  
 Theresa Parent 1943-1944  
 Mary Edeline Kondratuk 1944-1945  
 Margaret K. King 1945-1946  
 Michael Balitsky 1947  
 Miss Vera Katazinski 1947-1948  
 Michael Lloyd Balitsky 1948-1953  
 Miss Freida Zielke 1953-1954  
 Anne Chrusch 1954-1956  
 Peter Kubas 1956-1957  
 Steve Zastawny 1957-1960  
 Kenneth Switzer 1960-1961  
 Charles Buck 1961-1962  
 Miss G. McCorrister 1962  
 Elizabeth Rempel 1963  
 Eleanor Anne Salmond 1963-1964  
 Lillian Patzer 1964-1965  
 Malcolm Watson 1965-1966  
 Abe Gresbrecht 1966  
 who taught until consolidation.

## BEACONIA SCHOOL YELL (FIELD DAY)

*submitted by N. Froehlich*

*There's something in the cornfield  
 there's something in the wheat,  
 there's something in Beaconia,  
 that's mighty hard to beat.*



Beaconia School Class in the 1950's.

## BEACONIA SCHOOL

*submitted by Edith Kutcy*

The few families who lived in Beaconia before 1927 sent their children to Balsam Bay to attend classes.

As the Beaconia population was increasing they decided to build a school and Mr. Ogrodnik cut logs in the surrounding bush and built the first log school. The



*Beaconia School Class of 1943 or 1944.*

outside was covered with lumber and a large tin heater made a brave attempt at keeping it warm. Reading was often the first subject on the day's program because the children could keep their mitts on to do it. By noon it was warm enough to remove jackets and over-shoes.

First students in this school were: Annie and Olga Ogrodnik, Steve, Mary and Billy Shinduke, Louise and Fred Trapp, Natalia and Walter Zirk, Norma, Frances, Lillian, Laura and Mary Grant, Mary and Bennie Klatt, Ethel and Eva Kurk, Martha, May, and Elsie Block.

The first teachers were: Miss Cohen, Miss Toitz and Miss Harkness.

During the depression in the 1930's many people left the city to try to make a living by cutting and selling firewood and pulp wood of which there was plenty in the area around Beaconia. This caused an unexpected increase in the school population. A teacher in 1932 had been hired to teach 22 children grades 1-8. Before the year was out she had 60 pupils on the register, grades 1-9.

Children were crowded with three sitting at each

double desk. One girl decided to bring in a block of wood and sat at the back of the room. She probably complained about a sore back when she reached home and her father, learning the cause, came pounding on the school door, demanding an explanation. "Why should his child be forced to sit on a block of wood? He always paid his taxes."

The teacher explained that she was not being forced to sit there, but was doing it because she chose to rather than sit in such a crowded school desk.

He was invited into the classroom to see for himself and was speechless when he saw so many children crowded into such a small area.

A couple of days later the same father appeared and knocked gently on the door. In his hands he held a neatly made homemade desk for his daughter.

This log school burned down and classes were held in a house until a new one was built in 1951. This one-roomed school was closed in 1968, when the children were bussed down to Grand Marais.

Since then the school building has been sold to make room on the site for a municipal garage.

## CHRISTMAS CONCERTS AT BEACONIA SCHOOL

*submitted by N. Froehlich*

The Christmas Concert at our School in Beaconia, was one big event in those days we all looked forward to!

The stage was put up and the class would spend weeks rehearsing and with the help of our two great teachers (Agnes and Kay Lesosky) they put all their efforts into it and made it a huge success everytime.

Decorations were homemade out of foil from tea and tobacco packages, we saved during the year. We made garlands of spruce branches tied together securely with binder twine, we children found in the strawpiles. These thick garlands were strung across the room criss-cross and decorated with glistening foil. Wreaths were made of cedar branches with red crepe paper bows.

The tree was lit with candles. The treetop star was made of foil and a bit of tinsel. We strung popcorn, and made strings of red rosebud chains, and some chains from foil and our tree looked great. And when the evening came, our little one-room school just sparkled, the aroma of cedar and spruce overwhelming.

Our little schoolhouse was filled to capacity, parents and friends came with horses and sleighs, by dog team, and walked many miles. The curtain opened welcoming all, and announcing each event. There were recitations, skits, Irish Jigs, square dances, with the music from a wind-up gramophone.

