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Saunders County Bicentennial Educational History

Schools

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1976

### District #113 - Cunningham

Office of the County Superintendent, Saunders County

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## DISTRICT #113-CUNNINGHAM

School District #113 was organized in 1892. It was named the Cunningham School for John Cunningham on whose land the original school was located. Early area settlers came from Czechoslovakia and some of the old school board minutes are written in Czech.

Students from the Kucera, Kliment, Strizek, Matousek, Hladik and Berniklau families carried their own water to the school along with their school books.

Teacher tenure didn't exist at the turn of the century and from 1900 to 1922 only one person, Grace Carter taught as long as two years. Other teachers were Josie Leffer, Marybelle Loder, Olive Saddoris, Annabelle Joseph, Mary Cole, Bessie M. Ludi, Gertrude Stewart, Mary Jirovsky, James Callaway, Mrs. A. R. Callaway, Willard M. Olson, Clara Fisher, Helen Mares, Charles Peterka, and Rose Styskal.

Early records show that the average monthly salary for a man was \$30.00 and for a woman, \$26.00. Students working in the fields without today's compulsory attendance laws were lucky to attend two or three months of school a year.

Peak enrollment for the Cunningham School was 32 and the children sat three at a desk. By 1966 only 4 children of elementary school age lived in the district and the board contracted for their instruction. In 1968 the district was dissolved and its territory divided among three adjoining districts.

The building which was remodeled in 1930 was sold in 1975 to the Nebraska State Fair Board by Adolph Kliment for \$900.00.

The Fair Board, Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln Junior League and the Lincoln Public Schools have all worked on the restoration project.

During the 1975-76 school year, Lincoln elementary students took turns attending school for a day at the old District No. 113 school. The school is located on a triangular block of land just east of the north entrance to the State Fairgrounds on 17th street. It is part of Heritage Village, a Bicentennial project.