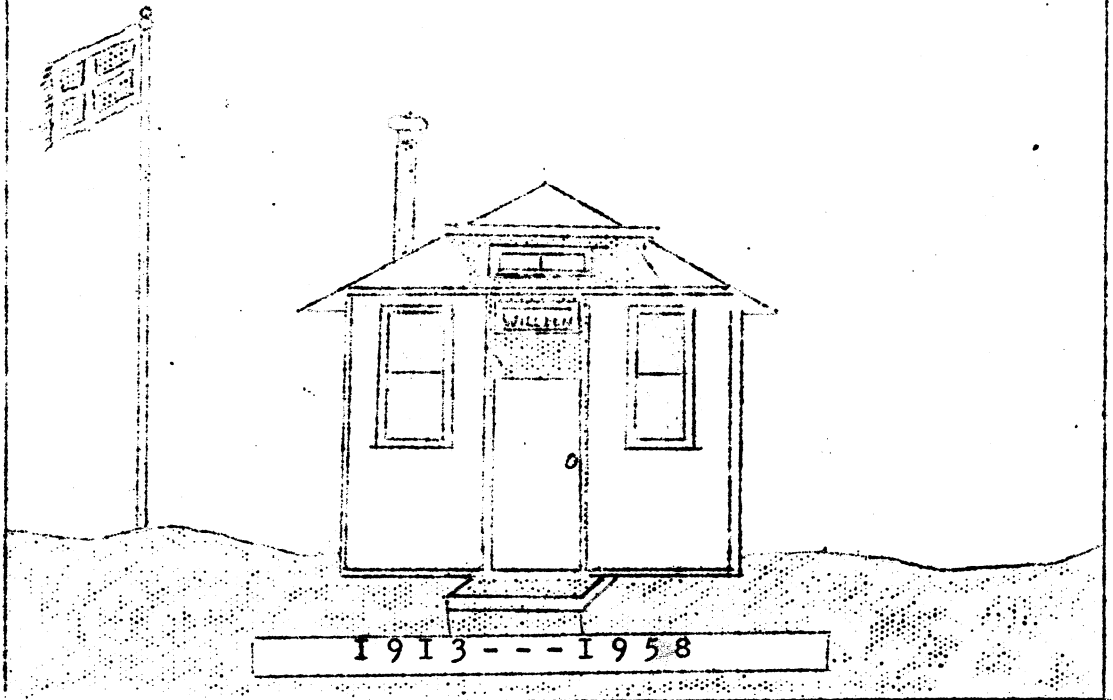


WILLDON SCHOOL

REUNION

1979



1913 - - - 1958

Memories by Hattie Aadland Vollmer

I was five years old when I started school. The school was not finished, so we had school in Osmond Aadland's granary. It had two tables with benches on either side, in place of desks.

I well remember going to sleep on the teachers knee, because I was frightened of the thunder and lightening.

The first pupils to start at Willdon, in this granary, were -- Geo. Smith, Mary Smith, Enock Berg, Allie Smith, Albert Smith, Theresa Aadland, Gunda Aadland and Hattie Aadland. To my knowledge Mary, Myrtle and I are the only ones living now that started our school days in the granary called "Willdon school".

The new school had a class room with an entry and two cloak - rooms. A large Waterbury furnace in the classroom supplied the heat when necessary. It had an asbestos lined corrugated casing around it. We often heated our frozen sandwiches and baked potatoes on the furnace.

I recall we had annual school fairs, that we worked for all year. We entered school work, baking, etc. with cash prizes given. Our school had the highest or most prizes and one year won a football.

Myrtle's favorite project was an insect collection in a velvet lined, varnished box, with a glass cover.

Our school also got top prize in singing, which meant we had to sing our song "Beautiful Ohio" at other places.

We had school concerts, Christmas and Hallowe'en programs as well as box socials, but we never had dances. We held Sunday school in the everyday school.

The school bought a catcher's mitt and some gloves and bats, so we also played baseball.

WILLDON SCHOOL # I063

The Willdon School district was organized in 1912 -- The 1st board members were Olaf Berg, J. Smith & Will Martin. The name Willdon came from a combination of the Christian names of Will Martin and Don Martin.

The school was used for Sunday school--and in the poor years, church services as well, presumably because the school was heated and in more constant use during the week, as well as poor road conditions. 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 the location.

