

against decency and good fellowship. We had no Christmas pageants but we did have singing, (Mother's Day we never heard of).

The main contribution one made to the community consisted of two things: 1. one welded together, so to speak, into a harmonious whole, children from diverse cultures. Thus, at the Dumoulin, we had English, Dutch, German, French, French Canadian and Ukrainian children speaking four different languages. Yet we had harmony, cooperation and mutual respect, which is more than could be said of some of their elders. 2. We had a moral atmosphere; we cultivated a spiritual awareness. We opened and closed school with the Lord's prayer. In spite of our crude surroundings, there was a reverence that pervaded all we did. Really, we were happy together.

We made great use of memory. Thus, every child, by the time they reached grade five, knew all the multiplication tables from two through twelve. We had daily competitions to see who could answer any combination of the tables when given by the teacher. We also learned by heart many beautiful poems, etc. After all it is difficult to teach any subject, a bit more advanced, to an empty mind so to speak. Strange, but in those days one never heard of "Johnny can't read."

Note: Leonard Caners B.A., M.A., (French) U. of Man., M.A., (education psychology) U. of Minn., Ph.D., (Modern languages) U. of Ottawa, is now retired and living in San Diego, California.

FISHER BRANCH SCHOOL #1543

by Augustine Konopetcki

In 1909 the first meeting of the Fisher Branch School District was held at the residence of Mr. St. Germaine. The purpose of the meeting was to elect three trustees to form a school board and to discuss where a school would be built.

A school site was chosen which was the north quarter of section 11, township 24, range 2 west, which is presently owned by Roger Bernier and is two and a half miles south-west of the village of Fisher Branch.

School opened in the year 1910. The first school was called Red School. After being in operation for just over a year, Red School burned down in the winter of 1911 (Dec.) The students and teacher were transferred across the road to a farm occupied by Adolph Bocek, which is the NE quarter of Section 10, township 24, range 2W.

At a meeting to discuss plans for building a new school, it was decided to choose a site nearer the location of the track which was in the process of being built at the time. It would also be a more central location as more people were now settled here. A four-acre piece of land was purchased from William Rudyk. This was the NW quarter of sec. 13, township 24, range 2 W, and is still the present location of the Fisher Branch Elementary School.

Money to build the school was borrowed by an issue of debentures. The building contract was awarded



The Red School.