Mother Goose, Bo Peeps, Queen of Hearts, in crepe paper costumes. The little old Lady that lived in a shoe, (the boys made a big shoe). The Nativity scene, the three Shepherds with Baby Jesus in the Manger, and Joseph and Mary, all appeared at our concert.

Christmas Carols were sung by the class, in English, German, Polish and Ukrainian. Closing with Jingle Bells to give Old Santa his cue when to come in from the North pole with his bag of goodies. And by the smiles and



*Last Class in Beaconia School, 1968/69. Back Row: Dwight Klatt, Mundy Thomas, Melcolm Thomas, Leon Thomas and Wayne Sinclair. Front Row: Glenda Sinclair, Nora Thomas, Evelyn Sinclair, Derby Thomas and Karen Zastawny.*

applause, we knew everyone enjoyed this event, and it is something we miss since our one-room schools left our communities.

## BRIGHT STAR S.D. NO. 2024

*submitted by Mrs. Pat. Goodman*

The new School District of Bright Star was formed by a board of arbitrators, acting upon a petition signed by Walter Pasieka and thirteen other landowners of the area. This meeting was held at Tyndall, Man. on Thursday, Feb. 5, 1920 at 2 p.m. This new district was to be made up of land from existing school districts, from Brookside, S.D. No. 1546 came the east 1/2 of Sec. 22, 27, and 34, and all of Sec. 23, 26, and 35 in tp. 14-6E. Lilydale S.D. No. 1285 would give up the East 1/2 of Sec. 15, all of Sec. 11, 13, 14, and 24 and the North 1/2 of Sec. 12 in tp. 14-6E. Sand Hill S.D. No. 1372 would give up the West half of Sec. 18 and the NW 1/4 of Sec. 7, tp. 14-7E., and finally from White Poplar S.D. No. 1877 would come Sec. 25 and 36 in tp. 14-6E, and the W 1/2 of Sec. 19, 30 and 31 in tp. 14-7E.



*Left to Right: Henry Burkowski, Emil Paseka, John Bunio, Peter Pasieka and Peter Bunio .. all hockey players at Bright Star S.D. No. 2024 during the winter of 1925/26.*



*Bright Star School, 1936.*

This new school building would be situated on the Northwest 1/4 of Sec. 14-14-6E. The nearest schoolhouse from this site would be 3 1/2 miles. The first meeting of the Bright Star school district was held at the home of B. Oganowski, on the N 1/2 of SW 23-14-6E. This school district had a total of 1280 acres.

The land in this school district was part in the R.M. of St. Clements and part in the R.M. of Brokenhead, the school site being in the R.M. of Brokenhead.

This school remained in operation until it was dissolved by consolidating with the Agassiz School Division No. 13, on Jan. 1, 1968.

Mike Wasyluk was Secretary at the time of consolidation.

We would like to share with you a list of most all of the teachers who taught at Bright Star S.D. No. 2024.

Eileen Ledger 1921  
Rose Stoller 1921-1922



*Bright Star School District Teacher's Residence. Teacher, Minnie Cooper (now Mrs. Tom Harrison).*

Marjorie Magus 1922  
Annie Brodie Carswell Dunn 1923  
Sophie Adamek 1924-1927  
Margaret A. Gorowski 1927-1928  
Edith Margaret Harvey 1928  
Mrs. Hope Bowman 1929  
Mrs. Arnold G. Flett 1929  
Olive Margaret Wall 1930  
Mrs. Hope Bowman 1930-1932  
Erin Marguerite Flett 1932-1934  
Evelyn Margaret Flett 1935  
Walter Vladmir Zabolotny 1935-1938  
Minnie Agnes Cooper 1938-1940  
Ella June Bilan 1940-1941  
Joseph Frederick 1941-1942  
Stella Helene Dancho 1942-1945  
Fern Koziar 1945-1946  
Mrs. Belle M. Bruce 1947  
Mary Evelyn Dufault 1947-1948

Peter Kozyra 1948-1949  
Ella Nalinta 1949-1950  
Sophie J. Galka 1950-1966

## **BRODIE S.D. NO. 1854 (BOUNDARY DISPUTE)**

*submitted by slh*

Early in Feb. 1917, a group petitioned for the formation of a new school district. The land proposed was included in the Thalberg S.D. and consisted of the NE1/4 of Sec. 32 and all of Sec. 33 in tp. 16-8E. Therefore Council (R.M. of St. Clements) did prepare by-law (No. 142/1917) to carry out the wishes of the residents. The first meeting was held at the house of Thomas Smoluk on Feb. 3, 1917 (Sec. 4-17-8E).

