

SCHOOLS



RURAL SCHOOLS

by Valborg Fisher

The country schools of rural America grew out of necessity, to provide schooling for children of the early settlers. These schools became very personal and each community was possessive of its own school.

At the turn of the century, Sims had a two-room brick community building located $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of the depot, which was used as a school three months in the fall and three months in the spring. Attendance at one time was about 80 pupils. The school was discontinued in 1907 when a two-room school of lumber was built near the present "Gray House". At this time there was also a one-room school near the Hogan Anderson farm.

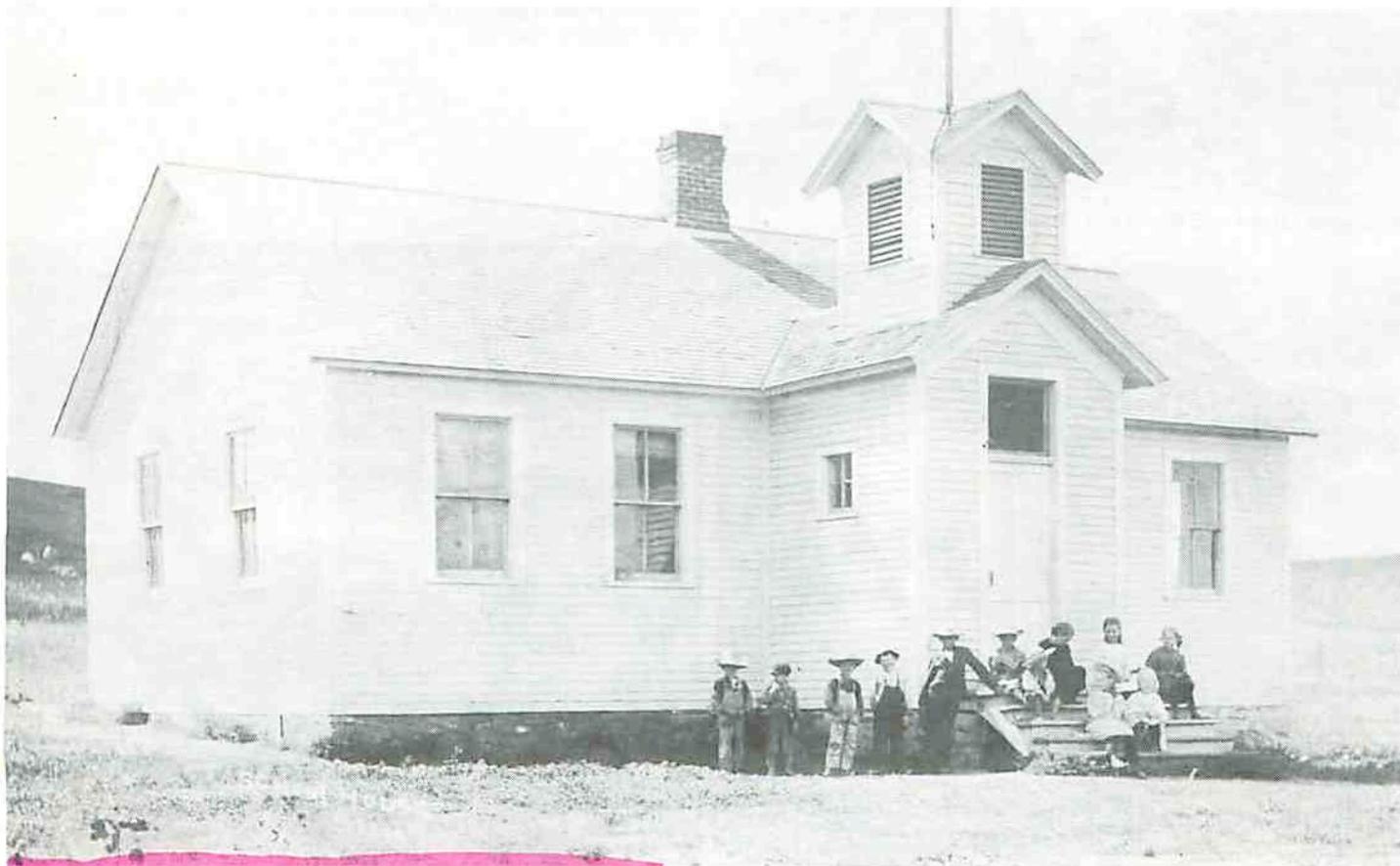


Hogan-Anderson School

There were also country schools in the Heart River area. The first Lincoln School, made of logs, was located about one mile north of the Amund Johnson farm and the children who attended came from quite a distance. The Hans Anderson children had to cross the river three times to get to the Lincoln school. Later the Weekes school opened, which was located close to the Steve Weekes ranch. In about 1916 the Sherwood school was built; it was located near the Sherwood farm about one mile north of the river.

The rural schools in the Sims, Feland, Olin and Valley Forge districts were much alike. They were about 16 x 24 feet, with an added small entrance which usually had a bell tower and flag pole. Some schools used a hand bell. In the entrance were hooks for wraps, a shelf for lunch pails, a small bench for a wash basin and a water crock. The buildings were painted white with blue-gray wainscoating on the inside walls. There were windows on both sides of the room until the mid-twenties when a law was passed that there were to be windows only on one side, so the correction was made.

The furniture was much the same in all the schools - a teacher's desk and chair, two sizes of desks (some were double), fastened to the floor on long boards, a recitation bench, a book case for a few library books, one big dictionary on a stand, a coal heater; some schools had a pump organ. Pictures of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, the Ten Commandments and Old Ironsides hung on the wall. (The picture of Old Ironsides was



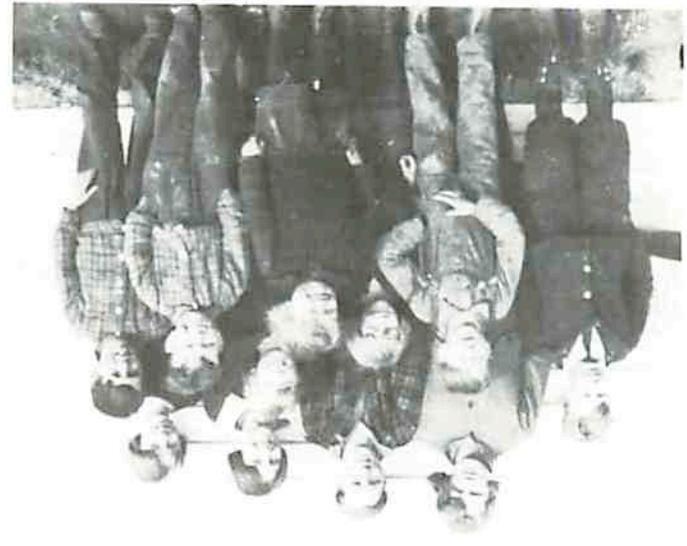
New Sims school built in 1907 near the present "Gray House."



Sims school in 1911-1912.

given to the schools in 1925 because school children gave pennies to restore the ship which is now in the Boston harbor.) The globe hung from the ceiling on a rope with pulleys so that it could be pulled down when used and Palmer Method writing cards were fastened over the chalkboards. There was a U.S. flag in every room.

