

Willdon

THE WILLDON SCHOOL DISTRICT by Anna Haugen

The Willdon School district was organized in 1912 — the number of the district was 1063.

The first teacher was Miss Edna Davis, and the first board Olaf Berg, J. Smith and Will Martin. The name Willdon came from a combination of the Christian names of Will Martin and Don Switzer.

The school was used for Sunday School and in the poor years, church services were held here also, presumably because the school was heated, and in more constant use during the week, as well as because of the poor roads during the winter.

The school was closed by the Unit Board in 1957. It was later sold and torn down; the barn was sold as well, and moved off.

Some of the teachers at Willdon were: Miss Edna Davis, Miss Alice Stothert, Mr. Purdy, Miss Borley, Mr. Cook, Mr. Broder, Miss Wilcox,



Swing put to new use.



Willdon pupils, about 1928.



Willdon school — Jalna Kerney, Dale Lemcke, Eugene Seltnerich, Gwen Ferkingstad, Ken Seltnerich, George Seltnerich, Lynn Kerney, Wanda Ferkingstad.

Mr. Clarence Aadland, Miss Muriel Anthony, Miss Helen Schunamen, Mrs. Gordon McPherson, Miss Beth Rowley, Miss Caldwell, Miss M. Willoughby, Miss E. Tastad, Miss K. Child, Miss G. Tastad, Miss Thelma Rosen, Miss Marion McLelland, Miss Alfreda Monkman, Mr. Ken Miller, Miss Ida Hempstad, Miss E. Carrington, Miss Emma Yakes, Miss Bernice Berg, Miss Florence Nilson, Miss Carol Soggie, Miss Elsie Zetrapolik, Miss Signe Lima, Miss Martha Kempainen, and Miss Sunstrom.

MY MEMORIES OF WILLDON No. 1063 — by Mrs. Signe Vestre

Since this was my first teaching position you can be sure it was an exciting time, as I corresponded with Jennie Ferkingstad prior to my accepting the position in the fall of 1955. The enrollment was as follows:

Grade 9 — Jalna Kerney, Gwen Ferkingstad.

Grade 8 — Dale Lemcke.

Grade 6 — Eugene Seltenrich.

Grade 5 — George Seltenrich, Lynn Kerney.

Grade 4 — Wanda Ferkingstad, Ken Seltenrich.

As I think back about my year of teaching at Willdon I recall many varied incidents of both a serious and a humorous nature. Having just seen the movie "Why Shoot the Teacher?" I found myself looking back to my own experiences in the country schools I had taught in.

Certainly the old crockery water fountain — the dull clang of the old school bell — the unorganized fun during some recesses — gopher chasing — (although I don't remember any parts in my desk) — the extra long recesses the pupils enjoyed when the superintendent made his visit — the high hopes the teacher had that the pupils would respond well while the superintendent was in the classroom — were all a part of life in Willdon too.

The Hallowe'en Party had to be postponed due to a death in the community.

The Christmas Concert was a highlight as usual. Two items I remember well were the Grade 9 girls doing a baton twirling act and a monologue by George Seltenrich in which he played the part of a young boy trying to avoid the job of cutting and carrying in the wood.

The winter was tough with lots of snow and the usual blocked roads. The horse and sleigh were a sure method of transportation.

Muriel Aadland substituted for me for a month beginning in mid-February, while I underwent surgery. In my collection of keepsakes I have the valentines and letters the pupils sent me.

Spring came and with it the visits to the other schools to play ball or football, the extra practice for the local field day (We must win ribbons!) and Arbor Day when everyone worked hard to clean the school grounds.

The final event of the year was the picnic which included the usual ball games and weiner roast. Along with this event was the surprise presentation of a farewell gift to me from the students and the community.

I boarded at the Tastad home, just a short walk from the school, and for those who know the Tastad boys this could be a story in itself.



Willdon school house.



Jalna Kerney and Gwen Ferkingstad, baton twirling.



Mr. and Mrs. George Vaughan.

MY MEMORIES OF WILLDON SCHOOL 1920-21 — by Alice Stothart Elliot

I arrived in Saskatchewan on the 'Harvesters Special', — trains which carried harvest hands from the east. It was mid-August.

The following week I opened school, — the enrollment grew and grew, until by mid-winter I had an enrollment of fifty pupils.

My first Secretary was Will Martin from Mt. Forest, Ontario. I was told the school was named for him and his brother Don. Later, Mrs. Sam Reed became Secretary. They hailed from Indiana, and their son Harold was one of my pupils.