The first official boundary recorded was all of Sec. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, all in tp. 17-8E. All of Sec. 22, 26, 27, NE1/4 of 32, all of 33, 34, 35, in tp. 16-8E. All of Sec. 1 in tp. 17-7E.

The by-law was passed on March 6, 1917 and the Dept. of Educ. had approved the formation by the end of the month and the full corporate name was entitled: "The School District of Brodie No. 1854."

Inspector Willows of the Dept. of Educ. (office of the Official Trustee) had been over the proposed boundary north of Thalberg and had stated earlier in the year that a school was "absolutely essential as there were nearly 50 children" requiring education and of school age.

There was much activity in the area as the material for the schoolhouse had to be transferred to the site prior to the spring breakup of roads (NE1/4 of Sec. 5-17-8E).

The boundary was altered in May 1918 by transferring Sec. 22-16-8E from Brodie to Thalberg and records state the reason for the change was not so much for convenience as "that section sticks down there in rather an unusual way and it may be true that it would be more convenient for them".

Ira Stratton was the official Trustee in charge from the beginning with Mr. Willows filling the position in 1923.

As relates to the R.M. of St. Clements, only about 318 acres were located within the Brodie S.D. boundary, namely, the N1/2 of 32-16-8. Or so they thought. Early in Feb. 1942, Hugh Eade, Architect, felt that the N1/2 of 32-16-8E was in the Gull Lake District and placed it on the map as such. St. Clements asked for clarification. The Dept. of Educ. advised that no portion of the Brodie S.D. fell within the St. Clements boundary.

There followed a controversy that continued for some time. Mr. J.P. Chrusch who was Sec.-Treas. of Brodie S.D. in 1946 was of the opinion that St. Clements owed the school money. Misunderstanding as to what area of the Brodie boundary fell into St. Clements territory had to be further investigated and cleared up. Mr. Chrusch claimed that St. Clements owed them \$317.00 covering the years 1942/1943 to 1946/47.

The misunderstanding continued and the Dept. of Education further added early in 1947 (Jan. 16) that their records showed that upon the formation of Thalberg S.D. No. 1411 on April 2, 1907 that all of Sec. 32-16-8E was included in the Thalberg boundary. Upon the for-

mation of Brodie No. 1854 on March 6, 1917 the NE 32-16-8E was transferred from Thalberg to the new district of Brodie. However, on April 15, 1925, the R.M. of St. Clements had, under by-law No. 274 transferred back the NE 32-16-8E from Brodie to Thalberg. The Dept. of Educ. admitted that the N1/2 of 32-16-8E was within the boundaries of Thalberg South S.D. No. 1411. The Dept. also added that according to their records that Gull Lake had no interest in NW 32-16-8E unless someone had recently passed a by-law of change.

St. Clements had collected \$508.91 as school levies from the residents of N1/2 of 32-16-8E since 1937 and wanted to know what to do with it. It increased to \$578.91 at the end of 1947 and both school districts were claiming it (Thalberg and Brodie). St. Clements wrote to the Dept. of Educ. on Sept. 22, 1948 and stated that "Thalberg could use the money at an early date as they had built an addition to their school in 1947."

The plot thickened, because the Dept. found a copy of an old order-in-council No. 717/36 (June 24, 1936) splitting up Thalberg and transferring the N1/2 of 32-16-8E to the Brodie S.D.

Council wrote to the Thalberg North S.D. enclosing a copy of the 1936 order-in-council and informed them that "the monies still being held rightfully belong to the Brodie S.D."

Apparently this missing order-in-council (717/36) was the cause of all the confusion between Thalberg, Gull Lake and the Brodie School Districts.

To recap the mystery over what school district 32-16-8E fit in dated back to 1907 when St. Clements included it in the Thalberg S.D. No. 1411. The next change affecting this Section was not until 1917, when St. Clements by by-law No. 143 transferred the NE 32-16-8E from Thalberg to Brodie S.D. No. 1854. Then in 1925 by by-law 274 of St. Clements, the NE 32-16-8E was changed from Brodie back to Thalberg. However, by order-in-council No. 717 in 1936 the S 32-16-8E was transferred from Thalberg S.D. No. 1411 to Thalberg North S.D. No. 2270 while the N 32-16-8E went from Thalberg to Brodie S.D. No. 1854.