The coal heaters were a headache and worry to many teachers. Evelyn Bateman tells how she banked the stove for the night then began to worry about fire because the stove had only three legs - the fourth was a stack of bricks, and a poker held the door shut. She was very relieved and glad to see her school again in the morning. Frances Nelson had problems with the furnace at the Benson School - she couldn't get the coal to burn and it was so cold inside she sent the children

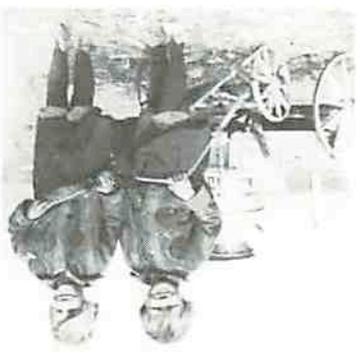


Tobias Olson school
 Back: Mallie Olson, Harold Halverson, Anna Klien, Olga Halverson, Front: Arnold Olson, Leslie Jacobson, Adeline Olson, Evangeline Olson, Lillian Olson, Martin Klien, Johan Klien.

out to play to get warm. This was the morning the County Superintendent, Gena Jensen came to visit! Mrs. Jensen went to the basement in her beautiful suit and furs to show up the inexperienced teacher, but finally gave up trying to build a fire and told Frances she should send the children home. These are only a couple of the problems teachers had with N.D. lignite coal. Keeping the school clean was also the teachers' responsibility.

The toilets were outside, of course, and in the winter a trip out could take 15 minutes, which included putting on overshoes, cap and mittens. It almost took as long in the summer as the stroll was relaxing and refreshing!

Drinking water was brought either by the teacher or a child hired by the teacher. The children brought their own drinking cups and it was hardly necessary to have a wash basin as water was so scarce.



Evangeline and Adeline Olson hauling water to Tobias Olson school in 1926.

There were no hot lunches unless a mother sent a kettle of soup or potatoes to be baked in the ashes of the stove. Rural teachers will never forget the aroma of 15 or 20 lunch pails being opened at the same time!

Music was group singing during opening exercises and art was mostly hectographed material or traced on the window. No one knew much about creative art nor did they appreciate it.

Physical Ed took place at recess where the teacher supervised activities and played games with the children, like Last Couple Out, Hide and Seek, baseball, snowball, etc. The playground equipment was usually a swing and giant stride. In the spring the children enjoyed digging wild onions and eating them - and running after gophers.

Transportation was no problem as each family provided its own by using horses or walking. Every school had a red barn for the horses. Otto Feland plowed a furrow from his home to the John Hanson school, two miles away, so Ole, Ragnhild and Anna would not get lost walking to and from school. When Ole started school he couldn't speak English very well and the teacher did not have much patience with him so he decided to leave school. He met Norman Hansen and Joe Kouba who were down by the spring getting water for the school; Ole stopped and said "Tell the teacher I'm going home and I'm not coming back!" Norman also tells about one of the country school teachers who came to school, a distance of seven miles, and drove a single horse and buggy. The horse was very thin and weak and layed down most of the day. In the evening the kids would all help lift the horse on its feet to make the return trip; the next morning the same horse was back again!

Daily Program and Classification

9:00 to 9:10	Opening Exercises
9:10 to 9:25	Beginners Reading
9:25 to 9:35	1st
9:35 to 9:45	2nd
9:45 to 9:50	3rd
9:50 to 10:00	4th
10:00 to 10:10	5th
10:10 to 10:20	7th & 8th Arithmetic
10:20 to 10:45	Recess
10:45 to 11:00	Beginners 1st & 2nd Arithmetic
11:00 to 11:15	4th & 5th Arithmetic
11:15 to 11:30	7th & 8th Grammar
11:30 to 11:45	4th & 5th Geography
11:45 to 12:00	7th & 8th Reading
12:00 to 1:00	Noon
1:00 to 1:15	Beginners Reading
1:15 to 1:30	1st Reading & Spelling
1:30 to 1:40	2nd
1:40 to 1:50	3rd
1:50 to 2:00	4th (History)
2:00 to 2:10	5th (History)
2:10 to 2:25	7th & 8th Geography
2:25 to 2:30	7th & 8th Spelling
2:30 to 2:45	Recess
2:45 to 2:50	4th Spelling
2:50 to 2:55	5th
2:55 to 3:10	Phonics (1st, 2nd & 3rd Lang.)
3:10 to 3:25	7th Physiology (Agriculture)
3:25 to 3:35	4th & 5th Language (Physiology)
3:35 to 3:50	7th & 8th History (Civics)
3:50 to 4:00	Waiting

The curriculum followed the State Course of Study. The schedule classes for eight grades into a six hour day took careful planning. In some cases, first graders could not speak or understand English.

The Teacher's Institute was very valuable in providing young teachers with information, including how to handle situations such as a snow storm or prairie fire. The rural teacher took care of all health problems.

Report cards were used, but conferences were unnecessary, as there were no real problems. The school had a friendly atmosphere and parents and teachers worked together to give the children the best education possible.

The schools became the center of the community. They were used for church, voting, farm meetings, basket socials, Ladies Aid suppers, etc. There were programs at Christmas and picnics at the close of the year.

The last shadows of country schools are fading into extinction. At one time most Americans received their education in a country school. Time has shown that great people have come out of rural schools. One man with only a year of school in one of these schools became President of the United States. His memory is a monument to this kind of simple education.

A letter from two pupils of the Hogan Anderson School is as follow - "The first school was located about three miles west of Almont, near the Hogan Anderson farm. Mr. Emil William was one of the first teachers at the school. The story was told of a bad blizzard that came up suddenly (about 1905 or 1906). Visibility was zero at times. Mr. Willman had a ball of binder twine which he tied to the school yard fence post; then with ball in hand, unwinding the ball, he walked ahead to a fence near the Anderson house and the children



Ramsland school

Eddie Drashil, Carl Olin, Lucille Ramsland, Molly Drashil, Elvira Ramsland, Gladys Overgaard, Luella Ramsland, Lena Meuchel, (?) Meuchel. Several pupils absent; there were 18 enrolled.

holding onto the twine followed the teacher. They arrived safely at the Anderson house and there they spent the night.

