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Saunders County Bicentennial Educational History

Schools

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1976

### District #87

Office of the County Superintendent, Saunders County

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## DISTRICT #87

A small white frame building known as District #87 opened its doors September 1, 1886 to the children of this Czech community two miles west and one-half mile south of Wahoo, Nebraska. One wonders how this small structure accommodated the attendance which sometimes soared to as many as 40 or 45 children.

Records attest to the fact that some of the first school terms were only five or 6 months long. One teacher would teach from September to December and another would finish out the April to June term.

In the early 1900's the building was enlarged to almost double its size.

In 1919 the school made plans to consolidate with District #44 to form District #22. but these plans were never carried out.

In 1922 the school was closed because of the lack of a sufficient number of children. It reopened in 1926. Once again in 1953 the school was closed but reopened in 1957.

In 1972 the school combined with District #62 and moved to its present site two miles south and one and a half miles west of Wahoo. District #62 donated its school building which was enlarged and placed on a new basement.

We were privileged to interview a few of the earlier teachers, and the following are some of interesting side lights gathered.

The Union Pacific Railroad running by the school was a never ceasing interest to the District #87 children. The conductor always managed a friendly "toot" to the waving children playing in the yard. One teacher who walked the tracks daily recalls the train stopping frequently to give her a ride. A man teacher used the tracks as a speedway when running to Wahoo for his noon meal.

There was the time one of the teachers met a hobo coming down the tracks and upon reaching the school found the door kicked in and all the reserve fuel had been burned.

A happy moment was the arrival of a new enameled jacketed stove to replace the black "pot bellied" one. How the children enjoyed baking potatoes on the top!

One winter the school received some food through the County Superintendent's office. Canned beans, grapefruit, oranges and apples helped stretch many a lunch.

Another vote of confidence was given to the country schools when the teacher was responsible for the Sugar Rationing Program during World War II.

Throughout the years reference was made to the persistence of the ground squirrels occupying the school yard. The boys found drowning out these little creatures proved to be a recess sport.

At present District #87 in its new location is a modern, well-equipped, consolidated school, and this year accommodates 15 children.

Section 17, Township 14, Range 7  
Stocking Precinct  
2 miles South, 1½ miles West of Wahoo

School Board - Joe Hrdlicka  
Robert Meduna  
James Trutna

Teacher - Helen Fidler

Pupils

Becky John	Marisue Machovec
Janice Trutna	Marian Meduna
Bobby Meduna	Barbara John
Lenice Houfek	John Machovec
Bonita John	Barbara Meduna
Richard Kapple	Brenda John
Paula Meduna	Joan Trutna
Pam Kapple	