Actually, order-in-council 717/36 provided for the transfer of N 32-16-8E from Thalberg S.D. No. 1411 to Brodie S.D. No. 1854 but this transfer was covered in a brief paragraph at the end of the order-in-council, and was apparently overlooked for some years when the Formation Register was written up at the Dept. of Educ. Because it did not appear in this Formation Register for over a decade, it escaped notice during all the research, investigation and confusion over the boundary dispute.

On Dec. 16, 1948 the Munc. of St. Clements forwarded to the Brodie S.D. four cheques: \$548.91, \$17.62, \$11.65 and \$17.49.

But the story doesn't end there. In late 1950, a petition was received from John Wittmeier and 6 ratepayers of Brodie and North Thalberg school districts requesting the transfer of the N1/2 of 32-16-8E from Brodie S.D. to North Thalberg S.D.

A Board of Arbitration was set up consisting of G.J. Smith of East Selkirk, E.J. Bouvier of St. George, L.J. Pulfer of Beausejour, Mr. R.J. Dubois of St. George and Bill Sokolowski of St. Clements Munc.

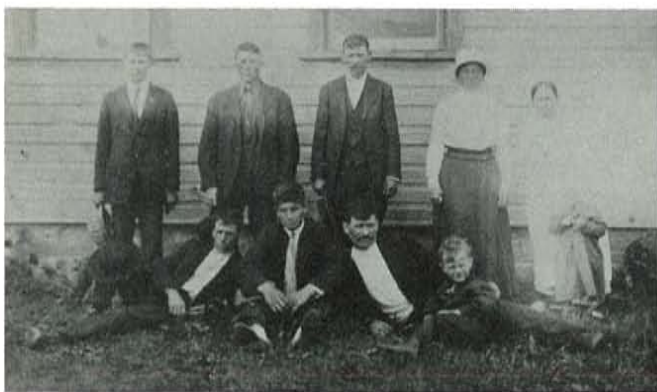
The first meeting was held in the Brokenhead Munc.

Hall on Feb. 19, 1951, at 10 a.m. The Arbitrators, after due consideration and after hearing all of the petitioners and those involved, made the decision "that the prayer of the petitioners be not granted".

## BROOKSIDE S.D. NO. 1546

*submitted by John Bunio/slh*

A group of residents petitioned the Munc. of St. Clements during the summer of 1910 begging that a new school district be formed, to be known as Brookside. The petition stated that there were just under 30 children of school age living within a one mile radius of the proposed school site. The Walkley School was about 4 miles south and the Libau School further than that in a northerly direction. The petitioners felt that, "considering the nature of the country and the inclemency of the weather, it was nearly impossible for young children to regularly attend either of those two schools." Further, they stated, "the school districts to the south and east of them were formed without consideration for the educational requirements of the settlers."



*Back Row: Mary Drobot, Minnie Misyk, Ann Horanski, another Horanski, Mary Horanski, Lena Drobot and Barb? Second Row: Nettie Rebeck, Pearl Kaluzniak, Olga Misyk, Mary Zuke. Front Row: Sophie Dumka, Mary Dumka, Annie Misyk, Alexander Drobot, Dorothy ? and ? Horanski, Mary Misyk and Mary Rebeck etc. Brookside S.D., 1921.*

The petition was signed by R.R. Stevens and others, and the munc. appointed R.R. Stevens along with Thomas Bunn and Fred Chappell as Arbitrators.

The district boundary being proposed were lands in tp. 14-6E, including Secs. 19 to 22 inclusive, and 27 to 34 inclusive. This area consisted of about 7680 acres and the Assessment in 1910 only totalled about \$53,760 for the combined district. The school building was to be situated on the SE1/4 of 29-14-6E, it was to be a wooden framed one-room schoolhouse.

By 1911, they floated a debenture for \$1000. The school was built and equipped by Jan. of 1912 at a total cost of about \$1,109.95.

The first teacher was J.R. Williams who was hired at \$55 per month, to teach the spring term of 1912 and the enrollment was about 29 students (15 boys and 14 girls).



*Brookside School, 1921.*

The districts total expenditure during 1912 was \$1,494.95 which included \$40.00 salary of the Secretary-Treasurer, as well as 43 other business transactions e.g. cordwood for heating (\$15) Janitor (\$2.50 per month) washing and scrubbing (\$2.00) Broom (.50¢) Axe (\$1.25) Pail (\$1.45) cutting wood (.65¢) Concerts, picnic, Field Day, never exceeded \$10.00.

