

1976

District #61 - Happy Hollow

Office of the County Superintendent, Saunders County

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DISTRICT #61

Happy Hollow School District #61 is located three miles south and two miles west of Cedar Bluffs, Nebraska.

The school never had a well, so the pupils took turns going to the farm of Christian Peterson who lived a short distance east of the school. Everyone wanted to go after the water, so to solve any argument the teacher had them take turns. So there was never a problem of not having water.

There were church services held in this schoolhouse. In those earlier years there was no Lutheran Church and the families worshipped here. Some of the children who were confirmed in this schoolhouse in the year 1880 by Rev. August Hofius.

Wiebke Knuth
Emma Jurgens
Catherine Jurgens
John Harding
Charlotte Falke

Mrs. Jurgen Holtorf, Malmo
Mrs. Fred Hoffman, Cedar B.
Mrs. Henry Knutzen, Cedar B.

In the blizzard of 1888 the hired man of Patrick Molloy was sent to get the children from school. The storm came up so fast and was so bad that he couldn't get any further than the hill west of ^{the} schoolhouse. They could not make it back to school. The hired man (George Dubois) unhitched the mules and let them run home. He upset the bob sled and put all the children and the teacher under the sled, but there wasn't room for him. He walked around the sled all night and kept the children awake and moving around so as not to freeze. He froze both of his hands. The mules made it home to the Molloy farm, but since Mr. Dubois forgot to take the bridles off, the bits froze in their mouths and they had to be shot. There were no phones in those days and the Molloy's did not know that the mules had come home. Many people lost their lives in that blizzard.

Another snow storm some years later found a farmer of the district walking to the school after his daughter. He had taken a blanket for protection. He knew he couldn't make it with the horses. It was a three mile walk for him but he made it okay.

The old school house was moved away by a steam engine to the Harry Molloy farm west of Cedar Bluffs and with another building butted together became their home for years. They sold their farm to Mr. and Mrs.

Tony Kubr. The old schoolhouse has been remodeled and is still in use today by the Kubr family.

The present schoolhouse of District #61 was built in the early 1920's. The well was drilled in 1922.

This present building has been up-dated with modern facilities, phone, new furnace and rest rooms in keeping up with changing times.

Section 17, Township 16, Range 7
Cedar Precinct
3 miles South, 2½ miles West of Cedar Bluffs

School Board - Raymond Kucera
 Doris Leander
 Corrine Kruse

Teacher - Donna Vacha

Pupils

Chuck Kucera	Brian Kucera
Annette Kucera	Tim Kruse
Tracy Kruse	Dennis Kucera
Deanna Leander	David Leander