Some of the teachers at Wildon were:

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Miss Farmer, | Miss Corley, | Miss Sonstrom |
| Miss Edna Davis, | Miss Graham, | Miss Livingston |
| Miss Alice Stathart, | Miss Emma Yake, | Mr. R.K.Purdy |
| Miss Winnie Anthony, | Miss Borley, | Mr. Cook |
| Miss Willox, | Mr. C.E.Bruder, | Mr. Clarence Aadland |
| Miss Helen Schunaman, | Mrs. Gordon McPherson, | Miss Caldwell |
| Miss Beth Rowley, | Miss M Willoughby, | Miss E. Tastad |
| Miss Kay Child, | Miss G. Tastad, | Miss Thelma Rosen |
| Miss Marion McLelland, | Mr. Ken Miller, | Miss Alfreda Monkman |
| Miss Bernice Berg, | Miss Florence Nilson, | Miss Carol Sogge |
| Miss Elsie Zetropolek, | Miss Ida Hempstad, | Miss E. Carrington |
| Miss Signe Lima, | Miss Martha Kemppainen, | Miss Wilcox. |
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First School Meeting - JULY 27, 1912

- The first regular meeting of the Willdon School district #1063 was held at J. Smith's, all members being present. Olaf Berg was appointed chairman Protom' and W.H.Martin appointed Secretary.
1. The election of officers was called for and it was moved by J.Smith, seconded by W.H.Martin that O.Berg be chairman of the board. Carried.
 2. Moved by Berg seconded by Smith that W.H.Martin be Sec.Treas. Carried
 3. Moved by Berg, seconded by Smith that Sec.Treas. receive \$50.00 till Jan.1st. for his services. Carried.
 4. Moved by Martin, seconded by Berg that the necessary books be sent for by the Sec. Treas. Carried.
 5. Moved by Berg, seconded by J. Smith that the Sec.write the Dept. for plans and specifications for a school house, size 20 x 28, Carried.
 6. Moved by Smith, seconded by Berg that the site on Sec.33-26-5. be purchased as the best available spot nearest the centre for school site at the price of \$25 per acre.
 7. Moved by Berg, seconded by Smith that the rate of taxation be 6¢ per acre and the Sec. Treas. of the Municipality be notified at once. Carried.
 8. Moved by Berg, seconded by Smith that notices be posted up for tenders for building school as soon as plans come Carried.
 9. Moved by W.H.Martin, seconded by Smith that notice for tenders be posted up for hauling, lumber, gravel, etc. for school. Carried.
- The meeting then adjourned. -- Olaf Berg - Chairman..

MEMORIES by Alice Stothart Elliot

There was very little recreation, so we made our own fun. Mr. Tastad and his hired man hauled water and made us a rink, in the winter, so after school we skated until darkness fell, 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 even wonder how I would get home, when Mr. Tjos - vold arrived with horse and sleigh. He said I should come home with them, which I did, and spent the night there.

MORE MEMORIE from Laura Tjosvold Olsons' pen

Yes, we had our happy days as well as our sad ones. The happy ones as we climbed to the top of the highest straw pile, clasped arms around one another and rolled from the top to the bottom. Oh what fun! Then during winter bringing our skates and clearing the snow off the slough, close by. We'd skate during noon hour and recess.

In summer we'd play baseball, dock the rock, pom-pom pull away, drop the handkerchief, fall the funniest, tag, and on going home - - Last touch.

In winter having approximately four miles to go to school, our sandwiches were frozen by the time we got there. Little did we care, with the big pot bellied stove to thaw them out, and soon the outside was all burned and the inside still frozen, a real delicacy.

Finally our class was in grade eight. At this time Gr.8 were departmental examinations, so they had to be written in Loreburn, Sask. Lillian Aadland, Gudrun Tastad, Leonard Aadland and I wrote our exams in town, We all passed this exam, too.

A Poem will follow which is entitled "Willdon" and was written by none other then the above Laura Olson.

WILLDON

4.

Willdon, Willdon, how we love that name
The school we all adored
The many lessons we learned there
As we worked in one accord.
O, true there were those moments
We say with deep regret -
Where we would hurt each other
But, let us not forget,
The many joyous moments
Would far exceed the few
Unhappy times, tho' sad they were
Remember ? Ne'er a clue.
For the teacher we had such respect
She'd be the only one.
Who in her understanding knew
Just how to work and still have fun.

Then one day all was over
We all went each our way
Now as we do reminisce
How delightful was our stay.
In dear Ol' Willdon School District
With relatives and friend
We'd look forward to a home coming
For our friendship has no end
So come let's have a happy time
A time we'll Ne'er forget.
Near dear old Willdon School district
Get ready all, Get set.

Laura Tjosvold Olson.