The first School Board Members were: Bob Stevens, John Shyhyta, and Harry Kaluzniak.

By 1922, the teacher's salary had increased to \$100 per month, but was subsequently dropped to \$90. The Sec.-Treas. salary was also reduced in 1922 to about \$25.00 per month, where it remained for the next 14 years and then was even further decreased in 1936 to \$20.00 and stayed at that rate until well into the 1940's.

The teacher's salary at Brookside, it would appear, changed without too much notice. Book entries during the 1930's tell the story: "paid to teacher \$15 as part salary for Nov. with balance of Nov. paid in Jan. (\$45.00). Salary for now \$10 with balance in June. By 1933 the \$100 per month salary had dipped to a meagre \$40.00 per month.

In 1929, an addition was built onto the Brookside school to accommodate needed space.

The school suffered damage and loss by fire in Dec. 1941. It was adequately insured. Brookside was rebuilt and classes resumed in time for the fall semester in 1942.



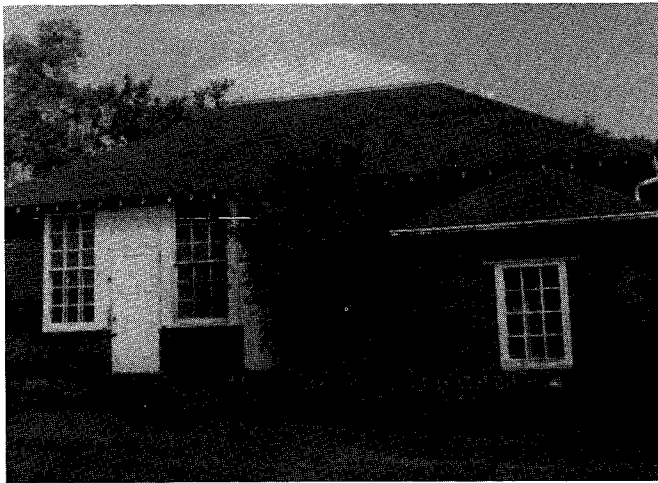
*Picnic at Brookside School in 1922. Sitting: Mr. Kuz, Mr. Bartko from Libau, Mr. Misyk, Elmer Misyk. Standing: John Rebeck, Mr. Dumka, Mr. Gloss, Mrs. Drobot, Mrs. Rebeck and Mary Rebeck.*

While the school was being rebuilt (Jan. to June 1912) the education of the students continued in rented quarters at the home of Metro Samagalski, for which the district rental fee was \$15.00 per month.

It is interesting to note that the total assessment in the Brookside S.D. during the 1941/42 year was about 6 mills which raised about \$200. For example, on the average quarter section this ran between \$6 or \$7 per quarter of Special School Tax.

During the summer of 1963, the Munc. of St. Clements transferred part of legal Sub-div. No. 8 of 29-14-6E to the school district of Brookside for the price of \$38.90 (by-law No. 1602).

The district got more land in Jan. 1964 when SE1/4 of 34-14-6E was removed from Bright Star No. 2024 to Brookside.



*Brookside School.*

However, in the summer of 1964 controversy arose when a petition to transfer the W1/2 of 30-14-6E from Brookside to the Happy Thought Consolidated S.D. No. 1452 was not approved. The munc. prepared the by-law but it never passed the three readings because Happy Thought objected to enlarging their area at that time.

Effective Jan. 1, 1966 Brookside was dissolved by by-law No. 1687 of the R.M. of St. Clements and all its lands were transferred to Happy Thought. At the time of Consolidation the Brookside School Board members were: Edward Klim, Steve Samagalski, and Nick Warona. The enrollment in 1966 was 15 students.

Nick Grabowski served as Sec.-Treas. for a total of 45 years and his dedication and service to the Brookside S.D. No. 1546 was applauded long and widely. Others serving in that capacity were: R.R. Stevens, John Shyhyta, Michael Bunio, Martin and Evelyn Peters.

The building of both Brookside schools was wooden frame and served Grades 1 to 9. Each school had about 135 to 155 sq. ft. of blackboard, a globe and up to 5 maps for study.

During Arbor Day each year the grounds were faithfully cleaned and trimmed. According to records,



*Left to Right: Lorna Thomas and Patsy Koshyk doing a Ukrainian Dance at Brookside School.*

many trees were planted to enhance the school property, e.g. in 1943, after the fire and once the new building was erected, 30 trees were planted, followed by 50 in 1944, 26 in 1945, 12 in 1946 and finally 10 in 1950. That appears to be the last major landscaping in relation to trees.