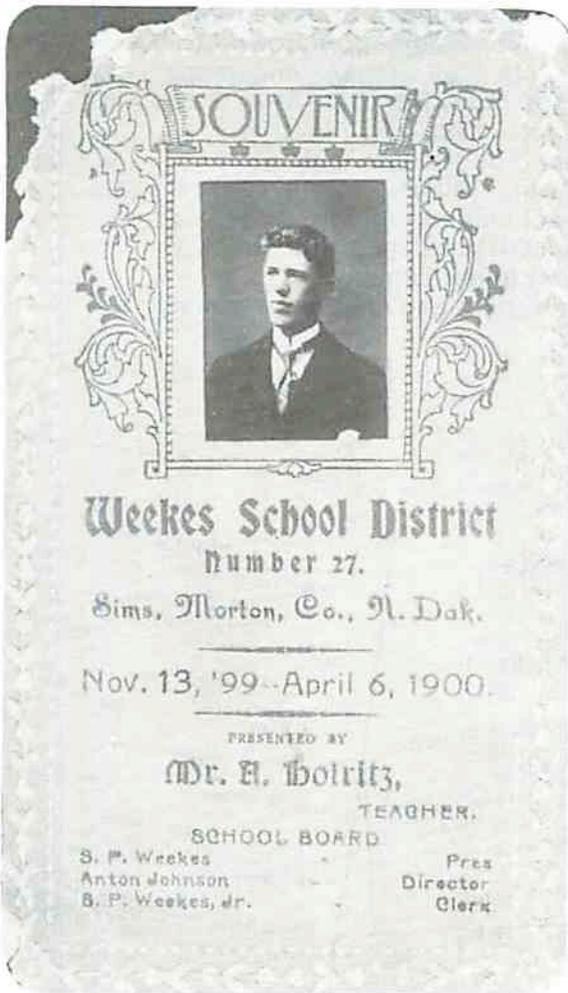
Miss Clara Seim of Almont also taught a term of school at Curlew school in 1907-08. Miss Inga Ims of Sims was the teacher about 1908-09. The first graders that year were Ovalt Feland, Bennie Olson and Alice Anderson.

The next year Lena Linstad of Sims was the teacher. A picture of the teacher and pupils was taken that year. The pupils were Melvin, Alvin and Bennie Olson, Jim and Anna Olson, Beas Olson, Nora and Ovalt Feland, Clara, Albert and Oliver Anderson.

The next teacher was Miss Bessie Nordstrom of Minnesota. She boarded with the Anderson family. Oliver started school that year. Oliver has always called her his favorite teacher. He remembers that evenings, after supper, he would sit on her lap as she told him stories.

The old schoolhouse is the lone building still standing today on the vacant Anderson farm west of Almont.





The following is a list of schoolteachers in the Sims, Olin, Feland, and Valley Forge Districts:

Teachers in the Sims School District - 1913-1958

Elizabeth Willson	Agnes Johnson	Viola Knutson
Anna Olin	Esther Stoutenberg	Mrs. A. W. Telford
Amy Larson	Alice Anderson	Myron Knutson
Theodore Hanson	Frances Nelson	Ruth Torgerson
Hilma Case	Ione Olson	Leon Jacobson
Christine Nelson	Bernice Anderson	Lucille Lucas
Inga Ims	Marlene Torgeson	Fred Ramsland
Anna Stromberg	Lois Larson	Cora Seim
Agnes Knudson	Luella Wanstrom	Helen Halverson
L. H. Engh	Toby Ramsland	Aalga Thorson
Emma Ekren	Vandora Johnson	Frona Harper
Maren Linstad	Joyce Larson	Walter Tellman
Mrs. Oscar Jacobson	Mrs. Theo. Stiler	Ida E. Olson
Frank O'Brien	Eunice Klingensmith	Mary Timpe
Olaf Solvold	Mrs. Everett Olson	Margaret Reinhard
Signe Dyrdahl	Andrew Willman	Mrs. Ida Feland
Clara Anderson	Thelma Hyde	Adeline Olson
Hilda Johnson	Pearl Wohlman	Gladys Bahm
Mrs. Letty Hudson	Hilda Johnson	Evelyn Timpe
Mabel Scansen	Edith Malone	Noreen Olson
Helen Freemott	Wallace Hyde	Winona Olson
Myrtle Savage	Evelyn Erlandson	Ardella Reetz
Julia Bratheng	Emil Kling	Betty Anderson
Clara Usselman	D. G. Smith	Mrs. Edna Juhala
Rosa Harstra	Valborg Peterson	Elaine Timpe
Blanche Lindgren	Norma Erlandson	Herbert Thorson

In 1956 the Sims District voted on "Shall Sims School No. 1 be moved or sold? Yes votes 91 - No votes 7.



Teachers in the Olin District - 1913-1950

Pearl Eckroat	Gertrude Hess
Gladys Norton	Ruth Torgerson
Anna Stiler	Anna Miller
Olga Olson	Doris Woehrl
Selma Miller	Kathleen Kelsven
Lillian Reisberg	Pearl Wohlman
Anna Miller	Olga Timpe
Clara E. Anderson	Edward C. Willman
Grace Daily	Winona Olson
Jennie Unger	Fred Ramsland
Valores Cross	Claudine Christianson
August Neas	Virginia Lee
Laura Harper	Toby Ramsland
Josie Rushton	Herbert Thorson
Wm. F. Carrick	Irene Kary
Ida Mathisen	Audrey Willman
Randeen Hoovestol	Ingeborg Trovik
Theo. Kaelberer	Donna Knutson
Evelyn Bateman	Marlys Knutson

Teachers in the Feland School District - 1913-1958

Inga Ims	Evelyn Bateman Peterson
Grace Nelson	Viola Olson
Selma Olson	Mildred Dettman
Lester Eatough	Ruth Willman
Emery Eatough	Burton Nelson
Edith McGinnis	Ingeborg Trovik
Annie Mown	Noreen Olson
Tylie Burgess	Lorraine Grimm
Jeanette Applegate	Lois Olson
Evelyn Risberg	Lorraine Feland
Selma Miller	Alta Barstad
W. J. Schoeder	Arvella Peterson
Helen Tollefson	Virginia Lee
Genevieve Wimmer	Ida Feland
Arlington Griffeth	Irene Kary
Richard Deal	Herbert Thorson
Anna Timpe	Robert Timpe
Mary Timpe	Edith Skjolsvik
Ragna Olson	Mrs. Obert Barstad
Ragna Olson Knutson	Mrs. Evelyn Bachmann
Evelyn Erlandson	Mrs. Ethel Rosendahl

In September 1958 the Timpe school was closed by reorganization and the children went to Almont.





ALMONT SCHOOL - 1981

Kasper Greff

As the students make their way up and down the creaky stairs of the Almont School, it is an audible reminder that the school, too, is "Alive and Well" in 1981. Although the number of students has declined to the present enrollment of 76, the atmosphere for learning and the attitudes toward learning have probably changed very little since the very beginning of the Almont School.

There is daily evidence in the school that smallness does not preclude excellence. The students are provided a sound basic education, plus a few electives that allow exploration. The students take education seriously as evidenced by the average of 20 students who make the "A" and "B" honor roll each quarter. The students' insatiable desire to compete in sports is shown by the three trophies that were added this year. Additional recognition was gained through awards in FHA, Soil Conservation efforts, and poster contests. Considering the total number of students in the Almont school, the ratio of awards and recognition to numbers of students is very high. It is to a student's advantage that in a school the size of Almont, every student be recognized for his or her own unique and individual abilities, talent, and successes.

Almont school is thriving and will continue to do so as long as there are kids in school. The qualities of perseverance and concern for education have obviously been passed from generation to generation with the resulting opportunity for educational choice.



HISTORY OF ALMONT PUBLIC SCHOOL

by Thelma Klingensmith

The Almont Public School has served as the heart of the Almont community through all its history. It has not only been the center of Almont's educational efforts, but the center of many of its religious, social, athletic and community activities as well.