There was very little recreation, so we made our own fun. Mr. Tastad and his hired man hauled water, and made a rink, so after school we skated until darkness fell, and well I remember Mrs. Tastad, with her large family, yet she always had hot coffee and a delicious lunch for all when we finished skating.

Another evening I always enjoyed was the Norwegian Choir practice, led by Olaf Berg.

One day in the winter of 1921 a severe blizzard blew up. I was so busy I didn't wonder how I would get home, when Mr. Tjosvold arrived with horse and sleigh. He said I should come home with them, which I did, and spent the night there.

The families I remember were Tastads, Aadlands, Tjosvold, Reed, Martins, Chrestensens, Haugans, and Robinsons, where I lived.

I found it quite lonely and was told that the teacher who was at Willdon the year before I arrived, had come from Ontario and stayed only three months, she was so lonely.

Later I taught in 'Rippawan' — near Hawarden, and lastly in 'Copenhagen'.

It was sad to return in 1966 and find that my old school had disappeared, and so many of the dear friends gone. I still keep in touch with a number of former pupils and really treasure my happy memories of 'Willdon'.

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I have only skimmed over the events of the year but I do hope it will bring back some pleasant memories to you as it does for me. I can assure you that I enjoyed working with the students and also being a part of the Loreburn community.

Willdon School was open only one year after this with Martha (Kempainen) Tastad as teacher.

MEMORIES FROM MRS. GORDON McPHERSON

Gordon, Dr. Robson and Mr. Vestre were trustees for several years — Gordon was secretary-treasurer. Mrs. Haugen audited the books, and served delicious lunches!

Wes was three years of age when I taught at Willdon. I left him with Mrs. Haugen, but he ran back to the school.

The teachers I remember were a little red-haired girl who boarded at Mr. Berg's, my sister Minnie Anthony, Miss Willoughby (later Mrs. George Vaughan) Mr. Broder, and Evelyn Tastad.

THE GORDON McPHERSON FAMILY — by Louise McPherson

Gordon McPherson and Bill Mitchell each took a quarter of Soldier Settlement land in about 1919. Ours was 11-27-5.

Gordon and Bill boarded at Tjosvold's and picked stones, then Gordon had Mr. Boyle break a few acres for crop.

We were married in January, 1921, but didn't move to the farm until spring. Gordon's aunt gave us thirteen hens, and they really laid eggs! We had one cow and four horses. One horse was killed when the barn was struck by lightning in July. One or two pigs were also killed, and the remaining three horses were deaf for a week or two.

We had wonderful neighbours, Olaf Berg, and Joseph Tjosvold. Mr. and Mrs. Berg had a large house, with evergreen trees, and a wonderful garden. At that time, Enok, Thelma, Helga, and Erling were at home.

The Tjosvold's was a second home to me. Mrs. Tjosvold taught me how to can meat, and how to make quilts, and when health problems arose, (Wes swallowed coal oil, for example) we went to Tjosvold's for help and advice. We made for there too when a thunder storm was coming up (we always had lunch) — Alma, Mabel, Rudolph, Palmer, Sofus, Olida, Laura, and Ella were all at home.

One day we went in a democrat, to a picnic at Jacob Aadland's barn, the Jacobsens sang; the organ was put up in the barn loft — we sat on plank seats to enjoy the program. A group including Mabel, Palmer, Bernard Berg, and Lillian Akre staged a play — Lillian was a clinging vine. It was great.

Early in the dust bowl years, when Mr. Berg was discing and harrowing, his white goose followed him up and down the field, with the dust so thick it could scarcely be seen. His turkeys would go to roost on the fence between his place and ours. Next morning they would fly off on our side, and that night they would face toward home, and that night fly to their home place.

To come a little closer to the present time, our family numbered four, Donald, Wesley, Cecil and Jeanette. Donald was born in 1922 — Mr. Pardon brought Dr. Monkman to the farm, and sat by the kitchen stove until Don arrived. Donald became a United Church minister, presently in Creston, British Columbia. They have a family of three, Murray, Bruce and Faye. Wesley has two in his family, Glen and Margaret. Cecil attend-

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To Be Returned to the Department as Soon as the Board is Organized
After the Annual Meeting and Whenever a Change is Made in the
Trustees or Officials.

SCHOOL OFFICIALS, 1935

The Waldon School District No. 1063 of Saskatchewan

TRUSTEES AND OFFICIALS FOR THE YEAR

- 1 C. B. Vestre Address Strongfield Term expires annual meeting 1936
- 2 J. L. Kerney Address Loreburn " " " " 1937
- 3 Percy Page Address Loreburn " " " " 1938
- 4 Address..... " " " " 19.....
- 5 Address..... " " " " 19.....