Some of the Board Members over the years were: R.R. Stevens, John Shyhyta, Harry Kaluzniak, Nick Grabowski, Mike Bunio, Mike Samagalski, Alex Dumka, Harry Koshek, Fred Okolita, D. Samagalski, N. Klym, N. Samagalski, H. Gutowski, Bill Dolinsky, Walter



*Geraldine Dolinski, Patricia Koshyk, Lorna Thomas, Sharon Allen and Diane Koshyk in the Rose Drill at Brookside School.*

Zalusky, Geo. Horanski, Edward Klim, Steve Samagalski, and Nick Warona.

The last teacher to instruct at Brookside in 1965/66 would appear to be Miss Elizabeth Bernice Smolinski who had 9 boys and 5 girls within Grades 1 to 8 and received a salary of \$2,000 per year from the district. As mentioned, the first teacher was John R. Williams in 1912 and he taught a class of 29 students receiving \$55 per month.

In 1967 Mr. Laurence Jacyk purchased the Brookside School building by public auction paying about \$250.00 for the structure. He had it removed from the old site to his homeplace on the west side of Hwy. No. 59 (SE 11-14-15E).

As of 1983, this school still stands on the Jacyk property and in appearance still looks the same as it did on the last day classes filled the building. The other school sitting beside it is Lilydale (S.D. No. 1285) which was also purchased by Laurence Jacyk at the same auction for the same price.

Finally, we wish to share the names of most all of the teaching staff who dedicated their time and effort to the education of the students of the Brookside S.D. No. 1546 from 1912 to 1965/66. We owe all of them a deep debt of gratitude.

John R. Williams 1912-1913  
 V. Mironko 1914  
 Louise Maddin 1914-1915  
 W. St. Hollies 1915  
 O.E. Maddin 1915  
 Nicholas Punak 1915  
 Jro. Novak 1916  
 Nichalos Punak 1917-1918  
 Stephen H. Bilinsky 1918-1919  
 Peter G. Kuhn 1919-1921  
 William Joba 1921-1922  
 Peter Kuhn 1922-1923  
 Miss Ada Brooke 1923-1924  
 Mary Runge 1925-1926  
 Cora Wiegand 1926-1927  
 Ernestine Helen Matheson 1927-1929  
 May Millicent Mawer 1929-1930  
 Clara Lucaw 1930-1933  
 Joseph Frederick 1933-1939  
 Miss Jean Parfaniuk 1939-1941  
 Fred Klym 1941-1946  
 Irene Kordalchuk 1947  
 Mary Irene Kalinski 1947-1948  
 Jean Sophie Yarema 1948-1949  
 May Margaret Zook 1949-1950  
 Olga Skrumeda 1950-1951  
 Judith Jean Zook 1951-1952  
 Mary Ann Mandryk 1952-1953  
 Ruth Schwarz 1953-1954  
 Rosie Bazan 1954-1956  
 Elsie Gutowski 1956-1957  
 Meroslaw Horbas 1957  
 Edith Pruden 1958  
 Sadie R. Arksey 1958-1959  
 Gary Pirtsch 1959-1960  
 Anne Dueck 1960  
 R. Katazinski 1961-1963  
 Elaine Parker 1963-1964  
 Nettie Lysaichuk 1964-1965  
 Elizabeth Smolinski 1965  
 then consolidation with Happy Thought.

## DONALD S.D. NO. 1094

*submitted by sh*

The School District of Donald School No. 1094 was formed on Nov. 6, 1900 by an award of Arbitrators and by Feb. 4, 1901, the first public meeting for election of trustees was called resulting in Albert Anderson becoming Chairman of the Board, Donald McKay and Donald McDonald trustees with Donald McDonald filling the Sec. Treas. position. William Scott was appointed Auditor. The School district had been named in honour of Donald McDonald.

The first item of business was to post notices for the purpose of borrowing money for the purchase of a site, the building and furnishing of a schoolhouse. This was done in March 1901 when a group of ratepayers instructed the Board to borrow the sum of money needed (\$700.00) for the proposed school.

The school site chosen was Lot 255, in the Parish of St. Andrews within the Munc. of St. Clements.

The year 1901 was a busy year. The first teacher was a Miss Maggie McBeth and she had a large enrollment including non-resident students who were charged .50 cents per month to attend the school. They prepared for a harsh winter and one of their first purchases was a stove which they bought from Ashdown's at a cost of \$19.20. At their first annual meeting the ratepayers were advised that the first year's operation cost them a total of \$925.90.