School Board members in 1906 were Theodore Feland, Ben Olson, and J. R. Sherwood with P. R. Peterson as clerk of the board. Because all carpenters were busy building business houses, the building of a school was postponed until later. The children of the village were compelled to attend a rural school two miles from Almont, known as the Tjaden school.



The Almont school was built in 1907, a part of the Sims School District. Bids for the two-room frame building was submitted by Timmerman Lumber Co. of Sims and C.H. Chase Lumber Co. of Almont, with the Almont firm building the school. The first teacher was Miss Karine Jacobson, sister of Mrs. Grace Nelson; Mr. J.T. Hensliegh was the second teacher with 16 pupils. Mrs. G. H. Anderson came as a bride to the community in 1910 and became a much loved teacher. She continued to inform and inspire the young people for many years. When the second teacher

was added in 1913, Mrs. Anderson taught the upper grades. When the high school started in 1917, she taught the freshman class, which was the only class that first year. After that, she taught the intermediate grades until 1932, a truly dedicated outstanding teacher.

All the churches of Almont - Lutheran, Wesleyan and Catholic used the school for their meetings until they built their own structures. The first Almont school became the first Almont Lutheran Church. Many other religious gatherings have been held there during the years. The Almont Sunday School held their meetings there for many years before there were any regular denominational services. The Sunday School was organized April 22, 1907.

On June 3, 1910, the school provided shelter for the children of the town when a night fire destroyed both elevators, the lumber yard and Mr. Adams' barn. It was a close call for the entire town.



On January 8, 1917, the Almont Commercial Club appointed a committee to draw up and circulate a petition for a new school, including a high school, of sufficient size for the community. The 1917 class of 8th graders had 17 members and played an important part in this action. The commercial Club wanted them to be able to attend high school and not have to leave the community. The committee was composed of E. W. Hyde, C. A. Knutson and N. E. Becklund.



**8TH GRADE GRADUATING CLASS
MAY 1917**

L to R - Front: Alice Anderson, Katherine Malone, Margaret Anderson. Standing: Randeena Elvik, Ermine Lauzon, Edith Malone, Carl Knudson, Myrtle Baisden, Lena Anderson, Mrs. Nellie Anderson, Henry Peck, Thelma Hyde, Clifton Lauzon, Anna Feland, Ragnhild Feland, Edith Bird, Verna Bird. (Missing: William Knutson)

A special school election was held on Saturday, March 31, 1917, for the purpose of determining the following question. "Of erecting a two-story, four-room school building with full basement in block nineteen in Filkins Second Addition to the town-site of Almont, Morton County, North Dakota." The votes cast were 59 for and 41 against. A majority vote was needed, so the Almont High School was on its way. The new school was ready for occupancy after the Christmas vacation and a class of 20 freshmen were the first high school students.

The Almont school has always tried to serve the general community. On June 13, 1919, the first community 8th grade graduation was held when pupils from five school districts received their diplomas. Graduates from Almont plus Sims, Columbia, Feland, Olin and Valley Forge School districts were there to receive their diplomas. Speakers were: Major James M. Hanley of Mandan; Minnie J. Nielson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and H. K. Jensen, Morton County Superintendent of Schools. After the program and presentation of diplomas, the large community gathering was served ice cream generously furnished by the Sims School Board.

The first high school class graduated May 25, 1920. That fall a second high school teacher was added to the faculty, as there were now students in all four years of the courses. A large 8th grade class graduated the same time.

The Almont P.T.A. was organized on December 1, 1926. It has been active throughout most of the Almont school history and meant a great deal to the parents and teachers, as well as the community as a whole. An Almont School Literary Society was also organized in 1927 with Mrs. Chris Halvorson as faculty advisor. A high school newspaper, "The Sentinel" was published from 1928-1930. The first high school yearbook was published by the seniors in 1938. In June, 1928, the school district decreed that there should be an addition built on the present schoolhouse for the amount of \$20,000, with 96 ballots cast in favor of the issuance of the necessary bonds, and 44 against. The new wing furnished the school with an up-to-date gymnasium auditorium, and two large additional classrooms. Dedication



Top: Alvin Peterson, Lee Backlein, Dorothy Anderson, Alga Hoeger, Myrtle Olin, Myrtle Falkenberg, Alf Olin, Mabel Feland, Lillian Knutson, Margido Willman. Bottom: James Stoeckel, Minnie Fulton, Fred Overgard, Viola Olson, Louise Hoeger, (?) Mitzman, Henry Nyquist, Dagmar Pederson, Howard Knutson, Marjorie Nelson, Mildred Anderson, Ruth Pederson, Raymond Olson, Geoge Macklein, Clara Knudson, teacher - 1921.



8TH GRADE GRADUATES - 1922

L to R: Ingeborg Trovick, Lucille Templeton, Ruth Duncan, Georgia Stoeckel, Myer Mitzman, Laurin Hyde, Olaf Peterson, Sig Peterson, Leonard Anderson.



L to R: Mary Timpe, Ann Timpe, Evelyn Erlandson, Elsie Willman, Viola Knutson, Ragna Olson, Gertrude Willman, Valborg Peterson, Agnes Aymond - 1925.

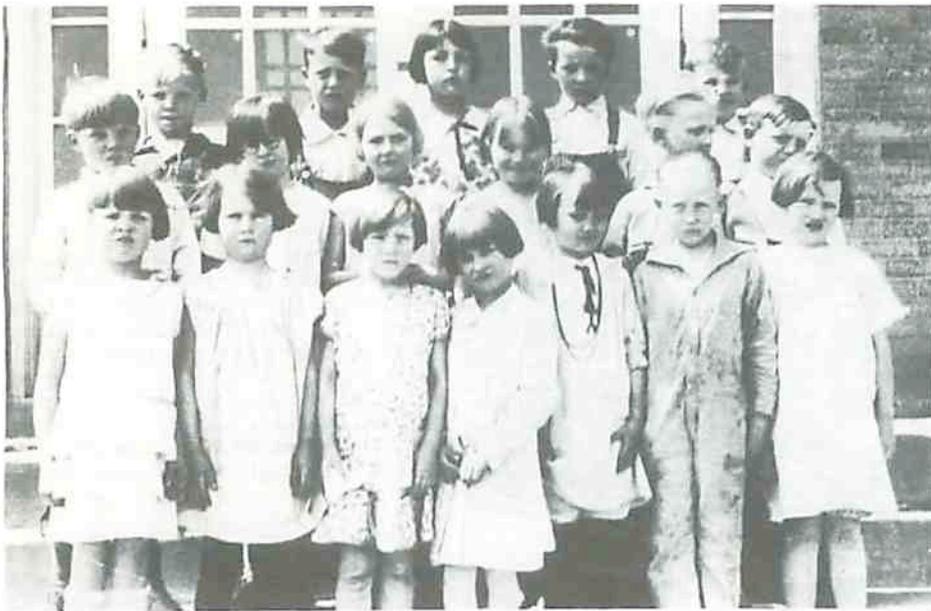


PRIMARY ROOM - 1924

Teacher: Gen Wimmer. Back: (?), Vivian Bateman, Cora Seim, Eva Huff. Third row: Yvonne Templeton, Bernice Ims, Christ Olson, Emma Johnson, Art Feland. Second row: Donald Frazier, Harlan Anderson, Carl Hoeger, Lester Olson, Vernon Ims, Orval Olin, Wallace Timpe. Front: Robert Frazier, Blanche Bateman, Kathleen Kelsven, Lillian Pederson, Marian Kennedy, Vernon Knutson, John Hoeger. (Identities may not all be correct.)