NOTE—Numbers 4 and 5 to be used for town districts only

Chairman C. B. Vestre Address Strongfield Appointed Jan 22 1935
 Secretary J. L. Kerney Address Loreburn Appointed Jan 22 1935
 Treasurer J. L. Kerney Address..... Appointed..... " 1935

NOTE—If one person holds the offices of secretary and treasurer his name must be entered in both places.

Local Attendance Officer J. L. Kerney Address Loreburn

Auditor Address
(Appointed by trustees)

Auditor Mrs. G. L. McPherson Address Strongfield
(Appointed by ratepayers at annual meeting)

School opened or will open February 11th 1935

Number of rooms in operation One

Exact location of school North West 1/4 of Section 33 Tp 26 Rge 5 Mer 3
(Give distance and direction from nearest corner)

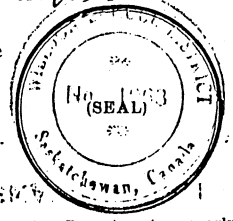
NOTE—The amount of the treasurer's bond depends on the number of rooms in operation. See reverse side of this form. Any change in the number of rooms operating must be reported to the Department immediately.

Name of teacher or principal } Evelyn L. Tostad Address Loreburn

Dated at Loreburn this 22 day of Feb 1935

I hereby certify that the foregoing information relating to the officials of this district is correct.

G. A. McPherson Secretary
Strongfield



NOTE—The grant for the first term cannot be paid until this return is received at the Department properly completed and sealed.

1063

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING—[Continued]

called for by the chairman. Moved by G. L. Takstad and seconded by W. Aadland that J. L. Kerney be trustee for a three year term. As there were no other nominations, J. L. Kerney was declared elected.

Moved by Mrs J. L. Kerney, seconded by Mrs. J. Haugen that Lillian Aadland be ratepayer's auditor for 1940.

Moved by J. L. Kerney, seconded by Mrs. J. Haugen that school open on Jan. 22nd, 1940.

Moved by Mrs. J. L. Kerney, seconded by Mrs. J. Haugen that meeting adjourn.

SASKATCHEWAN ARCHIVES BOARD

REGISTRATION NO.

CIRCULATION OR PUBLICATION

WITHOUT PERMISSION

PROHIBITED

Certified correct:

C. V. V. V.

Chairman

J. L. Kerney

Secretary

NOTE.—This form, properly completed, is to be sent to the Department of Education, Regina at the close of the meeting.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

(For village and rural school districts only)

NOTE—This form, properly completed, is to be sent to the Department of Education, Regina, at the close of the annual meeting.

Copy of the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the W. L. Blom
School District No. 1063 held on the 14th day of January 1941.
The meeting was called to order at 2.20 Number of ratepayers present 7
Chairman C. C. Vestre Secretary J. L. Kerney

The following reports were read: (See Section 74 of The School Act).

Minutes of last meeting read. Moved by Mrs O Aadland
Seconded by O Aadland that minutes be adopted
teachers report. trustees report. Financial
report. Inspectors report auditors report. Moved
by Y. L. Tastad seconded by Mrs O Aadland that reports
be accepted as read.
Trustees elected Mrs Jacob Haugen. Nominated
by Y. L. Tastad seconded by O Aadland (acclamation)
Auditor elected Miss Gudrun Tastad.
Other business Moved by Y. L. Tastad seconded
by Mrs O Aadland that we donate
\$2.50 to the red cross. Carried
Moved by Mrs J. Haugen. Seconded by O
Aadland that telephone be kept in
school for 1941 at rental of \$12.00 per
annum.
Moved by Mrs J. Haugen seconded by
Mrs O Aadland that meeting adjourn

SASKATCHEWAN ARCHIVES BOARD
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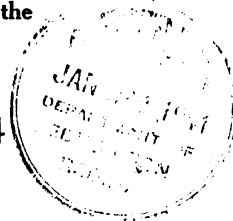
Certified correct:

Christ C Vestre
Chairman

J. L. Kerney
Secretary

NOTE—If this space is insufficient, attach additional page hereto.

To be returned to the Department as soon as the Board is organized after the Annual Meeting and whenever a change is made in the Trustees or Officials during the year.



SCHOOL OFFICIALS, 194

The Weldon School District No. 1063 of Saskatchewan

TRUSTEES AND OFFICIALS FOR THE YEAR

- 1 B. C. Vestre Address Strongfield Term expires annual meeting 1941.
- 2 J. L. Kerney Address Loreburn " " " " 1942.
- 3 Mrs. J. Haugen Address Strongfield " " " " 1943.
- †4 Address " " " " 19.....
- †5 Address " " " " 19.....