The wood for heating was tendered and no one bid so Louis Vandal supplied 6 cords of white poplar at \$2.00 per cord and he charged the school .50 cents per cord for chopping it. The next winter's wood was supplied by Alfred Ducharme and Hans Peterson chopped it and Mrs. Peterson cleaned the school for \$1.50, while Andrew Peterson was paid \$5.00 for caretaking.

In 1905 approval was given to purchase: 1 bookcase, 1 globe, 1 map Dominion of Canada, 1 map of Manitoba. Also the school was painted and kalsomined, gate and



*Donald School, 1905.*



foot scrapers were made, and in 1907 they put up the flag pole.

The school was always overcrowded right from the beginning. However, it wasn't until Oct. of the year 1911 that the trustees passed a by-law for borrowing monies to enlarge the schoolhouse. Another teacher had to be hired and that winter 16 cords of wood had to be purchased to heat the extra room. (By-law No. 7 for borrowing \$1,500.00 was passed to enlarge the schoolhouse).

In Dec. 1912 at the annual meeting, ratepayers in attendance demanded "to learn in their own language" -- agreed.

The non-resident (renter's children) fee was increased to .75 cents per month per child in the Dec. of 1913, and it was also decided to have religious exercises/teaching arranged by Ruthenian and Protestant Teacher. The Ruthenian children to be taught Catechism by the local Ruthenian Priest while Polish children will have their Catechism conducted by the teacher.

In Jan. 1914 the Board borrowed another \$640. from the Dominion Bank in Selkirk to increase facilities. Carpenters H. Michelson and M. Debawicz built 8 more seats. The inspectors from the Dept. of Educ. had been out to the school and found conditions overcrowded, not too clean and the outhouses sitting side by side. New ones were constructed and the boys placed at the opposite end of the field from the girls' facility. The seating in the school also had to be rearranged so that the windows were on the left side of the pupils, rather than on the right side so they got the benefit of proper light. The Deputy Minister informed the Sec. Treas. that there would be no grant to the district for last term or present term until this matter was corrected, promptly.



*Donald School Class of 1919. Left to Right: Harry Wasylik, William Nebozenko, Joe Wasylik, Frank Wachal, Mike Nebozenko, Steve Fegol and Leon Oleschuk.*

In Aug. 1915 non-residents fee were reduced to .50 cents per children per month, tenders were called to fence the front yard and build two new outbuildings. Mr. Mickelson did both for \$18.75. In Nov. 1915, a motion was passed stating that children of the "House Renters" could no longer be accommodated due to overcrowding.



*Donald School North building and South building two classrooms each.*

Then, that Dec. 1915, some discussion was held to build a new four-room school at Lot 226-227. However, this suggestion failed and it was decided to build another two-room school at the old site (Lot 225) making a total of 4 rooms in all. Also, it was decided that a wire fence around the school would be preferable.

In 1916, debentures were floated for building addition to the school (\$2000) and by March 25, meeting, tenders were opened and W. Kulhuski got the job at \$1,850 and by Aug. 1916, they had to pay the contractor another \$70, he underestimated. 1916 was a year that much more discussion was held about providing the teaching of the Polish and Ruthenian languages. In Dec. 1916 they needed 35 cords of wood for winter heating.

The insurance was covered by The North West Fire Ins. Co. (for \$2000) from Aug. 22, 1916 to Aug. 22, 1919 for the premium of \$50.00 on the one-storey frame building 24 x 40 and 10 x 12 attached building 10 x 12 (Policy No. 54151).

In April 1917 the trustees decided to change the summer vacation period from Aug. 15 to Oct. 15, thus allowing the children free to help with harvesting and market gardening. That summer they also extended the school grounds. Approval was also given in 1917 for Mr. A.F. Haczekwicz to teach Ruthenian after 4 p.m. at a salary of \$75.00 per month, while F.A. Rybak, besides being truancy officer, was to teach the Polish language, after 4 p.m. for the sum of \$85.00 per month. There were 130 pupils enrolled at Donald School in Oct. 1917 and was still considered very overcrowded although more space had been provided in 1916.

Mr. E.J. Sinkewicz resigned effective Aug. 15, 1917 reason given is the school teacher Mr. Haczekwicz.