Top: Minnie Fulton, Sylvia Ims, Viola Olson, Alga Hoeger, Madaleen Templeton. Middle: Clara Hoeger, Ruth Bergstrom, Bernice Ims, Dagmar Pederson, Ruth Pederson, Louise Hoeger. Front: Marjorie Nelson, Marjorie Wright, Stella Stiler, Cora Seim - 1927.



Back: Raymond Hoeger, James Harris, Geneive Stoeckel, Gordon Anderson, Warren Becklund. Middle: Ervin Halvorson, Marian Kelsven, Ruth Seim, Carol Knutson, Burton Nelson, Curtis Fallgren. Front: Edith Halvorson, Beatrice Seim, Evelyn Timpe, Helen Hoeger, Phyllis Hyde, Clifford Bergstom, Matilda Erhardt - May 1929.

services were held on January 27, 1929, with Charles A. Bugbee, former Almont high school principal and then Deputy County Superintendent of Schools, as speaker of the evening.

The first high school basketball team played their first game in the new gymnasium on January 11, 1929. At the close of the basketball season, a tournament was held in Carson, with the team making the two-day trip by sleigh. The girls also organized a basketball team. Basketball has continued to be one of the favorite school activities. Both school and independent teams of adults have continued through the years to play at home and in surrounding towns. In 1952, the Almont basketball team won the district tournament. Whether winning or losing, the school basketball teams have had the good support of the community and have made a reputation for playing friendly games.

Music has always been an important part of the Almont community. Different musical groups performed through the years. The first high school band was organized in 1928, under the direction of L. G. Klopfleisch, Superintendent of the Almont school. The band consisted of about 15 members. They appeared several times during that first year

and played a concert in the spring. They also played for the Old Settlers' Picnic in June, 1929. The next spring stringed instruments were added to make an orchestra. Mrs. H.W. Carlson directed our orchestra from 1934-35. Other band directors were Miss Kibee, Lowell Britton, Philip Johnson, Duane Bauer and Harold Foley.

The first community social event in the new high school gymnasium was a bridal shower for four Almont high school alumni. The recent brides were: Evelyn Bateman Peterson, Lois Williams Klopfleisch, Valborg Peterson Fisher and Lucille Templeton Lucas.

The gymnasium-auditorium continued to be the center of many of the community's activities.

The first Boy Scout Court of Honor was held in Almont before a capacity crowd on November 10, 1938. Almont's one week drive for the Red Cross War Fund ended with a benefit party at the high school auditorium. The next May 23, 1942, a meeting on Victory Gardens was held at the school.

The returning World War II servicemen and their families were honored in March 1946 at a banquet in the Almont school auditorium, sponsored by the Almont American Legion and Auxiliary.



SCHOOL BAND - 1930

Christ Olson, Orval Olin, Wallace Timpe, Lester Olson, Vernon Ims, Eddie Atkinson, Gordon Templeton, Albert Mitch, John Hoeger, Harlan Anderson, Vernon Knutson, Robert Atkinson.



Dressed for rehearsal of operetta held in Almont Hall in 1924.



The Almont Homemakers Club hosted a silver tea in the school auditorium on May 1953 in observance of their 25th anniversary of the club. Wedding anniversaries and many other events have been held in the school through the years.

About 300 Almont people and old timers from the early days of the community assembled in the school auditorium on June 15, 1955, to celebrate the 84th birthday of E. W. Hyde, an original founder of the town.

Saturday, May 19, 1956, was a day long to be remembered by those who were a part of Almont's "Picture Day." In anticipation of the history book being written for Almont's Golden Jubilee to be held June 23 and 24, pictures of all the present organizations in Almont and the surrounding community were taken. The Band Mothers served lunch during the day in the hot lunch room while the pictures were taken in the auditorium. The Golden Jubilee program was held in the auditorium. A similar "Picture Day" was held on December 12, 1980, in anticipation of the planned Diamond Jubilee History book, with Ernest Feland, an alumnus, as the photographer.

Adult classes of various subjects have been held in the Almont school as a part of its community service. During 1951-1954, Peter Bergen held various classes for veterans who were farmers. In 1964, Almont was the first community outside of Bismarck to sponsor a college extension course from the newly designated

**Congratulations Almont
on your 75th Anniversary**



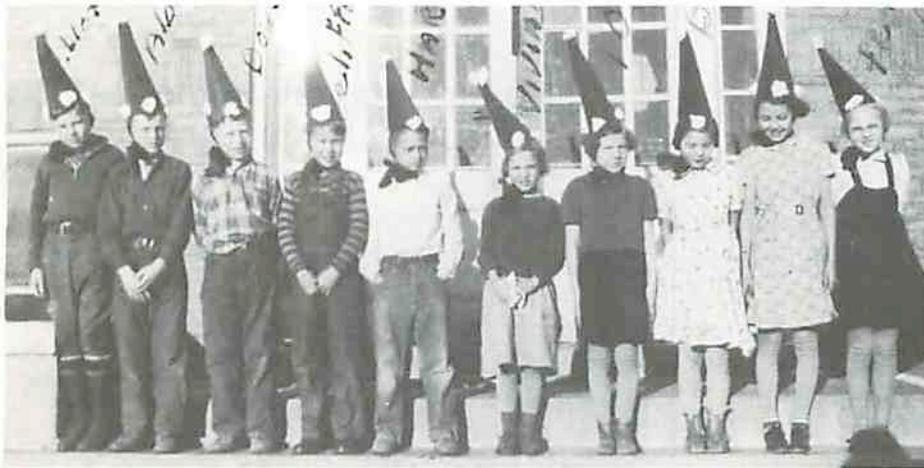
**FARMERS UNION OIL
AND LUMBER CO.**

Flasher, ND 58535



HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA - 1937
 L to R: Clifford Geise, Curtis Fallgren, Burton Nelson, Gordon Templeton, Anna Weibke, Mrs. Carlson, director, Mildred Peterson, Marian Kelsven, Phyllis Hyde, Beverly Kelsven, Carol Knutson.

Front Donna Knutson, Dauphine Anderson, Clara Dawson, Gavis Ringham, Betty Butler, Gwen Trovick, Zona Olson, Darlene Anderson, Elvira Butler. Back: Leo Timpe, Jr., Bob Timpe, Russell Rickett, Eugene Weekes, Delbert Olson, Meredith Bailey, Dale Sharff, Wallace Joersz. Teacher, Eleanor Pederson - 1939.



1939
 L to R: Lloyd Olson, Alden Olson, Wendal Dawson, Clifford Knudson, Harmon Purfeerst, Vivian Kronberger, Ione Olson, Betty Olson, Colleen Knudson, Frances Nelson.



