

Education in our Township Area

In early 1974 local residents were considering issues raised by the proposed consolidation of Clover Valley High School and North Shore Elementary School into the Two Harbors school district. The January 1974 issue of *Landmarks*, our local news at the time, detailed the early history of education in our area. **Helen Hendrickson suggested reprinting this history for current residents.**

“We can look back on the history of education in our area with pride. Early settlers valued schools and quickly provided them. Mergers came as the population grew and shifted.”

“Normanna. The first school was a log building on the Normanna Road, used from 1898 to 1900. It was replaced by a frame 1-room building on the same land, called the Johnson School and was used from 1900-1912; then an unused town hall building was joined to it and the name changed to John A. Johnson. It was used from 1912 to 1941. A logging-camp school adjacent to the Kruse homestead was used 1905-1909. East of Kruse’s on the Pioneer Road was the Ramsey School used from 1911-1932. The Spring Lake School was open 1929-1939. Little Cloquet School was used 1938-1948. Normanna’s children attended Clover and North Shore until Sept. 1971. Now (*remember “now” refers to 1974!*) they attend the Lakewood School (under Duluth Schools), Washington Junior and Central.”

“Alden. Classes were held in various buildings on Driscoll’s land in the early 1900’s and even in the 1920’s. The first school building, called the Lepisto School, was on Laine Road property recently owned by Towers. It was built in 1918. A school was built on Houtari’s land, near Saamanen’s now. It was used 1921-1924, then the building was moved and it’s now part of the Rudy Laitinen home. McCrea’s School, built 1928 was on the corner of Laine Road and West Knife River Road.”

“Palmer’s. Croft’s school built in 1880’s was on a corner of the Alseth Road and the railroad tracks. Buchanen’s school was built near the Lake County line. It was moved to Stoney Point about 1900 and again to Palmer’s in 1904 where it burned. It was replaced by School 91 located between the railroad tracks and the present freeway, east of Homestead Road. It was used from 1921-1928 and then moved to Clover to be a teacherage. Teacherages were closed after 1971. Vern Nelson and Tom Swanstrom were the last teachers to occupy them.”

“Molde. The first school in the area was a log building that was built about 1894 on Martinson’s land. Alfred Swanson had it moved to his corner later, where Pearsons live now. There was a frame school building on Martinson’s land (Zane’ Smith’s property now) used from 1918 to 1929 which also was moved to Clover Valley later for use as a teacherage. Clover Valley (School 92) has had 12 grades since 1933 eliminating a need for high school students to board in either Two Harbors or Duluth. It was enlarged in 1953. Students in grades 1 to 6 from Alden and the Clover area transferred to North Shore in 1961.”

“Ryan Road area. The Elmer Mandelins live on the site now of three schools. The Hill school (1908-1916) had one room. It was moved off the site when the 3-room School 93 was built in 1916. When it burned in 1922, pupils were shifted temporarily to other schools and Nolte’s

store. Bloomingdale was built on the site then. It also was No. 93. Bloomingdale had 3 classrooms and a library-kitchen. The William Lindquist family was the last to live in the second story teacherage. This school was replaced by North Shore (No. 90) on the Ryan Road and Lismore in 1961. This is the only school to have only the first six grades and a kindergarten.”

“Nearer the shore, was the McQuade School located on the corner of Flynn Road and what is now Old North Shore Road. It was actually a little red schoolhouse and it closed in 1916. The first School 90 opened then on Mace property along Ryan Road. It was replaced later by the second School 90 located on the corner of Ryan and Old North Shore Road. This school closed in 1932. The Lee Swanson’s live in its teacherage.”