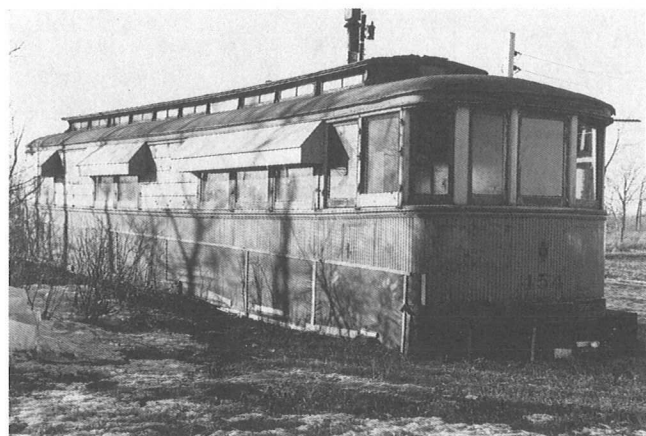


In later years Springbrook actually did get indoor toilets, but not of the flush variety since there never was water on tap. The type used was an underground tank variety of some long forgotten and discarded technology; not always the greatest but better than going outside in winter. Also part of Springbrook's valiant attempt to modernize in later years was the installation of oil heat which replaced the old unreliable and sometimes dangerous wood space heater. This ended a long tradition of having a senior student arrive at school an hour or two early to light the fire. Payment was usually the modest sum of 15¢ a day or 20¢ if two stoves were lit.



Streetcar that was used as an extra classroom at the Springbrook School during the early 1950's

The families of Springbrook were always blessed with a large number of children but during the early 50's they were even more prolific than usual. Attendance exceeded 40 students which triggered the necessary Department of Education funds to hire a second teacher. Thus began the episode of the streetcar. It was parked in the school yard and Grades I to IV made use of this innovative solution to a temporary problem. It ended in 1955 when a particularly large class graduated from Grade VIII.

The flavour of a rural, one-room school is best expressed by former Springbrook student Roger Lowe. "My early childhood days at Springbrook were a very positive experience for me. In those days, as I remember, we lived by a value system that regarded people as more important than material success. It was a community in which everyone cared for everyone else, since to be a good neighbour was regarded as a sign of respect and admiration. That was a good lesson for me. Though I never thought of it at the time, I now look back upon those days at Springbrook with very much fondness -- not only the school days, but the entire community life. We went to classes in the old school, we held concerts in the school, we danced in the school, and for a while during the summers, we held Sunday School and

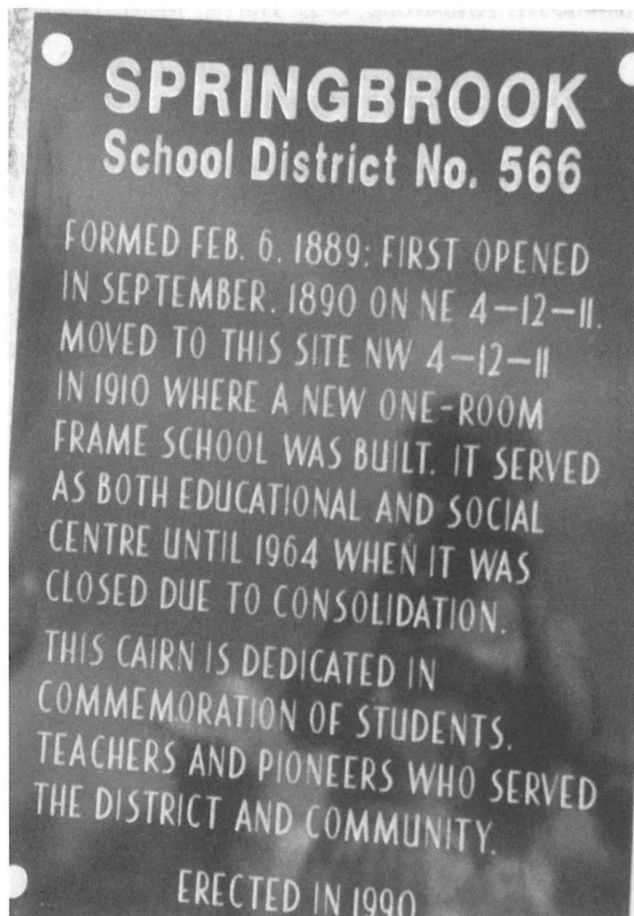
Church Services at the school. Everything happened at the school. It was truly the centre of life for everyone, and most of us loved it. I am proud to say that I am from Springbrook".

Springbrook School was closed in 1964 and the students were bused into Austin.

The school first opened in 1890 and 100 years later on June 30, 1990 the district gathered to dedicate a cairn in commemoration of students, teachers and pioneers who served the district and community.



Springbrook Cairn Dedication June 30 1990



Springbrook Cairn dedication, June 30, 1990