NORBY-RATH, INC.

905 East Main - Mandan, ND 58554

Phone: 663-9564



SKIP DAY IN BISMARCK PARK - 1935

Ida Olson, Eileen Becklund, Naomi Harris, Nellie Seim. Front: Lillian Pederson, Alice Barstad.

evening division of Bismarck Junior College. It was an 18-week course in typing with Lillian Peterson as the instructor. In 1976 another series of adult classes were held, including typing, knitting, welding and mechanics. The Red Cross conducted several First Aid classes through the years.

The Sims School District Reorganization Plan was approved by the voters with a vote of 245 for and 28 against on June 28, 1958. A citizens' committee and the school board had been working with the surrounding school districts to form this new and larger school district with the Almont school as the center.

Another addition to the school building was made in 1962 when the district voted 115 for to seven against to build two additional classrooms and two smaller rooms to the front of the building. There were now 61 in high school with four high school teachers and four grade teachers.

The latest addition to the Almont school was the erection of a new gymnasium when the

district, on July 27, 1965, voted 100 for to 26 against the new bonding for the building. The old gymnasium was made into a library, industrial arts shop room, and some class rooms. Dedication services for the new gymnasium and library were held February 19, 1967, with two Almont alumni as speakers: Leon B. Olson, Williston Superintendent of Schools, and Thelma Hyde Klingensmith, Morton County Superintendent of Schools.

A highlight of the Almont High School was the Jubilee High School Reunion held June 27 and 28, 1970, when graduates from all classes from 1920 to 1970, with teachers and friends, met for a time of fellowship and renewing old friendships. Graduates assembled from 22 states besides North Dakota and represented fields of medicine, agriculture, education, law, government, commerce, industry, communications, home-making, cosmetology, religion, and the armed forces. The entire class of 1920 were present.

"Country Day" at the Almont school received national recognition when on April 22, 1978, 22 demonstrations were given all day in the auditorium of activities and crafts of early pioneer days to a large appreciative audience.

VISITING THE COUNTRY SCHOOL



First and second graders playing "Flying Dutchmen" in the old country school.



Left row front: Michelle Sailer, Carmen Erhardt, Robyn Peterson, Kay Hoovestol, Mike Jacobson, Anthony Bachler, David Stolberg, Billy Ganten, Lisa Erhardt. Middle: Allan Hoovestol, Clinton Feland, Kim Sailer, Heidi Schubert, Peggy Berry, Kelly Thiel. Right row: Charmine Hartley, Daniel Schwemmer, Paul Ganten, Mark Jacobson, John Doll, Kenneth Doll. Mrs. Wanstrom, teacher, Grades 1 and 2.



ALMONT HIGH SCHOOL - 1952
 L to R: Front: Gloria Hansen, Iona Hoovestol, Ramona Zemple, Ann Kary, Ann Stegmier, Leona Monson, LaVonne Ritz, Angie Kary, Thelma Klingensmith. Middle: Joan Knudson, Eunice Klingensmith, Marshall Feland, Ray Olin, Roger Becklund, Jerry Hegel, LeRoy Ritz, Perpetua Doll. Back: Caroline Larson, Charleen Reeff, Adeline Larson, Clayton Anderson, Ralph Feland, Lester Hogan, Leonard Olson, James Harper, Warren Hoovestol.



Front to back: Carol Kilen, Doris Feland, Jerome Willman, Rodney Peterson, Marilyn Harwood, Sidney Harper, Gary Knutson, Karen Olson, Stuart Olson, Linda Smith, Sandra Christianson, Chester Thor, Harvey Hogan, Diane Olson, Carol Atkinson, teacher - 1954.

The most recent decisive vote for the school was held on December 19, 1978, when the district voted on a school district mill levy "not to exceed 108 mills". The vote was 151 for and 44 against. Almont has always supported any election to improve and support their school.

Many citizens of the community have given their labor of love as school board members. In the early days of the school's history, there were few changes in the school board. School board members who deserve special mention for long terms of service are: Theodore Feland, who served around 30 years until his death in 1952; Rickart Olson, who had 35 years of service as a director to his credit; Oscar Thorson, who was clerk of the school board for about the same length of time; and Nels Becklund, who was treasurer for 22 years. In more recent years, those who have served nine or more years on the school board are: Edward Bachler as director, and Ed Reeff, Lawrence Renner and Ida Olson as clerks of the district. Many others of the community have also served for shorter periods of time.

The many dedicated teachers who have served the students and community through the years deserve much credit for the successes of Almont's graduates. The number of teachers has varied from one to 11 in various years. Space



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ALMONT BAND - 1956

L to R - Front: Carlyle Reeff, Marilyn Olson, Linda Atkinson, Corma Feland, Rowan Wanstrom, Laurel Harper. Middle: Rev. N. Jolivette, Lee Harper, Duane Thiel, Gary McDowall, Mark Willman, Sig Peterson, Mrs. Sig Peterson. Back: Phillip Johnson, director, Ramona Knutson, Roger Hoovestol, Dorothy Hoovestol.



SCHOOL BAND - 1940

L to R - Front: Lowell Britton, director; Audrey Nelson, Colleen Knudson, Robert Rickett, June Pederson, Norida Knudson. Back: Royal Baille, Eleanor Pederson, Laverne Wohlman, Leon Olson, Beverly Kelsven, LaVerne Purfeerst, LaVerne Bahr, Gordon Olson, Wayne Becklund, Duane Hyde.



BATON TWIRLERS - 1956

L to R - Front: Peggy Atkinson, Lila McDowall, Pat Anderson, Penny Anderson, Linda Bechler, Mary Knutson, Lynn Peterson. Back: Doris Feland, Sandra Christianson, Anita Knutson, Lucille Bechler, Linda Atkinson, Sandra McDowall.

GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS

L to R - Front: Kathy Doll, Norma Kilen, Bernadette Barth, Linda Bachler, Cindy Timpe, Jean Wetzel, Sandra Christianson, Diane Erhardt, Maxine Bachler, Paulette Geck, Verilyn Wanstrom, Mary Renner, Karen Olson. Back: Janice Erhardt, Amy Kilen, Linda Bahm, Doreen Willman, Lynn Peterson, Elaine Doll, Jeanette Wetzel, Diane Olson, Doris Feland, Pat Feland, Carol Kilen, Peggy Thorson, Charleen Erhardt, Linda Doll.



GIRLS CHORUS - 1969

Front: Vira Stenehjem, Mary Erhardt, Jill Anderson, Arlene Kilen, Mary Jane Thorson, Janet Dawson. Middle: Darnell Christianson, Marilyn Neibauer, Charmaine Thompson, Beverly Hutchinson, Pam Johnson, Lynelle Willman. Third: Joan Feland, Marian Peterson, Sharon Thorson, Rose Genz, Edith Smith, Carolyn Thorson, Debbie Christianson.



forbids listing all the outstanding teachers who have come from the local community and other parts of the state and nation, but we want to give special recognition to those who have served more than ten years. The longest term of dedicated service is that of Lillian (Pederson) Peterson with 24 years; followed by Mrs. G.H. Anderson with 22 years; LaVonne (Ritz) Hunter with 18 years; Cora (Seim) Monson with 12 years and Mrs. Chris Halvorson with 11 years.

