



L to R: Jenny Gemmell, Netta McLean, Kathleen Locke, Florence Mitchell. Class of Miss Fanny Girling.

### SMALLEY SCHOOL

submitted by Ellen Kjartanson

Pioneers moved into the area and it was soon realized that a school was needed. Council met May 4, 1916 and the following minutes of the



Smalley School.

meeting began to lay the ground work for the school district of Smalley No. 1826.

Flatt-Dell - that By-Law No. 337 forming the school district of Smalley be read a first time. Carried.

McConnell-Dell - That the rules be suspended and By-Law No. 337 be read a second time and referred to Committee of the Whole. Carried.

McConnell-Dall - That the report of the Committee of the Whole on By-Law No. 337 be adopted and the By-Law now read a third time. Carried.

The following lands to form the district: Sections 28 to 32 Tp. 19 Rg. 8., Sections 6 and 7 Tp. 20 Rg. 9., Sections 21, 33, w1/2 of 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34, 35, and 36 Tp. 19 Rg. 10., Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, Tp. 20 Rg. 10.

June 26, 1916, Dept. of Education approved the By-Law forming Smalley School District No. 1826 - the site chosen 26-19-10W, six miles

north and east of Amaranth. The school was a one room frame structure with a full sized cement basement on one of the driest sheltered yards possible.

Classes began in the fall of 1916 with twelve boys and six girls registered. Some of the names of the first class was as follows:

Boys -

Lawrence Dunn  
August Anderson  
Emil Beck  
Elvin Rodd  
Snori Thordarson  
Olafur Thordarson  
Kenneth Olson  
Gordon Calder

Girls -

Gladys Olson  
Mabel Olson  
Alveina Rodd

Miss Myrtle Wellwood was the first teacher who stayed until the summer of 1918. The teacher boarded at homes in the district such as the Gunnar Kjartanson residence, later the Wm. Burns residence and Miss Wellwood came back later, wed to R. Johnson, and stayed in her residence a short distance east of the school.

The school affairs were handled by local men, first trustees were, Kjartanson, Fredbjornson and Dunn, more were included like Wm. Burns and Hatch. To say all went smoothly would not exactly be true as on occasion the air was said to be quite blue. Later it became necessary to turn the affairs of the school over to the Official Trustee.

The District was heavily settled as a result of a soldier settlement scheme implemented following World War I. The school had a line up of desks but as the enrollment increased to near 50, the odd box had to be called into service. The children also were a bit baffled at times, no matter what they tried to do behind one teacher's back she caught them so they could only arrive at one conclusion, she had two sets of eyes, the usual ones of course but in this case a spare set at the back of her head.

Also, never let it be said there were no manners, as one person feels the reason his ears are so big today was from being froze as they lined up outside, cap in hand, winter or summer, waiting to be admitted to the class room in orderly drill.

The children walked or used horses to get to and from school. The horses were kept in a barn on the school grounds during the day of classes. Wonder what secrets the barn walls heard with the passing of time, yet as with all secrets, they were best left untold.

The school was a place of entertainment where dances were held, concerts and school picnics. B. Burns recalled the Smalley School picnics being held several times on the Big Ridge between Ridge End (now Grimsteads) and the Mitchell Place (B. Brown's, now H. Parsons Jr.). "Most of us played baseball but had no gloves nor spikes. We were told by coach Charlie Dennison that it didn't hurt to catch the ball bare handed and so we caught it that way, after the first catch or two we knew we had been conned again."

"Billy Cheeseman attended picnics with his coconut stand and I can in memory, clearly hear him shouting his coconut game attributes to all with the nickles and dimes it took to play."

Many children enjoyed school but as the end of June approached this was the attitude of many:

*I raced out of school with a whoop and a yell  
Not for two months would I hear that bell.  
No more lessons when days are bright  
No more teachers to set me right.  
I can take my dog on many a hike  
Go off in the country for miles on my bike.  
I can play and sing and laugh and shout  
Now that the darn old school is out!  
I can wear old clothes, go barefoot too,  
Can wade in the deepest part of the slough.  
I can have the jolliest sort of fun  
Now that those pesky lessons are done!*

Teachers who taught at Smalley School over the years, 1916 - 1941, are as follows:

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Myrtle Wellwood | W. Evelyn        |
| Gertrude Hearne | Margaret Mustard |