When Dr. Thornton, Hon. Minister of Education and Ira Stratton, the special school organizer, made a trip of inspection in Oct. 1917, they found the school closed up. It had been open during June and July in order to free the kids up for field work later in the fall. In a letter dated Oct. 26, 1917 from the Deputy Minister of Educ. they were very critical of the school, pointing out that school ventilation was very bad, grounds were most unsatisfactory and that things must be corrected at once.



*Donald School Class of 1929.*

Things more or less went from bad to worse at Donald School. However, on Nov. 10, 1917 the Asst. Deputy Minister of Educ. gave approval for night classes at Donald School for over 14 years old group who were unable to attend school during usual hours. Classes were to be held 2 or 3 nights each week of 2 hour duration -- classes must be taught in English. Night School at Donald School had been in operation 4 times per week, i.e.: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The subjects taught were: Reading, writing, spelling and Arithmetic. Night School Grants had been received during 1913 up to 1917.

Great controversy arose over the resignation of J.H. Basarabowicz. Mr. J.H. Basarabowicz resigned effective Jan. 1, 1918 saying the reason was "I am unable to get along with Mr. Rybak, the principal. His ways at the school and outside of the school is unbearable." (memo dated Dec. 1, 1917).

On Dec. 14, 1917, Mr. Andrew Willows was appointed Official Trustee of the Donald School. In a memo by order of the Executive Council, the school was advised to turn all cash books, minute books, bank books, seal and vouchers over to Mr. Willows, immediately. The members of the School Board were no longer in authority. Under copy of order No. 28757 dated Dec. 11, 1917 the Hon. Minister of Educ. submitted to the Executive Council approved by the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Manitoba the following report.

"Two of the trustees of Donald S.D. are unable to read or write in the English language. One of the said two trustees has been acting as Sec. Treas. and is unable to keep the minutes and records for the district, as required by the Act. A petition has been signed by the remaining trustees and a large number of ratepayers, asking for the appointment of an Official Trustee for said S.D. It seems desirable and in the best interests of the district that the prayers of the petitioners be granted. On the recommendation of the Hon. Minister, Andrew Willows be appointed official trustee for Donald S.D. No. 1094 effective date of order-in-council Dec. 1, 1917."

In 1918, the Donald S.D. was still carrying the Debt for the old school payable in 1921 and debt for the new school payable by 1937. In 1918, May 31, 1918 an agreement was signed between Donald S.D. and H. Peterson outlining caretaking duties.

During 1920, Mr. Willows was still official Trustee and enrollment had reached 150 and there was much talk of the need of a new school or more space. To recap the official trusteeship: In 1916, 3 unqualified teachers were teaching at Donald School -- at least one spoke very imperfect English. In 1917, the two male teachers of which one was not fully qualified, were continually quarrelling. They boarded in the same house but would not even sit down at the same table to eat their meals. One always took his meals before the other came to the table. Ratepayers were divided into two factions, one siding with Mr. Rybak the Principal, the other with Mr. Basarabowicz.

In 1918 there were 2 English and 1 Polish teacher (born and trained in Manitoba) good work in the school - no dissatisfaction. In 1919, 3 English teachers, rapid progress - primary pupils beginning to learn English rapidly. In 1920, 3 English teachers - progress satisfactory -- 3 meetings with ratepayers to discuss building additional classroom. Ratepayers authorized issue of debentures for \$5,000. for this work. In the fall term of 1920 -- 4 English teachers -- good work -- no trouble until outside agitation is begun. School took 83 prizes at Selkirk Fair. Oct. 1920 -- Several public meetings held in Schoolhouse desk broken at one meeting.

A tender was put out by March 1920, requesting that material and work on an additional school room to be connected to the present new building on the school grounds including 2 coats of paint on the 3 present rooms. All work must be completed by Sept. 1, 1920. The building to be approximately (24 x 44).

By-law No. 30 was passed authorizing the borrowing of \$5,000 at 7% per year, and issuing of debentures for purposes of building and equipping a 4th room to the present Donald Schoolhouse.

The votes were summed up on Sat. May 8, 1920 and by May 14, the news media were able to report "the municipality of St. Clements is really growing as far as school children are concerned as an extra room is being added to the Donald School."

Not only was a fourth classroom to be built but 2 of the old ones were to be repaired and brought up to standard.

As Mr. Willows said in a Report to the Deputy Minister on March 6, 1920, "for the sum of \$5000 a second classroom is to be added to the present one-room



*Donald School Class of 1931.*