

# Willdon School Reunion

July 14-15, 1979 were the dates for the Willdon School reunion. The morning of the 14th saw the tree surrounded school yard all green and freshly mowed. The original flag pole painted and erected in its place, proudly wafting the Canadian flag. To make it even more attractive and inviting, a sign was at the base of it with "Willdon School District, No. 1063", in bold letters. There by its side stood an old school desk, with many of the pupils initials carved in. It made a lovely setting for the trailers and motor homes that started to arrive in the forenoon. However, because of heavy showers plans were changed. C.B.'s in the cars and trucks made it possible to spread the word that we were moving to the Strongfield hall for the pot luck supper. A registration area was soon set up where we received our name tags, souvenir buttons and packets with the program and the school history booklets, an added attraction to this table was a miniature Willdon School, made by Johnnie Haugen, which contained replicas of the furnishings.

A fine pot luck supper started the evening with many former students and their families. After the table prayer was sung we made our way around filling our plates with the delicious home made goodies. A table was placed to one side, this had pictures of the old days, as well as the families of now. The little hand bell we had heard so many times was rung whenever an announcement was made during the evening, much visiting and reminiscing was done before we gathered for an old fashioned sing song. We enjoyed good background music with piano, banjo and two guitars as well as the spoons. It seemed no one was in a hurry to leave, but before we did there was more coffee. We had to break away so as to be able to be back again before seven o'clock to prepare the pancake and sausage breakfast. Then there was just time to clear away and get ready for our eleven o'clock worship service. Aksel Chrestensen was Master of

Ceremonies throughout the day. We were fortunate to have several ministers with us, and we are proud to say they were former pupils of Willdon. Rev. Oliver Vestre had scripture reading and prayer following the opening hymn, there were several musical numbers, then Rev. Don McPherson presented a

most interesting sermon, linking our school days with our spiritual life, Maynard Olson had prayer, the service closed with "Blest Be The Tie That Binds".

A delicious banquet was served, during this hour a few presentations were made. Helen Starnes and LeRoy Olson had made and donated cups with Willdon inscriptions. These were given to five people, first Corley Martin, whose father the school was named after, then Alma "Tjosvold" Christiansen, who was the oldest pupil present, the youngest pupil when the school closed, Wanda "Ferkingstad" McMurchy, the one that came the farthest, Oliver Vestre, then Evelyn "Tastad" Hundebly, who had been a pupil there, taught there, her children went there, and the land on which the school stood belonged to her.

At four o'clock many visitors came to hear the program that had been arranged. It opened with a sing song, there were many solos, duets, quartettes, a Barber Shop group and instrumental numbers, as well as a monologue and a skit which caused a lot of laughter and applause, following greetings from former teachers and pupils. We closed with the singing of "God Be With You Till We Meet Again". To conclude the evening, we gathered at the former Willdon School grounds for a wiener roast and sing song around a bonfire. On Monday morning some took advantage of a conducted tour of the Gardiner Dam.

Former students and teachers arrived from many points in Canada and the U.S.A. - Ohio, Indiana, Oklahoma, Washington, South Dakota, British Columbia, Ontario, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

We wish to express appreciation to all those who helped in any way.