The Almont school has never been a large school. High school enrollment has ranged from 20 to 60's and many years in the 30's and 40's. Two studies have been made for the Almont High School graduates. Lee Fleischer's master's thesis studied nine schools of North Dakota - five small, five medium and one large as to high school drop-outs and going on to complete advanced courses. Almont was one of the small schools. Of the 28 eighth grade graduates in years 1955-59, 26 finished high school or 92%, the highest of all schools. Of these 28 eighth grade graduates, 11 finished their courses in junior colleges, vocational schools or four-year colleges, or 38%, again the highest percentage of all schools.

Another study was made of all Almont High School graduates, 1920-1970. Almont graduates had served people in all parts of the United States and sometimes in foreign countries. Four have received national recognition through "Who's Who in America" and "Who's Who of American Women". They are Dr. Leon Jacobson, Laurin E. Hyde, Alice Anderson Ternstrom and Thelma Hyde

Klingensmith. Dr. Jacobson has become internationally known for his work in radium therapy and received his first national recognition in 1953. On October 1, 1976, he was placed in the North Dakota Hall of Fame" in the State Capitol, the highest honor North Dakota can bestow on anyone.

The Almont community has always loved and supported the school. Graduates have served others in many ways in their vocations and as volunteers as teachers, nurses, doctors, ministers, farmers, homemakers, technicians, accountants and auditors, soldiers and many other lines of service to others. The next Almont High School Reunion has been set for June 19, 1981. Many of our alumni are looking forward to sharing its joys.

ADDITIONAL SCHOOL NOTES

Lillian Peterson

In 1967 Almont school had the largest Head Start Program in the state. It included 200 students from Almont, Glen Ullin, Carson, Stanton, Taylor, and New Salem. The program director was Gerald Stenehjem. Students ranged in age from four to six years. Instructors included Donna Johnson, Beatrice Wanstrom, LaVonne Hunter, Ingeborg Trovik, Carol Bauer and Mrs. Glen Keuther. The last years it was renamed Basic Skills.



1967 - Children proudly display their Headstart diplomas!



HEAD START - 1968

Instructor, Beatrice Wanstrom; Corlys Wilman and Ragna Knutson, helpers; L to R: Jody Hoovestol, Shereen Rosendahl, Calvin Feland, Kathern Kohler, Michael Kohler, Tom Bond, James Thiel, James Nilles, Lynn Keller, Laurie Hunter.

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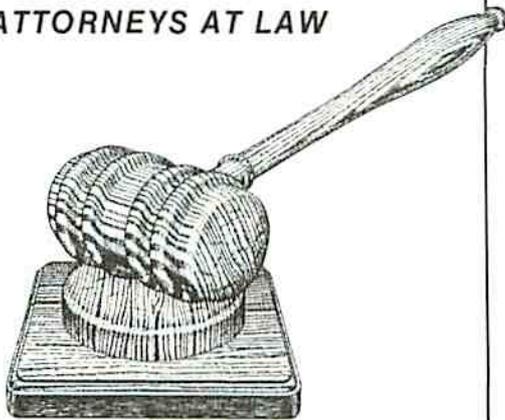
Phone: 348-3594

Among graduates from Almont High was Oscar Olivera, an exchange student from Caracas, Venezuela in 1977. He stayed with the Robert Schubert family and although he spoke very little English when he arrived he learned the language quickly.

In 1978 our school became a Bicentennial School (N.D. Heritage School). In order to qualify for this, many projects were completed, including a mural painting in the study hall, with scenic landscapes portraying our North Dakota area. Some of the titles of paintings by students and adults, under the supervision of Clara Christianson, included "Sunset, First Snowfall, Spring, Country Church Yard, Abandoned Farm, Wild and Free Country, and State Capitol". Another event that proved to be educational and entertaining was a round table discussion by senior citizens of Almont, made up of Edith Skjolsvik, Ragna Barstad, Slg Peterson, Leo Timpe, and Norman Hansen. They discussed topics of by-gone days including weather and blizzards, farming methods, entertainment, etc. Students in high school were impressed and fascinated! A question and answer period made for some lively discussion. It was a worthwhile day enjoyed by all. Arrangements were made by Lillian Peterson who was appointed faculty coordinator of Almont school.

Another interesting day in '78 involved transporting the primary grades to the old country school house located in Almont's Heritage Park. Beatrice Wanstrom taught classes and brought back life in a rural school for her pupils. Noon lunch was brought in paper bags or tin pails, and water and dipper were located in a corner pail. The traditional "outhouse" was not available then but has been added now!

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Students in the Business Department have done many projects for organizations including typing many of the family histories for the 75th Reunion Book. Three years we entered state competition at Minot Business Tournament and come home with winners each time. Phyllis Bond placed first in Typing I, Colleen Wetzel and Cheryl Bond won scholarships for Shorthand II and Colleen also won 4th place in Typing II. We were in competition with first class schools in the state so were very proud of our accomplishments!

Home Economics was brought back after years of not being in the curriculum. It is a very popular course, both for girls and boys. Audrey Dahners, set it up in 1976 when she taught in A.H.S. Other teachers include Jolene Bates and Vicki Overland. This year the FHA won several honors and a sophomore, Cindy Feland, was elected as District State Officer and will be attending the National FHA Convention in San Francisco this summer.

ALMONT P.T.A. HISTORY

The first P.T.A. was organized in Almont in 1926. The initial membership was 30. Mr. H. K. Jensen, Morton County Superintendent of Schools, and Mrs. Goldman, a state organizer, organized the unit. The first officers were President, D. G. Smith; Vice President, P. R. Peterson; Secretary, A. Holritz; Treasurer, Mr. G. H. Anderson. First regular meeting was on December 16, 1926. The meetings were very interesting and brought the parents and teachers to a better understanding of problems in the school. A very interesting program was a feature of each meeting.

In 1943 there were 43 members with Frank Simmons as President, Mrs. N. E. Becklund, Secretary-Treasurer. These two officers resigned in January, 1944 and were replaced by C. Halvorson, President and Mr. E. E. Templeton, Secretary-Treasurer. In May 1944 the program included a talk by Miss Agola, returned missionary from China, who had been a prisoner in Japan. The P.T.A. became inactive until it was reorganized in 1949 with 21 members. Officers were: President, Walter Timpe; Vice-President, Elmer Monson; Secretary, Mrs. Walter Timpe; Treasurer, Ed Reeff. The P.T.A. sponsored a carnival in 1949 and it has become an annual event up to the present time.



CAST FOR "YIMMY YONSON'S YOB" - 1926
Gerald Olin, Evelyn Bateman, Leon Jacobson, Gertie Olson, Georgia Stoeckel, Adolph Hoovestol, Donald Peterson, Ingeborg Nyquist, Anna Kaelberer, Sig Peterson.

