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Saunders County Bicentennial Educational History

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1976

District #44

Office of the County Superintendent, Saunders County

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District #44

The first school in Chapman Precinct was organized in 1869. The first meeting was held in Mr. Thomas Chapman's home. Mr. Chapman was elected director and Mr. J. D. Lehmkuhl was elected treasurer. The first schoolhouse was completed and was taught by H. N. Roger in 1870. This school was located in the middle of the section.

The records say that at one time District #44 included 18 sections or half of Chapman Precinct. On April 2, 1872 half of the sections were taken away and later in the early 1900's three sections on the west side went into the Weston district. At that time there were in this district 45 children between the ages of 5 and 21, 31 boys and 14 girls. Only 20 of those children attended school throughout the year. At that time the teacher received \$80.00. There were two terms, a spring term and a fall term, using about 10 about 10 months of the year.

On March 23, 1876 the school board a half acre of land for one dollar from H. N. Roger for a new school site. The land was located across the road and down the hill from the present school site. So in 1884 the school was moved to that site. In 1924 after many meetings and then by petition the school board was ordered to hold a special meeting for the purpose of moving the school. The reason was that the kids didn't have enough room to play. They voted to move up the hill. The school board bought $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land from Edwin Barry for \$500.00. The school was moved to where the basement was dug and the school was sitting on blocks over it. That night a storm came up and a corner of the school fell into the basement. So on June 30 after the old school was cleaned up, the school board voted to build a new school. So the present day school was built.

The teacher who taught the longest time in District #44 was Mrs. Eathel Vance. She taught from 1954 - 1974.

In 1967 most of District #71 joined District #44.

District #71

District #71 was located in Chapman Precinct. It was organized in 1877. The school was opened to all religions to hold services. The school made a motion that there would be no dancing in the school building.

In 1878 it was decided that there would be 5 months of school - 2 in summer and 3 in winter.

By Miller Creek there was a small post office. The mail was brought by horseback from Lincoln and the people of the community went there to get it. The records say that the first postmaster was W. E. Hill. The postoffice bore the name of Troy. The first school was by the postoffice which was across the road from the present day District #71 school building.

In January, 1880 the school board decided to have two months of additional school that year to make a total of seven months. The summer months began near the 1st of May and the winter months began about the 1st of January.

In 1880 the school board treasurer got \$5.00; the secretary, \$5.00; and the president, \$10.00. Today's treasurer receives \$100.00; the Secretary, \$150.00; and the president, \$75.00.

In 1886 the school year was changed to nine months, starting in September.

In 1897 the old school was sold for \$56.00 and a new one was built for \$100.00.

From September 20, 1897 to May 27, 1898 there were 66 pupils, the largest enrollment. In 1904 the school was insured for the first time in its history. A bill of \$1.30 was paid.

Two Czechoslovakian refugees were enrolled in January 1953.

On January 2, 1955 the second frame schoolhouse was destroyed by a fire of unknown origin. A new school was built for \$8264.50. It was completed August 15, 1955. In the 1957-58 first semester only two children attended school.

In 1973, part of District #32 joined District #44/

District #32

The District #32 school building was built in 1870.

Around the turn of the century the school was moved from the middle of the section to a spot about one-half mile away. The moving took all summer. It was done by horses and the man of the community.

Two of the oldest living people of District #32 are Joe Tvrdy and Stella Unisky.

Mrs. Ivan (Emily) Jambor of Weston was the last teacher before the school closed in 1973.

Section 12, Township 14, Range 7
Chapman Precinct
4 miles West, 1/2 mile South of Wahoo

School Board - Tom Konecky
Kenneth Schoen
Ben Pokorny

Teachers - Maretta Lindgren
Rebecca Bottorff

Pupils

Theresa Konecky	Brian Turnwall
Michael Jirovsky	Jon Williams
Cathy Konecky	Jimmy Wotipka
Janette Pokorny	Kurt Bohac
Mary Schoen	Larry Dean Cejka
Lisa Havelka	Judy Konecky
Marcia Havelka	Vickie Ohnoutka
Becky Cejka	James Pokorny
Steven Jirovsky	Sherry Jirovsky
Karen Konecky	Jimmy Konecky
Mike Ohnoutka	Mary J. Ohnoutka