We Reminisce With - Evelyn Tastad Hundebby

When thinking about the days I spent at Willdon, I remember when in grade seven I built fires in the furnace one winter. We did not have the warm clothes that school children have now, I had rubbers and spats to walk the half a mile to the school. My feet were so cold when I got to school, I took off my shoes and ran around on the cold floor to warm them up. By the time I had the fire going & the school room warm, my feet were warm too. The furnace was in the class room. So those sitting closest to the furnace were warmest.

I remember Myrtle Aadland and myself scrubbing the school floor one Saturday. We had lots of ambition and energy and the day was beginning to darken before we finished.

I began teaching in Willdon in Aug. 1934 and taught there 'til Dec. 1935. Jan. 1st. 1936 I married Rev. Ole K. Olson in Amery, Wisconsin

I enjoyed my time teaching in Willdon. I had over twenty pupils and all grades up to eighth grade. I had four little girls in grade I, who were very bright and excelled in phonics when they sounded out r-a-p and pronounced it "knock". The pupils all enjoyed their activities outside during recess and noon-hours. I tried to spend as much time with them as I could.

My salary was \$350.00 per year, When I left to get married I was paid \$100.00 with \$250.00 "a promise to pay".

My husband and I lived in Wisconsin for three years. Then moved to the state of Washington, from there we moved to Donelda, Alberta. We were in McVille, N. Dak. when Rev. Olson died. We had four children namely Opal, Merrill, Gordon and Garnett. After my husband's death we moved back to Saskatchewan and the children completed their high school here.

I am married to George Hundebby and live in Elbow, Sask.. I attended Willdon as a pupil, taught Willdon and my three children attended Willdon school.

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b.

Recollections by Robert Kerney.

Willdon School was closed from June 1944 to Sept., due to an insufficient number of pupils.

During this time the Schoolboard remained active and when the school enrollment arose to seven pupils, it was decided at the Annual meeting held Jan. 30th. 1947 to open the school again.

Also as Willdon had considerable amount of money in the bank, - which the School Unit was going to take over if it wasn't used, it was decided to renovate the school and do some very necessary work before opening the school after midsummer.

Renovations included a full size basement with cement walls, an addition to the North East corner of the school, new toilets and septic tanks in the basement, a cistern below the basement floor, wall insulation, flooring on the entry rooms, south windows to be closed & wall insulated with shavings. East windows repaired and new blackboards installed.

The summer of 1947 was a busy one for the local board, making plans, obtaining material and men to work.

Hans Aasen was engaged as head carpenter at one dollar an hour and he had several others helping him whenever available. Time went fast, but building and renovations went slowly that summer. When finally the basement and building were completed, every one from the district turned out to paint the school room & additions and everything was cleaned up just in time for school opening in Sept. Lorne Kerney, who did alot of extra work and running around with his car, was given \$20.00 for his services. Though many worked hard to complete our Willdon school that summer, the finished product was something which all admired and many fine social events took place there in years to come.

Elsie Zatrepalek taught school there for three years and used the new addition as her living quarters.

Willdon School remained open until June 1958 when the district petitioned the School Unit Board to supply some form of transportation for the pupils to Loreburn School.

The closing of this school and other local schools and bringing them together under one roof, brought an end to many well remembered and happy times which were enjoyed in these country schools. These times of fellowship are not found in our larger units and pupils as well as parents are all going farther away to meetings of interschool - Phs. Ed., Band, etc. etc.

(continued on page 7)

In conclusion, I rejoice when I think of the times we had at our little School of WILLDON.

The competition between the three schools, Willdon, Pleasant Ridge and Bright schools was keen, as families from the three schools mainly attended Skudenes Lutheran Church.

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ANNUAL MEETING - March 14th, 1958

The annual meeting of the Willdon S.D.#I063 was held at the Tastad res. in Loreburn on Feb.1958 at 2:30 p.m. with most of the rate payers present.

Byron Tastad, chairman, called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted as read.

The chairman then called for nominations for the office of trustee to fill the existing vacancy. On nomination by Lorne Kerney seconded by J.D. Ferkingstad, Ed Seltenrich was re-elected

A discussion followed as to the possibilities of re-opening the school or of getting some form of transportation for the children to Loreburn School.

The motion was made by George Lemcke and seconded by Ed Seltenrich to petition the Unit for a form of transportation to Loreburn School from the Willdon school District for the fall term.

Walter Tastad moved that the meeting be adjourned, this was seconded by (Mrs.) Olga Kerney.

Lunch was served-

(Mrs.) J. Ferkingstad, Sec.

(This was the last school board meeting of the Willdon)
 (School District # I063)