Among the things P.T.A. bought for the school were a portable phonograph, loudspeaker records and record case. They also donated to the athletic fund. In 1950 they bought basketball suits for the girls team and paid insurance for the teams. A hard time party and square dance was held February 17, 1950. In 1951-52 there were 48 members. They bought a mimeograph machine, also ten film strips for the projector. That year they held an amateur program which also has become an annual event. They have sponsored the hot lunch program, bought paint for the gym and dictionaries for the school. They have joined state and national P.T.A. and held a series of card parties to raise money. It was decided to try to get our school accredited. In 1953 a membership of 49 helped finance new lighting in the school so it could become accredited. In 1954-55 they sponsored various projects and bought new stage curtains for the auditorium.

In 1955-56 they purchased some chairs, a projector and films, donated to Crippled Children's School, Red Cross Fund, Cancer Fund, Joyce Olson Fund and the Hot Lunch program. A Play Day every year helped finance the band, Band Mothers, and many other things too numerous to mention. In the 50's they also purchased play ground equipment, new freezer, record player and records, and tables for the lunch room, plus an electric roaster, hot water heater (which the PTA hooked up), sinks, and other things.



Elementary students enjoying their hot lunch - 1967.

In the sixties, the first meeting of the school year was a potluck supper, which is still an annual event. It is a way of getting better acquainted with the teachers. There were, at this time (1960-61), 93 members in the PTA. Several skits were presented by members and school students, besides many guest speakers and slide shows; one on Japan given by Adeline Theide and one on trip to South America and tour of the world by Selma Neas, group singing and also Boy Scout displays were among a few things done and presented to the members at PTA meetings. In the 1961-62 school year there was even a puppet show. In 62-63 they had an athletic banquet which has also been an annual event. It is sponsored by the PTA most of the time. They donated towards the new scoreboard, purchased shirts for the baseball team, sponsored Thelma Klingensmith to "Mother of the Year" contest for which they had a tea in her honor. In 1967 the PTA sponsored the dedication of the new gym and



PTA FLOAT AT 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Bruce Peterson, Lynn Peterson, Norma Kilen, teacher, Peggy Atkinson, Larry Smith.

purchased a piano to use in the gym for various programs. The membership had dropped quite a bit but in November of 1967, the PTA received the Oak Tree Membership and Gold Leaf Award for a 10% increase in our membership which was 59 at this time. At the March meeting, Ernest Feland presented a "show and tell" of his trip to the Virgin Islands, with Gov. Guy, while they were there for a Governor's Conference meeting. The Hot Lunch program was turned over to the school but the PTA continued to help out when and where needed.

In the early 1970's it was decided to no longer belong to the National PTA so they now called their organization PTO, which it is today. They changed Carnival Night to Family Fun Night but is still an annual PTO event. They purchased 200 chairs for the school, started a Teen Center for the youth, donated to Heartview and the gym bell system, put on a Halloween party for grades 1-8, having films and serving a lunch for them, purchased a slide projector for the school, sponsored "A&B" cheerleaders to attend a cheering clinic every year whenever one was offered, bought a camera, more playground equipment, new curtains for Hot Lunch room, and numerous other things. They also sponsored a Defensive Driving Course for the parents and students which was well attended. In February of 1974, Sam & Elvira Thiel showed some films on their trip to parts of Europe.

In 1973 the PTO members presented a 3-act play called "A Feudin' Over Yonder" which was well received and very profitable to their treasury. The PTO continues to support all school functions and activities in any way needed.

At the present time (1980-81), the PTO officers are: James Sailer, President; Gene Stolberg, 1st Vice-President; Connie Reinhardt, Secretary; Ginger Peterson, Treasurer; Membership Chairman Nancy Thiel; Program Committee, Alta Bethke and Delores Stolberg; Food Committee, Charlotte Thiel, Carol Hoovestol and Carol Ritz.



GRADES 1, 2, 3

Front: Marlo Hoovestol, Kim Hoovestol, John Reinhardt, Mabel Stolberg, Cathy Feland, Ann Doll. Back: John Stolberg, Angie Sailer, Susan Feland, Janelle Kilen and Tom Doll.



GRADES 4, 5, 6

Front: Michelle Sailer, Robyn Peterson, Carmen Erhardt, Teresa Greff, Mark Jacobson. Middle: Kay Hoovestol, Kelly Thiel, Lisa Erhardt, Kim Sailer, Anthony Bachler, John Doll. Back: David Stolberg, Clinton Feland, Michael Jacobson, Alan Hoovestol and Kenneth Doll. Not pictured: Peggy Berry and Daniel Schwemer.



GRADES 7 & 8

Front: Otty Schneider, Colleen Reinhardt, Sherry Ritz, Ann Greff, Edward Bachler, Michael Doll. Back: Eric Olson, Jared Jacobson, Carl Thiel, Ricky Peterson, Corby Schollmeyer, Bradley Thiel.



Robert Hogan, Custodian
Almont School - 12 years



Ed Reeff, Custodian
Almont School - 17 years



GRADES 9 & 10

Front: Curt Feland, Mary Greff, Roxanne Berry, Deborah Thiel, Colleen Schneider, Kelly Dittus, Joel Bachler. Middle: Lee Bond, Bryan Thiel, Brad Timpe, Lynn Bond, Lisa Ritz, Vera Stolberg, Cindy Feland. Back: Ann Schneider, Kristi Peterson, Annette Bachler, Patricia Doll, Paula Doll, Jullie Renner. Not pictured: Shelly Schwemer.



GRADES 11 & 12

Front: Patricia Schneider, Lynnae Peterson, Laurie Hunter, Todd Bethke, Shari Keller, Theresa Doll. Back: Darrel Jacobson, Calvin Willman, James Thiel, Calvin Feland, Thomas Bond, James Greff. Not pictured: Laurie Schwemer, Dwight Kilen, Daniel Schneider.



ALMONT FHA CHAPTER

Front: Lynn Bond, Laurie Hunter, Shari Keller, Vera Stolberg, Julie Renner. Back: Ann Schneider, Mary Greff, Vicki Overland, advisor; Cindy Feland, Patricia Schneider, Lisa Ritz.



SCHOOL STAFF

Janitor, Robert Hogan; Cooks, Mrs. Elmer (Grace) Smith, Mrs. Alvin (Lorene) Peterson; Secretary, Mrs. W.R. (Eunice) Bond.

**SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS
FOR THE LAST 20 YEARS**



John Page
1960-1967



Jerry Stenehjelm
(deceased)
1967-1969



Robert Oberg
(deceased)
1969-1974



Ralph Berger
1974-1975



G.M. Tierney
1975-1976



Robert Schubert
1976-1978
(first semester)



LaVonne Hunter
1977
(second semester)



Phil Harmeson
1978-1980



Kasper Greff
1980-1981



ALMONT SCHOOL FACULTY

Front: Beatrice Wanstrom, Mrs. Lars Handegaard, Mrs. Lillian Peterson, Vickie Overland. Back: Ed Boger, Supt. Kasper Greff, Will Jackson. (Not pictured: Glenda Graham, Betty Greff, Karen Onsted, Elaine Broker.) Inset: LaVonne Hunter.

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on your
75th Anniversary**

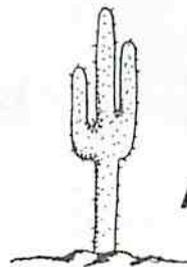


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