†NOTE—Numbers 4 and 5 to be used for town districts.

- Chairman B. C. Vestre Address Strongfield Appointed Jan 14 1941.
- Secretary J. L. Kerney Address Loreburn Appointed 14 1941.
- Treasurer J. L. Kerney Address Appointed 14 1941.

NOTE—If one person holds the offices of secretary and treasurer his name must be entered in both places.

- Local Attendance Officer J. L. Kerney Address Loreburn.
- Auditor Mrs. J. Herkingstad Address Loreburn
(Appointed by trustees)
- Auditor Miss Gudrun Tasted Address Loreburn
(Appointed by ratepayers at annual meeting)

School opened or will open on Jan 21st 1941
Boards are reminded that schools must open not later than the first school day in March and must remain open at least 200 days during the year ending December 31.

Number of rooms in operation One
NOTE—Any change in the number of rooms operating must be reported to the Department immediately.

Exact location of school R. 24 1/4 of Section 33 Tp. 26 Rge. 5 Mer. 3
(Give distance and direction from nearest corner) 40 rods from n.w. corner East

Has the district title to the site? Yes

Name of teacher } Miss Marion McColland Address Loreburn
or principal }

Dated at Loreburn this 20th day of Jan 1941

I hereby certify that the foregoing information relating to the officials of this district is correct.

J. L. Kerney Secretary



NOTE—The school grant cannot be paid until this return is received at the Department properly completed and sealed.

Forms 34 and 35 have been combined. Therefore, the reverse side of this page will be used for the minutes of the annual meeting.

FORM 35—6500—10-40—1433.

EDWARD WILSON BOOK

1063

SASKATCHEWAN ARCHIVES BOARD
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Louburn July 15/12.



The first meeting of the school district was held today according to the notice posted up at Bernard Meier's R W 4-27-5.

The meeting opened at two o'clock and Olaf Berg was appointed chairman of the meeting and W. H. Martin was appointed secretary. All the ratepayers present signed the declaration and all voted in favor of the organization of the district.

The name "Willdon" was proposed for the district and it was moved by John Smith seconded by B. Meier that we call the district the "Willdon School District".

The Chairman then called for the nomination of Trustees and —

It was moved by W. H. Martin. seconded by
Clay Berg that John Smith be nominated for trustee

2. Moved by John Smith seconded by W. H. Martin.
that Clay Berg be nominated as trustee

3. Moved by B. Meier seconded by D. Berg.
that W. H. Martin be nominated for trustee
after the allotted time as there were no other
nominations The chairman declared the
those nominated elected by acclamation.
and the poll sheet was then signed by all present

As this was all the business of the meeting. The
Trustees went over to decide on the exact location of
the school as the corner of 4-27-5 objected to the school
being on his quarter. The corner of 33 offered an acre for
school purposes. The N.W. of 33, but the exact corner was
low so it was moved to a good location 20-25 rods from
the corner East. This is the best single site available on the
4 corners of sections given out by the department.

W. H. Martin
Sec of meeting
Clay Berg
Chairman

DECLARATION

Proposed Willdon School District of Saskatchewan.
(Proposed name of S.D.)

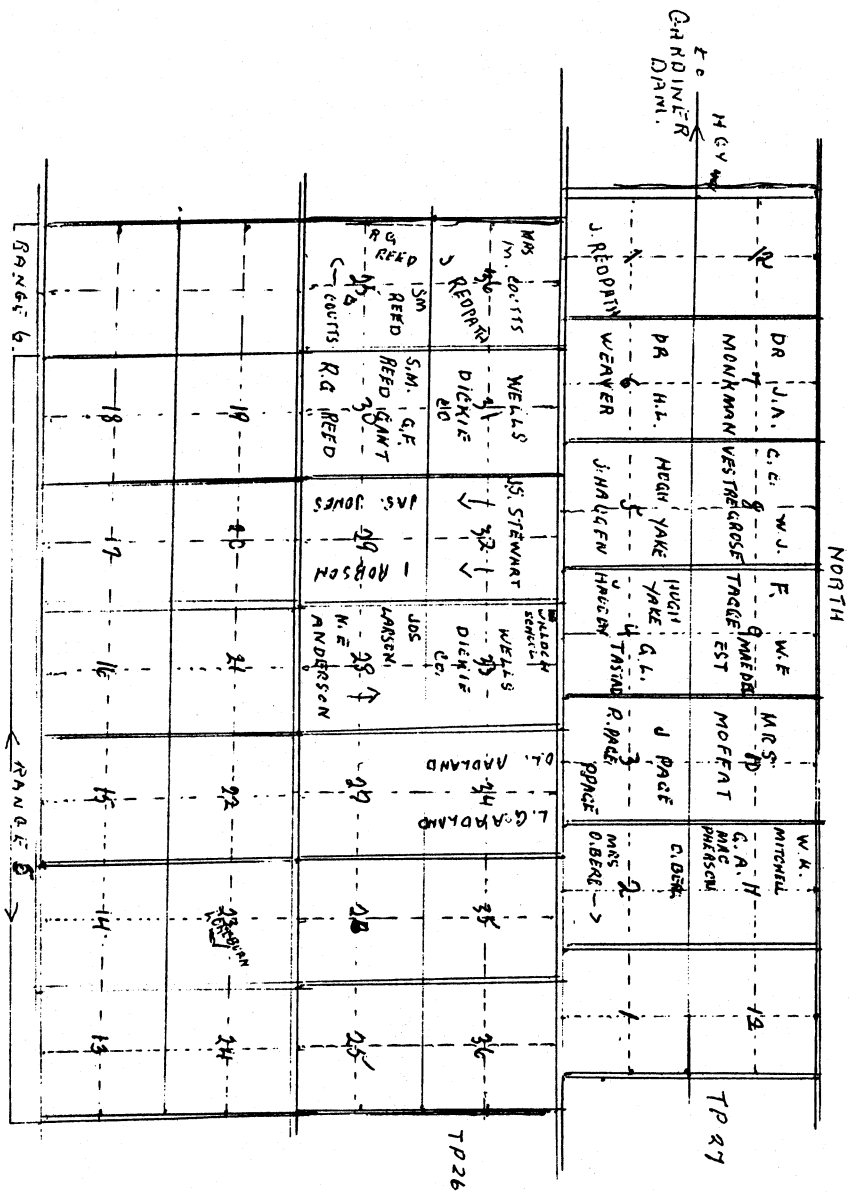
The undersigned severally declare each for himself that he is of full age of twenty-one years, that he actually resides within the above named proposed school district, and that he has so resided therein and owned or been the occupant of assessable property therein for a period of at least two months immediately prior to this date.

NAME.	PROPERTY.	OWNER OR OCCUPANT.
Olof Berg	W.W. 1/4 Sec 27 T27 R25 W3	owner
W. H. Muentz	Sec 31-26-5 W3	owner
J. G. Smith	SE 1/4-4-27-5	W3 - owner
Frederick Steele	N.W. 1/4 4-27-5	W3 - owner

SASKATCHEWAN ARCHIVES BOARD
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Witnesses to the above signatures:
Olof Berg Chairman.
W. H. Muentz Secretary.

Dated the 15th day of July 1912.



Map of Willdon school district.

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Ferkingsta

Mr. Clare
Mrs. Gordon
Willoughby
Rosen, M
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June Table. Gr. I - VI.

June.

Opening Exercises - Hymn, 23rd Psalm in unison, Lord's Prayer.
 Gr. II. IV. III Jr. & Sr. Study Spelling & dict. Gr. I. a. reading from board.
 Arith. in Gr. VI. IV. III. II. both teaching and working of problems. Gr. I. a. b, c, e.
 write lessons. I. B. reading.
 Recess. Arith. examined by teacher. in Gr. III & II. Answers taken in VI & IV.
 right after recess.
 Arith. corrected at seats and board.
 Sp. & dict. in II. III. IV. VI. Sentences written with spellings. Gr. VI & IV. Stud.
 hist. etc. Gr. II. Gram. or comp.
 Noon.
 Singing & roll call.
 Hist. Gr. VI & IV. Comp. work in Gr. III. Sr. & Jr. Gr. I & II reading.
 Gr. I & II. write lessons.
 Number work in Gr. I. Gr. VI & IV. written work in Hist. Gram. etc.
 Recess.
 Reading in VI. IV. III. Sr. & Jr. X Drawing and writing.

Mon. Geog. Comp.	Tues. Can. Hist.	Wed. Geog. Comp.	Thurs. Can. Hist.	Fri. Geog. Comp.
Can. Hist. Comp. W.S.	Geog. Comp. Eng. Hist.	Can. Hist. Comp.	Gram. Geog. Eng. Hist.	Can. Hist. Comp. W.S.

Grade.
IV.

VI.

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